



## e-News for February 5, 2010

### IAFP News

#### **IAFP statement on the Illinois Supreme Court Decision**

##### ***Potential of unlimited awards will have a chilling effect on family physicians***

On Thursday, the Illinois Supreme Court released their ruling striking down the cap on non-economic damages that was part of the 2005 medical liability reform law. That morning IAFP president Patrick A. Tranmer, MD released a statement expressing the Academy's disappointment and disapproval.

*"IAFP is extremely disappointed in the Court's decision to remove the cap on non-economic damages in medical liability lawsuits. As a result, medical liability insurance providers will once again pass the uncertainty of that potential "jackpot verdict" on to physicians in the form of higher annual premiums.*

*"This decision will have an immediate chilling effect on family physicians. Current family physicians will once again curtail procedures and refer more patients to subspecialists and emergency rooms, which adds up to higher and preventable costs to patients, payers and taxpayers. Doctors will order more tests as a defensive measure, rather than use their training and patient relationships to guide their decision-making. Meanwhile, future physicians will choose other states with fair medical liability systems and lower premiums, creating a shortage of physicians in many areas of our state already in need."*

Link to the full statement at <http://www.iafp.com/legislative/CapsOverturned.pdf>

#### **IAFP Award nominations now open – deadline is June 30**

Nominations are now open for the IAFP's three awards: the Family Physician of the Year and two Family Medicine Teachers of the Year (full or part-time faculty and volunteer faculty). Just complete the appropriate nominations form and **include a letter of support** outlining your reasons for nominating that member. **All nominees must be IAFP members in good standing to be considered.**

**Family Physician of the Year:** <http://www.iafp.com/PR/FPOYWANTED.pdf>

**Family Medicine Teachers of the Year:** <http://www.iafp.com/PR/TOYNomination.pdf>



**SPONSOR A STUDENT!**

The Family Health Foundation, which administers the Summer Externship Program, is in critical condition. The Externship program will continue this year; but will be greatly scaled back – offering positions to far fewer students based on the limited resources within the Foundation budget. The State of Illinois grant that has funded the program in past years is not available in 2010.

We need your support! Please consider sponsoring a student for this worthwhile program. If you can sponsor a student through your personal, clinic, or hospital resources, we could offer

externships to more students in 2010. The cost to sponsor a student is \$1400 which covers their stipend and administrative costs.

*The Family Health Foundation is a charitable public foundation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization and is thereby able to receive grants and **tax-deductible** gifts and contributions.*

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## Federal Government Relations

### Federal Reform – What CAN you do? Here's your 1, 2, 3 ...

1) **FIX the SGR!** Congress has extended the 2009 Medicare physician fee schedule for 60 days to give lawmakers an opportunity to fix the SGR in a final health care reform bill. The AAFP has issued a **Speak Out Action Alert** <http://capitol.aafp.org/aafp/issues/alert/?alertid=14544051> asking members to contact their representatives in the House and Senate to tell them that family physicians should no longer have to operate with a payment system based on the flawed sustainable growth rate, or SGR, formula. **We need a permanent change, not another patch!** Unless Congress acts, the SGR will require a 21.2 percent cut in Medicare payment rates as of March 1. <http://capitol.aafp.org/aafp/issues/alert/?alertid=14544051>

2) **Equalize Medicaid and Medicare payment rates!** Both the House and Senate health care reform bills would expand Medicaid coverage to more low-income individuals. Only the House bill, however, includes a \$57 billion provision that would adjust Medicaid payments for primary care to at least 100 percent of Medicare rates.

**\*NEW** – AAFP reports that President Obama's budget introduced this week includes a six-month extension of the enhanced FMAP rate for Medicaid services from the ARRA package passed last summer. The cost is estimated at \$25.5 billion.

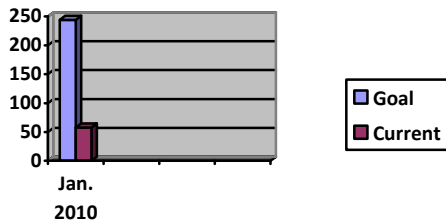
3) **Protect the increase in Medicare payments to primary care!** AAFP leaders have repeatedly advocated for payment reform and changes in the Medicare physician payment system, the result of which was an increase in payments to primary care physicians in the latest Medicare fee schedule.

For more information on #2 and #3, visit the **Health Care Reform** section of AAFP's website at <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/federal/reform09.html> or the **Connect for Reform** Action Center at <http://blogs.aafp.org/cfr/connect4reform/?BAC-C4R> (members only, must register for access).



Illinois FamMedPAC champion Ellen Brull, MD of Glenview is challenging IAFP members to step up so that 10 percent of Illinois active members contribute to the PAC. IAFP needs 244 total contributors to reach that 10 percent goal, and we are nearly one-fourth of the way there! Thank you to the 58 donors (which can and does include residents, students and staff!) who have contributed during the current cycle. **Since our last e-News we've had repeat donors, but no NEW donors. Our state total for this election cycle is over \$17,000!** To add your contribution to our total, please visit <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/fammedpac.html> to make a secure online donation.

### IAFP FamMedPAC donors



Total 09-10 Donors: 58  
Total 09-10 Donations: **\$17,136**  
Average Donation: \$256  
% of Chapter Donating: 2.37%

## State Government Relations

### Spring into Action 2010 – REGISTER NOW!

**March 10, 11 or April 13, 14, or 15**

Link to online registration at <http://guest.cvent.com/i.aspx?5S%2cM3%2cdd96ab6a-6980-4989-b442-441a2fc2ab15>

IAFP offers five different dates to participate in the legislative process each spring. These “mini” lobby days are designed to give family physicians, residents and students more opportunities to learn about our state government and advocate on issues that impact family medicine. You will meet with policy makers and legislators involved in creating and implementing state health care policy that affects you and your patients.

Each Spring into Action session will use the same template; any date you pick will enable you to:

- Advocate on behalf of family medicine and its strengths
- Increase your visibility with legislators and policymakers
- Exchange information about public policy and its effects on your practice and patients

Questions? Contact Gordana Krkic at [gkrkic@iafp.com](mailto:gkrkic@iafp.com) or call 630-427-8007.



## PCMH Information

### **Nuts & Bolts of the Patient Centered Medical Home June 25-26 at the Marriott Oak Brook Hotel**

IAFP will bring together the various components for building the Patient-Centered Medical Home, with tracks tailored to your practice size and readiness level for transforming your practice.

***Earn over 10 CME Credits!***

Whether you are on your way to NCQA recognition, or not even sure what PCMH stands for, this conference will meet your needs. This conference is targeted to primary care physicians and their leadership team interested in implementing the medical home. Bring your office manager, practice partners, whoever is vital to your transformation team! **Online registration opens March 1st!**

## CME Information

### **Louisiana AFP offers 24 hours of CME – at Disney!**

Louisiana AFP's Winter Conference that is scheduled for February 14-17, 2010, at The Hilton, located in the *Walt Disney World*® Resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL where **24 hours of CME** will be offered. For more details, see the Winter Conference page on the LAFP website outlining the agenda, registration information and housing:

[http://www.lafp.org/content/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=302&Itemid=246](http://www.lafp.org/content/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=302&Itemid=246)

Questions or for additional information, e-mail Ragan Canella directly at [rcanella@lafp.org](mailto:rcanella@lafp.org) or call 225.923.3313.

### **Dreaming about Spring? Experience it early by visiting sunny Arizona!**

The Arizona Academy of Family Physicians is holding their Annual Clinical Education (ACE) Conference March 5-7, 2010. Quality CME provided by the creator of POEMs (Patient-Oriented Evidence that Matters). This program of completely evidence-based practical education will give you the tools you need to stay current in the ever changing world of treatment guidelines and patient care. Early Bird registration rates have been extended to **February 1, 2010** at [www.azafp.org](http://www.azafp.org). Have your AAFP ID number ready to receive the same registration rate as AzAFP members.

### **CDC launches Health Literacy Web Based CME**

CDC has launched its online health literacy training for public health professionals. CE credits in multiple disciplines are available. We designed the training to complement HRSA's course targeting health professionals in clinical settings. Our training focuses on contexts for public health communication. We welcome your feedback on the program and also appreciate your help with sharing the information about the training program with others. The training is available at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthmarketing/healthliteracy/#>

## Message from a Partner Organization

### **IAFP Can Help You Get The Lowest Sanofi Fluzone Prices For The 2010-11 Flu Season!**

The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians has partnered with Atlantic Health Partners to offer your practice the lowest prices for Sanofi and Merck vaccines, including Sanofi's Fluzone. With all the issues that surround flu delivery, it is important to note that Atlantic participating practices received ALL of their 2009 pre-booked Fluzone which totaled close to 1 million doses.

Atlantic's program extends to discounts on medical and surgical supplies ordered through Sanofi, and there is no cost to join!

Atlantic currently works nationwide with 21 state AAFP chapters and has been nationally recognized by the AAFP. Over 2,500 family physicians are already enrolled in the Atlantic Program, reporting strong satisfaction with the program, most notably for the savings and customer support.

Please contact Jeff Winokur or Cindy Berenson at 800.741.2044 or email [info@atlantichhealthpartners.com](mailto:info@atlantichhealthpartners.com) to find out how Atlantic can benefit your practice.

## Repeat Items

### **IDHFS to include payment for telehealth services to offices**

Coverage of telehealth services to include physicians' offices began Jan. 29. This will allow consultations by subspecialists via telecommunications.

This expansion is designed to improve participant access to specialists, while supporting the quality of care they receive. Previously, telehealth services were limited to medical evaluations between hospitals only. Under the telehealth expansion, physicians, advanced practice nurses, podiatrists, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) and Encounter Rate Clinics (ERCs) will be allowed to render telemedicine services. See this link for details.

<http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/assets/011210n2.pdf>

### ***Help your patients quit smoking in 2010!***

#### **Order your FREE Illinois Quit-Line brochures!**

The Illinois Quitline has grant funding to mail as many Quit-line brochures as your practice needs to help your patients finally quit their tobacco use! Brochures are available in English and Spanish and you can order as many as you need at no cost to you! Use the form on our website at <http://www.iafp.com/whatsnew/Quitline.pdf> to submit your order to the Illinois Quitline ASAP!

The Illinois Quitline is open for calls Monday-Friday from 7AM to 9PM

### **IDHFS to discontinue paper provider notices in 2010**

Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) will begin to phase out the mailing of paper notices and bulletins to providers through the U.S. Mail. Provider notices and bulletins will be posted to the HFS Web site and providers will be responsible for downloading the material via the Internet. Provider specific information, such as the Long Term Care Patient Credit Report by Hospice, Chronic Renal Disease Program – Approved Patients Report, requests for updated medical licenses, Provider Information Sheets and remittance advices, will continue to be mailed to providers. **Effective February 1, 2010, HFS will no longer mail paper copies of notices and bulletins to the following providers: Local Education Agencies, Durable Medical Equipment, Ambulatory Surgical Treatment Centers, Long Term Care, Supportive Living Facilities, Hospice, Hospitals and Pharmacies.** The department will phase in additional provider types throughout calendar year 2010. Here is the link to the November 18, 2009 notice <http://hfs.illinois.gov/all/>

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## Members in the news

E-mail Ginnie Flynn at [gflynn@iafp.com](mailto:gflynn@iafp.com) to share your media clips or to request a copy of any items listed below.

IAFP Member **Dr. Mario Piverger** (Blue Island) has family in Haiti and is working on efforts to gather durable medical equipment for Haiti. He has a Web site to help collect supplies <http://compassionateresponseusa.org/haiti.html>. To e-mail Dr. Piverger directly: [ymariop@yahoo.com](mailto:ymariop@yahoo.com).

Here is the most recent update he has posted online **January 24th:**

*Sending a quick message from Leogoane. The devastation is extensive. The need is great. My current team has orthopedic surgeons and anesthesiologists on board. I lead the mobile clinic and transport surgical cases back to the hospital grounds. The mobile clinic is able to treat cases in the field to minimize the numbers at the hospital while also identifying cases that may*

*otherwise present too late. Many fractures we've treated. A few we've shipped to a Navy ship. Please let everyone know that I am well. There is a tent community outside our grounds and we are able to service their needs with your continued support. My internet access will be sporadic but I will send word from the ground. By the way, tomorrow morning I will do a home visit on a post-op patient and then f/u on a post-earthquake paraplegic-we found her this afternoon. A spine surgeon is already aware and is ready to see her tomorrow morning. The wounds are endless and becoming infected-debridement, debridement, debridement.....Mario*

**Tom Cornwell, MD** of Wheaton was featured in the Chicago Sun-Times on Jan. 27 in a story about the use of technology in making home visits comprehensive, cost-effective and better for the patient.

**Brad Wainer, DO** and his Primary Care Associates practice in Berwyn were featured in a Medill Reports Chicago story about the improvements that adding an electronic medical record brought to their practice. The story was posted Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> on the Medill web site.

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### **CLASSIFIED ADS**

*IAFP members may post a classified ad in E-news free of charge for up to 4 issues.*

*Classified ad rates for non-IAFP members are \$100 per month (2 issues per month).*

Contact Ginnie Flynn at [gflynn@iafp.com](mailto:gflynn@iafp.com) to place your ad or you can download and print a form at <http://www.iafp.com/pdfs/EnewsAd.pdf>

1. Southern Illinois Primary Care Associates, P.C. (SIPCA) operates a multi-specialty group in Southeastern Illinois, with three clinic locations. During its' 17+ years of practice, SIPCA has expanded to 13 members of the medical staff to include 8 Physicians and 5 Physician Extenders. These providers comprise the following specialties: Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics. SIPCA is currently recruiting for a Board Certified/Board Eligible Family Medicine physician to join our group of talented providers to provide a full spectrum of primary care to patients in our service area. Opportunity allows physician to practice in a modern-state of the art facility with lab and x-ray on site. Practice provides an EHR with onsite IT support. Initial contract includes salary guaranty with full benefit package. Physician is eligible for incentive bonus and shareholder vesting schedule in year three of employment. SIPCA is a progressive physician owned and directed group with aggressive goals for the future. Interested Physicians should contact Cathy L. Harte at 618.842.4470 or [c\\_hartesipca@midwest.net](mailto:c_hartesipca@midwest.net) or Dr. Jed Jones at 618.599.2350.
2. NAPERVILLE - Family Physician group looking for full-time family physician in the Naperville area. Competitive compensation and benefits. Contact Ms Pearson 630-527-6400 ext 135 for information or fax CV to 630-527-6411.

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