



HIGHLIGHTS FROM NAVY PIER



Photo: Scott Warner

Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom was the site of the CMS Annual Public Service Award luncheon, with a keynote address by Jim Ryan, Illinois attorney general.

MCC goes the distance with CME

Conference reinforces theme of "Strategic Healthcare for a Diverse Population"

CMS KEPT UP WITH THE RAPIDLY CHANGING pace of technological progress at this year's Midwest Clinical Conference, held Feb. 22-25 at Navy Pier. A quick look at course attendance shows that more physicians than ever

opted to sharpen their computer skills, learn about electronic prescription programs, basic hardware and software, and tap into online resources. Filled to maximum capacity and running the full four days of the conference, "Computers and Technology" was this year's most popular course.

Physicians were also eager to learn about new genetic testing technologies and their translation

(continued on next page)

to clinical practice during the Saturday afternoon general session. The talk, devoted to "Clinical Implications of the Human Genome Project," explored cancer research and patient management. Sunday's major event was "Introduction to the New Clinical Specialty of Anti-Aging Medicine," where specialists discussed "Demographics of Aging and Making the Quantum Leap to Human Immortality." Patient safety also got a boost with the new course "Improving Patient Safety: Controversies and Future Directions."

But meeting the technological and scientific demands of practice is not enough; medicine must meet the challenges of ethnic diversity in an expanding patient population. And "Strategic Healthcare for a Diverse Population," the theme of this year's conference, reflected CMS' commitment to educating physicians in cultural competence. A full-day workshop and half-day courses looked at communication in the clinical setting.

A wine and cheese reception held Friday evening in the midst of the exhibition hall offered a friendly, relaxed setting for networking and socializing after a long day. And a raffle gave physicians prizes (winners will be announced in the May issue of *Chicago Medicine*).

Holy Family Medical Center radiologist Kenneth D. Schmidt, MD, won the Henrietta Herbolzheimer, MD, Public Service Award for his leadership role in developing the 560-acre Illinois Medical Dis-



William Werner, MD, chairman, Clinical Conference Committee, at podium, welcomes physicians to the Public Service Award luncheon. Seated, from left, are: Charles Drueck, III, CMS president; Jim Ryan, III, attorney general; Kenneth J. Printen, MD, CMS immediate past president; James R. Tarrant, CMS executive director; and Peter Eupierre, CMS secretary.

trict and its burgeoning Chicago Technology Park.

Keynote speaker, Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan made health care the subject of his address.

Full coverage of the 2001 Midwest Clinical Conference will appear in the May 2001 issue of *Chicago Medicine*.

Plans for MCC 2002 are now underway. Next year is a relicensure year, which means that Illinois physicians must have completed 150 CME hours by July 2002. CMS' Midwest Clinical Conference allows physicians to earn up to 28 hours in four days. For more information, contact the CMS Education Department at (312) 670-2550.

Is getting physicians to agree on anything still as difficult as herding cats?

During the Midwest Clinical Conference (Feb. 22-25), CMSnews staff asked CMS members the question above. Here are their comments:

"Yes. But cats pushed together in a corner will come together. Doctors are being pushed around by insurance companies and are fed up—this will bring them together. Our ability to deliver medicine is hampered by insurance company rules and regulations. Our ability to have a good relationship with patients is jeopardized. We are in a corner.

"Organized medicine needs to address the role of primary care doctors so specialty organizations don't have to carry the burden of interacting with insurance companies. It must be more versatile. I would like to see a more personal approach, not just a memo on somebody's desk.

"Organized medicine must interact with people

who are in the trenches."

Zvi Binor, MD

Reproductive endocrinology and infertility

"Doctors who are retiring are coming together. It's marvelous. They are getting together to do pro bono work, something they never did much of. Clinics are where they are doing the pro bono work because hospitals aren't doing that much. Doctors are also coming together to fight through their medical societies.

"Organized medicine is all we have and it needs to get more involved with politicians. Anyone who doesn't participate in the politics of his profession has only one privilege—to keep his mouth shut."

Erwin Patlak, MD

Psychiatry

CMS AGENDA

Youth violence to be theme of Dr. Donoghue's presidency



Edmund Donoghue, MD: Sees grim consequences of violent behavior every day. recently at CMS.

IN THE WAKE OF RECENT school shootings, and growing concern over juvenile health and safety, CMS President-elect Edmund Donoghue, MD, says he will make youth and violence the theme of his upcoming presidential term (2001-2002).

"Society has made an impact on drunken driving, smoking and use of seat belts, and I would like to see CMS help Chicago and Cook County to reduce violence in the community," Dr. Donoghue said recently at CMS.

As Chief Medical Examiner of Cook County, Dr. Donoghue sees the grim consequences of violent behavior every day. He has drawn on this experience throughout the years to give numerous CMS Branch presentations on firearms violence.

In launching his campaign, Dr. Donoghue and CMS will join forces with the AMA Commission for the Prevention of Youth Violence. The Commission presented a report at the AMA National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, March 3-6, 2001, and held a recent town hall meeting in Chicago.

When he assumes the presidency in June, Dr. Donoghue says he will seek members to represent CMS at meetings with educators, judges, lawyers, clergy, police and public health groups.

For more information or to receive a copy of the AMA's report on Youth and Violence, please contact James Tarrant at CMS: (312) 670-2550, ext. 321, or e-mail jtarrant@cmsdocs.org

ONWARD TO SPRINGFIELD

CMS sends resolutions to ISMS House of Delegates meeting

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE ISSUES ON TAP AT the April ISMS House of Delegates meeting in Springfield? A year's worth of grassroots debate and discussion at the CMS Council brought forth resolutions on the following:

- Reimbursement for Physician Services
- Future Tobacco Settlement Funds to Go Toward Tobacco Cessation and Prevention Programs and Health Care
- Health System Advertising
- Motorcycle Helmets
- Opposition to Pharmacy Risk
- Institute of Medicine for Medical Errors
- Practicing Physicians in Managed Care
- Malpractice Information on the Internet
- Automatic Downcoding of Claims

For details on the ISMS HOD see the ad on page 10, or e-mail rbennett@cmsdocs.org



Irving Park members host brunch for Senator Peter Fitzgerald

Sen. Peter Fitzgerald (R-III.) visited the Irving Park Branch at its January meeting in Barrington to discuss Medicare issues. Shown from left are Richard P. Moser, MD, treasurer; Senator Fitzgerald; Benjamin B. Le Compte III, MD, president; Susan Kern, MD, Council whip; and Daniel Schnuda, MD, secretary.

LEGISLATION

CMS favors larger tax deductions for student loan borrowers

U.S. House and Senate considering relief

THE CMS COUNCIL HAS APPROVED A resolution to expand the tax deduction medical student loan borrowers may take on the interest paid on their loans.

Under the current law, only individuals whose modified adjusted gross income is under \$55,000 a year (under \$75,000 in the case of a joint tax return) are eligible for a deduction.

Members of both the U.S. House and Senate are considering tax relief for all students. HR 436 would:

- Increase the income threshold for the phase out of the deduction, giving relief to a single borrower who has a modified adjusted gross income under \$115,000 (\$165,000 for joint returns.)
- Repeal the dollar limitation on the deduction for interest on educational loans, allowing individuals whose modified adjusted gross income is under \$100,000 (under \$150,000 for joint returns) to deduct the full amount of interest paid.
- Repeal the 60-month limitation, allowing the interest to remain deductible as long as the loan is outstanding on the amount of interest allowable as a deduction.

The other bill, S. 152, would repeal the 60-month limitation and increase the income threshold for the phase-out of the deduction, but only up to a modified adjusted gross income under \$65,000 for single borrowers and \$115,000 for joint returns.

CMS represented at AMA's National Leadership Conference

CMS PAST PRESIDENTS M. LEROY SPRANG, Sandra F. Olson, Dennis Brown, and CMS trustee Shastri Swaminathan attended the AMA's National Leadership Conference in Washington, DC, held March 3-6.

The conference, which focuses on leadership in the profession, in the nation's Capitol, and in global public health, gave the AMA a chance to present its agenda to the nation's

CMS to bring computers and technology to physicians

In follow-up to its popular Midwest Clinical Conference series on computers and technology, CMS will be offering in-house courses similar to those that packed classes at Navy Pier. Watch future issues of *CMSnews* for details.

newly elected and appointed leadership.

During the three-day meeting, the AMA announced its support for the Medicare Education and Regulatory Fairness Act (MERFA) as a way to end the red tape, paperwork and regulatory demands imposed on physicians who treat Medicare patients.

Physicians also went to Capitol Hill to lobby their congressional delegations to support a real patients' bill of rights, the Medicare Education and Regulatory Fairness Act, and medical school debt reduction.

Congressional leaders predicted that patients' rights legislation would be passed this year by the 107th Congress.

Illinois physicians fighting for fair contracts

A COALITION OF ILLINOIS HEALTH CARE professionals, led by ISMS, is urging legislators to support HB 2115, the "Fairness in the Health Care Services Contracting Act," sponsored by Reps. Angelo "Skip" Saviano (R-Elmwood Park) and Rep. Kurt Granberg (D-Carlyle).

The Act calls for a number of comprehensive contract reforms to improve health care in the state of Illinois. These changes would:

- Standardize and simplify terms and conditions of contracts.
- Eliminate provisions that may be questionable and unfair.
- Limit a plan's power to unilaterally modify a previously agreed-to current contract without prior notification.

Also introduced in February was a Senate companion bill, SB 1340, sponsored by Senator Robert Madigan (R-Lincoln), chair of the Senate Insurance Committee.

For more information, visit www.isms.org

JCAHO offers free e-mail service for physicians

SENTINEL EVENT ALERTS IS A NEW ELECTRONIC mail update available to physicians through the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health-care Organizations. This periodic publication, in addition to focusing on health-care errors, offers information on new standards and accreditation, opportunities to comment, and news releases.

The free service aims to provide timely information to physicians in a convenient and speedy format.

Physicians may sign up also to receive *The Inside Perspective*, JCAHO's official monthly newsletter, and information about any of the JCAHO's accreditation programs, publications and upcoming education programs.

To subscribe, go to www.jcaho.org and click on the sign up button in the upper left hand corner of the page.

Poison center needs physician support

THE ILLINOIS POISON CENTER (IPC) IS CALLING on doctors to encourage their patients to poison-proof their homes and to remind them about the IPC's 24-hour services.

The IPC offers poison prevention treatment and advice via a statewide, toll-free hot line (1-800-942-5969).

Organ donation up slightly in Illinois

The state of Illinois has seen a mild increase in organ donations recently. According to the Regional Organ Bank of Illinois, donations in the year 2000 rose slightly, largely due to an aggressive public awareness program, and widespread support at the highest levels of state government. Despite this increase, however, more than 400 people died in Illinois last year while awaiting a transplant.

The IPC accepts calls from the general public and health-care professionals on the treatment of overdoses, medication problems, occupational exposures, hazardous material incidents, venomous bites, stings and other poison-related concerns.

"We hope that doctors will advise patients to store potentially poisonous products in cabinets with child-resistant safety locks, or in cabinets that are up high and out of the reach of children," said Christina Hantsch, MD, IPC medical director. "It is also important to store poisonous products only in their original containers with original labels."

To order poison prevention information (such as phone stickers, brochures and children's learning games) for distribution to patients, contact the IPC at 1-800-942-5969 and press option two, or visit the IPC's web site at www.mhcc.org/ipc



ATTN: ISMS DELEGATES
ANNUAL HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING
APRIL 27-29, 2001

SAVE THE DATE:
FORMULATE POLICY- SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MEDICINE

Are you interested in being a delegate? If so, your branch may have vacancies. Contact Dick Bennett at 312/329-7323 or email rbennett@cmsidocs.org for answers to your questions.

CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

CMS-SPONSORED PROGRAMS

OSHA 2001 Training

● OSHA Training (1.0 CME Category 1 hour, credit pending) Thursday, June 14, 3 PM, CMS Building

\$25 -- members and staff

\$80 -- nonmembers and staff

All health-care workers are required by the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration to participate in annual training on bloodborne pathogens and use of per-

sonal protective equipment. Our OSHA training is an easy and affordable update to help you and your staff comply with federal regulations.

For registration information, contact Sam Bailey at CMS, (312) 670-2550, ext. 338; or e-mail: sbailey@cmsdocs.org

On-Site Training—CMS will hold the OSHA program in the convenience of your own facility. Please contact Cecilia Merino at (312) 670-2550 ext. 339; or e-mail: cmerino@cmsdocs.org

Mark your calendar for Branch and Specialty Society meetings

Wednesday, April 4

Irving Park

Tuesday, April 17

Chicago Pediatric Society

Wednesday, April 18

Chicago Dermatological Society

Wednesday, April 25

Chicago Gynecological Society

Wednesday, April 25

Northwest Branch

The above meeting dates, current at press time, are subject to change. Please refer to your mailed meeting notice for full details (i.e., cost, date, time, topic, location, etc.), and to confirm dates; or visit our website at www.cmsdocs.org. Detailed listings also appear in Chicago Medicine.

Find us online at CMS Internet address www.cmsdocs.org



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