A majority of Cook County commissioners have now endorsed County Board President Todd Stroger’s final four nominees to the new independent panel that will assume control of the county public health system. We applaud Mr. Stroger for selecting individuals, including two physicians, with experience in running large health-care systems.

The Chicago Medical Society (CMS) had a hand in the screening of potential candidates. CMS Secretary, William N. Werner, MD, acted as the Society’s representative to the Nominating Committee, which was responsible for recommending candidates to Mr. Stroger.

Ever since Mr. Stroger first announced the massive and debilitating budget cuts, CMS has monitored the developing crisis at the Cook County Bureau of Health Services (CCBHS). In early 2007, CMS adopted a resolution urging Mr. Stroger and the Cook County Board of Commissioners to immediately reinstate financing for all vital medical services, and to maintain financing for health-care personnel who provide those services.

In a letter to Mr. Stroger, then-CMS President Shastri Swaminathan, MD, urged “great care” in carrying out budget and staff cuts within the CCBHS. A month later, CMS’ Sixth District teamed up with Mr. Stroger’s executive medical staff to host a highly successful job fair for physicians and physician assistants facing actual or potential job layoffs. The event drew 100 attendees.

Last summer, then-ISMS Chairman William E. Kobler, MD, and I authored a letter to Mr. Stroger, cautioning “county government to act with the utmost care and concern” so that patients’ health is not put at further risk.” We expressed our willingness to help the County Board if it requested our assistance.

At my invitation, Mr. Stroger attended our September Council meeting to discuss the imperiled CCBHS. And, at my request, Larry Goodman, MD, President and CEO of Rush University Medical Center, and Chairman of the CCBHS Review Committee, addressed the Council in November.

Through another resolution, CMS supported the Review Committee’s recommendations, which were outlined in an October 2007 report. This report, commissioned by Mr. Stroger, concluded that the primary problem was one of governance and recommended independent governance for the CCBHS.

(continued on page 2)
CMS strongly agrees, and we will work with the ISMS to review a CCBHS governance model from the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems Institute.

We are heartened to see the process moving along, albeit slowly. We stand ready to assist the new board while continuing to advocate on behalf of patients and physicians in Cook County.

Sincerely,

Saroja Bharati, MD
President, Chicago Medical Society

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT
(continued from first page)

Chicago Medicine, May 2008
Page 2
Imagine being seriously injured in an accident. You receive prompt, professional medical treatment that saves your life. Then, just as you’re on the brink of recovery, that treatment is taken away.

Prior to 2005, when medical lawsuit reforms became Illinois law, out-of-control liability premiums and jury awards had seriously injured our state’s health care system. This forced many doctors to cut back services, leave Illinois, or retire early. The result? Many patients could not access the care they desperately needed.

Since the reforms were enacted, we’ve begun a near-miraculous recovery. We’ve stemmed the flow of doctors leaving the state, assuring greater access to care for patients. We’ve reduced skyrocketing medical liability premiums that are ultimately passed on to employers, workers and their families in higher health insurance costs. In short, we’ve started to mend a medical liability system that was on the brink of collapse.

Now, trial lawyers want to overturn this fair, sensible—and necessary—reform and take us back to the dark days of excessive jury awards, higher medical liability premiums, escalating health care costs, and reduced access to care for patients.

Don’t let trial lawyers destroy the progress we’ve made on medical lawsuit reform. Let’s continue working to close the wounds, provide patients with the care they deserve, and keep physicians in Illinois.

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT WWW.REALITYMEDICINE.COM.
CANDIDATE SAUERBERG URGES DOCTORS TO CONSIDER RUN FOR OFFICE

Dr. Steve Sauerberg, a family physician who practices in LaGrange, delivered a “sober” message to his colleagues. Legislators, he said, have little regard for physicians, and because of this, craft legislation that doesn’t take doctors’ needs into account. “An 18-month freeze on Medicare payment cuts is not a bonus,” he said referring to the annual stopgap measure enacted in Washington, DC. “When you’re functioning well, patients get timely, efficient care,” he stated. Dr. Sauerberg emphasized that physicians absolutely must consider running for political office to get the respect of politicians in Springfield and Washington, DC. This is something every CMS member must think about, he stressed.

ISMS PRESIDENT GIVES PERSPECTIVE

Among the highlights of Dr. Shastri Swaminathan’s address:

- The CMS delegation to the ISMS House of Delegates brought high energy to the April HOD meeting, which featured programs on many topics, including covering the uninsured.
- Two bills in Springfield would increase Medicaid’s abysmally low payments to physicians. The

(continued on page 6)
Welcome Back!
to American Physicians

Come Back Now...
Get Tail Coverage Credit

With American Physicians, you can go home again. We’re welcoming back doctors who were insured with us in the past by giving you credit for your previous years of coverage. This will apply toward the five years required to receive free tail coverage upon retirement. It’s as if you never left!

Dependable Coverage, Competitive Rates, Superior Value

In addition to the credit you gain from our Welcome Back! program, you will enjoy all the benefits of American Physicians’ standard-setting coverage:

- Reliable, uninterrupted coverage since 1996
- 33% higher annual aggregate limits
- Committed to Illinois physicians
- Free on-site risk management assessment ($1,500 value)
- Consistently competitive rates
- Claims-free discounts of up to 15%

Don’t Miss Out . . .

Your welcome will never wear out at American Physicians, but this Welcome Back! program is only available for a limited time. To ensure that you get credit for your past coverage, call 1-800-748-0465 now.

American Physicians
ASSURANCE CORPORATION
Practices That Set The Standard
Senate has approved one version and a House bill is on hold until the state’s fiscal condition becomes clearer. When the budget is passed, physicians may see some relief.

- UIC Medical Center leaders have made public the need for increased funding. Joseph Flaherty, MD, Dean of the College of Medicine, and Kenneth Schmidt, MD, UIC Trustee, are lobbying hard for higher state subsidies.
- ISMS’ Reality Medicine is leading the fight to uphold the 2005 medical liability reform legislation. ISMS is urging members to help educate patients and citizens about the importance of an improved medical liability climate.
- ISMS and ISMIE Mutual have arranged with IDFPR to renew medical licenses and controlled substance licenses for members and policyholders. Physicians may call (800) 632-7478 during business hours. Physicians may also call that number to have their profiling or license renewal questions answered. The license renewal deadline is July 31. (For more information, see the ISMS Update section on p. 13.)

**MEMBERSHIP SURGES**

Since June 2007, CMS has welcomed a total of 970 new physicians, thanks to aggressive ongoing membership recruitment campaigns. A winter letter campaign brought in 184 physicians, and the campaign is continuing through selected CMS leaders. In the future, new members will be welcomed into the Society by the Executive Committee via telephone or in person, and will also receive a welcome folder. District presidents will contact individuals when membership is initiated. In the past year, both CMS and ISMS staff have collaborated on numerous joint marketing campaigns and membership recruitment/retention activities. Both organizations plan to have membership tables at all meetings where doctors are present.

**2008 Annual Meeting of the AMA House of Delegates**

Saturday, July 14 through Wednesday, June 18
Hyatt Regency Chicago
151 E. Wacker Drive
Chicago, IL 60601

**WOMEN PHYSICIANS FORUM SEEKS MEMBERS**

A membership recruitment letter campaign from Drs. Mary Jo Fidler and Linda Gruenberg is underway, highlighting the benefits of the new CMS and ISMS Women Physicians Forums. For more information or to join, contact Jennifer Cox at CMS (312) 670-2550, ext. 324.

**CMS TO DEVELOP CME ON HEALTHY LIFESTYLES**

Dr. Bharati is working with Margaret Gadon, MD, Director of the AMA’s Health Disparities Medicine & Public Health Program, to develop a CME program on her healthy lifestyles initiative. Dr. Bharati appointed Hugo Alvarez, MD, to represent the Society on this project.
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

CMS APPROVES ESTABLISHING LOCAL CHAPTER OF THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL REHABILITATION IN CHICAGO

The Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR), a volunteer program in which medical specialists tele-consult with health professionals in remote medically underserved areas, has established a local chapter through CMS. The collaboration is made possible by CIR’s software and social networking web site. CIR has presented three programs with CMS.

EHR DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

The ISMS Board of Trustees passed a resolution to work with Medicare and Medicaid on an electronic health record (EHR) demonstration project. The goal is to demonstrate that EHRs will improve the quality of care to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. This is an incentive program, and members will hear about it from ISMS in the near future.

TOP MEDICAL CENTERS REPRESENTED AT MIDWEST CLINICAL CONFERENCE

Nearly 200 physicians attended the 2008 Midwest Clinical Conference held at the Double Tree Hotel in Oak Brook. A healthy percentage (24%) were nonmembers and 41% registered online. The annual conference featured prominent keynote speakers: Nobel Prize Laureate Louis Ignarro, PhD, Assistant U.S. Surgeon General James M. Galloway, MD, U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis, and then-ISMS President Rodney Osborn, MD, and course presenters from the area’s top medical centers. CMS bestowed honorary membership on Dr. Ignarro for his outstanding contribution to medicine, which includes work that was instrumental in the development of Viagra.

CMS also recognized Rep. Davis for his sponsorship of the Second Chance Act, which provides transitional assistance to ex-offenders. CMS awarded pediatric cardiologist Rabi F. Sulayman, MD, with its Henrietta Herbolzheimer, MD, Public Service Award, for his volunteer efforts in the southwest side community, and leadership in building the Hope Children’s Hospital in Oak Lawn. In informal surveys, attendees gave the Oak Brook location high marks and praised the quality of the courses. Twenty-three MCC presentations were recorded and formatted for online CME through the Society’s Web site.
PHYSICIANS ENJOYED A FIRST-CLASS PROGRAM on cardiovascular disease in the elderly thanks to the organizational efforts of world-renowned specialist Robert Bonow, MD, Goldberg Distinguished Professor at Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine.

Dr. Bonow, who is also Chief of the Division of Cardiology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and Co-Director of the Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute, introduced the speakers for this half-day seminar held at Northwestern University, jointly sponsored by the Chicago Medical Society and featuring a panel of experts from Northwestern Memorial and the Bluhm Cardiovascular Institute.

CMS President Saroja Bharati, MD, welcomed the participants, while emphasizing the significance of this timely program. She stated that 78 million Baby Boomers will be turning 65 shortly, and that the U.S. health-care workforce is not ready to care for the aging population. One out of five Americans will be 65 years or older by 2030, she said. Currently, there are 7,100 U.S. doctors certified in geriatrics, or one per 2,500 older Americans, but by the year 2030, this country will need 36,000 geriatricians, and there will not be enough to care for the elderly population. The U.S. health-care workforce is unprepared to serve the growing number of older adults because our society places little value on geriatricians, Dr. Bharati explained.

Other reasons include decreasing Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements and increasing costs of patient care. In addition, 71% of nurses’ aids change jobs every year and 90% of home health aides quit their jobs every two years. Dr. Bharati believes it is time to train more physicians in geriatrics and to encourage younger physicians to go into geriatrics.

The well-attended program, which included a heart-healthy lunch, drew praise for the speakers’ expertise and presentations. The seminar will be available shortly as online CME at cmsdocs.org.

More coverage of the cardiovascular disease program will appear in the spring issue of Chicago Medicine magazine.
Physicians’ Benefits Trust offers a choice of quality health insurance plans for every stage of your life.

**Part of a group practice?** Our Group Health Benefits Program offers a variety of options and is available for practice groups of 2 or more.

**On your own?** Our Individual Medical Plans offer flexible coverage for you and your family.

**Looking for tax-free advantages?** A tax-favored Health Savings Account (HSA) – paired with our lower-premium HSA Qualified High Deductible Health Insurance Plan – may be right for you.

**Looking for an alternative to traditional medical coverage?** Our Excess Major Medical is another option with a lower premium that you may want to consider.

**Age 65 or over and on Medicare?** Protect yourself against the health care expenses NOT paid by Medicare, with our quality Medicare Supplement Insurance.

Physicians’ Benefits Trust health plans offer:

- ✔ Competitive rates with an initial 12-Month Rate GUARANTEE
- ✔ NO managed care requirements (except for organ transplant benefits)
- ✔ Portable coverage for physicians
- ✔ Prompt, courteous, experienced service

Find out more. Call TOLL-FREE 1-800-621-0748 or visit us online at: www.pbtinsurance.com

© 2008 PBT
Administered by Affinity Insurance Services, Inc.

Sponsored by: 

Owned by: 

ISMIE Mutual Insurance Company

The Physicians’ Trust Insurance Companies
CMS physicians joined their colleagues from across Illinois to debate and establish policy at the ISMS House of Delegates this spring. Topics of concern included public health, physician advocacy and patient education. Members of the CMS District contributed 22 resolutions out nearly 80, with eight of them coming directly from the CMS Council. Eighteen of the CMS resolutions were adopted in some fashion. CMS Immediate Past President Shastri Swaminathan, MD, was installed as ISMS President. Peter E. Eupierre, MD, past president of both CMS and ISMS, was named Chairman of the ISMS Board. Educational programs, legislative updates, and networking opportunities, including a Women Physicians Forum, rounded out the offering of events.

The House of Delegates met April 11-13 in Oak Brook.

Extensive coverage of the HOD meeting and all CMS resolutions will appear in the spring issue of the Chicago Medicine magazine.

CMS resolutions adopted at the HOD

The following resolutions, adopted by the CMS Council, were brought before the ISMS House. Seven were adopted and one was referred for decision.

Study of Universal Healthcare Systems
  Adopted as Amended

Noise Pollution
  Adopted

Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioner’s Act
  Adopted as Amended

To Restore Checks and Balances in Federal and State Government
  Substitute Adopted

Inconsistent Insurance Coverage for Children, Habilitative Services for Children
  Adopted

Internet Prescribing
  Substitute Adopted

Encouraging “Green” Initiatives
  Adopted as Amended

Support for Independent Governance for the Cook County Bureau of Health Services
  Referred for Decision

Medical students at the CMS Third District luncheon, clockwise from left: Wen Chen, Neal Patel, Akash Garg and Nicole Patino.
How fast can you deposit checks?

Well, how fast is your internet connection?

Remote Deposit for your practice. Now you can deposit checks 24/7 right from your office. Just scan the checks, validate the totals, then securely send images of those checks for deposit. This is just one of the many features of Business Checking Plus, which features tools to help you manage your cash flow at a discounted rate. In addition, your practice gets free online bill payment and online banking. Open an account today. Just stop by any National City branch, visit NationalCity.com/businesschecking, or call the healthcare business banking specialist, Shaakira Mason at 312-338-5333.

It’s not just banking. It’s National City®

Chicago Medicine, March 2008
Page 11
It’s medical license renewal time: ISMS is here to help make re-registering a snap

ILLINOIS PHYSICIANS HAVE UNTIL JULY 31ST to renew medical and controlled substance licenses. Once renewed, the licenses will be good for another three years. By now, you should have received a yellow postcard notifying you of your license renewal with some basic information for getting started. If you didn’t receive the postcard, don’t worry. You can still proceed with your renewal online or with ISMS help.

Before you can renew, you must have completed your state-mandated Internet profile with the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation at www.idfpr.com. Contact the ISMS Profiling Hotline for questions about this process at (800) 632-7478.

When you are ready to renew your license you have three choices.

Option 1. Save time and hassle by renewing over the phone with ISMS (credit card payments only). Call (800) 632-7478, Monday through Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 4:45 p.m. Speak to a real person and renew your license in minutes. It helps to have your license number and payment information handy when you make the call. If you renew through ISMS, the Society pays your credit card transaction fees.

Option 2. Renew through the Internet (credit card payments only). Visit www.idfpr.com to renew online. You will need your medical license number and PIN to renew. Without your PIN, you will need to provide your Social Security number or date of birth to access your information and renew. If you renew online, make sure that you renew your controlled substance license(s) by clicking on the “view subordinate license” link on the IDFPR license renewal page. This link will provide you with your controlled substance number and an additional PIN to renew. IDFPR charges an extra few dollars for credit card renewals via the Internet.

Option 3. Submit check or money order renewal through the mail. Renewal forms are scheduled to be mailed in June. Once you receive your renewal form, you can submit payment by check or money order only. Credit cards are not accepted through the mail.

Reality Medicine: Communicating to the public why medical liability reform is crucial

THE REALITY MEDICINE: KEEP DOCTORS IN Illinois initiative recently entered a new phase of educating the public on the importance of medical liability reform. In April, ISMS joined with our partner, ISMIE Mutual, to begin airing radio ads that highlight important health issues and discuss how these issues relate to medical litigation reform. Listeners are directed to RealityMedicine.com for more information about the liability crisis and our reform law.

In Chicago, the ads will run on news/talk format stations through the summer. The radio ads will soon be supplemented by Keep Doctors in Illinois billboards that will launch this summer in Cook County and around the state.

High profile messaging tools, such as billboards and advertisements, are only one way Illinois physicians can effectively communicate the importance of medical liability reform to patients.

You can play a role in advocating for the importance of our reforms. Many patients already understand the reforms were enacted to maintain access to medical care, but do not understand threats facing the law.

Talk to your patients about why they should be concerned about medical liability. Direct them to RealityMedicine.com for information, or display posters in your office to help explain the issue. To obtain free posters for your office call (312) 580-6440 or e-mail maszinski@isms.org. Every little bit helps in maintaining the momentum for reform. Do your part!
Know their approach to protecting physicians.

There is a big difference in operating philosophy among medical malpractice carriers. With some, defense against claims may be half-hearted at best. Many good physicians have been hurt by frivolous lawsuits when their good work went undefended in favor of quick settlements. Clearly, this does not serve you or the profession well.

For more information, please call our staff at 312/670-2550.

ProAssurance Group has led in defense of physicians for over a quarter of a century. Our strong record of personalized service and number of cases tried to verdict are testaments to our long-term commitment: to help good physicians keep practicing good medicine.

What level of attention do you want if defense is needed?

Get proper care.

ProAssurance Group has led in defense of physicians for over a quarter of a century. Our strong record of personalized service and number of cases tried to verdict are testaments to our long-term commitment: to help good physicians keep practicing good medicine.

What level of attention do you want if defense is needed?
It’s time to sway in a beachside hammock … feast on the freshest Florida seafood … soak up the sun along miles of velvety white beach.

Romantic beach getaways or family vacation fun with a treasure chest of kids activities at TradeWinds Island Resorts on the island of St. Pete Beach, FL.

Book Now … for warm Florida fun!
Visit online and get a $100 BONUS CARD for dining, spa or activities.

www.JustLetGo.com/CHI • 888.587.0700

IF YOU AREN’T WILLING TO ROLL THE DICE IN THE OPERATING ROOM . . .

WHY WOULD YOU ROLL THE DICE WITH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN?

For retirement planning & asset protection services tailored specifically to the needs of physicians, call:

Arthur Miller,
President
(847) 433-1220

22 years protecting clients’ assets from market risk

www.cmsdocs.org
The Chicago Medical Society encourages all members to go to your new Website.
We have added online blogs and forum sections to increase our communication.

PAID UP & PAID OUT!

Stamp out unpaid bills!

The Chicago Medical Society has partnered with I.C. System to provide members with individualized accounts receivable solutions.

Call Today!
1-800-279-3511

I. C. System, Inc.
P.O. Box 64137
St. Paul, MN 55164-0137
www.icsystem.com

PROMPT MEDICAL BILLING
- Expert billing & follow-up service
- Electronic claim submission
- Professional staff
- Reduce expenses/maximize profits
- No setup fees
- Affordable rates – 1st month FREE!

Toll Free: 877.672.8357
Tel: 847.229.1557
www.promptmedicalbilling.com
Letter from Jared Davis, son of Ron Davis, MD, AMA President

Raising funds to support Pancreatic Cancer Action Network

Dear Members of the Chicago Medical Society:

I just wanted to say thank you to CMS President Dr. Saroja Bharati, who expressed the desire of the Society to encourage donations to PanCAN on behalf of my father, Dr. Ron Davis, who as most of you know has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

Funds raised through this initiative will support the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, or PanCAN (http://www.pancan.com).

Below is information from my father’s CarePage with instructions on how and where to donate, and yes we are still accepting donations until the end of July.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network is the national leader in the fight to defeat pancreatic cancer. We are the only national organization creating hope in a comprehensive way. We accomplish our mission by directly funding research, and demanding that the federal government increase research dollars for pancreatic cancer, by providing patients and caregivers with reliable information to make informed decisions with their healthcare teams, and by helping individuals and communities work together to raise awareness and funds to find a cure for pancreatic cancer.

I’ve established the “Ron Davis Family & Friends” Team for PanCAN’s PurpleStride Chicago Walk, which took place Saturday, May 3, 2008. You can support our Team in one of two ways.

First, go to the Team Page for “Ron Davis Family & Friends,” at the following URL: https://www.kintera.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.asp?ievent=233829&lis=1&kntae233829=51521227F5B4444D98E1D7B087D3AD37&supId=0&team=2749034&cj=Y

If you simply want to make a donation (without joining the Team), do the following: click on my name (Jared Davis) in the Team Members list (bottom right), enter a donation amount, and then fill out the required information for a credit card donation.

If you want to join our Team (which allows you to conduct your own fund-raising effort for the Team and/or participate in the Walk), click on “Join Our Team” at the top, click on “I agree” for the Waiver/Agreement, and then follow the directions.

If you want to join our Team and the long URL above doesn’t work, do the following: go to the URL for the Walk (http://www.pancan.org/purplestridечicago), click on “Register to Walk” (on the left), click on “I agree” for the Waiver/Agreement, click on “Join a Team,” choose “Ron Davis Family & Friends” from the drop-down menu, click on “Continue,” and then follow the directions.

PanCAN is a 501(c)(3) organization, so donations made to PanCAN are tax-deductible. When you donate online to PanCAN or a PanCAN event, you’ll receive an e-mail confirming your transaction, which can be printed and used for your tax records.

If you have questions, see the FAQ document at: http://www.pancan.org/Volunteer/Kintera/Kintera%20FAQ_08.pdf, or send me an email (jaredda@umich.edu).

Thanks, in advance, for your support!

Sincerely,
Jared Davis
Sunday, July 13, 2008
5 p.m. Champagne Reception & Book Signing
Followed by Dinner

Celebration of M.F.K. Fisher’s 100th Birthday
On the Eve of Bastille Day!

Guest of Honor Joan Reardon, Author of
M.F.K. Fisher among the Pots and Pans

Joan Reardon is a culinary historian, biographer, and author
of Poet of the Appetites: The Lives and Loves of M.F.K. Fisher
and M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, and Alice Waters: Celebrating
the Pleasures of the Table, among other books. She lives in
Lake Forest, Illinois, with her husband, the historian John J.
Reardon, and their Irish terrier, Naughty Nora.

M.F.K. Fisher preferred to cook alone, and she had her
own unique interpretation of the ideal meal. M.F.K. Fisher
among the Pots and Pans provides a deeply personal glimpse
at a woman who continues to mystify even as she commands
our attention. The twenty-seven recipes, based on Fisher’s
writings and yearly appointment books, reveal her preferences
for certain ingredients and dishes and give a wonderful sense
of her menus and entertaining style. The result is an intimate
portrait that lends a new dimension to a culinary legend.

Chef-Partner
Yves Roubaud’s
Menu

RECEPTION
Oysters on the Half Shell – Frozen Mignonette
Edith’s Cheese Puffs – Gougère
Angel’s on Horseback
Saketini
Henri Abele Brut Champagne, France

DINNER
Summer Vegetable Farci à Provençal
Coquilles aux Crevettes
2004 Albert Boxler Pinot Gris, Alsace, France
Grilled Sliced Leg of Lamb – Rosemary Marinade
Ratatouille
2005 Domaine de Fontsainte, Corbières, France

DESSERT
Fromage Blanc – Bleu, Blanc et Rouge

Yves Roubaud, a native of Martigues, France, trained at the
Culinary Institute of Provence as well as several French
restaurants in the Mediterranean port city of Marseilles and in
Cannes. He joined Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, Inc.®,
LEYE in 1980, when he first served as sous chef at Ambria
and manager of Un Grand Cafe. Roubaud’s Provence roots
made him a natural to create seafood specialties for Shaw’s
Crab House when it opened its doors 23 years ago. Since that
time, Roubaud has become a partner in LEYE and currently
oversees all of the Shaw’s properties in the Chicago area.
Under his leadership, Shaw’s Crab House has become one of
the nation’s best seafood restaurants.

ChicaGourmets Hosts Jim Price and Don Newcomb

ALL CMS MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS RECEIVE THE DISCOUNTED CHICAGOURMETS MEMBER PRICE!
CMS physicians join “house call” on Congress

Voice, presence on Capitol Hill sends strong signal this election year

PROMISING TO HOLD LAWMAKERS ACCOUNTABLE, CMS physicians joined their colleagues in Washington, DC, to advocate for patients, the medical profession and the future of medicine during the AMA’s National Advocacy Conference, April 1-2.

Led by CMS President-elect William A. McDade, MD, the Cook County team visited the offices of Representatives Danny K. Davis (7th Dist.), Peter Roskam (6th Dist.), Bobby Rush (1st Dist.), and Senators Barack Obama and Richard Durbin.

Hot-button issues included Medicare physician payment reform and covering the uninsured.

Joining hundreds of others in a unity display rally at Capitol Hill’s Upper Senate Park, demonstrators showed their support for the Save Medicare Act of 2008. Introduced in March by U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, (D-Mich.), S. 2785 would prevent a 10.6% cut in Medicare physician payments planned for July 1, retain current levels for the remainder of this year, and enact a 1.8% increase for 2009.

MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

In other events, the AMA Foundation honored students, residents and fellows and physicians from across the country who display strong non-clinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service, public health or education. This year’s Excellence In Medicine winners included CMS students, Hans Arora and Edward S. Gometz, and physician Steven Dayan, MD. To read about their achievements, please check the Member News section of the spring issue of Chicago Medicine magazine.

Other CMS physicians in attendance were Immediate Past President Shastri Swaminathan, MD, Past Presidents Neil E. Winston, MD, and Dennis M. Brown, MD.

IMPACTS OF MEDICARE PHYSICIAN PAYMENT CUTS IN ILLINOIS

Illinois physicians will lose $510 million for the care of elderly and disabled patients over the 18 months from July 2008 through December 2009 due to a 10.6% cut in Medicare payments in July 2008 and an additional 5% in 2009. On average, each Illinois physician faces a Medicare cut of $16,000 over this 18-month period. In addition, the state’s physicians will lose $9.8 billion for the care of elderly and disabled patients by 2016 due to nearly a decade of cuts for this important medical care.

- 115,935 employees, 1,594,917 Medicare patients and 155,872 TRICARE patients in Illinois will be affected by these cuts.

- 39% of Illinois’ practicing physicians are over 50, an age at which surveys have shown many physicians consider reducing their patient care activities.

In July 2008, East St. Louis area physicians face cuts of an additional 0.6% on top of the 10.6% cuts across the country and physicians in the Medicare payment area, “Rest of Illinois,” face cuts of an additional 1.4%. The 2003 Medicare law provided a temporary increase in geographic payment adjustments for certain geographic areas. This increase also will expire on June 30, 2008, under current law.
USING TELEMEDICINE TO STRENGTHEN THE Iraqi health sector and signing up doctor volunteers was the focus of a day-long program on May 23, made possible by the Center for International Rehabilitation (CIR) and sponsored by the Chicago Medical Society (CMS), now a local chapter of CIR.

The event also launched “iCons in Medicine,” an Alliance led by CIR President William Kennedy Smith, MD, that links health professionals in war-torn areas of the world with specialized physicians who can provide consultations via the Internet. The Alliance includes volunteers from CMS and the National Arab American Medical Association.

Participants heard from a variety of speakers including the Iraqi Minister of Health, the Honorable Salih Mahdi Motlab Al-Hasnawi, MD, who presented an overview of the current Iraqi health sector in his keynote speech.

The exchange of ideas served to prepare Dr. Al-Hasnawi, and the international community, a viable set of options on how telemedicine, communications technologies and an international workforce might be used to strengthen the health sector in Iraq. These options were developed in parallel workshops focusing on developing recommendations in five key areas—public health, health care delivery, medical education and training, refugee assistance, and war wounded. Each workshop compiled ideas and conclusions into a final report for distribution.

“Alliance seeks to boost Iraqi health sector through telemedicine” was held in the Baldwin Auditorium, Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center, Northwestern University.

Organizers and sponsors were represented by Dr. William Kennedy Smith, CIR, a Chicago-based organization that develops research, education and advocacy programs to improve the lives of people with disabilities internationally; Dr. Saroja Bharati, President, CMS; Riad Almudallal, MD, President, Iraqi Medical Science Association; and Nabil Khoury, MD, President, National Arab American Medical Association.

His Excellency Salih Al-Hasnawi, MD, Minister of Health of the Republic of Iraq, addresses the Telemedicine conference at Northwestern on May 23.

Col. Ron Poropatich, MD, USA MC, left, Deputy Director, Telemedicine Advanced Technology Research Center, with CMS President Saroja Bharati, MD; and Paul Heinzelmann, MD, Massachusetts General Hospital.

Riad Almudallal, MD, President, Iraqi Medical Science Association.
Personnel wanted

FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN COM- pleting residency June 30, 2008, looking for practice opportunities/group practice. Please contact Dr. S. Kapoor by email: skapoor45@hotmail.com; phone (847) 885-7199; cell (847) 977-9589; or fax inquires to (847) 310-0323.

CHICAGO—HOME PHYSICIANS IS AN innovative multi-specialty practice focused on house calls to the elderly homeowner. We are looking for BE/BC primary care physicians to join our team of over 30 medical staff. Our business model allows you to practice medi- cine without the headaches of hospital rounds, exhausting call schedules, or the stress of running your own practice. Home Physicians is a leader and innovator in house calls, visiting over 250 patients per day, and utilizing an EMR system. We offer excellent compensation with productivity bonuses, comprehensive malpractice insurance with tail coverage, and company cars for patient visits. For more info, please contact Scott Schneider at (773) 342-4201; or send CV to sschneider@homephysicians.com; Web site: www.homephysicians.com.

FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN COM- pleting residency June 30, 2008, looking for practice opportunities/group practice. Please contact Dr. M. Kapoor by email at mukeshkapoor@hotmail.com; by phone (847) 885-7199; or cell (630) 254-1294; or fax inquir- ies to (847) 310-0323.

PHYSICIANS, STOP WORKING 55-80 hours a week! Mobile Doctors seeks physi- cians to make house calls to the elderly and disabled. Seeking one part-time and one full-time physician. Practice primary care with pa- tients who really appreciate you. No night or weekend work. A company car and certified medical assistant are provided. Take your time practicing medicine without a waiting room full of patients. Fax CV to Michele at (312) 640-4496; or call (312) 617-2096; or mail CV to Mobile Doctors, 1229 N. North Branch #210, Chicago, IL 60622.

TEACH IN JAPAN. PHARMACEUTICAL professionals with backgrounds in regulatory affairs, drug discovery, clinical operations, pharmaceutical manufacturing, GCP, GLP, GMP, marketing, pharmacology, project man- agement, and related topics needed to teach at big pharma companies in Tokyo/Osaka. Initial one-year contract with option for renewal. Teaching is in English to small groups of Japan- ese pharma executives. Orientations provided. Excellent compensation, paid vacations, medical insurance, work visa sponsorship. Not a telecommuting position. For more information, email CV and cover letter to Greg Janku- nis in Tokyo at Jankunis@iesnet.co.jp. Interna- tional Education Services, Tokyo, Japan.

Business services


LEGAL/COMMERCIAL ASSISTANCE— experienced trial attorney and firm provide legal services in diverse areas including IDFPR reporting, licensure, and discipline; credential- ing; litigation; employment issues; and com- mercial real estate. For consultation, please call Thomas J. Koch, JD, Pugh, Jones, Johnson & Quandt, PC. Call (312) 768-7814; (630) 776- 1968 (cellular); email: tkoch@pjjq.com; Web site: www.pjjq.com.
MARCA® PUTS MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET WITH ITS REIMBURSEMENT SUPPORT TEAM!

Marca, located in Chicago, has proven for three decades that it can achieve maximal reimbursements for all health care organizations, less expensively, with less stress, and more net financial return, than can be done independently.

IN YOUR OFFICE using our secure HIPAA compliant Virtual Private Network via the Internet and/or IN MARCA’S FACILITY (out of your office) handling your entire billing and follow up.

Look at our website: www.marcaindustries.com then put us to the test. Massive University Medical School or individual practitioner, we can and will prove to your satisfaction that our comprehensive sophistication and team approach makes more money for you.

Call Annette or Donna at 773 767-4600/800 345-7676
e-mail us at annettec@marcaindustries.com
or donna@marcaindustries.com

No Cost EVER FOR SOFTWARE UPDATES

You do not need to wait for a crisis.

Marca knows how to take over responsibility.

Exclusively ENDORSED BY THE CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY SERVICE BUREAU SINCE 1980

CALL THEM FOR REFERENCES AT 312 670-2550