

chicago CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF COOK COUNTY **medicine**

Newsletter, May 2003, Vol. 106, No. 5

LANDMARK CMS RALLY IN DALEY PLAZA

Access to care is key point

ILLINOIS' ERODING HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM is leaving physicians, nurses and patients with unhealthy options. That's why CMS brought together physicians, their staff and patients at a landmark rally on May 13. The rally, held at the Daley Plaza, aimed to increase awareness about the increasingly difficult medical practice environment and its negative impact on access to care.

Physicians wore their white coats to send an important message to the state's legislature: Medical liability reform is not about the cost of being a physician, it is about the cost of being a patient. AMA Vice-chair William G. Plested III, MD, ISMS President William E. Kobler, MD, and CMS President Richard A. Geline, MD, were featured speakers at what was one of the largest medical liability reform rallies in the United States to date. We hope you were there so you could be counted.

Watch for complete Rally coverage
in the June issue of the
Chicago Medicine Newsletter



Scott Warner

CMS President-elect Neil E. Winston, MD, gives a preview of several posters that physicians were set to carry at the May 13 rally in Daley Plaza.

Physicians and patients— Contact Senator Durbin now

Urge him to support S. 607

What is S. 607? A bill introduced by Sen. John Ensign (R-NV) that would improve patient access to health-care services. S. 607 is the Senate version of H.R. 5, the HEALTH Act, which passed the U.S. House last March. The bill would reduce the excessive burden the liability system places on the health-care

See "Sen. Durbin," page 2

Sen. Durbin (continued from page 1)

delivery system. And like H.R. 5, this legislation is modeled after California's MICRA law, which has stabilized the malpractice liability system in that state since 1975.

Your support is necessary to help secure the additional votes needed in the U.S. Senate to pass federal MICRA-style reforms.

Urge your friends, patients, and colleagues to support S. 607

● Contact **Senator Durbin**—Tell him we need liability reform before more physicians are driven out of practice. Write one or two sentences on your letterhead and send to: 332 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510, phone (202) 224-2152, fax (202) 228-0400.

● Contact **Senator Fitzgerald**—Thank him for his support of liability reform. Write one or two sentences on your letterhead and send to: 555 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC, 20510, phone (202) 224-2854.

Here's who supported the Rally

MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS

- American Medical Association
- Illinois State Medical Society
- Kane County Medical Society
- Lake County Medical Society
- Will-Grundy County Medical Society
- McHenry County Medical Society
- Winnebago County Medical Society
- Illinois Association of Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons
- Illinois American Academy of Family Physicians
- Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council

COOK COUNTY HOSPITALS

- Advocate Bethany Hospital, Chicago
- Advocate Christ Medical Center, Oak Lawn
- Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital, Downers Grove
- Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago
- Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge

Advocate South Suburban Hospital, Hazel Crest

Advocate Trinity Hospital, Chicago
Alexian Brothers Medical Center, Elk Grove Village

Evanston Hospital, Evanston

Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, Melrose Park

Holy Cross Hospital, Chicago

Holy Family Medical Center, Des Plaines

Ingalls Memorial Hospital, Harvey

Lake Forest Hospital, Lake Forest

Lincoln Park Hospital, Chicago

Loretto Hospital, Chicago

Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital, Chicago

MacNeal Hospital, Berwyn

Mercy Hospital & Medical Center, Chicago

Northwest Community Healthcare, Arlington Heights

Norwegian-American Hospital, Chicago

Oak Park Hospital, Oak Park

Our Lady of Resurrection Medical Center, Chicago

Resurrection Medical Center, Chicago

Roseland Community Hospital, Chicago Rush

North Shore Hospital, Skokie

South Shore Hospital, Chicago

St. Alexius Medical Center, Hoffman Estates

St. Anthony Hospital, Chicago

St. Bernard Hospital and Healthcare Center, Chicago

St. Elizabeth Hospital, Chicago

St. Francis Hospital, Evanston

St. James Hospital and Medical Center, Chicago Heights

St. Joseph Hospital, Chicago

St. Mary of Nazareth Hospital Center, Chicago

Swedish Covenant Hospital, Chicago

West Suburban Hospital & Medical Center, Oak Park

Westlake Hospital, Melrose Park

OUTSIDE COOK COUNTY

Central DuPage Health, Winfield

Delnor-Community Hospital, Geneva

Dreyer Medical Clinic, Aurora

Edward Hospital, Naperville

Elmhurst Memorial Hospital, Elmhurst

LaGrange Memorial/Hinsdale Hospital, La Grange

Rush-Copley Medical Center, Aurora

Provena Mercy Center, Aurora

Provena St. Joseph Medical Center, Joliet

Silver Cross Hospital, Joliet

Chicago Medical Society

515 N. Dearborn Street / Chicago, Illinois 60610 / Phone: (312) 670-2550 / Fax: (312) 670-3646

Professional Liability Survey

Directions: Please place a check mark in the appropriate box and fill in blanks where necessary.

1. Please indicate the zip code of your practice/office: _____
2. Please provide the name of your professional liability insurance carrier: _____
3. Have your professional liability insurance premiums increased this past year? Yes No
4. If your professional liability insurance premium has increased this past year please indicate the percentage _____%
5. Has your professional liability insurance carrier elected to not renew your coverage this past year? Yes No
6. Has your professional liability insurance carrier limited your coverage this past year? Yes No

Please indicate the services your carrier is no longer insuring:

7. Have you ever had a malpractice claim filed against you during your professional career? Yes No
8. Have you limited your practice as a result of increased professional liability risk/premiums? Yes No

Please indicate the services you are no longer providing:

9. Please indicate your specialty: _____
10. How many years have you been practicing medicine? _____

(over)

(Optional) Please Print

Name: _____

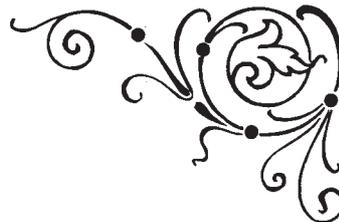
Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

**Please fax completed survey to the
Chicago Medical Society at
(312) 670-3646 by *July 1st*, 2003**

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.



You are cordially invited to attend the

Annual Meeting and Dinner

of the Chicago Medical Society



Honoring

Neil E. Winston, M.D.

as President of the Chicago Medical Society



Saturday, June 7, 2003

5:30 p.m. Cocktail Reception

6:30 p.m. Presentations

7:30 p.m. Buffet Dinner—Tour of Museum

Live Entertainment

*DuSable Museum of
African American History*

740 East 56th Place

Chicago, Illinois

Please arrange for:

____ Reservation(s) (\$60 per person)

Name(s):

Address: _____

Daytime Phone: () _____

Payment Method:

Check or Money Order Enclosed

Please make check payable to Chicago Medical Society

MasterCard Visa

Credit Card No: _____

Expiration Date: ____/____

Signature: _____

Please respond on or before June 3, 2003 to Cathy Faedtke, 312-329-7322
or fax to (312) 670-3646.

Reservations by mail should be sent to Chicago Medical Society, Annual Dinner,
515 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60610

FOCUS ON SMALLPOX

Bioterrorism preparedness program: Will you be ready?

IF A PATIENT WALKED INTO YOUR OFFICE with smallpox, would you recognize the symptoms? Would you know how to respond? CMS' free, one-hour CME course, "Bioterrorism Preparedness Training for Physicians: A Focus on Smallpox," continues this month with dates scheduled on May 21 and 28 (see page 7 for registration form). The program, which began in February, is open to *all health-care professionals* in Cook County, including doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, residents, and any others who may come into contact with patients.

A course held last month at Advocate Bethany Hospital received a ringing endorsement from Clement S. Rose, MD, president of the medical staff

at Bethany. "On behalf of the medical staff, I would sincerely like to thank...the Chicago Medical Society for the extremely timely and very much needed CME presentation on bioterrorism preparedness," wrote Dr. Rose in a letter to CMS. "The staff as well as others in attendance gave the presentation and speaker [Dr. Stephen Sokalski] five stars."

We are currently scheduling on-site bioterrorism courses at hospital facilities throughout Cook County. If you would like CMS to bring this vital CME course to your facility free of charge, ask the appropriate hospital personnel to contact Dan Pashman at (312) 329-7324.

GET CONGRESS INVOLVED

Bring your patients into the liability loop with "action kits"

TO EDUCATE YOUR PATIENTS ABOUT MEDICAL liability reform, doctors can order "Physician Action Kits" that include waiting room posters and patient brochures on the medical liability crisis from the AMA.

These kits are part of the AMA's new grassroots initiative urging patients to contact members of Congress about the need for medical liability reform.

To provide patients with up-to-date information on the crisis and solution, the AMA has introduced

a "Patient Action Network" that includes a toll-free number and web site. Patients can call or go to the web site to sign up for e-mail updates and directly contact their legislators to urge them to support medical liability reform.

The patient hotline number is (888) 434-6200 and the physician hotline number is (800) 833-6354. Patients and physicians can access web sites specifically designed for each group at www.ama-assn.org/go/grassroots.

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

NEWS FOR CHICAGO PHYSICIANS

chicago
CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF COOK COUNTY
medicine
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515 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago IL 60610

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Scott Warner, *Production Editor*

CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY

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The Chicago Medical Society
in conjunction with
The Chicago Department of Public Health
presents

Bioterrorism Preparedness Training for Physicians: A Focus on Smallpox

A vital CME course for all health care professionals

Who should attend?

All Chicago-area health care professionals are encouraged to attend this important seminar. This program will place emphasis on recognition of and response to smallpox and vaccinia, with resources on other bioterrorist agents. The tools gained would be vital for community health care workers in the event of a bioterrorist emergency.

The Bioterrorism Preparedness Program

The Chicago Medical Society, in conjunction with the Chicago Department of Public Health, has initiated this program, which aims to train as many as 3,000 area health care professionals in bioterrorism preparedness over the coming months. This one hour CME activity is being offered to physicians and healthcare professionals **at no cost**.

Dates

Oak Lawn Hilton, 9333 S. Cicero Avenue, Oak Lawn
Wednesday, May 21, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Saint Francis Hospital, 355 Ridge Avenue, Evanston
Wednesday, May 28, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Dates for private, on-site, free presentations are currently being scheduled at facilities across Cook County. To host a Bioterrorism Preparedness Program at your facility, contact Dan Pashman at (312) 329-7324.

All speakers are members of the Chicago Medical Society's Bioterrorism Speakers Bureau. Speakers will be posted on the web as they are confirmed, and included in meeting notices sent to registrants. For more info: www.cmsdocs.org

Can't find a convenient date? The Chicago Medical Society may be able to offer this seminar at your site. For more information call 312-670-2550.

Registration Form

To register for one of these CME activities, please complete this form and **fax it back to (312) 670-3646** or mail it to Chicago Medical Society, Bioterrorism Training, 515 N. Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60610. Call **(312) 670-2550, ext. 333** for more info. You may also obtain information or register through our website, www.cmsdocs.org.

Please mark the date you wish to attend:

Wed. 5/21 @ Oak Lawn Hilton*

Wed. 5/28 @ St. Francis Hospital*

Name(s) _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ E-mail _____

Address _____

* - Free parking is available at these sites.

The Chicago Medical Society designates this Continuing Medical Education activity for a maximum of 1.0 hour in Category 1 credit toward the AMA Physician's Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those hours that s/he actually spent in the activity.

MEDICAL MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

ISMIE Mutual announces 35.2 percent base rate hike

Cites state's deteriorating civil justice climate as cause

ISMIE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, THE state's largest writer of medical liability insurance coverage for physicians, has announced an annual base rate increase of 35.2 percent for its 14,000-plus policyholders, effective with the July 1, 2003, policy year. Letters to policyholders detailing the increase went out the week of April 28.

"We realize the enormous burden this poses for policyholders and their patients, and we deeply regret that the deteriorating civil justice climate left us little choice but to act," stated Harold L. Jensen, MD, ISMIE Mutual chairman. "The physicians on ISMIE's Board looked at every possible way to minimize this increase. However, in the last two years, the company's average payout per claim climbed 59 percent to \$612,000. The number of reported cases jumped 36 percent over the last nine months alone. We cannot sustain those loss trends without raising premiums substantially."

In addition to the base rate increase, the market environment is forcing ISMIE to significantly reduce existing discounts afforded policyholders. This means some physicians will experience premium hikes well in excess of 35 percent. The company has already imposed a moratorium on new business, which took effect Jan. 1, 2003. In 2002, ISMIE had taken in approximately 2000 new policyholders as several commercial carriers exited the Illinois market. "We want to serve Illinois physicians, but we have topped out on our financial resources available to write new business," explained Dr. Jensen.

"The cost driver in medical liability is non-economic damage awards," continued Dr. Jensen. "What's needed is a proven solution, a reform law similar to that adopted in California some years ago. It protects patients by giving them full and unlimited compensation for all their economic losses due to injury through medical negligence. At the same time, it caps at \$250,000 the unpredictable category of non-economic damage awards such as for pain and suffering."

ISMIE Mutual is urging physicians and patients statewide to call on Congress to enact a \$250,000 cap on non-economic damage awards, as embodied in H.R. 5 and S. 607.

In unity there is strength --

**HELP SIGN UP
A MEMBER →**

Recently, the AMA announced that Illinois is one of 18 states now in a full-blown medical liability crisis.

We need the support of every physician to strengthen the voice of organized medicine.

When organized medicine loses its members, the voice of the medical profession is weakened, affecting the way you practice medicine. We need stronger representation of physicians
NOW MORE THAN EVER.

Please sign up a member, using the two-sided membership form on the next page.

The Chicago Medical Society represents 17,000 physicians in Cook County, the only organization that can fight for your rights.

Should you have any questions about membership, please call us at (312) 329-7331, or visit our web site at www.cmsdocs.org.

Membership Application



Illinois State Medical Society

Chicago Medical Society



Personal Information

Check one: Physician Resident Physician Student

Degree _____ Gender _____

Last Name (as shown on medical license) _____ First _____ Middle _____ MD DO M F

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____ Home Fax _____ Home E-mail _____ Birth Date (m/d/y) _____

Place of birth _____ Medical Education number (if known) _____ Social Security Number _____

Medical School Name _____ Graduation Year _____

Professional Information

Primary State of Licensure _____ State License Number _____ Date License Expires (mm/dd/year) _____ Other State Licenses _____ Primary Specialty _____

Office Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Office Telephone _____ Office Fax _____ Office E-mail _____

Beginning Year of Medical Practice _____ Date _____ Preferred Mailing Address: Office Home

Membership Application and Qualification Questions

Members abide by the ISMS Code of Medical Ethics and the bylaws of the Society. To assist us in upholding these standards, please provide answers to the following questions, sign and date. *If you answer yes to any of these questions, please attach full information.*

- Yes No
1. Have you ever been convicted of fraud or a felony?
2. Has any action, in any jurisdiction, ever been taken regarding your license to practice medicine? This includes actions involving revocation, suspension, limitation, probation, or any imposed sanctions or conditions.
3. Have you ever been the subject of any disciplinary action by any medical society or hospital medical staff?

I am aware that information submitted in this application will be verified. I hereby authorize other organizations having information relating to this application, including governmental and regulatory entities, to release any and all such information.

I understand that any false or misleading statement made on my application may be grounds for denial of membership or probation or censure by, or suspension or expulsion from the medical society (ies).

The foregoing information is true and complete.

Signature _____ Date _____

Help Us Say Thank You

If you are joining ISMS at the suggestion of a current ISMS member, we would appreciate the opportunity to say thank you. Please indicate the ISMS member who referred you:

Name of ISMS Member _____

Return Information

Please submit application to:

Chicago Medical Society
515 N. Dearborn
Chicago, IL 60610 or fax: 312-670-3646



You're better off! **isms**

HALF-YEAR MEMBERSHIP DUES*
include the
CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY
ILLINOIS STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY
AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION (optional)

Membership dues are good for the rest of the calendar year* (**through December 31, 2003**).

For your convenience, applications and dues are processed at the local level. Please make your check payable to **CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY** or complete the credit card authorization form below.

Membership status and the corresponding dues are determined by your professional status on **January 1st of 2003**.

	Regular	4th Year After Residency	3rd Year After Residency	2nd Year After Residency	1st Year After Residency	Resident
CMS	165.00	132.00	99.00	66.00	33.00	20.00
ISMS	250.00	200.00	150.00	100.00	50.00	5.00
TOTAL	415.00	332.00	249.00	166.00	83.00	25.00
AMA (optional)	210.00	210.00	210.00	158.00	105.00	45.00
Total w/AMA	625.00	542.00	459.00	319.00	188.00	70.00
PAC (optional)	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	200.00	20.00
Total w/PAC & AMA	825.00	742.00	659.00	519.00	388.00	90.00

*** YOUR APPLICATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN August 22, 2003 IN ORDER TO QUALIFY FOR THESE DUES. AFTER THIS DATE YOU WILL HAVE TO SUBMIT FULL DUES.**

"Contributions or gifts to ISMS are not tax deductible as charitable contributions. However, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses."

* Contributions are not limited to the suggested amount. The Illinois State Medical Society will not favor or disadvantage anyone based on the amounts of or failure of a member to make PAC contributions. Contributions are subject to the limitations of FEC regulations, Sections 110.1, 110.2, and 110.5. (Federal regulations require this notice.) IMPAC Reports are filed with the State Board of Elections, and are or will be available for purchase from the State Board of Elections, 1020 South Spring Street, Springfield, Illinois 62704. Reports filed with the Federal Election Commission are or will be available from the Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20463. Voluntary membership contributions support political action committee membership in IMPAC for candidates for public office in Illinois and candidates for federal office elsewhere through AMPAC. AMPAC contributions require the use of a non-corporate check. Contributions to AMPAC and IMPAC are not deductible as charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes.

\$ 3.00 Of your ISMS dues is allocated to Medical Student and Resident Liaison.
 \$20.00 Of your CMS dues is for your subscription to Chicago Medicine and CMS News.



Chicago Medical Society
&
Illinois State Medical Society

In order to make it more convenient for physicians to pay their Medical Society dues, we are pleased to announce that the full dues amount may be paid by using either your VISA or MasterCard account.

  Account #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature _____ Amount Charged: \$ _____

Highlights from ISMS House of Delegates meeting

AMA: Illinois joins growing list of states where patient care is in crisis

AMID STORIES OF ILLINOIS PHYSICIANS forced to retire early, relocate, or abandon their practices, ISMS held its annual House of Delegates meeting in April. Many resolutions—some with titles like “Cap on Malpractice Awards,” “Help with Tort Reform,” “Malpractice Abuse: Time to Take the Trial Lawyers to Court,” and “Tort Reform Legislation in Illinois”—reflected the fighting mood across the state and within specialties.

Spearheading the campaign for change was guest speaker J. Edward Hill, MD, chairman of the AMA Board of Trustees. Dr. Hill described vigorous lobbying efforts for tort reform by the AMA in Washington, DC. Standing squarely behind H.R. 5, the HEALTH Act, and S. 607, the Senate version of H.R.5, the AMA has made national liability reform its highest priority.

While the medical liability morass figured prominently in shaping this year’s policy agenda, the HOD also considered numerous other resolutions. Fourteen of those were submitted through CMS; nine were adopted, two were not adopted, and three were referred to the ISMS BOT. For complete coverage of the resolutions, watch for the spring issue of *Chicago Medicine*.

(Following the lead of other local medical societies, the Cook County delegation, led by CMS President Richard A. Geline, MD, held its own medical liability reform rally on Chicago’s Daley Plaza on May 13. The CMS rally, which was supported by ISMS, AMA and the Chicago Metropolitan Healthcare Council, was the largest in Illinois and possibly even in the country. Physicians called for improved access to care for patients and caps on non-economic damages, based on proven reforms working in California.)

Among the new ISMS officers elected were William E. Kobler, MD (Rockford), president, Kenneth J. Printen MD (Evanston), president-elect, and Ronald L. Ruecker, MD (Decatur), chairman of the Board of Trustees.



Democratic State Senator visits CMS

Sen. Barack Obama (right) was a guest in the CMS office in early April. He came to discuss health issues with Drs. William McDade (left), CMS Board member, and Neil E. Winston, president-elect.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

Technology & medicine theme for MCC 2003

Scott Warner



Edward Abraham, MD, conducts the "Trigger Point and Injection Workshop" using fresh cadavers at the University of Illinois College of Medicine. Participants were taken from Navy Pier by bus for this truly hands-on program.

Highlights from the 59th Annual Midwest Clinical Conference at Navy Pier, March 20-22

A NEW CLASS BASED ON THE GAME SHOW *Jeopardy* offered physicians an entertaining change from traditional slide presentations. In "Trauma Jeopardy—Emergency Room Care," audience members participated as contestants, while a panel of experts asked questions focusing on pediatric and geriatric trauma. The brainchild of course director and moderator Thomas Vargish, MD, the format emphasized common problems and pitfalls of managing injured patients.

Another program highlight was "Trigger Point and Joint Injection Techniques," led by Edward Abraham, MD, professor and chairman of the Department of Orthopedics at the University of Illinois. The course made use of human cadavers to help physicians become more comfortable giving injections in their clinical practices, avoid complications associated with injection procedures, and identify anatomical landmarks and structures necessary for successful injections.

Other popular MCC courses included:

- "Genetics in the Medical Practice for the 21st Century"
- "For Patients' Sake, Take Control"

- "Conscious Sedation: Adults & Children"
- Physicians were also eager to learn about the new HIPAA security rule and how to bring their offices into compliance with the law. "HIPAA: Will You Be Ready on April 14," cosponsored by the CMS and AMA, had standing room only.
- "Bioterrorism Preparedness Training for Physicians: A Focus on Smallpox" filled Navy Pier's Grand Ballroom.

Highlights from the MCC Annual Public Service Award luncheon were:

- Keynote address by Illinois Senator Peter G. Fitzgerald in Washington, D.C., giving a candid talk via conference call on where physicians stand today legislatively.
- Speech by Edward Murnane, president of the Illinois Civil Justice League, who focused on the need for a fair and impartial judiciary and the importance of contacting senators and representatives.
- The 2003 Henrietta Herbolzheimer, MD, Public Service Award, honoring John R. Lumpkin, MD, MPH, former director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (1991-2003).

The conference offered a choice of more than 50 courses and up to 25 hours of Category 1 CME credit.

Watch for the spring issue of Chicago Medicine for MCC photo coverage, a write-up on Public Service Award recipient John R. Lumpkin, MD, and a summary of both Mr. Murnane's and Senator Fitzgerald's speeches.

Plight of uninsured examined

CMS PHYSICIANS WERE AMONG THE thousands of Chicago-area individuals and more than 85 organizations participating at the local level in "Cover the Uninsured Week," a series of nationwide events focusing on the plight of the nation's 41 million uninsured.

Held the week of March 10-16, activities consisted of town hall meetings, on-campus school-wide teaching events, free health screenings, and interfaith events. Former presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter served as honorary co-chairs.

CMS President Richard A. Geline, MD, and President-elect Neil E. Winston, MD, represented CMS at a town hall meeting complete with panel discussion and press conference. Elected officials signed a proclamation, pledging to help alleviate the problem of the uninsured. An uninsured family spoke about the challenges its members face without health-care coverage.

CTUW was cosponsored by the American Medical Association, American Hospital Association, Federation of American Hospitals, Catholic Health Association of the United States, United Way of America, Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, American Nurses Association, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, AFL-CIO, the Business Roundtable, Service Employees International Union, Healthcare Leadership Council, and AARP.

Predicted Medicare payment cuts prove formula is flawed

THANKS TO QUICK CONGRESSIONAL ACTION to correct the 2003 Medicare payment crisis, physicians will see a 1.6 percent increase in reimbursement this year instead of a 4.4 percent cut. This gain translates into \$54 billion for physician payments over ten years.

However, due to fundamental flaws in the formula for determining the physician reimbursement rate, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is now predicting a 4.2 percent cut for 2004.

This new projected cut is not the result of a deliberate decision by Congress. It is the unintended consequence of an unsound and unworkable Sus-

tainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. The SGR cuts payments if growth in Medicare patients' use of services exceeds GDP growth. At the same time, however, the government induces greater use of physician services through new coverage decisions, quality improvement initiatives and a host of other quasi-regulatory decisions that are good for patients but not reflected in the SGR. The Medicare Payment Advisory Committee (MedPAC) established by Congress recommends replacing the SGR with an update process similar to the approach used for Medicare hospital updates. For 2004, MedPAC has recommended an increase of 2.5 percent instead of the projected 4.2 percent cut.

Call your representatives and senators today -- Urge your elected officials to implement the MedPAC recommendations to replace the SGR with a more equitable update process for Medicare physician payment and to increase 2004 payments by 2.5 percent.

For a listing of your congressional representatives and their addresses, go to www.cmsdocs.org

CMS SOCIAL BENEFITS

Check the latest on ChicaGourmets fine-dining/lecture programs and travel

CHICAGOURMETS, THE FINE-DINING ORGANIZATION endorsed by the Chicago Medical Society Service Bureau, Inc., announces upcoming dining events and programs. (All CMS members are considered members of ChicaGourmets, and will receive the ChicaGourmets discount for all events. All luncheon and dinner prices include tax, tip and wines.)

● Savoring Scandinavia

SATURDAY, MAY 24, LUNCHEON PROGRAM
AT CARLUCCI'S IN ROSEMONT

Andreas Viestad, one of Scandinavia's most esteemed food writers (and host of a new series this summer on PBS), is flying in from Norway to give us a culinary overview and tasting of his ancestral foods, prepared by Chef John Coletta. Mr. Viestad will also sign copies of his book, "Kitchen of Light." Member's price, \$30, free parking.

● TRAVEL: A Sojourn to Spain

TOUR NORTHERN SPAIN, OCT. 17-24, 2003

Spend a total of six nights in two four-star hotels, including the breathtaking Parador de Hondarribia. Experience the Guggenheim Museum before dining in San Sebastian with world famous chefs. During the exciting season of "harvest" visit, taste and dine with trendsetting winemakers and chefs of Rioja. And visit the premiere olive oil estate of Rihuelo. The journey culminates in the capital of Madrid. The tour will be led by Ana Fabiano, authority on Spain and the wines of Spain. Price per person is \$2,900. Single supplement is \$475. For details, see ad on opposite page, or contact ChicaGourmets (see below).

* * *

To make a reservation for ChicaGourmets events, please prepay by sending in your check, and identify yourself as a CMS member. (Memberships will be verified.)

Send checks to: ChicaGourmets, Mail Boxes, Etc. PMB 347, 47 W. Division St., Chicago, IL 60610-2220.

For more details, view the ChicaGourmets web site at www.chicagourmet.com.

For further information, contact Don Newcomb, president, ChicaGourmets, (708) 383-7543; e-mail donaldnewcomb@attbi.com.



Scott Warner

An insider's view of the Food Network

More than 70 guests came to attend a ChicaGourmets luncheon at Aria Restaurant in the Fairmont Hotel where TV producer and author Rochelle Brown described the founding of the Food Network and her involvement in producing "Emeril Live." Seated, from left: Donna Pierce, test kitchen director, *Chicago Tribune*; Ms. Brown; Chef Kocoa Scott-Winbush, media personality; Susan Ellefson, public relations director, Fairmont Hotel; standing: Pat Roney, president, Girard Winery, St. Helena, CA; Neil E. Winston, MD, president-elect, CMS; James R. Tarrant, executive director, CMS; Marilyn Tarrant; and Don Newcomb, president, ChicaGourmets.

Supreme Court tells HMOs to open their networks

IN A MAJOR RULING THAT GIVES PATIENTS greater choice in selecting doctors and states more power to regulate the managed care industry, the Supreme Court ruled unanimously that HMOs can be forced to open their networks to more health-care providers.

“For the second time in 12 months, justices have asserted that managed care organizations cannot escape compliance with state laws regulating insurance,” said AMA President-elect Donald J. Palmisano, MD. “The AMA has repeatedly maintained that health insurance companies cannot avoid accountability to state laws regulating insurance by hiding behind ERISA.”

The AMA Litigation Center, together with the Kentucky Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, National Medical Association and American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists filed an *amicus curare* brief in *Kentucky Association of Health Plans v. Miller*.

AMA hosts forum for young physicians

THE AMA YOUNG PHYSICIANS SECTION invites physicians under 40 to participate in special programming scheduled on Friday morning, June 13, prior to the opening of the AMA-YPS Assembly Meeting in Chicago. The morning will begin with a networking round table breakfast, scheduled from 8:00-9:30 am. You will be able to network with colleagues from across the country, meet your young elected AMA leaders, share your ideas with AMA staff, and provide input on key AMA issues and activities.

The breakfast will be followed by an educational session, “Medicare: Ripe for Reform,” from 10:00-11:30 am. This session features representatives from the Galen Institute, the AMA, and the AARP. You will hear the latest economic trends and social policy issues that surround Medicare and its reform, the content and current status of reform proposals from Congress and the Administration, and likely solutions to the Medicare situation and the implications for physicians. Participants can receive category 1 CME credit.

Special registration for both of these sessions is required. For additional details and to register, go to www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/10130.html.

All young local physicians are welcome at these events, as well as at the AMA-YPS Assembly meeting and reception. To see a complete schedule and for other details, go to www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/9494.html.

Candidates for membership

Any member having information affecting the membership of the candidates listed here should communicate at once with CMS Membership Committee Chairman Irene Panayotou, MD, at (312) 670-2550.

Irving Park

(Regular)
McNamara, Thomas, MD

North Side

(Regular)
Rockey, Paul, MD

Student

(UIC)
Landam, Israel

West Side

(Regular)
Schafer, Michael, MD

PATIENT FEEDBACK

How's your health, Chicago?

Volunteers wanted to participate in pilot program

Practice Improvement and CME: The Commonwealth Fund and the Chicago Medical Society are offering an on-line, practice-based improvement opportunity called "Improve Your Medical Care." The program is a component of "How's Your Health Chicago?" Office practices that choose to participate in "Improve Your Medical Care" receive free, state-of-the-art continuing education based on the best available information from such organizations as the Institute for Health Care Improvement, Dartmouth Medical School, and the McColl Institute for Health Care Innovation. Your outpatient clinical staff should consider this opportunity to participate in Improve Your Medical Care. To participate, call James Tarrant at CMS, (312) 670-2550.

Last March, the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce launched a six-week campaign to help area residents become better health-care consumers. The first-in-kind initiative, called "How's Your Health Chicago?", connected people with a web-based survey that provided feedback on their

health issues. The campaign had the support of the City of Chicago, the Chicago Medical Society, Dartmouth Medical School, and the Commonwealth Fund.

Now that the web site survey is over, the medical experts are stepping in. Dr. John Wasson of Dartmouth Medical School and Dr. Regina Benjamin, founder of Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic in Alabama and U.S. Recipient of the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, will now analyze data from the survey to diagnose what's right, and what can be improved in Chicago-area health care. They will outline what steps need to be taken to improve health care in this area.

What Your Office Needs to Know: Your patients may bring you ACTION forms obtained from the web site survey that summarize their health assets and needs. They may also show you CHRONIC MANAGEMENT forms that summarize basic guidelines for self-management of common chronic conditions.

If your patients bring you these forms you will find that brief review of the content will enhance communication and improve care. Patients can obtain additional information by revisiting www.howsyourhealth.org. You may send all your patients to this web site at any time.

Chicago Medicine classified advertising form

Classified Rates (Per Insertion)	25 Words or less	26-40 words	41-60 words	61-80 words	81-100 words
Non-members	\$21.00	\$35.00	\$48.00	\$61.00	\$73.00
CMS members (20% discount) ...	\$16.80	\$28.00	\$38.40	\$48.80	\$58.40

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2. Payment must accompany the ad. We accept check, money order, Visa or MasterCard.
3. All ads must be submitted in writing, preferably using this form.
4. Cancellation notice must be received no later than the first day of the prior month.
5. Box reply numbers are assigned upon request at an additional \$5 per insertion (see below).
6. Return this completed form to: Dan Pashman, *Chicago Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610; or fax it to (312) 670-3646. If you have any questions, call Dan Pashman at (312) 329-7324.

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Classified policy

Acceptance of advertising is restricted to professional and business opportunities, practices for sale and rent, and medical office space available. All requests for classified advertising must be submitted in writing. Although *Chicago Medicine* believes the classified advertisements published within these pages to be from reputable sources, *Chicago Medicine* does not investigate the offers made and assumes no liability concerning them. *Chicago Medicine* reserves the right to decline, withdraw, or edit advertisements at its discretion. While *Chicago Medicine* makes every attempt to achieve accuracy, it cannot accept responsibility for typographical errors.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Office/building for sale/rent

NORTHWEST-SUBURBAN AREA MEDICAL suites available. We will do custom suite build-out for qualified medical practice. For information, call (847) 352-5000. Duval/Caruso Realtors.

WHY RENT WHEN YOU CAN OWN YOUR office? New construction - Kensington Square Office Condominiums. For sale or lease with option to buy. Located at 250 W. Kensington Rd., Mount Prospect; \$340,000 and up; 1,773 sq. ft. and up. Includes common areas, nine parking spaces, heating and A/C, bathroom, electric meter, and water meter. Seller will build out for \$35 per sq. ft. Contact Cecilia at PWCHK Management Inc., (847) 977-8776 or (847) 940-7149.

MEDICAL CENTER FOR RENT. 1300 SQ. FT. medical center close to Trinity Hospital. Southeast side of Chicago, 9335 S. Escanaba. Call Dr. Raju (773) 375-2433.

MIDWEST PHYSICIAN PAIN CENTER has office space available for primary care physician in P.M. at 3522 E. 95th St. and in A.M. and P.M. at 47th and Pulaski in Chicago. Minimum rent. Call (773) 933-0791.

FULLY EQUIPPED SURGICAL CENTER for sale suitable for a group practice on the west side of North Ave. Call Rodelia for appointment @ (847) 630-7358.

OFFICE SPACE FOR SUBLEASE IN HINSDALE near Hinsdale Hospital. Three exam rooms. Large waiting area. Call (630) 323-5522.

GREAT MEDICAL SPACE IN EAST Edgewater—Sheridan Health Center (multi-specialty group)—5310 N. Sheridan Rd., includes 1,317 sq. ft. with shared lobby, four parking spaces provided. Rent is \$2,395 monthly and includes heat, AC, electricity, water, and OSHA; security deposit required. Great space for urologist, internist, ob-gyn, physician therapist, or chiropractor. Call Dr. Trambas at (773) 878-1234.

EXCELLENT MEDICAL SPACE IN PARK Ridge—Dempster Health Center—2604 E. Dempster, includes 1,046 square feet with shared lobby, unlimited parking spaces provided. Rent is \$1,075 monthly and includes heat, AC, water, cleaning, and OSHA; security deposit required. Excellent space for urologist, internist, ob-gyn, physical therapist, or chiropractor. Close to Lutheran General and Holy Family Hospitals and major expressways. Call Dr. Trambas at (847) 299-9922.

Personnel wanted

HOME PHYSICIANS, A CHICAGO MEDICAL group specializing in house calls, seeks physicians. Individuals trained in primary care/surgical debridement. Full/part-time.

Fax C.V. to Scott Schneider at (773) 486-3548 or mail to Home Physicians, 1735 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, IL 60622; phone (773) 292-4800; www.homephysicians.com

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

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

CHICAGO: ANESTHESIOLOGIST MD, CRNA, wanted for gyn family planning surgical outpatient facility in the northwest and western suburbs of Chicago. Full-and part-time shifts available. Residents welcome. Malpractice insurance available. Please send resume to: Attn: Administrator, 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 110, Arlington Heights, IL 60004 or fax (847) 398-4585.

INTERNAL MEDICINE/ FAMILY PRACTICE physician needed in Arlington Heights. Must be board-certified or less than two years after residency. Fax CV to (847) 392-0036.

CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY. Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County has an immediate opening for a radiology department chairperson. Requirements include: Board-certification in general radiology, training and experience in directing the mammography program, additional training and/or certification in ultrasound, nuclear medicine, CT scanning, and neuroradiology is desirable. Responsible for direction and supervision of radiologists, and other radiology staff for radiological procedures/studies under the scope of department. Will ensure compliance with state, local, federal, IDNS, FDA, ACR, and JCAHO radiology requirements. Competitive salary and generous benefits package.

Please send C.V. and cover letter to: Human Resources Services, Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County, 15900 S. Cicero Ave., Oak Forest, IL 60452. EOE.

Medical equipment for sale

SAVE BIG \$\$\$. NEW AND USED EQUIPMENT. Prices as low as: Exam tables \$100, EKGs \$500, Midmark power tables \$1500, office desks \$50, plus waiting room chairs, X-ray shelving, soft goods, and more. Call (800) 553-8367.

FOR SALE. SAHARA CLINICAL BONE sonometer for osteoporosis screening. Medicare reimbursable. \$5,000 or best offer. Call (847) 251-1500 for Eleni.

Business services

LEE PERFECT TRANSCRIPTION OFFERS a quality, professional, personalized service. We offer: Medical and legal transcription, Internet-based transcription, HIPAA compliant audio-video tape transcription and toll-free dictation. We pick up and deliver to the city and suburbs. Lee Perfect Transcription Service, 680 N. Lake Shore Dr., Chicago (312) 664-1877; e-mail info@leeperfect.net; Web site www.leeperfect.com.

PHYSICIANS' ATTORNEY—EXPERIENCED and affordable physicians' legal services including practice purchases, sales and formations, partnership and associate contracts, collection, licensing problems, credentialing, estate planning and real estate. Initial consultation without charge. Representing practitioners since 1980. Steven H. Jesser (800) 424-0060, 790 Frontage Rd., Northfield, IL 60093; shj@sjesser.com, or www.sjesser.com.