WIDE RANGING ISSUES

CMS resolutions bound for ISMS House of Delegates

As of press time, CMS Third District delegates had authored nearly 30 resolutions for the ISMS House of Delegates meeting in April. The broad range of topics included public health concerns—smoking cessation and prevention; reducing trans fats; nursing home safety—to patient and physician advocacy issues—standard healthcare benefits, the corporate practice of medicine, access to care and Medicare.

Together, the state districts authored a total of nearly 90 resolutions; they address global warming and green initiatives; the flawed SGR; the media’s harmful effects on children and adolescents; and inadequate nurse staffing levels. Other resolutions are specific to Illinois, with two addressing the governor’s recent proposal to fund expansion of health services, and the extreme delays in Medicaid claims payment. A CME course offered during the HOD meeting takes up the issue of state-based health system reform. Attorney General Lisa Madigan addresses the HOD and Congressman Jerry Weller (R-11) speaks at the Public Affairs Breakfast.

The HOD meets April 19-22 at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott Resort. Third District Coverage will appear in our next issue.

EARNING CME

MCC offers new venue, courses

CMS hosted its 2007 Annual Midwest Clinical Conference over the St. Patrick’s Day weekend, offering attendees up to 16 CME credits and over 30 courses to choose from. Held at the upscale Hyatt Regency McCormick Place, the two-day conference offered a wide selection of educational sessions, networking opportunities and exhibits. The course lineup included:

- The latest clinical advancements in diabetes, hypertension, allergy & asthma, mood
MCC (continued from page 1)

Physicians gained information from exhibitors.

Keynote speaker Robert Hamilton, MD, discussed health savings accounts.

Physicians attend one of the more than 30 courses.

- A new hospitalist track; general session on foodborne outbreaks; latest on Medicare pay-for-performance; an update on health savings accounts; healthcare disparities; hands-on workshop in the CMS patient safety simulation lab.
- Practice management sessions; managed care update; 2007 OSHA; and the latest on electronic medical records.

The most popular courses were Diabetes 2007 Update; Health Savings Accounts; and Medicare: Pay-for-Performance. Approximately 150 physicians attended the conference.

For CME on additional educational programs, visit our web site at www.cmsdocs.org, go to “Services,” click “CME/Education,” and click “Upcoming CME Activities.”

NEWS FOR CHICAGO PHYSICIANS

CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY

515 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago IL 60610
James R. Tarrant, CAE, Executive Director
Liz Sidney, Co-Editor/Editorial
Scott Warner, Co-Editor/Production

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2007 OSHA Training Workshops

OSHA requires annual training for all healthcare workers with potential occupational exposure to blood-borne pathogens. Attend the two-hour training course, update your exposure control plan and satisfy most of your yearly OSHA regulations! All seminars are taught by specialists in exposure control. The course is designed for clinicians and their staff. At the conclusion of this activity, participants should be able to:

- Identify the requirements of OSHA standards including blood-borne pathogens.
- Explain how the standards apply to them.
- Discuss and select safer needle devices.
- Identify safety and health hazards at their facility.

**AUDIENCE:** PHYSICIANS AND MEDICAL OFFICE STAFF

Physicians can earn 2.0 CME credits

**OSHA DATES & LOCATIONS**

(FOR LOCATION AND DIRECTION INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.CMSSDOCS.ORG)

- Friday, May 4: Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 23: Chicago Medical Society Building (Downtown), 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 13: Oak Lawn Hilton, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Thursday, Sept. 13: Rush North Shore Medical Center, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Friday, Sept. 21: Chicago Medical Society Building (Downtown), 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 10: Oak Lawn Hilton, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- Friday, Oct. 26: Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 7: Chicago Medical Society Building (Downtown), 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Registration Fee (CMS member or staff person):** $59 – TWO HOUR UPDATE

* Student materials & an exposure control plan are included with the registration fee.

**Questions? Call Elvia Rubio at (312) 670-2550, ext. 338**
CMS AWARDED SAVINGS BONDS TO FOUR participants in the Chicago Public Schools 57th Annual Science Fair for their outstanding entries in the Health Sciences category. David A. Loiterman, MD, vice chairman of the CMS Council, served as judge in the competition, selecting the winners from a field of 21 entries.

**CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY SAVINGS BOND WINNERS**

**First Place ($400 Bond)**
Alyssa Joiner—Chicago Agricultural Science H.S.
Mammalian Cell Cytotoxicity of Halomethane DBP

**Second Place ($200 Bond)**
Izabela Murawel—Lincoln Park H.S.
Different Hand Soaps and Their Effect on E. coli

**Honorable Mention ($100 Each)**
Ibrahim Kamal—Shurz H.S.
Which Drink Rehydrates Best?
Ekaterina Khramtsova—Kenwood H.S.
Proteasome Inhibitors in Cancer

The Science Fair was held March 23 at the Museum of Science and Industry.
Meet your new district meeting planner

CMS IS PLEASED TO WELCOME Jennifer Cox as the new meeting planner for all the districts. Her responsibilities include coordinating activities, helping to select venues, and confirming topics and speakers. She also organizes CMS visits to area medical staff meetings, in addition to managing the Chicago Gynecological Society and the Chicago Pediatric Society.

Jennifer has lived in Chicago approximately three years since completing her undergraduate work at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. At Aquinas, Jennifer earned a dual major in International Studies and French. In addition to her studies, she also participated on the Varsity Volleyball Team, Student Athletic Advisory Board, Programming Board, and France Study Abroad Program.

Contact info: jcox@cmsdocs.org or (312) 329-7324.

Help your patients understand Medicare Part D appeals

MANY MEDICARE PATIENTS WHO TRY TO FILL prescriptions and think they will be covered by their Medicare Part D plan don’t know what to do if their pharmacist tells them their plan will not cover their prescriptions.

By law, pharmacists are supposed to either post by the pharmacy counter or hand information directly to patients about their Medicare Part D appeal rights, but this often does not occur. To help ensure that patients get the information they need, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services recommends that physicians give Medicare patients a one-page description of their appeal rights along with their prescriptions.

Visit http://www.cms.hhs.gov/PrescriptionDrug-Coverage/Downloads/PharmacyNoticeApproved.zip to download the flier.

Physicians having problems with Medicare Part D prescription drug plans are encouraged to report them to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services via e-mail to PRIT@cms.hhs.gov with a copy to PartD@ama-assn.org so the AMA will be aware of the situation.

Local groups to develop policy on hospital acquired infections

A BILL URGING THE CDC TO ADOPT GUIDELINES for universal testing of hospital patients for MRSA is working its way through the Illinois House of Representatives, and at the same time raising concerns among healthcare providers.

Some point to the added expense of universal screening and what to do with patients who test positive. They say isolating patients who test positive until they become negative, even if they are colonized and not infected with MRSA, could have an adverse effect on hospital bed availability and patient flow. The infectious disease specialty societies don’t support universal screening, but rather recommend screening high-risk patients.

Another House bill creates the MRSA Screening and Reporting Act and amends the Hospital Licensing Act. Under these Acts, hospital programs will be required to identify all MRSA infections through active surveillance testing of at-risk patients, isolate infected patients, adhere to strict hygiene guidelines and record and report cases of infection to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

CMS, the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, and the Illinois Hospital Association are currently developing positions on this issue. If you would like to voice your opinion on the issue, please contact Jim Tarrant at (312) 670-2550, ext. 321.

Hospital liaisons needed for legislative breakfasts and more.

For information, please contact:
Ted Kanellakes (312) 670-2550.
WANTED

Surplus Medical Equipment

Do you have any surplus medical equipment that may be donated to the Chicago Medical Society

Regional Patient Simulation Center

The CMS Foundation is developing a multiple room simulation center in 8,000 sq. ft. of space in our downtown headquarters. We are seeking donations of all items that would be found in an OR, ER, ICU and patient room.

The center will serve as a training facility where healthcare professionals can learn and maintain clinical skills. It will serve all area hospitals and healthcare professionals, i.e., physicians, nurses, therapists and EMTs, for training and emergency preparedness.

We are also urging our members to please contact their hospitals and inquire about donations—anything and everything will be appreciated.

For a complete list of items to donate please contact:
Michael Boros at 312-329-7326 or mboros@cmshdocs.org
LIABILITY COVERAGE

CMS Agency “invaluable:” Dr. Chorba
IN TODAY’S LITIGIOUS TIMES, IT’S NICE to know there’s a bright spot for physicians when it comes to malpractice insurance.

According to CMS member Thomas Chorba, MD, the CMS Insurance Agency has been invaluable to him. “I’ve been with them since the outset (2004),” the surgeon said. “The Agency has helped me schedule my application for ISMIE fellowship rewards so it wouldn’t conflict with other rewards. And the Agency representative, Phil Seroczynski, has been most helpful as a resource person for insurance-related issues.”

For information, contact Mr. Seroczynski or Dana Lucas at (312) 670-2550.

Physicians get go-ahead to continue NPI preparation
DUE TO STRONG ADVOCACY EFFORTS BY the AMA and others, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced a 12-month contingency plan this month for compliance with the National Provider Identifier (NPI) deadline of May 23, a Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) requirement.

The NPI will become the single, unique identifier for physicians, required for use when doing electronic business with all payers—including Medicare—and is intended to replace the multiple, proprietary identifiers physicians are assigned by health plans today with a single number. CMS recognizes that physicians and others are working hard to prepare for the use of the NPI, but much work remains. CMS also announced that if they receive an NPI complaint after May 23, 2008, when the contingency plan ends, they will consider "good faith" efforts to comply before any penalties are considered.

Despite the contingency plan, the AMA continues to encourage physicians to obtain their NPI by May 23, 2007, if they have not already done so. Payers, including Medicare, will have the option of allowing physicians to use their old identifiers on their electronic claims and other transactions for up to 12 months. Physicians should contact each of their payers to find out how they will apply this policy.

Visit www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProviderIdentStand/ to learn more on the CMS contingency plan.
REDDUCING THE DISPARITY

Chicago summit addresses local breast cancer death rates among African-American women

A call to action to improve outcomes in Chicago and nationally

LOCAL AND NATIONAL CANCER EXPERTS, healthcare providers, public health leaders and prominent breast cancer activists gathered in March at Rush University Medical Center to begin work on reducing the large disparity in breast cancer mortality between African-American and white women in Chicago.

The all-day summit tackled why African-American women continue to die of breast cancer at a much higher rate than white women, despite advances made to medical care during the last 20 years.

Response to Sinai Urban Health Institute Report

The Chicago Breast Cancer Summit is a response to the Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI) report issued in October 2006 that made local and national headlines about alarming disparities in breast cancer mortality rates between African-American women and white women in Chicago.

The all-day summit tackled why African-American women continue to die of breast cancer at a much higher rate than white women, despite advances made to medical care during the last 20 years.

The report dramatically illustrates that while advances in mammography screening and breast cancer treatment in Chicago have benefited white women over the last 22 years, these advances have not helped reduce breast cancer mortality for African-American women.

The report is a wake up call to the entire medical community that more needs to be done to improve breast cancer awareness, access, screening and treatment.

Three Hypotheses Explaining Disparities

During the summit, cancer care experts delivered presentations and participated in working sessions aimed at addressing the three possible causes for disparities.

• Differences in the quality of mammography screenings for African-American and white women: Mammography screenings received by African-American women may be of lesser quality.

• Differences in access to timely screenings and treatment: African-American women may be receiving fewer mammograms in general and in a less than optimal sequence.

• Differences in the quality of breast cancer treatment: African-American women may receive delayed or less effective treatment once breast cancer is diagnosed.

In addition to explaining the three hypotheses for disparities in breast cancer mortality rates, national cancer foundations and cancer experts explored how the Chicago Breast Cancer Summit can serve as a national model for other cities to address healthcare crises.

Several prominent public health leaders chair the Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force: Ruth Rothstein, former chief of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services; Sister Sheila Lyne, RSM, CEO of Mercy Medical Center and past commissioner of the Chicago Department of Health; and Donna Thompson, CEO of Access Community Health Network.

women was 149 per 100,000. Thus, although white women get breast cancer at a rate that is 18% higher, African-American women die from it far more often.

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# Chicago Medicine classified advertising form

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<tr>
<th>Words</th>
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<th>26-40 words</th>
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## Advertising guidelines:

1. Chicago Medical Society publishes *Chicago Medicine* as a monthly newsletter and as a quarterly magazine. Your ad will run in consecutive issues. Deadline is the first day of the month prior to the month in which your ad will run. For example, the deadline for the December issue would be Nov. 1.

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: Chris Sienko, *Chicago Medicine*, 515 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, IL 60610; or fax it to (312) 670-3646. If you have any questions, call Chris Sienko at (312) 329-7334.

Name: __________________________
Address: ______________________________________________________________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ________________ Zip Code: __________
Telephone: (______) ______________ Fax: (______) ______________

Base price of your ad per insertion (see above) ________
If you want ad responses sent via box #, add $5 per insertion (optional).
Total price per insertion ________
Number of insertions (months) ________
TOTAL AMOUNT DUE ________

Method of payment:

- [ ] Check/money order (payable to Chicago Medical Society)
- [ ] VISA  [ ] MasterCard  Account number: __________________________  Exp. Date: __________

Signature of cardholder: __________________________

Use lines below to type ad exactly as it should appear. Use additional paper, if necessary.
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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.
Office/building for sale/rent

EXCELLENT OAK BROOK LOCATION for doctor’s office. Modern building with atrium, 1733 sq. ft. available. Landlord will assist in build-out and remodeling cost; $23/sq. ft. Call (630) 279-5577.

FOR SALE: WELL-ESTABLISHED INTERNAL medicine practice in near west suburban, located across from hospital. Call evenings (773) 929-9618.

NEW 2,442 SQ.-FT. MEDICAL SUITE NOW available in the Little Village, the heart of Chicago’s Mexican community: 26th St. near Pulaski Rd. Rare opportunity. Three-year-old construction. Furnished or unfurnished. Competitive rate. Call Alfonso for info or appointment. (773) 762-2888.

THIRTY YEARS BUSY, WELL-ESTABLISHED ob-gyn practice in Evergreen Park for sale. THIRTY YEARS BUSY, WELL-ESTABLISHED ob-gyn practice in Evergreen Park for sale. Call evenings (773) 929-4800 or send CV to sschneider@homephysicians.com www.home-physicians.com.

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 CV to Michele at (312) 640-4496; or call (312) 617-2996.

PHYSICIANS NEEDED—FULL- OR PART-TIME. Downtown Chicago and suburban Chicago locations, northwestern and western suburbs. Ob-gyn for pregnancy termination, urology, gastroenterology, general surgery, plastic/cosmetic surgery, and dermatology specialties wanted. Residents in Illinois programs welcome. Malpractice insurance available. No night duty. Hourly or salaried positions available. Mail CV to Administrator, 1640 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Suite 110, Arlington Heights, IL 60004; or fax to (847) 398-4585; or email tammys@networkgci.net or melissak@networkgci.net

PEdiATRICIAN—FIVE-DOCTOR PEDIATRIC office 45 minutes from downtown Chicago seeking part-time BC/BE pediatrician, salary plus benefits. Fax CV attn: Judy at (815) 729-9060.

Business services

PHYSICIAN’S ATTORNEY—EXPERIENCED and affordable physician’s legal services including practice purchases; sales and formations; partnership and associate contracts; collections; licensing problems; credentialing; estate planning and real estate. Initial consultation without charge. Representing practitioners since 1980. Steven H. Jesse, 3000 N. Rutherford Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60004; or fax to (847) 398-4585; or email Tammys@networkgci.net.

PERFECT MEDICAL TRANSCRIBING Services—we serve a full range of transcription services. From tapes, Internet physician and electronic signature and HIPAA audit logs. We feature 24 by 7 support and interface expertise with cost-efficient verifiable units of pricing. Lee Perfect Transcribing: (800) 881-2468 or lee@leeperfect.net.

Personnel wanted

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