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OFFICIAL CALL FOR MAFP WINTER CONFERENCE: WHY ATTEND?

"The Medical Home: Tools for Practice Re-Design and Management;" Saturday, February 21, 2009; Loews Annapolis Hotel.

Why attend?

- In this era of change when traditional models of medical practice are being reviewed, re-evaluated and challenged (see following segment), all physicians and support staff must learn about new developments (currently in practice and those on the horizon). No matter what your practice situation, as national and state legislatures learn about and consider adopting the various tenants of the Medical Home, all must be aware. This conference will bring you completely up to speed.
- MAFP members will earn needed AAFP/MAFP credits with the conference having been reviewed and approved for 7.25 AAFP/AMA CME credits.
- Receive a one-time, on-site discount of 25% for the June, 2009 MAFP Annual CME Assembly: Family Physicians Gathering Strength; Wednesday-Saturday, June 17-20, 2009; Clarion Resort Hotel, Ocean City. The draft program schedule is currently available at the MAFP website.

Please visit www.mdafp.org to view the program schedule and receive registration options OR simply contact the MAFP office at 410-747-1980; info@mdafp.org

TALKING POINTS REFLECT ACADEMY'S POSITIONS ON U.S. HEALTHCARE SYSTEM REFORM

Both President Barak Obama and Secretary for Health and Human Services Tom Daschle have said they are committed to healthcare reform that comes "from the ground up." MAFP leadership feels that input from current and future family physicians is critical to the discussion. As you participate in the reform effort in your locale, as well as on the state and national levels, the MAFP board asks you to consider the following talking points:

- The strength of America's future health care system depends on moving from a fragmented, expensive disease-treatment model to a health care/prevention model with improved access to primary care services for all Americans.

- In order to do this, we need to build the primary care physician workforce. With such a workforce, America can reorient its system from the current, highly fragmented, duplicative and expensive sickness care to the highly efficient, patient-centered health care system.

We can do this by:

- implementing policies and legislation requiring health care coverage for all with a primary care benefit design featuring the patient-centered medical home and a payment system to support it. Read the highlights below from the AAFP policy [Health Care for All: A Framework for Moving to a Primary Care-Based Health Care System in the United States](#).
 1. Health care would be a shared responsibility of individuals, employers, government and the private and public sectors.
 2. The patient-centered medical home would provide primary care, prenatal care, well-child care, immunizations, chronic care management and other services with no financial barriers. It would have shared responsibility with patients for medications, hospitalizations, emergency department visits and other services.
 3. Coverage would include protection from financial ruin from health care costs above a specified level of out-of-pocket spending.
 4. The payment system would include a blended payment that provides appropriate fee-for-service for face-to-face visits, with a care management fee for services outside the patient care visit and pay-for-performance for meeting and reporting quality measures.
- implementing policies that fix the Medicare physician payment system to enable primary care physicians to develop predictable business plans for their practices, make capital investments in health information technology, etc.
- implementing policies that encourage medical students to enter primary care.

PATIENTS-PHYSICIANS RALLY DAY IN ANNAPOLIS - WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE MARYLAND'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Physicians are leaving Maryland... WHY? Physicians must continue to work together and with their patients to bring about necessary change in the health care environment. Right now, the best opportunity to do so is by participating in the Patient and Physician Day Rally to be held in Annapolis on February 18, 2009.

The purpose of the Patient-Physician Day rally is to repair the damaged health care system by reversing the dramatic decline in the number of practicing physicians in Maryland. We need you, your patients and your family members --- that is, everyone who cares about health care in Maryland --- there to show opinion makers that patients and physicians are working together to save the Maryland health care system.

For more information and rally updates go to www.medchi.org/RallyInformation.asp
Maryland physicians can achieve victories in Maryland by persevering in this campaign.

Please take part – Register now by telephone (410-974-8384 or 301-858-5230), fax (877-633-2448), or e-mail (legislative.medchi@erols.com), providing your name, address, phone number and e-mail.

MARCH 1ST AAFP AWARD NOMINATION DEADLINES

Nominations for the following six AAFP Awards requiring Chapter nomination are due by March 1, 2009. For information visit www.aafp.org If you wish to be nominated by the Maryland Chapter, please contact the MAFP office at info@mdafp.org or 410-747-1980.

- Distinguished Service Award
- Exemplary Teaching Awards
- Humanitarian Award
- Public Health Award
- Thomas W. Johnson Award for Career Contributions to Family Medicine Education

REDESIGNED FAMILYDOCTOR.ORG PUTS AAFP ON CUTTING EDGE OF PATIENT EDUCATION

A key resource for family physicians and their patients recently got an extreme makeover -- just in time for 2009. The Academy's award-winning consumer Web site, FamilyDoctor.org, has a whole new look and a whole new sound. The redesigned site integrates FamilyDoctor.org's existing peer-reviewed health information with interactive, high-definition video-on-demand. FamilyDoctor.org now becomes the only medical association-sponsored Web site offering vetted health care information in text-based, video and combined formats.