

Grateful [patients](#) provide substantial philanthropic funding for [health care institutions](#), resulting in important societal benefits. Although [grateful patient fundraising](#) (GPFR) is widespread, it raises an array of ethical issues for patients, physicians, development professionals, and institutions. These issues have not been described comprehensively, and there is insufficient guidance to inform the ethical practice of GPFR. Consequently, Collins et al., convened a summit, The Ethics of Grateful Patient Fundraising, with the goal of identifying primary ethical issues in GPFR and offering recommendations regarding how to manage them. Participants were 29 experts from across the [United States](#) who represented the perspectives of bioethics, clinical practice, development, law, patients, philanthropy, psychology, and regulatory compliance. Intensive discussions resulted in articulating ethical issues for physicians and other clinicians (discussions with patients about philanthropy; physician-initiated discussions; clinically vulnerable patients; conflicts of obligation and equity regarding physician's time, attention, and responsiveness and the provision of special services; and transparency and respecting donor intent) as well as for development officers and institutions (transparency in the development professional-donor relationship; impact on clinical care; confidentiality and privacy; conflicts of interest; institution-patient/donor relationship; concierge services for grateful patients; scientific merit and research integrity; transparency in use of philanthropic gifts; and institutional policies and training physicians in responsible GPFR). While these recommendations promise to mitigate some of the ethical issues associated with GPFR, important next steps include conducting research on the ethical issues in GPFR, disseminating these recommendations, developing standardized training for clinicians regarding them, and revising them as warranted <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Collins ME, Rum S, Wheeler J, Antman K, Brem H, Carrese J, Glennon M, Kahn J, Ohman EM, Jagsi R, Konrath S, Tovino S, Wright S, Sugarman J; Participants in the Summit on the Ethics of Grateful Patient Fundraising. Ethical Issues and Recommendations in Grateful Patient Fundraising and Philanthropy. Acad Med. 2018 Jul 17. doi: 10.1097/ACM.0000000000002365. [Epub ahead of print] PubMed PMID: 30024472.

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