



chicago medicine

CHICAGO MEDICAL SOCIETY
THE MEDICAL SOCIETY
OF COOK COUNTY

Newsletter, 2009, Vol. 112, No. 4

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Birth, rebirth and rebuilding

It's been an honor to serve you

I began my presidency as a newlywed and closed it as the father of beautiful twin daughters, who arrived just in time for Father's Day. Looking back, I've had an exciting year, both personally and professionally.

Not every doctor has the privilege of leading the Chicago Medical Society nor experiencing the accomplishments and rewards of service in organized medicine. Since joining the Society in 1981, as a student, and through years in leadership roles, I've learned what a positive difference advocacy and connectedness can make in our lives and our patients.'

Events of the past 12 months, including a historic national election, the beginning of serious debate on health care reform, and a pending decision from the Illinois State Supreme Court, could soon impact medicine in a major way, not all favorably. Against this backdrop, we have continued to rebuild the Society.



Scott Warner, CMS

Dr. William McDade and wife, Jennifer, brought their two-week-old twin daughter, Julia Katherine, to the CMS Annual Dinner on June 7 (sister Madeline Jacqueline wasn't quite able to make it). Bidding farewell as president, Dr. McDade recounted his year's term and said he looks forward to CMS building even more bridges with the academic community.

First and foremost, we have a long-term plan to ensure financial stability through membership recruitment, rental income, and cost reductions. We have expanded our legislative meetings and watched as the mini-internship program blossomed. We will soon roll out an electronic newsletter for students and offer additional CME through our publications.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued from first page)*

My stated goal last June was to reach out to my colleagues in the academic community. And the past 12 months mark the first time in many years that CMS has courted that group. Reaching out to our academic brethren has taken several directions. Allow me to recap:

- CMS crafted a resolution, "Funding of Health Services Education Grants Act (HSEGA)," that was adopted in April by the ISMS House. The resolution supports the immediate restoration of funding for the 2009 Illinois Board of Higher Education HSEGA. It additionally supports funding for this program on a continuing basis.

- I have personally met with the deans from each of the area medical schools to discuss a new form of collaboration, one in which medical schools partner in our clinical conference programs, providing content and speakers. We are proposing that our Conference planning committee consist of leaders from Chicago medical schools, and that meetings rotate among academic campuses in the area.

- In December, CMS and ISMS jointly hosted an educational forum led by the AMA's Paul Rockey, MD, Director of Graduate Medical Education. Dr. Rockey reviewed the AMA's influence on medical training and education. His tour-de-force presentation covered GME financing, regulation, and health manpower

issues of the future. More than 60 attended, offering ideas for future events, including the Webinar.

- Your Society hosted a Webinar in February for medical residency program directors, in which Laurie Curtin, PhD, Director of the Match Policy, led participants through a series of scenarios.

- CMS gained 30 new academic members as a result of a membership recruitment letter under my signature.

When I assumed the presidency, I said that academicians and their private practice counterparts have more in common than they realize. And I've spent the past year targeting my colleagues at teaching institutions, offering reasons why they should join organized medicine.

My legacy to CMS, I hope, has been to lay the groundwork for a lasting relationship with the academic community. It has been an honor to serve you.



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

NEWS FOR CHICAGO PHYSICIANS

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MEMBER BENEFITS

Keeping your practice healthy

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In addition to practice management seminars, National City also offers educational programs for medical students, residents, and retirees. One such program focuses on debt consolidation and personal banking for students. Free educational seminars are also offered to office staff.

You may question what's really in this for CMS. Financial commission is not part of it—CMS receives none! The Society's goal is the well-being and future stability of you, our members, and your respective practices. To help us achieve that goal National City has named John Cercone as the CMS Relationship Manager. John's entire responsibility is to provide CMS and its members the programs, benefits and services they deserve. John is our trusted and experienced advisor and CMS encourages you to consult with him at any time.

His phone number is (312) 338-5288, or you can email him at john.cercone@nationalcity.com.

John has permission to reach out to you to share



Scott Warner, CMS

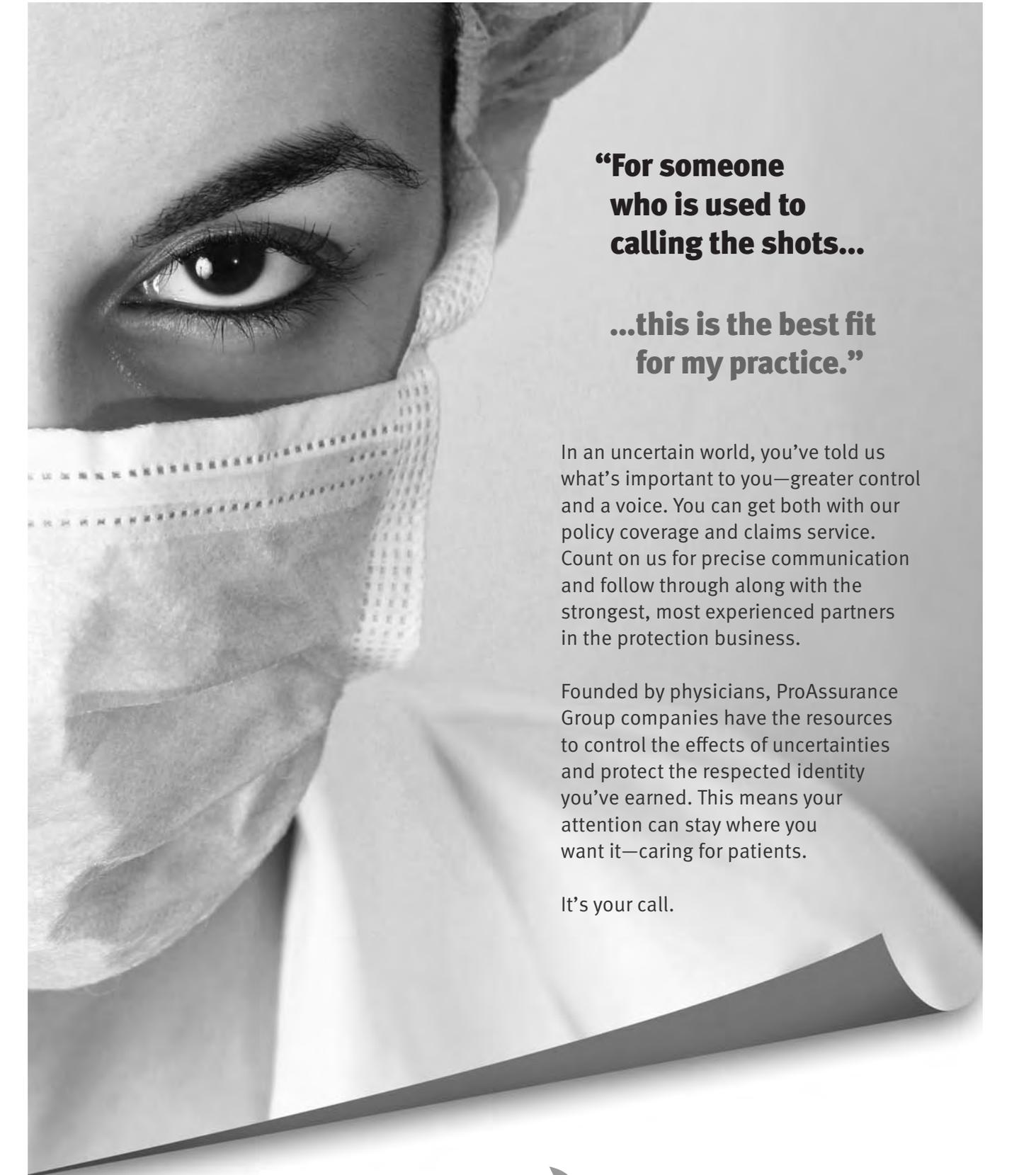
As active members of the Medical Group Management Association, National City's medical practice executives provide expertise in health care business banking, cash management, personal banking and comprehensive wealth management for physicians and their practices. Seated from left: Sara Muirhead-Gould, Marketing; John Cercone, Relationship Manager, Chicago Medical Society; Helen Pates, The Private Client Group—Wealth Management; standing left: Patrick Rule, The Private Client Group—Wealth Management; Sam Colton, Cash Management; Steve Chamberlain, Business Banking.

more details about this new member program. Please show John the same courtesy you would any of your colleagues or welcomed visitors.

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TRANSPLANTS AND POLICIES

Internships deepen legislators' understanding of medicine

CMS' MINI-INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, AN INITIATIVE matching physicians with lawmakers and civic leaders for a day, can boast two new graduates: State Rep. Cynthia Soto and Barry Maram, Director of Healthcare and Family Services of Illinois.

Shadowing CMS member Enrico Benedetti, MD, head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Illinois at Chicago, both interns were led through a live-donor kidney transplant, through rounds, and a tour of the Walter Payton Liver Center. While Dr. Benedetti performed a robotic kidney transplant using the da Vinci surgical system, Rep. Soto and Mr. Maram watched on a 3-D screen. After removing the donor kidney, Dr. Benedetti brought his guests into an operating room to watch as the donated kidney was prepared for a waiting recipient. Rep. Soto and Mr. Maram witnessed the entire process from donor to recipient.

Touring the Walter Payton Liver Center, the interns visited patients on the floor and interacted with staff, seeing first-hand a surgeon's additional responsibilities.

The day's activities jumpstarted conversation, raising issues that Mr. Maram and Rep. Soto decided to address immediately. Retiring to Dr. Benedetti's office, they held an impromptu conference call with Mr. Maram's Springfield office, while Dr. Benedetti expressed his opinions and



Photos: Jennifer Cox, CMS

Dr. Benedetti (third from left) leads Rep. Soto (far left) and Director Maram through a live-donor kidney transplant at the Walter Payton Liver Center, UIC.

concerns about transplants within Illinois. Needing more time, Mr. Maram set up an additional meeting for the following day.

The end result? Rep. Soto and Mr. Maram viewed a robotic kidney transplant and learned about issues facing transplant surgeons and hospitals. Dr. Benedetti was able to speak directly with people who shape policy and write legislation.

Sponsored by District 6, the internship took place on March 30 at UIC.



Enrico Benedetti, MD, (left), hosts State Rep. Cynthia Soto and Barry Maram, Director of Healthcare and Family Services of Illinois, for a CMS Mini-Internship on March 30 at the UIC.

CMS Districts encouraged to host pols

Do you want to have an impact on your legislators in Springfield or Washington? Over the last several years, CMS has hosted successful legislative breakfasts, and the Society urges you to consider holding one at a District meeting. Previous meetings have been held at St. Alexius Medical Center, Rush North Shore Medical Center, and other fine hospitals. Legislative breakfasts are an excellent way to complement CMS' advocacy efforts. CMS staff can help you identify potential speakers and assist you in making invitations and arrangements.

For information, please contact Ashley Robbins at (312) 670-2550, ext. 326, arobbins@cmsdocs.org.

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CMS resolutions on table at annual meeting

Photos: Scott Warner, CMS



CMS officers conduct the Third District Caucus during the ISMS House of Delegates meeting (HOD). Shown, (from left): Drs. David Loiterman, William N. Werner, and William A. McDade.

CMS WAS WELL REPRESENTED AT THIS YEAR'S ISMS House, which met in Oak Brook from April 24-26 to deliberate more than 50 resolutions. Your Society contributed five resolutions to the policy-making table and individual CMS delegates brought an additional 10 (see following report). Prior to House deliberations, the CMS caucus met to reach a unified consensus on as many resolutions as possible. Afterwards, delegates fanned out to the four House Reference Committees to hear and give testimony.

The House meeting generated spirited discussion on balance billing, interpretive services, criteria for physician licensing, and a communications plan for health care reform, to name just a few.

James L. Milam, MD, an ob-gyn who practices in Vernon Hills, was sworn in as ISMS president for 2009-2010, and CMS Past President Peter E. Eupierre, MD, an internist practicing in Melrose

Park, was re-elected as chair of the ISMS Board. Past President Steven M. Malkin, MD, was elected President-elect.

In addition to resolutions, a host of presentations rounded out the three-day meeting—from preventing medical misadventures to technology trends to retirement planning. Illinois Comptroller Dan Hynes was guest of honor at the ISMS Political Action Committee (IMPAC) \$500 Club Breakfast. Delegates heard also from Sherman Joyce, President of the American Tort Reform Association and Sandra Gadson, MD, Chair of the AMA Commission to End Health Disparities.

Please note that next year's meeting takes place in Springfield and will coincide with Lincoln anniversary celebrations. It is imperative that all delegates be present to represent CMS concerns and interests.

The following resolutions were debated at the 2009 ISMS Annual House of Delegates:

CMS (THIRD DISTRICT) RESOLUTIONS Physician Profiling/Grading and Report Cards— Adopted

- Resolved, that ISMS reaffirm the AMA "Guidelines for Pay-for-Performance Programs," which

(continued on page 9)



Student delegates engage in the general HOD session: From left: Hans Arora, Akash Garg and John Annes.

ISMS HOD RECAP *(continued from page 8)*

augment the AMA's "Principles for Pay-for-Performance Programs" and be it further

- Resolved, that such grading not encourage deselecting of high-risk patients so as to bolster their profiles and thus contribute to inaccessibility to care for these patients, and not encourage deselecting of physicians; and be it further
- Resolved, that ISMS forward this resolution to the AMA for evaluation and legislation.

Medicare PQRI and Category II Codes

--Not Adopted

- Resolved, that the ISMS recommend that Medicare (CMS) and all insurance companies reassess the value of these services, and reimburse physicians adequately, appropriately, and in a timely manner to ensure that patients receive essential value-added services that contribute to improved health outcomes; and be it further
- Resolved, that Medicare (CMS) and other insurance companies not use this information for physician profiling and rating purposes only; and



Delegates Adrienne Fregia, MD, and Hugo Alvarez, MD, discuss proposed resolutions during a break.

be it further

- Resolved, that the ISMS refer this resolution to the AMA for action.

(continued on page 10)



2009 OSHA: The Big Picture

Mark Your Calendar



REMAINING WORKSHOPS:

- **Wednesday, August 5:** Chicago Medical Society Bldg. from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Wednesday, September 16:** Evanston Hospital from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Friday, October 2:** Chicago Medical Society Bldg. from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- **Friday, October 23:** Hilton Oak Lawn from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- **Friday, November 13:** St. Francis Hospital from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Friday, December 4:** Advocate Lutheran General Hospital from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.



Target Audience: Physicians, nurses, medical office staff, dentists, dental hygienists & dental office staff.

Course Topics: Health Care Worker Safety and Health, Common Hazards from Bloodborne Pathogens Associated with Medical & Dental Offices, Compliance with OSHA Regulations, Emerging Infectious Diseases and Q & A.

Learning Objectives: 1) Recognize occupational safety and health hazards within your facility; 2) Comply with OSHA regulations that pertain to medical and dental facilities; and 3) Identify current emerging infectious diseases and how to prevent nosocomial infections to health care workers.

CME: 2.0 credits

Registration: Register online at www.cmsdocs.org or contact Elvia Medrano at 312-670-2550, ext. 338 or emedrano@cmsdocs.org





CMS members review resolutions during the Third District Caucus meeting.

**Restoration of Funding of Health Services Education Grants Act (HSEGA)—
Adopted**

• Resolved, that the ISMS support the immediate restoration of funding for the 2009 Illinois Board of Higher Education Health Services Education Grants Act and that the Society support funding this program on a continuing basis.

**Workplace Health Centers—
Substitute Adopted**

• Resolved, that ISMS support or introduce legislation requiring worksite health centers to disclose whether a physician is readily available at the facility, the ratio of physicians to allied health providers, and the name, credentials, specialty and physical office location of the collaborative physician; and be it further

• Resolved, that ISMS adopt as policy that worksite comprehensive care clinics adhere to all state laws governing limited licensed practitioners and oppose waiving or lowering co-pays or offering financial incentives for visits to worksite comprehensive care clinics. ISMS policy states the medical home model is the optimal standard of care and worksite comprehensive care clinics are not medical homes.

**Prescription Leaflets—
Referred to Board for study and report back**

• Resolved, that ISMS forward this resolution to the AMA to introduce legislation that would give the FDA the authority to set quality standards for prescription drug leaflets; and be it further

• Resolved, that this legislation also give the FDA the authority to regulate the use of marketing materials in prescription leaflets.

**RESOLUTIONS SPONSORED
BY INDIVIDUAL CMS MEMBERS:**

**Reducing Malpractice Insurance—
Existing Policy Reaffirmed in lieu of**

• Resolved, that the ISMS make every effort to discuss with all the insurance companies writing malpractice insurance in Illinois to reduce the premiums for Illinois physicians; and be it further

• Resolved, that the ISMS inform the physicians in Illinois of the results of the negotiations.

**Illinois Organized Medical Staff Section Funding—
Adopted**

• Resolved, that the ISMS support the efforts of the Illinois Organized Medical Staff Section delegation to the biannual AMA OMSS meeting, including administrative support, as well as funding for the caucus meetings, with an amount not to exceed \$500 per meeting (\$1,000 annually) for the next two years while Illinois is the host for the Heartland Caucus.

**Physician Advocacy through Litigation—
Substitute Adopted**

• Resolved, that ISMS continue our membership in and support of the AMA Litigation Center.

**Silent PPOs and Model Legislation—
Substitute Adopted**

• Resolved, that the ISMS adapt and strengthen the National Conference of Insurance Legislators 2008 model law to regulate network rentals and so-called silent PPOs; and be it further

• Resolved, that the ISMS, as soon as possible, seek to have such a law introduced to the Illinois legislature for consideration.

(continued on page 11)

ISMS HOD RECAP *(continued from page 10)*

Continuation of Medicaid and Medicare Benefits by Jail Detainees until Conviction—

Adopted

- Resolved, that the ISMS investigate the extent of the problem of Medicaid and Medicare benefits termination for jail detainees in Illinois; and be it further
- Resolved, that the ISMS investigate the change needed in federal regulation to allow continuation of Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement for pre-conviction jail detainees, including the requirement that convictions only be reported by county sheriffs' for "bounty," and advocate for such federal regulation change; and be it further
- Resolved, that the ISMS investigate model state legislation that would allow continuation of Medicaid and Medicare reimbursement for pre-conviction jail detainees and advocate for such legislation.

Physician Assisted Suicide and Euthanasia— *Existing Policy Reaffirmed in lieu of*

- Resolved, that our ISMS House of Delegates reaffirm its policy that opposes euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

firm its policy that opposes euthanasia and physician-assisted suicide.

Smokeless Tobacco—

Adopted as Amended

- Resolved, that the ISMS educate its members, via traditional communication modalities, of the following: 1) having a heightened awareness in identifying users of smokeless tobacco products (snuff, chewing tobacco, moist snuff) and electronic cigarettes; 2) the significant potential health risks involved in their use; 3) the positive role that counseling affords in smokeless tobacco abstinence programs.

ISMS: Health Care Policy—a Dynamic Document— *Substitute Adopted*

- Resolved, that ISMS work to assure its policy positions are easily accessible through the ISMS Website. This would include prominent placement of the ISMS online policy manual.

(continued on page 12)

Coming soon!

Chicago Medical Society's **Parliamentary Procedures Workshop**

Contact CMS for date and time.

The Chicago Medical Society invites you to participate in the 2009 Parliamentary Procedures Workshop, based on the Sturgis Rules of Order. This class is intended to help officers become active in their medical societies and/or districts by providing a key opportunity to improve their leadership and meeting skills.

Location: CMS Building, 515 N. Dearborn Street, 4th Floor

Benefits: Lunch included, Receive a copy of the paperback titled, "The Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure" by Alice Sturgis, Engage in role playing / practice examples of motions, laminated motion card (*Sturgis & Robert's motions*)

Fee: \$15.00

Other: Non-CME activity

Register online at www.cmsdocs.org. For questions, please contact Elvia Medrano at 312-670-2550 Ext: 338 or emedrano@cmsdocs.org



Insurance Company Profits—

Adopted as Amended

- Resolved, that ISMS oppose the policy of insurance companies denying payment for safe and efficacious drugs prescribed by physicians; and be it further
- Resolved, that ISMS support or cause to be introduced legislation to accomplish the above if deemed necessary.

Compensation for Physicians—

Adopted as Amended

- Resolved, that physicians be paid reasonable compensation from third party payers for the time and expenses incurred in performing services on behalf of patients, including but not limited to obtaining permission to perform tests, procedures and/or ordering of drugs and preparation of medical records; and be it further
- Resolved, that ISMS support legislation to accomplish this if deemed appropriate.

Health System Reform & Litigation Reform—

Adopted

- Resolved, that our AMA press vigorously and creatively for inclusion of effective medical litigation reforms as part of the comprehensive federal health system/insurance reform debate now underway in Washington, DC; and be it further
- Resolved, that the AMA consider and, as necessary, negotiate with federal policymakers on a wide range of litigation reform policy options to gain inclusion of a remedy in the health system reform package. These options might include traditional tort reforms, recovery limitations similar to those of the Veterans Administration system, demonstration/pilot programs on alternate dispute resolution systems such as the VA model and health courts, and/or other effective options to preserve patient access to care.

CMS and ISMS announce special rate for physicians out of residency

PHYSICIANS RECENTLY OUT OF RESIDENCY can join CMS/ISMS now and pay yearly dues as low as \$176. This is an exceptional opportunity for physicians in their first, second, third, and fourth year out of residency to share in the benefits of organized medicine. With the usual yearly dues rate at \$880, young physicians can save more money in CMS/ISMS benefits and services than the cost of dues. While benefiting from advocacy on their behalf, young physicians may take part in the CMS/ISMS policy-making process, serve on committees, and enjoy social/networking events. Following the old "strength in numbers" maxim, young physicians can increase the political strength of their profession through membership.

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Preparing people to lead extraordinary lives

Students join healthy Chicago initiative

AS PART OF THE BUILDING A HEALTHIER Chicago coalition, CMS medical students are volunteering as wellness counselors in medical offices across the area.

First and second year medical students are trained in guideline-based therapeutic lifestyle interventions. They assist busy physicians by educating patients on the importance of physical activity, nutrition, and tobacco-free goals. Patients are selected at the physician's discretion and seen by the student after meeting with the physician. Patients are provided with a legal disclaimer explaining the encounter.

The students also help physicians and staff to learn and apply the Healthier Life

Steps™ Program toolkit developed by the American Medical Association (AMA). The free toolkit provides a guide for counseling patients, while reinforcing the importance of the physicians' own health. The toolkit benefits patients by providing tangible steps that lead to improved health, along with easy-to-use materials. The patient pages in the toolkit are available for free in English and Spanish.

Medical students underwent training for the program on April 25, 2009.

U.S. Assistant Surgeon General James M. Galloway, MD, is spearheading the coalition.

For more information about Building a Healthier Chicago, please visit www.HealthierChicago.org.



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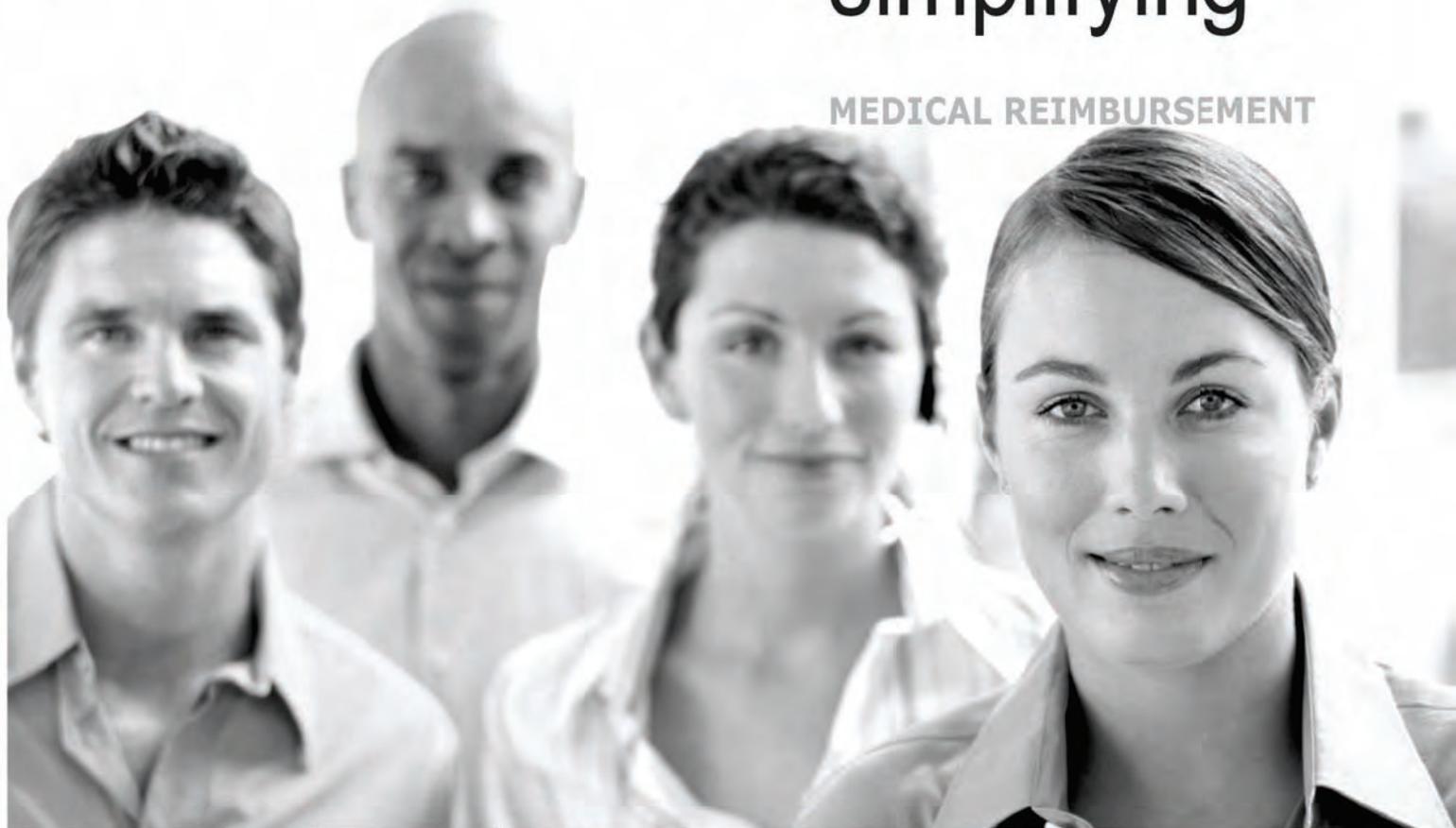
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MENTORING STUDENTS

Specialty 'speed dating' event takes AMA headquarters by storm

MORE THAN 70 MEDICAL STUDENTS AND physicians recently visited AMA headquarters in Chicago for a special event aimed at helping students choose a specialty.

Attendees of the AMA's inaugural Specialty Speed Dating event, held March 31, drew medical students from Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine, the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, Rush University Medical Center, Loyola University's Stritch School of Medicine, the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine, Chicago Medical School at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, Midwestern University, and Michigan State University.

Medical students paired up with residents and physicians from various Chicago-area hospitals and residency programs for nine 15-minute speed dating rounds, covering featured specialties including dermatology, radiation oncology, internal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, psychiatry, surgery, family medicine, anesthesiology, and emergency medicine. The advice and information the students took away helped make the event an undeniable success.

"I really wanted to get a chance to meet with area doctors in various specialties to get a good gauge of which direction I wanted to go as far as my specialty," said Neha Malhorta, a first-year medical student at the UIC College of Medicine. "It's important to figure this out before I get too far along, so it's helpful to talk many physicians in one night."

Christian Cain, also a first-year medical student at UIC, attended the event to help him choose a specialty that combines his love for research and academia.

"I'm filled with a plethora of possibilities," said Cain, a former researcher for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "I just want to get all the information I can so I can narrow my scope and make an informed decision."

Huddled around tables in the lobby of AMA headquarters, physicians talked with students about such issues as quality of life, salary, interests and future goals.

Attendees came away with practical insights, helpful advice and even invitations to stay in direct contact with physicians as a result of experiences at the event. "I really enjoyed this," said Mu



CMS Past President Joseph L. Murphy, MD, was among the physicians who visited AMA headquarters this spring to help medical students from seven area schools decide what specialties they would pursue.

Xu, a student from the University of Chicago's Pritzker School of Medicine. "Hopefully the AMA will host similar events in the future."

Among the CMS members on hand to mentor students were Russell Robertson, MD, Joseph L. Murphy, MD, and Dennis Galinsky, MD.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 15

Executive Committee Meeting
Chicago Medical Society
8:00 am

July 23

ACCME Interview
AMA Building
9:00 am

August 19

Executive Committee Meeting
Chicago Medical Society
8:00 am - 9:00 am

August 19

Board of Trustees Meeting
Chicago Medical Society
9:00 am - 10:00 am

District discourse



Vemuri S. Murthy, MD, spoke before District 5 in this photo taken at Brio Tuscan Grill in Lombard. His presentation "Resuscitation Science, CPR and ACLS" covered the history, basics, and latest develop-

ments in the management of cardiac arrest. Dr. Murthy also spoke before Districts 2 and 3. Each lecture offered one hour of CME credit. Dr. Murthy is the Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at West Suburban Medical Center, Resurrection Health Care, Oak Park, and a faculty member of Resurrection Health Care Training Center for AHA programs. He has been involved with ACLS courses for many years and is the Program Director for AHA ACLS Courses in India, sponsored and supported by the Resurrection Health Care Training Center, Chicago, which is extending its contribution to international health care educational projects.

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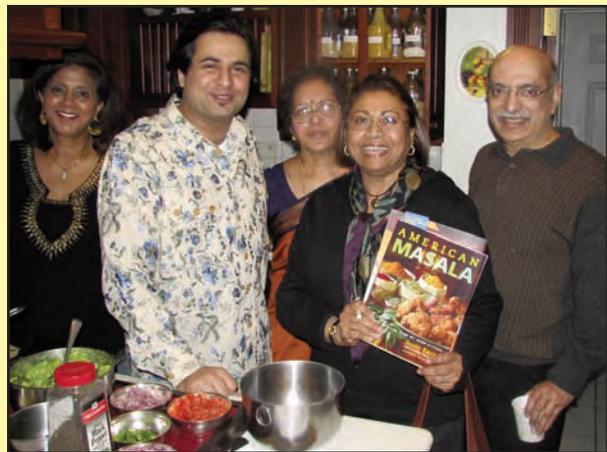
SOCIAL EVENTS

ChicaGourmets samples sweet Australia and savory India



Enjoying a ChicaGourmets reception at Chicago's Australian-inspired bakery Tipsycake, are (from left): Dr. Edward Gorny, Dr. Steven Bujewsky, Naomi Levine, chef/owner Tipsycake; Nicole Bujewsky, and Connie Gorny.

Sharon Meyers, ChicaGourmets



A lecture and luncheon showcasing India's food history with famed New York restaurateur/author Suvir Saran was a ChicaGourmets highlight this spring. Shown, from left: Dr. Kamala Ghaey, Chef Saran; Ranjana Bhargava, who hosted the event in her cooking school, and Drs. Mitra and Arvind Kalelkar.

Scott Warner, CMS

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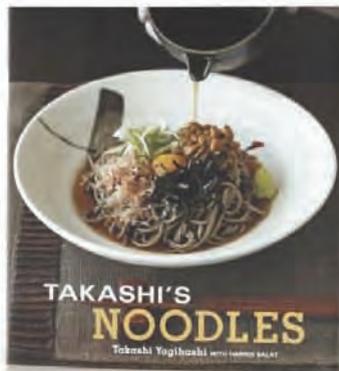
ChicaGourmets!



1952 N Damen, Chicago

Monday, August 3 at 6:30 p.m.

**A Belated Welcome Home Dinner
and Book Signing for Chef Takashi
(But he's cooking!)**



\$10 gift certificate for use at Takashi Restaurant
with each book purchased at our event!

ChicaGourmets! Hosts Don Newcomb and Jim Price

Chef Takashi's Menu

Paired with Wines

PASSED HORS D'OEUVRES

Toasted Brioche with Quail Egg, Tartare of Salmon and Caviar
Crispy Calamari with Fresh Ginger Umami Soy
Grilled Chicken Liver with Bacon, Fresh Water Chestnuts and
Caper Golden Raisin Vinaigrette

SECOND COURSE

Seared Maine Scallop with Soba Gnocchi and
Celery Root Foam

THIRD COURSE

Sautéed Skate Wing with Risotto of Local White Corn,
Fennel and Tomato Confit

MAIN COURSE

Grilled Marinated Beef Short Ribs with Shi-Shito Peppers and
Stir-Fried Brown Rice

DESSERT

Yuzu Pudding Cake, Tropical Fruit Salad, Coconut Sorbet

TAKASHI YAGIHASHI was born in Mito, the capital of Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan, a small town about an hour northwest of Tokyo and just a few minutes from the sea, where he developed a taste for fresh seafood at a very young age. He started cooking at age sixteen and continued to work in restaurants while he earned his Interior Design degree from the Tokyo Design School. After a stint helping out with the opening of a Japanese restaurant in Chicago, the young chef embarked on a serious culinary education. He cooked for Yoshi Katsumura at the highly touted French-Japanese Yoshi's Café and Gabino Sotelino's Ambria where he worked his way up the line to chef de cuisine and eventually partner.

In 1996, Takashi opened Tribute to rave reviews. The *Detroit Free Press* gave the restaurant four stars; *The New York Times* called it "maybe the best restaurant between New York and Chicago and certainly the finest in Detroit." In 2003, he was named the 13th Annual James Beard Foundation Award for Best Chef: Midwest. In 2005, he opened Okada for Steve Wynn in the luxurious Wynn Las Vegas, where he created a contemporary Japanese menu influenced by his French training. He has since become a member of the Macy's culinary council and he opened Noodles by Takashi Yagihashi at Macy's in Chicago before opening his namesake restaurant in December 2007.

Please reserve online at www.ChicaGourmets.org Discover, MasterCard and Visa accepted.

Prepaid reservations must be received by 7/29/09; no refunds after that date.

Reservations are secured with receipt of payment on a first-come basis. Events often sell out early!

E-mail: DonaldNewcomb@comcast.net Tel: 708-383-7543 Fax: 708-383-4964

For non-internet reservations, mail to: ChicaGourmets! Premier Bank, 1210 Central Ave, Wilmette, IL 60091

TAKASHI
8/3/09

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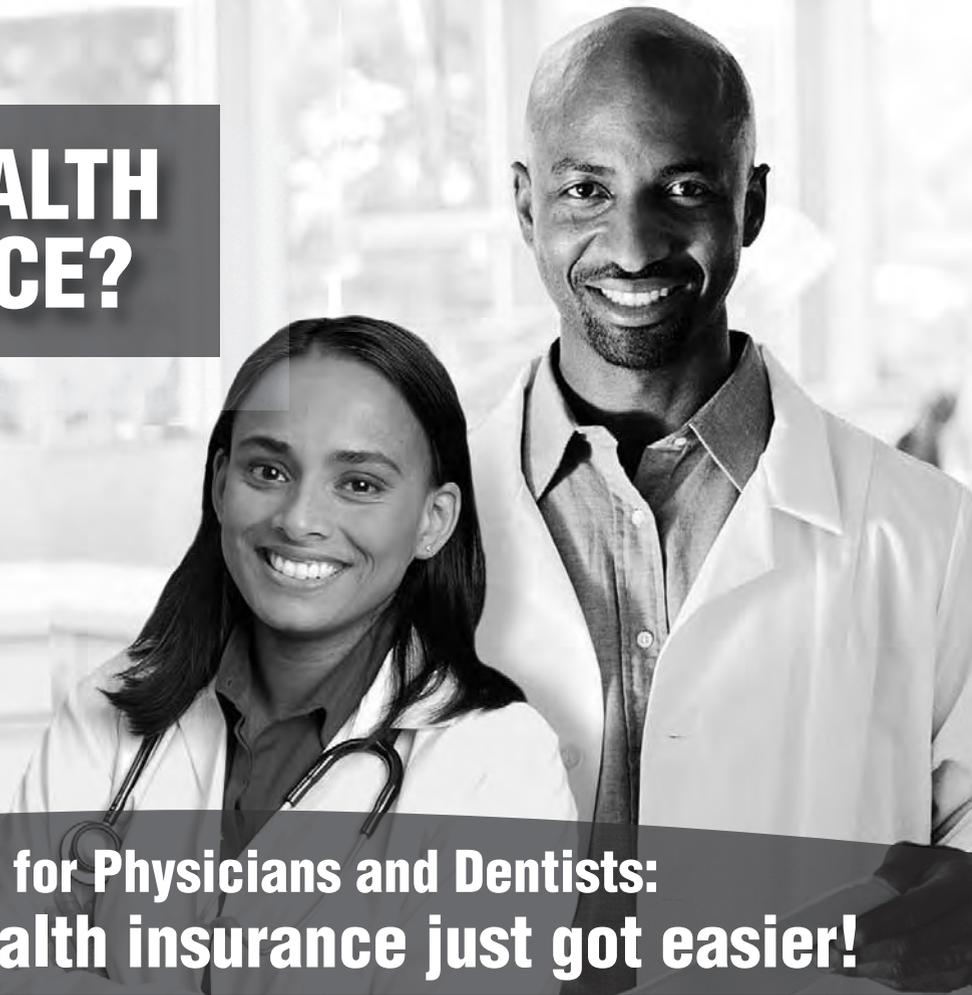
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