

Bill Branch, MD
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The 26th Annual Faculty Development Summer Course hosted by Mayo Clinic at Jacksonville, FL May 31 to June 4 promises to be a breakthrough for AACH thanks to hard and imaginative work by Maysel White, Marla Rowe Gorosh, Bill Maples and the Course Committee. This Course will address teamwork and safe patient care. These are newly emphasized topics very much in line with the direction healthcare is going and will take in the future. The Jacksonville Course promises to attract many attendees, far more than we have attracted to our really excellent, but smaller courses in recent years. The increase in attendance and new focus on issues of paramount importance to practitioners reflect in good part building relationships between our facilitators and educators and Mayo's faculty.

Looking over key features of the Course provides a flavor of both new and traditional directions for us. For example, one of the goals, "Recharging your personal battery and passion" has been a hallmark for us over the years. How many folks who took the Course said they felt renewed and recharged? Likewise, "Becoming more skilled at managing emotions and at turning conflict into opportunities to accept diversity and improve safety" are closely akin to the enhanced personal awareness that so many have attributed to their experiences at AACH. "Enhancing the quality of care you deliver", "Increasing your influence and effectiveness as a facilitative team member and leader" and "Becoming a more creative and dynamic change agent in healthcare" indicate dynamic new directions for our teaching, perhaps striking out anew, but at the same time undoubtedly with the same highly respectful, genuinely caring facilitation that has always characterized AACH.

I am excited about changes and new offering that will enhance and expand our impact. I remember the impact AACH had on me and on many others in the early 80s. The experience was eye-opening. Many folks said it was finding the one place in medicine that valued what they wanted to value. I think we must keep changing and improving to be that place for those who come to Jacksonville and future AACH Courses.

All best wishes,
Bill Branch, President, AACH