

Reporter

President's Message

By Lawrence L. Altaker, MD



In recent years, whenever I've been in meetings with colleagues and the focus hasn't been on clinical issues, I've been struck with the fact that we don't talk about unhappiness with the practice of medicine. However, we do talk about unhappiness with the business of medicine. I

don't think that I am alone in experiencing a sense of helplessness as I look at the various things that impact my ability to practice, whether it is needless

regulation or the inability to affect reimbursement and expenses. The past has been challenging in this regard. The future is likely to be more so as the country tries to deal with what we recognize to be a thoroughly broken system, with many stakeholders who each purport to know how to best fix it.

We physicians do have our professional organizations to work for us and advance our collective ideas as to how best to proceed. Yet there are too few of us actively involved in the process as a result of being fragmented, dispirited, and individually uninvolved. I've spoken about the Dauphin County Medical Society's cure for this in

previous issues of this newsletter. We developed our strategic plan and implemented a long-term initiative to energize the membership to get involved. Progress on the plan has been slow, and we've yet to be inundated with volunteers, but it is moving along. I have great faith in the efforts of our statewide and national organizations, but I believe that considerable impact can also be made at the grassroots level.

This then is another call to action. We can no longer rely on others to do what we should be doing for ourselves. To do otherwise is to remain fragmented and ineffective. ■

PAMPAC Needs Your Support

By John Goldman, MD, Chair, Community Involvement Task Force

Dauphin County Medical Society has set a goal of getting the Society and its members to become more active in legislative issues which affect medicine in Pennsylvania. To that end, we would like to lobby specific legislatures, have a higher percentage of our members contribute to the Pennsylvania Medical Political Action Committee (PAMPAC), and support specific candidates.

In terms of lobbying legislatures, other groups have been very effective by meeting with state legislators on a regular basis, offering their assistance to the legislature, and often buying tickets to their fundraisers.

We are seeking DCMS members who are interested in being part of this process. It will require a willingness to commit to the following: brief training

in how to lobby effectively, participating in a small group of doctors who meet with their state legislators two to three times per year, extending an offer to assist the legislator in resolving medical issues that occur with the legislator or their constituents, and buying tickets to some of the legislator fundraisers, barbeques, etc.

If you are interested in participating in this effort, please contact Susie Wilson at 558-7849 or swilson@pamedsoc.org.

In addition, if you have not already done so, we are urging you to contribute to PAMPAC this year. The competing interests, trial lawyers, insurance

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2007 Calendar of Events

Executive Committee Meetings (Officers)

October 3, and November 7
 6:30 PM at Society headquarters

Board of Governors Meetings

September 5, and December 5
 6:15 PM at Society headquarters

Disaster Medicine Program

September 29
 7:00 AM Registration at Society Headquarters

PA Medical Society Annual Business Meeting - House of Delegates

October 20-21
 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

Doc Talk V

November 17
 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Harrisburg Mall

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Local Students Attend AMA Annual Meeting

By Travis Meyer, President, AMA Medical Student Section at Penn State College of Medicine

The Medical Student Section of the American Medical Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL, was attended in June by 11 Penn State College of Medicine students. This opportunity was the first annual meeting for nine of the attending students, and gave them an appreciation for organized medicine on a national level. Looking forward, Penn State students are taking a proactive role in the leadership of the state, the region, and on a national level. Three students were members of various Convention Committees, coordinating the events of the meeting and ensuring it was a success for all attendees. Travis Meyer and Kimberly Kiclienski were elected as the Chair and Secretary/Treasurer of Region 6 respectively, which encompasses 5 states and 26 medical schools.

There were many seminars and lectures given by top professionals in their fields. The Keynote address, given by Edward O'Neal, focused on the factors that play into poverty and the different challenges that international health currently faces along with a historical context to these challenges. He is also working to

compile a database of NGO's working on international health and how students can be involved in each of these organizations. Another lecture was given on the USMLE board exams, and talked about how the 'First-Aid' study guide has changed over the years, what the exam is aiming to test, and how the examiners achieve this. The Penn State AMA student chapter invited Dr. Lonnie King to speak at a seminar about the concept of One-Health and the integration of human medicine and animal health.

There were many resolutions presented for the students to consider, and the business meetings were well attended by our students who enjoyed being a part of how policy is shaped in the MSS.

Four of our students participated in the National Service project and reported a great time spent with fellow medical students from other schools. They also achieved success in the number of children they were able to sign up for SCHIP. ■

Members in the News

William S. Pierce, MD, FACS, a thoracic surgeon and chemical engineer from Hershey is the recipient of the 2007 Jacobson Innovation Award of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). The purpose of the award is to honor living surgeons who have been innovators of a new development or technique in any field of surgery. Dr. Pierce was honored with the award in recognition of his pioneering work in the conception and development of mechanical circulatory support and the total artificial mechanical heart and his contributions to surgical bioengineering and patient care. His contributions to science, medicine, and education have benefited countless surgical patients with heart failure.

In 1970, Dr. Pierce initiated a collaborative effort between the Penn State Colleges of Medicine and Engineering, Hershey, PA, and started an artificial heart and circulatory assist program. He led an interdisciplinary team of surgeons, physicians, engineers, materials scientists, fabrication specialists and machinists, veterinarians, and animal care technicians to design a mechanical circulatory assist pump for use in patients. Their ground-breaking research led to the development of the Penn State Heart-Assist Pump. The pump is the first extremely smooth, surgically implantable, seam-free, pulsatile blood pump to receive wide-spread clinical use with excellent results. The pump has now been

used in over 3,000 patients and is available worldwide. Versions of the pump are now used as both a bridge to transplant and after open-heart surgery.

Dr. Pierce is the Evan Pugh Emeritus Professor of Surgery at Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, Hershey, PA. He continues to contribute personally to the research activities of the division of artificial organs at the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and to scholarly activities on a national level.

Ellen Smith, MD, founding physician of Heritage Family Medicine in Lemoyne, was recently named Family Physician of the Year by the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians. She was nominated by one of her patients for this award that honors outstanding, community-minded family physicians. Not only is she devoted to family practice, she also teaches residents and medical students and works to ensure that communities have family doctors. She becomes Pennsylvania's nominee for the national award from the American Academy of Family Physicians.

We are proud to have members such as Drs. Pierce and Smith who represent what DCMS strives for and applaud their hard work and dedication. ■

Attend Disaster Medicine Program

As a member benefit, DCMS is hosting a patient safety educational event at the Pennsylvania Medical Society on Saturday, September 29. The topic is disaster medicine and includes discussions on lessons learned: what Katrina can tell us about response and catastrophe, infectious disease, pharmacologic terrorism and blistering agents, lessons learned during TMI that were applied post 9/11, psychological trauma and stress management, a speaker from PEMA, and blast injury. You will not want to miss this interesting seminar that addresses the current topics you need to know. Please call the DCMS office at 558-7849 for registration information. ■

PAMPAC Needs Your Support

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companies, and hospital associations all have deeper pockets, and their members contribute at a much higher rate than physicians.

It may not be fair or just, however, a cold hard fact is that contributions affect legislation. The success of the trial lawyers in preventing malpractice reform in Pennsylvania should be proof of this.

Please contribute whatever you can afford. However, consider a contribution in the \$250 – \$500 range. Please send your contributions to the Pennsylvania Medical Political Action Committee, PO Box 8820, Harrisburg, PA 17105-9860 (personal checks only).

Finally, PAMPAC is supporting Judge Maureen Lally-Green in her candidacy for the State Supreme Court. Judge Lally-Green has extensive experience in legal issues that involve physicians and has a judicial philosophy which treats physicians with fairness and sensitivity. In addition, her father practiced internal medicine, and out of her seven siblings, five practice medicine in Pennsylvania.

We urge you to send a \$200 contribution to Physician for Judge Lally-Green c/o Dave Thompson, Pennsylvania Medical Society, 777 East Park Drive, PO Box 8820, Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820 (personal checks only).

Physicians in Pennsylvania have a large number of legislative issues coming up in the next year which will directly affect their practice: “The Prescription for Pennsylvania,” malpractice reform, and reimbursement issues. It is extremely important that physicians and their representatives are part of this process. We are asking you to give a small amount of time, effort, and money to try to ensure Pennsylvania medicine remains strong. ■

Welcome New Members

DAUPHIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS
April 26, 2007 – July 30, 2007

Full Active

Adnan Ahmad, DO, Gastroenterology
Jackson Siegelbaum Gastroenterology, Harrisburg

Timothy A. Clark, MD, Pulmonary Disease
Central Pennsylvania Pulmonary Associates, Enola

Joseph P. Esposito, MD, FACS, General Surgery
Susquehanna Surgeons, Ltd, Wormleysburg

Fred G. Fedok, MD, FACS, Facial Plastic Surgery
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey

Scott C. Felter, DO, Hematology & Oncology
Central PA Hematology/Oncology Assoc., Lemoyne

Justin R. Fisher, MD, Neurology
Pennsylvania Neurosurgery & Neuroscience Institute, Harrisburg

Safwat A. Gassis, MD, Cardiovascular Disease
Associated Cardiologists PC, Harrisburg

Michael J. Green, MD, Internal Medicine
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey

Gerald Johnson, MD, Pediatric Cardiology
Childrens Heart Group, Harrisburg

Sridhar Kaushik, MD, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Pediatrix Medical Group, Harrisburg

Brian C. Lerner, MD, Ophthalmology
Memorial Eye Institute, Harrisburg

Brian C. Quirk, MD, Family Medicine
Blue Mountain Family Practice, Harrisburg

Scott M. Readence, MD, Obstetrics & Gynecology
Partners in Women’s Healthcare PC, Lemoyne

Raymond K. Reichwein, MD, Neurology
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey

Andrzej Trojanowski, MD, Anesthesiology
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey

Practice Administrator

Heather Campbell, Advanced Dermatology and Skin Surgery,
Mechanicsburg

Michael J. Farrell, Elena R. Farrell, DO, Harrisburg

Debra L. White, Urology of Central PA - KBDT Division, Harrisburg

Residents—Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey

Jennifer K. Brackeen, DO

Bryan Carroll, MD

Janak A. Vidyarthi, MD

Travis Watson, MD

Omar Zalatimo, MD

Residents—Pinnacle Healthsystem, Harrisburg

Maryellen Elizabeth Estevez, DO

Joseph W. Redcross, DO

Students—Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey

Thomas J. Fountaine

Scott Paviol ■

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- from Warren Buffett's Letter to Shareholders, February 28, 2006

...We want Medical Protective to continue to be the company that thinks like a doctor and behaves with the same integrity and individual care as a doctor....

- from Warren Buffett, April 26, 2006

**...We're proud to have
Medical Protective as part
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- from Warren Buffett, May 30, 2006



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Joint Society and Alliance Event a Success!

On Thursday, August 2, the DCMS and the DCMS Alliance had a great time at a Senators baseball game. This was a jointly sponsored event held in an effort to encourage members and their families to interact as well as welcome non-members into our organizations. We had over 50 people in attendance. We enjoyed a picnic buffet and a raffle giveaway of T-shirts, hats, programs, and free tickets. Although the Senators didn't walk away with a win, the DCMS/DCMSA still considers this event to be a great success! We look forward to more social occasions in the future. ■



DCMS Supports HACC Nursing and Allied Health Students



Our society is pleased to provide support to the Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC), which is one of the most important providers of skilled health care professionals in the region. In 2005, DCMS contributed \$25,000 to HACC's capital campaign for its Health Education Pavilion. New this year is the Society's "Nursing/Allied Health Scholarship" for students enrolled in HACC's health programs with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and an unmet financial need. Immediate Past President, Dr. Everett Hills, was instrumental in establishing the scholarship and was on

hand during the HACC Foundation's Awards Program in May to present Sherry Weirich with the Society's first annual \$1,000 award. Sherry currently works in the medical field and plans to advance her career by continuing her education in the diagnostic medical sonography program at HACC.

In addition, DCMS continues its practice of supporting the nursing profession through our annual "Excellence in Clinical Nursing Award," which is presented to a HACC nursing graduate who, in the opinion of faculty, demonstrates excellence in interpersonal communication, assessment, documentation, and technical skills. At the College's May nursing graduation ceremony, President Larry Altaker presented Julia Lara with a congratulatory plaque and \$300 award on behalf of the Society. ■



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Reporter

Fall 2007



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Submission of Newsletter Articles

The Reporter accepts unsolicited newsletter articles, however, there is no guarantee that they will be published. All submissions are subject to review. Articles should be of interest/pertain to physicians, their practice and health care in the Dauphin County/Capital Region. Local, state, and national perspectives are welcome. Submissions that are self-promotional or commercial in nature will not be accepted. Send your articles to the Society at Dauphin@pamedsoc.org or fax to (717) 558-7841.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Society.

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Mission

The Dauphin County Medical Society, founded in 1866, seeks to serve its members, the medical community, and the citizens of Dauphin and surrounding Counties. The Society's mission includes: upholding the ethics and dignity of the medical profession, elevating and maintaining the highest standards of healthcare, promoting and disseminating medical information to members as well as the public, and promoting collegial relations among its members.

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Doc Talk V is Here— Register Now!

By Gwendolyn A. Poles, DO, Doc Talk Chair

Mark your calendar for Saturday, November 17, from 10 am – 2 pm and participate in this popular health education event held at the Harrisburg Mall. This is a great opportunity to share your knowledge and expertise with members of the public who might not have ready access to medical care. Reserve your space now by calling the DCMS office at 558-7849 or email dauphin@pamedsoc.org for more information.

Dues Reminder

Dues statements for 2008 will be mailed out shortly. Please note that individual physicians whose dues are not paid on a group practice basis can conveniently renew their membership online. Members may also take advantage of quarterly dues payments via automatic credit card deductions. Do your part to prevent future dues inflation, encourage your colleagues to join the Pennsylvania Medical Society and DCMS. For more information, contact the Member Services Department at (800) 228-7823. ■

CME Requirements

Don't forget about your CME! Although MDs and DOs do not need to renew their licenses until the end of 2008, it is important to earn throughout the renewal period and not get caught short. When it's time to renew, physicians must have accumulated 100 total credit hours of CME within the two-year license cycle. A minimum of 20 of the total credit hours must be in Category 1, which are activities that have been approved by an accredited provider. A minimum of 12 credit hours must be in the area of patient safety or risk management. These hours can be Category 1 or Category 2, which are self-directed learning or courses that have not been through a formal approval process. Noncompliance can result in disciplinary action and fines. ■