

Washington State Dermatology Association

Newsletter

Fall 2008

In This Issue

President's Letter

WSMA Update

CMS Update

**Medicare Won't Pay For
Medical Errors**

Legislative Update

Membership Report



President's Letter

Dear WSDA members,

Well it looks like we are nearing the end of our Indian summer and although the bright days and blue skies will be missed; the splendor of the fall does serve as another reminder of what we love about the Pacific Northwest.

To all of you who attended the Pacific Northwest Dermatology Meeting this past July in Victoria B.C., thank you for contributing to the great success of that meeting, and hopefully we will see you at next year's event. I would like to encourage all of you to attend our 2009 meeting at a new location in Suncadia Resort, Roslyn, Washington on July 23-26, 2009. Summers get busy for all of us, so this is the time to get it on your calendar and get the time blocked out so that you (and your family) can join us for what promises to be an excellent clinical meeting and overall great little get-away. Dr. Marc Antezana, our WSDA President-elect, is chairman of this year's meeting and is looking for volunteers to help with a variety of the details involved in planning the meeting. Please contact Shannon McDonald at the WSDA office (206-956-3648) if you would be willing to help in some capacity.

Coming up on Friday October 17th, in conjunction with the annual Robert Pommerening Memorial Lecture, we will have a WSDA meeting, which I would also encourage all of you to attend. This will be a great opportunity to hear from our representative who attended the WSMA Annual Meeting recently in Spokane, as well as from our other committee representatives. Contact Sue Montgomery at the University of Washington Division of Dermatology (206) 543-5290 for full details (time and place) regarding the Robert Pommerening Memorial Lecture and WSDA meeting.

Finally, you should all have received your annual dues statement recently and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for renewing your membership. Your ongoing support is essential in maintaining a strong and active Dermatology organization.

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Walla Walla
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**Pacific Northwest
Dermatological 76th
Annual Scientific
Conference**

July 23-26, 2009

Join us at the Pacific Northwest Dermatological 76th Annual Scientific Conference at the new premier resort destination in the Pacific Northwest, Suncadia.

Set on the sunny eastern slopes of the Cascades, 80 miles from Seattle, Suncadia offers the ultimate luxury mountain resort experience. From championship golf, fly fishing and miles of spectacular hiking and cycling trails to spa treatments, and fine dining. Suncadia is the perfect venue for a relaxing, family getaway. For more information log onto www.suncadiaresort.com.

Look for a registration brochure to arrive in January 2009

Calendar of Events

Sincerely,

Sharon B. Kelly, MD
WSDA President

WSMA Update

The opening session of the WSMA's Annual Meeting featured a "real-time" poll of attendees on a number of health policies embedded in various health care reform proposals. These results were compared to results from membership and public opinion polls on the same questions. Interestingly, while the demographics of the House attendees did not fully match up to those of the general membership, the responses were very similar. This wasn't a scientific poll, more like a "snap shot" of opinions, but the findings will be helpful in guiding your leadership.

The WSMA's 2009 organizational priorities report was approved. The report includes these priorities:

- #1 Make Washington a better place to practice medicine and to receive care.
- A. Tie all policies and programs to the professional ethics and obligations of medicine.
 - B. Improve the value and quality of care.
 - 1. Support greater application of evidence based care.
 - 2. Promote adoption of best practices.
 - 3. Aggressively promote reductions in unsupportable variations in care.
 - 4. Support appropriate levels of patient care.
 - 5. Promote greater patient safety.
 - C. Continue to push for greater administrative simplification.
 - D. Use our organizational ("brand") credibility to support this priority
 - E. Engage the public in an honest discussion about what sort of health care system it wants
- #2 Support a medical practice environment that supports the needs of the public and profession.
- A. Promote universal access to affordable coverage.
 - B. Support medical practice viability.
 - C. Engage with public and private organizations that affect the financing and delivery of care.
 - D. Support alternatives to the current medical tort system.
- #3. Strengthen the ability of the WSMA to provide value to its members.
- A. Promote physician collaboration, communications, sense of community, and engagement.
 - B. Continue the WSMA's strong branding campaign.
 - C. Provide tangible services.
 - D. Recruit and retain members, stressing the value of the support, services, and leadership that the WSMA offers to the physicians of Washington State
 - E. Maintain fiscal soundness.

WSMA New Officers Elected/Installed

The Executive Committee consists of:

- President - Cynthia Markus, MD, EM, Snohomish

October 17, 2008
Pommerening Lecture & WSDA Annual Business Meeting

UW Tower - Seattle, Washington

January 26, 2009
WSMA Legislative Summit

Red Lion Olympia Hotel - Olympia, WA

March 6-10, 2009
AAD Annual Meeting

Moscone Convention Center - San Francisco, California

May 15-16, 2009
WSMA Leadership Conference

Campbell's Resort - Chelan, WA

May 22, 2009
Odland Lecture & WSDA Annual Business Meeting

Location TBA

July 23-26, 2009
**Pacific Northwest Dermatological Annual Meeting
 76th Annual Scientific Conference**

Suncadia Resort
 Cle Elum, WA

October 2-4, 2009
WSMA Annual Meeting

The Davenport Hotel - Spokane, WA

October 16, 2009
Pommerening Lecture & WSDA Annual Business Meeting

Location TBA

March 5-9, 2010
AAD Annual Meeting

Convention Center - Miami, Florida

- President-elect - Deborah Harper, MD, PED, Spokane
- 1st Vice-president - Dean Martz, MD, NS, Spokane
- 2nd Vice-president - Nicholas Rajacich, MD, ORS, Pierce
- Secretary-Treasurer - Ron Morris, MD, FP, Kitsap
- Asst. Secretary-Treasurer - Douglas Myers, ENT, Vancouver
- Past-President - Brian Wicks, MD, ORS, Kitsap

The newly elected trustees:

- April Sakahara, MD, PM, Whatcom
- Dale Reisner, MD, OBG, King
- Mark Flanery, MD, AN, King
- Glenn Lux, MD, PED, King

CMS Update

Providers can now access data that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services uses to automatically detect certain billing errors that result in overpayments.

On Oct. 1, CMS began publishing on its Web site most system edits in the Medically Unlikely Edit (MUE) program, according to a news release from the agency.

The MUE program was launched in January 2007 to reduce billing errors, but until now most edits were not publicly released because they were considered confidential.

Because the MUE program also detects questionable payments that could be linked to fraud or abuse, CMS said in the release that some of the 9,700 MUE program edits would not be published.

Click here for more information on the MUEs including FAQs, [click here](#).

To access recent and past state health policy reports go to the State Health Policy section on the Chapter Leadership Network (CLN) website or click on: http://www.acponline.org/clin/health_policy.htm.

Please contact Shuan Tomlinson at 800-338-2746 ext. 4547 or by email at stomlinson@acponline.org with questions on these or other topics.

Medicare Won't Pay For Medical Errors

Beginning October 1, 2008, Medicare will stop paying hospitals for the added cost of treating patients who are injured in their care. Medicare has put 10 "reasonably preventable" conditions on its initial list, saying it will not pay when patients receive incompatible blood transfusions, develop infections after certain surgeries, or must undergo a second operation to retrieve a sponge left behind from the first. Serious bed sores, injuries from falls, and urinary tract infections caused by catheters are also on the list. Officials believe that the regulations could apply to several hundred thousand hospital stays of the 12.5 million Medicare covers annually. The policy will also prevent hospitals from billing patients directly for costs generated by medical errors.

Legislative Update

As the 110th Congress comes to a close, the House and Senate cleared several health care bills in the last few weeks and sent them to President Bush for his signature:

WSDA

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Executive Administrator
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* Poison Center Support, Enhancement, Awareness Act of 2008 (S.2932) - Reauthorizes the nationwide toll-free phone number for poison centers, expands the national media campaign and continues grants for the 61 national poison control centers.

* Health Care Safety Net Act of 2008 (H.R. 1343) - Reauthorizes the health centers program through 2012.

* "Michelle's Law" (H.R. 2851) - Ensures that dependent students who take a medically necessary leave of absence from school do not lose health insurance coverage, and for other purposes.

* "QI Program Supplemental Funding Act of 2008" (S. 3560) - Provides \$45 million in supplemental funds for the Qualifying Individuals (QI) program that helps Medicare beneficiaries pay premiums for outpatient care.

Membership Report

If you haven't paid your 2008/2009 WSDA Membership Dues, please do so right away. Encourage your colleagues to join the WSDA and help build a strong organization to support dermatology.

151 - Active Members

42 - Retired Members

24 - Affiliate Members (PA-C)

53 - Associate Members (Out of State)

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