

6 Top Physician-Leadership Tips



At the recent *Becker's Hospital Review* 6th Annual Meeting in Chicago, the shortage of physician-leaders was in the spotlight.

Bhagwan Satiani, MD, MBA, professor of clinical surgery, medical director of vascular labs at The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus and director of the FAME Faculty Leadership Institute made some interesting observations. Dr. Satiani described the majority of physician-leaders as “accidental”, meaning that they have not undergone the necessary training to date to be effective in their complex task of combining management and clinical practices. Specifically, Dr. Satiani said that clinician training needed to be combined with business acumen.

Six Top Physician Leadership Tips that came out of this session are:

- 1. Display credibility and integrity.** Having a great vision is not enough. An effective leader also needs to communicate clearly to their team about their aims and ideas and be transparent in order to gain their respect and backing.
- 2. Be open with work.** Both physicians and researchers are often notorious for keeping their work to themselves. Of course this may be necessary at key points in the process but when there is something to share, be open about outcomes. This is simply good networking as it opens up opportunities for learning as well.
- 3. Navigate ambiguity.** There are periods of uncertainty in every profession. Being able to lead a team through these patches is essential in gaining their trust and support. Openness about a lack of experience or knowledge in a particular situation can be an invitation for input from colleagues. A leader who is able to navigate through ambiguity is engaged with the process which goes back to the first point about credibility.
- 4. Think through to the end.** Start each day or task with a clear vision of how it will end for focus.
- 5. Seek diversity.** The more diverse a team is, the greater their diversity of thought is. This can encourage thinking outside the box and creative solutions.
- 6. Learn how to compromise.** Developing the ability to compromise does not mean that a physician-leader has to sacrifice principles that are important to their practice. Flexibility when appropriate opens doors for solutions.

Source: [Becker's Hospital Review](#)

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