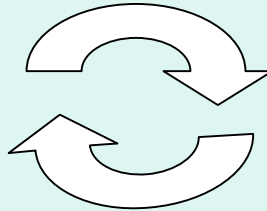


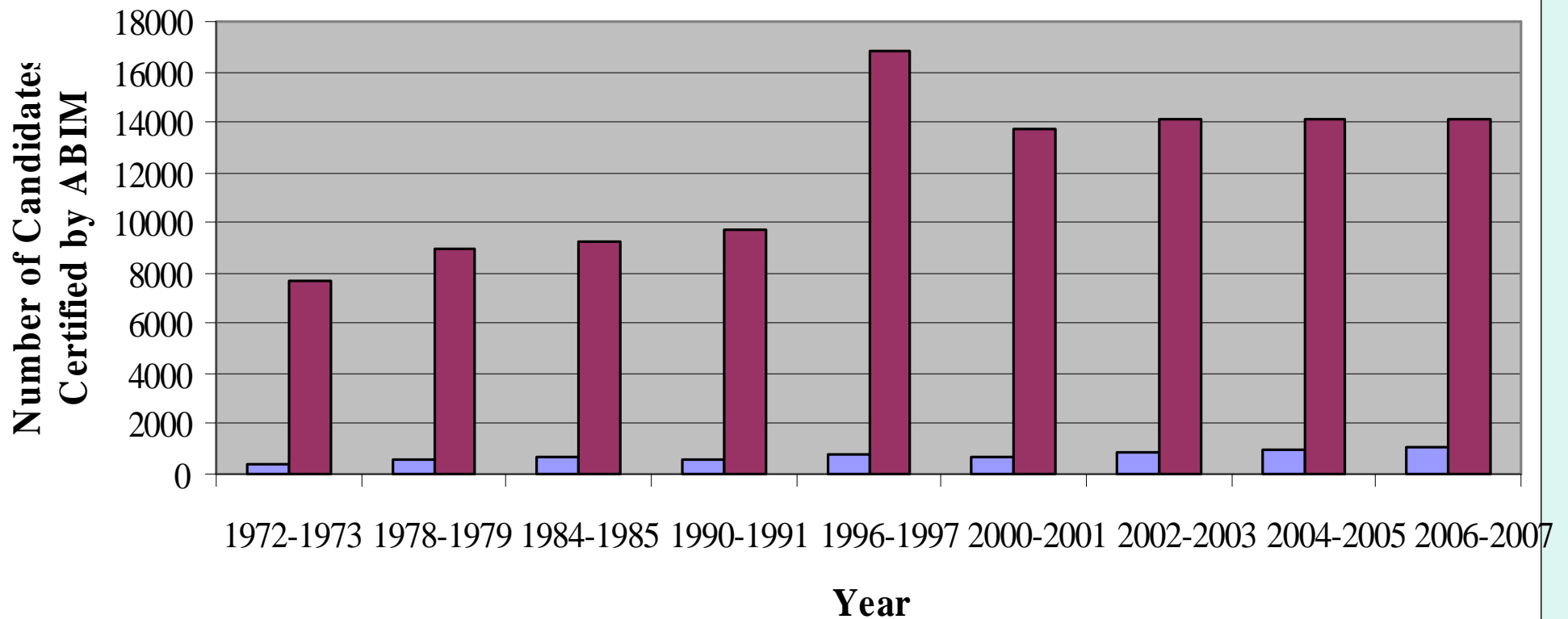
Institute of Medicine National Cancer Policy Forum  
Tuesday, October 21, 2008

# Policy Perspectives: Needed Legislative Efforts



Kavita Patel, M.D.  
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

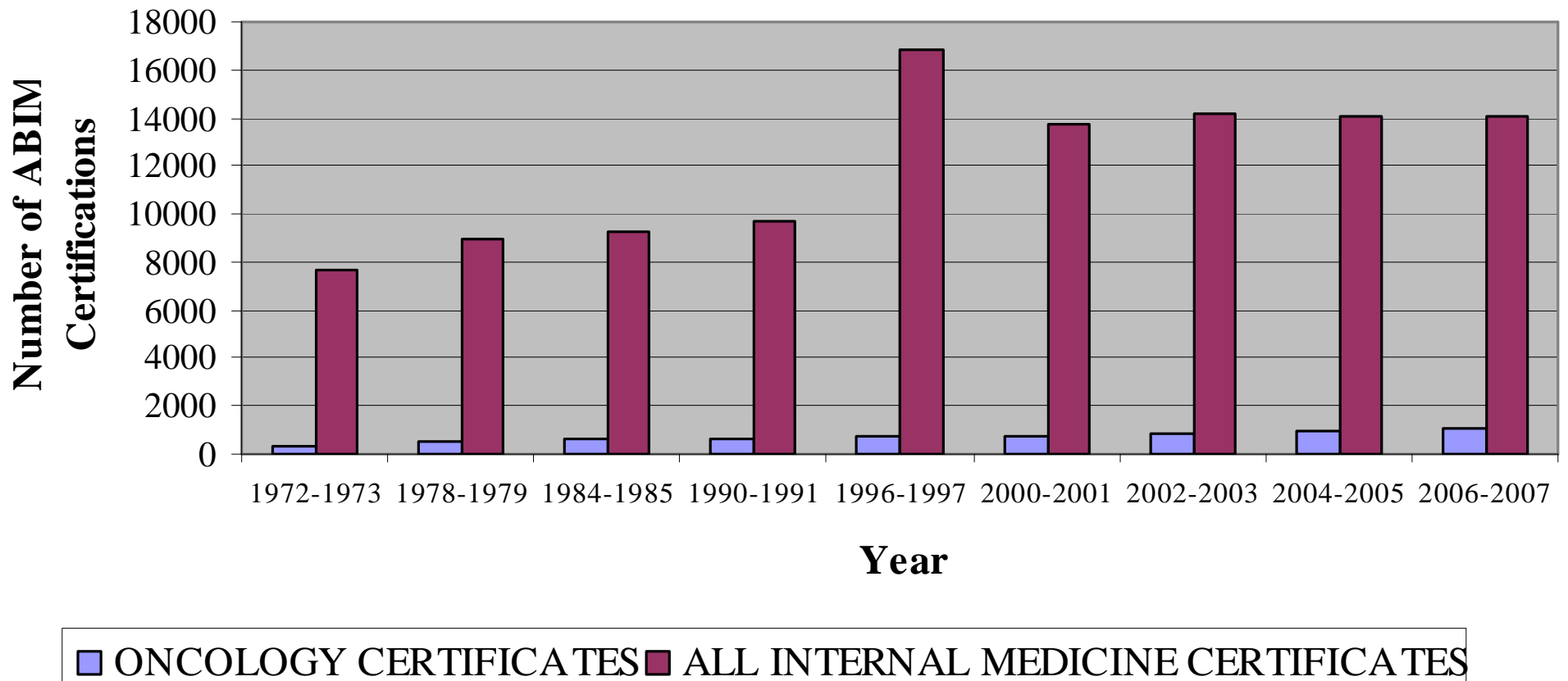
## Oncology Certificates 1972-2007



Source: American Board of Internal Medicine, as of March 27, 2007

<http://www.abim.org/pdf/data-candidates-certified/Number-Certified-Annually.pdf>

## Internal Medicine Certificates vs. Oncology Subspecialty Certificates



Source: American Board of Internal Medicine, as of March 27, 2007  
<http://www.abim.org/pdf/data-candidates-certified/Number-Certified-Annually.pdf>

# **Federal Legislation: Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998**

- Sponsored by Sen. Frist (R-TN), Signed into law November 13, 1998
- Highlights of Bill:
  - Mandates grants and contracts for programs of excellence in health professions education for underrepresented minority individuals, to:
    - Develop large applicant pools
    - Enhance academic performance
    - Train, recruit and retain faculty
    - Improve resources and curricula
    - Facilitate research
    - Train students to provide health services to under-represented minority individuals
    - Provide stipends
  - Authorizes grants to specified types of health professions schools for scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds who have a financial need for a scholarship, with grant priority based on the proportion of graduates going into primary care, the proportion of underrepresented minority students, and the proportion of graduates working in medically underserved communities.

# **Federal Legislation:**

## **Quality of Care for Individuals with Cancer Act**

- Introduced in 2002 by Sen. Kennedy (D-MA) and in 2004 by Sen. Frist (R-TN); neither passed
- Highlights of S. 2965 (Introduced on September 18, 2002):
  - Requires the Secretary of HHS to establish grants to support cancer curriculum development for health care provider training
  - Requires the National Cancer Institute Cancer Control programs to include a plan to assist health care workers in professions facing the most severe shortages
- Highlights of S. 2771 (Introduced on July 22, 2004):
  - Requires the Secretary of HHS to award grants to facilitate an increase in the quality of cancer care, including grants to develop curricula for health provider training
  - Requires the Director of the National Cancer Institute to establish and support programs to assure an adequate and diverse cancer care workforce

# **Federal Legislation: National Cancer Act**

- Introduced in 2002, 2003, and 2007 by Sen. Feinstein (D-CA); None passed
- Highlights of S. 1101 (Introduced May 21, 2003)
  - Establishes a program to promote growth of the cancer care workforce by providing grants, scholarships, fellowships, and loans to eligible individuals entering cancer health professions with the most severe shortages
  - Appropriates \$100 million for this program in FY 2004
- Highlights of S. 1056 (Introduced March 29, 2007)
  - Amends the Public Health Service Act to require the Director of the National Cancer Institute to establish a loan repayment program for health professionals agreeing to engage in cancer prevention research
  - Amends title XVIII (Medicare) of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for cancer care coordinators who manage medical, nursing, and other health services provided to individuals diagnosed with cancer
  - Promotes research on cancer treatments that target cancer cells, the cancer care workforce, cancer survivorship, environmental risk factors for cancer, and treatment disparities

# **Federal Legislation: United States Physician Shortage Elimination Act of 2007**

- HR 410: Sponsored by Rep. Conyers (D-MI), Introduced 1/11/2007, Referred to House subcommittee on Health
- S. 896: Sponsored by Senator Murkowski, Introduced 3/15/2007, Referred to Senate HELP Committee
- Amends the Public Health Service Act to authorize appropriations for FY07 - FY11 to:
  - Carry out the National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program and Loan Repayment Program to assure an adequate supply of physicians and other health professionals providing primary health services
  - Assist schools in supporting programs of excellence in health professionals education for underrepresented minority individuals
  - Assist individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to undertake education to enter a health profession

# State Legislation:

## Massachusetts S.B. 2863

- S. 2863, “An Act to Promote Cost Containment, Transparency, and Efficiency in the Delivery of Quality Health Care” passed by legislature and signed by Governor Deval Patrick on August 10, 2008
- Highlights of bill:
  - Creates a loan forgiveness program for physicians and nurses who agree to practice primary care in medically underserved areas
  - Creates an affordable housing pilot program for health professions who practice in underserved areas
  - Increases tuition incentives for University of Massachusetts medical students who agree to practice primary care in the state for four years
  - Establishes a health care workforce center within the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to improve access to health care services in the state

Source: Arvantes, James. “Massachusetts Legislation Addresses Primary Care Workforce Issues”. *American Academy of Family Physicians*. 13 August 2008. <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/publications/news/news-now/government-medicine/20080813masslegislation.html>

# **State Legislation:**

## **Minnesota S.F.9 3780**

- In May 2008, Minnesota passed workforce legislation as part of overall health reform efforts
- S.F. 3780, Article 2, Section 5 requires “the commissioner of health, in consultation with the health licensing boards and professional associations, shall study changes necessary in health professional licensure and regulation to ensure full utilization of advanced practice registered nurses, physician assistants, and other licensed health care professionals in the health care home and primary care delivery system. The commissioner shall make recommendations to the legislature by January 15, 2009.”
- The Health Workforce Shortage Study Group is scheduled to meet five times between September and December 2008, and to report recommendations to the Minnesota legislature in early 2009.

Source: [www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/workforce/index.html](http://www.health.state.mn.us/healthreform/workforce/index.html)

# Future Legislation

- Comprehensive Cancer Legislation
  - Senators Kennedy and Hutchison
  - Solutions include both short term and longer term issues
    - Loan repayment
    - Scholarships and additional stipends for research personnel