



SAVE THE DATE...

CMS to co-sponsor population-based medicine conference, Nov. 3



Scott Warner, CMS staff

Planning continues at CMS headquarters for the conference on population-based medicine in clinical care and public health. Shown from left are AMA staff Jonathan VanGeest, PhD, and Arthur Elster, MD; University of Illinois Prevention Research Center (IPRC) staff Susan Levy, PhD, and Karen Peters, DrPH; CMS staff Liz Sidney and Cecilia Merino; and Susan Curry, PhD, of the IPRC.

"The physician's role is fast becoming social and preventive, rather than individual and curative."

—Abraham Flexner, 1910

WHAT IS POPULATION-BASED MEDICINE and how can it be used today in clinical care and public health? And how do medicine and public health collaborate to promote population-based medicine?

Join the medical community in answering these questions as CMS teams up with the UIC Illinois Prevention Research Center and the AMA to present **"Reducing Health Disparities in Chicago: The Role of Population-based Medicine in Clinical and Public Health Practice."** *The conference is being considered for three hours of CME credit.*

The conference will be held Saturday, Nov. 3, at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health Auditorium, 1603 W. Taylor St., from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Fee for CMS members is \$15, nonmembers \$25, and includes continental breakfast and lunch. Free parking is available. Seating is limited. For more information, watch for the September issues of *CMSnews* and *Chicago Medicine*, or call Arthur Elster, MD, at (312) 464-5530.

"Is it good medicine?" continues under Dr. Donoghue

CHICAGO MEDICINE WILL CONTINUE to run centerspread posters addressing the world of medicine today—from harmful decisions made by health insurers to the need for strong physician advocacy.

These two-page spreads are designed to be detached from the magazine and hung in waiting rooms and areas where patients can see them. Under CMS President Dr. Edmund

Donoghue, posters will increasingly address youth and violence, the theme of his presidency. Future campaigns will also be carried out in collaboration with the CMS Public Health Committee and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

"Is it good medicine?" was instituted under Immediate Past President Charles Drueck III, MD, as the single, most important question to ask about any issue in the health-care debate.

COLLABORATION

CMS discusses joint effort against violence with health dept.

CMS PRESIDENT EDMUND R. DONOGHUE, MD, and CMS staff recently met with Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner John Wilhelm, MD, to discuss ways CMS can join citywide efforts to prevent and reduce interpersonal violence.

Working through the city's Office of Violence Prevention and Chicago Safe Start program, a federally funded initiative for children ages five and under, CMS hopes to build a stable and lasting association with CDPH. Starting soon, *Chicago Medicine* will

print occasional articles written by CDPH about violence prevention. In addition, Dr. Wilhelm has agreed to serve on the CMS Public Health Committee, which is considering youth and violence as its focus this year.

Dr. Donoghue also is working with the AMA Commission for the Prevention of Youth Violence and is looking for CMS members to represent the Society at meetings with educators, judges, lawyers, clergy, police and public health groups.

For more information, contact Cathy Faedtke at (312) 670-2550, ext. 322; or e-mail cfaedtke@cmsdocs.org

Chicago Dermatological Society hosts cancer screening



Photos above and below show some of the activity as more than 75 CDS physicians and volunteers examined patients for suspicious spots.



Photos: Richard Bennett, CMS staff



Tents at North Avenue Beach drew a bevy of lakefront enthusiasts for the free cancer screening.

CHICAGO DERMATOLOGICAL SOCIETY PHYSICIANS and volunteers examined more than 500 walkers, bikers, rollerbladers and sunbathers on bustling North Avenue Beach. The July event was co-sponsored by the Chicago Medical Society.

Each person screened was asked to complete a form supplied by the American Academy of Dermatology. The forms were used by the examining physicians to outline areas of the body where they had discovered spots.

About one-third of those examined were told to contact their personal physician for a referral to a dermatologist or to call the Physician Referral Line at the Chicago Medical Society.

Several pharmaceutical companies donated money, products and information for the event.

Introducing your physician practice advocate

AS PART OF ITS ENDORSEMENT OF THE Illinois State Medical Inter-Insurance Exchange (ISMIE), CMS has added a new position to its staff—**Physician Practice Advocate**.

The new staff person, Katherine Brown, adds to the value of your membership by seeking resources and answers to your problems. By responding to referrals and leads from members and calling on nonmember physicians, the Physician Practice Advocate will promote CMS

activities such as advocacy, educational opportunities and the establishment of group relationships that may lower insurance costs. She will promote physician participation in CMS/ISMS.

In addition, the Physician Practice Advocate plans to visit physicians in their offices; she will use their input to help CMS stay in tune with the needs of Chicago-area physicians.

For more information, contact Katherine Brown, physician practice advocate, at (312) 670-2550.

LEGISLATION

Governor signs bills to ease nursing shortage

IN AN EFFORT TO BOOST NURSE STAFFING levels in Illinois, Gov. George Ryan recently signed three bills into law. They include:

S.B. 0751—Provides that \$750,000 from the Nursing Dedicated and Professional Fund be set aside each year and appropriated to the Department of Public Health for nursing scholarships. The bill went into effect July 1.

H.B. 2436—Amends the Nursing Education Scholarship Law that limited the number of scholarships that could be awarded per year to 500. The bill also changes the method of determining how scholarships will be awarded and changes the period of time during which a scholarship recipient must be employed as a nurse in Illinois after graduation. Effective Jan. 1, 2002.

H.B. 0205—Amends the state's Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act making it easier for foreign and out-of-state nurses to receive licensure in Illinois. Effective immediately.

Taskforce to study contracting fairness

BEFORE ADJOURNING FOR THE SUMMER, the Illinois General Assembly passed joint resolution (S.J.R. 33) creating the Illinois Legislative Task Force on Fairness in Health Care Services Contracting. The panel will hold meetings and make recommendations to the General Assembly and Governor before Jan. 15, 2002. The task force is

charged with studying the health plan professional and provider services contracting process.

ISMS introduced the Fairness in Health Care Services Contracting Act (H.B. 2115 and companion bill S.B.1340) earlier this year. The legislation would make it law that payment rates be stated in the contract and that payments identify each claim being paid. The bill would make it illegal to require accepting an "all products clause" and limits the "most favored nations" clause. Fairness in contracting also prohibits a company from unilaterally amending the contract without 90 days notification and from unilaterally changing, down-coding or unbundling a CTP code without prior agreement with the physician.

In addition to six voting members (state legislators), the panel members will include a representative from ISMS.

Conference committee to take up patients' rights in September

Struggle continues in wake of disappointing compromise

FOLLOWING A LAST-MINUTE DEAL WITH the White House, Rep. Charlie Norwood (R-Ga.) abandoned the original Ganske-Dingell-Norwood bill in favor of an amended version to grant broad patient rights but limit the financial penalties insurers could incur. The final legislation passed in

continued on next page

LEGISLATION *(continued)*

the U.S. House by a vote of 226 to 203.

Under the compromise, patients who reject an independent review panel's decision could still take a dispute to court. However, patients would be held to a higher burden of proof—that the opinion of the external reviewers was correct unless they can prove otherwise.

Patients could bring lawsuits in state court, but they would be subject to more restrictive federal judicial rules. Under the original legislation, patients could sue in state court under state rules, which generally are more receptive to their claims and often provide larger damage awards.

Patients denied treatment would be allowed to sue for punitive damages, but only when an HMO refused to provide care ordered by an independent review board. Punitive damage awards would be limited to \$1.5 million, rather than the \$5 million proposed by Reps. Dingell and Ganske. Patients could recover up to \$1.5 million in damages for pain and suffering. Reps. Dingell and Ganske had provided for unlimited awards for pain and suffering, while President Bush had wanted to limit them at \$500,000.

The compromise would further erode the efforts of some states to enact their own patient protections and would put an end to future class-action suits.

Despite the disappointing House vote, patients and physicians are closer than ever to seeing strong health-care protections passed in Congress. The Senate, by a vote of 59-36, passed legislation in late June dramatically expanding patients' rights. ISMS and the AMA strongly backed the Senate vote and now urge physicians to call their senators and representatives in support of the Bipartisan Patient Protection Act—the gold standard for patient care.

ILLINOIS REPRESENTATIVES: HOW THEY VOTED

Democrats

Blagojevich, N; Costello, N; Davis, N; Evans, N; Gutierrez, N; Jackson, N; Lipinski, no vote; Phelps, N; Rush, N; Schakowsky, N

Republicans

Biggert, Y; Crane, Y; Hastert, Y; Hyde, Y; Johnson, N; Kirk, Y; LaHood, Y; Manzullo, Y; Shimkus, Y; Weller, Y

Mark your calendar for Branch and Specialty Society meetings

Wednesday, Sept. 5
Southeastern Branch

Thursday, Sept. 6
North Side Branch

Wednesday, Sept. 12
Irving Park Branch

Wednesday, Sept. 19
Hines/Loyola Branch

Wednesday, Sept. 26
Northwest Branch

Wednesday, Oct. 3
Southern Cook County Branch

Friday, Sunday, Oct. 5-7
*Chicago Dermatological Society
Centennial Meeting*

Wednesday, Oct. 11
Student Branch

Wednesday, Oct. 17
Chicago Gynecological Society

Thursday, Oct. 18
Southwestern Branch

Thursday, Oct. 18
Student Branch

Wednesday, Oct. 31
North Shore Branch

The above meeting dates, current at press time, are subject to change. Please refer to your mailed meeting notice for full details (i.e., cost, date, time, topic, location, etc.) and to confirm dates; or visit our web site at www.cmsdocs.org. Detailed listings also appear in Chicago Medicine.

SOCIALIZING

Dr. Farah hosts Physician Art Committee in his home

DR. GEORGE FARAH CELEBRATED BASTILLE Day (July 14) in his Winnetka home with members of the Physician Art Committee, neighbors, and friends from the Winnetka Tennis Association. A jazz band provided live music while guests enjoyed refreshments. Dr. Farah chairs the committee, which hosts programs at area restaurants throughout the year, providing a social venue for CMS members. For information on upcoming Art Committee events, contact Liz Sidney, CMS staff, at (312) 670-2550, ext 335; or by e-mail at esidney@cmsdocs.org

Photos: Scott Warner, CMS staff



From left: Maria Roman with her mother, Astrida Nikurs-Roman, MD, and grandmother Lydia Nikurs, MD; George Farah, MD, with daughter, Simone; Julian J. Rimpila, MD, and wife, Beverly.



Loretta Troyer and William G. Troyer, Jr., MD.



CMS President-elect Richard A. Geline, MD, Jack Williams, MD, Patricia Geline, and Lydia Nikurs, MD.

CMS-SPONSORED PROGRAMS

OSHA 2001 Training

OSHA Training (1.0 CME Credit Hour, Category 1)

Schedule for the remainder of the year:

- Wednesday, Sept. 12, at 3 p.m. (AMA Bldg.)
- Wednesday, Oct. 10, at 10 a.m. (AMA Bldg.)
- Wednesday, Nov. 7, at 3 p.m. (AMA Bldg.)

Fees

\$25 members and staff

\$80 nonmembers and staff

All health-care workers are required by the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration to participate in annual training on bloodborne pathogens and use of personal protective equipment. Our OSHA training is an easy and affordable update to help you and your office staff comply with federal regulations.

For registration information, contact Sam Bailey at CMS: (312) 670-2550, ext. 338; or by e-mail at sbailey@cmsdocs.org.

On-Site Training – CMS will hold this OSHA program in the convenience of your own facility. Please contact Cecilia Merino: (312) 670-2550, ext. 339; or by e-mail at cmerino@cmsdocs.org

NEED COMPUTER TRAINING AND CME?

Please refer to pages 4-5 in this issue to learn more about how you and your medical staff can register for computer training at a convenient date and location.

Each computer training course has been approved for 3.5 hours of CME credit, Category 1.

You may also contact the Education Department for further information at (312) 670-2550, ext. 341 or 338; or visit our Web site at www.cmsdocs.org and link to the *CME/Education* page.

Find us online at CMS Internet address www.cmsdocs.org



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