



IAFP e-News for April 1, 2011

FOLLOW US ON 

at [www.twitter.com/IllinoisAFP](http://www.twitter.com/IllinoisAFP)

## Academy News

### **Congress kills Medicare Program**

Congress essentially gave up trying to “fix Medicare” and passed an emergency measure ending the program on December 31, 2011.

“Frankly, we’re sick of the SGR problem, and we know the program is going to run out of money soon anyway,” said Speaker of the House John Boehner and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid in a joint statement issued this morning. “So we give up. American seniors will be on their own. Doctors can charge what they think is fair, and we’ll stay out of the way.”

APRIL FOOL’S DAY from IAFP!!!

### **New resources now available - ACO and Affiliation guides for FPs**

“What do I do now?” That may be the question Independent family physicians are asking, given the fast and furious discussions about payment reform and our evolving health care delivery system. IAFP, several other chapters and AAFP combined to produce two documents that should be required reading for independent practice physicians in weighing their options for the future. “How do I evaluate ACO options? What are the pros and cons of affiliating with a system or hospital, or even becoming an employee? How can I stay independent and have a satisfying career?” Get some answers especially for the family physician!

- [The Family Physicians’ Guide to ACO Success](#)
- [The Family Physicians Affiliation Guide](#)

These resources will help answer family physicians’ questions when considering whether to sell to an ACO or other entity and how they can strengthen their practice if they wish to remain independent. Additional resources include two PowerPoint presentations and other helpful resources.



### **The Practice Improvement Network Update**

Check out the [PIN section](#) of the IAFP web site

<http://www.iafp.com/PCMH>

You’ll find more information and links to current resources available.

### **Volunteer needed as a replacement NCSC delegate**

Funding is available to attend the AAFP National Conference of Special Constituencies in Kansas City, May 5-7, 2011 as the GLBT representative for Illinois. If you are interested, please contact Jennifer O’Leary at 630-427-8001 or [joleary@iafp.com](mailto:joleary@iafp.com). For more information about the conference, [click here](#).

## **March Madness... and some MATCH Maddening!**

*2011 Match results from Illinois Medical schools bring frustration to IAFP leaders*

According to the NRMP, The percentage of U.S. medical school graduates chose family medicine in 2011 **is up** from 2010 (8.4% up from 7.9% in 2010). With more slots available and more US graduates matching into family medicine, the net result is that 1,317 US medical school graduates filled 48.2 percent of the 2,708 family medicine slots offered this year. [Link to AAFP analysis](#)

However, the percentage of Illinois medical students matching into family medicine **dipped slightly** to 7.3 percent (83 out of 1,142 graduates), down from 2010's 8 percent. Of the 83 who matched family medicine, 31 will enter Illinois programs.

[View chart of Illinois allopathic medical schools](#)

### **Congratulations to more 2008 IAFP Summer Externship participants who matched into Family Medicine Residency programs**

Amtul Hajira (CCOM) – Carle (Urbana, Ill.)

Anne Morris (Loyola) - Vermont

Bethany Stark (Loyola – IAFP Student President) Indiana

Amber Anderson (Loyola) – Cook Co. Loyola

Eli Horn (Loyola) – Minnesota

Catherine Nelson (CCOM) – Milwaukee

Nora Glasspool (Rush) – Advocate Christ (Hometown, Ill.)

Ayanna McKinnon (Loyola) – Cook Co. Loyola

Brent Jones (SIU) – Indiana

Carl Lambert (Rush) – West Suburban

\*More Match coverage to come in the May/June issue of Illinois *Family Physician*!

---

## **Foundation Fundraiser - White Sox game**

**Thursday July 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:10pm**

IAFP's Foundation invites members and their friends, family and colleagues to join us at U.S. Cellular Field for "Home Runs for Healthy Families Night." For every ticket you purchase, a \$13 per ticket tax-deductible donation goes to the Family Health Foundation of Illinois. Our lower box seats are only \$35 each, which is less than face value! Orders are due by June 3<sup>rd</sup>. [Link to details and an order form](#). Seats are limited, order now!

---

## **Government Relations**

### **State**

For more information on this General Assembly's members, bills, or proceedings, please bookmark and visit [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).

### **Register now for Spring into Action – May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>**

If you've never been to Springfield, or taken part in an IAFP lobbying effort, now is the perfect time. Many new faces joined the Illinois General Assembly and it's time to introduce these new lawmakers to family medicine. Set aside one day (either May 3, 4 or 5) and meet us in Springfield. We'll provide the background and education on issues winding their way through the process and then take you to the Statehouse to meet with your state representative and senator.

You'll still be home in time for dinner! Link to [online registration](#) on the IAFP web site or contact Gordana Krkic at [gkrkic@iafp.com](mailto:gkrkic@iafp.com) or 630-427-8007 for assistance.

---

**Issues we're watching:**

**HB 1965** passes the House - **Contact your Senator** and ask that they vote NO to any bill that weakens our Smoke-free Illinois law. HB 1965 would allow smoking at any casino that borders a state that still permits smoking in casinos (Indiana and Missouri do not have any smoke-free laws and Iowa's still allows smoking in casinos). We can't take any steps back and allow workers or customers at casinos to be subjected to secondhand smoke.

Meanwhile two other bills that would blow holes in Smoke-free Illinois are still alive in the House – **HB 171** would allow casinos to have “designated smoking rooms” and **HB 1310** would allow bars to apply for “smoking licenses” to allow smoking in the establishment. Both these bills are bad for Illinois and need to be stopped in the House. Contact your state representative and ask that he or she vote NO on both HB 171 and HB 1310.

Find your legislators and their contact information at [www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov).

## Federal

### **E-Rx Information from AAFP – Avoid the penalty and earn the bonus!**

It is important that physicians are aware of the requirements to submit 10 claims showing participation in this program in the first half of 2011 to avoid a 1% penalty on their 2012 Medicare payments. It is also important to note that physicians need to participate for the full year (2011) to avoid a penalty in 2013. You can also earn the bonus by meeting other requirements by Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>. Find out what to do, including how to document your exemption from the requirement, if applicable to your situation. Additional information may be found in [AAFP News Now](#)

## CME

### **Free CME *Immunization Practice 101: How to start and maintain an immunization practice***

*Provided by the American Medical Association (AMA) in cooperation with the Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (ICAAP), the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP), the DuPage County Medical Society (DCMS) and the DuPage County Health Department (DCHD).*

**Tues., April 26, 2011 from 12:00 pm – 4:15 pm**

DuPage County Health Department Lower Level, Rooms 1 -3  
111 North County Farm Road - Wheaton, IL 60187

Link to more information and registration details at <http://www.iafp.com/CME/Immunization.pdf>

*This program is approved for 3.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.*

Deadline to register is Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>

---

### **Achieving Meaningful Use Webinar Series**

IL-HITREC (Illinois Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center) is offering a series of monthly FREE webinars designed to help physicians and their practices attain the meaningful use of EHRs. Some webinars will offer free CME credit.

**Quality Reporting and Meaningful Use FREE CME Credit Available**

Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 12pm CT

This lecture introduces physicians to quality reporting for meaningful use as well as discusses future concerns of the expected requirements for electronic submission. For more information, [visit the IL-HITREC web site](#).

To register for this webinar, [please click here](#).

To view previous webinars in this series, please visit the Achieving Meaningful Use Webinar archive at <http://www.ilhitrec-ed.org/>.

---

### **Try out IAFP's improved education website at [www.iafp.com/education](http://www.iafp.com/education)**

IAFP has updated the education website to be more user-friendly, resourceful and efficient! With the Illinois Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) CME Website, [www.IAFP.com/education](http://www.IAFP.com/education) (registration required), you will be able to track which CME courses you have completed and obtain your CME certificates - simply with the click of a button at the end of each completed online course. Check out any of the IAFP **FREE** online CME programs and you could earn up to four credits by completing all the activities.

### **NEW IAFP Online CME Adult Smoking Cessation: Intervention Strategies for Primary Care Providers**

This CME activity will take providers through the tolls of smoking, understanding and combating addiction, behavioral & pharmacologic interventions, and therapy options & strategies.

---

### **CAFP Coding and Billing Online CME**

California AFP created a [2011 supplement to our \*Strategies for Coding, Billing and Getting Paid Appropriately\* monograph](#) to help family physicians and their staff learn the ins and outs of coding and payment changes. The supplement is now available online to ensure family physicians get paid fully and fairly for the services they provide. All the materials can be [downloaded at the Academy's website](#).

The Health Care Reform law made many notable changes, including instituting a bonus program that is favorable to family physicians. The 2011 supplement includes information on these changes and highlights new sources of revenue. View the 2011 supplement to find information on billing preventive services and participating in several bonus and incentive programs.

After reviewing the monograph and supplement, you can receive **four CME** prescribed units by filling out a post-test and evaluation. All the materials can be downloaded at the Academy's [website](#). Please contact CAFP Manager of Medical Practice Affairs Jane Cho at [jcho@familydocs.org](mailto:jcho@familydocs.org) with inquiries about the coding and billing issues or the monograph and supplement.

---



<http://www.pri-med.com>

#### **[Top Caliber Online CME/CE](#)**

Access our fresh collection of online activities to reinforce and expand your knowledge between meetings.

#### **[Join the Discussion](#)**

Connect with clinicians nationwide and receive CME news updates instantly.

## **[News You Can Use](#)**

## Illinois Health Connect April Webinars

Check out the schedule below for helpful webinars for IHC PCPs and their staff

- Tuesday, April 12, 12 noon: *Using the Illinois Health Connect Panel Roster to Maximize Care*
- Thursday, April 14, 12 noon: *Integrating the Illinois Health Connect 2011 Bonus Payment Program and Quality Assurance Tools into Clinical Practice*
- Tuesday, April 26, 12 noon: *Integrating the Illinois Health Connect 2011 Bonus Payment Program and Quality Assurance Tools into Clinical Practice*
- Wednesday, April 27, 12 noon: *HFS Billing Overview and Updates*

For registration, interested parties would sign-up online at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com> . For the specific session ID, people can visit the [IHC website here](#) contact the IHC Help Desk at **877-912-1999**. Any questions can also be directed to the provider's IHC Provider Service Representative.

## For your patients- Chicago Tribune hosts live web chats on Tuesday

The *Chicago Tribune* is now hosting web chats each Tuesday at noon, central time. Once a month, Judith Graham (a former IAFP Media Award honoree) hosts a chat at that time on health issues of concern to seniors.

Her next [chat is on older women's sexual health](#), Tuesday, April 5, at noon central time.

The Tribune is archiving the chats permanently on its web site so they can be a resource to people in the community going forward. Here's a link to that archive:

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/healthchats>

## Last Chance to qualify for Sleep Medicine CAQ without a fellowship

2011 will be the final year that board certified family physicians can qualify via either one of two practice eligibility pathways for the Sleep Medicine Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) Examination. These pathways currently allow physicians to apply for this exam based on previous experience and clinical care of sleep disorders (Pathway A) or prior certification by the American Board of Sleep Medicine (Pathway B); they will no longer be in effect after 2011. The exam is scheduled this year for November 10, 2011. **The last day to apply for the exam without a late fee is May 2.** Physicians who have not attempted the exam by November 10, 2011 will be required to complete a 1 year, ACGME accredited Sleep Medicine fellowship program in order to sit for the exam in the future.

Physicians who have qualified to sit for the exam using either Pathway A or B criteria between 2007–2011, but who were not successful in certifying will be allowed to continue to qualify under that same Practice Pathway for all future exam attempts. For more information about the American Board of Family Medicine's Sleep Medicine CAQ exam, please [click here](#).

Diplomates may contact the ABFM Support Center with further questions: [help@theabfm.org](mailto:help@theabfm.org) or 877-223-7437.

## AAFP member census deadline extended to April 20

To encourage members to participate in this quick but important census, an **April 20** submission deadline has been added. More than 27,000 members have already completed the census. Members can either complete and mail the hard copy of the census or complete it [online](#).

[Repeat Items](#)

## **CDC Issues Pertussis testing guidelines**

The IAFP public health committee wants to make sure family physicians are aware of Pertussis testing guidelines released by the CDC this week. The entire [provider alert](#) is posted on our web site.

## **ICAAP presents neonatology dinner seminar on April 27**

The Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics is hosting its annual Neonatology Dinner Seminar on Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at the Embassy Suites O'Hare/Rosemont in Rosemont, IL from 6-8pm. This year's seminar will address non-invasive ventilation of newborns. The featured speaker, Dr. Rangasamy Ramanathan, is a nationally recognized neonatologist from the University of Southern California Keck Medical School. This event includes a three course meal.

Due to limited space, an RSVP will be required and there is a nominal fee of \$10 to attend, which can be paid in advance or onsite. Registrations can be completed online at [www.surveymonkey.com/s/neodinner](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/neodinner). [More information](#) is on the IAFP web site. For general questions about the event or registration via email, contact Annie Boesen at [aboesen@Illinoisaap.com](mailto:aboesen@Illinoisaap.com).

## **Awards season is now open!**

IAFP is now accepting nominations for our Family Physician of the Year award and the two Teachers of the Year. There are 2,500 active IAFP members and chances are someone YOU know should be honored in 2011 at our Annual Meeting in Oak Brook.

Link to nomination forms on our web site

- [FP of the Year nomination form](#) (Due June 1)
- [Teachers of the Year nomination form](#) (Due June 30)



## **New Website can help you and your patients navigate our changing health care system!**

AAFP has joined a coalition of some of the nation's most trusted organizations representing consumers, patients, physicians, nurses, hospitals and pharmacists in launching a new comprehensive online resource – [HealthCareandYou.org](http://HealthCareandYou.org) – to give Americans easy-to-understand information about the health care law so they can make informed health care decisions for themselves and their families. The website includes up-to-date facts about the law, including a timeline of when provisions take effect, and a state-by-state listing of health coverage options that are available to consumers.

## **New Immunization Schedule brings many changes for 2011**

AAFP has posted a complete library of 2011 recommended immunization schedules for children, adolescents, adults and catch-up schedules on their web site. [View them all online](#) and get up to speed.

## **EHR Medicare Meaningful Use Registration Open**

The Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs will provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, eligible hospitals and critical access hospitals (CAHs) as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use of certified EHR technology.

Here is the [link to get started](#) with the Medicare incentive program when you're ready.

## Members in the News

Northwestern-Feinberg School of Medicine students **Rebecca Cantone** and **Emma Daisy** were featured in a March 21 American Medical News article about the 2011 Match and the encouraging increase in U.S. seniors choosing primary care specialties. Both Cantone and Daisy matched into family medicine. [Learn more about them](#) on the Northwestern Dept. of Family and Community Medicine website.

IAFP past president and life member **Robert Heerens, MD** was honored by the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford for his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the school's Service award. The awards ceremony was covered by the March 30 *Rockford Register-Star*.

**James Lang, MD** of Chicago, a past recipient of the IAFP Distinguished Service Award was honored by Resurrection Health Care with their Best Physician Servant Leader Award for his community-service focus. He is well known for his volunteerism and his dedication to access for the underserved.

IAFP President-elect **Michael Temporal, MD** of Belleville authored a Letter to the Editor criticizing the Illinois House of Representatives for passing HB 1965 to allow smoking at border casinos. The letter ran in the March 31 *Chicago Tribune*.

**Gregg Stoner, MD** of Peoria is featured in the March issue of IPHCA (Illinois Primary Health Care Association) *Health Source* newsletter for his Primary Health Care Clinician Devotion Award for his 23 year commitment to providing quality care and reducing disparities. His work at Heartland Community Clinic and his work in Haiti the past six years lead to his selection for this honor.

**Brenda K. Fann, MD** of Aurora is featured in the Elmhurst College *Prospect* Spring 2011 newsletter article "Seeing Patients Whole" about the opportunities ahead for family medicine to rescue our chaotic health care system and her role as program director at Rush-Copley to produce those family physicians. Fann is a 1988 graduate of Elmhurst College.

**Michael F. Fleming, MD, MPH**, was named interim chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine. He replaces Russ G. Robertson, MD, who became vice president for medical affairs at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science and dean of its Chicago Medical School on March 1.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**Chicago Department of Public Health** is currently recruiting for the position of **Medical Director for our STI/HIV Division**.

Please review to the [position description here](#) and forward to anyone you think might be interested. The application must be [completed online](#) by April 5, 2011.