



chicago medicine

CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF COOK COUNTY

Newsletter, 2009, Vol. 112, No. 2

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

State society works on behalf of all Illinois physicians

Scott Warner, CMS



MEDICINE'S FUTURE: Medical students are an important component of the ISMS Annual House of Delegates meeting. Shown at last year's Third District luncheon are students (clockwise, from left): Wen Chen, Neal Patel, Akash Garg, and Nicole Patino.

THE ISMS HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETS APRIL 24-26 in Oak Brook to set a course for the state's largest physician organization. All physicians are welcome to attend as guests. The HOD provides you an opportunity to witness advocacy on your behalf and learn how to have an impact on legislation and reimbursement, patient care and safety. As a unified body, ISMS works on behalf of all

physicians, whether or not they are actually members of the Society. The issues and concerns debated apply to every licensed physician and student within this state. There will be CME programs, keynote speakers, exhibits, and dozens of resolutions to consider. One CMS resolution will address the subject of physician profiling, grading and report cards. Another takes on Medicare PQRI and Category II Codes. Our delegates will get progress reports on resolutions adopted at past meetings, with updates on implementation and action. Held at the Oak Brook Hills Marriott, the HOD offers a wide range of activities for every participant.

Please plan on joining us. For more information, go to: www.isms.org or www.cmsdocs.org.

William A. McDade, MD, PhD
President,
Chicago Medical Society

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CMS hosts winter networking at Rock Bottom Brewery



Shown at the CMS-sponsored social and networking event are, from left, students: Akash Garg, Ruchir Thakore, Neal Patel, and Gautam Gaonkar.

CMS STUDENTS, RESIDENTS, AND YOUNG physicians put some warmth into the winter chill on Jan. 16 with a Society-sponsored event devoted to career advancement.

In welcoming remarks, CMS President William A. McDade, MD, PhD, told the groups how he first became involved in organized medicine as a student and how service had changed his life.

"As I transitioned from student to resident, I was sold on the concept that if organized medicine didn't

exist, we would have to invent it," Dr. McDade said, noting he had served in every position available to a member of the CMS Student Branch, while also chairing the Governing Council of the AMA-MSS.

The complimentary social and networking event took place at Rock Bottom Brewery and drew nearly 150 from all seven medical schools.

Three exhibitors were present: National City Bank, the Army (Health Care Recruiter) and Kaplan, Inc., which raffled three Q-Bank test preparation courses.

Also present were members of the CMS Young Physicians Group (YPG), which, like the AMA's Young Physicians Section, aims to improve the practice of medicine for the field's younger generation, including the transition into practice.

Members from all three groups were encouraged to invite non-members, giving the event a dual purpose: recruiting new members and serving the interests of current CMS members. Six new members joined.

The January event is the second for the YPG, which meets several times a year to plan gatherings such as this. The YPG also monitors the progress of CMS programs and services on young members' behalf.

For more information, contact Jennifer Cox at (312) 670-2550, ext. 324; or jcox@cmsdocs.org.



Medical students from all seven medical schools networked with resident and young physicians.



CMS President William McDade, MD, PhD, told how getting involved in organized medicine as a student changed his life.

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Programs for academic community spearhead discussion

The CMS Council met on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at Maggiano's Banquets. Following are highlights of the quarterly policy-making meeting:

PROGRAMS FOR ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

CMS and ISMS co-hosted an Illinois residency program directors' meeting on Dec. 6, 2008, led by the AMA's Paul Rockey, MD, Director of Graduate Medical Education. The event drew over 60 participants, despite inclement weather.

On Feb. 19, CMS hosted a Match Program Webinar with guest speaker Laurie S. Curtin, PhD, Director of the Match Policy.

As CMS and ISMS continue to host activities for academic physicians, this segment of the membership should grow.

PUBLIC HEALTH INITIATIVES

At the invitation of U.S. Assistant Surgeon General James M. Galloway, MD, CMS participated in a community forum to discuss incorporating preventive care efforts into the nation's health care reform agenda. Dr. McDade provided testimony at this event, which was organized by the Building a Healthier Chicago coalition. In addition, CMS leadership attended a two-day meeting focused on combating obesity, also hosted by Building a Healthier Chicago.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

CMS is requesting that AMA's program introducing medical residents to the practice of medicine be



Dr. Robert W. Panton, CMS Secretary (left), addresses the Council, with Dr. William N. Werner, President-elect.

Scott Warner, CMS

made available to members of CMS and ISMS. (The AMA provides the program free to groups that pay for their residents to be AMA members.)

MEMBERSHIP

A series of membership recruitment/retention campaigns is planned for the first quarter of this year, consisting of a phone-a-thon and several letter campaigns. CMS staff will conduct the phone-a-thon while CMS and ISMS staff will target nonmembers at Advocate Illinois Masonic, the University of Chicago, and Lutheran General Hospital. Another campaign will target nonmembers in their first four years of practice.

Councilors must continue outreach and peer-to-peer reminders. All councilors should reach out to colleagues and help bring nonrenewing

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NEWS FOR CHICAGO PHYSICIANS

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CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF COOK COUNTY
medicine



Newsletter, 2009, Vol. 112, No. 2

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COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS *(continued from page 4)*



District 6 Trustee Dr. Philip B. Dray takes the mike to comment on a resolution, while the District's Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Ann Marie Dunlap, waits her turn. Seated: Dr. David Schaefer.

members back on board. A friendly reminder from a colleague can be all it takes for someone to renew.

EVENTS FOR MEMBERS

Eight different hospitals were represented at the CMS-hosted Council on Medical Staff Leadership meeting on Dec. 6. Attorney Richard King updated participants on the challenge to medical liability reform legislation in Illinois.

Latest from the Illinois State Medical Society

• **MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM**

While no one knows exactly when to expect a ruling, previous rulings have usually been filed about three months after arguments were heard. It is possible that a ruling may take longer. The Supreme Court has wide latitude in the timing of its decisions. As soon as ISMS learns the outcome, it will contact members.

• **CERTIFIED MIDWIVES**

ISMS successfully helped defeat SB 385, which
(continued on page 8)



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Dr. Peter Eupierre, Chairman of the ISMS Board, takes the mike as Dr. James Galloway, Assistant U.S. Surgeon General (seated), and Dr. Shastri Swaminathan, ISMS President, observe the proceedings.

would have licensed yet another new category of midwives and allowed them to provide unsupervised home birthing services. They are not nurse midwives who are seeking a scope expansion and who have clinical training and education. Rather, they are some of the least trained individuals who want to *independently* provide some of the most critical services to women in Illinois. The legislation calls for a mere three credit hours of pharmacology training as a prerequisite to certification.

ISMS expects the midwives to keep pursuing licensure. They have successfully garnered support from a bipartisan and divergent group of lawmakers.

• **ISSUES ON ISMS' 2009 AGENDA**

□ *Clarification of fee splitting provisions of the Medical Practice Act.* ISMS has introduced a plan to retain physicians' rights to pay a reasonable, percentage-based fee to billing and collection services they hire to collect on patient accounts.

□ *Amendment of the Illinois Income Tax Act to create an additional deduction for the cost of health insurance or*

health benefits program premiums and health care costs.

□ *Inclusion of time limits for insurer recoupments, so that offsets may be requested or withheld for only 60 days after the original payment.*

• **SCHIP RENEWAL**

The Congress approved and President Obama signed a renewal of the SCHIP program through 2013. SCHIP's expansion is paid for through a tobacco tax increase that will raise the duty on cigarettes by 62 cents. The original House of Representatives SCHIP re-authorization proposal included a ban on new physician hospital ownership and limits on expansion for existing physician specialty hospitals. The provision was included along with the tobacco tax to offset the program spending increases included in the legislation. Because of the strong political will to push SCHIP renewal and lack of a similar specialty hospital limit in the Senate version of the bill, the physician ownership ban issue was dropped for the time being. Physician hospital ownership could continue to come up in future Medicare legislation or health system reform discussions.

• **BCBSI AGREES TO SUSPEND "PASS-THROUGH" BILLING CHANGE**

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois recently announced it will suspend implementation of "pass-through" billing policy changes related to labora-



Student Chris Acker (left), discusses the Council agenda with student Kavita Shah and Hans Arora, Trustee, Medical Student District.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS *(continued)*

tory services. The changes they planned to implement would have prohibited pass-through billing effective April 1.

Citing current economic conditions, BCBSIL expressed concern that the change would have negative unintended financial consequences for some medical practices. For now, BCBSIL will continue to reimburse treating physicians who bill for lab services. The Blues reconsidered the payment policy change and discussed ISMS concerns with the Society prior to finalizing any policy change.

CMS RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED

The crafting and passage of resolutions at the county level is the first step in making the profession's voice heard. Once adopted, the resolutions move up to the state and national level, where they may result in direct action or policy change. Your Society approved two resolutions at the February meeting.

PHYSICIAN PROFILING/GRADING AND REPORT CARDS

Directs CMS to:

- Reaffirm the AMA "Guidelines for Pay-for-Performance Programs," which augment the AMA's "Principles for Pay-for-Performance Programs";
- Adopt language stipulating that grading should not encourage the deselection of high-risk patients, which would reduce their access to care, nor should grading encourage the deselection of physicians;
- Forward this resolution to the ISMS and AMA for possible legislation.

U.S. SURGEON GENERAL:

LETTER TO TRANSITION TEAM

Directs CMS to:

- Write to President Obama stating support for the selection of a U.S. Surgeon General with extensive public health experience and authority and with the assurance that the Surgeon General's authority will not be abridged by inappropriate political influences;
- Request that nominees for the position of Surgeon General be made by the U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps and the Institute of Medicine.



Dr. Howard Axe, Vice Chairman of the Council, addresses his peers, alongside Dr. David Loiterman, Chairman.

NEXT YEAR'S LEADERSHIP POSTS CERTIFIED

President-elect: David A. Loiterman, MD

Secretary: Thomas M. Anderson, MD



Dr. Thomas M. Anderson, CMS Treasurer, reviews the Council report.

Webinar instructs on Match Program

CMS MEMBERS WITH AN INTEREST IN THE National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) enjoyed a free Webinar recently, courtesy of the CMS Council on Academic Physicians.

The luncheon session, held Feb. 19, connected participants with Laurie S. Curtin, PhD, Director of Match Policy, at the NRMP in Washington, DC, who described for both applicants and program directors the policies of the NRMP.

Dr. Curtin's presentation covered key tenets of the Match Agreement: the binding match commitment, communication between applicants and programs, and promoting compliance with NRMP policy. Viewers were taken through a series of examples that stated protocol for waiver requests and investigations, as well as for ranking preferences, entering contracts and handling violations.

Teaching hospitals that register any programs in the Matching Program agree to select senior students of U.S. allopathic medical schools for all of their programs only through the Matching Program or another national matching plan, according to Dr. Curtin.

The NRMP was established in 1952 to provide

THE MATCH COMMITMENT

Section 5.1:

"The listing of an applicant by a program on its certified rank order list or of a program by an applicant on the applicant's certified rank order list establishes a binding commitment to offer or to accept an appointment if a match results.

Failure to honor this commitment by either party participating in a match will be a breach of this Agreement and may result in penalties to the breaching program or applicant....."

a uniform date of appointment to positions in graduate medical education. The residency match is designed to optimize the rank ordered choices of students and program directors.

Each year, approximately 16,000 U.S. medical school students participate in the residency match. In addition, another 18,000 "independent" applicants compete for the approximately 25,000 available residency positions. Independent applicants include former graduates of U.S. medical schools, U.S. osteopathic students, Canadian students, and graduates of foreign medical schools.



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ISMS UPDATE

“Lawsuit stimulus” bill hits Springfield: lawyers want bigger payouts

LAST MONTH, WITH STRONG SUPPORT from the state bar association, a measure surfaced in Springfield to impose “prejudgment interest” on medical liability and other civil verdicts.

Prejudgment interest is the amount of interest that accrues on the value of money damages between the time the defendant receives notice of the claim and the time of judgment. The measure would even assess interest on *future* damages such as future medical care or future wages, even though the plaintiff suffers no interest costs associated with these damages.

If enacted, Senate Bill 184 would unfairly enrich lawyers while driving up medical liability awards and insurance premiums for physicians. Physicians have historically won four out of five cases that go to trial, so there is no reason why they should be coerced to offer a settlement.

If you haven’t done so by now, make sure to contact your state lawmakers to let them know this is a very bad proposal that will unnecessarily increase payouts in medical liability litigation, blemish innocent physicians’ records and drive up insurance costs.

To obtain the names and contact information for

ISMS unveils new “Medical Home” patient education brochure

THE MEDICAL HOME MODEL IS A COMPREHENSIVE approach to primary care that facilitates strong, continuous partnerships with patients and their families.

ISMS and the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics have developed a patient education brochure that highlights the benefits of a medical home and encourages patients to identify a primary care physician.



Chicago Medical Society members can order a supply of these pamphlets or download single copies at no charge at www.isms.org/physicians/medical-home/medicalhome.html.

your lawmakers or to learn more about this issue, visit www.isms.org and click on the ISMS Grassroots Action Center logo.



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CMS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 23

ISMS Board of Trustees Meeting
Illinois State Medical Society
8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

APRIL 24-26

ISMS House of Delegates
Oak Brook Hills Marriott

MAY 12

Council Meeting
Maggiano's Banquet
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

MAY 20

Executive Committee Meeting
Chicago Medical Society
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

MAY 20

ISMS Executive Committee Meeting
Illinois State Medical Society
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

JUNE 7

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- Andrew Weil, MD & Tieraona Low Dog, MD, "The Role of Spices in Health"
- Walter Willett, MD, DrPH on macronutrients
- David Heber, MD, PhD on phytonutrients and nutrigenomics
- David Katz, MD, MPH on obesity
- Nutrition & cancer panel featuring Donald Abrams, MD, Keith Block, MD, and Cyndi Thomson, PhD

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OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE FOR RENT April 2009. Approximately 10' x 12' plus alcove of 6' x 4 1/2'. Inside office freshly painted and newly carpeted 1/2 block from Northwestern Memorial Hospital. \$1100/month includes patient check-in, waiting room, and Internet. Call Kathryn at (312) 274-0197.

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for flexible, quality health insurance.
(And why you should, too!)

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.

All 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

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