



## e-News for June 24, 2010

### Academy News



The IAFP office is closed Friday, June 25 while staff is at the Nuts and Bolts of the Patient-Centered Medical Home Conference.

Read more about this event here

<http://www.iafp.com/PR/FINALNutsBoltsRelease.pdf>

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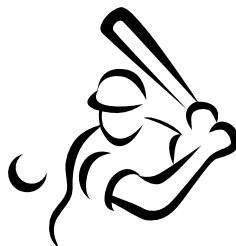
### **IAFP Award nominations – deadline is June 30**

**Surely you know an outstanding IAFP member who deserves recognition!**

Just complete the appropriate nomination form and **include a short 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>



### **Take me out to the ball game! Orders due Monday June 28**

The annual Foundation fundraiser White Sox game is **Thursday, July 29<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm vs. the Seattle Mariners. We have the same great lower box seats, so get your tickets now! Tickets are \$35 each – which is **less than face value** and **\$15 of each ticket** goes to the Foundation; 4 tickets = \$60 donation, 10 tickets = \$150! There's no easier way to support your Family Health Foundation of Illinois. Link to an order form at <http://www.iafp.com/foundation/Sox10.pdf> - **orders are due June 28<sup>th</sup>!**

**ProAssurance Professional Liability Group Medical Assurance invites IAFP Sox fans to join them at the Bullpen Bar before the game starting at 5:30 p.m.**

The Bullpen Bar is located behind Right Field near Gate 2

For more information <http://www.iafp.com/ProAssurance.pdf> or to RSVP, please contact:

Lynelle Jackson of ProAssurance

## **Federal Government Relations**

*As of this writing the U.S. House has not acted on the bill passed by the Senate on June 18. The Senate bill created a 2.2 percent update effective only until November 30. On June 18, CMS began processing claims from June 1 at the reduced rate.*

### **AAFP only supports a permanent fix Medicare payment plan**

The CMS hold on Medicare claims filed since June 1 expires on June 14. Without Congressional action, the 21.3 percent cut will proceed and physicians will see the effect.

See the IAFP letter to the editor in Members in the News that ran in several Illinois newspapers this week. Essentially, it all boils down to

*The Illinois Academy of Family Physicians will only support the following:*

- 1. Permanently repeal and replace the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula*
- 2. A temporary patch that runs until at least December 31, 2012, to allow longer stability while working on a permanent solution acceptable to physicians*
- 3. Any temporary patch must include a positive increase specifically for primary care services.*

Link to the IAFP statement at <http://www.iafp.com/pdfs/Medicare.pdf>

Link to AAFP statement at <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/media/releases/2010b/medicare-tricare.html>

### **Health Care Reform – AAFP provides one stop shopping for answers:**

Check out AAFP's site with complete information tailored to family physicians

<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/federal/hcrleg2010.html>

## **State Government Relations**

### **IAFP teams with DOI to find fairness for patients**

The Illinois Department of Insurance (DOI) and the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) have joined efforts to help the thousands of Illinois families who face medical-related disputes with their health insurance companies every year. IAFP members will review insurance company rescissions currently awaiting DOI action to determine if the insurance company was justified in their actions.

IAFP's volunteer physicians will provide expert review to enhance the Department's ability to serve Illinois consumers and provide consult as the Department implements the health insurance reforms of the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

"With their extensive training and ongoing relationships caring for families and patients of all ages and both sexes, family physicians are the ideal experts to review these cases," said Vincent D. Keenan, IAFP executive vice president.

Consumers who need assistance should call the Department's toll-free hotline at (877) 527-9431 or visit the Department's website at [www.illinois.insurance.gov](http://www.illinois.insurance.gov).

Read the full release on the Governor's website at <http://illinois.gov/PressReleases/ShowPressRelease.cfm?SubjectID=2&RecNum=8562>

The story was picked up by *Crain's Chicago Business* on Wednesday, June 22.

## CME Information

### **Free CME Webinar on Nutrition**

In this free CME webinar series, produced in partnership with the American Society for Nutrition, family physicians and nutrition researchers will present evidence-based guidelines and practical approaches to integrating nutrition science into family medicine offices.

- July 14: Nutrition and Digestive Health 6:00 p.m. ET. The live webinar will be recorded for enduring credit. To learn more and enroll, go to [www.aafp.org/webinars/nutrition](http://www.aafp.org/webinars/nutrition).

*The webinar series is supported by an educational grant from General Mills Bell Institute of Health and Nutrition.*

### **Radon Risk and Your Patients: Half day workshop in Springfield Sept. 25 3.5 AMA Category1 CME credits**

Do you know that radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers? This conference is a chance to learn more about radon and how to communicate the risk to your patients. Sponsored by the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, SIU School of Medicine Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU, American Lung Association in Illinois, SIUE School of Nursing and Illinois Environmental Health Association is offering a half day medical conference titled, *Radon Risk & Your Patients* at the Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine.

Link to more information and a registration form at

<http://www.siumed.edu/cme/pdf/Radon92410.pdf>

Questions? Contact Cindy Ladage at 217-785-9889 or [cindy.ladage@illinois.gov](mailto:cindy.ladage@illinois.gov)



Partnering with the IAFP, Pri-Med offers world-class CME programs in your area. Taught by leading experts, you can earn Continuing Medical Education credits at little or no cost. All activities listed are approved for AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s). Application for AAFP Prescribed credit has been submitted.

### **Pri-Med Midwest - October 13-16, 2010**

Annual 4-day conference and exhibition featuring Pre-Conference Symposia Day, *Current Clinical Issues in Primary Care* presented by Harvard Medical School & Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Practice Solutions, independent, non-Harvard Medical School accredited educational symposia, and a dynamic Exhibit Hall.

[www.pri-med.com/ce](http://www.pri-med.com/ce)

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## News You Can Use

### **AAFP seeks 50 practices for Smoking Cessation Pilot**

The AAFP is recruiting 50 family medicine practices for a pilot project that will train Office Champions to implement system changes that integrate tobacco cessation activities into daily office routines.

The program will educate Office Champions through an online training module, live teleconferences, and a practice manual. The Office Champions will be required to submit an implementation plan to the AAFP and track and report results.

**Practices that complete the program will receive \$3,500 to cover administrative costs, plus a recognition kit with materials to be used to communicate their success, including a press release, certificates, posters, an article for patient newsletters, and electronic "Tobacco Treatment Excellence" logos.** Participating offices will also be recognized in an advertisement in *American Family Physician*, in materials distributed at the AAFP Scientific Assembly, and on the AAFP web site.

The deadline to apply is August 16, 2010. Participating sites will be announced in September, and project implementation and evaluation will take place from October 2010 through May 2011.

Apply and get more information at [www.askandact.org/officechampion](http://www.askandact.org/officechampion) or <http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/clinical/publichealth/tobacco/officechampions.html>

This project is supported by Pfizer Inc

Also, check out the *AAFP News Now* story posted online:

<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/publications/news/news-now/health-of-the-public/20100622officechamps.html>

### **State considering more durable Medicaid cards, seeks input**

The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) is moving to the standard practice of issuing permanent or semi-permanent cards for Medicaid clients. HFS will replace the current monthly paper card mailing to a more durable card for all currently eligible Medicaid recipients, so they will no longer receive a new card every month. HFS plans to implement this new policy within a year.

HFS in coordination with provider groups participating in the Primary Care Case Management and Disease Management Steering Committee is hosting working group meetings this summer for provider staff and office managers to discuss the transition to a permanent medical card. The meetings will focus on new requirements for eligibility verification, the development of provider and client education materials and training associated with the transition to the new medical card in Illinois.

**Oak Park Meeting:** Thursday July 29<sup>th</sup>

1:00pm – 2:30pm West Suburban Medical Center FMR (staff from community health centers and physician offices are invited)

Please RSVP to [vkeenan@iafp.com](mailto:vkeenan@iafp.com) For more information, please contact

Robyn L. Nardone, Senior Healthcare Policy Advisor

IL Department of Healthcare & Family Services

312-793-5274 (Direct)

## News from a Partner Organization

***With the summer peak purchasing season quickly approaching now is the perfect time to see how Atlantic Health Partners can help your practice save on vaccine purchases!***

The Illinois AFP has a strong partner in helping thousands of Physicians save precious dollars and advocate on your behalf with payers and manufacturers.

Atlantic, a physician vaccine buying group, works directly with Sanofi Pasteur and Merck and has obtained the most favorable pricing and purchasing terms for a wide variety of pediatric, adolescent, adult, flu, and travel vaccines. Members of the Atlantic program make purchases directly from Sanofi and Merck (as many of you do now) but typically receive better pricing and purchasing terms. In addition, participation is voluntary and there is no cost to enroll in the Atlantic program.

Atlantic works with 7,000 physicians, including many Family Physicians here in Illinois, and your colleagues report strong satisfaction with the program, most notably for the savings, ability to make smaller purchases, customer support, and how easy it was to enroll.

Jeff Winokur and Cindy Berenson are the primary contact persons at Atlantic, ([www.atlantichealthpartners.com](http://www.atlantichealthpartners.com)) and we encourage you to contact them at 800-741-2044 or at [info@atlantichealthpartners.com](mailto:info@atlantichealthpartners.com) for more information and details about how your practice can benefit from participation.

### **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.*

**Congratulations to SLU** - St. Louis University Belleville Family Medicine Residency in Belleville has been honored with a 2010 AAFP Foundation Pfizer Immunization Award for achieving excellence in clinical practice by developing creative solutions that result in increased immunization rates in their communities.

The awards provide monetary grants and scholarships for residents to attend the AAFP's National Conference, a three-day event held during July in Kansas City designed for residents and medical students to share ideas with family medicine educators and leaders from across the nation.

**Chantal Girod, MD** was honored by Swedish American Health System with the Dr. Henry C. Anderson Quality Award according to the June 11 *Rockford Register-Star*.

**David de Ramos, MD** received the Christian Service Award from Adventist GlenOaks Hospital for his dedication to the hospital's mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ according to the June 14<sup>th</sup> *TribLocal* Naperville edition.

**Jerome Epplin, MD** of the Litchfield Family Practice Center was named the Clinician of the Year by the American Geriatrics Society.

**Jennifer Taylor, MD** of Mendota and **Cynthia Running, MD** of Oglesby were quoted in a June 17<sup>th</sup> *LaSalle News-Tribune* article about the need to get kids outside and do anything to maintain physical activity and stay healthy during the summer breaks.

**Michael McFadden, MD** authored a guest column for the June 21 *Freeport Journal-Standard* detailing how to create the best first aid kit for your family.

Resident member **Whitney Lyn, MD** of Chicago is quoted in an Associated Press article about the new ACGME proposed resident work hours. The proposal would put new limits on first year residents, limiting them to 16-hour shifts. The story has been widely reproduced in newspapers and news websites,

***In Memoriam: John J. Ring, MD** died Saturday, June 12, 2010, at Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. Dr. Ring was a family physician in Mundelein since 1958. He was on staff at Condell Memorial Hospital (now Advocate Condell Medical Center) in Libertyville and Victory Hospital in Waukegan (now Vista East Medical Center). Link to the obituary at <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dailyherald/obituary.aspx?n=john-j-ring&pid=143580656>*