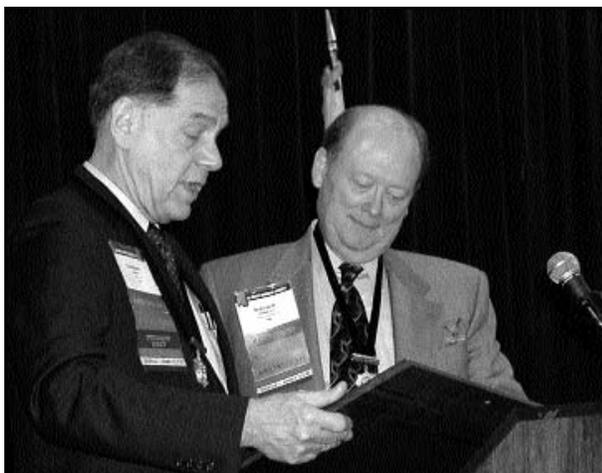




HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ISMS HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

Proposed March on Washington wins approval



Photos courtesy of ISMS

Incoming ISMS President John F. Schneider, MD, PhD, presents a plaque of recognition to outgoing President Ronald L. Ruecker, MD, during the HOD meeting.

FED UP WITH DWINDLING MEDICARE and Medicaid reimbursement rates, soaring malpractice costs, and loss of autonomy, ISMS physicians have a strong message for the AMA leadership: Organize a national

march on Washington to focus attention on the ailing state of American medicine. ISMS will relay this directive to the AMA in the form of a resolution at the AMA's June HOD meeting.

Of all the 80 plus resolutions debated during the ISMS House of Delegates meeting April 19-21, none generated as much heat as the Third District's proposal to march on Washington. (While Illinois physicians are pushing for a national protest march, more than a thousand New York physicians recently stepped outside their local hospitals to protest the state's out-of-control liability system.)

In helping to set the ISMS policy agenda, CMS and the Third District also presented a slate of resolutions and reports addressing: fairness in health care services contracting legislation, terrorism in America, physician credentialing, and vaccination against smallpox (see box).

With liability reform a paramount concern, the House backed a Third District resolution reaffirming ISMS ongoing commitment to Caps legislation. The House further directed ISMS to initiate new legislation in the Illinois General Assembly and support the AMA's efforts to hasten tort reform at the federal level. In the meantime, ISMS will work aggressively to educate lawmakers and their constituents about the excessive costs and consequences of rampant litigation.

The House also adopted a Third District resolution reaffirming support for the ISMS authored Fairness in Health Care Services Contracting Act (S.B. 1849). The Act would:

HIGHLIGHTS *(continued)*

- Outlaw egregious contract and administrative provisions.
- Prevent managed care companies from forcing providers to participate in all products clauses.
- Require companies to pay physicians the amounts agreed to in their own contracts.
- Allow providers to see rates before they sign.
- Prevent companies from creating silent PPOs and using other deceptive business practices.

Highlights of CMS/Third District Resolutions adopted by the ISMS House:

● **Resolution Repository**

Requests the AMA to expand existing web site resources to include links to web sites of county, state and national medical societies; urges the AMA to develop a more comprehensive web site database for national and state legislation.

● **Mammogram Reimbursement**

Urges AMA to pursue development of appropriate Medicare reimbursement methodologies for all aspects of medical treatment, including preventive care services and mammograms.

● **Amend the Prompt Pay Act**

Directs ISMS to collect data to determine the frequency and extent of non compliance by third party payors with provisions of the

Prompt Pay Act, and bring the results of this investigation to the BOT for action.

● **National Physician Data Bank**

Restates opposition to the use of the National Practitioner Data Bank as a measure of clinical competence and opposes opening the Data Bank to the public.

● **Health Plan Physician Listings**

Urges health plans to maintain accurate lists of participating physicians and refrain from listing physicians as network participants who do not have a contract with the specific plan; requests that plans not penalize physicians or patients for adhering to publishing rosters; and directs ISMS to bring to the Department of Insurance examples of inappropriate listings of physicians on plan rosters.

Senator Fitzgerald keynotes

U.S. Sen. Peter G. Fitzgerald described what's ahead in the 107th Congress as he delivered the keynote address on Saturday morning at the Public Affairs Breakfast. A strong supporter of organized medicine, Senator Fitzgerald said it wasn't appropriate for Congress to determine the level of patient care, and he decried the number of physicians leaving Medicare.

The meeting concluded Sunday with the election of new officers. CMS Past President John F. Schneider, MD, PhD, was inaugurated as ISMS new president. A board certified internist with a PhD in biochemistry, Dr. Schneider was an attending primary care physician at the University of Chicago Hospitals from 1970 to 2001. He is also immediate past president of the Institute of Medicine, Chicago.



Jere E. Freidheim, MD, chairman of IMPAC, left, welcomes U.S. Sen. Peter G. Fitzgerald to the Public Affairs Breakfast.

HIGHLIGHTS *(continued)*



Delegates raise questions during an HOD session.

● HIPAA Compliance Plans

Supports the AMA HOD objection to the criminal penalties for physicians as outlined in the HIPAA legislation.

● Physician Quality Ratings

Supports the availability of accurate demographic information concerning all medical providers in a fashion that is appropriate, meaningful, and understandable to the lay public; directs ISMS to oppose the use of ratings systems and their availability and distribution to the public via print, electronic or other means, without first assuring that physicians participated in the gathering and interpretation of data; requires that statistical validity be determined and that the methods of data collection be clearly stated before any data is accessible; and calls for a similar resolution to be submitted to the AMA HOD for consideration.

● Medical Profession Fights Against Biological Terrorism

Condemns members of the scientific community who carelessly and/or deliberately disseminate biological materials in the spread of diseases and creation of mass epidemic; and directs organized medicine to encourage institutions that engage in research to implement safeguards for the protection of biological materials.

● Vaccinate Against Smallpox

Encourages the federal government to make the smallpox vaccine available at the appropriate time with high priority to those with possible exposure

to protect them against the smallpox virus.

● Home Health Reimbursement Inequities

Requests the AMA to review the payment structures for physicians and nurses who provide home health care, and to work with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to correct any reimbursement inequities that inhibit physicians from providing home health care.

Meeting demonstrates value of membership

AS PASSAGE OF THE CMS/THIRD DISTRICT resolutions illustrate, a single voice can resonate throughout organized medicine. The CMS resolutions adopted at ISMS began at the Cook County level through committed individuals and small groups. The resolutions are now headed for the AMA meeting in June, where they will go for eventual adoption, revision or defeat.

The journey of these resolutions shows how ideas and suggestions with humble, grassroots origins may someday shape policy at the national level. One example of how much the joint/combined efforts of CMS, ISMS, and AMA pay off is the new law fixing interest rates on student loans.

The seed for this legislation was formed at CMS when our Council passed a resolution backing an expansion of the tax deduction medical student loan borrowers could take on the outstanding in

Downstate caucus, CMS, friendly competitors

CMS accepted a challenge from a downstate caucus chair to see who could sign up more new physician members within the next month. Accepting the challenge on behalf of CMS was President Edmund R. Donoghue, MD. Please give him your support!

Borrowing from the old TV series, *Mission Impossible*, the CMS Board of Trustees has issued an unprecedented challenge to its own members: The plan, effective in April, calls for each trustee to contact five lapsed members every week. Unlike the *Mission Impossible* character Mr. Phelps, who could always choose whether to accept a mission, the CMS team *must* carry out its duties, setting an example for all Councilors and Branch presidents.

KEEPING POSTED

IDPA scheduled to dis-enroll physicians for Public Aid

CMS IS CHECKING ON THE STATUS OF approximately 2,000 Cook County physicians currently scheduled by IDPA for dis enrollment as public aid providers. CMS wants to make sure they do indeed want to opt out of the Medical Assistance Program despite assurances by IDPA that they have made thorough efforts to contact all the physicians in question.

Members scheduled for dis enrollment should have received a letter from CMS confirming their preference.

Over the past year, the Illinois Department of Public Aid has been re enrolling physicians who originally enrolled in the Medical Assistance Program between 1982 and 1987.

If you are concerned about your status, please call Physician Practice Advocate Katie Brown at CMS (312) 670 2550, ext. 328; or e mail kbrown@cmsdocs.org

Helpful hints for license renewal

REMINDER: ALL ILLINOIS MEDICAL LICENSES will expire July 31, 2002. Physicians who are members of CMS, ISMS, or policyholders of ISMIE can renew their license through a special service, which will guarantee:

- Waiver of licensure renewal credit card processing fees.
- Immediate answers to most renewal questions.
- Confirmation of the licensure renewal process within two business days.

To access this service, call ISMS at (800) 782 4767, ext. 1400, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Please note the following points concerning CME:

- Physicians should *nt* send proof of continuing medical education unless specifically requested by the Department.
- Each physician must maintain proof of comple

tion of CME in the event they are selected during a random audit.

- Physicians do not need to comply with CME if this is their first Illinois renewal (originally licensed after Aug. 1, 1999).

- Any physician who renews after July 31, 2002, will be required to submit evidence demonstrating compliance with CME.

- Additional information regarding CME requirements is included in each renewal packet.

- *Retired physicians no longer practicing medicine and not interested in maintaining an active license do not need to comply with CME requirements.*

IDPR mailed renewal forms during the first week of April.

If you have not received your renewal form, call the IDPR at (217) 782 0458 or e mail www.dpr.state.il.us

Chicago Derm Society to sponsor free skin cancer screening

When? Saturday, July 13, 12 noon 4pm

Where? North Avenue Beach (just north of the foot bridge)

Help us spread the word:

The Chicago Dermatological Society will offer free skin cancer screening, sunscreen samples and education at the place where it s most needed The BEACH!

Participants will be screened by board certified dermatologists and will receive a personalized report with recommendations concerning the need for follow up if a suspicious skin lesion is detected.

All visitors will receive educational materials and free sunscreen samples.

For information, call (312) 670 2550, ext. 332.

CANDIDATES FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any member having information affecting the membership of the candidates listed here should communicate at once with Membership Committee Chairman William A. McDade, MD, at (312) 670 2550.

Aux Plaines (Resident) Meduri, Premlatha, MD	(Resident) Ali, Saima, MD	Maves, Michael G., MD (First Year) Sheinin, Sandra, MD (Resident) Fidler, Mary, MD	Davis, Gilla P., MD Southeastern (Regular) Daszko, Jarom, MD
Irving Park (Regular) Chhibber, Jaswinder R., MD	North Shore (Third Year) Monteith, Doug A., MD	North Suburban (Regular)	Student Zloza, Andrew
North Side (Regular)			

MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO CMS COUNCIL MEETINGS

WE REMIND YOU THAT ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETINGS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN OBSERVING THE CMS POLICY MAKING BODY IN ACTION, CALL (312) 670 2550, EXT. 322, TO RESERVE AN AGENDA PACKET. CMS MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT COUNCIL MEMBERS MUST OBTAIN PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR TO SPEAK AT COUNCIL MEETINGS BEFORE THE MEETING CONVENES. WHEN THE CHAIR GRANTS THIS PERMISSION, IT WILL BE FOR A SPECIFIED PERIOD OF TIME.

*The next Council meeting is scheduled for 7 pm. on Tuesday,
June 4, 2002, location to be announced.*

MEMBERSHIP IS NO LONGER AN ALTERNATIVE IT S AN IMPERATIVE!

Please help recruit your colleagues

As a CMS member you are aware of the value of organized medicine. You can support your profession by asking this question of every physician you speak with:

● **ARE YOU A MEMBER of the Chicago Medical Society?**

Don t be shy about asking physicians to join. You, our members, are the best source of reaching out to colleagues. It will take several attempts to persuade them. But since the events of September 11, there appears to be a growing interest in being connected in joining.

● *Explain that you joined CMS BECAUSE It s the Right Thing to Do.*

Membership is an investment both in the future of physicians and in organized medicine. Membership allows physicians to take advantage of the numerous leadership, networking and advocacy opportunities the Society has to offer.

What has organized medicine done for me lately?

- Provided an insurance ombudsman.
- Sponsored educational programs for physicians and office staff.
- Negotiated a higher reimbursement from Medicaid in 2001 (it s now working to prevent a reduction).
- Blocked a plan to charge \$1 per Medicare claim file.
- Supported a Patient s Bill of Rights.
- Promoted Fairness in Contracting legislation to simplify managed care con

While some argue that specialty societies are the answer, many physicians tell us that specialty societies cannot meet all a physician s needs.

Here s what CMS/ISMS bring you:

- Legislative Advocacy
- Physician Practice Advocate
- Professional Liability/Health Insurance
- Collective Bargaining
- Service Bureau Programs/Discounts
- Practice Management Courses
- Continuing Medical Education
- Community Outreach
- Practice Advocacy

When physicians do not join medicine, it weakens the voice of medicine.

Encourage your colleagues to join CMS and ISMS today.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Office/building for sale/rent

CHICAGO BASED ORTHOPEDIC PRACTICE/ office for sale. Excellent location, near public transportation. Parking available. Call (773) 685 4300 or (847) 677 2500.

GOLD COAST AREA (CLARK & OAK). Fully equipped, multi specialty medical office space available. Call Norma (312) 337 5609.

FOR RENT LIBERTYVILLE OFFICE 1400 sq. ft. Prime location on Route 176. Close to Condell Medical Center and schools. Many built ins with updated electric and phone systems. Available April 2002. For details phone (847) 367 8091.

OFFICE FOR RENT, 720 SQ FT, IN MEDICAL building on Archer and Harlem, Chicago. Call Dr. Randin (773) 586 6555.

MEDICAL OFFICE WITH SEVEN EXAMINING rooms, two baths and a reception area. Approx. 1000 sq. ft. Located at 1012 W. 18th St, Chicago, IL. Near UIC and downtown. Also available 3000 sq. ft. office with 25 car parking. At 1126 1132 W. 18th St. Ask for Tom at (773)

416 4742.

Medical practice for sale

BUSY FAMILY, SPORTS, INDUSTRIAL practice for sale. Located in near western suburbs. Close to Westlake, LaGrange, Hinsdale and Elmhurst hospitals. Room for 2-3 physicians. For further information write to Box #2009 c/o *Chicago, Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

Personnel wanted

SEEKING BOARD CERTIFIED INTERNIST or family practitioner for full time or part time inpatient care at hospitals on the north and south sides of Chicago. Call (630) 679 2502.

PEDIATRICIAN WANTED PART TIME FOR suburban practice located 45 minutes from downtown Chicago. No hospital duties. Please reply to Box #1099, c/o *Chicago Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

POLISH SPEAKING INTERNIST WANTED for the Schaumburg Pain Center. Great opportunity. Call Greg at (847) 352 5511; or fax resume to (847) 352 5585.

HOME PHYSICIANS, AN INNOVATIVE medical group located in Chicago and specializing in house calls, is seeking physicians to join its practice. We are looking for individuals with training in primary care/surgical debridement. Full time and part time positions available. Please fax C.V. to Scott Schneider at (773) 384 7053; or mail to Home Physicians, 1735 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; phone (773) 292 4800.

PEDIATRICIAN FOR GROWING MULTI specialty group. Terms negotiable. (773) 895 9695.

RADIOLOGIST WANTED FOR GROWING group practice. Terms negotiable. (773) 895 9695.

OB/GYN WANTED FOR GROWING GROUP practice. Terms negotiable. (773) 895 9695.

PEDIATRICIAN: MULTI SPECIALTY GROUP on north side of Chicago needs half time pediatrician. Energetic, personable, board certified (within two years), bilingual Spanish preferred (not required). Compensation includes profit sharing/401(k), incentive bonus, insurance. Fax/e mail C.V. attention of Todd Ochs, MD, at (773) 769 0042; t_ochs@northwestern.edu

INTERNAL MEDICINE OR FAMILY PRACTICE positions open July 2002. Far west Chicago and near west suburb. Fax (630) 789 3420.

SPANISH SPEAKING INTERNAL MEDICINE or family practice physician for large group practice. (773) 895 9695. Terms negotiable.

MOBILE DOCTORS SEEKS FULL TIME and part time physicians to make house calls to the elderly and disabled. No on call, night or weekend work. Transportation and a medical assistant are provided. Practice hands on medicine. Fax C.V. to (312) 640 4496; or call (312) 939 5090.

PHYSICIAN FAMILY MEDICINE AND Wellness Center (Merrillville, IN) Examine, diagnose & treat patients using traditional and natural remedies, including vitamins, herbs, & supplements. Make rounds at hospitals in Gary, Hobart & Merrillville. Requires an MD or equivalent in Internal Medicine, license to practice in Indiana and board certified Naturopathic Physician required. Fax C.V. to Ngozi Nchekwube at 219 985 5510.

SPANISH SPEAKING OB/GYN FOR LARGE group practice. Terms negotiable. (773) 895 9695.

SPANISH SPEAKING GASTROENTEROLOGIST for large group practice. Terms negotiable. (773) 895 9695.

Personnel available

BILINGUAL BOARD CERTIFIED INTERNAL medicine physician looking for opportunities in Chicago suburbs. Please call (815) 943 1216.
FEMALE PEDIATRICIAN, UNIVERSITY trained, seeks part time position for Chicago and northwest suburbs only. Reply to Box #2010 c/o *Chicago Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

BOARD CERTIFIED INTERNIST SEEKING part time (one to two days per week) position. Call (847) 677 6008.

PHYSICIAN WITH EXPERIENCE IN occupational medicine seeks part time or full time position. M.R.O. certified. Reply to Box #2013 c/o *Chicago Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610.

Business services

MEDICAL BILLING, INSURANCE FILING and physicians receivables management. Twenty years experience. Contact Latiefa Gani, e mail lnjdatasrvoc@msn.com or call LNJ Automated Data Service (630) 497 1730.

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