

Reporter

President's Message

By Lawrence L. Altaker, MD



This year is likely to be the beginning of major debate about the future of our healthcare system. This belief is supported by various articles in the media, initiatives on the part of a number of

states with regard to their citizens (including proposals by our own Governor that have yet to be expressed in detail as I write this article), and indications in Congress that major decisions are approaching with regard to healthcare. Undoubtedly, the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Pennsylvania Medical Society will be weighing in on these matters, as will our various national and state specialty societies. Multiple other entities will also be weighing in, our natural partners and those whose interests may be inimical to our own. Even within our own ranks, there may not be unanimity of opinion about the solutions, but I doubt that there is much disagreement about the problems as we experience them from our unique perspective as physicians. This leads me to the impetus for this article at the beginning of my second year as President of Dauphin County Medical Society (DCMS). Your Board of Governors (BOG) in the past year has been attempting to develop a structured approach towards engaging both the political and public

service components of our community in dialogue. The goal has been to inform from our own particular perspective as caregivers and as citizens. While we can and should do this individually, as we do not all think uniformly on these matters, we should also communicate as a group on issues where we have common ground.

We need committed, articulate colleagues who can devote time to develop a relationship with legislators and other community leaders. We need to serve on various commissions throughout the community in order to share our concerns and thoughts on a regular basis. However, in doing so, we need to be realistic, as others are also sure that they are right.

A number of years ago, I was asked to be an expert witness in the malpractice defense of a colleague. In preparing me for the trial, the defense attorney made a comment that has stuck with me since. As I understood it, he said that my role was to educate the jury. As I understand what our role is now, we need to educate the public.

Echoing the Marine commercial, we need a few good men and women. It would be easiest for the DCMS if these men and women were knocking down our doors in their zeal to join. Failing that, our Task Force chairmen and members of the BOG will be canvassing the membership.

There are other initiatives that the DCMS is undertaking in the areas of membership and education that need a few good men and women. We would love to have an editorial board for our newsletter to make it more substantial and we need your assistance.

I cannot end this editorial without expressing my perspective. It is only by focusing on what
 continued on page 5

2007 Calendar of Events

Executive Committee Meetings (Officers)

April 4, May 2, July 11, August 1, October 3, and November 7
 6:30 PM at Society headquarters

Board of Governors Meetings

March 7, June 13, September 5, and December 5
 6:15 PM at Society headquarters

Pennsylvania Medical Society Annual Business Meeting - House of Delegates

October 20-21
 at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center

DCMS Officers

- Lawrence L. Altaker, MD – President
- Andrew J. Richards, MD – President-Elect
- Gwendolyn A. Poles, DO – Vice President
- John D. Goldman, MD – Secretary-Treasurer
- Everett C. Hills, MD – Immediate Past President

1

President's Message
 Calendar of Events

2

The Perfect Place
 for You
 Simulation Summit
 DCMS Alliance,
 Making a Difference

3

World Surgical
 Foundation
 Welcome New Staff
 Welcome
 New Members

4

Begin Writing Your
 Resolutions Now

5

Act 13
 New Doc in Town

6

DCMS Election
 Results

The Perfect Match for You!

What is your passion? Do you wish you could spend more time writing? Do you love opportunities to meet new colleagues? Do you love the feeling of learning something new? Do you wish you had a way to give back to the community? DCMS has the perfect answer for you. We are actively seeking members to join the following groups: Community Involvement, Doc Talk, Education, and Networking and Membership. We need your ideas and involvement and look forward to helping you find the perfect match! ■

Simulation Summit held on November 14, 2006

By Elizabeth H. Sinz, MD, Member

The March 2007 issue of the journal *Simulation in Healthcare* will carry a full report (and editorial) concerning a first-of-its-kind Simulation Summit convened by the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH) in November 2006. This Summit had the goal of fostering dialogue among stakeholders interested in a robust future for simulation in healthcare. Fifty-five individuals participated, representing the leadership of 33 organizations, including specialty societies, regulatory bodies and industry.

SSH chose to hold the Summit both because of its mission to lead the facilitation of excellence in multi-disciplinary simulation-based healthcare education, practice and research, and its vision to move simulation into the mainstream of healthcare. Participants at the Summit worked diligently and collaboratively. The group first defined “simulation” in its

diverse forms, then reviewed the ways that it could be used to improve patient care. Through facilitated small group discussions, a consensus was reached on the key issues that must be addressed to advance the field.

This forum provided a starting point for increased collaboration and cooperation within the healthcare simulation community and with external stakeholders. The use of simulation has exploded recently, leaving many groups to work independently towards achieving what is essentially a common goal. Fostering both collaboration and healthy competition will provide efficient and effective means of achieving the success desired by all who share the goal of improved patient safety through diverse applications of simulation-based techniques. Future Summits will build on the items outlined in the report to incorporate new ideas and facilitate ongoing progress. ■

DCMS Alliance Making a Difference in the Community

By Lynn Neely, DCMSA President

The Dauphin County Medical Society Alliance was chartered in 1925 and is a dynamic organization representing the family of medicine. We are a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with a mission to build healthy families and provide safer communities. We provided close to 4,000 volunteer hours last year with a focus on the following: programs in the Harrisburg School District Elementary Schools, including *Hands are Not For Hitting* and *No More Bullies*; Health Literacy programs for medical students and residents at Penn State College of Medicine, Milton Hershey Medical Center; science awards for high school and middle school student winners in the medical classification of The Patriot-News science fair, and eighth and fourth grade certificates. The Alliance also provides grants and contributions to the YWCA, Hemlock Girl Scout Council and Community Check-Up Center, just to mention a few.

This year the Alliance, under the co-chair leadership of Judy Dillon, began a Family Night Program at Lincoln Elementary School at 1605 State Street, Harrisburg. The program was developed after receiving input from teachers, principals, guidance counselors and nurses. Lincoln School has approximately 80% of its families in the low-income category. The

Alliance has adopted Lincoln and is reaching out to provide a stronger presence. We implemented *Hands are Not for Hitting* and *No More Bullies* Program, which targets kindergarten through second grade. In addition, we are providing a series of four evening programs that include a healthy meal for Lincoln School families, as well as follow up programs for all grades, kindergarten through eight. Program topics include: internet safety with Faux Paws the Techno Cat; healthy eating and exercise featuring *Wellsville goes to School* and *Who wants to be a Well-Wizard*; germs and the flu season; and *Bullies and School Safety* with the Kids on the Block puppet show.

Our Spring Fashion Show will be held Tuesday, March 13 and features fashions from The Plum and jewelry from Higashi. This show is a major fund-raising event, with a goal to raise at least \$10,000 in support of our community programs. You may donate or reserve a table by calling Sheila Altaker 761-4783 or Marcy Parnes 232-4405, co-chairs of this fundraiser.

We look forward to continuing our programs in support of physicians in the community and making a difference in the health and safety of Central Pennsylvania. ■

Welcome New Staff

Welcome to Susie Wilson and Kristi Spargo, two new staff members for DCMS.

Susie Wilson, Associate Director, had many years in corporate management before redirecting her career to the nonprofit sector. Most recently, she was in charge of Support Services for the Pennsylvania State Foster Parent Association. Susie will be working with several DCMS committees and task forces.

Kristi Spargo, Assistant Executive, gained association experience working with 13 various associations in a Florida management firm. She will be working primarily with the DCMS newsletter, membership retention and recruitment, Doc Talk and educational events. ■

Congratulations!!

The World Surgical Foundation (WSF), founded by Dr. Domingo T. Alvear, is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year. We would like to express our appreciation to Dr. Alvear and the many DCMS members who have participated in the Foundation's humanitarian efforts. Dr. Alvear was presented the Volunteer International Physician Award in 2004 by the Pennsylvania Medical Society, and again in 2005 by the American College of Surgeons. Below are excerpts from an article written by Dr. Alvear that describe the impact of WSF. Thank you to everyone involved for your dedication and service.

The World Surgical Foundation Story (1997-2007)

By Domingo T. Alvear, MD, FACS, FICS, FAAP

In 1997, the World Surgical Foundation was formed through the leadership of Dr. Domingo T. Alvear who gathered community leaders both in the business and healthcare professions in the Harrisburg and York areas. The World Surgical Foundation is committed to providing charitable healthcare to the world's poor and underserved, regardless of color, religion or creed. Our goals include the performance of surgical procedures in two surgical missions per year in world communities that are in need of our services. We also donate useable medical equipment, supplies and medications to those communities in order to service many more patients. In addition, we train physicians and nurses in those communities in order to improve the delivery of healthcare to their population. Thus far, The World Surgical Foundation has performed missions in the Philippines, Honduras, Thailand and India. We have also supported missions to Haiti, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Kenya. Since 1997 over 2,000 children and adults, who otherwise would have gone untreated, had surgical procedures to improve their quality of life. As President and Founder of the World Surgical Foundation, I would like to thank all of our volunteers for their unselfish love for humanity by their willingness to care for the underserved. ■

Welcome New Members

*DAUPHIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS
November 22, 2006 – January 25, 2007*

Full Active

Allister M. Boustred, MD, Plastic Surgery
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey

Keith K. Burkhart, MD FAACT, Emergency Medicine
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey

Stephen E. Cyran, MD, Pediatric Cardiology
Children's Heart Group, Harrisburg

Carla J. Dente, MD, Internal Medicine
Internists of Central PA, Ltd., Lemoyne

Safa P. Farzin, MD, Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine
Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine Associates PC, Harrisburg

Jill Monique Harrison, MD, Psychiatry
State Correctional Institution, Frackville

Sarah M. Iriana, MD, Pediatrics
University Physician Group Elizabethtown, Elizabethtown

Calvin B. Johnson, MD, Pediatrics
Department of Health, Commonwealth of PA, Harrisburg

Nancy C. Keeton, MD, Diagnostic Radiology
Germantown Imaging Associates, Gladwyne

Rubina N. Kerawala, MD, Pulmonary Critical Care Medicine
Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine Associates PC, Harrisburg

Johnathan D. McGinn, MD, Otolaryngology
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey

Gautam Mishra, MD, Ophthalmology
Schein Ernst Eye Associates, Harrisburg

Jay P. Nassar, MD, Anesthesiology
Riverside Anesthesia Associates Ltd., Mechanicsburg

Jeffrey J. Pokorny, MD, Plastic Surgery
Leber and Banducci Plastic Surgery, Harrisburg

Howard S. Weber, MD, Pediatric Cardiology
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Hershey

Practice Administrator

Larry P. Minnich, Children's Heart Group, Harrisburg
Gina M. Wilson, Duncannon Family Health Center, Duncannon

Residents—Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey

Michael G. Benninghoff, DO
Bhawna Jha, MD
Kevin P. Meitz, DO

Residents—PinnacleHealth System, Harrisburg

Anthony C. Falvello, DO
Monali Sarkar, MD

Students—Penn State College of Medicine, Hershey

Ju Kim
Terrence Rager

Deceased

Samuel D. Ulrich, MD ■

Begin Writing Your Resolutions Now!

We encourage the members of the Dauphin County Medical Society to begin writing your resolutions now for the House of Delegates, scheduled for October 20-21, 2007.

Writing a Resolution

A resolution is the vehicle that conveys to the House of Delegates a proposal from an individual, a component or specialty society, or a section on a particular subject. The traditional format is basically in two parts. Statements beginning with “Whereas” comprise the first part. These usually include the introductory facts or circumstances, which logically develop into a formal conclusion or the “Resolved.” The prefacing “Whereas” statements should be **concise** and **clear** and logically support the “Resolved” portion. It is important that those prefacing statements themselves do not cause disagreement and debate to the detriment of the main resolution.

The formal conclusion is the second part, or the “Resolved” portion of the resolution. The “Resolved” portion should **stand alone** as a complete and understandable statement without referring to ideas contained in the Whereas statements. The “Resolved” portion, if adopted by the House, actually becomes the policy of the Pennsylvania Medical Society; and the “Whereas” statements are discarded.

Submitting Resolutions

There are several facts you should know about submitting resolutions:

- Resolutions may be authored by any member of the Pennsylvania Medical Society, however, they must be introduced into the House by an official delegate.
- We ask that resolutions be submitted as far in advance of the deadline as possible. In order for the DCMS delegation to have time to review submissions, please submit your resolutions to the Dauphin County Medical Society **no later than Monday, August 27**. To save time, please email your resolutions to our Executive Director, Michele Gaiski, at mgaiski@pamedsoc.org.
- To avoid duplication, your resolution will be compared to existing policy in the Society’s Policy Compendium. Afterward, it will be presented to the DCMS delegation for review. If approved, a DCMS delegate will introduce your resolution to the House of Delegates.
- It is mandated that resolutions be accompanied by fiscal notes when there is a financial impact to the State Society. Staff will be happy to assist resolution authors in determining the appropriate fiscal notes.
- Authors wishing to remain anonymous should state that fact when submitting resolutions; however, resolutions must initially contain authors’ names.
- Authors of resolutions should be sure to spell out in full at least the first mention of any word or phrase that may later be abbreviated in the resolution.

Resolutions Directing AMA Action

Submission of excessive, redundant, and/or irrelevant resolutions to the AMA potentially diminishes the reputation and credibility of the Pennsylvania Delegation. Therefore, the following caveats have been established:

- Discretion should be used in requesting AMA action.
- The Speakers shall advise reference committee chairs to conscientiously consider all resolveds dealing with the AMA and to recommend to the House the deletion of marginal resolveds.
- Pennsylvania Delegation members shall attend reference committee hearings and speak against forwarding those resolutions that are existing policy or do not appear appropriate to be submitted to the AMA, or may also speak in that regard from the floor of the House.
- The Pennsylvania Delegation to the AMA has the responsibility to determine when and in what format a resolution, adopted by the Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates, will be submitted to the AMA.

Conclusion

All resolutions accepted as business of the House will be considered at open hearings of reference committees, which will be held at staggered intervals on Saturday, October 20. ■

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Act 13 Awareness

Although Act 13 was enacted in 2002, there are physicians that are still not following through on this self-reporting requirement. We cannot stress enough how important it is to be aware of the stringent disciplinary measures that will be enforced if you do not take this required action. For example, just last month five physicians were disciplined for failure to report. This carries a mandatory \$1,000 fine. The article below outlines the requirements of Act 13 (*provided by Pennsylvania Medical Society*). ■

The Physician Self-Reporting Provision of Act 13

The Pennsylvania Medical Society has received many inquiries regarding the self-reporting requirements of the Medical Care Availability and Reduction of Error (Mcare) Act or Act 13 of 2002. This document is a summary of the new requirements.

As of May 19, 2002, physicians are obligated to report to their licensure board (either the State Board of Medicine or State Board of Osteopathic Medicine) within 60 days of the occurrence of the following: notice of a civil malpractice lawsuit, notice of a disciplinary action against the physician by the licensing authority of another state, any controlled substance conviction, and any arrest for a criminal offense such as homicide, assault, sexual offenses, and controlled substance violations.

Reports to the appropriate licensure board must include the physician's name and business address, the date the physician was served, the court where the case was filed, the Docket number (the number assigned by the court), a brief description of the allegations, and a copy of the civil complaint or court documents relating to a disciplinary action, controlled substance conviction, or criminal offense arrest. Often a physician will be notified of an action by either a Writ of Summons or a complaint.

A Writ notifies you that you have been sued, but provides no detail. A complaint describes the alleged factual basis for the lawsuit. While you will want to report receipt of a Writ of Summons to your professional liability carrier, the licensure boards only want you to report when you actually receive the complaint.

When all the required information is accumulated, send the report to:

State Board of Medicine

Attn: Mcare Reports

P.O. Box 2649

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

State Board of Osteopathic Medicine

Attn: Mcare Reports

P.O. Box 2649

Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

A self-reporting form can be found on the Pennsylvania Medical Society website, www.pamedsoc.org, under Member Resource Center, Laws and Regulations and then Licensure.

The Department of State's Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation developed criteria and standards for review of reports to the respective licensure boards based on the frequency and severity of complaints filed

against a physician. For further information on the State Board of Medicine and State Board of Osteopathic Medicine's disciplinary process, see the Pennsylvania Medical Society's guide for Pennsylvania physicians, "Physician Licensing Investigations and Prosecutions."

Failure to report will result in a \$1000 fine. ■

Another important reminder about Act 13 educational requirements

MDs must renew their medical licenses by December 31 of every even-numbered year, and DOs must renew their licenses by October 31 of even-numbered years. 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.

New Doc in Town

The Networking and Membership Task Force is focusing on many new efforts, one of which is the New Doc in Town program. Currently the Pennsylvania Medical Society sends out an informational welcome packet when they receive notice of a new physician in Pennsylvania. Working in conjunction with the Alliance, DCMS plans to follow up in an effort to provide a personal touch on a family level for these new physicians. In order to ensure this outreach is a success, we need your assistance. If you are aware of a physician that has recently moved to Dauphin County or is newly licensed, please forward the information to the DCMS office. We appreciate your help in creating a welcoming experience for our new physicians. ■

President's Message

continued from page 1

our patients require that we can effectively influence the outcome of what are likely to be contentious debates in the future and our own enjoyment of our work.

This leads me to my last point. I know what other members of the BOG think about the various issues affecting us. While they are likely representative of the thoughts of DCMS membership, I would still like to hear directly from the membership. My views haven't evolved in isolation, nor do I believe have others. Please write or call. I can be reached at 761-6147 or laltaker@pol.net. ■

Reporter

Spring 2007



How to Reach Us

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Harrisburg, PA 17105-8820
(717) 558-7849, phone
(717) 558-7841, fax

Michele Gaiski, Executive Director
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Susie Wilson, Associate Director
swilson@pamedsoc.org

Kristi Spargo, Assistant Executive
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Diane Langner, Meeting Manager
dlangner@pamedsoc.org

Vanessa McVitty, Administrative Secretary
vmcvitty@pamedsoc.org

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.

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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DCMS Election Results

Congratulations to the following physicians, who were re-elected to serve for a second year. These individuals have volunteered a significant amount of time and energy to represent the DCMS membership, and we are grateful for their continued leadership. Note that officer term limits of two one-year terms were recently approved by the membership.

DCMS Officers

Lawrence L. Altaker, MD - President
Andrew J. Richards, MD - President-Elect
Gwendolyn A. Poles, DO - Vice President
John D. Goldman, MD - Secretary-Treasurer

Board of Governors

Members-At-Large

Kenneth B. Conner, MD
J. Bret Delone, MD
Robert A. Ettlinger, MD
Virginia E. Hall, MD
Everett C. Hills, MD
Stephen J. Kimatian, MD
Collin L. Myers, MD
Andrew R. Walker, MD

Delegates to the Pennsylvania Medical Society

Lawrence L. Altaker, MD
David A. Amato, DO
Kenneth B. Conner, MD
John D. Goldman, MD
Virginia E. Hall, MD
Everett C. Hills, MD
Michael J. Holman, MD
Mukul Parikh, MD
Gwendolyn A. Poles, DO

Non-Board Elections

Alternate Delegates to the Pennsylvania Medical Society

Michael D. Bosak, MD
J. Bret Delone, MD
Robert A. Ettlinger, MD
Elena Ruzzi Farrell, DO

Daniel Fischman, MD
Curtis Goltz, DO
Stephen J. Kimatian, MD
Guatam Mishra, MD
Christopher L. Stark, DO
Stacy M. Stark, DO
Andrew R. Walker, MD
Paul D. Williams, DO

International Medical Graduate Delegate

Domingo T. Alvear, MD

Young Physician Section Delegates

Bryan E. Anderson, MD
Jennifer P. Goldstein, MD

Resident & Fellows Section Delegate

Ayesha Khalid, MD ■