

MAOFP NEWS

SUMMER 2007

Publication from the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians, Inc. (MAOFP)

President's Message



Craig L. Magnatta, D.O.,
President

It has been a busy year for the MAOFP board, working on various committees at the state and national level. MAOFP was awarded the Membership Service Award at the national House of Delegates meeting in Kissimmee, Florida in March. The Michigan delegation was represented by members,

residents, and medical students. I would like to thank all of them for their participation. This brings me to my next and most important topic. **ACTIVISM.** The time has come when we, the family physician, can no longer sit back and let "OTHERS" deal with insurance companies, state and federal governments. We are receiving cuts in reimbursement from everyone. The MAOFP needs and asks that all of our members become **ACTIVE** in whatever way they can help. This may be at the local, state or national levels of government, educating the patients in our offices, and/or contributing whatever you can to our political action committees (OPAC OR MOPAC). The federal government is planning to make a 9.9% cut to the Medicare budget effective 2008. The state government has recommended a 6.25% cut effective June 1, 2007 to the Medicaid budget and that is just to help balance the 2007

state budget. More is yet to come in 2008 after they solve this year's crisis and have to try to replace the single business tax revenues that will expire. Don't become ambivalent about these upcoming cuts - **GET ACTIVE**, verbalize what you are feeling. Contact the insurance representatives and tell them what you think about the changes that are being made unilaterally without the input from the practicing physicians. You need to talk, call, email and fax the governor, state and national senators and representatives. Talk to your patients and educate them about what is happening to your practice and how it will affect them. The information you need is on the website for the MOA (www.mi-osteopathic.org) and the MAOFP (www.maofp.org). We must all stand up now and be heard. This will be very important to the survival of family practice in Michigan. We, the physicians and our patients, are constituents of these lawmakers and we must be advocates to let them know that these changes will have dire consequences to the health and welfare of the people of the state of Michigan. I am asking you as your president to help try to solve these problems. I will end on that note and hope to see you at our summer Stakeholders Membership meeting in July at Boyne Mountain.

Craig Magnatta, D.O.
President

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Membership Service Award

The Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP) was the recipient of the Member Service Award in the largest membership category by the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) on March 16, 2007. The award was given at the ACOFP's 44th Annual Convention in Kissimmee, Florida. The award was given to honor the communication, leadership, creativity, membership recruitment and retention, innovative programs for members and public service projects including educational promotions and annual meeting promotions with its members, prospective members, medical students and residents as well as the general public.



Pictured from left to right is Craig Magnatta, D.O., MAOFP President, accepting the ACOFP Member Service Award from Steven Rubin, D.O., FACOFP, dist, ACOFP President.

Membership Committee Report

The Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians continues to leap strides for its members. Throughout the newsletter you will see the many avenues we have pursued in recognition of the consistent struggles primary care battles in Michigan.

Thank you to those who attended our successful winter conference. The stakeholders meeting was the most attended one to date. For those who attended, they enjoyed an evening of camaraderie and an opportunity to express ideas and concerns the Association needs to begin to address. Our membership committee is reviewing that brainstorming session and will begin to implement those ideas into action. The committee hopes to report concrete plans at the next Stake holder's Meeting during the summer conference. It is the Association's hope to continue the winter meetings similar to the previous.

You have recently received your \$50 annual dues assessment. Please send in, as quickly as possible, your commitments. What does your membership provide at such an inexpensive cost? The monies provide a collective voice for osteopathic family medicine in Michigan. With an ever-changing economy and payer mixture, one voice is not always heard. In this edition you will read about the new collaborative coalition of primary care from both the allopathic and osteopathic organizations voicing concerns for primary care to those who can make a difference.

The American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) Greatness Fund is off to full swing since its inception by President John Strosnider, DO. The Fund was founded in the hopes to raise money for projects to bring the AOA's message to the public and the profession in avenues "outside the box." The Fund could potentially fund future osteopathic research projects, develop national advertising campaigns, and fund opportunities to enhance the profession. If you have received information regarding this fund, please give this donation your utmost consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew D. Adair, DO, FAAFP

Physicians Report Cards and Pay for Performance

Physicians are getting more and more “report cards” defining quality issues for the care of their diabetic patients, patients with asthma, or COPD. We are also hearing about quality measures for such items including: preventive health issues, pap smears, lipid profiles, physical exams, etc. I believe these report cards in the very near future will be linked to a new trend used by insurers called, “Pay for Performance”. I recently received a report card that shocked me. The patient is well known to me, I see him at least quarterly in my office. The report card indicated that there had been no “billing information” regarding this patient for lipid profile, HgbA1C, micro-albumin of the urine for the last year, and further indicated that this particular patient had a history of diabetes mellitus, chronic renal insufficiency, and cardiovascular disease. Being surprised by this information I did as I always do and requested my staff pull the chart and reviewed the facts. The facts were, however, that I had indeed evaluated this patient four different times during the year and each evaluation included: lipid profile, HgbA1C, and a chemistry profile. I had done one micro-albumin, which in retrospect was probably a non-essential evaluation of this patient who has known chronic renal insufficiency. In my experience micro-albumin is to determine early renal disease, not late renal disease; however micro albumin evaluation was one of the parameters of which the insurance company had indicated that I had not performed.

The above illustration is one of just many episodes that occur in my practice each year. As a family practitioner I participate with multiple insurance companies and receive multiple report cards. The overwhelming consistency of these report cards that I receive from insurance companies is that they are universally inaccurate. I made the decision to document the findings and forward the information back to the insurance company and to the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP), and the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA).

As busy primary care physicians the last thing that we want to do is spend more of our time dealing with administrative headaches; however, with “pay for performance” looming in the near future if we do not defend ourselves against the third party payers inefficient and inaccurate administration, this will begin to be a financial issues for physicians. Please be aware that the MAOFP and the MOA are very interested in documenting such instances and would encourage physicians not to ignore these report cards as simply inaccuracies. We would recommend that you do the following:

1. Whenever a report card is received evaluate it for accuracy. If accurate consider the suggestions and use your medical knowledge to make changes if appropriate.
2. If significant inaccuracies are present respond to the agency documenting the specific inaccuracies.
3. Forward a copy of your documentation to MAOFP, MOA, or both. (Please strike all patient identification information prior to forwarding copies of reports to bodies other than the insurer themselves to protect the privacy of your patients.)

Obviously to respond to the inaccuracies by insurance companies will take time and effort; however, if insurance companies are going to begin to pay us for our quality issues we must inform them of their quality issues as well.

Dr. E. J. Canfield is a Trustee for the MOA and can be reached at cfp@airadv.net or 989-883-9088 for questions or comments.

By E. J. Canfield, D.O.

Executive Director's Report

I attended the Carrier Advisory Committee Meeting on May 2, 2007. Following are the items discussed:

1. Selective Internal Radiation Therapy for Hepatic Cancer – FYI, not for FP.
2. Erythropoiesis Stimulation Proteins (EPO and OPA)
 - A. The single most costly drug item for CMS
 - B. Very highly utilized for dialysis patients especially in large dialysis clinics
3. Clarification on use of NPI in Provider Outreach Updates CMS if needed
4. Physician Quality Reporting Initiative – how to report quality measures for specific diagnosis and treatment in order to be eligible for the 1.5% bonus.

For the past several years we have been requesting positions on the ACOFP Committees and have indeed submitted several names with no significant response. Your Board of Directors has suggested that we print the names of all the committees and allow each member to choose the one on which they wish to serve. So here is the list. Please call, write, email or send by carrier pigeon your name plus the committee(s) on which you would serve.

In October we will develop a family practice message for businesses and unions - How family medicine can help the members:

- A. Access
- B. Local and regional knowledge
- C. Provide a medical home
- D. Which diagnosis do we treat better and faster
- E. Prevention and treatment of chronic diseases

The board recognizes the peculiar problems of the employed physician and is planning to address them. The definition of an employed physician is those employed by a hospital, government, Insurance entity or those in groups of 10 or more.

The MOA, MAOFP, MAFP and several other organizations interested in the advancement of primary care have joined forces this year to create the Primary Care Coalition. Given the economic threat to primary care and an anticipated national shortage of primary care physicians the coalition will work to educate policy makers of the crucial role assumed by primary care physicians in the health care delivery system and the barriers that are eroding the supply of primary care physicians, create a focal point for primary care physicians to speak with a unified voice, educate the public on the value of primary care physicians and provide education opportunities for primary care physicians to learn how to deliver care in new, more efficient paradigms of care. As a member of the coalition, I will keep you abreast of the activities the coalition is undertaking.

BCBS feels that primary care is taking shape around the complimentary frameworks of the chronic care model and the advanced medical home. Is this enough for you? I think we are more than that. We have training in many more aspects of medicine including procedures and the ability to expand our horizons with advanced training and the development of new technology. Please let us know.

Now that I have finished my ranting let me say a few nice things about WalMart. Their prescription policy (\$4 per month per generic Rx) is useful and helpful. It was particularly useful to me when I volunteered as a

physician in New Orleans. It probably saved lives.

There was a problem with OMT 25 modifier with E/M with BC Medicare Advantage programs but it is on its way to being resolved.

BCBS stated in its publication of maximal allowable costs for generic medications: In 2007 10 brand name medications with revenues exceeding \$8.1 billion are expected to become available as generics including the widely prescribed sleep medication. I guess that's why Abe Lincoln is starting to sell a new one. Thanks for listening.

Fraternally,

Samson Inwald, D.O., FACOFP, *dist.*
Executive Director

Become an ACOFP Committee Member

The American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) is preparing for the appointment of new committee members. If you are interested in being a member of a committee, please forward your curriculum vitae to Rhonda Ballard as stated below. The nominations are due by September 1, 2007 and the appointments will be confirmed at ACOFP's annual convention in March 2008.

The following is a list of ACOFP Committees:

- Committee on Evaluation & Education
- Preceptor Committee
- Osteopathic Principles & Practice
- Medical Info-Matics Committee
- BASIC Task Force on Electronic Health Records
- Practice Management Committee
- Residents Committee
- Osteopathic Clinical Research Committee
- Committee on Procedural Medicine
- Committee on Awards
- Executive Council of Conclave of Fellows
- Committee on Constitution & Bylaws
- Committee on Ethics
- Legislative Committee
- Delphi Committee on Long-Range Planning
- Committee on Membership
- Committee on Special Practice Interests
- Congress Credentialing
- Nominating Committee
- Policy and Organizational Review Committee
- Affiliate Relations Committee
- ACOFP National Student Executive Board
- Archival & Historical Committee
- Committee on Federal Legislation
- Advisory Committee on Federal Legislation
- Committee on Preventive Medicine and Medical Preparedness
- Convention & Site Committee
- Program Committee
- Industry Liaison Committee
- Marketing/Public Relations Committee
- Editorial Committee
- Grants Committee

If you are interested in becoming a member of an ACOFP Committee please contact Rhonda Ballard by September 1, 2007 at (800) 657-1556 or via email at rballard@mi-osteopathic.org for further information.

Osteopathy in the Spotlight

Being an osteopathic physician is “being an advocate, a teacher and a leader not just a physician”. This is the view of William Morrone, D.O. of Bay City, Michigan. “It is my job to educate not only the patients I see but also the general public.” He admits to never being quiet, shy or bored.

Dr. Morrone has most recently been in the 2006-2007 spotlight with numerous television appearances on CNN, MSN-BC, and Fox News. He is bringing the “D.O.” into mainstream media and a whole new audience to osteopathic medicine and principles. He has brought issues to light like child care, alcohol abuse, gun safety, suicide, opioid dependence, methamphetamine addiction and polypharmacy.



Starting with his experience from a 1991 Masters of Science in Toxicology and Pharmacology from the University of Missouri at Kansas City and combined with his current position as Deputy Medical Examiner as well as his background in pharmaceutical sciences in which he holds several drug patents he offers simple no nonsense opinions in major news outlets. He is a 2000 graduate of MSUCOM and says that his time there was balanced between “social awareness” promoted by prominent professors and accruing traditional osteopathic medical knowledge and theory.

Dr. Morrone currently practices family medicine in an underserved inner-city setting and is proud to say that his patients come first. He has never cancelled an office day for a media appearance. No golfing on the fairway or gambling at the casino for Dr. Morrone, he prefers to consider this media “parle” his hobby. “Knowing results is not enough, being able to articulate what they mean, that is significant”...for his patients and the general public.

Hepatitis C: From Silence to Solutions/Tuesday, December 4, 2007 at the Inn at St. John’s in Plymouth, Michigan

The conference is being co-sponsored by the American Liver Foundation – Michigan Chapter and the Michigan Department of Community Health. The conference will focus on Hepatitis C as a critical health issue facing Michigan and the nation. It is designed to increase awareness and to provide participants with the knowledge and skills needed to prevent new cases of disease and to ensure the best possible health outcomes for those already infected.

For more information about the conference or to be put on the conference mailing list, contact Lori Stegmier, Viral Hepatitis Planning Coordinator, Michigan Department of Community Health at stegmierl@michigan.gov or 517-335-9435 or Jennifer Dale, Executive Director, American Liver Foundation – Michigan Chapter at Michigan@liverfoundation.org or 248-615-5768.

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Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Our long term investments are the stabilizing backbone of our financial structure and are performing better than the S&P 500 Index.

There will be a detailed report provided at our bi-annual Stakeholders Membership Luncheon taking place in conjunction with our summer conference at the Boyne Mountain Resort in Boyne Falls, Michigan on Friday, July 27th at noon. I hope you can attend.

Sincerely,

Mary Goldman, D.O.
Secretary/Treasurer

Primary Care Initiative for a Healthier Michigan

The Primary Care Initiative for a Healthier Michigan met with the Michigan Academy of Family Practice (MAFP) and the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP) on June 13th. This initiative is a funded ongoing methodology for transforming practice activities to produce efficient, effective and economically beneficial practice activities.

It has been supported by the payors, intermediaries and the physician groups. It is to redesign our practices to include more chronic and preventative care to produce positive effects on the health of Michigan residents. This in turn will be a cost saving process for businesses, the state and the insurance companies.

At our summer conference in July we will be asked what we need and what we think. The purpose is to develop a survey to be used statewide. I will address the assembly with the details. During the weekend I will set down with you individually to help discover what is needed.

If this sounds like EMR and quality (Hiedis) activity – it is. But, actually we need something and we may as well have an input before it is mandated to us. Let us have an input into our transformation.

Please look for me at the conference.

Fraternally,

Samson Inwald, D.O., FACOFP, *dist.*
Executive Director

Local News

Macomb County is currently under consideration for the future placement of Michigan State University's College of Osteopathic Medicine. For those following, this is a heated topic politically and among the osteopathic education. Where would be the best place to create a safe, encouraging environment for future osteopathic physicians?

The Macomb County Osteopathic Medical Association (MCOMA), comprised of many family physicians, has lobbied diligently to have the satellite. Anthony Ognjan, DO has spear-headed and bent many law-makers ears indicating Macomb County would be most beneficial for future osteopathic physicians. Steep osteopathic tradition, with three osteopathic institutions, safe communities, and Macomb Community College's support would make the option viable.

By working on this active Board under the direction of Carl Pesta, Jr., DO and the other members, one begins to see the importance of activism and simply writing/speaking to local state representatives. One voice can make a difference, but a collective encouragement can create movements of proportion. Whether the decision benefits Macomb County or not, the idea that words can shape thought processes encourages this writer to move forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew D. Adair, DO, FAAFP

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Retail Clinic Participation?

The Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP) has assembled a statewide group (network) of physicians who are willing to supervise retail clinics to help assume quality and availability.

If you would like to be included on this list, please complete the form on our website at:

www.maofp.org
or call Rhonda Ballard at
(800) 657-1556
if you have questions.



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2007 Summer Family Medicine Update

Thursday, July 26, 2007 • (5 credits)

- 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Registration & Sign-In - Civic Center (West Lobby)**
Lectures - Civic Center (Matterhorn A&B)
Exhibits Open - Civic Center (Matterhorn C&D)
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. **Pharmacological Update/Break**
Visit Exhibits in Civic Center (Matterhorn C&D)
- 2:45 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Opening Remarks; Jeffrey Stevens, D.O., Education Chair
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Pediatric Gastroenterology; Kenneth Stringer, D.O.
Supported by TAP Pharmaceuticals
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Adolescent Medicine-Zits, Strains and Sprains; Kenneth Stringer, D.O.
Supported by Galderma
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Update in Dermatology; John Kemerer, D.O.
Supported by Abbott Laboratories
- 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Update on Gout; Susan VanDellen, D.O.
Supported by Abbott Laboratories
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **Welcome BBQ – Vienna Patio - Hosted by**
Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians
Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Friday, July 27, 2007 • (7.5 credits)

- 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Registration & Sign-In - Civic Center (West Lobby)**
Lectures - Civic Center (Matterhorn A&B)
Exhibits Open - Civic Center (Matterhorn C&D)
- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast; Civic Center (Matterhorn C&D)**
Supported in part by Nitromed
- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Family Medicine Immunization Update; Joshua Meyerson, M.D.
Supported by Physician Peer Education Project on Immunization
- 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Full Opiate Agonists & Severe Chronic Pain Guidelines: Hydrocodone,
Oxycodone and Methadone (risk/reward ratios beyond the myths and misconceptions);
William Morrone, D.O.
Supported by Purdue Pharma, L.P.
- 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Pharmacological Update/Break**
Visit Exhibits in Civic Center (Matterhorn C&D)
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Chronic Pain- with Abuse & Diversions on How to Protect Your Practice, Karen Meyer, D.O.
Supported by Alharma
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Type II Diabetes Update; Michael Valitutto, D.O.
Supported by Takeda
- 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Stakeholders Roundtable Meeting, (lunch served for attendees)
Mountain Grand Lodge - Vienna
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. OMM Workshop; Mark Gugel, D.O.
Civic Center (Matterhorn A&B)
- 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **Residents Meeting- Everything you ever wanted to know about Family**
Medicine but were too afraid to ask.
Mountain Grand Lodge Restaurant

Saturday, July 28, 2007 • (6.5 credits)

- 7:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Registration & Sign-In - Civic Center West Lobby**
Lectures – Civic Center (Matterhorn A&B)
Exhibits Open – Civic Center (Matterhorn C&D)
(exhibit hall closes at 12:00 p.m. and will NOT be open on Sunday)
- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast; Civic Center (Matterhorn C&D)**
Supported in part by Michigan Osteopathic Association
- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Advances in Treatment of Postmenopausal Osteoporosis
Raymond Cole, D.O.
Supported by Roche
- 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Lipid Update; Paul Kovack, D.O.
Supported by Abbott Laboratories
- 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. **Pharmacological Update/Break**
Visit Exhibits in Civic Center (Matterhorn C&D)
- 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Heart Failure Update; Speaker TBD
Supported by GlaxoSmithKline
- 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Let's talk about Sex!
Amy Opperer, D.O.
Supported by Pfizer
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. OMM Workshop; Mark Gugel, D.O.
Civic Center (Matterhorn A&B)
- 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. **President's Reception - Honoring Craig Magnatta, D.O.**
Mountain Grand Lodge (Vienna B)
- 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. **President's Banquet & Awards Ceremony – Honoring Craig Magnatta D.O.**
***Pre-registered event**
Mountain Grand Lodge (Vienna A)

Sunday, July 29, 2007 • (5 credits)

- 7:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Registration & Sign-In - Civic Center West Lobby**
Lectures - Civic Center East
- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
Civic Center West Lobby
- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Men's Health; Speaker TBD
Supported by GlaxoSmithKline
- 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Preventing Cancer by Vaccination: An In-Depth Discussion of HPV; Chris Simpson, D.O., Ph.D.
Supported by Merck & OMEW
- 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Smoking Cessation; Mark Sikorski, D.O.
Supported by Pfizer
- 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Risk Management; Liz Brott, J.D.
Supported by ProNational, A ProAssurance Group Company
- 12:30 p.m. Adjournment

CME certificates will be mailed to you after the conference and hours will be submitted to the AOA.

Attention: Interns and Residents

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP) Summer Conference is at Boyne Mountain July 26-29, 2007.

We want to see YOU at our Summer Family Practice Conference!! We've been working on making it more feasible for you to attend. Special hotel rates will be offered to interns/residents, you will receive a \$50 check on-site to help defer expenses, and a get together will be sponsored by MAOFP on Friday night so that House Staff can meet with practicing physicians from around the state. Think of it as an opportunity to learn *"Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Family Medicine...But Were Afraid to Ask."* There is also a welcome Barbecue on Thursday and a Presidents Banquet on Saturday during the conference.

On top of these special details, the conference will feature presentations on: Chronic Pain, Lipids Update, OMM Workshops, Pediatric GERD, Osteoporosis Update, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Disease, and much more...

I strongly encourage you to get more information and attend the conference. It's a chance to build bridges and start learning what life is like after residency. Please contact the MAOFP staff to register for the conference. When booking your hotel room please contact Boyne Mountain Resort at 800-GO-BOYNE and ask for the Edelweiss Rooms. There is a limited block of these rooms and will be on a first come first serve basis.

For more information please contact Sara Carson at scarson@mi-osteopathic.org or Megan Bayrd at bayrd@kcms.msu.edu.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Megan Bayrd, D.O.
MAOFP Resident Director

Apply for an MOA Core Grant

Sowing the Seeds of Good Health

One of the unique tenets of osteopathic medicine is a commitment to primary care and prevention – the core of good health. In 2006, the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) Board of Trustees determined that promoting these health care values and educating Michigan residents would be a priority for the association. It couldn't have come at a more critical time as Michigan faces a decreasing supply of primary care physicians and an increasing prevalence of chronic disease among its residents.

That's why the MOA would like to assist those friends and members of the osteopathic profession who are taking the initiative to host health clinics, fairs, programs or other projects that embody the osteopathic values of preventive health care. Through an initiative started by MOA Board Trustee and past President of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP) **Kurt Anderson, D.O.**, of Shepherd, the MOA has developed the 2007 **MOA Core Grant Program** to recognize and support just such exemplary programs; three winners of the MOA Core Grant will receive a \$1,000 contribution toward their Core Grant project. Applications are due by August 1, 2007. Visit the MOA website for an application and eligibility information at www.mi-osteopathic.org, or contact MOA Manager of Communications Jill Higgins at (800) 657-1556 or jhiggins@mi-osteopathic.org.



Legislative Update

After 5 months of partisanship, the Michigan Legislature has finally reached a budget deal for the nearly \$800 million deficit for the current fiscal year. The deal which was passed by both the House and the Senate on Friday evening **does not include cuts to Medicaid providers.** While this deal is good news for the current fiscal crisis, it does nothing to prevent the same situation from arising in 4 months when the new fiscal year begins. The solution for this budget includes a return to some of the “gimmicks” that have been used in the past, including delayed payments and borrowing from restricted funding sources. The use of these short-term fixes does solve the immediate situation but also has the effect of deepening the problems for Fiscal Year 2008, which starts on October 1, where the state faces a deficit pegged at around \$1.8 billion. MOA membership generated nearly 600 emails to the legislature urging them to vote against any budget option that included cuts to Medicaid reimbursement. The message was heard this time, but we fully expect to have to reengage in the near future as the Legislature works on next years budget.

Despite the focus on the budget, there are several other issues in the background that are waiting for the budget to be resolved before making their appearance.

Liability Reform:

Expert testimony. The Michigan Osteopathic Associations proposed legislation to incorporate the provision of expert testimony into the scope of practice has been introduced in the House of Representatives. Rep. Kevin Green (R-Wyoming) has introduced HB 4723 that would require a person providing expert testimony in Michigan to either hold a Michigan license, or be issued a special limited license for the exclusive purpose of providing testimony. Rep. Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge) has introduced the second bill, HB 4724, that expands the scope of practice and provides the mechanism through the Department of Community Health to grant the limited licensure. These bills were introduced to provide the opportunity for a peer review of expert testimony, and are consistent with the position statements of both the American Osteopathic Association and the American Medical Association.

I'm Sorry Law: MOA's recurring agenda item that would bar the use of statements of sympathy made to a patient or a family member following an adverse outcome in a later case for malpractice has been introduced this session. House Bill 4708 was introduced in by Rep. Joe Hune (R-Hamburg) who has introduced the same bill in each of the past terms. This time the bill has a democratic cosponsor in the form of Rep. Paul Condino (D-Southfield). In each of the past two legislative sessions that bill has easily passed the House and has been left to languish in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The MOA hopes that this session may be different since chairmanship of the committee now lies with Sen. Wayne Kuipers (R-Holland).

Automobile No-Fault Insurance:

Fee Schedules: The Chair of the House Insurance Committee Rep. Virgil Smith (D-Detroit) introduced a bill that would set reimbursement for medical services under the Michigan No-Fault act at the same levels as the workers compensation fees. The MOA has opposed such measures in the past because the no-fault system is the last fee-for-service model left in the state. The sponsor of the bill believes that setting fee schedules will reduce the cost of medical services and reduce the overall premium costs for auto insurance. The MOA is part of the Coalition Protecting Auto No-Fault (CPAN) and will be showing the Insurance Committee that the bill will not have the intended result because it is not the medical side of the equation that causes the high premiums.

Smoke Free Michigan

There are bills in both chambers of the legislature. Senate Bills 109 and 110 and House Bill 4163 would have the effect of banning smoking in restaurants, bars and workplaces. These bills are gaining support among the general population. Senator Jason Allen (R-Traverse City) has introduced another bill (HB 514) on the subject that is a setback to all the grassroots efforts that have been made on smoke free initiatives. SB 514 would allow local government agencies to provide property tax exemptions to food service establishments as an incentive for creating a non-smoking environment. This provides nothing for proponents of smoke free air because it mandates nothing.

Hospital Staffing Decisions

The MOA continues to push for hearings on Senate Bills 304 and 304, and House Bills 4449 and 4450. This bill would eliminate the absolute immunity that is provided to peer review entities of hospitals and other facilities for their staffing decisions. The bills would allow for a judicial review of those decisions when the peer review committee is alleged to have violated civil rights or other state laws. These bills were sought by the MOA in response to discriminatory conduct by several hospitals around the state regarding the adequacy of osteopathic education and training. Until mid 2006, the courts of Michigan dismissed these cases routinely, but a Supreme Court case from July acknowledged that hospitals were acting illegally in some cases and eliminated the exemption, stating that there is a right to have the illegal conduct of hospitals in staffing decision reviewed by a court. The MOA has carefully drafted the language of the legislation in a manner that affords the remedy available, but still protects the integrity of genuine peer review.

If you have any questions about these or any other activity in Lansing, contact Doug Borruso, MOA's Deputy Director at (800) 657-1556, or by email at dborruso@mi-osteopathic.org.

G Codes and Reimbursement Issues – Part I

G codes were developed by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) and are documented in the 2007 HCPCS Procedures; also known as the Professional Services Health and Human Services Official Coding Book published by the American Medical Association.

Many Family Practitioners are utilizing G codes to increase their revenue, but many have not. G codes are not the same as CPT Codes. They offer reimbursement for some preventive and counseling services. Their main function is to allow insurance companies to tabulate performance for best practice standards. Many new G codes are being added and have not as yet received published clarification.

G codes most important to documenting preventive services:

Immunization – Influenza – G0008
Immunization – Pneumococcal – G0009
Immunization – Hepatitis B – G0010
Pelvic breast exam cancer screening – G0101
DRE for prostate cancer – G0102
PSA screen – G0103

Following is a summary of G codes that were reimbursed for family practitioners during 2006. Codes reimbursed for physicians performing laboratory, pathology or radiological procedures, hospitalization, intensive pediatric type care, home monitoring of anti-coagulant therapy or Oncologic care have been omitted from this list. PLEASE DO NOT BILL WITHOUT REFERRING TO THE G CODE DESCRIPTIONS in the HCPCS Code book, Procedures/Professional Services (temporary) which may be ordered from the American Medical Association. Please note that many G codes do not have a very high reimbursement.

P3001 pap screen by physician
G0101 cervical/vaginal pap, pelvic, breast exams
G0102 prostate and digital rectal
G0104 flex sig screen over 50
G0105 colonoscopy for history Colon CA or ulcerative colitis
G0121 colonoscopy screen
G0127 trimming dystrophic nails
G0168 wound closure with adhesive
G0179 recertification of home health care plan
G0181 supervision of home health care plan
G0182 supervision of hospice
G0237 respiratory retraining with monitoring
G0238 other respiratory function improvement
G0239 group respiratory retraining
G0245 evaluate & manage diabetic proprioception loss in feet
G0246 follow up for 245
G0247 routine diabetic foot care
G0249 INR home monitoring supplies
G0268 remove ear wax by physician on day of audiometry
G0270 medical nutrition counseling
G0271 group medical nutrition therapy
G0317 ERSD over 20 years old
G0318 ERSD over 20 years old
G0319 ERSD over 20 years old
G0321 ERSD 2-11 year old
G0322 ERSD 12-19 years old
G0323 ERSD over 20 years old
G0344 initial preventative physical exam under 6 months on Medicaid
G0368 read and do EKG on initial preventive PE
G0375 tobacco cessation 3-10 minutes
G0376 tobacco cessation over ten minutes

Mary Goldman, D.O.

MAOFP Student of the Year Award

On May 2, 2007 at the Sheraton in Lansing, Michigan Craig Magnatta, D.O., President of the Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians (MAOFP) presented Diane Mater, D.O., the MAOFP Student of the Year Award at the Michigan State University's Annual Graduation Dinner and Awards Banquet.

Dr. Mater graduated from MSUCOM in May. She has an excellent academic record along with proven leadership skills. Dr. Mater is very active in health-related volunteer and human service activities. These include serving as a simulated patient at MSUCOM, Ingham Regional Medical Center Emergency Room, Teacher's Aide, phone volunteer for WKAR and many more.

Dr. Mater will begin her resident training in family medicine at Ingham Regional Medical Center in Lansing.

The award is given annually by the MAOFP to a graduating student who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to osteopathic Family Medicine during medical school and is a member in good standing of MAOFP. The winner must exemplify the highest qualities of dedication to the osteopathic profession, to patients, and to the community through professional and public service as a student. For more information and an award application please visit our website at www.maofp.org or email maofp@mi-osteopathic.org.



Do Your Patients Know Why There's a "D.O." After Your Name?

Even lifelong patients of osteopathic physicians don't always understand why some doctors are D.O.s and others are M.D.s. In order to help osteopathic physicians in Michigan empower their patients and increase awareness of osteopathic medicine, the Michigan Osteopathic Association (MOA) has created new brochures and wallet cards for physician waiting rooms.



The brochure titled *Is There a D.O. After Your Doctor's Name?*, includes information about osteopathic medicine, medical training, manual medicine, the number of D.O.s in Michigan, information about osteopathic hospitals and how to find D.O.s in the state. In addition to general information about osteopathic medicine, the wallet card also includes space for your name and office phone number.

A package of 50 brochures and 100 wallet cards is available for \$20 – just the cost of printing and postage. Visit the MOA website at www.mi-osteopathic.org to view samples and place an order, or call the MOA at (800) 657-1556.

Student Report

Eboard Status

On January 25, 2007 the new MSUCOM Chapter of ACOFP was elected. They are: President: Steven Kreis, Vice President: Claire Davis, Secretary: Krista Hermann, Treasurer: Abhijit Mundade

Recruitment

Donuts and Cider:

On October 3rd, 2006 the ACOFP board tabled outside the OMM classroom distributing donuts and cider to the first year students. We promoted our organization informing them of all the benefits of ACOFP membership. We gained an additional 44 members, making our total membership to 144 members for the 2010 class.

Education

Blood Draw Clinic: On November 6th, 2006 ACOFP held their annual blood draw clinic. Trained phlebotomists and paramedics taught small groups of students how to draw blood by practicing on each other. We were able to get supplies donated from a local hospital. The event was well attended with over 70 students who were eager to gain some hands on experience.

Osteopathic Promotion

University of Michigan Visit: On November 2nd, 2006 four ACOFP members went to the University of Michigan to speak to an undergraduate class called Health Professions about osteopathic medicine. We spoke of what osteopathy means, why we chose our profession, and answered questions about admissions and the difference from the allopathic profession. We handed out ACOFP bookmarks defining an osteopathic family physician. It was a great experience because the school is associated with such a large allopathic institution that they are often under informed about osteopathic medicine.

Dr. Told Visit: On December 4th, 2006 Dr. Thomas Told, DO, FACOFP came to visit and speak to the students at MSUCOM. He spoke of his rural practice in Colorado and of the various cases and procedures he performs therein. His talk was very well attended, and the students were eager to ask him as many questions as time would allow. Of particular interest was the practice of performing different procedures in a family practice setting, and how they serve to bring in much needed funding, prevent the need for specialist care and spice up the life of a family physician.

ACOFP Conference

From March 14 to March 18, 2007 the past EBoard along with Steven Kreis, President and Abhijit Mundade, Treasurer, attended the ACOFP Annual Conference in Kissimmee Florida. The six of them attended the Congress of Delegates meetings, and were excited to experience the politics of the organization. Heather Jones, Past President, was also elected the Secretary of the SAACOFP Eboard.

Recognition

The MSUCOM Chapter of the ACOFP was awarded Group of the Year by the MSUCOM Student Council.

Resident Director's Report Spring 2007:

The year has gone quickly, and has brought slow and steady progress toward achieving my goal of increased resident and intern involvement in the MAOFP. Most notably, there has been good return in the number of residents joining, and I believe that we are close to our goal of having all residents and interns signed up.

In addition, this summer's MAOFP Summer Conference (July 26-29 at Boyne Mountain) has added content and reduced rates specifically geared toward encouraging intern and resident attendance. The added content includes a "Meet-and-Greet" opportunity where residents can meet with and talk to practitioners from around the state, allowing them to explore "Everything You Wanted to Know about Family Medicine... But Were Afraid to Ask."

In order to make residents and interns aware of these opportunities, an "Email Blast" and mailing were put together and sent out. Additionally, all MAOFP involvement opportunities have been reinforced at each Statewide Campus Systems Conference.


I am also pleased to report that there were several highly qualified applicants for the MAOFP's "Resident of the Year" Award. I continue to be impressed by the efforts and qualifications of my colleagues around the state, and send specific congratulations to Dr. Scott Fanin, who was this year's recipient of the award.

I have greatly enjoyed my involvement in the MAOFP over this past year, and look forward to continued involvement with the organization.

Megan Bayrd, D.O.

MED
MAL
TIP #9

Know their approach to protecting physicians.



There is a big difference in operating philosophy among medical malpractice carriers. With some, defense against claims may be half-hearted at best. Many good physicians have been hurt by frivolous lawsuits when their good work went undefended in favor of quick-fix settlements. Clearly, this does not serve you or the profession well.

Get proper care.

ProAssurance Group has led in defense of physicians for over a quarter of a century. Our strong record of personalized service and number of cases tried to verdict are testaments to our long-term commitment: to help good physicians keep practicing good medicine.

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**For helpful information regarding malpractice insurance please visit the
MAOFP website at www.maofp.org**

Save The Date - Upcoming CME

Michigan Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians

July 26 – 29, 2007 at Boyne Mountain in Boyne Falls, Michigan

January 24 – 27, 2008 at Shanty Creek Resort in Bellaire, Michigan

Michigan Osteopathic Association

May 14 – 17, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, Michigan

May 13 – 16, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, Michigan

American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

March 12 – 16, 2008 in Denver, Colorado

American Osteopathic Association Annual Convention

September 30 – October 4, 2007 in San Diego, California

October 26 – 30, 2008 in Las Vegas, Nevada