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Concerns Expressed in Gallup Survey Don't Apply to HMOs—Large Group Practice Survey Needed

Thanks for the very interesting survey of African-American physicians in the April 2004 issue (*J Natl Med Assoc.* 2004;96:419–433). As a physician working in Kaiser, I have to note that many of the concerns expressed in that survey do not

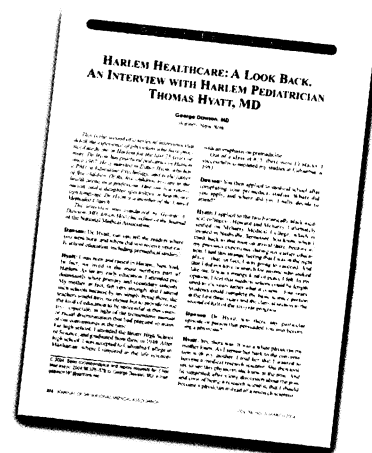
apply to HMOs, such as Kaiser, where malpractice is paid for the physician and reimbursements do not have to be negotiated with various insurance companies. On the other hand, a whole new set of problems arise that are not well-addressed by the survey, since it did not separate the responses of physicians in HMOs from those of physicians in solo practice or small group practice. Having seen a huge exodus of primary care African-American physicians from my facility over the past decade due to difficulties working in a large corporation, I would be happy to see a survey of physicians in large group practices to see what their concerns are.

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Kudos


Dear Editor,

I enjoyed the guest editorial interview with Thomas Hyatt, MD of New York (*J Natl Med Assoc.* 2004;96:376–378). His comment that “I was in the right place,” resonated with me as a Meharry



graduate. I can clearly recall as a medical student some 30 years ago: I peered into an operating room and I witnessed Dr. David Todd performing a cardiothoracic surgical case. He was, to say the least, the quintessential master surgeon. Everyone in the operating suite was an African American except the patient. I will always hold that impressive image in my mind. I share Dr. Hyatt's feelings that I also was in the right place.

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We have a great meeting planned and hope to see you in San Diego!