

Member News

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For Your Benefit: Help Shape Medicine's Future in SD

You can help shape medicine's Future in South Dakota by serving on a committee of the SDSMA. There are five standing committees that guide and review the work of your organization. They are the Committee on Communications, the Committee on Ethics and Judicial Affairs, the Committee on Legislation, the Committee on Medical Education and the Committee on Medical Practice. SDSMA also appoints special task forces as needed. These committees recommend actions and policy. Serving on an SDSMA committee is an excellent way to become involved and help promote the association.

There's more to come...specific details about other benefits, so you can take full advantage of them. Want to know more? Give us a call at 605.336.1965, visit the SDSMA Web site at www.sdsma.org, or E-mail Donna Toay at dtoay@sdsma.org. We know your membership is voluntary and we appreciate your commitment to SDSMA, and our shared values, ethics and advocacy.

For Your Benefit is the Association's monthly update on programs and services available to physicians through their affiliation with SDSMA.

SDSMA Appoints New CEO

The SDSMA Council of Physicians announced on September 8 that Barbara Smith will become the new CEO of the South Dakota State Medical Association in January, 2007. Barb has served as the SDSMA's Vice President for the past seven years, and will succeed L. Paul Jensen who is retiring at the end of the year, after serving the SDSMA in various capacities for thirty-six years and as its CEO for the past seven years.

"Barb will bring a wealth of experience to the SDSMA in her new role of CEO. As Vice President, she works tirelessly as an advocate for the physicians of South Dakota and their patients and demonstrates excellent leadership abilities. Barb also brings significant state and federal health care experience to her role," said P. Kenneth Aspaas, Jr., MD, President of the SDSMA. "I look forward to working with her over the next year and have confidence that she will assist us in dealing effectively with the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead."

"I feel truly privileged to have worked with the physicians of South Dakota and the staff of the SDSMA for these past seven years, and to have a role in the organization's many accomplishments," said Smith. "I feel honored and equally privileged to have this opportunity to continue working with our state's medical community, and the SDSMA physician leaders and staff in this new capacity."

Prior to her role as SDSMA Vice President, Barb served as Vice President of Operations at DAKOTACARE, the health plan of the South Dakota State Medical Association. Her areas of responsibility included policy issuance and client services, enrollment, claims, benefits recovery, information systems, customer service, and administrative support for medical and provider services.

Prior to joining DAKOTACARE in October, 1995, Barb served as Secretary of the South Dakota Department of Health and the chief health official for the state. During her tenure as Secretary of Health, Barb led efforts to improve the availability and affordability of health care in South Dakota. She served as a member of President Clinton's Task Force on National Health Care Reform and the Health Care Staff Advisory Council for the National Governor's Association, and was chairman of the State Health Care Advisory Commission.

Source: SDSMA Staff

Don't forget to send in your favorite scenic photo for front cover consideration.

The Issue Is...

Pay-For-Performance

Thank you for your membership and support of the South Dakota State Medical Association. One of the benefits of your membership is a monthly update on policy issues that are of importance to you as a physician. This month we want to talk about pay-for-performance.

Increasing numbers of physicians are participating in new reimbursement models that compensate them for meeting selected quality and efficiency targets. One of South Dakota's major health plans has established a pilot program to measure performance and subsequently pay for it. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has launched a Physician Voluntary Reporting Program for physicians to voluntarily report information about the quality of care they provide to Medicare beneficiaries in 16 quality measures. Congress is currently debating legislation to link pay to improved performance. Programs aimed at promoting quality and paying for performance will continue to evolve and growth in programs is likely to continue in the future.

Doctors have always focused on delivering the highest quality care to patients. The SDSMA has been—and continues to be—committed to ensuring South Dakota patients receive quality care. Our current President made quality of care and patient safety his number 1 priority for his term in office. The SDSMA is a charter member of the South Dakota Alliance for Patient Safety. The SDSMA is an active participant in a statewide initiative to improve quality of care. The SDSMA supports accountability to improve the quality of care for our patients. However, we believe there is a right way and a wrong way to implement pay-for-performance.

The right way to determine quality of care is to use evidence-based, scientifically sound medical data that improves the health of the patient. The wrong way is to look merely at cost – an approach used by some insurance companies and consultants. You cannot measure quality of care simply by looking at a bill. Any pay-for-performance plan must relate to the health of patients, not the health plans' balance sheet.

Quality care measures must be developed by physicians, for patients. Physicians must define a set of standards, validate them on the basis of science and medicine, and implement them on behalf of patients. Physicians care for their patients

as individuals, not statistics on a grid. The SDSMA will support pay-for-performance plans as long as they are prescribed by physicians for patients, not drafted by government and insurance for the bottom line.

The American Medical Association has developed a physician's guide to evaluating incentive plans. The guide contains a series of questions that address five issues in incentive plans including quality, access, physician participation, data and program design.

The SDSMA encourages physicians to evaluate pay-for-performance and other incentive plans to identify those that could be beneficial to patients and physician practices, as well as those in need of modifications or that could be potentially detrimental to patients and physicians practices.

For more information on pay-for-performance visit AMA's Web site at <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/14416.htm>. Next month we'll cover what's happening with advanced directives.

The Issue Is...is the Association's monthly update on key federal and policy issues of importance to physicians.

SDSMA Sends Policy Statement on Abortion To Members

All physicians should have received a copy of SDSMA's policy statement on abortion. According to this policy, the SDSMA's position is that abortion is a matter for individuals to decide based upon personal values and beliefs.

As the public issue campaign on Referred Law 6 heats up, potential exists for misstatements or misquotes from others. Several groups that have provided election-related advocacy materials to South Dakota physicians and the public have misrepresented the policy of the SDSMA and have been called upon to retract any representations made that deviate from SDSMA's policy statement.

For a copy of the policy, contact the SDSMA office or reference the July issue of *South Dakota Medicine*.

Source: SDSMA Staff

Gov. Rounds appoints Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Erickson to State Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners

Gov. Mike Rounds announced the appointments of Dr. Mary S. Carpenter, Winner, and Dr. David K. Erickson, Dell Rapids, to the State Board of Medical and Osteopathic Examiners on September 7.

Dr. Carpenter will fill a vacancy left by the late Dr. Robert Raszkowski, Sioux Falls. Dr. Erickson will fill a position last held by Dr. Richard Porter, Sioux Falls.

"Dr. Carpenter and Dr. Erickson bring a wealth of private practice experience to the board and, like the majority of physicians in our state, are family practice physicians," said Gov. Rounds. "They also bring strong leadership - Dr. Erickson is the chief medical officer of one of our state's largest health systems and Dr. Carpenter is actively involved in both the state medical association and the American Medical Association. They are extremely well qualified and very highly respected in the medical community statewide."

Dr. Mary Carpenter attended college at Creighton University, Omaha, NE, and the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, SD, and graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, Vermillion, SD.

Dr. Carpenter lives in Winner and specializes in family medicine. She is affiliated with the Winner Regional Healthcare Center and the Burke Memorial Hospital.

Dr. David Erickson attended college at the University of South Dakota and graduated from the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, both in Vermillion, SD.

A family medicine physician from Dell Rapids, Dr. Erickson is now the Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for the Avera Health System.

Source: SD Department of Health

South Dakota Well Represented at the 2006 AAFP National Conference

This year marked the 33rd consecutive year that the American Academy of Family Physicians held its National Conference in Kansas City, Missouri, and the second year the Department of Family Medicine of the Sanford School of Medicine of The University of South Dakota (SSOM), the South Dakota Academy of Family Physicians (SDAFP), and the SDAFP Foundation have provided funding to allow students to attend. The AAFP is the only medical specialty organization to hold an annual conference with an emphasis on medical students and residents. The theme of this year's conference held August 2-5, "Extraordinary Physicians in Extraordinary Times: Family Medicine Answers the Call," reflects the need for caring and compassionate primary care providers as the healthcare

industry dynamically evolves.

The conference offered 47 clinical and five procedural skills workshops, five guest lectures, a Student and Resident Congress, a great hall with hundreds of vendors and residency program displays, as well as opening and closing socials. In addition to the conference events, medical students enjoyed an authentic barbeque dinner provided by the Sioux Falls Family Medicine Residency Program.

Interest increased this year and eight students (3 MSIII and 5 MSII) were able to attend including: Pastel Fligge, Dawn Schreifels, Micah Likness, Carl Dean, Skipper Fritz, Katie Howard, Jay Bauder, and Colleen Zimmerman.

Source: Micah Likness, MSIII

SDSMA Council Meets in Mitchell

The physician-leaders of the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) met in Mitchell on September 8. The Council of Physicians is the 70-member governing board of the SDSMA made up of physicians from all areas of medical practice and every geographic region of the state.

The Council meets quarterly and develops and carries out the agenda of the Association. It is the policy voice for physicians and patients across South Dakota. It consists of the chairpersons of the SDSMA's standing committees, representatives from all district medical societies, specialty societies, young physicians, residents, medical students and the Alliance.

The agenda for the meeting included discussion on the state's abortion ban and physician involvement in executions (see related articles on Abortion and Capital Punishment). The Council discussed other potential legislative initiatives in preparation for its November meeting held to establish the SDSMA's advocacy agenda for the next Legislative Session.

The next Council of Physicians meeting is scheduled for November 17 in Pierre.

Source: SDSMA Staff

Council Discusses Physician Role in Execution

The Governor's delay of the execution of a prisoner prompted the SDSMA Council of Physicians to discuss physician involvement in state executions. According to AMA ethical opinion on capital punishment, "an individual's opinion on capital punishment is the personal moral decision of the individual." Further, the AMA states that "a physician, as a member of a profession dedicated to preserving life when there is hope of doing so, should not be a participant in a legally authorized execution."

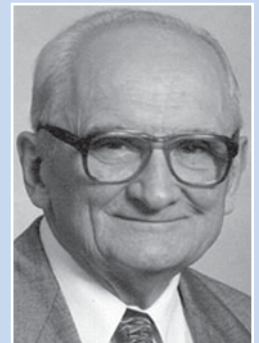
South Dakota statutes (SDCL 23A-27A-32 and 34) require three South Dakota licensed physicians to be present at the execution and to pronounce the prisoner's death. Numerous states have execution protocols requiring at least a physician's presence. Some state protocols mention inviting a physician to be present. A number of states have provisions indemnifying participating physicians and making secret their involvement. Only two states ban any physician participation.

The Council referred this issue to its Committee on Legislation to discuss whether or not the SDSMA should introduce legislation that would modify statutes to be consistent with ethical principles of the medical profession. (See related article under President's Comments.)

Source: SDSMA Staff

In Loving Memory Of: Paul Hohm, MD

Give to others. These words describe SDSMA's Past President Paul Holm who died on August 25 at the age of 92.



Paul dedicated his life to medicine for over 65 years. After graduating from Huron College, Paul received his medical degree from the University of Chicago Medical School. He served his residency at the Ramsey County Hospital in St. Paul, Minnesota. He began his medical practice in Huron in 1946, where he, his brother and three uncles opened the Tschetter & Hohm Clinic.

Paul served in many capacities for the medical profession including past president of the South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) from 1965 to 1966, past president of the Huron Regional Medical Center, charter member of the South Dakota Foundation for Medical Care, preceptor for the first certified nurse practitioner in the state, among other numerous boards and positions.

Paul is survived by his wife Carol of Huron; daughter Marilyn Hoyt of Huron; two sons, Dr. Richard (Peggy) Hohm of Fort Collins, CO and Dr. Robert (Holly) Hohm of Huron; 7 grandchildren; 8 great grandchildren; his sister, Olga (William) Pfautz, of Huron; and his brother, Jim (Ida) Hohm, of Yale. He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Dr. Ted and Ewald; and three sisters, Matilda Tschetter, Viola Hohm and Ella Bradfield.

Source: SDSMA Staff