



IAFP e-News for November 14, 2011

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IAFP Annual Meeting Recap

Nov. 11-12 at the Marriott Oak Brook Hotel.

IAFP celebrated the best in family medicine's present and trained our family medicine leaders of the future during a non-stop two days of action at the IAFP Annual Meeting. With our highest attendance in years, family physicians shared strategies, concerns and successes, and left the meeting with new knowledge and recharged for the exciting future of family medicine ahead of them.

Some highlights:

During the All Member Assembly, IAFP president Michael P. Temporal of Belleville and your new IAFP Board of Directors were installed by AAFP board member Laura Knobel, MD. Also, during the All Member Assembly:

IAFP member Makis Limperis, MD of River Forest brought forth a resolution asking the IAFP to bring the issue of the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians (AOBFP) and American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) differences in recertification exam requirements to the attention of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

The second "Resolved" clause was not adopted. You can view the [entire resolution here](#).

Learn more about the [IAFP Awards recipients](#) who were honored on Saturday and check out the photos on our website "[What's New](#)" page.

Family Physician of the Year Larry R. Jones, MD of Harrisburg ([photos](#))

Family Medicine Teachers of the Year

-Full time: Mari Egan, MD from the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine ([photos](#))

-Part time: Gregory K. Milani, MD from Rush-Copley Family Medicine Residency Program ([photos](#))

2011 IAFP President's Awards – [read press release](#)

Russell G. Robertson, MD – Chicago Medical School ([photo](#))

Kate Valentine, IAFP Education Manager ([photo](#))

Matthew L. Hunsaker, MD of the University of Illinois at Rockford – photo to come

The Practice Improvement Network Small Pilot Practices met face to face for the first time. Learn more about this amazing program with the very first edition of the [PIN Points Newsletter](#).

No one beat then-president David J. Hagan, MD in the Beat the President Fun Run Saturday morning – he is a fast runner!

And IAFP offered Family Fun for all its members and guests!

November-December issue of Illinois Family Physician is online!

The IAFP has been busy! Catch up on everything with the [final issue for 2011!](#)

Inside you'll find

- Much more about the 2011 awards honorees
- IAFP's role in the new Physicians' Statement on Breastfeeding
- Dr. Hagan's final President's Message
- A federally funded grant project to improve children's health outcomes and how you can participate
- Great news about our Tar Wars program
- An update of everything going on in state and federal government relations
- News you can use about smartphone applications and "cyberchondriacs"
- Meet your new president in the Member Spotlight section

Don't forget, we are looking for **your photos** for the cover of the 2011 Annual Report to the Membership. Learn more on page 10 of the Nov.-Dec. issue of our newsletter and email your great family medicine photos to editor Ginnie Flynn at gflynn@iafp.com by January 12, 2012.

IAFP leaders contribute at AAFP State Legislative Conference

The weekend before IAFP's Annual Meeting, several of your chapter leaders participated in the AAFP's annual State Legislative Conference in Salt Lake City November 4-5 and submitted IAFP's 2011 [Government Relations Update](#). Representing the Illinois Chapter were then-president David J. Hagan, MD of Gibson City (now board chair), president-elect Michael P. Temporal, MD of Belleville (now your president), executive vice president Vincent D. Keenan, CAE, deputy executive vice president Gordana Krkic, CAE and Bruce Kinnett from IAFP's contract lobbying firm, Cook-Witter, Inc.

Link to a Nov. 9 article [AAFP News Now](#) for conference highlights.



www.twitter.com/IAFP_PIN

The Practice Improvement Network Update

Check out the [PIN section](#) of the IAFP web site which has resources for all family physicians
<http://www.iafp.com/PCMH>



ARE YOU READY for any PCMH Transformation?

Link to this [AAFP Power Point](#) to help you decide - and then link directly to resources to help you!

PIN CME is underway!

Save the Date for the next "Lunch and Learn" Webinar

January 26, 2012: Office Redesign to Optimize Planned Patient Care
Supported by Abbott Labs & Pfizer, Inc.

Small Practice Pilot Update

Link to the first all-member communication – the [PIN Points newsletter](#)

We still have room for more practices. If you'd like to join the pilot project, download the short and simple [pilot application](#). To enroll in the PIN, or for more information or email the PIN project manager, Helen Kate Liebelt, at hkliebelt@iafp.com or call 224-688-0430.

Government Relations - State

The Illinois General Assembly Veto Session ended on November 10 with somewhat underwhelming results: no action was taken on pension reform or the budget. In addition, amendments to SB 1313, enabling the establishment of Illinois' health insurance exchange were not considered. If Illinois does not pass enabling legislation soon, the federal government will by default create a health insurance exchange for Illinois.

The House is scheduled to return on Tuesday November 29th for a special session.

The legislature voted to extend the **Medical Practice Act** for one more year, until Dec. 31, 2012. You can view the entire Government Relations [End of the Year Report](#) on our web site.

Federal Issues

On October 27, the Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality awarded \$4.5 million in grants to establish **Research Centers for Excellence in Clinical Preventive Services** at three universities (**Northwestern University in Chicago**, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora). Research at the centers will focus on health equity in the use of clinical preventive services, understanding risks and harms associated with clinical preventives services, and how primary care practices, public health resources and the larger health care system can improve the delivery of evidence-based clinical preventive services.

On November 1, **CMS released the final 2012 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule**. CMS projects that total payments made under the 2012 fee schedule will be approximately \$80 billion. The *Medicare and Medicaid Extenders Act* of 2010 provided for a 1-year zero percent update resulting in the 2011 conversion factor currently being \$33.9764. Since this 1-year extension expires at the end of 2011, CMS estimated earlier this year that the statutory formula used to determine Medicare physician payments would result in a decrease of 29.5 percent. In the final rule, CMS updated their estimate for the conversion factor at \$24.6712 which represents a decrease of 27.4 percent.

The AAFP urges Congress to prevent these drastic payment cuts and to end the practice of enacting retroactive fixes. In a [statement](#) issued when the final fee schedule was released, the AAFP continued to call on the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction and the Congress as a whole to stabilize Medicare payments to physicians by repealing the flawed SGR formula and specify a payment rate for the next three to five years while demonstration programs generate data to determine the best payment method. To begin closing the gaping disparity between primary care and subspecialist services, the AAFP strongly recommends that the committee stipulate at least a 3 percent higher rate for primary care physicians.

On November 7, the AAFP released a [summary](#) of the final 2012 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule. CMS discusses many important issues in the final rule. Of particular interest to family physicians is that CMS finalized policy that:

Does not refer evaluation and management codes to the AMA/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) for review since the majority of commenters expressed concern, *“over the possible inadequacies of the current E&M coding and documentation structure to address evolving chronic care management and support primary care and our ongoing research on how to best provide payment for primary care and patient-centered care management.”* Instead, CMS will allow time to study the effects of the Comprehensive Primary Care Initiative, the HHS Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation research on balancing physician incentives and evaluating payment for primary care services, demonstration projects on care coordination, as well as other initiatives such as the Medicare Shared Savings Program to assess how to value and encourage primary care.

[FMPAC LOGO]

Have you contributed to the PAC? Our goal is to have 10 percent of IAFP's 2,500 active members as FamMedPAC contributors and we are currently around two percent. [Go online and make your contribution now](#) at www.aafp.org and click on the FamMedPAC logo.

News You Can Use

Upcoming Illinois Health connect webinars

Wednesday, November 16, 12 noon: [Breastfeeding in Illinois: Supporting the New Normal](#)

Tuesday, November 29, 12 noon: [Integrating the Illinois Health Connect 2011 Bonus Payment Program and Quality Assurance Tools into Clinical Practice](#)

Learn more and register on the [Illinois Health Connect website](#)

Upcoming Illinois Health Connect Subcommittee Meetings

Participation in the subcommittees is voluntary and open to any consumer of health care professional who wishes to participate. Please contact the chairperson if you wish to participate in any of the upcoming meetings.

Date	Topic	Time	Chairperson	Email
December 1, 2011	Provider Network	12-1pm (CST)	Dr. Margaret Kirkegaard	mkirkegaard@automated-health.com

Share your perspectives on natural environment in Early Intervention

The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics is hosting three regional open forums for pediatricians, family physicians, other health care providers, early intervention service providers, therapists, community service representatives, families, policy makers, and influential leaders to explore the meaning and impact of natural environment as it is currently interpreted in the Illinois Early Intervention program. This is an opportunity to share your perspective on how natural environment affects service providers, families and children, and others, and share your ideas for how to support and strengthen stakeholder experiences with the Illinois Early Intervention program.

Register online today for the **December 13 [Rockford Open Forum](#)**, the **December 14 [Springfield Open Forum](#)**, or the **December 15 [Fairview Heights Open Forum \(East St. Louis area\)](#)**. For more information, visit the registration page of your preferred Open Forum date and location, or contact Sandra Fraction at sfraction@illinoisAAP.com.

Repeat Items

The Great American Smokeout is Nov. 17: Pledge Today!

Join the American Cancer Society's Great American Smokeout on November 17 with two opportunities to promote tobacco prevention and cessation.

1. [Tar Wars](#)—Pledge to present a Tar Wars tobacco prevention presentation in your local elementary school. Then contact your Illinois Tar Wars Coordinator, Ginnie Flynn at gflynn@iafp.com or call 630-427-8004.

2. **Ask and Act**—Ask your patients about their tobacco use and utilize AAFP tobacco cessation resources to help them quit.

[Click here](#) to pledge today to receive free Tar Wars and/or Ask and Act materials.

IAFP supports Fuel Up to Play 60

Fuel Up to Play 60 responds to real-world needs in today's schools with wellness tools that complement - not compete with - the academics-focused environment. The program's design allows youth and schools to determine which tools and resources best help meet each school's wellness goals. Illinois Family Physicians are proud to partner with a school based program to keep kids moving while teaching and emphasizing healthy habits. Help kick-start the effort in your community's schools! [Learn more about the program here](#). Ask if your neighborhood school or your children's school is signed up and ask how you can help!

Medicaid Meaningful Use Registration is now open

Illinois has opened registration for Medicaid Meaningful Use of Electronic Health Records Provider Incentive Payments. Read the [Provider Notice](#) from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. [Link to the Illinois EHR information page](#)
Providers will be able to attest beginning in November, with the first payments expected to be made to successful providers in Feb. 2012. Register via the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services at <https://ehrincentives.cms.gov/hitech/login.action>

Looking for resources to help with your Medicare Meaningful Use Attestation process?

The Chicago Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (CHITREC) has a new [attestation guide](#) that can help!

FREE Assistance with Medicare PQRS

The Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program is the largest federal program dedicated to improving health quality at the community level. IFMC-IL is a federally funded, non-profit organization and the Illinois Medicare QIO, contracted with CMS to assist Illinois physicians and other eligible professionals, at no cost, to report PQRS using their electronic health record systems. For more information, [click here](#).

Questions Contact:

Linda Brewer, Quality Improvement Facilitator

IFMC-IL

711 Jorie Blvd

Oak Brook, IL 60523

630-928-5819

lbrewer@ilqio.sdps.org

Members in the News

If you have a news item to share, send it to Ginnie Flynn at gflynn@iafp.com.

Our Illinois AAFP Humanitarian of the Year, **Christopher Guerrero, MD** was featured in the Elmwood Park Times, the local edition of the Sun Times Media Group on Oct. 27. The article covered his dedication to mission work in Philippines and other nations. Guerrero received the award at the AAFP Annual Scientific Assembly last month in Orlando.

The 2011 IAFP Family Physician of the Year, **Larry R. Jones, MD** of Harrisburg appeared on the front page of the Nov. 4th *Harrisburg Daily Register* with a nice article about his upcoming award.

Congratulations to longtime IAFP lobbyist **Bruce Kinnett** of Cook-Witter, Inc. Bruce was inducted into the Illinois Legislative Internship Hall of Fame at a reception on Nov. 7. All of the

new Hall of Famers were featured in the Oct. 31 issue of the Springfield *State Journal Register*. Kinnett was a Senate Republican Staff intern from 1976-77.

Dawn Bode, MD of Moline was featured in the Nov. 4th *Quad Cities Dispatch* and the Nov. 7th *Quad City Times* for her talent and volunteerism as a bassoon player in the local music therapy program. She is one of several physicians who routinely provide music therapy and performances for hospice patients.