



# Washington State Dermatology Association

## Newsletter - May 2008

### President's Letter

Dear WSDA Members:

I hope you have had a great winter and ready to enjoy another beautiful Pacific Northwest summer. Here are the highlights of what's coming in the next few months:

**Washington Dermatology patient presentations and Odland Lecture, May 30, 2008.** Please stay after the patient presentations/discussions for the **WSDA Business Meeting**. This is your opportunity to hear and give feedback on what's going on in our organization and in the business of dermatology in our state. We will update you on important issues affecting our practices including the Scope of Practice for Non-Medical Cosmetic Procedures Rules created by the Medical Quality Assurance Commission.

**Pacific Northwest Dermatology Meeting, July 17- 20 2008 in Victoria, BC, Canada** has an excellent lineup of presentations relevant to our practices as well as some fun social events. This is OUR BIG EVENT of the year. Please contact our office for registration information.

By the way, our new Executive Administrator, Shannon McDonald, had her new baby boy, Owen on March 25<sup>th</sup>. A huge "Thank You" to Kory Diemert for graciously and generously postponing her retirement to take care of us until Shannon gets back. See you on May 30 in Seattle for the Odland Lecture!

Sincerely,  
*Liz Vennos, M.D.*  
*President*

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### Medicare Update

*By Craig Birkby MD*

This will be a summer of change, as CMS just announced that Noridian will be replaced by National Heritage Insurance Corporation (NHIC) as the administrator for Part A and Part B Medicare claims payment in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. CMS reissues these contracts ever few years on a bid basis. NHIC is also the administrator for California and New England.

Since this new restructuring combines us with Idaho, our local Medicare policies may need to be tweaked so all four states have the same policy wording. This may also be an opportunity to make corrections or additions to these policies without having to go through all the usual hoops. If anyone has a specific issue with a LCD (Local Coverage Determinations) policy to be addressed, email me with your concerns and reasoning so I can try to get modifications incorporated into any changes which may occur. Policies can be found at [www.noridianmedicare.com](http://www.noridianmedicare.com).

CMS has also announced they will be looking closely at two coding issues...the use of modifier -25 and the use of the consultation codes. The utilization of this modifier and these codes has increased significantly over the past several years. Not long ago the director of CMS was quoted in the New York Times as stating "if we see utilization going up, our job is to whack it down". Documentation continues to be the framework to support coding. This might be a good time to be sure your documentation gives full support of the codes you use. If it is appropriate, I like to use similar wording and phrases as those found in the CPT coding book. This gives a clearer pathway for reviewers to arrive at my chosen codes.

For questions or comments contact me at [cbirkby@seattleskincancer.com](mailto:cbirkby@seattleskincancer.com).

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Liz Vennos, President, presented a farewell gift to Kory Diemert



Back: Peter Odland, Marvin Young, Vic Mickalak  
Front: Kim Abson, Kory Diemert, Liz Vennos, Pres, Mike Piepkorn



Peter J. Jenkin, MD receiving a plaque from Liz Vennos, MD, President, thanking him for his past year as WSDA President.

## Meeting Highlights

### Updated WSMA Legal Guide Now Includes CD-Rom

WSMA's *Washington Physicians' Guide to Health Law* has been updated and now comes as a package of hard copy and a searchable CD-ROM. Answers to various legal questions are just a mouse click away!

The guide, researched and written by attorneys Mary H. Spillane and Jan C. Kirkwood of Williams, Kastner and Gibbs, is an invaluable resource to physicians and staff whatever the practice setting. It covers some 91 topics ranging from AIDS to worker's compensation.

The guide is available to WSMA members at a special member rate of only \$160 (includes tax and shipping costs). Non-members may purchase the guide for \$320. To order, call Justin Dale at the WSMA Seattle office at 1.800.552.0612 or 206.441.9762 or order online at [www.wsma.org](http://www.wsma.org)

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## We Need Your Help!

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS** are requested. Please consider volunteering for one of the following positions or nominating someone you think would serve the organization well.

- President-Elect
- Secretary-Treasurer
- THREE (3) Council Positions

Bring your nominee suggestions to the May 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Business Meeting where they will be collected and later voted on.

**MEMBERSHIP** – If you haven't paid your 2007/2008 WSDA Membership Dues, please do so right away. Dues billings will be sent out after July 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2008/2009 fiscal year. Encourage your colleagues to join the WSDA and make it a strong organization supporting dermatology.

**BYLAWS CHANGES** – Please review and be prepared to vote on the enclosed Bylaws changes that have been recommended and approved by the current WSDA Board.

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## WSDA Officers

The following is this years slate of officers for the **WASHINGTON STATE DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION**. Please contact us with your questions, suggestions and concerns.

### June 2007 - May 2008

<b>Elizabeth (Liz) Vennos, MD</b>	President	Work# (360) 647-2188
<b>Peter J. Jenkin, MD</b>	Past President	Work# (425) 637-1855
<b>Sharon B. Kelly, MD</b>	President-Elect	Work# (425) 454-1104
<b>Marc A. Antezana, MD</b>	Secretary/Treasurer	Work# (206) 860-2320
<b>Jessica H. Kim, MD</b>	AAD Advisory Council Rep.	Work# (253) 848-3000
<b>Victor R. Michalak, MD</b>	Scope of Practice Chair	Work# (425) 391-2500
<b>VACANT</b>	Membership Chair	
<b>Calvin L. Treger, MD</b>	Council Member	Work# (206) 329-1760
<b>Mark C. Valentine, MD</b>	Council Member	Work# (425) 258-6767
<b>Karen M. Vigeland, MD</b>	Council Member	Work# (360) 254-5267
<b>Craig S. Birkby, MD</b>	Medicare Carrier	Work# (206) 215-3300
<b>Hennrietta P. Schwab, MD</b>	WSMA IC Rep.	Work# (253) 952-7277
<b>Robert Norum, MD</b>	Alternate WSMA IC Rep.	Work# (425) 742-5289
<b>Eileen P. Smith, MD</b>	WSMA Delegate	Work# (509) 382-2039
<b>Shannon McDonald</b> 2033 Sixth Ave, #1100 Seattle, WA 98121	Executive Administrator	Work# (206) 441-9762 or (800) 552-0612 Direct-line 206-956-3648 FAX# (206) 441-5863 EMAIL: <a href="mailto:smc@wsma.org">smc@wsma.org</a>

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## Calendar of Events

- May 16-17, 2008      WSMA Annual Leadership Development Conference  
Campbell's Resort, Lake Chelan, WA
- May 30, 2008        Odland Lecture & WSDA Annual Business Meeting  
Roosevelt Clinic and Seattle Tennis Club
- June 1, 2008        SAFE from the SUN – Skin Screening & Urban Scavenger Hunt  
Exhibition Hall at Seattle Center 12:00-5:00 PM
- July 17-20, 2008    Pacific Northwest Dermatological Annual Meeting  
75th Annual Scientific Conference  
The Fairmont Empress, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
- July 30-Aug 3, 2008    AAD – ACADEMY '08 Summer Meeting  
Hyatt Regency - Chicago, Illinois
- Sept. 26-28, 2008    WSMA Annual Meeting  
Davenport Hotel, Spokane, WA
- October 17, 2008    Pommerening Lecture & WSDA Annual Business Meeting  
Location TBA
- March 6-10, 2009    AAD Annual Meeting  
Moscone Convention Center - San Francisco, California
- May 15, 2009        Odland Lecture & WSDA Annual Business Meeting  
Location TBA
- July 23-26, 2009    Pacific Northwest Dermatological Annual Meeting  
76th Annual Scientific Conference  
Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon
- October 16, 2009    Pommerening Lecture & WSDA Annual Business Meeting  
Location TBA
- March 5-9, 2010     AAD Annual Meeting  
Convention Center - Miami, Florida

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## Emails

**Let us know when you have an email or address change!** We will be communicating with you on a more regular basis via the internet/email, so we need your help. If your email has changed or if you have a change of address, telephone or fax number please notify the WSDA office at (206) 956-3648 or email: [smc@wsma.org](mailto:smc@wsma.org). *Thank You!*