



AWARENESS

CMS to further health literacy

ARE AMERICAN PHYSICIANS THINKING about health literacy? At the local level the answer, in most cases, is no. And that's why CMS is one of 25 medical organizations nationwide to earn a 2002 Fund for Better Health award.

This \$1,000 grant will allow CMS to survey grassroots practicing physicians about their awareness of the problem of health literacy. (Nearly half of all Americans may struggle with understanding basic health care information.) The data will be used to assist in developing future health literacy awareness and educational programs. As part of the project, CMS will collaborate with the AMA and University of Illinois School of Public Health.

The award is sponsored by the AMA Foundation, which launched the Fund for Better Health in 2002, and is dedicated to organizations or individuals who strive to improve health through public service initiatives such as anti tobacco programs, violence prevention, and health literacy. The Illinois State Medical Society Alliance also earned an

award to develop and print health literacy educational materials for physicians and patients.

Get 15 months of membership -- for the price of 12

YOU ALREADY RECOGNIZE THE VALUE OF membership in the Chicago Medical Society and Illinois State Medical Society. Now CMS needs your help in extending the voice of medicine to your colleagues. Please spread the word to prospective members that physicians can join today and earn the rest of 2002 free. Their CMS/ISMS membership will take effect immediately and will not expire until Dec. 31, 2003. To participate in this new CMS/ISMS offer, physicians must contact CMS to apply for membership.

This offer allows new physicians to join at an introductory rate and to learn about organized medicine's efforts to change what's hurting their practices.

As current members of the societies, you too can benefit. For any new member you refer, you can earn credit toward your dues. Depending on the number of colleagues you recruit, you can receive up to a 100 percent refund on your CMS dues. ISMS will pro rate your dues for the following year based on the number of physicians recruited.

Have your colleagues contact us for an application or apply online. For information on the benefits of being a member of CMS/ISMS call Tessa Quinlan at (312) 670 2550 or e mail trebmann@cmsdocs.org

YOU ARE INVITED...

Lunchtime tour to make rounds of AMA artwork

JOIN THE CMS PHYSICIAN ART COMMITTEE for an inside peek at the AMA art collection. During this special extended lunch tour, you'll see the works of Louis H. Sullivan, Buckminster Fuller, Leon Golub, Claes Oldenburg, William Wegman, and others. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 11:00 a.m., the AMA Building, 1st Floor Guard Station, 515 N. State St. Chicago. (Physicians may purchase their own lunches in the AMA cafeteria following the tour.)

To reserve your space, call Liz Sidney at CMS (312) 329 7335.



Scott Warner

Physician Art Committee takes culinary passage to Persia

Members and guests of the CMS Physician Art Committee enjoyed a family style meal at Noon O Kabab Persian Restaurant in Chicago on July 18. The group sampled ethnic favorites chosen by the Naghavi family, owners of the restaurant. Shown from left are: Beverly and Dr. Julian J. Rimpila; Dr. William G. and Loretta Troyer; Parvin Naghavi (standing); James R. Tarrant, CAE, CMS executive director (standing); Richard A. Geline, MD, CMS president, and wife, Patricia; and Inngard Koehler, MD.

Chicago MDs set volunteer sights on the Ukraine

A CHICAGO BASED ORGANIZATION serving patients throughout the world is headed for the city hospitals of Lviv,

Ukraine, Sept. 20-28. The group, Global Medical Foundation, will include 34 participating physicians, surgeons and mission coordinators. Among them are CMS members Drs. Mohammed Sidiqui, vice president of the Northwest Branch, Thomas Malvar, Christopher Guerrero, William Markey, and Eugene Kovalsky.

Physicians and surgeons travel at their own expense, donating their skills, performing free surgery, holding educational seminars and participating in clinical/cultural exchange programs. The Foundation coordinates each mission in partnership with local hospitals, companies and citizens who provide the necessary medicine and supplies. Previous missions have included visits to Southeast Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe.

A reception fundraiser for the Ukraine mission was held Friday, Aug. 23, at the Ukrainian Cultural Center in Chicago. Donations can still be made to: Global Medical Foundation, 910 S. Michigan Ave, Suite 1101, Chicago, IL 60605. For information, call (312) 329 7332.

IDPH releases cancer statistics report

THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH recently released Illinois Cancer Statistics Review 1986-1999 (Epidemiologic Report Series 02:2). A copy of this extensive report is available in the CMS library for members who would like to come in and review it.

Call Dan Pashman at (312) 329 7324 to set up an appointment. Additional copies may also be obtained by contacting the Illinois Department of Public Health at (217) 785 1873; or IDPH Division of Epidemiologic Studies, 605 W. Jefferson St., Springfield, IL 62761.

Next up in Chicago Medicine

The fall issue of your magazine will run excerpts of Oregon Governor John A. Kitzhaber, MD's, sometimes satirical speech before the American Association of Medical Society Executives last July. With bitter irony, Dr. Kitzhaber describes what the U.S. health care system would look like if retroactively designed today. Under the mock legislation he presents, Dr. Kitzhaber delineates categories that would be established to differentiate between the deserving poor and the undeserving poor. All those who are over 65 years old would be entitled to publicly financed health care, regardless of income. (And that's how the system already is, Dr. Kitzhaber points out.)

HAVING A BALL

Relaxation, friendly competition set pace for CMS golf outing



Tessa Quintan

Fresh Meadow Golf Club was the site of the 4th Annual CMS Outing. Shown from left are: Edmund R. Donoghue, MD, immediate past president; James R. Tarrant, CAE, executive director; Richard A. Geline, MD, president; and Bernard Leininger, MD.

IT WAS A SPLENDID DAY TO BE OUT IN THE sunshine when CMS members, guests and corporate sponsors gathered for the 4th Annual CMS Golf Outing at Fresh Meadow Golf Club in Hillside. The daylong event included a luncheon and awards reception. Here are the winners and their prizes.

Best team w/o handicap

Charles Drueck III, MD

Greg Bond

Shawn Trevino

Dave Madan

\$50 gift certificates to Nevada Bob's

\$25 gift certificates to the Sports Authority

Free foursome at Tamarack Golf Club

Best team w/handicap

Phil Seroczyski

Ted Kanellakes

Steven M. Malkin, MD

Pat Derse

Free foursome at Fresh Meadow Golf Club

Shortest Drive

Charles Drueck III, MD

Two free golf lessons at Golf Galaxy

Longest Drive

Dave Madan

Free foursome at Mill Creek Golf Club



Taking a break are (from left): Vikram Gandhi, MD; Kanti Chandarana, MD; Arvind Shah, MD; and

Closest to Pin

Dave Madan

Free golf bag from Nevada Bob's

Longest putt

Keith Evans

Free foursome at Fresh Meadow Golf Club

CMS would like to thank the following for helping make the golf outing a success:

Corporate sponsor

ISMIE

Donations

IPC (Imperial Printing Company)

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Chicago Blackhawks

American Golf Galaxy

Cardinal Printing

Rock Bottom

Doot Russell

Nevada Bob's

AMA

Kanti Chandarana, MD

NO BEACH PARTY

Chicago Dermatological Society spots skin cancers at free screening



Scott Warner

Michael Tharp, MD, (left) president of the CDS, consults with a beach goer; Paul Storrs, MD, (right) provides tips on identifying moles.



Marjorie Rosenbaum, MD, chairman of the CDS Public Awareness Committee, is interviewed by WGN News. At far right is Amy Taub, MD, a committee member.

MORE THAN 500 SUNBATHERS AND OTHER outdoor enthusiasts flocked to tents set up along North Avenue Beach for free skin cancer screenings courtesy of the Chicago Dermatological Society and CMS.

During the event, held Saturday, July 13, physicians and volunteers found seven malignant melanomas, 17 basal cell carcinomas, one squamous cell carcinoma and 101 dysplastic appearing nevi. In addition to the expertise offered by some of the most established dermatologists in the city, resident physicians also were on hand to answer questions, hand out educational material, and show beach goers how to perform self exams.

The local media was in on the action as well. Two weeks before the date, a *Chicago Tribune* column about skin cancer informed the public that the



Resident physicians helped educate patients and teach skin self examination methods. Drs. Bill Brown and Roberta O Dea (wearing white shirts) talk with two sun enthusiasts.

CDS screening would be held. Other outlets such as Channel 2 and WBBM Radio made advance announcements about the event. Television crews showed up at the beach, with Channels 2, 7, 9 and 32 all televising coverage on the evening news.

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

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LEGALITIES

Medical liability reform bill introduced in U.S. Senate

TORT REFORM IS ALIVE AND KICKING AGAIN in the U.S. Senate now that Senator John Ensign (R-NE) introduced S. 2793, the Help Efficient, Accessible, Low Cost, Timely Health Care (HEALTH) Act late last July.

The companion bill to HR 4600, this Senate version would safeguard patients access to care by enacting reforms that provide a \$250,000 cap on non economic damages without preempting existing state law.

In addition, S 2793 ensures:

- Speedy resolution of claims.
- Fair allocation of responsibility by holding defendants jointly liable.
- Greater percentage of awards to patients, not lawyer fees.

President Bush recently joined the congressional debate on the nation's medical liability crisis, saying that the lawsuit industry is devastating the practice of medicine. He called on both houses to pass legislation imposing nationwide caps on medical malpractice awards.

Drug industry group files suit to ban state price-control systems

THE PHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH AND Manufacturers of America has filed suit against the U.S. government, challenging a Michigan program that forces companies to slash drug prices or lose market share. The lawsuit, filed in early July, states that federal regulators overstepped their authority in approving the price control program.

Under the Michigan program, doctors are urged to prescribe only those medicines on a preferred

LEGALITIES *(continued)*

drug list. Medicaid will not reimburse purchases on non listed drugs unless doctors receive prior authorization from the state.

The drug industry group warned that states are sending Medicaid patients to the back of the health care bus, forcing them to settle for older, less effective medicines instead of the drugs their doctors believe would work best for them.

Several states, including Illinois, have announced or are considering similar plans to control rising prescription drug costs.

Foundation offers information on unnecessary hospital admissions

CASE SCENARIOS THAT OFFER INSIGHT INTO the types of hospital admissions reviewers might deem medically unnecessary (and those where the documentation supports admission to acute care) are available through the Illinois Foundation for Quality Health Care (IFQHC).

This document is the result of a special project conducted in Iowa and Nebraska that focused on reducing the number of unnecessary admissions for the diagnosis of back pain and COPD. The IFQHC is contracted with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as the quality improvement organization for Illinois.

For copies of the case scenarios, contact Margaret Jones at the Iowa Foundation for Medical Care, (800) 453 8042 or e mail ipro.mjones@sdps.org

CMS OFFERS ANNUAL OSHA TRAINING

OSHA requires annual training for all health care workers with potential occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens. Attending our 85-minute training course and updating your exposure control plan satisfies your yearly OSHA regulations.

Upcoming dates:

Sept. 18, 27; Oct. 9, 30; Nov. 13.

CMS members and their staff receive significant discounts.

**For locations, fees, and registration form,
please call (312) 670-2550, ext. 338.**

*Need onsite training?
Please call (312) 670-2550, ext. 339.*