

MINNESOTA FAMILY PHYSICIAN

Newsletter of the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians

March/April 2006

The Minnesota Legislature is Back in Session

By Dave Renner, MAFP Legislative Representative

The Legislature returned to St. Paul on Wednesday March 1, 2006, to begin the second year of the 84th Legislative Session. They convened at noon, all calling for cooperation to get the work done and adjourn on time. Constitutionally they must adjourn no later than the third Monday in May (May 22), but many are hoping they can get done as early as the first week of May.

For the first time in many years, the state has a budget surplus. Instead of shortfalls of \$1 billion like we experienced in 2004 and 2005, the budget forecast shows a surplus of \$88 million in the General Fund. This will remove the pressures that we have faced in the past years to further cut the health care safety net programs. In addition to the General Fund surplus, the Health Care Access Fund, the fund where the 2% sick tax is deposited, is also running a surplus. It is projected to raise \$122 million more than is needed by the end of fiscal year 2007, and the surplus is projected to

grow to \$176 million by the end of fiscal year 2009.

The calls for cooperation and bipartisan work came to an end very quickly on day two of the session as both the Senate Democrats and the House Republicans announced completely different ways to use the HCAF surplus as part of their health care reform proposals. A bill by Sen. Linda Berglin (DFL-Minneapolis) would use the surplus by expanding coverage in the MinnesotaCare program back to the levels prior to 2003. Her bill also allows small employers that currently do not offer health insurance to buy into MinnesotaCare. And finally, in a separate bill that is also moving, she is proposing a Constitutional amendment that would guarantee the right of affordable health care for all Minnesota residents.



Legislature - Continued on page 8

Family Physicians Answer Hundreds of Medical Questions During KARE-TV Phone Bank

By Kristie Thorson, MAFP Communications Coordinator

"Strep throat can have several symptoms," said a family physician in the back row.

"Have you ever been tested for diabetes?" said the doctor sitting next to her.

"No, you should only have two testicles," said another physician in the front.

Those were just a few of the conversations taking place between KARE-11 viewers and family physicians during the annual MAFP/KARE-TV phone bank on January 28, 2006. A total of 20 family physicians volunteered to staff the phones. Nine family



Family physicians answer basic medical questions during phone bank on KARE-11.

doctors, including third-year residents from the University of Minnesota Methodist Residency Program, were at the KARE studios in Golden Valley by 6 a.m. to help with the Sunrise show. Another ten family physicians answered calls during the 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. newscasts.

Volunteers for the morning show answered 159 calls in one hour. Volunteers for the evening newscasts took 259 calls. That's an average of 26 calls per

Phone Bank - Continued on page 9

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Coming Up

The Calendar

April 12	Tar Wars Poster Contest Deadline
April 19	MAFP House of Delegates, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis
April 20-21	MAFP Spring Refresher, Hyatt Regency Hotel, Minneapolis
May 5-7	AAFP NCSC & ALF, Kansas City
June 24	MAFP Board of Directors Meeting

Continuing Education Courses

MAFP Spring Refresher 2006

Date(s): April 20-21, 2006

Sponsor: MAFP

Location: Hyatt Regency Hotel

Registrar: (952) 542-0130 or www.mafp.org

Approved for 13 Prescribed Credits

2006 Emergency/Acute Care Conference

Date(s): April 21, 2006

Sponsor: Mayo Foundation

Location: Mayo Clinic

Registrar: (507) 255-8895

Approved for 4.75 Prescribed Credits

Voices and Action in Concert - Improving the Health of MN Children (A One Day Quality Forum)

Date(s): April 22, 2006

Sponsor: MN Academy of Pediatrics

Location: Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, Plymouth

Registrar: www.mnaap.org

Approved for 6.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits

6th Psychiatry Update: Selected Topics

Date(s): April 28, 2006

Sponsor: HealthPartners

Location: Holiday Inn

Registrar: (952) 883-6224

Approved for 6.75 Prescribed Credits & .75 Elective Credits

Trauma Outreach Education

Date(s): May 4, 2006

Sponsor: St. Mary's/Duluth Clinic

Location: Cloquet Memorial Hospital

Registrar: (218) 786-3838

Approved for 3.75 Prescribed Credits

American Holistic Medical Association (AHMA) 2006 Conference

Date(s): June 7-11, 2006

Sponsor: AHMA

Location: Radisson Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul

Registrar: (505) 292-7788

Register on-line: www.holisticmedicine.org

Application for CME credit has been filed with the AAFP. Determination of credit is pending.

For more CME opportunities, please visit our website at www.mafp.org/cmeupcoming.asp.

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Editorial copy and practice opportunity ads to be considered for the May/June issue are due in the MAFP office by 4/28/2006.

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Family Medicine in the 21st Century: How Do We Get There From Here?

The Minnesota Medical Association first published its recommendation for health care reform, entitled *Physicians' Plan for a Healthy Minnesota*, in January of 2005. To move this process forward, the Minnesota Medical Association has helped develop a coalition called *Healthy Minnesota: A Partnership for Reform*. This group is composed of hospitals, delivery systems, health plans, employers, members of the state government's executive and legislative branches, consumers, labor representatives, and representatives of higher education. The Steering Committee for this project, whose first meeting was held March 8, 2006, includes our own Patricia Lindholm, M.D., from Fergus Falls, as one of only three physician members. The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians will continue to influence this process in a manner so that all of the players can be winners, while helping to create a much more affordable and more effective health care system that provides more value for the health care dollar spent.

In preparation for this process, your Board of Directors has spent the year, first in helping to assure that the concept of a Medical Home became a significant part of the MMA's reform proposal, and then by developing a position paper on the concept of a Medical Home. In that paper, we describe why a Medical Home must be an important part of any health care reform proposal, develop a set of principles to which we believe the structure of any effective Medical Home must adhere, and review some of the research supporting the benefits of a Medical Home.

I believe that data has been accumulating over the last 20 years which demonstrate the benefits of patient-centered care provided through a long-term relationship with a personal physician. It seems that there are at least three key factors to getting more value for the health care dollar. First, we must assure that everyone gets essential care. A Medical Home accomplishes this by assuring that all barriers to access to that care are removed. Second, we must assure that patients are at the center of all choices about their own care. This is accomplished by creating a patient-centered system. Finally, we must assure that patient's choices are consistent with their own values and preferences. This can be accomplished when every patient has a personal physician, as supported by the research of Dr. John Wennberg in his Dartmouth Project.

As a result, the Medical Home's function is to provide patient-centered care, to eliminate barriers to essential care, and to maintain a relationship for the patient with a personal physician. But you and I also know that the Medical Home must be financially viable and must be attractive to the future generation of family physicians. Here I will list just some of the structures that are being explored across our state and the country to try to accomplish just that:

- 1) **Advanced access scheduling and expanded hours of care** can eliminate barriers to care access. But to be effective, research has shown that it must not get in the way of the personal physician/patient relationship.
- 2) Practices are moving from a model where "Marcus Welby" does everything to where "Marcus Welby" leads the **teams** that do everything.

President's

Message

By George Schoephoerster, M.D.



- 3) **Patient councils** are being created so that patients are truly involved with establishing the patient-centered focus of the practice.
- 4) **Electronic health records**, when adapted to the full breadth of a primary care physician's practice, are becoming the "central nervous system" of the practices.
- 5) These EHRs are being utilized to more effectively establish disease **registries**.
- 6) Practices then are afforded the opportunity to more effectively implement the **chronic disease care model**.
- 7) This includes practices incorporating **group visits** so that patients with similar diseases learn from each other.
- 8) **Patients** are beginning to utilize the EHR to **enter their own histories** using history-taking software, which the family physician fine-tunes as part of the office encounter.
- 9) The electronic health record is creating opportunities for more efficient use of patient, staff, and provider time by utilizing **e-visits** and **web care** or making **on-line appointments**.
- 10) **Office flow** is being **redesigned** for the efficient use of patient, staff, and provider time.
- 11) As a family physician's time is more effectively utilized, the Medical Home is better able to provide care through **house calls, nursing home visits, and the coordination of hospital care** in a manner that better fits into the entire stream of a patient's life.
- 12) **Patients are being afforded access to their own medical data and other health care information** through practice web portals.
- 13) Electronic health records provide better opportunities to implement and measure the success of **implementing clinical practice guidelines**.
- 14) These then lead to better opportunities for providing **population-based care**.
- 15) Creative means are being developed to **maintain personal physician/patient relationships** in a manner that enhances patient care while maintaining a rested, enthusiastic, and well-rounded family physician.

President's Message - Continued on page 5

What's New

► Family Physician of the Year Finalists

Congratulations to Minnesota's Family Physician of the Year Award finalists. The six candidates were selected from a total of 25 nominees. The 2006 finalists are:

Brian Bunkers, M.D., Owatonna Clinic-MHS, Owatonna

Craig Gilbertson, M.D., P.S. Rudie and Associates, Duluth

Brian Livermore, M.D., Northern Medical Clinic, Bemidji

Richard Mulder, M.D., Ivanhoe Clinic, Ivanhoe

Michael Rath, M.D., Mankato Clinic at Wickersham, Mankato

Neil Skogerboe, M.D., MeritCare, Bemidji

The 2006 Family Physician of the Year will be selected by the Board of Directors and honored at the MAFP President's Dinner on April 20, 2006.

► Minnesota Rural Health Conference



The 2006 Minnesota Rural Health Conference will take place July 17-18th, in Duluth. The two-day event gives participants a chance to learn how Minnesota's rural communities are using innovation to maintain and improve the quality and

availability of health care. For more information, visit the conference website at www.health.state.mn.us/divs/chs/orhconf06.html. The MAFP is a co-sponsor of this event.

► MAFP Members in Print

Original research entitled "Diabetes: How Are We Diagnosing and Initially Managing It" appeared in the January/February 2006 issue of the *Annals of Family Medicine*. Authors included MAFP members **Patrick O'Connor, M.D., M.P.H.**, and **Michael Stiffman, M.D., M.S.P.H.** Another research project entitled "Effect of Improved Primary Care Access on Quality of Depression Care" appeared in the same issue. Authors included **Leif Solberg, M.D.**, **Mary Hroschkoski, M.D.**, and **Patrick O'Connor, M.D., M.P.H.** Full text of these projects are available online at www.annfammed.org/. An article entitled "Retooling Family Medicine" appeared in the January 2006 issue of *Minnesota Medicine*. Several MAFP members were interviewed for this article. They included **Macaran Baird, M.D.**, **Dawn Blomgren, M.D.**, **Marianne Clinton-McCausland, M.D.**, **William Davis, M.D.**, **Thomas Day, M.D.**, **Robert Flinchbaugh, D.O.**, **Richard Gebhart, M.D.**, **George Schoepfoerster, M.D.**, **Michelle Tomes, M.D.**, **Rob Wagner, M.D.**, and **Ruth Westra, D.O., M.P.H.**

► Awards, Appointments & Announcements

Michelle Van Vranken, M.D., Minneapolis, was named a 2006 Community Caregiver by *Minnesota Healthcare News* in its February issue. **Richard Puumala, M.D.**, Cloquet, was given the Elizabeth C. Bagley Merit Award for his commitment to the medical profession. Retired family physician, Roger MacDonald, M.D., Grand Marais, received the Thomas A. Stolee Exceptional Dedication to the Practice of Medicine Award. **Byron Backus, M.D.**, and **Lloyd Backus, M.D.**, retired family physicians from Cloquet, received the John B. Sanford Community Service Award. **Dave Detert, M.D.**, a family physician in Litchfield, plans to run for the Minnesota House of Representatives in District 18B. **Richard Mulder, M.D.**, Ivanhoe, was appointed to the Minnesota Rural Health Cooperative Board of Directors.

► Poster Contest

If you are working with a school to get Tar Wars posters entered in the State Tar Wars Poster Contest, please remember that the deadline for submitting posters is April 12, 2006.

Membership Report

January 1, 2006 - February 28, 2006

New Active Members

Stephanie Anderson, M.D., Eden Prairie
Rosie Augustin-Wheeler, M.D., Bemidji
Wendy Bergeron, M.D., Shakopee
Michael Butner, M.D., Virginia
Joseph Caron, M.D., Minneapolis
Eric Enberg, M.D., Isle
Ishani Jhanjee, M.D., Edina
Mina Lee, M.D., Woodbury
Juliet LilgaRoth, M.D., Pequot Lakes
Nida Nora Miniano, M.D., Appleton
David Parsons, D.O., Saint Cloud
Adam Sorscher, M.D., Maple Grove
Alyssa Stitt, M.D., Mankato

New Active Members (Cont.)

Ruth Tiffault, D.O., Wabasha
Fabio Vasquez, M.D., Minnetonka
William Weisshaar, M.D., Eden Prairie
Vernon Wheeler, M.D., Bemidji

New Resident Members

Hennepin County Medical Center
Jeri Wiedmeyer, M.D.

New Student Members

University of Minnesota
Colleen Kniffin
Paul Schaefer



In Memoriam

Sidney Esensten, M.D., Edina
Member since 1956

MAFP Membership

(As of 2/28/06)

Active = 2,050
Resident = 276
Student = 537
Life = 237
Inactive = 39
Supporting = 2

Total = 3,141

Komoto to Run for AAFP President-Elect Position

By Virginia Barzan, C.A.E., MAFP Executive Vice President



The MAFP is proud to announce the nomination of Timothy S. Komoto, M.D., for President-Elect of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Elections will occur during the Congress of Delegates meeting that will be held from September 26 to 28 in Washington, D.C. He will be

among three candidates vying for the top national leadership position in the specialty.

Doctor Komoto currently serves on the AAFP Board of Directors. He was MAFP President from 1997-98, and has chaired numerous committees, including the CME Committee and the Board of Directors. He has been in private practice in Minneapolis and the south suburban area for over 23 years, the

first eight with James Struve, M.D., and now with the Bloomington Lake Clinic. "Transcending Tradition" will be the theme for the Komoto campaign. Doctor Komoto will emphasize the importance of moving forward without losing the traditional values of family medicine.



Timothy S. Komoto, M.D.

Financial contributions to the campaign are welcome. Please send checks to the MAFP office.

Leadership Development Committee Announces Nominations

The Leadership Development Committee will present the following slate of candidates to the House of Delegates on April 19, 2006:

President-Elect, **Lynne Lillie, M.D.**

Vice President, **Leslie Ahlers, M.D.**

Speaker of the House, **Gerald Jensen, M.D.**

Vice Speaker, **Terence Cahill, M.D.**

AAFP Delegate, **David Thorson, M.D.**

AAFP Alternate Delegate, **Carol Featherstone, M.D.**

2006 MAFP House of Delegates

Lynne Lillie, M.D., Speaker of the House of Delegates, is pleased to announce that **Mary Frank, M.D.**, current Chair of the AAFP Board of Directors and Past President, will be addressing our members at 9:00 a.m. on April 19 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Minneapolis. Dr. Frank will focus on the many socioeconomic trends in family medicine. The Reference Committee of the Whole will hear testimony on ten resolutions on such topics as current billing practices for outside laboratory orders, establishing a directory of resources for struggling private practices, procedural privileging, assisting family physicians in transitioning their practices into medical homes, and standardization of care for patients with multiple chronic diseases. **Kathleen Brooks, M.D.**, will lead the House in adaptive leadership theory and skills during the afternoon. Participants will receive 1.5 prescribed CME credits for the day. If you are interested in attending, please contact the MAFP office.

Continued from page 3 - President's Message

- 16) Electronic health record data is beginning to provide a means to provide **better public health**.
- 17) **Practice-based research** that is relevant to the practice of primary care is beginning to be accomplished in primary care networks sharing data electronically.
- 18) **Continuous quality improvement processes** are being incorporated to make it ever more likely that every person will have the right access to essential care at the right time without needless pain or suffering (safety) in a manner that avoids the wasting of time and resources of everyone involved.
- 19) It is my belief that some day, every office must provide a **standardized basket of services**, which will include the provision of, or the seamless referral for, all essential services.
- 20) As part of this practice, **each family physician** will have a "core" set of **family medicine competencies**, plus some physicians in each practice will have extra skills that have been determined as "needed" for that practice/region, such as the ability to perform C-sections, evaluate sleep studies, or perform treadmill testing.

I would encourage you to begin to explore these changes in your practice. Watch for potential opportunities for their implementation. You will want your practice positioned to ride this wave of practice transformation into the 21st century. I believe that better care for our patients depends on the success of each and every one of us in this practice transformation. You don't need to go it alone. Let your Academy know how we can help you make this a safe and productive journey.


MAFP President

The Caregiving-Health Care Connection



Family caregivers are important members of the health care team. Studies show that caregivers provide the majority of long-term care services in this country. While caregivers for older family members often state that caregiving is rewarding, it also imparts physical and emotional burdens. The cumulative effect of caregiver burnout can include chronic stress, self-neglect, family conflicts, and increased morbidity and mortality. As a result, the care recipient can suffer decline in physical and emotional health, neglect or abuse by the caregiver, or premature long-term care placement.

To address these issues, the Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging is participating in the national *"Making the Link: Connecting Caregivers with Services Through Physicians"* program. *Making the Link* helps physicians and their staff connect caregivers to services and resources that address the challenges of caregiving. The connection is easy – a toll-free call to the Senior LinkAge Line®.

Senior LinkAge Line® information and assistance specialists help caregivers identify needs and access respite services, caregiver education and training, caregiver coaching, adult day services,

CAREGIVING FACTS

16% of American adults, or 33.9 million adult caregivers, provide unpaid care to a recipient age 50 and older.

The typical caregiver is a 46-year-old working woman with some college education who spends 20 or more hours a week caring for her mother.

Although most family caregivers are women, more and more men are becoming caregivers.

Research indicates caregivers put their own health at risk to care for others. The mortality rate for older spousal caregivers is 63% higher than non-caregivers (*JAMA, Vol. 282, No. 23, December 1999*).

Internet resources, and supplemental services available in their local communities. These services are made possible by funding from the National Family Caregiver Support Program and Area Agencies on Aging to local community service providers.

Learn how you can participate in *Making the Link*

by contacting the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433. This program is endorsed by the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians.

Article provided by the Minnesota Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Annual Deans Dinner Gives Leaders Time to Discuss Education

By Arlene Lensing, MAFP Associate Director

How are medical schools teaching students to care for patients who have limited resources and complex problems? What curriculum prepares students to be change agents in our health care system? How is leadership being taught? These thought-provoking questions were posed to our Minnesota medical



Mac Baird, M.D., & Steve Adamson, M.D.

school deans and family medicine department leaders at the annual MAFP Dinner with the Deans on January 19, 2006.

This event enhances MAFP and academic leaders understanding of each other's

perspectives and of our common concerns on educating future family physicians. **Keith Lindor, M.D.**, Dean Mayo Medical School, and **Steve Adamson, M.D.**, Mayo Chair of the Family Medicine Department, emphasized that "change agents" must have a vision, a mentor, and good role models. **Kathleen Watson, M.D.**, Sr. Associate Dean for Education, University of Minnesota, and **Macaran Baird, M.D.**, Head of the UM Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, echoed the importance of role models. Students need both longitudinal relationships and the tools for personal and professional improvement. **Ruth Westra, D.O.**, Chair UM

DFMCH Duluth, described a program in Duluth that taps into the interest in community service that most medical students already have and helps them develop their leadership qualities.

Kathleen Macken, M.D., Chair, Academic Affairs Committee, facilitated a lively discussion on:

- How medical students are trained in isolation but practice in groups/teams.
- Does a resource rich training system create too much dependence on other people and available resources?
- What role do we play in making a bridge for patients to be partners in their care?



Kathleen Macken, M.D., & Kathleen Watson, M.D.

Joseph Connolly, M.D., family physician for over 50 years and member of the Academic Affairs Committee, summarized the evening by noting that "there has been exponential change in disease management and in the health care system and will continue to be exponential change." He commended the medical schools for doing an excellent job.



MINNESOTA ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS FOUNDATION NEWS



The mission of the MAFP Foundation is to support family physician health care delivery, research and education, and to promote the specialty of family medicine.



Building Our Foundation

By Louise Mattson, M.D.
MAFP Foundation President

The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians Foundation (MAFP/FDN) has a mission to support family physician healthcare delivery, research and education, and to promote the specialty of family medicine.

A significant portion of the MAFP/FDN's resources goes toward supporting the exciting efforts of the *MAFP Research Network*. Also, *scholarships* for family medicine residents to participate in a national leadership conference, as well in the *David J. Mersy, M.D. Medical Student Externship Program*, encourage interest in specializing in family medicine. The Foundation supports *multilingual patient education and patient care issues*. We collaborate with state and local health care related organizations *promoting awareness about Medicare Part D and Prescription Drug Patient Assistance* resources. A grant from General Mills Foundation enabled us to initiate a *healthy nutrition and lifestyle program* for at-risk youth at the YWCA St. Paul in collaboration with the United Family Medicine Residency Program and the Midwest Dairy Council. The Foundation is also assisting in the implementation of a potential new patient education program called "*Living Again*" which is a series of *chronic disease workshops* for people living with chronic, long-term disease. **Dawn Blomgren, M.D.**, 2005 MAFP Family Physician of the Year, is championing this project. Our *MAFP Foundation Endowment*, vital to our future growth and security, continues to grow.

However, there is so much more we can do. Your tax-deductible donations are very much needed. Each contribution will allow the MAFP/FDN to have greater resources to do more and help us carry out our mission. **A contribution remittance envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Online donations are also accepted at www.mafp.org/foundation.asp.**

Please visit our Foundation booth #22 at the Spring Refresher and learn more about our programs. Thank you for helping us build our MAFP Foundation.

No Nonprofit Works Alone

The MAFP Foundation is one of several Minnesota health care related organizations participating in the Interpreting Stakeholders Group (ISG). It was formed in 2004 to improve the delivery of spoken language interpreter services. There are over 150 languages spoken in Minnesota, and the MAFP Foundation has made it a priority to address multilingual issues of patient education and interpreting. Our Foundation has limited resources in funds and staff, but we can have an impact when we collaborate with our health care colleagues.

Recently, the MAFP Foundation and the other participants in the ISG were asked to send a letter of support for the ISG's application for a Bush Foundation grant submission of \$175,000 over the next two years. If awarded, this grant would allow the Interpreting Stakeholders Group to:

- Provide medical and mental health interpreter training in greater MN
- Develop training materials needed for the languages lacking adequate training resources
- Train additional language-specific trainers to assist with interpreter training throughout the state
- Convene an expert panel for strategic planning for interpreter training and testing in MN

The Bush Foundation support is essential to be able to carry out the initiatives noted above that will enhance access to health care services to limited English proficient persons in Minnesota.

"Nonprofits are not simply stand-alone organizations with exclusive territories, participants and donors. Nonprofits exist in a network environment, develop natural networking relationships, use formal social networks and may formalize collaboration with other organizations. This... *is key to increasing awareness, support and clout.*" (MN Council of Nonprofits)

It's Hard to Quit Smoking

"It's hard to quit smoking." How often do you hear this from your patients? Many of you may already be providing QUITPLAN™ materials on stop smoking services offered by the Minnesota Partnership for Action Against Tobacco (MPAAT). MPAAT's job is to reduce the harm that tobacco causes the people of Minnesota. *Tobacco use kills more than 5,600 Minnesotans each year and is costing an estimated \$2 billion in health care costs. *It is estimated that 206,000 Minnesota children are exposed to secondhand smoke. (*MPAAT Perspective 2006) QUITPLAN services include free high quality counseling and resources. Some materials are available in Spanish. For more QUITPLAN information/materials, contact 952-767-1400 or visit www.mpaat.org. For "It's hard to quit smoking" brochures, contact Rhonda_Evans@bluecrossmn.com.

The Way to Go!

As you journey to MAFP meetings and events in 2006, please consider donating your travel reimbursement to the MAFP Foundation. Join your colleagues who have discovered the ease of contributing this way. On the MAFP Travel Reimbursement Form, simply check "*Please donate my travel reimbursement to the MAFP Foundation as a restricted gift.*"

The MAFP FDN donor list is confidential. We do not sell, share or loan it.

MAFP Winter Conference Focuses on Men's and Women's Health

By Lisa Regehr, MAFP Conference Coordinator

Cardiovascular disease in women, benign prostatic hyperplasia, alopecia, and contraception options were just a few of the issues uncovered at this year's Winter Conference on *Men's & Women's Health*.



Daniel Trajano, M.D., and his son, enjoy time together at the family dinner.

75 physicians, and physician assistants, attended the conference on February 3 & 4 at Arrowwood Resort in Alexandria.

Education sessions took place in the mornings, leaving afternoons to spend with family. A chance to venture into the great outdoors

competed with experiencing a taste of the tropics in the Big Splash Indoor Water Park. A family dinner was held on Friday night.

"The topics were all very relevant to everyday practice, and the speakers were excellent. The smaller audience size is very



Stacey Luetmer, M.D.

nice vs. the huge numbers in many other CME conferences," said one attendee.

On Friday afternoon, doctors preparing for Maintenance of Certification gathered for a workshop hosted by **Timothy Komoto, M.D.**

He explained why and how the certification process was changed, the role of the AAFP and hosted an internet tour of the ABFM website. **Stacey Luetmer, M.D.**, shared her experiences with the MC-FP and answered questions from attendees.

The Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians thanks these companies for their education grant support of the Winter Conference: **3M Pharmaceuticals, Abbott Laboratories, AstraZeneca, Bayer Diabetes Care, Center for Diagnostic Imaging, Eli Lilly, Medical Advanced Pain Specialists, Pfizer, UCare Minnesota, and Upsher-Smith Laboratories.**

Continued from page 1 - Legislature

In the House, Rep. Fran Bradley (R-Rochester), Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka), and Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan) announced their health care proposals that would allow for-profit HMOs in Minnesota, provide incentives for Health Savings Accounts (HSAs), and use the HCAF surplus to eliminate the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA) assessment that health plans and insurers pay. Their proposal would also prohibit providers from giving discounts to health plans and insurers. This would make it easier for consumers to shop for health care by making it very clear what the price for a service is.

Whether any of these proposals pass this year in a short session is unclear. What it shows, however, is how important health care issues remain to both political parties. Health care reform will be a major agenda item for the 2007 session.

At the start of session, Governor Tim Pawlenty announced a \$109 million initiative to improve mental health services for children and adults. According to his release, the proposal is intended "to transform the way the state provides mental health services." The reforms are based on recommendations of the Minnesota Mental Health Action Group, a public-private effort that has been meeting for the last two years.

Of the total funding, \$59 million is redirected to investments designed to provide more integrated mental health services, and \$50 million is new funding from the Health Care Access Fund to improve access, quality, and accountability. The Governor very clearly sees addressing the human and economic costs related to mental illness as a key part to his health reform efforts.

Other non-budget issues that the MAFP expects this session include:

- A push to pass the Freedom to Breathe Act. This would enact a statewide, comprehensive ban on smoking in all restaurants and bars. Secondhand smoke continues to be a preventable cause of death and disease that we can do something about.
- Support for making failure to use seat belts a primary offense, and updating our vehicle child restraint laws to require the use of booster seats for kids under age 9. Both of these acts will greatly reduce the number of traffic injuries caused by failure to correctly use seat belts.
- Opposition to efforts by the physical therapists to remove physician involvement in their treatments. Current law allows a patient to go directly to a physical therapist for no more than 30 days without a referral from a physician. The legislation would allow complete, unlimited direct access.
- Opposition to legislation that would prohibit the use of any vaccine that contains any amounts of thimerosal. This would severely limit the supply of flu shots and increase the cost of vaccinations for patients.

Even though this is expected to be a short legislative session, there are still plenty of health care bills that the MAFP will be watching.



THE BULLETIN BOARD



ABFM Enhances MC-FP Program

The American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) announced enhancements to its Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians (MC-FP) Program. A new benefit now allows family physicians who regularly participate in MC-FP to extend the length of their certificate by three years, effectively creating a ten-year certificate. Also, the program offers a variety of new support features for physicians, including instruction booklets, customized online portfolios, a Help Desk to answer questions about new elements and experts available for one-on-one consultation. For more information, visit www.theabfm.org.

Heart to Heart International - Help Needed Staffing New Orleans Clinics

Heart to Heart International, a global humanitarian organization, is seeking primary care physicians to help staff clinics in the New Orleans area still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Limited commitments of several days through 1-2 weeks would be preferred. If you are interested, contact Janet Spear at 816-223-6991.

Register for the Spring Refresher

The MAFP Spring Refresher is just around the corner. Use your credit card to register online. Simply go to www.mafp.org and follow the link to our secure registration service. Or call the MAFP office at 1-800-999-8198 to request a registration brochure. This annual update for specialists in family medicine promises to be an exciting and enriching two days! The website also includes an updated schedule and list of speakers.



Free Tobacco-Cessation from AAFP

As part of AAFP's year-long "Ask and Act" campaign, MAFP members can access free resources to help their patients kick the habit. The materials are posted online for easy download at www.askandact.org. Resources include quitline cards, a Power Point presentation, patient education materials, office resources, CME and information on reimbursement for tobacco cessation counseling.

Continued from page 1 - Phone Bank

person. Topics ranged from diabetes and heart disease, to questions about impetigo hypothyroidism, psoriasis, arthritis and asthma.



Jeremy Springer, M.D., does a live interview during KARE-11 Sunrise.

During the Sunrise show, television anchors Kim Insley and Tim McNiff interviewed Jeremy Springer, M.D., a family physician with Park Nicollet-Creekside and Program Director with the U of M Methodist Residency Program. Dr. Springer discussed the differences between a cold and the flu and also talked about how a family physician treats people of all ages.

Traditionally, MAFP phone banks have been held in October during Family Health Month. However, after moving the phone bank to January in 2005 because of KARE's election coverage, staff at both the MAFP and KARE have discovered it is easier to coordinate schedules and find volunteers at this time of year.



Amy Bonifas, M.D., takes notes during the phone bank.

A Big Thank You to All Family Physicians Who Volunteered for the Phone Bank This Year!

John Berge, Amy Bonifas, David Bucher, Lisa Dever Livingston, Jay Dirks, Richard Gebhart, Christie Gove Berg, LeAnn Hutchison, Gerald Jensen, David Johnson, Todd Leonard, Jennifer Mahling-Stadum, Vui Mai, Anne Moore, Sue Park, Britta Reiersen, Rolf Simonson, Jeremy Springer, Ingrid Yelkin, Yanislav Wolfson



Family physicians, Jay Dirks, M.D., and John Berge, M.D., hanging out in the KARE-11 backyard!

View more phone bank photos online at www.mafp.org



Family Medicine with OB opportunity: Fairmont Medical Center, a Mayo Clinic-affiliated, 40-physician, multi-specialty group in Fairmont, MN, is expanding services for patients and seeks Family Medicine physician willing to do OB. OB Call 1:7; general FP call: 1:13. Fairmont, population 12,000, is a safe, friendly, small-town with first-rate schools, recreation and cultural activities. We offer attractive and comprehensive personal security and fringe benefits program, including two-year salary guarantee with liability insurance fully paid. Contact: John Shonyo: shonyo.john@mayo.edu; Mayo Health System Administration, 200 1st St. SW, Rochester, MN 55905; 1-888-577-5660; Fax: 507-266-3153. www.mayohealthsystem.org

Columbia Park Medical Group Urgent Care Opportunities – Full-time and Moonlighting. Columbia Park Medical Group is expanding our Urgent Care Department and recruiting physicians for both full-time and moonlighting opportunities. Set within our multi-specialty practice, our urgent care department offers a broad range of acute care needs, including pediatrics, geriatric, orthopedics, and minor trauma. Dedicated and experienced nursing and administrative staff, on-site lab and radiology services support our urgent care physicians. Attractive compensation and benefits package with shareholder opportunities. Contact: Judy Brown, Physician Services, Columbia Park Medical Group, 6401 University Avenue NE, Suite #200, Fridley, MN 55432. Telephone: (763) 586-5876. E-mail: judybrown@cpmg.org. Website: www.cpmg.org

Columbia Park Medical Group is presently recruiting for a BC/BE family physician for a new clinic location in Blaine anticipated to open in early January 2006. We are an *independent, physician-owned and led* group practice with over 90 physicians in 21 specialties servicing the northern suburban communities of the Twin Cities. Our family practitioners share an excellent call schedule. Attractive compensation and benefits package with shareholder opportunities. Contact: Judy Brown, Physician Services, Columbia Park Medical Group, 6401 University Avenue NE, Suite #200, Fridley, MN 55432. Telephone: (763) 586-5876. E-mail: judybrown@cpmg.org. Website: www.columbiaparkmedical.com

Mercy Medical Center - Iowa: Enthusiastic Family Physicians needed for thriving rural communities in north central Iowa. Affiliate with ten rural hospitals and 44 clinics in network. Obstetrics required in Cresco, Emmetsburg, Iowa Falls and New Hampton. No obstetrics in Ackley and Britt. First year salary guarantee, second year production. Comprehensive benefit package. Contact: Mr. Kim Price, Mercy Medical Center - North Iowa, 1000 4th Street SW, Mason City, Iowa, 50401, 888-877-5551, fax 641-422-6388, pricek@mercyhealth.com.

HealthPartners Medical Group, Mpls./St. Paul - Urgent Care: We have part-time or benefited Urgent Care positions available at a variety of our Twin Cities' metro area HealthPartners and RiverWay Clinics. We're seeking BC/BE full-range family medicine, trauma-skilled internal medicine, and internal medicine-pediatrics (Med-Peds) physicians. Qualified candidates must have scheduling flexibility and a willingness to travel to different clinic locations. We provide paid malpractice coverage and an excellent salary. Website: www.healthpartners.com To apply for our Urgent Care positions, please e-mail your CV and cover letter to Diane Collins at diane.m.collins@healthpartners.com or FAX to (952) 883-5395. For more details, call Diane at (952) 883-5453 or (800) 472-4695. EO Employer.

Exceptional opportunity for individuals who want to practice excellent medicine. Independent clinic in north metro suburb seeking two family physicians. Please call Fred Everett, M.D., at 612-782-0900 to discuss the positions.

Luther Midelfort – Mayo Health System in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, seeks a BC/BE Family Practice physician - Women's Health. OB is optional, no inpatient duties, 4-½ day work week. Share call with other family practitioners for phone call of 1:18. A busy practice may be expected quickly. Luther Midelfort is a 150-bed Level II Trauma Center. Complete benefits package includes comprehensive retirement plan, health & dental, malpractice, six weeks of vacation/CME and moving allowance. Located 90 minutes east of Twin Cities in safe University town. Contact Christine Rodman, 800-573-2580; e-mail rodman.christine@mayo.edu.

Family Practice Opportunities in the Midwest: Multiple positions available for BC/BE Family Practice physicians in scenic Winona, Minnesota. Opportunity to join either a single- or multi-specialty clinic. Both offer competitive compensation and the opportunity to pursue individual medical interests while balancing professional and personal life. Both clinics are established, growing facilities that utilize a community-wide Electronic Medical Record and state-of-the-art equipment. Bordered by bluffs and the Mississippi River, Winona boasts good schools, two universities, international businesses and bountiful recreational and cultural opportunities. Please contact Cathy Fangman, cfangman@winonahealth.org, 800.944.3960 ext. 4301 or pager 507.453.3232 Winona Health 855 Mankato Ave, Winona, Minnesota 55987.

Chippewa County-Montevideo Hospital and Clinics, Montevideo, MN: We are a critical access hospital with a provider based clinic on our Montevideo campus and three satellite clinics in the surrounding communities of Clara City, Clarkfield and Milan. We have an opportunity for a full-time Family Practice Physician. Practice includes outpatient, inpatient, ER coverage and OB. CCMH & Clinics is a leading provider of primary care, surgical services and outreach specialty care in the beautiful Minnesota River Valley. We offer an excellent benefit package with guaranteed salary plus production incentives and paid liability insurance. Please contact Mark Paulson, Administrator, CCMH & Clinics, 824 North 11th Street, Montevideo, MN, 56265, 320-269-8877 or e-mail markp@montevideomedical.com.

Seeking Family Practice Physicians: The Duluth Clinic is a nationally recognized, 390+ physician multi-specialty group serving the regional population of 460,000 in northeastern Minnesota, northwestern Wisconsin and upper Michigan. Part of the SMDC Health System, the Duluth Clinic practice extends to 18 regional sites and 4 hospitals, and represents 42 specialties and sub-specialties. We are currently looking for Family Practice Physicians in Ashland, Hayward, Spooner and Superior, WI; Duluth, Hibbing, International Falls and Virginia, MN. If you share our passion for delivering the highest standard of care, and if you are searching for a place where your work and your life can peacefully coexist, we invite you to join us. Please contact Carri Prudhomme at 800-342-1388 X63908 via email at cprudhomme@smdc.org or fax your CV to 218-722-9952.

Luther Midelfort-Mayo Health System in Osseo, WI seeks a BC/BE Family Medicine physician. Join two physicians and two mid-level providers at an integrated hospital and clinic in Western Wisconsin. Call is 1:4. OB is not required. Certification in ACLS, ATLS, PALS and/or CALS preferred. In-house specialty care network available. Guaranteed salary plus production and benefits package. Metro area nearby. For more information contact Christine Rodman at 800-573-2580 or rodman.christine@mayo.edu.

Affiliated Community Medical Centers, Willmar, MN: Physician-owned multi specialty clinic is seeking a full-time physician to join the Family Practice Department in their Willmar, Granite Falls and Marshall affiliates. These positions offer a guaranteed salary plus production incentive and an outstanding benefit package. For further information please contact Kari Bredberg, Physician Recruitment Coordinator, Affiliated Community Medical Centers, 101 Willmar Avenue SW, Willmar, MN 56201, 320-231-6366 or e-mail karib@acmc.com.

Fairview Northland Medical Group is a primary care practice comprised of 4 clinics located in Elk River, Zimmerman, Princeton and Milaca, MN with close proximity to the metro area. All clinic sites are a short drive to the 54-bed hospital. Physicians perform in-clinic obstetrical ultrasounds and nonstress testing, as well as a full array of office procedures. Obstetrics is desired at most locations. High-risk and c-section coverage provided. This growing practice seeks family medicine physicians to join teams in each of their sites. Call: 1:22 weeknight, 1:10 weekend (one day/weekend). Please call 612-672-2288 or 800-842-6469 (TTY/ 612-672-7300), fax 612 672-2986, e-mail recruit1@fairview.org or visit our Web site, www.fairview.org EOE

Fairview Health Services has both single and multiple specialty clinics in urban, suburban and semi-rural locations throughout Minnesota. We currently have family medicine openings in Elk River, Zimmerman, Princeton, Milaca, North Branch, Zumbrota and Hibbing. All sites (except Hibbing) are within an hour drive of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Our partnership with the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center-one of the nation's premier research and teaching facilities-allow us to treat a broader range of patients than most health care systems, including the most acute cases. Please call 612-672-2288 or 800-842-6469 (TTY/ 612-672-7300), fax 612 672-2986, e-mail recruit1@fairview.org or visit our Web site, www.fairview.org EOE

MeritCare Health System is seeking BC/BE Family Medicine physicians to join staff in several of our 26 clinic locations. Clinic-based opportunities are available in Minnesota and North Dakota. You have your choice of urban or rural locations whether you're craving a shimmering lake or the rolling prairie. Each community offers its own unique setting and personality. These are excellent practice opportunities with comprehensive compensation and benefits packages being offered. MeritCare Health System, with main offices located in Fargo, North Dakota is a fully integrated 411-physician multi-specialty group practice and 583-bed tertiary/trauma hospital including the 56-bed Children's Hospital and 26 regional clinics in two states. AA/EOE. Drug free work place, Relocation assistance is provided. No J-1 opportunities available. Visit our website - www.meritcare.com or contact: MeritCare Health System, Physician Recruiting Office - 375, P O Box MC, Fargo, ND 58103-9983, email: Jill.Gilleshammer@meritcare.com, Phone 800-437-4010, ext 280-4851.

Scenic Rivers Health Services - Cook, MN: Four seasons recreation in northern St. Louis County: canoe/kayak, fish, hunt, hike, cross country ski, snowmobile. Scenic Rivers Health Services seeks BC/BE Family Practice Physician to join 1 FP and 1 IM. No OB. Practice includes outpatient, inpatient and ER call coverage. No buy in. Excellent benefits package. Salary is above the national average for Community Health Centers Practice. Current HPSA score indicates possible federal/state loan repayment opportunities for eligible physicians. Contact Elizabeth Storm, 218-666-5102; Scenic Rivers Health Services, 20 5th St SE, Cook MN 55723; estorm@cook.sisunet.org.

Fairview Mesaba Clinics, part of Fairview Range Regional Services is seeking a family medicine provider to join their Hibbing site. The clinic is housed within the 175 licensed-bed hospital and is 3 hours north of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. This is a 6-provider group. OB is optional. Call is 2-3 overnights/month. Fairview Range Regional Health Services combines the area's finest medical services to provide the most comprehensive health care system on the Iron Range and Northeast Minnesota. This locally integrated health care system is comprised of three entities: Fairview University Medical Center- Mesabi- main facility, located in Hibbing; Fairview Mesabi Clinics-community-based clinics throughout the region, with sites in Hibbing, Chisholm, Mountain Iron and Nashwauk; and Fairview HealthLine-which provides the community-based home health care and hospice services that support and complement both UMCM and Mesaba Clinics in the overall continuum of patient care. Please call 612-672-2288 or 800-842-6469 (TTY/ 612-672-7300), fax 612 672-2986, e-mail recruit1@fairview.org or visit our Web site, www.fairview.org EOE

Allina Medical Clinic Mora - Mora, MN Seeking a FP w/OB Physician: Stipend offered to residents while completing residency, full scope rural practice, call 1:8-9, 24-hour ER coverage, provided by hospital, routinely participate in medical student education and C-section training available. New clinic; recently renovated and financially sound hospital located 65 miles north of Minneapolis. We offer a competitive salary, comprehensive benefits package and malpractice insurance. For more information, please contact Becky Keller at Allina Physician Recruitment Services, 612-262-4578, E-mail: recruit@allina.com.



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