



CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF COOK COUNTY

chicago medicine

Newsletter, January 2008, Vol. 111, No. 1

NOBEL LAUREATE, LOUIS IGNARRO, PHD, TO KEYNOTE
64TH ANNUAL MIDWEST CLINICAL CONFERENCE
MARCH 27-29 (20 CME HOURS)
CONFERENCE DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORM PAGES 2-5.

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

A little bit of new and a little bit of old for health care in 2008

A new year brings fresh perspective on the important issues for doctors and our patients. These are just a few of my thoughts on some of the big health topics that will be in the news over the next 12 months.

● **Physician Unity** – 2007 marked recent high-water marks for physician participation in the Chicago Medical Society and Illinois State Medical Society. Doctors understand the importance of membership and I expect we will further build our ranks in 2008. Be sure to encourage your physician colleagues to belong to the only organization representing the interests of all Chicago doctors.

● **Medical liability crisis** – The fate of Illinois' medical liability reforms – enacted in 2005 – will likely be determined this year. The law was challenged in a Cook County trial court and a Circuit Court judge ruled the cap on non-economic damages unconstitutional (thereby overturning the entire package of reforms contained in the law). This judgment sent the case directly to the Illinois Supreme Court for final resolution. The high court's ruling can occur at any time, but most likely will come some time next fall. The good news is doctors' interests are well-represented in this fight. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan will defend the law before the court. The Illinois State Medical Society and ISMIE Mutual have

retained renowned constitutional scholar Theodore Olson to support the interest of doctors in this case. The law was passed on sound legal and constitutional principles, so we are in a good position to keep it on the books.

● **Health System Reform**

This will be a hot issue in Illinois and throughout the nation. Locally, Governor Blagojevich is pushing plans to expand public health insurance, primarily through building upon the Medicaid module for health care delivery. Nationally, we probably won't see much movement on health issues, but reform will be at the center of debate given the presidential elections. Medicare payment reform remains a top tier issue for physician advocacy groups. Our perennial fight to rollback reimbursement cuts (and the always last-minute solutions) averts our attention from dealing with other health-care priorities. Next year may not be the last year for this battle, but expect discussion to heighten on the need for long-term Medicare payment reform.

● **Smoking** – Anti-tobacco advocates finally won over the Illinois General Assembly last year and convinced lawmakers it was time for a uniform statewide public indoor smoking ban. Bars and restaurants went smoke-free on January 1. The fight for healthy lungs does not end with this statute. Before the law was in place opponents were lobbying for smoking ban exemptions galore. Riverboat casinos are one example of a group with a sympathetic ear in the Statehouse because of their



continued on page 2

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT *(continued)*

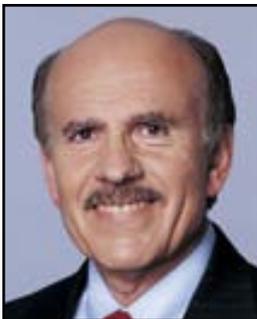
contribution to the tax base. Illinois' border casinos are forecasting big patron losses to neighboring states' gambling establishments (that still allow smoking) and are seeking to allow smoking on our boats. Expect others to try and hack away at the law like a bad cough. Cigarette taxes are also an attractive source of increasing revenues, while decreasing

smoking. Expect local and federal policy makers to attempt to advance higher taxes again next year and use new revenue for health-care spending.

Thank you,
Saroja Bharati, MD
President, CMS

MIDWEST CLINICAL CONFERENCE, 12:30 PM, MARCH 27, 2008

Nobel Laureate Louis Ignarro, PhD, to deliver keynote address: "Nitric Oxide as a Unique Signaling Molecule in Biology"



WITH THE LICENSURE renewal date coming up fast, the Chicago Medical Society invites you to its 64th Annual Midwest Clinical Conference, March 27-29, where, in one weekend, you can earn up to 20 CME hours and learn from leading experts.

Dr. Ignarro This year's keynote speaker is **Louis Ignarro, PhD**, a 1998 Nobel Prize Laureate, and the Jerome J. Belzer, MD, Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology at UCLA School of Medicine. Dr. Ignarro will speak March 27 on "Nitric Oxide as a Unique Signaling Molecule in Biology."

Although recognized with many awards for his body of research, he is best known for his discoveries involving nitric oxide as a unique signaling molecule in the cardiovascular system. His work was instrumental in the development of Viagra, the first oral medication for the effective treatment of erectile dysfunction.

DR. IGNARRO: "PASSION FOR DISASSEMBLING THINGS"
BORN IN BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, TO IMMIGRANTS, Dr. Ignarro developed a passion for disassembling things early in life. At age 8, he convinced his parents to buy him a chemistry set. Dr. Ignarro went on to earn a BSc in chemistry (Columbia University) and PhD in pharmacology (University of Minnesota). He completed postdoctoral training in the Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology at the NIH. He held a research position at the CIBA-Geigy Pharmaceutical Company, later taking academic positions at Tulane University and then at the UCLA School of Medicine, where he currently holds the position of Distinguished Professor of Pharmacology. Dr. Ignarro has received numerous awards and other recognition for his basic research including, "The CIBA Award for Hypertension Research," "The Roussel Uclaf Prize," and "The Basic Research Prize of the American Heart Association." He has published over 500 articles and has trained numerous graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and clinical fellows during his academic career. Among other posts, Dr. Ignarro is founder and president of the Nitric Oxide Society.

NEWS FOR CHICAGO PHYSICIANS

chicago
CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF COOK COUNTY
medicine



Newsletter, January 2008, Vol. 111, No. 1

515 N. Dearborn St.
Chicago IL 60610

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CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY

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Chicago Medical Society and the history of the Midwest Clinical Conference

THE CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY (CMS) was incorporated in 1850 and clearly stated its mission in the articles of incorporation: "The cultivation of the science and art of medicine, the interchange of professional experience, the encouragement of professional zeal and promotion of friendly feeling among its members."

As part of CMS' commitment to enriching the practice and profession of medicine, the first Midwest Clinical Conference (MCC) was organized in 1944. This was long before the state implemented Continuing Medical Education (CME) as a requirement of medical license renewal. By 1950 more than 6,000 participants were attending the Midwest Clinical Conference, which included nurses and exhibitors in addition to physicians. As a result of this growth and commitment to education, an organized CME committee was estab-

lished in the late 1960s.

Subsequently, CMS sought accreditation by the ACCME and, in 1971, was granted four years of accreditation. A highlight of CMS' accreditation history was in 1984 when the ACCME commended CMS for its responsible leadership and consistent excellence of its CME program by recommending six years of accreditation. Continuous progress and improvements have been made in the CME program over the last two accreditation periods.

Today, the MCC provides yearly educational programs to doctors of all specialties as well as family practitioners. The program lasts for 2½ days, and the core curriculum includes the latest knowledge on all specialties, emergency preparedness, infectious diseases, medical/legal issues, practice management and last, but not least, medical technology.

Highlights of MCC 2008:

- **March 27** Luncheon Keynote Speaker:
Louis Ignarro, PhD, Nobel Laureate – Physiology or Medicine 1998, on "Nitric Oxide as a Unique Signaling Molecule in Biology."
- **March 28** Keynote Speakers:
9 a.m. -- Rodney C. Osborn, MD, President, ISMS;
Luncheon -- Congressman Danny K. Davis;
followed by the CMS Public Service Award Presentation.

Additional MCC Perks:

- Complimentary Breakfast Daily.
- Complimentary Luncheon on March 27 and 28.
- Dessert Reception on March 28.
- Students and Residents Attend Free.
- Free Parking.

Don't Delay! Early Bird Registration Fees End Feb. 29, 2008.

Register Online: www.cmsdocs.org

CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY

2008 Midwest Clinical Conference (MCC)
 March 27- 29 at Doubletree Hotel – Oak Brook
 1909 Spring Road, Oak Brook, IL
 (www.doubletree.com)

Earn Up to 20 CME Credits

Online Registration: www.cmsdocs.org

What You Should Know:

Midwest Clinical Conference educational courses are designed for medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, medical and osteopathic students, physician assistants, and medical office staff.

Medical students, residents and fellows in training may register onsite for no charge.

Discounted or no-charge registrants must show proof of resident or student status. The three-day conference fee includes complimentary breakfast and lunch for Thursday and Friday and also a dessert reception.

It is the goal of the Chicago Medical Society to accommodate all registrants in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you need any of the services identified in the ADA, please notify the Chicago Medical Society in writing by February 29, 2008. The mailing address is: 515 N. Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60610 – Attn. Education Dept.

METHOD OF PAYMENT (Mail or Fax to: 312-670-3646)

- Check or money order (enclosed)
- Master Card
- Visa

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES:

Early Bird Fees: Applicable Until February 29, 2008

	Member	Non-Member	Physician Assistant
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3-Day Fee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$295	<input type="checkbox"/> \$395	<input type="checkbox"/> \$175
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Regular Registration Fees: March 1st to March 26th, 2008

	Member	Non-Member	Physician Assistant
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3-Day Fee	<input type="checkbox"/> \$345	<input type="checkbox"/> \$445	<input type="checkbox"/> \$225
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Check one of the applicable registration fees listed above. Questions? 312-670-2550

\$ _____ **Total Amount Enclosed** (total check or credit card payment)

Note: In the event of unforeseeable circumstances, the Chicago Medical Society reserves the right to reschedule, revise or cancel the courses listed on this form.

2008 MIDWEST CLINICAL CONFERENCE:

Select a course from each time block below:

THURSDAY, MARCH 27	FRIDAY, MARCH 28
<p>10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (2.0 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A-01 Obesity & Surgery <input type="checkbox"/> B-01 Headache & Gender <input type="checkbox"/> C-01 Latest in Hospital Antibiotic Mgmt. Programs <input type="checkbox"/> D-01 Medical Ethics <p>12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. (1.0 hr. general lunch session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> E- 01 Luncheon Keynote: Louis Ignarro, PhD, Nobel Laureate, on "Nitric Oxide as a Unique Signaling Molecule in Biology" <p>1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (2.0 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A-02 Women's Health - Part I <input type="checkbox"/> B-02 Pediatrics: Stem Cell Transplantation <input type="checkbox"/> C-02 Tele-Medicine & Humanitarian Relief <input type="checkbox"/> D-02 Medical-Legal Session <p>3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. (2.0 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A-03 AIDS/HIV Update <input type="checkbox"/> B-03 Patient Safety Simulation & Anesthesia <input type="checkbox"/> C-03 Cancer in Adults <input type="checkbox"/> D-03 Medicare 2008 	<p>12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. (1.0 hr. general lunch session)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> E-02: Luncheon Keynote: Congressman Danny K. Davis followed by CMS Public Service Award Presentation <p>1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. (2.0 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A-06 Hypertension Update <input type="checkbox"/> B-06 Pediatric Update-Part I <input type="checkbox"/> C-06 Update in Colorectal Surgery <input type="checkbox"/> D-06 OSHA 2008: The Big Picture <p>3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (2.0 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A-07 Internal Medicine Update: Cardio. Disease & Osteoporosis <input type="checkbox"/> B-07 Pediatric Update-Part II: Autism & Allergy/Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> C-07 Advances in Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> D-07 Women's Health - Part II
<p>FRIDAY, MARCH 28</p> <p>8 a.m. - 10 a.m. (2.0 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A-04 Family Practice Session <input type="checkbox"/> B-04 Allergy/Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> C-04 Obesity in Children <input type="checkbox"/> D-04 Morning Keynote: Rodney C. Osborn, MD, President, ISMS, on "Allied Health: Scope of Practice Changes" <p>10 a.m. – 12 p.m. (2.0 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A-05 Robotic Surgery <input type="checkbox"/> B-05 Global Health <input type="checkbox"/> C-05 Pulmonary Critical Care <input type="checkbox"/> D-05 Pay-for-Performance 	<p>SATURDAY, MARCH 29</p> <p>8:30—10:30 a.m. (2.0 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A-08 Thrombosis: Diag. & Mgmt <input type="checkbox"/> B-08 Psychiatry Update for Primary Care <input type="checkbox"/> C-08 Organ Transplantation <input type="checkbox"/> D-08 Medical-Legal Session <p>10:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m. (2.0 hrs.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A-09 Geriatric Care/Alzheimer's <input type="checkbox"/> B-09 Common Sleep Disorders <input type="checkbox"/> C-09 Diabetes & Coronary Heart Disease for Primary Care <input type="checkbox"/> D-09 Contract Negotiations (Non-CME) <p>12:30 – 1:30 p.m. (Non-CME)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> E-03 Medical Student Session

Name: _____
(Last) (First)

Mailing address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone: (_____) _____

Fax: (_____) _____ E-mail: _____

Specialty: _____



Henrietta Herbolsheimer, MD Annual Public Service Award

**Winner of Award Announced at
64th Annual Midwest Clinical Conference
on March 28, 2008, at the
Doubletree Hotel- Oak Brook!**

Award background and nomination guidelines

The Chicago Medical Society's Henrietta Herbolsheimer, MD, Annual Public Service Award recognizes outstanding contributions, which need not be health-care related, in the fields of local community service and government. The award is intended to better describe to the city of Chicago and Cook County the work of physicians in their communities and to promote the interest of CMS members in participating in civic affairs. Previous award winners have been honored for such achievements as organizing local health fairs and taking part in neighborhood youth programs. The honoree **MUST** be a CMS member, and he or she will be selected primarily on the basis of service contributions to the community. Past presidents of CMS are not eligible until five years after their term of office has ended.

To nominate a physician, please provide the following information in its entirety.

1. Biographical data (please attach an updated curriculum vitae, or attach a sheet giving in 300 words or less the date and place of birth, education, pertinent professional information, and, if desired, family information).
2. Photograph (all nominations should be accompanied by a black and white, glossy, head-and-shoulders photo of the nominee).
3. List the reasons why you are nominating this physician for the Henrietta Herbolsheimer, MD, Annual Public Service Award. The greatest weight in judging will be given for activities that benefit the physician's community. These may include, but are not limited to, the following: (a) leadership and development of special community projects or programs; (b) public offices held; (c) participation in civic and service groups; and (d) participation in educational, charitable, church and other projects. Please be specific with dates, offices held, committee memberships, and so forth.

Everyone is encouraged to submit nominations. In the past, a number of nominations have come from the general public. Other nominations have been made by civic groups, hospitals, public officials, friends, medical colleagues, CMS District organizations, and medical specialty groups.

There are many good physicians. Please keep in mind that this award is not only for excellence as a physician, but also for the many things a physician accomplished in addition to his or her professional medical work. Nominations may be made by letter or by completing the following nomination form.

**To nominate a physician, please go to www.cmsdocs.org to print out the
Nomination Form or call Annette Boksa at (312) 670-2550, ext. 340.**

CMS ANNUAL HOLIDAY RECEPTION

Your Society opens its doors to all members

THE ANNUAL CMS HOLIDAY RECEPTION is a perfect setting for local legislators, city officials and CMS/ISMS members to mingle informally and spread holiday cheer. And this year's event, held Dec. 12, was no exception as more than 100 guests filled a festive room at Maggiano's Banquets. CMS President Saroja Bharati, MD, personally greeted guests, as Dr. Michael Treister's musical ensemble played old holiday favorites, and everyone dined on hearty, traditional fare. More photo highlights will appear in the winter issue of *Chicago Medicine* magazine.



CMS officers Drs. William Werner, secretary; David Loiterman, chairman of the Council; and William McDade, president-elect.



Chicago Medical School students share a toast with Dr. Bharati (center). From left, Neal Patel, Vaibhav Agarwal, Karina Shah, and Akash Garg.



Drs. Michael Maves, AMA executive vice-president and CEO; CMS President Bharati; and Shastri Swaminathan, ISMS president-elect.



Al Lerner, ISMS executive vice-president and CEO; William Kobler, MD, ISMS chairman of the Board; and Steven Malkin, MD, CMS past president.



Drs. Thomas Anderson, CMS treasurer; Hugh Savage, and Terry Mason, commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health.



AFTER TWO YEARS OF HEALING

TRIAL LAWYERS WANT TO REOPEN THE WOUNDS.

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.



**Illinois
State
Medical
Society**

ISMIE
Mutual Insurance Company
The Physician First Service Institute

AMAX
AMERICAN
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION



In 2008 ... Resolve to join the election fray

WITH THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN THE REARVIEW mirror, attention now turns to the ballot box and a steady stream of primary election contests in key states across the nation – Illinois among them.

Mark your calendar! **Tuesday, Feb. 5** is the new, earlier-than-ever primary election day in Illinois. Not only will our state's voters choose their preferred presidential candidates in both political parties, they'll select a host of other individuals to compete for diverse public offices in the general election later this year.

While our U.S. presidential aspirants may be more-or-less "household names," many other Illinois office-seekers important to the fate of medicine are much less widely known. All 118 of the Illinois House of Representative seats and 39 of the 59 Senate seats are up for election this year, though there are only several hotly contested races. The Illinois State Medical Society Political Action Committee (IMPAC) will be especially active in these closely contested races, by urging local physician political activity.

If you have questions about the candidates running for office in your locale, it's quick and easy to contact IMPAC. IMPAC reviews a host of individual races and candidates throughout Illinois. IMPAC prioritizes specific contests based on their importance to medicine, and on each candidate's response to an IMPAC medical policy questionnaire. Want to check out the names on your local ballot? Just e-mail impac@isms.org

Judicial elections loom ever larger in determining the fate of Illinois medicine—a point driven home most recently by the court challenge to our hard-won medical litigation reforms. Yet, most voters don't recognize or bother to find out about the judges whose names appear on their local ballots—individuals who may end up ruling on scores of cases affecting the practice of medicine in Illinois.

Fortunately, the Illinois Civil Justice League offers a strong resource for learning about judges and judicial races. As ICJL founding members, ISMS and ISMIE Mutual Insurance Company deeply appreciate the League's long-term commitment to working for a fair and equitable tort climate in Illinois. Visit www.icjl.org and www.Illinoisjudges.net to learn more about the League and its current analysis of Illinois judicial election contests.

Don't forget in this important election season to

support IMPAC—medicine's voice in the election process. One hundred percent of every dollar IMPAC receives goes to direct support of worthy candidates and their political campaigns. Candidate decisions are made by the 30-member IMPAC Council, comprised of politically savvy physicians from across Illinois. Do you have a candidate you'd like to recommend for IMPAC backing? Let us know!

Most important of all: cast your ballot Feb. 5.

Deadline extended for Medicare participation decision

WITH THE MEDICARE, MEDICAID AND SCHIP Extension Act of 2007 now signed into law, physicians have until Feb. 15 to make changes to their 2008 participation status in the Medicare program. The law postpones for six months the 10.1 percent cut in the Medicare conversion factor and instead provides for a 0.5 percent increase from Jan. 1 through June 30. But the conversion factor adjustment is not the only change affecting 2008 Medicare payment rates.

Payment changes will vary by service, specialty and location based on several other factors. With a 10 percent payment cut looming in the middle of the year, the 2008 Medicare participation decision is more complicated than it was previously, particularly because your decision is binding for the entire year.

The AMA has posted on its Web site updated information about the various Medicare participation options and how the new law may affect your practice. *For more information, go to www.ama-assn.org.*

advantage billing service

- * Increase Your Cash Flow
- * Electronic Claims Submission
- * Medicare, Commercial & Patient Billing
- * Personalized Service
- * Custom Practice Management Reports
- * Competitive Rates
- * No Set-Up Charge Or Monthly Fee

For More Information (708) 614-9855

Join a committee, Serve your profession

Take a stand on legislation and policy matters affecting you and your practice. Share insight and ideas with your colleagues and people who make the decisions affecting your everyday life.

Each year the Chicago Medical Society Committee on Committees appoints members to CMS committees and recommends interested physicians to Illinois State Medical Society councils and committees. As in the past, we urge you to participate and invite you to volunteer right now for any committee you wish.

Every member is unique and each has a contribution to make. CMS and ISMS offer committee assignments for every interest-from professional liability insurance to public health to physician education. Over 10 committees to choose from. CMS is one of the largest county medical societies in the United States. We have the numbers and the potential, but we need your active support to achieve success. *Together we will make a difference.*

Here's the procedure...

- Complete and return this form by **March 14, 2008**
- The Committee on Committees (COC) will meet to make appointments/recommendations at this time, the COC will also recommend nominees to ISMS Councils and Committees.
- Recommendations to ISMS Councils and Committees will be forwarded to ISMS.

Indicate your top three preferred committees individually for CMS and ISMS committees by inserting the numbers 1, 2, and 3 in the appropriate space.

CMS Committees

- _____ 113 By-laws/Policy Review
- _____ 114 Continuing Medical Education
- _____ 123 Long Range Planning
- _____ 128 Physicians Review (Peer Review)
- _____ 131 Resolutions Reference
- _____ 132 Subcommittee on Fee Mediation
- _____ 133 Subcommittee on Medical Practice
- _____ 134 Subcommittee on Joint Sponsorship
- _____ 140 Physician Advocacy
- _____ 145 Public Health
- _____ 147 Healthcare Economics
- _____ 148 Credentials/Elections
- _____ 149 Communications/Technology
- _____ 150 Membership/IMG

ISMS Councils and Committees

- _____ 302 Economics
- _____ 303 Education and Health Workforce
- _____ 305 Governmental Affairs
- _____ 306 Medical Legal Council
- _____ 307 Membership and Advocacy
- _____ 320 Medical Service
- _____ 325 Communications
- _____ 329 Peer Review Appeals Committee
- _____ 332 Committee on CME Accreditation
- _____ 333 Committee on Drugs and Therapeutics
- _____ 361 Committee on CME Activities

Name _____

Phone _____

Please fax this form no later than March 14, 2008
to: **Joy Tapias (312) 670-3646**
or mail to: CMS COC, 515 N. Dearborn St.,
Chicago, IL 60610

DILIGENT IN MEETING DOCTORS' NEEDS

CMS Insurance Agency continues to offer support, valuable savings

ALL MEMBER-CLIENTS OF THE CMS INSURANCE Agency (CMSIA) should have received a notice this fall reminding them to complete the requirements for their respective insurance carriers' risk management programs.

With busy schedules, it can be difficult for doctors to squeeze in the necessary risk management classes to qualify for additional risk discount points. But at the urging of the CMSIA physician-board, staff sent out reminder letters customized specifically to each client.

(ISMIE's risk rewards program, in particular, allows physicians to save as much as 15% on their professional liability premiums. The majority of Illinois physicians renew their policy annually on July 1, and so their deadline to receive discount credits for July 1, 2008, was Dec. 31, 2007.)

Every letter our staff sent out included a breakdown of points the physicians currently had, and also demonstrated how much further they had to go to reach the full 15% before their respective deadline. Also, to help prevent clients from taking the same course twice (which is not allowed), a listing of classes that the physician had previously taken over the last few years was included.

"Over the last two months we have received a steady stream of calls from recipients of the risk reward reminder letters. Many physicians expressed their appreciation for the status report and

update, while others just needed a little extra help in navigating the Web site to access the appropriate class information," said Steven M. Malkin, MD, chairman of the CMSIA board.

"Not every physician knows what it is like to be sued, non-renewed or significantly surcharged, but when it happens to someone for the first time, it typically happens when a doctor least expects it. Having an advocate in your corner to help manage such an unpleasant process can be a great comfort to a physician who has a practice to run and patients to take care of," added Dr. Malkin.

As a subsidiary organization of the Chicago Medical Society, the CMSIA offers an alternative to predatory agencies more beholden to insurance carriers they represent or to the stockholders they work for. Unlike other med mal agencies in Illinois, the CMSIA is run by physicians for physicians, and it provides unmatched support to organized medicine.

"It is in any member's best interest to take advantage of services they are entitled to. The CMSIA's services come at NO ADDITIONAL COST to a physician's dues or med mal premium payments," said Dr. Malkin.

If you have not signed up for services provided by the CMS Insurance Agency, please call (312) 670-2550. Ask to speak to Client Services and staff will help you sign up in just a few minutes!



A Subsidiary of Chicago Medical Society

CMS Insurance Agency, Inc.

- ◆ Licensed staff that provides representation and assists with questions and concerns regarding medical liability insurance.
- ◆ Access to all major professional medical liability markets including the non-standard markets for the hard to place physicians.
- ◆ No added cost to your liability premium.
- ◆ The agency has sponsored activities such as, grassroots legislative advocacy and educational programs with the purpose of supporting organized medicine.
- ◆ The only agency in Illinois connected to a medical society and prides itself on being run by physicians for physicians.

For more information, please contact: Phil Seroczynski or Dana Lucas 312.670.2550

515 North Dearborn Chicago, IL 60610 Phone: 312.670.2550 Fax: 312.670.3646
www.cmsdocs.org

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-fix settlements. Clearly, this does not serve you or the profession well.

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?



CMS Insurance Agency, Inc.

*For more information, please call
Phil Seroczynski at 312/329-7346
or Annette Drummelsmith at 312/329-7337.*

ProAssurance



ProNational
INSURANCE COMPANY

E V E R V I G I L A N T

Family of CMS member appeals for help

Health insurance will pay only a portion of son's transplant-related costs

THE FAMILY OF WALTER J. MILLER III, DO, IS seeking donations to help pay for Dr. Miller's liver transplant and related costs. **(The operation was performed at UCLA medical center on Dec. 29, 2007, and Dr. Miller is reportedly progressing well.)** Dr. Miller is the son of CMS member Walter J. Miller, Jr., MD, a retired surgeon from Oak Brook.

Donations should be made to the National Transplant Assistance Fund in Dr. Miller's name. NTAF is a non-profit organization that has been assisting the transplant community for the past 24 years.

In early 2007, Dr. Miller, who had been living in western Canada pursuing a surgical oncology fellowship, returned to the U.S., where he was diagnosed with a severe form of an autoimmune disease of the liver known as primary sclerosing cholangitis. The only life-saving procedure is a liver transplant.

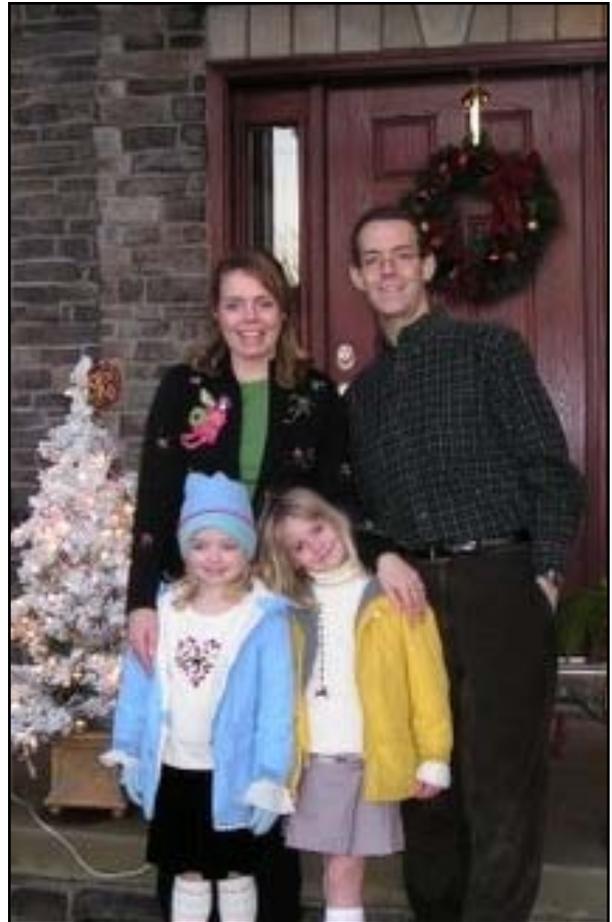
While his Canadian health insurance would not cover him in the U.S., he chose to remain here because he had previously (in 2003) undergone successful removal of the right side of his liver for bile duct cancer/cholangiocarcinoma (the same disease that Chicago Bears running back Walter Payton died of in 1999) in the U.S.

After securing U.S. health insurance at twice the normal premium and battling with the insurer to overlook preexisting conditions, Dr. Miller learned the insurer will pay **only a portion** of the transplant costs and post-transplant medications.

No longer working, Dr. Miller is living near the UCLA Medical Center, with his sister. He wife and young daughters are living in Chicago near extended family.

How to make a tax-deductible contribution

• **By credit card:** Please note that credit card contributions have an additional 3% deducted from them for the processing costs associated with the transaction. There is a \$25 credit card minimum. There are three ways to contribute with a credit card:



Dr. Walter J. Miller, III, shown with his family, is progressing well after liver transplant surgery, reports his father, a longtime CMS member.

• **Online:** www.transplantfund.org/Restricted/patient-detail.cfm?pat_id=2202. The above link should take you directly to Walter J. Miller's Web page. If it doesn't, go to www.transplantfund.org/contributions and search by last name. You may need to scroll down.

• **Monthly recurring contributions:** go to www.transplantfund.org/contributions to download the consent form, which you should print, complete and return to NTAF via fax or email.

• **By phone:** Call NTAF at (800) 642-8399.

• **By check through the mail:** Send your check to NTAF, 150 N. Radnor Chester Rd., Suite #F-120, Radnor, PA 19087. Be sure to write "in honor of Walter J. Miller" on the memo line.



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Physician-author proposes radical overhaul of health care system

Calls investor-owned delivery system morally and medically unsound

ARNOLD S. RELMAN, MD, BRINGS A MEDICAL orientation to reforming the U.S. health-care system, unlike, he says, the social scientists, economists and others who propose grand solutions.

Speaking before members and guests of CMS' 6th District, the author of *Second Opinion: Rescuing America's Health Care*, outlined the national crisis, blaming it largely on the commercialization of health care by private companies and investors.

With an estimated 50 percent of all spending going to overhead, Dr. Relman believes that "removing the investors" is the best way to defend the profession and enjoy practice. He downplays the effects of an aging population and rising obesity rates, saying they are merely aggravating factors.

The U.S. has a lot to learn from the successes and failures of the Canadian system, Dr. Relman stated, although he doesn't recommend that the U.S. adopt Canadian-style health care without modifications for our historical and cultural differences. He emphasizes that the single payer system is not an insurance plan, and that doctors who



Shown Dec. 14 at Rush University Medical Center are, from left, Frederick Merkel, MD; guest speaker Arnold Relman, MD, author and former editor-in-chief of the *New England Journal of Medicine*; Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie, 25th Dist. House Majority Leader; Philip Dray, MD, president, CMS District 6, and Wendy Brown, MD, chief of staff, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center. The lecture was part of an educational series that District 6 is presenting.

wish to remain in traditional practice would be free to do so.

Whether you agree with Dr. Relman or not, one message is not in dispute: Doctors must not stand aside and let others make health-care decisions.

CMS Hospital liaisons needed for legislative breakfasts and more.

For information, please contact:

Megan Whalen (312) 670-2550.

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