TEXAS D.O.

The Journal of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association

Volumn LVI, No. 5

May 1999

Celebrating 100 Years of Osteopathic Education

Annual Convention & Scientific Seminar
Information and Registration — page 9

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TEXAS D.O.
The Journal of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association

MAY 1999

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

10-13
"97th Annual CME Convention & Scientific Exhibition"
Sponsored by the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Associatin

Location: Hyatt Regency, Hilton Head Island, SC
Contact: GOMA, Holly Barnwell
Executive Director
2160 Idlewood Rd., Tucker, GA 30084
770-493-9278
E-mail: GOMA@mindspring.com
Web: www.goma.org

16
Texas Osteopathic Medical Association House of Delegates Meeting

Location: Hotel Inter-Continental, Dallas, TX
Contact: TOMA, 800-444-8662; 512-708-TOMA
FAX: 512-708-1415

17-20
"100th Annual Convention & Scientific Seminar"
Sponsored by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association

Location: Hotel Inter-Continental, Dallas, TX
CME: 26 Category 1-A hours
Contact: TOMA, 800-444-8662; 512-708-TOMA
FAX: 512-708-1415

20-24
"Basic Course in Osteopathy"
Sponsored by The Cranial Academy

Location: Wyndham Emerald Plaza, San Diego, CA
CME: 40 Category 1-A hours anticipated
Contact: The Cranial Academy, 317-594-0411

23-27
"19th Annual Primary Care Update"
Sponsored by the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Location: Radisson Resort, South Padre Island, TX
CME: 24 CME hours
Contact: UNT Health Science Center Office of Continuing Medical Education
817-735-2539 or 800-987-2CME

JULY

16-18
"American Osteopathic Association House of Delegates Meeting"

Location: Fairmont Hotel, Chicago, IL
Contact: AOA, 800-621-1773

22-25
"TxACOFP 42nd Annual Clinical Seminar"
Sponsored by the Texas Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians

Location: Hilton Hotel, Arlington, TX
Contact: Janet Dunkle
TxACOFP Executive Director
888-892-2637

JULY 30-AUGUST 1
"1999 Annual Meeting"
Sponsored by the Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine

Location: Manor Vail Lodge, Vail, CO
CME: 18 AOA category 1-A and Physician Assistants credits
Contact: Patricia Ellis
Colorado Society of Osteopathic Medicine
303-322-1752; Fax 303-322-1956
E-mail: info@ColoradoDO
Web: www.ColoradoDO.org

AUGUST

20-22
"Psycho-Immuno-Neuro-Toxicology Training"
Sponsored by the Indiana Academy of Osteopathy

Location: Embassy Suites Hotel North
Indianapolis, IN
CME: 20 hours category 1-A CME anticipated
Contact: Indiana Academy of Osteopathy
317-926-3009

21-22
"Sutherland's Methods for Treating the Rest of the Body"
Sponsored by the Dallas Osteopathic Study Group

Location: Dallas, TX
CME: 16 category 1-A credits
Contact: Conrad Speece, D.O.
10622 Garland Road, Dallas, TX 75218
214-321-2673

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

17-19
"Mid-Year Seminar"
Sponsored by the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association

Location: Hyatt Regency Westshore, Tampa, FL
CME: Approximately 20 hours 1-A CME
Contact: Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
2007 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32301
850-878-7364

OCTOBER

24-28
"AOA Annual Convention"
Sponsored by the American Osteopathic Association

Location: San Francisco, CA
Contact: AOA, 800-621-1773

28-31
"TOMA Postconvention CME Seminar"
Sponsored by the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association

Location: Las Vegas, NV
CME: 6 hours Category 1-A credit
Contact: TOMA: 800-444-TOMA

NOVEMBER

3-7
"Fall CME Conference & Scientific Exhibition"
Sponsored by the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association

Location: Atlanta Marriott Gwinnett Place
Atlanta, GA
Contact: GOMA, Holly Barnwell
Executive Director
2160 Idlewood Rd., Tucker, GA 30084
770-493-9278
E-mail: GOMA@mindspring.com

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

- ☞ Mark Your Calendar
- ☞ Make Your Plans
- ☞ Send in Your Registration Forms

June 17 - 20
100th Annual Convention & Scientific Seminar

TOMA Membership Committee Update

The Board of Trustees of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association are pleased to introduce the following new members who were formally accepted at the April 10, 1999 Board meeting.

Shahid Aziz, D.O.
UNTHSC/TCOM, Dept. of Medicine
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76107-2699

Dr. Aziz is a member of District II. He graduated from TCOM in 1986, is certified in Internal Medicine and also specializes in Gastroenterology.

Paul S. Bishop, D.O., FACOFP
2006 Fall Creek Highway
Acton, TX 76049

Dr. Bishop is a member of District II. He graduated from UNTHSC/TCOM in 1994 and specializes in Family Practice.

Casey G. Cochran, D.O.
2000 W. Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78757

Dr. Cochran is a member of District VII. He graduated from UHS-COM in Kansas City in 1980, and is certified in Family Practice.

Ira M. Epstein, D.O.
UNTHSC/TCOM
3500 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Dr. Epstein is a member of District II. He graduated from UOMHS/COMS in 1976, is certified in Internal Medicine, and also specializes in Nephrology.

Charlotte M. Fowler, D.O.
RR1, Box 432-D
Burkeville, TX 75932

Dr. Fowler is a member of District XII. She graduated from TCOM in 1991 and is a certified Family Practitioner.

Charles D. Goebel, D.O.
1600 Coit Road #410
Plano, TX 75075

Dr. Goebel is a member of District V. He graduated from UOMHS/COMS in Iowa and is a Pediatrician.

Gary L. Rhame, D.O.
920 Medical Plaza Drive
The Woodlands, TX 77380

Dr. Rhame is a member of District VI. He graduated from UNTHSC/TCOM in 1994. Dr. Rhame is certified in Family Practice and also specializes in Sports Medicine and Orthopedics.

The following Interns, Residents and Fellows were also formally accepted as members of TOMA:

Donald J. Brown, D.O.
2708 North Prince
Clovis, New Mexico 88101

Dr. Brown graduated from UHS-COM in Kansas City in 1993. He is currently doing an office-based Residency in Dermatology.

Scott E. Johnson, D.O.
2111 Holly Hall #1605
Houston, TX 77054

Dr. Johnson is a member of District VI. He graduated from UNTHSC/TCOM in 1998 and is currently serving an Internship in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the LBJ General Hospital in Houston.

Heath A. Parker, D.O.
13744 Dandelion
Belton, TX 76513

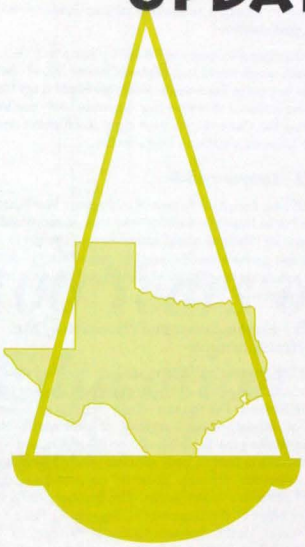
Dr. Parker is a member of District XVIII. He graduated from UHS-COM in Kansas City in 1996, and is currently serving a Residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Scott & White Medical Center in Temple.

Leslie A. Schipper, D.O.
16414 Parksley Drive
Houston, TX 77059

Dr. Schipper is a member of District VI. She graduated from UHS-COM in Kansas City in 1995, and is currently serving a Family Practice Residency at San Jacinto Methodist Hospital in Baytown.

The following is a status report on various bills of interest before the Texas Legislature.

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



SB 30 - Parental Notification Bill

The Texas Senate gave final approval to SB 30, by Sen. Florence Shapiro (R-Plano), which would prohibit physicians from performing an abortion on a minor without giving the girl's parents at least 48 hours notice or getting the approval of a judge. Under the bill, a minor could avoid parental notification by obtaining a court order permitting the abortion. A judge would have to determine whether the girl is "mature and sufficiently well informed to make the decision" or whether notification would not be in her best interest.

Physicians would be required to notify the parents or guardian by phone, in person or by a certified letter. The physician could proceed with the abortion 48 hours after mailing the certified letter, even if the parent had not received it. In a medical emergency, a physician could perform the abortion without parental consent.

In addition, the bill stipulates that a physician could be charged with a Class A misdemeanor for violating the notification law, punishable by up to a year in jail and a $4,000 fine. An amendment to the bill was adopted which provides abortion providers with a legal defense against prosecution if a minor falsely states that she was over 18.

The bill now goes to the Texas House for debate.

SB 188 - Stiffer Penalties for Injuring the Pregnant

SB 188 by Sen. Steve Ogden (R-Bryan), has cleared a Senate committee and is awaiting consideration by the full Senate. The bill would impose stricter penalties in cases of assault or manslaughter involving pregnant women, and would also create a second degree felony offense for attacks on a pregnant woman that lead to a miscarriage or stillbirth. Additionally, the bill would enhance the penalty for intoxication assault from third degree to second degree felony in cases in which drunken drivers cause pregnant women to miscarry.

SB 254- Triplicate Prescription Bill

The Senate Health Services Committee approved SB 254 by Sen. Frank Madla (D-San Antonio). The bill seeks to restore Texas' triplicate prescription law for prescribing controlled substances and would authorize the Texas Department of Safety to permit the use of triplicate or single prescription forms. In 1997, the triplicate prescription program was repealed and replaced with a system utilizing stickers for certain controlled substance prescriptions.

SB 445 - Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

SB 445 by Sen. Mike Moncrief (D-Fort Worth), was approved by the House Public Health Committee. The bill would devote $1.6 billion over the next 10 years to finance a health insurance program for children (CHIP) of families that do not earn enough to afford coverage. The legislation would make children 19 and younger from families with income that is no more than twice the federal poverty level eligible for coverage.

Under the version approved by the Senate, children 10 and younger from families with incomes of twice the poverty level or less would be eligible for coverage. Children 11 to 18 would be eligible if their families earned 150 percent of the poverty level or less. Eligibility could be expanded under the Senate bill if periodic reviews by the Health and Human Services Commission find current enrollment is not using all available funds.

HB 610 - Prompt Payment of Amount Owed to Health Care Providers

Testimony on HB 610, by Rep. Kyle Janek (R-Houston), was heard by the House Insurance Committee, although no action was taken at the time. The bill would force insurance companies to pay health care providers faster or face penalties of up to $1,000 per day. The fines would begin to accrue 60 days after an invoice was received.

continued on next page

"Sixty days is a good amount of time to get bills paid," Rep. Janek noted at the hearing.

SB 673 & SB 862 - Organ Donation

SB 673 by Sen. Mike Moncrief (D-Fort Worth), was approved by the Senate Health Services Committee and now goes to the full Senate. The bill would add $1 to driver's license renewal fees to finance a program to educate Texans about the need for organ donation.

The committee also approved SB 862 by Sen. Mario Gallegos (D-Houston), which would require transplantable organs donated in Texas to be used in Texas unless a suitable match is not found. The bill was amended to require that Texas have only one transplant waiting list. Currently, the three organ procurement organizations in Texas each maintain their own list.

HB 1051 - Optometry Bill

HB 1051 by Rep. Kim Brimer (R-Arlington), was heard by the House Public Health Committee, who took no action and left the bill pending. The bill would authorize optometrists to treat glaucoma and perform specific surgical procedures, as well as authorize a study on the efficacy of allowing optometrists to perform laser surgery.

HB 2025 - Establishment and Operation of the Border Health Institute

The House Higher Education Committee approved HB 2025 by Rep. Joseph Pickett (D-El Paso), to create a Border Health Institute in El Paso. The Institute would facilitate or assist the activities of internal, national regional or local health-related institutions working the Texas-Mexico border region, and would conduct research in field of study affecting public health in such areas as infectious diseases, diabetes, environmental health issues and children's health issues. The Institute would be a cooperative effort of the University of Texas at El Paso; Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso; El Paso Community College District; R. E. Thomason General Hospital; El Paso City/County Health District; the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, School of Public Health; and the Texas Department of Health.

HB 2418 - Creation of a Consumer Assistance Ombudsman Program for Health Care Consumers

The House Insurance Committee heard HB 2418, sponsored by Rep. Elliott Naishtat (D-Austin), which would create a statewide, toll-free consumer hot line to address health care needs. If passed, the bill would create a hot line for consumers to call for help in understanding their health care rights and filing complaints and appeals, and for assistance with mediation services. Rep. Naishtat said the bill was imperative in helping "Texans navigate through a complex, often confusing health care system. Many don't understand their rights. Consumers need help."

The program would be operated as a nonprofit agency under the state Office of Public Insurance Counsel and would cost about $1 million to launch.

The committee took no action on the bill because of concerns that included the training of those answering the calls.

NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR THE D.O. CHANGES THE WAY YOU TREAT BACK PAIN

Compact, precision-engineered devices can now provide the same results as successful hands-on Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment. A must for all D.O.s unable to provide time-consuming OMT.

Non-invasive, activated by the weight of the body, safe and simple to use, these new devices stand out among back pain treatment technologies for their effectiveness and affordability. They're called **BackMaster** devices, and were invented by TOMA member, Dr. Conrad Speece, specifically to treat back pain caused by facet dysfunction.

Patient-tested over eight years, **BackMaster** devices are able to generate the specific vector forces produced by a physician's hands to correct the somatic dysfunctions of the spine. What's even more significant, patients can use **BackMaster** to treat their back pain at home.

C.K. McKenney, D.O., says *"**BackMaster** basically replaces the physician's hands...I recommend it to patients."*

And like many other physicians, Craig B. Miller, M.D., says, *"I utilize it as a 'third hand' ...while working on another area ...I have been well pleased to have **BackMaster** for an ancillary therapeutic intervention..."*

Dr. Conrad Speece, author and international speaker will be giving four hours of lecture on OMT at the TOMA Convention. Come to Booth 310 on Friday, June 18, 1999 and meet Dr. Speece and receive a demonstration of the safe and simple **BackMaster** technology.

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"Celebrating 100 Years of Osteopathic Education in Texas"

100th Annual Convention & Scientific Seminar

June 17-20, 1999

Hotel Inter-Continental

Dallas, Texas

"Celebrating 100 Years of Osteopathic Education in Texas"

Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
100th Annual Convention & Scientific Seminar
June 17-20, 1999
Hotel Inter-Continental
Dallas, Texas

"Celebrating 100 Years of Osteopathic Education in Texas," the theme for the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's 100th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar, points to an important milestone in the history of the osteopathic profession in Texas - 100 years of providing quality medical education. Beginning with the critical first convention, held November 29, 1900, in Sherman, at which time the organization was formally organized, formal educational programs have been presented during all ensuing conventions. As we get ready to enter the next millennium, the osteopathic physicians of Texas can be assured of a continuation of quality osteopathic medical education programs in the years to come. Come join your colleagues in Dallas this year as we celebrate "100 Years of Osteopathic Education in Texas."

Goals:

To provide attendees with a renewed perspective of osteopathic medicine and its unique role in applying preventive concepts in the practice of medicine within a changing healthcare environment.

To provide current knowledge in key selected topic areas of clinical medicine.

To provide this learning in small, interactive environments as well as plenary sessions.

Physician Registration:

The registration fee includes admission to the general session, workshops and the exhibit hall, lecture handouts, CME credits, refreshment breaks, and tickets to the keynote luncheon, the AOA luncheon and the President's Banquet.

Spouse Registration:

The registration fee includes exhibit hall admission and tickets to the keynote luncheon, the ATOMA President's Installation, the AOA luncheon and the President's Banquet.

Individual Tickets:

Individual tickets may also be purchased for meal functions and the TOMA President's Banquet.

Special Events:

The family day at Six Flags and the ATOMA Golf Tournament are priced separately as noted on the convention registration form. **Note: All children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult to special events.**

CME Credits:

The 100th TOMA Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar has been approved for 26 hours of Category 1-A AOA Credit.

If you register before June 1st, you will save $100. If you recruit a new member for the association you will save an additional $50 on your registration fee.

TOMA would like to extend a special thank you to all of the members of the Annual Convention Program Committee for all of their hard work, time and dedication in designing this year's educational program.

Ray L. Morrison, D.O.
Program Chair

George N. Smith, D.O.
Vice Chair

Joseph A. Del Principe, D.O.
Donna Hand, D.O.
Bobby D. Howard, D.O.
S/D Melinda J. Velez

Preliminary Schedule

Wednesday
June 16th

8:00	am	-	9:00	am	**TOMA House of Delegates Registration**
9:00	am	-	4:00	pm	**TOMA House of Delegates Meeting**
12:00	pm	-	1:00	pm	**TOMA House of Delegates Luncheon** *Sponsored by UNTHSC/TCOM Educational Foundation*
2:00	pm	-	5:00	pm	**Early Convention Registration**

Thursday
June 17th

7:00	am	-	5:00	pm	**Registration Open**
8:00	am	-	3:00	pm	**Exhibit Hall Open**
7:00	am	-	7:50	am	**Breakfast Lecture-Selenium** - Ed Drake, Ph. D. *Sponsored by Nutramax Labs*
7:50	am	-	8:40	am	**Neuropathology and Pain Management** *Sponsored by Parke-Davis*
8:00	am	-	12:00	pm	**ATOMA House of Delegates**
8:40	am	-	9:30	am	**Dyslipidemia** - Andrew Miller, M.D. *Sponsored by Bayer Pharmaceuticals*
9:30	am	-	10:00	am	**Panel discussion with OMT applications**
10:00	am	-	10:30	am	**Pharmaceutical Update - Exhibit Hall**
10:30	am	-	11:20	am	**Gulf War Syndrome** - Robert Haley, M.D.
11:20	am	-	12:10	pm	**Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery** - Al Yurvati, D.O. *Sponsored by Merck*
12:10	pm	-	12:30	pm	**Panel discussion with OMT applications**
12:30	pm	-	2:00	pm	**Round Table Topic luncheon**
2:00	pm	-	3:00	pm	**Pharmaceutical Update - Exhibit Hall**
2:00	pm	-	5:00	pm	**Family Activity - Optional** Shopping at Galleria Mall & Ice Skating
6:00	pm	-	10:00	pm	**Sustainers Party** Medieval Times

Friday
June 18th

7:00	am	-	1:00	pm	**Registration Open**
7:00	am	-	8:00	am	**TxACOFP Breakfast**
8:00	am	-	2:00	pm	**Exhibit Hall Open**
8:30	am	-	10:30	am	**ATOMA President's Installation Breakfast**
7:00	am	-	7:50	am	**Breakfast Lecture - Sleep Disorders -** Andrew Jamieson, M.D. *Sponsored by Wyeth - Ayerst*
7:50	am	-	8:40	am	**New Treatment and Management of Otitis Media and Otitis Externa with Ototopicals -** Peter Roland, M.D. *Sponsored by Daïichi Pharmaceuticals*
8:00	am	-	11:00	am	**TxACOFP Board Meeting**
8:40	am	-	9:30	am	**Osteoarthritis - Cox II -** Andrew Chubick, M.D. *Sponsored by McNeil Consumer Products*
9:30	am	-	10:00	am	**Panel discussion with OMT application**
10:00	am	-	10:30	am	**Pharmaceutical Update - Exhibit Hall**

10:30 am	- 12:30 pm	**Concurrent Workshops** ***Neurophysiology of the Traumatized Child** **Policy & Practice Implications -** Leah Lamb, D.O. ***OMT -** Conrad Speece, D.O. ***Basic Radiology Review -** Mark Baker, D.O. ***Preceptorship/Rural Rotation Supervisor's Workshop** - Cynthia Passmore, M.A.
12:30 pm	- 2:00 pm	**Lunch with Exhibitors**
2:00 pm	- 8:00 pm	**Golf Tournament** Buffalo Creek Golf Club
2:00 pm	- 10:00 pm	**Family Day** Six Flags Over Texas

Saturday

June 19th

7:00 am	- 5:00 pm	**Registration Open**
7:00 am	- 7:50 am	**Breakfast Lecture -** **Pap Smear and the Pathophysiology** **of Cervical Cancer -** Neal Pock, D.O,
7:50 am	- 8:40 am	**Overactive Bladder -** Carrington Mason, D.O. *Sponsored by Pharmacia & Upjohn*
8:40 am	- 9:30 am	**NSAID-Induced Gastrointestinal Disorders-** David James, D.O. *Sponsored by Merck*
9:30 am	- 10:00 am	**Panel discussion with OMT applications**
10:00 am	- 10:30 am	**Break**
10:30 am	- 11:30 am	**Ethics in Pain Management -** James Blair, D.O. *Sponsored by Purdue Pharma, L.P.*
11:30 am	- 1:00 pm	**AOA Luncheon -** Ronald Esper, D.O. - AOA President
1:00 pm	- 2:00 pm	**Dermatology - Skin Cancer -** William Cothern, D.O.
2:00 pm	- 4:00 pm	**Concurrent Workshops** ***Neurophysiology of the Traumatized Child** **Policy & Practice Implications -** Leah Lamb, D.O. ***OMT -** Conrad Speece, D.O. ***Basic Radiology Review -** Mark Baker, D.O. ***AOA Women's Health Initiative Workshop** - Lori Boyajain, D.O. "Diagnosis and Treatment of Arthritis in the Female Patient" *Sponsored by Searle*
3:00 pm	- 5:00 pm	**Mary Kay Makeovers** Susan Selman, Rita Baker & staff
3:00 pm	- 5:00 pm	**Kid's Activity - Magic Show & Face Painting**
6:30 pm	- 7:00 pm	**President's Reception**
7:00 pm	- Midnight	**President's Banquet**

Sunday

June 20th

7:30 am	- 8:00 am	**Breakfast**
7:00 am	- 9:00 am	**Registration Open**
8:00 am	- 1:00 pm	**Risk Management Program -** Beth Krugler ***Patient Relations** ***Signs & Symptoms of Potential Litigation** ***You've Got Mail**

Special Events

Family Activity

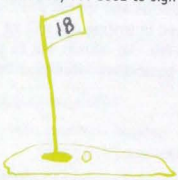
On your mark, get set, SHOP! Or SKATE, that is. Enjoy the afternoon at the Galleria Mall - Dallas' largest indoor shopping center with over 200 shops, including Saks Fifth Avenue, Macy's, and Tiffany & Co. You'll be sure to find something special. Also, take advantage of their skating center and skate the afternoon away! Tickets are only $5-6 **(pay at the rink)**, and this includes admission plus skate rental. Transportation will be provided by the hotel shuttle.

Sustainers' Party

Join us for a "knight" of fun at Medieval Times - the site for this year's Sustainers' Party. Venture inside the 11th-century castle and feast on a four course medieval banquet, while watching spectacular pageantry, dramatic horsemanship, and an authentic jousting tournament. A special reception will be held prior to dinner for all you lords and ladies. This party is open to all sustaining members and a guest (be sure to RSVP on your registration form). If you are not already a sustaining member, call Lucy Gibbs at 800/444-8662 to sign up. Don't miss the good time!

Golf Tournament

Buffalo Creek Golf Club is this year's site of the annual golf tournament. Rated four stars by Golf Digest Magazine, Buffalo Creek is located northeast of Dallas and was designed by Tom Weiskopf and Jay Morrish. It is recognized as one of the premier golf courses in the nation. Come enjoy a magnificent afternoon of golf and great food benefiting the Auxiliary of TOMA. Cost is $75 per player. Bus transportation is provided. *Major sponsors: Dean, Jacobson Financial Services and Healthcare Insurance Services.*



Family Day

Hold onto your seats! We're heading to Six Flags Over Texas for the ride of your life! Venture through over 11 themed areas of adventure and excitement including spectacular rides, stunning shows and your favorite Looney Tune characters. Your $15 ticket includes park admission and transportation to and from Six Flags.

Kids Activity

Abra cadabra, lickedy split, come to a magic show and see great tricks! Renowned magician, Bo Gerard will be at the hotel and he's bringing some of his balloon twisting, face painting friends along! Enjoy great entertainment and learn a new trick or two. Admission is free!

Makeovers Anyone?

Mary Kay reps are on the way! Whether you want to try a new look, or be made up for the President's Banquet, make your reservation to have a Mary Kay consultant go to work for you! Limited spots are available, so be sure and mark the box on your registration form. It's free!

President's Banquet

The Annual President's banquet will honor TOMA's President, Nelda Cunniff-Isenberg, D.O. This black tie optional affair will be held Saturday evening, June 19th. Prestigious awards will be presented as well as the passing of the gavel to Rodney Wiseman, D.O. After dinner and the award presentations, enjoy the sounds of **Random Axis** as they play all your dance favorites. Be ready for a fun and exciting evening of dancing!

For Your Information

Hotel

The Hotel Inter-Continental, located near the Galleria Dallas shopping center, offers European elegance for TOMA guests. Complimentary shuttle service to nearby shopping and entertainment areas will be available during your stay. All educational sessions and exhibits will be at the hotel. A block of rooms has been set aside at the special rate of $120 single/double. Concierge level rooms can be reserved at the rate of $177 single, $187 double. **Hotel reservation deadline is May 21st.** Be sure to mention you are with TOMA to get this special rate. You may call the hotel at 972-386-6000 for reservations or send in the reservation card below.

Ticket Refund Cancellation Policy

All registration and special event cancellations must be received in writing and will be charged a 25% handling fee. No refunds will be given to those requests postmarked after June 1st.

Disability Statement

Individuals needing special accommodations during TOMA's 100th Annual Convention should contact Pat Guyton prior to May 21st at 512/795-8033.

Special Events and Meals

Space is limited and tickets are required for all special events and meals.

Attire

Dress comfortably for the educational sessions. Meeting rooms are often cold, so you might plan to bring a light sweater or jacket. Dress casually for the Sustainers' Party - you'll be eating with your hands! The President's Banquet on Saturday evening is black-tie optional.

Hotel Registration Form

Complete this form below and mail it to:

Hotel Inter-Continental - Dallas
Attn: Reservations
Address: 15201 N. Dallas Parkway
Dallas, Tx 75248

Or call or fax the hotel directly to make reservations **972-386-6000, 972-701-0342** fax.
Be sure to mention you are with TOMA to receive the discounted rate.
Reservations cannot be guaranteed without a check or credit card number for your first night stay.

Texas Osteopathic Medical Association Annual Convention & Scientific Seminar
June 17-20, 1999

Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone Number:_____

Share With:_____

Arrival Date:_____

Arrival Time:_____

Departure Date:_____

Check in time - 3:00 pm Check out time - 12:00pm

Type of Room	Number of Rooms	Rate
Single/Double		$120
Triple/Quad		$165
Concierge Floor		$177/18
1Bd. Suite		$250
Executive Suite		$350
Luxury Suite		$600/9

☐ Smoking ☐ Non- smoking (based on availab

All room rates are subject to state and local tax

Please Guarantee to one of the Following:

☐ American Express ☐ Discover
☐ Visa ☐ Diner's Club
☐ Master Card ☐ Check

Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____
Signature _____

Reservation requests made after May 21st or after the room block has been filled are subject to availability and may not be available at the convention rate.

Convention Registration

Texas Osteopathic Medical Association
100th Annual Convention & Scientific Seminar
June 17-20, 1999
Dallas, Texas

To register, mail this form along with payment to: TOMA, 1415 Lavaca Street, Austin, Texas, 78701-1634

Please print or type this form.

Name _____

Name for Badge (if different) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone(_____) _____ Fax(_____) _____

D.O. College _____ Graduation Year _____ AOA# _____

Specialty _____ TOMA District _____

Spouse or Guest (if registering) _____

Registration Fees:

please circle	Regular Registration (postmarked by 6/1)	Late Registration (postmarked after 6/1)	
TOMA Member+	$375	$475	$_____
1st or 2nd Year in Practice	$225	$325	$_____
Retired/ Life Member	$200	$300	$_____
Spouse, Military, Guests, Associate	$175	$275	$_____
Physician Assistant	$375	$475	$_____
Students/Interns/Residents*	$0	$0	$_____
Non-Members	$625	$725	$_____

+Includes members of other state associations.
*Student/Intern/Resident registration does not include tickets to any meal functions. They may be purchased separately on site.

Additional Tickets:

TOMA President's Banquet
$50 x # of tickets = $ _____

ATOMA President's Installation Breakfast
$25 x # of tickets = $ _____

Registration Summary

Please mail completed form and payment in full (CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY) to the address above

Convention Registration Fee(s) $ _____

Special Events $ _____

Additional Tickets $ _____

Total Enclosed $

Special Events:

Family Day $15 x #_____ of tickets = $_____
I/We will ride the bus ☐ yes, how many?_____ ☐ no

Golf Tournament $75 x #_____ of tickets = $_____
Handicap_____
I/We will ride the bus ☐ yes, how many?_____ ☐ no

Sustainers Party (open to Sustaining member and one guest only)
Number of tickets (please circle) 1 2 $ N/C
I/We will ride the bus ☐ yes, how many?_____ ☐ no

Galleria Mall & Skating ☐ yes, how many?_____ ☐ no

Makeover by Mary Kay ☐ yes, how many?_____ ☐ no

Kids Activity-Magic Show ☐ yes, how many?_____ ☐ no

?? Questions ??
Please call the TOMA office
800/444-8662

For Office Use Only

Date received _____

Amount $ _____

Check Number _____

"Celebrating 100 Years of Osteopathic Education in Texas"

ATTENTION TOMA MEMBERS!

Are You a Sustainer?

On Thursday night, June 17th, there is a very special party to say ***Thank You*** to TOMA's ***Sustaining Members***.

Sustaining Members "go the extra mile" to support their professional organization. Because of our Sustainers, TOMA is able to continue to provide our membership with the quality representation, education and information that you expect and deserve.

Now is the time to become a Sustaining Member of TOMA. Levels of Sustaining Membership in addition to your regular dues are:

SUSTAINING $100
SUSTAINING PLUS $150
SUSTAINING PATRON $250

Please fill out the form below and send it to TOMA along with your convention registration.

This Year's Sustainers' Party is a "Knight of Fun" at Medieval Times. Participating Lords and Ladies will enjoy a reception, four course medieval banquet, and a spectacular display of horsemanship and jousting.

See You There!

YES, I WOULD LOVE TO BECOME A SUSTAINING MEMBER OF TOMA!

_____

NAME (Please Print)

Enclosed please find my check for:

_____ $100 to become a Sustaining Member
_____ $150 to become a Sustaining Plus Member
_____ $250 to become a Sustaining Patron Member

100th Annual Convention & Scientific Seminar

Impressive List of "Who's Who" to Speak in Dallas

Edgar N. Drake, Ph.D.

Dr. Drake received his Ph.D. degree in analytical chemistry from Texas A&M University. He joined the Chemistry Faculty at Angelo State University in 1965 and was appointed Professor and Head of the Department in 1989.

For many years Dr. Drake has conducted research in the analysis of biological trace elements. Dr. Drake has been actively investigating the biochemistry of selenium for many years and has lectured to several groups including the Cancer Control Council of the State of Maryland. Dr. Drake's principal area of research is the relationship between dietary selenium and cancer.

Neal A. Pock, D.O., FACOOG

Dr. Pock has a specialty practice in OB-GYN in Tyler, Texas. He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine. He worked in family practice in Tyler, Texas, and did his residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Kennedy Memorial Hospital, UMC, and New Jersey School of Osteopathic Medicine.

Albert H. O. Yurvati, D.O., FICS

Dr. Yurvati is board certified in cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, and is currently in private practice in Fort Worth. He is President-elect of the American Heart Association of Metropolitan Fort Worth and also serves as Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery at the UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth.

Dr. Yurvati graduated magna cum laude from osteopathic school at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. He completed his general surgery residency at Tulsa Regional Medical Center in Oklahoma. His cardiothoracic and vascular surgery residency was at the renowned Deborah Heart & Lung Center in New Jersey.

William F. Cothern, D.O., P.A.

Dr. Cothern has dedicated his medical expertise to providing unique and scientifically advanced procedures to help men and women overcome environmental and physical factors that affect the skin. Dr. Cothern specializes in cosmetic skin resurfacing as well as in glycolic acid peels. He opened his dermatology practice in 1992, and is board certified in dermatology and dermatological surgery by the American Osteopathic Board of Dermatology

Dr. Cothern is a graduate of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Worth.

Leah Lamb, D.O.

Dr. Lamb is a graduate of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. She is currently the Program Director for the CARE Team at Cook County Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth and Assistant Clinical Professor at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. She is board certified in pediatrics and specializes in child maltreatment. Dr. Lamb is responsible for establishing a comprehensive medical program in Tarrant County and in ten surrounding counties, to address the needs of abused children and their families. Approximately 3000 children have been seen by the CARE Team since its development in 1994.

Andrew Miller, M.D.

Currently Dr. Miller is in Cardiology Practice at the Heart Place of Arlington and the Director of the Lipid Clinic and Wellness Center.

Dr. Miller completed his cardiology fellowship at Baylor University Medical Center and his transplant cardiology fellowship at the Medical College of Virginia. He is Board Certified in Cardiology, Internal Medicine and Critical Care.

Cynthia Passmore

Cynthia Passmore is a member of the professional staff of the Family Practice Faculty Development Center. She received a bachelor of science degree in mathematics and a master of arts in behavioral statistics, both from Baylor University. She has recently finished her coursework at Baylor in pursuit of a Ph.D. in behavioral statistics.

M. Beth Krugler

Beth Krugler is an attorney as well as a licensed professional couselor. After defending lawsuits on the side of physicians, nurses and hospitals with the law firm of Cantey & Hanger, Ms. Krugler joined Burlington Northern, practicing in the area of labor relations and arbitration. In 1992, Ms. Krugler opened her own firm, and today, is actively engaged in the practice of mediation as well as working as a consultant and trainer helping organizations and corporations keep in clear focus the "people factor" of doing business in today's litigious times.

Ms. Krugler is a graduate of the Baylor School of Law and Texas A & M University.

Robert W. Haley, M.D.

Dr. Haley is the Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Director of the Division of Epidemiology in the Internal Medicine Department at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University in Dallas, and the UT Southwestern Medical School at Dallas.

continued on next page

In 1983, Dr. Haley founded the Division of Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine in Dallas. He is certified by the American Board of Public Health and General Preventive Medicine, is Fellow of the American College of Physicians and of the American College of Epidemiology, and served as a senior editor of the American Journal of Epidemiology. Dr. Haley is listed in Naifeh and Smith's The Best Doctors in America.

He supervises the Dallas County HIV/AIDS Prevention Program. His most recent research, funded by the Perot Foundation, has been to find the cause of the Gulf War syndrome in veterans of the Persian Gulf War. Following publications of initial findings in the January, 1997 issue of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, he has begun a new research program, funded by the Department of Defense and the Perot Foundation, to identify a test and treatments for the ill Gulf War veterans.

Andrew O. Jamieson, M.D.

Dr. Jamieson is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Texas Southwest Medical Center, and chairman of the board and a founding partner of Sleep Medicine Associates of Texas, P.A., in Dallas. At the Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, he is clinical director of the Sleep Medicine Institute.

Dr. Jamieson received his MD degree in 1982 from the University of North Dakota, completed his residency in internal medicine at Abbott-Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, and served a fellowship in sleep disorders medicine at the Stanford Sleep Clinic in Stanford, California. He is board certified in internal medicine and sleep medicine.

He is a member of the American College of Physicians and the American Sleep Disorders Association, among others. He is also an alternate delegate for the American Sleep Disorders Association to the American Board of Sleep Medicine. His research focuses on topics such as the comparative efficacy and next-day performance of zolpidem and temazepam in transient insomnia.

Carrington Mason, D.O.

Dr. Mason is a 1990 graduate of the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. His internship was served at the Dallas Fort Worth Medical Center in Grand Prairie. His surgical training began at the Methodist Medical Center, Dallas, Texas, and continued at Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans, Louisiana. Louisiana State University and Ochsner Clinic, a combined program, served as training sites for his Urologic fellowship. Dr. Mason now practices with the Southwest Urology Associates at Methodist Medical Center in Dallas. His practice focuses on issues of urinary incontinence, genitourinary reconstruction, and renal transplantation.

Conrad A. Speece, D.O.

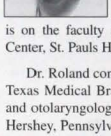
Dr. Speece is a lecturer, author, practitioner, and inventor, who has devoted his 24 year career to treating chronic pain due to neuromuscular and arthropathic causes, using manual techniques. Currently he is the Chairman of the Dallas Osteopathic Study Group, a think tank on refining and expanding the Osteopathic approach to treating the human body.

Dr. Speece is a graduate of the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine, and is board certified in Family Practice. He specializes in Osteopathic Manipulation. He has held positions that include Chief of Staff at Metropolitan Hospital in Dallas, Texas, Director of Emergency Room Physicians for East Town Osteopathic Hospital, Clinical Professor for Externs, Interns and Residents at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Clinician for Physician Assistant Program at the University of Texas Southwest Medical Center at Dallas.

Mark A. Baker, D.O.

Dr. Baker is currently associated with the Department of Radiology at the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas. He is also an associate clinical professor in the Department of Radiology at the University of North Texas Health Science Center in Fort Worth, and on the teaching faculty of the Department of Gross Anatomy. He has a private practice with the Westside Radiology Consultants in Fort Worth.

Dr. Baker is a graduate of Howard Payne University and the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Peter S. Roland, M.D.

Dr. Roland is the Vice-Chairman and Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, the Chief of Otolaryngology at Parkland Memorial Hospital, and the Chief of Pediatric Otology at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. He is on the faculty and staff at Zale Lipshey University Medical Center, St. Pauls Hospital and Children's Medical Center.

Dr. Roland completed his medical degree at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, and his surgery internship and otolaryngology residency at the Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Roland's practice is limited to otology, neurotology and skull base surgery problems associated with hearing, ear disease, balance disturbance, facial nerve injury, and tumors of the skull base including acoustic neuromas.

Proposed Amendments to the TOMA Bylaws

As required by Article XIV of the TOMA Bylaws, the following amendments to those Bylaws will be presented to the TOMA House of Delegates for their consideration on June 16, 1999. As also required by the Bylaws, I am notifying the TOMA membership of these proposed amendments from the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws and Documents.

By Terry R. Boucher
Executive Director

The following are the suggested revisions to the TOMA Bylaws for consideration at the 1999 meeting of the TOMA House of Delegates on June 16th.

(New language is **underlined**, deleted language is in [ ].)

Article II - Membership

Section 11 - Retired Membership. **A retired member shall have been a regular or sustaining member in good standing for a minimum of 5 years in this Association prior to their request for retired status, with special cases to be reviewed by the Board of Trustees. The member shall be fully retired from practice, not gainfully employed in any phase of professional service, but have not yet achieved the requirements for life membership.** [Retired membership shall be granted by action of the Board of Trustees to any regular member who is fully retired from practice, but has not yet achieved the requirements for life membership.] A candidate may be proposed by any member, District society, or affiliated organization of this Association. The proposal shall take the form of a signed petition directed to the Board of Trustees. This petition shall outline the reason for the request and contain sufficient information about the candidate to permit judicious consideration by the Board. The petition shall be subscribed to by at least four regular or sustaining members of this Association and shall, in addition, carry the signature of an officer of the candidate's District society stating that the candidate's District society concurs with the request. If the candidate is deemed acceptable and worthy, the Board will recommend to the House that it grant to the individual Retired Membership. Such members shall have all privileges of regular membership.

Article III - Dues

Section 7 - Associate **and non-resident associate** members shall pay annual dues of fifty dollars ($50.00).

Article V - Officers

Section 3 - The President-Elect, in the absence or at the request of the President, shall perform the duties of that office. In the case of incapacity of the President to continue in office, the President-Elect shall succeed to the office of President for the remainder of that term of office. The President-Elect shall ascend to the office of President at the time the other officers for the coming year are installed. **The President-Elect of TOMA shall have served either as a member of the Board of Trustees or an elected officer of this Association, or any combination of service in these positions.**

Section 10 - In the event the President becomes disabled and unable to perform the duties of his office, but does not request the President-Elect to assume the duties of the President, it shall be the prerogative of the Board of Trustees to declare the President disabled and request the President-Elect to assume the duties of the President. Such action can only be taken by a two-thirds vote of a quorum of Board members present and voting **at any regular or special meeting.**

Section 11 - A vacancy occurring on the Board of Trustees shall be filled by appointment of the President with the approval of the majority of the remaining Board of Trustees **at any regular or special meeting.** The successor shall serve until the next annual meeting of the House of Delegates. The House of Delegates shall fill the remainder of the unexpired term by a majority vote.

Section 12 - [When an officer fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board of Trustees, without proper cause, then the seat shall be declared vacant by a majority of the voting members of the Board of Trustees and the vacancy filled by the Board until the next annual meeting of the House of Delegates.] **Abandonment of an office will be deemed to occur automatically if an officer is absent from (2) consecutive regular or special meetings without an excuse acceptable to the Executive Committee.**

Article VII - Board of Trustees

Section 9 - The board shall have the power, after careful investigation, by a two thirds vote of a quorum of board members present and voting, **at any regular or special meeting**, to remove any officer or board member or dismiss any employee of this Association for incompetency, immoral, unethical or professional misconduct, failure to perform duties of his office, felony convictions or due cause.

continued on next page

Section 12 - [When a member of the Board of Trustees fails to attend two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board of Trustees, without proper cause, then the seat shall be declared vacant by a two thirds majority of the voting members of the Board of Trustees and the vacancy filled by the Board until the next annual meeting of the House of Delegates.] **Abandonment of a board seat will be deemed to occur automatically if a board member is absent from (2) consecutive regular or special meetings without an excuse acceptable to the Executive Committee.**

Section 13 - A vacancy occurring on the Board of Trustees by resignation, death, or disablement shall be filled by Presidential appointment with the approval of the majority of remaining Board of Trustees **at any regular or special meeting.** The successor shall serve until the next annual meeting of the House of Delegates. The House of Delegates shall fill the remainder of the unexpired term by a majority vote.

10 Years Ago in the *Texas D.O.*

* The 71st Texas Legislature wrapped up business on May 29, during which time 855 bills had been passed during the 140-day regular session. TOMA scored one of its biggest victories in years with the passage of Senate Bill 788, the sample drug bill. This bill allowed physicians to supply patients with any samples necessary to meet the patients' immediate needs and/or for as long as deemed feasible.

* Also during the session, the much-touted, long studied workers' compensation reform, supposedly the top priority, was a bust, leading Gov. Bill Clements to call for a special session beginning June 20.

* Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine graduated its 1,000th osteopathic physician when 103 members of the Class of 1989 received their D.O. degrees. Jeffrey Lee Butts, ninth on the alphabetical list of 1989 graduates, became the 1,000th graduate.

* Dallas Southwest Osteopathic Physicians, Inc., a non-profit charitable organization in the Oak Cliff section of Dallas, received the 1989 Service Club Award from the Southwest Region of National Recreation and Parks Association for support of park and recreational programs in Dallas. The award was presented at the annual meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

* The Texas Senate confirmed the appointments of John H. Boyd, D.O., and Alfred R. Johnson, D.O., as members of the board of the Texas State Board of Medical Examiners.

* Texas D.O. tally - there were 1,538 active licensed D.O.s practicing with Texas licenses, and 705 out-of-state D.O.s with Texas licenses. This reflected a total of 2,243 D.O.s practicing with Texas licenses.

Neil "...*keeps me apprised of the ever changing laws and rules for health insurance...*"

Bill V. Way, D.O. President Elect for District V: TOMA

Neil H. Resnik, LUTCF

"Serving the Financial Concerns of Individuals and Business Professionals"

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Osteopathic Community of Texas Represented On Capitol Hill Day

Members of the osteopathic community in Texas are making the D.O. difference in policymaking and demonstrating how D.O.s, their spouses and students of osteopathic medicine can influence Washington policymaking.

On behalf of nearly 2,500 osteopathic physicians in the state of Texas, Russell Gamber, D.O., and Shirley Bayles educated federal policymakers about the needs of the osteopathic profession and quality patient care. Dr. Gamber and Mrs. Bayles, two of many participating in the American Osteopathic Association's (AOA) Osteopathic Physicians Day on Capitol Hill, met with Representative Kay Granger (R-12th) as well as key legislative staffers from the offices of Senator Phil Gramm (R), Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R) and Representative Martin Frost (D-24th).

Dr. Gamber is an active member of the AOA and Ms. Bayles serves as the Legislative Director to the Auxiliary to the American Osteopathic Association (AAOA).

"The contributions our Hill Day participants made to the osteopathic profession set an example for others, as their efforts demonstrate commitment to both D.O. cause and action," says Marcelino Oliva, D.O., Chairman of the Council of Federal Health Programs. "Their work advances the osteopathic community's presence in Washington."

In addition to talking to policymakers about the role of osteopathic physicians, trends in the profession and presence of the osteopathic community in individual districts, participants advocated on behalf of the AOA-endorsed collective bargaining legislation (HR 1304) sponsored by Representative Campbell (R-CA). This bill would foster continued patient safety and quality of care by making antitrust laws apply to negotiations between groups of health care professionals and health plans and health insurance issuers in the same manner that labor organizations conduct collective bargaining under the National Labor Relations Act.

With the help of state associations, practice affiliates and others, AOA grassroots efforts conduct outreach and education that stimulates osteopathic professionals and patients to infuse their health care knowledge into the political process.

At the next Hill day, Thursday, September 23th, the AOA Washington Office of Government Relations will provide advocacy resources, district-specific profiles and backgrounders, legislative education and meetings with Members of Congress and their staffs.

Contact Heidi Ann Ecker at 800/962-9008 ext. 225 to learn how you can utilize AOA's Washington Office as a resource and become involved!

Medicare Panel Fails to Reach Consensus on Recommendation

After a year of meetings, the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare, created by Congress and President Clinton in 1997, fell one vote short of reaching the consensus needed to made a recommendation to Congress. Pressure to revamp the program now shifts to Congress and the White House.

The Commission's recommendation focused on making Medicare more like private health management programs, with fewer benefits guaranteed and more emphasis on cost control, and with the elderly paying more out-of-pocket expenses for benefits. It would also raise the eligibility age for Medicare to 67 from the current 65.

President Clinton stated that the plan didn't go far enough to shore up the health care program for the elderly and has promised to draft his own proposal. Backed by most Commission Democrats, President Clinton said that Medicare must guarantee a generous set of health care benefits to the elderly as an entitlement, and they are willing to commit a growing share of future taxes to pay for it. He wants to set aside 15 percent of the budget surplus, about $700 billion, to bolster the program.

Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala, appearing on CBS' "Face the Nation," said the administration opposes the commission's idea of increasing the eligibility age from 65 to 67 over 26 years.

"We did not get elected to increase the number of people in this country who are uninsured. At the end of the day, we ought not make people sicker and poorer," she said.

Shalala also noted that reforms to Medicare must include help for seniors buying prescription drugs, an issue which is backed by President Clinton. Supposedly this was a key reason that the Commission's recommendation came up one vote short. The commission's plan did not include a universal drug benefit; instead it called for Medicare to pay for the prescription drugs of certain low-income enrollees.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Mr. Boucher,

What a wonderful facility you allowed us to enjoy this week!

Thank you and TOMA for the meeting room, the staff and your gracious hospitality during our visit in Austin. Members of the Leadership Fayette County 1999 Class are most appreciative of the opportunity to see and hear about the remarkable building where you office. It was a treat and an honor to be able to meet and hear speakers in the conference room.

I want to particularly thank Paula Yeamans and your other staff members for their helpfulness and suggestions in making us feel welcome.

Again, thank you for the use of the facilities, and we hope you will call upon the La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce in the future if we can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

Margo Johnson, President
La Grange Area Chamber of Commerce

OFFICIAL STATE NOTIFICATION
Senate Bill 30 Medicaid Re-enrollment:
We Need YOU!

Why do we need you?

We need you because the Medicaid program needs quality providers. The Texas Department of Health and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission have recently simplified the re-enrollment process to encourage you to re-enroll in the Texas Medicaid Program NOW.

The requirements for Texas Medicaid providers to comply with Senate Bill 30 have been reduced to completion of the Provider Agreement ONLY, pages 8-1 through 8-9 of the re-enrollment packet. Specifically, providers must submit their name and Medicaid numbers on page 8-1 (and page 8-7, if signing for more than one provider number) and submit original signatures in ink on pages 8-7 and 8-8. The signatures do not need to be notarized.

COMPLETED PAGES 8-1 THROUGH 8-9 OF THE PACKET MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1999, FOR A PROVIDER TO BE RE-ENROLLED IN THE MEDICAID PROGRAM. AVOID THE RUSH AND SUBMIT YOUR PACKET NOW!

If you have gathered information requested in the remainder of the re-enrollment packet, you are encouraged to submit that information when submitting your provider agreement to NHIC. Federal and state law require providers to keep the state informed with up-to-date information by notifying NHIC's Provider Enrollment Department in writing. After September 1, 1999, the state will follow-up with providers regarding this information. If you have questions about the enrollment or re-enrollment processes, please call NHIC's Customer Service Department at #1-800-925-9126.

ENROLLMENT PROCESSES FOR NEW PROVIDERS HAVE NOT CHANGED.

Here are some tips for completing the provider agreement:

1. Get a comprehensive list of all your current billing and performing provider numbers from your billing office/agent.
2. If you have 2 or more provider numbers, list them in the addendum statement on the bottom of 8-7 and sign in ink.
3. Group/billing provider numbers cannot include their performing provider numbers in the addendum statement of the agreement.
4. Each provider must complete Attachment I, page 8-8 of the Provider Agreement in its entirety by completing both sets of check boxes and signing the bottom of the page as the "Potential Contractor."
5. All three signatures should be the signing authority for that provider number/s and should be the same person on pages 8-7 through 8-8 for all signature lines.

Distribution Date: March 26, 1999

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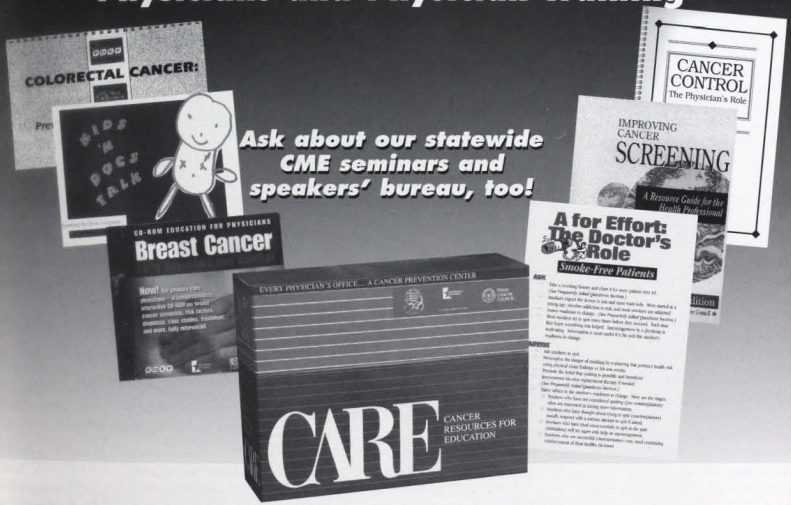

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AOA EYE ON FEDERAL AGENCIES

Regulations, reimbursement changes and reverberations that could affect D.Os

Immigration and Naturalization Service Recognizes D.Os

Effective March 22, 1999, licensed osteopathic physicians have the authority to determine which immigrants are eligible for disability status under the specifications of Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) form N-648. The Service amended its rule February 18, 1999.

On March 19, 1997, the INS published a final rule in the Federal Register establishing an administrative process to adjudicate requests for exceptions from the English and Civics requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act, by persons with physical or developmental disabilities, or mental impairments. D.Os were not included in that rule and therefore were not authorized to determine disability status of immigrants.

AOA been in close contact with INS regarding the recognition of D.Os. Thirteen commentors also requested that the Service add licensed doctors of osteopathic medicine to the list of health care providers (licensed medical doctors and licensed clinical psychologists) authorized to complete the Form N-648.

INS reviewed individual state licensing procedures, academic requirements, and credentials for licensed medical doctors and licensed osteopathic doctors. The INS concluded that D.Os have comparable training and knowledge to be authorized to complete the form N-648.

Editor's Note: Carol Monaco is the new Assistant Director for Government Relations/ Regulatory Affairs in AOA's Washington office, and the new editor of **AOA Eye on Federal Agencies**. *Carol has eight years experience covering physician reimbursement and regulatory issues, and she will keep you up-to-date on the latest regulatory changes coming out of the federal government. If you have any comments or suggestions, or to receive future issues via email, contact Carol Monaco at 202-414-0145 or cmonaco@aoa-net.org.*

News on Nominations

AOA has nominated the following four candidates to the Medicare Coverage Advisory Committee January 29:

Judith A. O'Connell, D.O.; Boyd. R. Buser, D.O.; Richard J. Snow, D.O.; and Debra A. Smith, D.O. HCFA is currently reviewing all nominations and will choose 120 committee members over the next few months.

AOA Calls on HCFA to Discontinue Prepayment Reviews

Karen Nichols, D.O., of Mesa, Ariz., testified on behalf of the American Osteopathic Association at the Practicing Physician Advisory Council meeting March 15, concerning the administrative burden in complying with Medicare, E/M documentation guidelines, and prepayment reviews.

The AOA requested 1) HCFA discontinue audits of E/M codes until a new version of the guidelines has been finalized, pilot tested and physicians and carriers are educated; and 2) The prepayment review process be eliminated and that outlier cases should be subject to post-payment review through an independent process using osteopathic physicians to review other osteopathic physicians.

On hand for the testimony was Stephen Gleason, D.O., Senior Medical Advisor, HCFA's Office of the Administrator, who is heading HCFA's Physicians Regulatory Issues Team (PRIT). PRIT's purpose is to review federal regulations affecting physicians for conflict and sheer volume, and make recommendations to HCFA.

Medicare+Choice Year 2000 Payment Rates Announced March 1

Medicare payments to managed care plans in year 2000 will include a blend of local and national payment rates. Due to the Balanced Budget Act 1997 (BBA 97), the county rates paid to plans in 1997 became the basis for all future payments. The law sets each county's rate at the highest of three amounts. The first is a minimum 2% increase over the prior year's amount; the second is a guaranteed minimum known as a floor payment; and the third is a blending of local and national rates.

In 2000, 63% of the counties nationally will receive blended payments. The final estimate of the national per capita Medicare+Choice growth rate is 5.04% for aged beneficiaries next year. Some counties will receive more than 5.04%, others will receive less.

About 10% of the counties nationally will receive the guaranteed minimum of 2% increase. The monthly floor payment rate, which affects about 27% of the counties nationally, will increase 5.73% for aged beneficiaries. In the 63% of the counties that receive the blended rate, payment rates will range from slightly more than 2% to about 18%.

County rates in the year 2000 will also be adjusted to reflect the health status (risk adjustment) of Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in M+C as required by BBA 97. The risk adjustments will be phased in over 5 years and will increase payments to plans with the sickest patients. For next year, only 10% of a plan's payment for each beneficiary will be calculated based on the new risk adjusters, while 90% will be based on the current system which is based on demographic factors such as age and sex.

In addition to releasing the payment rates, HCFA has also amended the M+C interim final rule, which was published June 26, 1998. This final rule, released in the 2/17/99 Federal Register, addresses guaranteed issue for Medigap insurance, special election enrollment, notification of rule changes, access to services, initial care assessments, involuntary terminations, and provider participation rules. The effective date is March 19, 1999. HCFA will publish a comprehensive M+C final rule later in 1999.

National Practitioner Data Bank Fee

Effective March 1, 1999, the National Practitioner Data Bank began charging a $10 fee per self-query to recover its costs (3/1/99 Federal Register). NPDB will continue to send a copy of every report received by the databank for purposes of verification and dispute resolution to the practitioner whose name was submitted-free of charge. Health and Human Services is also looking into the possibility of an internet-based self-query process. If implemented, costs savings will be passed onto the queries.

MedPAC Reviews Graduate Medical Education Funding

How to handle Graduate Medical Education funding likely will be in the August report of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission. MedPAC is currently studying different options such as:

1. Continue Medicare's current policy; keep hospital specific payments or move to national payment rates.
2. Remove GME from Medicare but continue supporting with federal funds through appropriations or trust fund.
3. Eliminate support.

Further discussions on GME funding are expected at MedPAC's April meeting.

Additionally, MedPAC released its report to Congress. The commission's report included recommendations on Medicare+Choice; the acute care hospital inpatient prospective payment system; payments for facilities exempted from the acute care prospective payment system; development of new payment systems for post-acute care providers; modification of payment for services provided in ambulatory care facilities; continued reform of the Medicare fee schedule for physicians, and the composite rate for outpatient dialysis services.

Are Your Vaccination Publications Up to Date?

Effective June 1, 1999, each health care provider who administers any vaccine that contains hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), varicella (chickenpox), measles, mumps, or rubella vaccines shall (prior to administering the vaccine) provide a copy of the relevant vaccine information materials to the parent or legal representative of any child who is being vaccinated and to any adult who is being vaccinated. By no later than June 1, 1999, providers must replace their Measles, Mumps, Rubella Vaccine Information Materials, dated June 10, 1994, with the December 16, 1998 revised Measles, Mumps, Rubella materials. Health care providers shall note in each patient's permanent medical record at the time vaccine information materials are provided indicating (1) the edition date of the materials distributed and (2) the date these materials were provided. Please Note: Beginning as soon as possible after February 23, 1999, health care providers should distribute copies of the interim polio vaccine information materials, dated February 1, 1999, in place of the February 6, 1997 version of the polio materials. For more information on how to get the updated materials, contact the AOA Washington office at 202-414-0145.

GAO Report

HCFA's Method for PE-RVUs Acceptable, but Problems Persist

The General Accounting Office has concluded that Health Care Financing Administration's new methodology for calculating resource-based practice expense relative value units (PE-RVUs) is an acceptable approach and noted that HCFA used the best data available for creating the new values. However, the GAO says that questions about data and underlying methodology need to be addressed before the new RVUs are completely phased in. HCFA needs a strategy to refine the PE-RVUs during the three-year phase-in period that focuses on the weaknesses that have the greatest impact on the RVUs. The GAO makes the following recommendations:

- Use sensitivity analysis to identify issues with the methods that have the greatest effect on the new practice expense RVUs and to target additional data collection and analysis efforts.
- Develop plans for updating the PE-RVUs that address how to 1) assign practice expense RVUs to new codes, 2) revise the RVUs for existing codes, and 3) meet the legislative requirement for a comprehensive 5-year review of the resource based practice expense RVUs.
- Monitor indicators of patient access to care focusing on procedures with the greatest reductions in Medicare payments and consider access problems when evaluating physician payment system.

The full GAO report is available on the GAO web site at www.gao.gov. The report number is HEHS-99-30.

Are You Y2K Compliant?

The Health Care Financing Administration has announced that it will be ready to process claims Jan. 1, 2000. The key question is are providers ready to send Y2K compliant claims to their carriers? And it's not only claims that you have to be concerned about when it comes to Y2K compliance. HCFA has some suggestions for the health care community:

- **Become aware** of how Y2K can affect your systems. Anything that depends on a microchip or date entry could be affected. List every item and organization that you depend on and who depend on you, particularly ones that you cannot live without.
- **Assess** the readiness of everything you have on your list. Contact your hardware and software vendors or access key information from various web sites. Contact your maintenance and service contractors.
- **Update or replace** systems.
- **Test** your existing and newly purchased systems and software. Keep track of your test plans. Test your Electronic Data Interchange (EDI)

with one or more of your payers, including Medicare. Make sure your eight-digit date format does not change to "1900" instead of 2000. If the date does not change properly, your claims will be denied.

- **Develop contingency plans** in case something goes wrong. Focus on areas that would be most problematic for you and your patients.

For more Y2K information, you can call 1-800-958-HCFA or check HCFA's web site: www.hcfa.gov/y2k. For the latest information on the Food & Drug Administration's Y2k progress, check its web site at www.fda.gov. For the Veterans' Administration, check its web site at www.va.gov/year2000.

HCFA extends deadline for proposal comments

You still have time to send in your comments on HCFA's proposals for the hospital outpatient prospective payment system and the update of rate-setting, methodology, payment rates, payment policies and list of Ambulatory Surgical Center procedures. HCFA has extended the deadline to June 30, 1999. For the ASC proposal, mail your written comments (one original and three copies) to HCFA, Dept. of HHS, Attention: HCFA 1885-P, P.O. Box 26688, Baltimore, Maryland 21207-0488. For the Outpatient Prospective Payment proposal, mail your comments to the same address, attention: HCFA-1005-P. Or you may deliver your comments to one of the following: Room 443-G, Hubert Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave. SW, Washington D.C., 20201 or Rm C5-09-26 Central Building, 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850.

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HEALTH NOTES

Viagra's Labeling Updated Following Reaction Reports

The maker of Viagra (sildenafil) has updated the product's labeling in response to adverse reaction reports the company and the FDA have received since the drug went on the market last year.

The new labeling, revised in consultation with the FDA, addresses postmarketing reports of heart attacks, sudden cardiac death, and high blood pressure. A causal relationship has not been established from these reports. The new information is intended to keep consumers and doctors fully informed about the risks and benefits of Viagra, a drug that the agency says is safe and effective if used according to the updated labeling.

The new labeling advises doctors that treatments for impotence, including Viagra, generally should not be used in men for whom sexual activity is inadvisable because of their underlying cardiovascular status. Also, it advises doctors to be especially cautious in prescribing Viagra to patients who have had a heart attack, stroke or life-threatening arrhythmia within the past six months; significant hypotension or hypertension; a history of cardiac failure or coronary artery disease with unstable angina; and retinitis pigmentosa.

The labeling also warns about the risk of painful, prolonged erections in men who use the drug and advises patients to seek immediate medical attention if their erection lasts longer than four hours.

The new label information augments the original label information, which warned against the joint use of Viagra and nitrates.

Health care professionals should report unexpected adverse and serious reactions associated with Viagra use to the drug's manufacturer, Pfizer Inc., at 800-438-1985; or to FDA's MedWatch program at 800-FDA-1088.

FDA Approves New Device to Remove Blood Clots from Coronary Arteries

The Food and Drug Administration has approved a new medical device for removing blood clots from blocked heart arteries or bypass grafts prior to angioplasty. The device will provide an alternative treatment to so-called clot busting drugs, and will be particularly useful for patients in whom these drugs cannot be used.

The product, the AngioJet System, received expedited review by the FDA. It was approved less than six months after receipt of a marketing application from the manufacturer, Possis Medical, of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The device is a coronary catheter system that shoots a jet of saline solution back into the tip of the catheter to suck out blood clots. Treatment with this device takes about one minute. Once the blood clot is removed, the patient can then undergo angioplasty.

Approval of the AngioJet System was based on review of clinical studies of safety and effectiveness conducted by the manufacturer.

The company studied 731 people at 41 medical centers in the United States and Canada who had come to the hospital with symptoms of a heart artery blockage. In one study, 180 were treated with AngioJet and 169 were treated with urokinase, a clot-busting drug. The study showed that AngioJet was similar in effectiveness to urokinase.

In another study, 105 patients who could not be treated with clot-busting drugs were treated with AngioJet. The study showed the device to be similarly effective in these patients. Another study showed that AngioJet could be effectively used along with other treatments to remove blood clots during a heart attack.

The AngioJet System was previously approved to treat blood cots in dialysis grafts.

(Source: FDA Talk Paper, March 15, 1999)

continued on next page

Liver Risk Warning Added to Parkinson's Drug

The FDA and the maker of Tasmar (tolcapone), a drug for treating Parkinson's disease, have warned doctors about three fatal liver injuries associated with the drug and have recommended significant changes in how it is used.

Worldwide, about 60,000 patients have taken Tasmar, a drug approved in 1997 to augment treatment with two other Parkinson's drugs, levadopa and carbidopa. The three deaths amount to a rate of about one reported death for every 20,000 patients using the drug.

Last November, Tasmar manufacturer Hoffmann-La Roche Inc., alerted doctors that the drug's labeling had changed to limit its use to patients who do not have severe movement abnormalities and who do not respond to or who are not appropriate candidates for other available treatments.

The new warning calls for liver monitoring every two weeks, more frequently than previously recommended. Doctors also should advise patients to monitor themselves for signs of liver disease such as jaundice, fatigue, or loss of appetite. If patients fail to show substantial benefits within the first three weeks of treatment, they should be withdrawn from the drug.

FDA emphasizes that patients should not stop taking Tasmar without first speaking to their doctors. Abrupt withdrawal or reduction in dose can lead to a return of symptoms or other, more serious, complications. All cases of serious liver injury occurring in Parkinson's patients, whether on Tasmar or another drug, should be reported to FDA's MedWatch program, or to Roche Laboratories at 800-526-6367.

Glass Capillary Tubes: Joint Safety Advisory about Potential Risks

The FDA, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) are alerting health care professionals to the potential risk of injury and/or infection from bloodborne pathogens, including HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C viruses, due to accidental breakage of glass capillary tubes, and recommend certain steps that can minimize the risk.

Background

Glass capillary tubes are used for the collection of blood in a variety of healthcare settings, including hospitals, ambulatory care facilities, physicians' offices, blood donation facilities and blood testing centers. Accidental breakage of these slender, fragile tubes has been reported when the tubes are inserted into putty to be sealed and during centrifugation. Breakage of the tubes during putty insertion may result in a penetrating wound and blood inoculation to the user. One such injury resulted in the transmission of HIV to a physician who has since died of AIDS. Glass capillary tubes can break during centrifugation and cause blood to splatter, potentially exposing personnel to bloodborne pathogens. The broken glass fragments can injure the user, resulting in a percutaneous exposure to blood.

At one acute care facility, the injury rate associated with glass capillary tubes was 2.6 per 100,000 tubes purchased in 1992. Approximately 108 million glass capillary tubes are sold each year in the United States, suggesting that approximately 2,800 injuries may occur nationwide if a similar injury rate occurs at other healthcare facilities. Two systems for surveillance of hospital-based healthcare worker injuries have reported injuries from glass capillary tubes, some of which caused blood exposure and resulted in the need for antiretroviral post-exposure prophylactic therapy.

Recommendations

To reduce the risk of injury due to breakage of capillary tubes, FDA, NIOSH and OSHA recommend that users consider blood collection devices less prone to accidental breakage, including:

1) Capillary tubes that are not made of glass,
2) Glass capillary tubes wrapped in puncture-resistant film,
3) Products that use a method of sealing that does not require manually pushing one end of the tube into putty to form a plug, or
4) Products that allow the blood hematocrit to be measured without centrifugation.

Although FDA, NIOSH and OSHA cannot recommend specific products, blood-collection devices with these characteristics are currently available, and their use may reduce the risk of injury and blood exposure.

Reporting and Recordkeeping

The Safe Medical Devices Act (SMDA) of 1990 requires hospitals and other user facilities to report deaths, serious illnesses, and injuries associated with the use of medical devices, including capillary tubes. Readers should follow procedures established by their own facilities for such mandatory reporting of adverse events. Practitioners who become aware of any medical device-related adverse event or product problem/malfunction should report to their designated Medical Device User Facility Reporting contact person. Even if a medical device-related incident or product quality problem is not required to be reported under the SMDA, health professionals are encouraged to report any medical device related concerns to MedWatch, the FDA's voluntary reporting program. Submit reports to MedWatch by phone at 800-FDA-1088; by FAX at 800-FDA-0178; via the MedWatch website at www.fda.gov/medwatch, or mail to MedWatch, FDA, HF-2, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852-9787.

Occupational illnesses and injuries sustained from capillary tubes may be recordable under OSHA's recordkeeping requirements (see 29 CFR Part 1904: Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses). Additionally, post-exposure follow-up for employees may be indicated (see OSHA's Instruction CPL 2-2.44C [March 6, 1992]: Enforcement Procedures for the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1030).

ATOMA News

ATOMA Funds Annual Report

By Karen S. Worrell
ATOMA Funds Chair

This year's raffle will be held on President's Night, June 19, at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Dallas during TOMA's Annual Convention & Scientific Seminar. We are planning a Silent Auction on June 17th and 18th, during which time all auction items will be on display in the exhibit hall. I have sent a letter to all ATOMA district members asking for their support in selling raffle tickets and securing donations for the Silent Auction. ***[Editor's note: this letter is printed below.]***

There will be a raffle ticket drawing for three big prizes - 1) a four day/four night trip for two to Banff or Whistler, Canada; 2) a fur coat donated by Morris Kaye & Sons Fine Furs; and 3) a globe made of semi-precious gemstones and solid brass.

Raffle ticket holders need not be present to win. We will have a booth in the exhibit hall and will ask for staffing from the SAA. We will also sell raffle tickets at the door on President's Night.

The Silent Auction will take place June 17th and 18th in the exhibit hall.

Many thanks to Peggy Rodgers, Darlene Way, Shirley Bayles and Kathy Speece for all of their help in making this year's fundraiser a success

(The following is the letter that was sent to ATOMA district members. Tickets can be purchased prior to the convention from any ATOMA board member or from your local ATOMA district. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the convention).

Dear Auxiliary Member:

The 100th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association will be here before we know it! I am writing to you to request a donation for the annual fundraiser. This year we have three big prizes:

- ☆ A four day/four night trip for two to Banff or Whistler, Canada (winner's choice), including round trip airfare and first class hotel accommodations. The winner may choose to take the trip at any time during the year.
- ☆ A fur coat donated by Morris Kaye & Sons fine Furs of Dallas, Texas.
- ☆ A world globe made of semi-precious gemstones and a solid brass base. The gemstones include amethyst, opal, blue topaz, tiger's eye, turquoise, and agate, among others.

I am sending you a number of raffle tickets to sell. The tickets will be non-refundable for cash and the purchaser need not be present to win. Consequently, we can feel free to sell tickets to our friends, relatives, neighbors and business associates, knowing that their chances of winning are as good as the chances of those attending the convention.

Our Silent Auction will be held June 17th and 18th during the Annual Convention at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Dallas. This is where you can really make a difference. We would like each district auxiliary to donate a gift for the auction. Examples of gifts are a small trip for two, a case of wine, dinner for two, jewelry, a cash donation, football tickets or a gift basket.

Hopefully, by having more prizes we can generate more contributions. The success of this year's fundraiser depends on the support of all auxiliary members.

I hope that you and your district will participate in this year's fundraiser and support the state auxiliary. Please mail any monetary donations, as well as proceeds from ticket sales, to me at the following address: Karen S. Worrell, ATOMA Funds Chair, 9217 Middle Glen Drive, Dallas, TX 75243. Please drop me a note if you or your auxiliary decides to contribute a gift to the Silent Auction.

Your help is greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Karen S. Worrell,
ATOMA Funds Chair

ATOMA Nominating Committee Report

By Peggy Rodgers, Chair
ATOMA Nominating Committee

The ATOMA Nominating Committee has presented the slate of officers in the Texas D.O. prior to the convention so that you may familiarize yourselves with whom you will be voting for at the ATOMA House of Delegates.

ATOMA slate of officers for 1999-2000:

President - Mr. Lewis Isenberg
President-elect - Mrs. Tami Prangle
Vice President - Mrs. Pam Adams
Recording Secretary - Mrs. Barbara Galarneau
Treasurer - Mrs. Susan Selman

The ATOMA Nominating Committee would like to spotlight Mrs. Susan Selman and Mrs. Pam Adams in this issue.

Treasurer Nominee
Mrs. Susan Selman

Mrs. Selman is a lifelong resident of Fort Worth. She worked as a legal secretary for 27 years, the last 18 of which were spent at Shannon, Gracey, Ratliff & Miller. She is now a Mary Kay consultant in qualification for directorship. Mrs. Selman earned her first Mary Kay car last month.

She and her husband, Duane, who works fulltime in the emergency room at North Hills Hospital, are the parents of two sons. Weston, 21, is a student at Tarrant County Junior College and Carter, 16, is a student at Kennedale High School.

Mrs. Selman is actively involved in ATOMA District II and is the current vice president. She enjoys traveling, teaching skin care, promoting osteopathic medicine, reading, and yard work (not necessarily in that order).

Vice President Nominee
Mrs. Pam Adams

Mrs. Adams has an R.N. degree and is director of the Occupational Health Department at the Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas. She is president of ATOMA District II and ATOMA recording secretary. She is also a board member of the Women's Center of Tarrant County, the Women's Club of Fort Worth and the Symphony League of Fort Worth.

ATOMA is very proud to have these nominees for the ATOMA board. It always seems that those who are busy find the time to serve on the board and to promote osteopathic medicine. Please consider this when the Nominating Committee calls. ATOMA needs your support and we definitely will support you when you make the commitment.

Please send in your delegates' names and plan to attend the ATOMA House of Delegates meeting in Dallas this year. We look forward to seeing you in Dallas, June 17-20.

Second Annual ATOMA Golf Tournament

By Peggy Rodgers, Chair
ATOMA Golf Tournament

Join in the centennial celebration of 100 years of osteopathic education in Texas, and support the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's Auxiliary at this year's golf tournament. Proceeds received from the tournament will be used by ATOMA to provide scholarships to TCOM students, to support the Educational Endowment Fund, the Impaired Physicians Fund and the National Ad Campaign.

The Golf Tournament will be held Friday, June 18, in Dallas at the Buffalo Creek Golf Club, in conjunction with the TOMA 100th Annual Convention and Scientific Seminar. As in the past, the tournament will be coordinated and sponsored by Dean/Jacobson Financial Services and Healthcare Insurance Services.

We are in the process of looking for additional sponsors for this event. As a major sponsor, your company/office will receive special recognition in publications associated with the tournament.

The levels of sponsorships are:

Photo Shots Sponsor ($750) - entitles the sponsor to have their company's name embossed on the souvenir photo holder along with ATOMA's name, a tee sign and special recognition in the golf program, and a complimentary twosome in the golf tournament.

ATOMA Gold ($650) - Entitles the company/donor to have a tee sign, a complimentary twosome in the golf tournament and special recognition at the course and in the golf program.

ATOMA Silver ($400) - Entitles the company/donor to have recognition in the program, tee sign on the golf course, and a complimentary player in the golf tournament.

ATOMA Tee-Sign ($100) - Entitles the company/donor to a tee-sign at the golf tournament and special recognition in the program.

☆ ATOMA will also recognize each donor, for each level, in the *Texas D.O.* magazine after the tournament.

Proceeds from the ATOMA Golf Tournament will help continue the Auxiliary's mission to support osteopathic medicine. If your company or office would like to participate, please return the sponsorship form below to: ATOMA, c/o Peggy Rodgers, 3177 Melstone, Arlington, TX 76016.

1999 Auxiliary to the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association Golf Sponsorship

My company/office would like to support the ATOMA Golf Tournament at the following level:

_____($750) Photo Shots Sponsor

_____($650) ATOMA Gold Sponsor

_____($400) ATOMA Silver Sponsor

_____($100) ATOMA Tee-Sign Sponsor

Company/OfficeName
_____

Contact Name
_____

Address:
_____

City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____

Phone: ( ) _____

FAX: ( ) _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO: ATOMA

If paying by Cardit Card

☐ MasterCard ☐ VISA ☐ AmExpress ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number
_____

Credit Card Signature
_____

Expiration Date _____

Sponsorship: $ _____

Additional Players: #___x $125.00 = $ _____

TOTAL **$** _____

MAIL FORM AND CHECK TO
Mrs. Peggy Rodgers, 3711 Melstone
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Smart Tax Moves Can Reap Benefits

What if your employer or accountant informed you that starting next year, you won't collect a single paycheck until May 10? Just think: despite the long hours and hard work, you wouldn't begin earning a salary until almost halfway through the fifth month of the year.

If you were like most Americans, you wouldn't stand for this type of arrangement. But whether you know it or not, this is the effect taxes have on your salary.

May 10th was estimated to be "Tax Freedom Day" in 1998, or the day until which the average employee needed to work to pay his or her taxes for the entire year. [1] Broken down further, this amounts to about three hours of work out of an eight-hour day that go toward each American's tax bill.

While this illustration demonstrates - perhaps too effectively - the tax bite Americans pay each year, it also reinforces the need for effective tax-free and tax-deferred investing and smart money-saving moves. We all have an obligation to pay our fair share of taxes, but why pay even a dollar more than necessary?

There are several potentially beneficial tax-fee and tax-deferred investment vehicles available. By utilizing tax-exempt investments, you may be able to grow your money while keeping more of what you earn. The following are some ideal techniques to try to ease the pain of tax time come April 15.

Take advantage of a tax-deferred retirement plan. Most organizations offer (and self-employed individuals can establish) some sort of Profit Sharing plan. These plans allow for contributions to be made to a retirement account before taxes are taken out. Using the maximum allowable contribution of 15 percent of salary for the Profit Sharing plan as a guideline, let's look at how a physician making $160,000 this year can benefit. She contributes the maximum $24,000 to her plan, bringing her taxable income to $136,000. As you can see from the table below, our hypothetical physician gains a tax benefit of over $7,000 from investing the maximum in her Profit Sharing plan.[2]

Another investment vehicle that can potentially save you tax dollars is the Roth IRA. This retirement account features many options for investors seeking tax-free growth of earnings and qualified withdrawals.[3] The guidelines for making contributions, which are made with after-tax funds, are similar to the traditional IRA, but there are significant differences affecting deductions, distributions and withdrawals. A married couple investing $4,000 per year into individual Roth IRAs would have a combined total of $657,976 available tax-free after 30 years.[5] This money can even be left for children if desired, unlike with the traditional IRA. However, there are income restrictions that limit or prohibit taxpayers' ability to utilize Roth IRAs.

Other investments include tax-free municipal bonds[6] and tax-deferred annuities - for information or advice on these and other investment vehicles, give us a call.

So while most Americans take quite a hit at tax time, there is potential to trim the amount you owe Uncle Sam. Tax-advantaged investing can help you keep every dollar that is rightfully yours. Because let's face it: Tax Freedom Day is one day we would all like to get out of the way as soon as possible.

1 *The Tax Foundation, 1998*

2 *Taxes are due upon withdrawal. Additionally, penalties may also apply to withdrawals prior to age 59 ½.*

3 *Restrictions, penalties and taxes may apply.*

4 *Assumes joint return with 3 personal deductions and standard deductions.*

5 *Assuming a 10% annual return. This hypothetical example is for illustrative purposes only and is not indicative of any particular investment. Assuming the account has been held at least five years, funds are available tax-free at age 59 ½.*

6 *May be subject to other taxes such as alternative minimum tax, state or local taxes.*

FORT WORTH 817-335-3214

DALLAS 972-445-5533

TOLL FREE 800-321-0246

Before Tax Salary	Money Invested in a Profit Sharing Plan	Estimated Taxable Income[4]	Estimated After Tax Income (31% Bracket)	Total Value [Profit Sharing Investment + After Tax Income]
$160,000	$24,000	$121,000	$92,300	$116,300
$160,000	$0	$145,000	$108,900	$108,900

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NEWS YOU CAN USE

New Medicaid Pathology Billing Policy Delayed

The March 1, 1999 effective date for implementation of the previously announced clarification of the Medicaid Anatomical Pathology policy has been delayed to a future date, pending additional research of this policy. The billing policy had been published in the January/February Texas Medicaid Bulletin.

The policy would have bundled certain anatomical pathology lab services into a hospital's diagnosis related group (DRG) reimbursement program.

HMOs Must Give Notice Before Dropping Drugs

The Texas Department of Insurance issued a new rule requiring HMOs to give patients and physicians 90 days notice when a prescription drug is scheduled to be dropped from the formulary. The rule, which went into effect February 8, allows patients to appeal to continue using the drug.

The 10 therapeutic classes with the highest number of plans reporting restrictions include antidepressants, antifungals, alpha-blockers, migraine treatments, certain pain medications, cholesterol reducers, antiulcer/ulcer combinations, calcium channel blockers, sympathomimetic antiasthmatics, and macrolides.

Medicare Claims Must Have Eight Digits in Birth Date Field

Physicians are reminded that the Health Care Financing Administration requires eight digits in the birth date field on Medicare claim forms. All claims submitted on or after April 5, 1999, will be returned as unprocessable if they do not contain an eight-digit date. Exceptions to this requirement may be granted by HCFA in very limited circumstances, however, contractors may not grant exceptions without HCFA concurrence.

Physicians should contact their respective Medicare contractors for guidance and help with filing possible exceptions.

HCFA Launches Medicare Managed Care Site

Medicare beneficiaries can now examine official information on the quality of care provided by Medicare managed care plans. The Health Care Financing Administration has posted on the Internet the results of a survey of 100,000 peopled enrolled in Medicare managed care at the following site: www.medicare.gov.

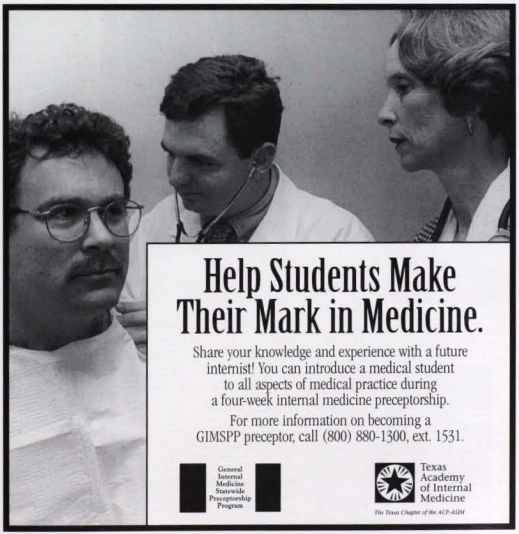
Reminder: Physicians Must Re-enroll in the Texas Medicaid Program

By now, physicians should have received Medicaid provider re-enrollment forms, which should be completed and returned prior to September 1, 1999. Physicians and other providers who do not return their forms by that date will be disenrolled from Medicaid, and any claims they submit after September 1 will be denied.

The re-enrollment effort is in response to Senate Bill 30, a 1997 state law that requires all Medicaid providers to re-enroll in the program by September 1, 1999, even if the provider already has a Medicaid number. The law also requires providers to sign a new agreement stipulating that they will comply with the state's Medicaid program integrity efforts.

The re-enrollment initiative will assist in the state's transition to a new Medicaid claims payment system. Additionally, each Medicaid provider will be assigned a unique identifier, thus eliminating the need for multiple provider numbers.

For further information regarding the re-enrollment process should contact National Heritage Insurance Company's Customer Service Department at 800-925-9126.



TEXAS ACOFP UPDATE

L to R: Texas ACOFP President Pat Hanford, D.O.,Past President Jack McCarty, D.O. and President Elect John Bowling, D.O. confer before ACOFP Congress of Delegates.

David Garza, D.O., TxACOFP Vice President visits with resident member, Carolyn McDougald, D.O.

TxACOFP Past President Gene Zachary, D.O., serves as a ACOFP speaker.

Outgoing ACOFP President Max Helman, D.O. (L) and newly installed President Joseph McNerney, D.O.

Ronda Beene, D.O., S/D Kerin Denton and Roger Guthrie, D.O. served as Texas Delegates.

ACOFP Annual Convention Report

Texas was well represented at the recent ACOFP Convention in San Diego. Seventeen members served as delegates to the Congress of Delegates and three of the five resolutions submitted were approved. Those approved were:

HCFA Sponsored Training Sessions - opposed HCFA's contracting to AARP for holding training seminars for the detection and reporting of erroneous Medicare Fraud.

Onsite Lab Work - supporting national legislation enabling family physicians to perform and be compensated for medically indicated onsite diagnostic procedures.

Clinical Pathway for Re-entry - supports a clinical pathway to those osteopathic physicians who have completed non-AOA approved ACGME programs for eligibility to become AOA Board Certified.

A resolution on a Patient Bill of Rights was withdrawn as we felt it did not clearly reflect the feelings of our delegation and another on HMO Reimbursement for OMT was referred to the Managed Care Committee for review.

Texas was proud to have the opportunity to sponsor seven students and one resident to the convention. Their travel and hotel expenses were covered by our association and they were grateful for the opportunity to attend.

Physician of the Day at the Capitol

During the Legislative Session, the Capitol recruits physicians to serve as Physician of the Day. The osteopathic profession is given a week during the session to provide elected officials and staff with medical treatment. This year, the following physicians served at the Capitol during osteopathic week: John Whitham, D.O., Corpus Christi; Patrick Hanford, D.O., Lubbock; Carlos Hornedo, III, D.O., Laredo; George Cole, D.O., Amarillo; and Steve Vacalis, D.O., Dallas.

Texas ACOFP and TOMA thank these physicians for volunteering their time to represent the osteopathic profession during this legislative session.

Membership

Alan G. Zond, D.O., of Huntsville, was accepted for membership at our recent Board of Governor's Meeting. Dr. Zond is a graduate of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and resides in Spring, Texas. His father is the late John R. Zond, D.O.

To those members who have not yet paid their 1999 dues, there's no time like the present. Remember, you receive a discount on the upcoming 42nd Annual Clinical Seminar, to be held July 22 - 25 in Arlington, as well as the 2nd Annual OMT Update in September.

If you have any question regarding dues or membership, please call the state headquarters at 888-892-2637.

IN BRIEF

Medicaid Evictions by Nursing Homes Banned

President Clinton signed a law on March 25th that will protect current nursing home residents from being evicted or forced to move solely because they rely on Medicaid to pay their bills.

Rep. Mike Bilirakis (R-FL), noted, "This law closes a legal loophole that allows nursing homes to evict their most vulnerable residents. It puts patients ahead of profits."

Although the new law will not force nursing homes to accept Medicaid patients, homes that choose to quit taking new Medicaid patients will be barred from evicting or transferring those they currently house.

In addition, homes that choose not to accept Medicaid patients will have to notify any new residents, who are able to pay their own way at first, that they might have to move if they run out of money and are eventually forced to rely on Medicaid.

With nursing home costs averaging $40,000 a year, approximately half of the senior citizens who initially pay their own way turn to Medicaid within three to five years.

Y2K Bill Approved by Panel

The Senate Judiciary Committee approved 10-7 one of several bills before Congress aimed at averting lawsuits related to Y2K computer breakdowns. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), co-sponsored the bill with Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT).

The Hatch-Feinstein bill would establish a 90-day grace period so companies could fix computer problems before suits go forward. It would encourage alternatives to lawsuits and put limits on class action suits.

Defibrillators Now on All American Aircraft

American Airlines has announced that all of its aircraft now carry automatic external defibrillators and enhanced medical kits to help handle medical emergencies on board. The devices have saved four passengers since the program started in July of 1997.

HCFA Says Nursing Home Penalties can be Immediate

The Health Care Financing Administration has announced a new regulation for the nursing home industry whereby state regulators do not have to wait until a violation is fixed to assess a penalty. Current rules under the Texas Department of Human Services give the facilities up to 90 days to fix a complaint. As an example, under the new regulation, state regulators could immediately fine a facility up to $10,000 if they found bed sores on residents.

Online Newsletter Provides Tips on Appeals

Physicians may wish to check out The Appeal Letter, a free online newsletter by Appeal Solutions, which can be reached at: www.integsoft.com/appeals/tal. The bimonthly newsletter offers tips and techniques on effectively appealing denied insurance. Features include how-to articles on appealing certain insurance denials and a regular column highlighting appeal success stories.

Oncology Clinic Opens at Palo Pinto General Hospital

In order to provide better access to patients in the Palo Pinto County region, Texas Cancer Care, a member of the M.D. Anderson Physicians Network, has opened an oncology clinic at Palo Pinto General Hospital. The clinic will provide new patient referrals, patient evaluations, patient education, and lab and diagnostic services Monday through Friday. In addition, oncologists from Texas Cancer Care will see patients two days a week. For more information about clinic services, call 940-328-6526.

"A diagnosis of cancer produces a multitude of concerns. Fortunately for residents of Palo Pinto and its surrounding counties, traveling to a metropolitan area to see a doctor is no longer one of those concerns," said William Jordan, D.O., president of Texas Cancer Care. Dr. Jordan estimates that Texas Cancer Care physicians have more than 500 patient visits a year from the five-county region.

On April 1st, Palo Pinto Hospital and Texas Cancer Care hosted a reception to observe the clinic opening. Invited guests toured the clinic and heard brief remarks from hospital officials and Texas Cancer Care physicians.

Palo Pinto General Hospital is the region's only full-service, acute care hospital and is the largest facility between Fort Worth and Abilene. Accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations, Palo Pinto General Hospital offers home health, inpatient and outpatient services, including specialty clinics for cardiology, neurology, E.N.T. and oncology.

GAO Report Blasts HCFA on Nursing Home Non-Compliance

A report issued by the General Accounting Office calls the 1.6 million Americans in nursing homes among the nation's "most vulnerable citizens," but says government regulators aren't doing enough to ensure their wellbeing.

Using data from four states, including Texas, the GAO said it found that the government does a poor job of requiring nursing homes to comply with federal health care standards. The surveys revealed that approximately 25 percent of nursing homes have health and safety violations that harm residents or put them at risk of death or serious injury.

"This report tells you the enforcement process isn't working," said Sen. Charles Grassley (R-IA), chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging. He noted that many patients don't even get the "minimum quality of care…like making

sure that patients have enough water to prevent dehydration."

"Sanctions initiated by the HCFA against non-compliant nursing homes were never implemented in a majority of cases and generally did not ensure that the homes maintained compliance with standards" said the GAO.

The study also revealed that nursing homes found in violation of standards were being let off the hook too often.

"HCFA would give notice to impose a sanction, the home would correct its deficiencies, HCFA would rescind the sanction and a subsequent survey would find that problems had returned," the report states. "The threat of sanctions appear to have little effect on deterring homes from falling out of compliance."

The GAO has recommended to the Special Senate Committee on Aging that HCFA do more to lessen the time nursing homes take to appeal citations, improve the action of withholding Medicare and Medicaid funding from non-compliant homes, track non-compliant, repeat offenders more vigorously and improve communication with states about problems at particular homes.

Federal Agencies Nearly Y2K Compliant

John Koskinen, chairman of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, has announced that 92 percent of computer systems at the government's 24 largest agencies have been repaired and are Y2K compliant. March 31 was the deadline imposed by the White House more than a year ago.

Koshkinen stated that 13 of the 24 departments now report that their most essential computer systems are 100 percent ready for business beginning January 1. Ten agencies have repaired and tested at least 85 percent of their systems.

An exception is the U.S. Agency for International Development, which has not fixed any of its crucial systems due to a late start and an encounter with more problems than anticipated.

The White House has reported that only one-fourth of its systems are compliant, however, all systems are expected to be repaired by the end of October.

Kaiser Foundation Delivers Online HIV/AIDS Report

The Kaiser Family Foundation website at www.kff.org now features the Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report. This free online service is designed to provide the latest HIV/AIDS news, highlighting legislative, political, legal, scientific and business developments.

News stories in the Kaiser Daily HIV/AIDS Report are drawn from more than 300 news sources nationwide. The report also offers hypertext links from the news stories to more extensive information in the Internet; a calendar of events; a keyword-searchable database; and free e-mail delivery. You can register for e-mail delivery at www.kff.org/register.

(Source: Texas HIV/STD Update, Winter-Spring 1999)

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News

from the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth

Improvements to Health Science Center Campus Approved by Regents

The Board of Regents of the UNT Health Science Center has approved a 1999/2000 campus improvement program, involving completion of the Patient Care Center and construction of a new parking garage.

The project construction will begin this year, said David M. Richards, D.O., health science center president. The $19 million for both improvements through Tuition Revenue Bonds were approved by the Texas Legislature in 1997.

Two floors of the health science center's Patient Care Center, located on Montgomery Street and West 7th Street, are now in use. Finishing and equipping the remaining four stories will consolidate all on-campus patient care services at one location. The Physicians & Surgeons Medical Group occupying the center includes 110 members of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine faculty. They practice in 24 medical and surgical specialties and comprise Tarrant County's largest multi-specialty group practice. The Patient Care Center Completion will cost $7.5million.

The new parking garage will feature four graduated levels directly behind the health science center's Gibson D. Lewis Health Science Library. It will produce a net gain of 609 spaces for patients, students, faculty and staff. Costs associated with completion of this facility total $11.5 million.

Dr. Richards pointed out that the patient care facility and the parking garage will complement each other through convenient co-location. The garage location is designed to create a new entrance to the campus but will be accessible to the Patient Care Center. Architect for the garage project is the Fort Worth firm of Gideon Toal, Inc.

Parking in the city's Cultural District is tight, especially during the annual Stock Show and Rodeo, and when major exhibits are mounted at the adjacent Kimbell Art Museum and the Amon Carter Museum, Dr. Richards noted. The institution's garage is intended to provide permanent relief for the entire neighborhood, he said, and will be open to the public on weekends.

Health Science Center Awarded Patent on Cardiac Device

Researchers with the University of North Texas Health Science Center have created three circulatory devices designed to assist the heart during stressful events such as heart attack, heart failure and heart surgery. The United States Patent Transfer Office has issued a patent for one of the devices, and patent approval is in progress for the remaining two.

The devices, developed by Fred Downey, Ph.D., and Xiaoming Bian, M.D., Ph.D., of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the UNT Health Science Center, use a new concept of intra-aortic balloon pumping, which operate during low blood pressure and enhance blood flow to various organs of the body.

The clinical benefits of the devices can be significant in emergency and during some surgical procedures where heart attacks and heart failure may occur. According to Peter B. Raven, Ph.D., director of the Cardiovascular Research Institute at the UNT Health Science Center, blood circulation to the heart muscle and other organs is often severely compromised during such emergencies.

Two of the devices, including the one approved for a patent, allow for improved blood flow to the coronary arteries and could replace currently available intra-aortic balloon pumps. The third appliance assists a badly injured or diseased heart by helping it pump sufficient blood to sustain life. This invention is a ventricular assist device, which can be quickly applied and easily removed when the heart recovers its normal function, all without open-chest surgery.

"These devices are significant improvements over current cardiac technology. The creation of these devices helps us understand the role of systolic stiffness (when the heart muscle is tense) and cardiac efficiency," Dr. Raven said. "Their development was largely due to Dr. Bian's experience as a cardiac surgeon and Dr. Downey's research on coronary and cardiac physiology."

The patent applications are underwritten by MYTECH, INC., of Tampa, Florida. The other two patent applications are under review and health science center researchers are anticipating approval within the year. The next step involves partnership with a pharmaceutical company to further develop the devices and to expedite their introduction into everyday clinical use.

Health Science Center Establishes Research Institute

Research into the effectiveness of osteopathic manipulative medicine for the treatment and prevention of neuromusculoskeletal disease is underway through the newly established Physical Medicine Institute at the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

Under the direction of Scott Stoll, D.O., interim chair of osteopathic manipulative medicine at the UNT Health Science Center, the Physical Medicine Institute (PMI) will provide research, education, patient care and community outreach programs in the prevention, diagnosis and rehabilitation of neuromusculoskeletal diseases. The neuromusculoskeletal system is the brain's influence on certain muscular and skeletal functions, and disorders can include sinus problems, lower back pain and migraines. The PMI has been funded largely through private donations.

"Our research is already focusing on such areas as how osteopathic manipulative treatment helps in recovery of hip and knee

replacements; in alleviating lower back pain; and in facilitating recovery from asthma, pneumonia and heart disease," said Dr. Stoll.

"Future research areas we will explore include depression, cancer and post-heart bypass surgery. Osteopathic manipulative treatment is a hands-on diagnosis and treatment tool used to assess illness and injury in order to relieve muscle pain, musculoskeletal abnormality or other discomfort."

Seed funding for the research projects of the institute has come from the Osteopathic Medical Center Guild, Houston Osteopathic Hospital Foundation, Carl Everett Osteopathic Research Fund and a West Texas foundation.

Landmark Texas Study Results in FDA Indication

Results of a major study conducted in Texas, including Fort Worth, have led to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of the study medication for the reduction of the risk of first heart attack, unstable angina and coronary revascularization procedures.

The FDA approved a new use for Merck & Co., Inc.'s Mevacor® (lovastatin), a cholesterol-lowering medicine: in people without symptoms of cardiovascular disease, with average to moderately elevated levels of total and LDL cholesterol and below average HDL cholesterol. Mevacor is the first drug to receive FDA approval for the treatment of low HDL cholesterol. Merck & Co. released full details of the FDA approval March 15.

Participants in the study did not have symptomatic heart disease; in addition to age, 63 percent had at least one other risk factor for heart disease. The study population had average to moderately elevated total and "bad" cholesterol levels, below average levels of "good" cholesterol, and were at higher risk of cardiovascular disease based on an elevated total cholesterol to "good" cholesterol ratio.

In the Air Force/Texas Coronary Atherosclerosis Prevention Study (AFCAPS/TexCAPS), the investigation's official name, researchers studied 6,605 patients for a median of 5.1 years. Their average cholesterol levels were 221 at the beginning of the study with average HDL cholesterol levels of 37. Study findings showed that the cholesterol-lowering drug was the first and only cholesterol medication proven to be effective in preventing first heart attacks and other coronary events in men and women without heart disease who have average levels of LDL cholesterol, but reduced HDL cholesterol levels. The five-year study was conducted at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth and the Wilford Hall Medical Center at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

UNT Health Science Center investigators were Michael Clearfield, D.O., chairman of the internal medicine department and Stephen Weis, D.O., chief of the endocrinology division.

Final results of the study indicated that therapy with Mevacor resulted in a 37 percent reduction in first major coronary events, such as heart attacks or unstable angina, in a broad range of subjects, including women, people with high blood pressure, persons with diabetes, men and women over 65 and smokers. Benefits of the medication were seen across all treatment groups. Preliminary results of the study were presented in November 1997 at the annual scientific meeting of the American Heart Association and published in the May 1998 edition of the Journal of the American Medical Association.

According to Dr. Clearfield, cholesterol levels are likely to be scrutinized much more closely by physicians nationwide because of the study results and the FDA's ruling.

"This new indication for Mevacor is significant because it identifies a population of people who have cholesterol levels considered normal and average, but who may benefit from cholesterol-lowering treatment," said Dr. Clearfield. "If a person's HDL or good cholesterol level is too low, and the LDL or bad cholesterol level is average or moderately elevated, that person may be at risk. All adults should have both their LDL and HDL cholesterol levels checked and talk to their physician about appropriate treatment, if necessary," he said.

The AFCAPS/TexCAPS study begin in 1990 and was scheduled to conclude in 1998, but was ended in mid-1997 due to the clearly favorable results of the study population.

FYI

AOA MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

Number of D.O.s	43,555
AOA physician members	27,988
Nonmembers	15,567
Associate members	95
Allied members	21
Students enrolled in colleges of osteopathic medicine for 1998-99 (estimated)	9,628
Number of D.O.s certified by AOA boards as of January 12, 1999	13, 998
Number of certifications issued by AOA boards as of January 12, 1999	16,370

(Note: the above information is up-to-date as of January 12, 1999.)

AOA Official Definition of Osteopathic Medicine

(from Resolution 282)

"Osteopathic medicine: A complete system of medical care with a philosophy that combines the needs of the patient with current practice of medicine, surgery and obstetrics, and emphasizes the interrelationships between structure and function, and appreciation of the body's ability to heal itself."

Self's Tips & Tidings

By Don Self

Don't Let Hospital Medical Records Change Your Codes

Although we have discussed this before, I think it needs to be mentioned again. If you place a patient into observation (47 hour outpatient admit), and then admit the patient on the following day (or later), don't let the hospital medical records people convince you to change your original admission from outpatient to inpatient admit. The following is an example of how you should code so that you don't give away any of the visits you make to the patient while he/she is in observation:

April 15 - 11:30 p.m. Patient admitted into observation: 99218, 99219 or 99220

April 16 - 07:05 a.m. Patient seen in observation: 99212 through 99215

April 16 - 12:47 p.m. Patient seen in observation: 99212 through 99215

April 16 - 5:31 p.m. Patient seen in observation: 99212 through 99215

April 17 - 08:10 a.m. Patient admitted into in-patient: 99221 or 99222 (doubt 99223)

The first four services above will indicate a place of service code 22, while the last (the inpatient admission) will be a place of service 21 for inpatient.

Injection Dosages

In my review of offices, occasionally I'll find an office not billing Medicare for a covered injectable drug when they've given less than the dosage shown in the HCPCS code book. For instance, if a drug says 50cc, and the office only injects 25 cc, there is a hesitation in some offices to bill for the drug. My advice is to use the dosages shown in the HCPCS codebook as an "up to and including" definition. If the code says 50cc, and you only give 25cc, bill it once. If the code says 50cc and you give 65cc, bill it as two units.

At a time when every doctor with any foresight at all should be setting aside a little extra money each week to cover possible (or probable) Y2K disruptions in income to cover staff and overhead next January, you don't need to be giving away free services.

We Reviewed the Claim and We Want Our Money Back!

How are you handling requests (usually worded as demands) from private third party administrators stating that they have reviewed claims from two to five years ago, found the claim was overpaid due to their coverage restrictions, and expect you to refund them money? These are usually from the same companies that have a 90-day or 180-day appeal period and yet they have the gall to ask for a refund on an "appeal" they've made two to five years later. My advice is to generate a form letter on your letterhead that basically tells them the file is closed 12 months after determination was made and that they can not expect you to remit any funds if it is beyond that period. You will not re-open the file, which has been put into storage, and they will not receive any refund from you. If they continue to request said funds, state that you are seriously considering handing the matter to your attorney. Don't let them bully you with the kind of strong-arm tactics they're using to get you to send money.

ER Requested Consult is Usually not a Consult

The key point about consultations, especially with Medicare, is that the services are rendered as a result of another physician asking for the consultant's opinion. Unfortunately, the ER docs do not usually ask for an opinion - they usually call in a specialist and turn the care over to them. For this reason, we do not usually recommend that the physician called to the ER by the staff ER physician bill for the encounter using an initial consultation code (99241-99245). You can, however, bill for the encounter in the ER using the emergency department codes (99281-99285) even if the ER doc is billing for one also.

HCFA Was Caught in a Lie by the GAO

Joel Willemssen of the U.S. Congress's General Accounting Office to the House Ways & Means Committee on February 24, blew the whistle on Medicare's lies. Results? Nothing.

Reported Progress is Highly Overstated

HCFA's reported progress on its external mission-critical systems is considerably overstated. In fact, none of the 54 systems reported compliant by HCFA was Year 2000 ready as of December 31, 1998. All 54 external systems that were reported as compliant have important associated qualifications (exceptions), some of them very significant. Such qualifications included a major standard system that failed to recognize "00" as a valid year, as well as 2000 as a leap year. It also included systems that were not fully future date tested.

According to HCFA officials, these systems were reported as compliant because these qualifications were "minor problems" that should not take much time to address. This is at variance with the IV&V contractor's interpretation. More specifically, the IV&V contractor found that the qualifications reported by all systems contractors were critical, most requiring a major to moderate level of effort to resolve.

A specific example of a system reported as compliant with qualifications is the Florida standard system, used by 29 contractors. This system had one qualification that consisted of 22 test failures. The IV&V contractor characterized this failure experience as significant. HCFA reports that these failures were corrected with a January 29, 1999, software release. However, in a February 16, 1999, IV&V status report, Blue Cross of California—a

user of the Florida standard system—found that date test problems remained. In another example, the EDS MCS standard system that is used by 10 contractors had 25 qualifications; these included 9 problems that were not future date tested. HCFA now reports that future date testing of the January software release of the EDS MCS system is 92 percent complete.

Do you still believe HCFA will be mailing Medicare checks on time in the first few months of 2000? Even the AMA, who on March 18, 1999 issued a statement on Y2K through the law firm of Foley & Lardner, said the following: "Managed care companies may use Y2K as an excuse to delay payment for services. Medicare may not be ready to pay for services." The GAO (Government Accounting Office) has stated that Medicare is "lying about its readiness." The same law firm at the same AMA conference also said: "Unfortunately, there are a host of lawyers gearing up to bring suit against physicians and hospitals who are not in compliance, who have not done their homework, who have not documented 'Due Diligence" in pursuing this 'Standard of Care' re: Y2K."

Just a letter from the vendor of your medical equipment saying they are compliant is not compliant, according to this law firm hired by the AMA.

E&M Documentation Sliderules

After last month's issue of The Texas D.O. was mailed, I received dozens of phone calls from doctors and staff who had read the article about the documentation sliderules which we are selling.

I would like to answer a couple of questions about these sliderules.

1. They do simplify the documentation guidelines so that your office staff can help "police" your coding through internal audits in your practice.
2. They are perfectly legal and HCFA has no problem with their use.
3. We recommend that every physician have one for themselves and one for their office manager.

Through the combined efforts of both, we believe you can avoid those costly Medicare recoupments and fines that Medicare is pursuing everywhere.

Where is the State of Texas on Y2K Compliance?

In an interesting survey printed in March 1999 with each state office of Computer Information Manager, we found that the government of the state of Texas is only 57% compliant. They've been working on Y2K problems since 1995, and in three years or 36 months, they've achieved 57%. This equates to a little more than 1.8% compliance achieved per month. They estimate their mission critical systems will be 100% compliant by August 31, 1999, which means they will have to jump the 1.8% to more than 5% compliance achievement per month over the next eight months, starting last month.

Those of you who rely heavily on state retirements, Medicaid checks, transportation, agriculture or welfare had better start setting aside items such as water, money, food and batteries, just in case they don't make it. Also, Texas is spending $256.9 million on government updates for Y2K, per their own figures. Where do you think this money is coming from? Think about it. Visit the state government Internet website on Y2K at www.dir.state.tx.us/y2K to verify what I've told you. Visit my website on Y2K at www.donself.com. Warning - if you have a Pollyanna attitude about Y2K - don't visit my site or it may spoil your mindset.

Before You Give the Medicare Patient an Indigent Waiver…

Fraud and abuse guidelines published by HCFA identify only five areas where waiver of copayment and deductible is acceptable (one applies to Part A). The four which apply to Part B services are:

1. Patient indigence with evidence determined by provider (this can no longer be a simple statement by the patient that they can't afford the co-pay.) It has to be "documented" that you checked the patient's income and expenses.
2. Cost of billing for copayments exceeds or is disproportionate to the amount to be collected.
3. Failure to collect payment following reasonable attempts.
4. Patient qualifies for subsidized services under Medicaid.

References for more info include HIPAA 1996, Anti-Kickback Statute, Stark Legislation and IRS Code Section 501 (c) (3) 1986.

Seminar in your City

The seminars we've given in Longview, Fort Worth, Austin and Victoria were highly successful, with the assistance of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association and the Professional Association of Health Care Office Managers (you should have your office manager in this organization). Therefore, we have booked additional seminars in Texas at the following locations:

May 14 - San Antonio
May 21 - Houston
June 4 - El Paso

We've also been giving several E&M documentation evening seminars to physicians at different hospitals. If you would like us to come to your hospital, give us a call or visit our website at www.donself.com.

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Washington Update

Medicare Panel Makes No Formal Recommendations

The Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare concluded its work without making any formal recommendations. Commission Chairman Senator John B. Breaux (D-LA) was unable to round up the required 11 favorable votes from among the 17 Commission members for his proposal to change Medicare to a "premium support" program under which beneficiaries would choose among competing private plans. Both Breaux and the Commission's Administrative Chairman, Rep. William M. Thomas (R-CA), promised to seek adoption of the proposal in the House and the Senate despite the Commission's failure to make a formal recommendation.

President Clinton Criticizes Commission's Plan

An hour before the Commission's final meeting, President Clinton said the plan offered by Sen. Breaux "included some very strong elements," but he criticized it for:

* Raising the age of eligibility from 65 to 67 without a policy to guard against increasing numbers of uninsured.

* A potential to increase premiums unduly for beneficiaries remaining in the traditional Medicare program.

* Failing to provide for an adequate affordable prescription drug benefit.

* Failing to make a solid commitment of the 15 percent of the surplus to the Medicare trust fund.

Clinton said, "I want an agreement this year…I think it is now incumbent upon me to present an alternative proposal, and I will do that."

MedPAC Makes Recommendation

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) has recommended that there be no changes in the Medicare PPS updates. (President Clinton's FY 2000 budget proposed to freeze updates.) The American Osteopathic Hospital Association is part of a hospital coalition lobbying effort that seems to have convinced Congressional Budget Committee leaders that additional Medicare spending reductions would be inappropriate.

Study Shows Total Hospital Medicare Margins Down

Ernst and Young and HCIA have released a study showing that total hospital Medicare margins will be only 0.1 percent in FY 1999, down from 4.3 percent in 1997, before the Balanced Budget Act took effect, and are projected to stay below three percent through FY 2002. Smaller hospitals with less than 100 beds, which tend to be in rural areas, will be hardest hit; their margins decrease from 4.2 percent in FY 1998 to minus 5.6 percent in FY 2002, a drop of 233 percent. According to the report, "…the results of these analyses support the fact that hospital finances are indeed eroding."

(Source: AOHA Washington Update)

In Memoriam

William R. Ballard, Jr., D.O.

Dr. William R. Ballard of Amarillo passed away on March 4, 1999. Services were held March 9 at Boxwell Brothers Funeral Directors Ivy Chapel, with burial in Dreamland Cemetery at Canyon.

Dr. Ballard was born in Amarillo and graduated from Amarillo High School in 1936. He was a 1943 graduate of Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine.

He served as president of the professional staff of Southwest Osteopathic Hospital from 1980 until 1981, for which he received a certificate of appreciation.

Dr. Ballard was a longtime member of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, having been honored with a life membership, and had served as a member of the TOMA House of Delegates. Other memberships included TOMA District I; the American Osteopathic Association, of which he was a life member; St. Andrew's Episcopal Church; the Atlas Club; and charter member of Tascosa Country Club.

An avid golfer, Dr. Ballard attended the Top of Texas Tournaments and Senior Top of Texas Tournaments in Pampa. He was a member of the Hole-in-One Club in Pompano Beach, Florida.

Survivors include four daughters; Donna Hamilton of Katy; Bonnie Ross and Billie Vanderford of Amarillo; and Connie Dismuke of Greensboro, North Carolina; a sister, Ernestine Goller of Lakeland, Florida; a brother, George Hume Ballard of Amarillo; seven grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Coronary Care Unit of Baptist St. Anthony's Hospital West, attention Rhonda Crow, 1600 Wallace Boulevard, Amarillo, TX 79106; or to Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, c/o Karen Elam, 800 W. Jefferson, Kirksville, MO 63501.

Ethel Woods

Ethel Woods, mother of ATOMA District V president Darlene Way, passed away on February 13, 1999, after a lengthy illness.

Funeral services were held February 17 at Bluebonnet Hills Funeral Home in Colleyville.

Expressions of sympathy may be mailed to Mrs. Way at 111 W. Danieldale Road, Duncanville, TX 75137.

Remember to File TRICARE claims Before Deadline

If you have received or provided health care under TRICARE recently, don't delay in getting claims for that care to the regional TRICARE claims processing contractor.

Claims for outpatient care must be in the hands of your TRICARE contractor within one year of the date on which the care was provided. Claims for inpatient care must reach the contractor within one year of the patient's date of discharge from an inpatient facility. Patients who file claims must use the DD Form 2642: Patient's Request for Medical Payment.

Individual professional providers who file claims will use the HCFA Form 1500. Institutional claims will be filed using the UB-92 claim form.

TRICARE NEWS

Lifescan Blood Glucose Monitors Recalled

A manufacturer of blood glucose monitors has announced that it is recalling and will replace some of its home blood glucose meters because of possible malfunctions. The malfunctions could cause users to fail to recognize seriously high blood glucose levels. This failure could cause serious health consequences, including hospitalization and even death.

Lifescan, Inc., a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, announced the recall of its SureStep home glucose meters that were manufactured before August 1997, because the meters may give an incorrect reading when a patient's blood glucose is very high. The meters may wrongly give an "ER1" (Error 1) message instead of a "HI" (high) message if the user's blood glucose level is dangerously high (500 mg/dL or greater).

All SureStep blood glucose meters whose serial numbers begin with L6000 through L7205 and meters with serial numbers L7206-GA-00001 through L7206-GA-01128, should be replaced. The serial numbers can be found on the back of the meter. Lifescan, Inc., will replace any SureStep meter manufactured before August 1997 free of charge, with a new meter.

TRICARE-eligible persons who have these monitors should call Lifescan's 24-hour, toll-free customer service line at 800-951-7226, to arrange for replacement or to get further information.

Also, the meter was designed to emit an audible tone when the test strip is inserted. A user may misinterpret this tone as an indication that the test strip was completely and properly inserted in the meter. When the test strip is not completely and properly inserted, an "inadequate test strip insertion problem" (ISIP) occurs. This defect has resulted in the meter displaying a false low reading, which could cause the patient to alter his/her insulin intake and/or diet when such alterations may not be necessary.

Lifescan claims it minimized the ISIP with a test strip modification that was effective around March 1998. Newer test strips can be identified by the elongated blood sample area.

Diabetics who use these SureStep blood glucose monitors should not stop testing their blood sugar levels. Diabetics should continue to test with these meters until they can get a replacement, as long as they remember that an "ER1" message can mean a very high level of blood sugar, and that the ISIP problem causes false low readings.

If users get an "ER1" message, Lifescan suggests that patients use the visual color change indicator to see if their blood sugar is too high. Users should compare the blue color dot on the test strip to the color chart on the test strip bottle, to check that the meter is working properly. However, Lifescan emphasized: "Do not use the Visual Backup color chart as a replacement for a SureStep meter test." If the dot on the strip is as dark as, or darker than the darkest oval on the color chart, it indicates very high blood sugar. Any user who gets such a result should contact a health care professional immediately.

The Department of Defense's inspector general (DOD-IG) asks any individual users of the SureStep or SureStep Pro glucose monitoring meters who have personal knowledge of, or experience with, either the ER1 message or the ISIP, to contact the Defense Criminal Investigative Service (DCIS) - the investigative arm of the DOD-IG.

SureStep meter users should e-mail their personal experiences to DCIS at the following DOD Hotline e-mail address: hotline@dodig.osd.mil.

Those who want to provide information on their experiences with the ER1 message and/or the ISIP should include: 1) the patient's name; 2) the meter operator's name; 3) their conventional and electronic mailing addresses; 4) telephone numbers where both the patient and operator can be contacted; 5) the SureStep meter model name and serial number; 6) specific information regarding the error messages; and 7) whether the patient was hospitalized after experiencing meter problems.

The DOD Hotline provides confidentiality for persons who want to remain anonymous. Persons whose identity does not need to be withheld from DCIS should indicate that they don't need confidentiality in their e-mail to the Hotline.

DCIS wants only information that reflects problems experienced with the ER1 message or the ISIP - whether or not they resulted in hospitalization.

E-mails should be brief and concise. Persons who want to speak to an agent should call DCIS at 510-637-2965 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Pacific Standard Time.

In addition to the e-mail address, the DOD Hotline for fraud, waste and abuse reporting can be reached toll-free at 800-424-9098. Or, write to: Defense Hotline, The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-1900.

ATTENTION
ALL MEDICAID PROVIDERS

COMPASS 21, developed by National Heritage Insurance Company (NHIC) in partnership with the Texas Department of Health, is the new claims and encounter processing system for the Texas Medicaid program. Changes will occur November 1, 1999, which will affect every current Medicaid provider. Some of the changes include the use of the Texas Provider Identifier, which will replace all current Medicaid provider numbers, as well as changes in the electronic claim submission process. All providers should plan on attending the **COMPASS 21 TRAINING SESSIONS** to learn how these changes will affect their claims submission process. Invitations will be mailed to all providers in May, 1999.

COMPASS 21 General Sessions in Texas

Abilene
June 22
Abilene Civic Center
1100 North 6th Street
Abilene

Amarillo
June 29, 30, or July 1
Amarillo Botanical Gardens
1400 Streit Drive
Amarillo

Brownwood
June 23
Adams Street Community Center
511 East Adams
Brownwood

Conroe
June 22 or 23
Holiday Inn-Conroe Ballroom
1601 I-45 South
Conroe

El Paso
June 28, 29 or 30
El Paso Convention
& Performing Arts Center
One Civic Center Plaza
El Paso

Huntsville
June 24
Katy or E Don Walker
Education Center
1402 19th Street
Huntsville

Lufkin
June 24
Lufkin Pitser-Garrison Civic
Center
601 North 2nd Street
Lufkin

Kerrville
June 24
Kerrville Municipal Auditorium
910 Main
Kerrville

New Braunfels
June 21
New Braunfels Senior Citizen
Center, Room A
655 Landa
New Braunfels

Texarkana
June 22 or 23
Special Events on the Boulevard
2101 Texas Boulevard
Texarkana

Tyler
June 28 or 29
Tyler Rose Garden Center
420 South Rose Park Drive
Tyler

Wharton
June 25
Wharton Community Civic
Center
1924 North Fulton
Wharton

COMPASS 21 Family Planning (Titles V, X, & XX) Seminars in Texas

Abilene
June 21
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Abilene Civic Center
1100 North 6th Street
Abilene

Texarkana
June 21
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Special Events
on the Boulevard
2101 Texas Boulevard
Texarkana

Amarillo
June 28
1:30 pm - 4:30 pm
Amarillo Botanical
Gardens
1400 Streit Drive
Amarillo

Tyler
June 30
9:00 am - Noon
Tyler Rose Garden
Center
420 South Rose
Park Drive
Tyler

ATTENTION TOMA MEMBERS

THE TOMA 100TH ANNUAL CONVENTION AND SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR will be held this year at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Dallas on June 17-20. You won't want to miss all of the fun and excellent CME offerings.

Did you know that for every new member you refer to TOMA, you will receive $50 off your convention registration!

WHAT A DEAL! TOMA gets a new member and you save $50 per referral!

SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

Donations Sought

During a recent meeting of TOMA District VI, a letter was read from TOMA member Larry J. Pepper, D.O., a medical missionary to Uganda. Dr. Pepper is currently working at a medical school, which has just graduated its fifth class of doctors.

He writes, "We are trying to promote the senior medical students to be involved in some type of research during their clinical rotations. Each class is divided into four groups each year that rotate through the Medical/TB ward. I would like to be able to award something to the 'best' clinical student in each group. Perhaps the district would consider providing the prize to be given to the best clinical student for each group. I am suggesting that a stethoscope could be given as the prize. Most, if not all of the students struggle very hard to even come up with the funds to get a stethoscope, and then end up buying one of the cheap, poor quality ones. The awards would be presented to them at graduation."

During dinner meetings sponsored by pharmaceutical companies, complimentary gifts consisting of medical equipment are many times given to physicians. TOMA District VI would like to urge physicians receiving such items to consider donating them to Dr. Pepper. Such gifts would not only provide encouragement to the senior medical students, but much needed, many times unobtainable, items of medical equipment as well.

Physicians and/or districts wishing to donate items may forward them to the TOMA office. TOMA will then take charge of transporting them to Dr. Pepper.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Texas Medical Foundation (TMF) Lifetime Membership

ONLY $175

if you join by July 4, 1999

THIS IS A BIG DISCOUNT FROM THE REGULAR LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP FEE.

Benefits from being a TMF member include:

- Discounts on registration fees for TMF sponsored educational workshops
- Registration fees waived and continuing education credits given for attending TMF's annual education conference
- A subscription to the TMF Dispatch
- Voting privileges at the TMF annual membership meeting
- Access to TMF's toll free Physician Information and Referral Hotline
- A TMF Documentation Prompter Card to aid in medical record documentation
- A copy of TMF's annual report to membership
- A TMF membership handbook and membership card
- And other TMF publications upon request

TEXAS STARS

The following people have made pledges or have contributed to TOMA's Building Fund Campaign. These people are now known as "Texas Stars" because of their commitment to the osteopathic profession.

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THANKS

TOMA would like to thank the following "Texas Stars" who have contributed above the $1,000 donation level

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OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE OR FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN - WICHITA FALLS, TX -Fast-paced, results oriented physician; experience in Occupational Medicine, Primary Care, Emergency Medicine or Orthopedics helpful, but not required. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m., M-F, no Medicare/Medicaid, few hospital admissions, occasional call. Generous, flexible package. Contact: Jamie Edwards at 940-761-3333. (01)

THE DEPT OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY at the University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth is seeking a full-time BE/BC, OB/GYN physician interested in academic medical practice. Position will work with 4 OB/GYNs and 1 Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialist. Salary and Benefits commensurate with experience. The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth is an EEO/Affirmative Action Institution. Send CV to: Robert Adams, D.O., Chairman, UNT Health Science Center, Department of OB/GYN, 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Suite 536, Fort Worth, TX 76107-2699. (03)

TEXAS D.O. looking for fellow professional to join in the expansion of a 95-year-old preventive health care company here in Texas. Diversify your income while securing your future in this non-clinical position. Leave a message at 800-279-8435. (05)

BEDFORD, TEXAS - Successful D.O. family physician is looking for an associate to join his busy practice. Located in the heart of the DFW metroplex. Private practice with a quality office staff and without the bureaucracy of a large group. Full scope family medicine, no OB. Shared call schedule and competitive compensation package. Must be a BC/BE family physician with three years of post-graduate training. This is a chance to build a career, not just another job. Fax your CV to 817-545-3668. (06)

FAMILY MEDICINE & MINOR EMERGENCY CENTER looking for energetic BE/BC physician. Fast growing 2 physician group. Now accepting applications for immediate opening, or for late spring/early summer. Competitive salary and benefit package. Very limited call or hospital. Enjoy the great lifestyle offered by this central Texas location. Beautiful new facility in Georgetown, just minutes from hill country and Austin. Call Sandy at 512-869-7310 or fax CV to 512-869-5616. Richard C. Male, Jr., D.O. (10)

DALLAS — Physician needed at walk-in GP clinic. Flexible hours or part-time. 214-330-7777. (11)

DOCTOR NEEDED in various parts of Texas to work small hospital emergency rooms on weekends. Also, full-time/part-time primary care opportunities available. For more information, call Jerry at the Lewis Group at 800-460-8159. (20)

DALLAS/FORT WORTH — Physician opportunity to work in low stress, office based practice. Regular office hours. Lucrative salary plus benefits. No call, no weekends, and no emergencies. Please call Lisa Abell at 800-254-6425 or FAX CV to 972-256-1882. (25)

AMBULATORY FAMILY PRACTICE has opportunities for FT/PT BC/BE FP. Full benefits package for FT including malpractice, paid time off, expenses for CME/Lic. fees. Flexible schedule, no night call, no hospital work, no administrative hassles. Enjoy the lifestyle afforded by the Metroplex. Please FAX CV to 817-283-1059 or call Shannan at 817-283-1050. (36)

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

MEDICAL BUILDING FOR SALE - 2,700 square foot medical building located on Harwood Rd. in Bedford, Tarrant County. Contains operating room, recovery room and exam rooms. Two entryways allow space to be subdivided into two suites. Contact: Richard Minker/Tyler Trahant, Richard D. Minker Co., 817-335-5600
E-mail ttrahant@rdminker.com. (07)

FOR SALE - FAMILY PRACTICE, AUSTIN, TEXAS. Net $200,000/no hospital. Will finance. Will work with new associate/owner during transition period. Contact TOMA at 800-444-8662. (09)

GULF COAST CLINIC — 4,100 sq. ft. to include lab and (4) suites. Near Navy base on beautiful Gulf of Mexico. Growing community. Hospital and nursing home three blocks away. Lease (possible purchase in future). Contact Mrs. Kumm at 512-758-3660. (17)

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE — Late model MA X-ray and processor with view box and accessories; hydraulic stretcher; transport stretchers; Coulter counter and diluter; storage cabinets; office desk; assorted other items - very good condition. Contact: Dr. Glen Dow or Office Manager, 817-485-4711. (48)

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. . . . . 800/962-9008

American Osteopathic Healthcare Association
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TOMA Physicians' Health and Rehabilitation Program 800/896-0680
TOMA Med-Search 800/444-TOMA

TEXAS STATE AGENCIES

Texas Health and Human Services Commission 512/416-0366
Department of Health 512/458-7111
Department of Public Safety:
Controlled Substance Division 512/424-2188
Triplicate Prescription Section 512/424-2189
Texas State Board of Medical Examiners 512/305-7010
FAX:. 512/305-7006
Registration 512/305-7020
Formal Complaints 800/201-9353
Consumer Disciplinary Hotline 800/248-4062

Texas State Board of Pharmacy 512/305-8000
Texas Workers' Compensation Commission 512/448-7900
Medical Review Division. 512/707-5889
Texas Hospital Association 800/252-9403
Texas Department of Insurance 512/463-6169
Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services 512/450-4800
Texas Poison Control Center Network 800/POISON-1
. . . . . 800/764-7661

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Drug Enforcement Administration
For state narcotics number. . . . . 512/424-2000 ext. 2150
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