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"FAMILY PHYSICIANS GATHERING STRENGTH"... WITH MAFP IN JUNE!

The MAFP Education Committee presents to MAFP members (and others) the 2009 Annual Assembly Program, an extraordinary educational opportunity, the theme of which is "Family Physicians Gathering Strength":

2009 Annual CME Assembly and Trade Show

Wednesday thru Saturday

June 17-June 21, 2009

Clarion Resort Fontainebleau Hotel

Ocean City, Maryland (www.ococean.com)

From the Program Chair:

"Our 2009 Assembly theme is Family Physicians Gathering Strength. Family Physicians *ARE* gathering strength. There is a growing recognition among policy makers that a *STRONG* primary care base is necessary for the health of our nation. We gather therefore for good purpose:

- To refresh our knowledge base.
- To collaborate and learn from one another.
- To re-affirm our core values and renew our common ground.
- To acknowledge the contributions of individuals to our collective profession.
- To create increased strength in our numbers.

This year's CME program will help accomplish all of the above. You will leave a stronger clinician and our profession will be stronger for your participation"

Ramona G. Seidel, M.D.
2009 Assembly Chair

Over 35 CME Credits Offered! Detailed brochure, registration materials, hotel information and online registration at www.mdafp.org Questions? Contact MAFP at info@mdafp.org or call 410-747-1980.

MAFP CME REQUIREMENT: EASIER PROCEDURE FOR MAFP JOURNAL CME REPORTING

Beginning with the Winter, 2009 edition, MAFP members who complete and return CME quizzes from reading CME articles in editions of "The Maryland Family Doctor" publication, will no longer need to report credits to AAFP. MAFP staff will, on a monthly basis, report credits for those members who return completed quizzes to the MAFP office... even for back editions as long as they're within the 2-year "shelf-life" period. Each member will receive a confirmation email (or postcard if no email) upon receipt of the quiz forms. So now, MAFP members are no longer burdened by the reporting step. Also, the process of creating and mailing individual certificates of completion to members from the MAFP office are a thing of the past. A copy of MAFP's CME policy for Active/Supporting members and past editions of the publication can be found at www.mdafp.org. MAFP members will still be responsible for reporting obtained from MAFP CME conferences. Questions? Contact MAFP at info@mdafp.org or 410-747-1980.

MAFP LEADERSHIP MEETS WITH BUSINESS GROUP

From the New York Times, March 2, 2009: "Almost every business in the country is feeling buffeted by the recession, but for health insurance companies the bleak economy is only part of the problem. The changing of the guard in Washington is an equal if not more dangerous threat, and together these forces could deal a body blow to a business model that was already teetering. Health plans are losing millions of members who say they can no longer afford their products. Some big employers are becoming increasingly frustrated about how much they spend on health benefits. Smaller ones are being crushed by ever-rising healthcare costs."

On February 26, 2009, members representing MAFP leadership and staff met with board members and staff of the Mid-Atlantic Business Group on Healthcare. The purpose of the meeting was to begin a dialogue which will ultimately benefit both the business community and the primary care physician community. During the meeting several issues were discussed, including, access to medical care, ever-increasing spending on healthcare benefits, wellness/prevention/lifestyle programs for employees, physician payment, physician education/training, medical records technology, physician incentives and the patient centered medical home model of care. There was a mutual feeling that this initial meeting, held on a trial, getting acquainted basis, was successful. There was enough in common between the two groups with regard to stated problems and "wished for" outcomes that the dialogue will continue. It is hoped to be able to establish action items (eg. a future meeting with major insurers) which will lead to solutions in Maryland. MAFP members will be kept informed of any and all developments.

2009 CORE CONTENT REVIEW OF FAMILY MEDICINE

MAFP is pleased to promote to its members the 2009 Core Content Review of Family Medicine. Core Content Review is a peer-reviewed educational program written by and for family physicians that is in its 40th year of publication. It is now available in print, CD and online formats. The printed version is presented in 6 Question/Discussion booklet sets and 2 Clinical Set Problem booklets over a 12-month cycle. Online and CD versions contain all material from 2006-2008 (print version); Core contains 900 questions and answers. Included in the material are color graphics, photos, tables and figures to enhance the educational experience.

Core, a home-study self assessment program, covers 40 different subject categories of Family Medicine. Answer discussions are approximately 350 words long, providing a concise and substantive review of the topic. All material is evidence-based with highlighted teaching points and SORT strengths of recommendation. Hyperlinks to non-subscription references are included. Core is formatted to allow learners to answer a question and then go to the discussion or read the discussion first and then answer the question to determine what they have learned.

Formats are fully searchable for easy retrieval of information. Users can select specific areas for study to allow for focused resident remediation, rotation specific review or general preparation for in-training exams/board certification. Clinical set problems have been used very successfully as group learning activities, as they provide a basis for discussion of diagnosis and management issues. Core is used by over 5,000 family physicians and close to 100 Residency Programs across the country. Pass rates for ABFM Board Examinations after use of Core is 98%.

Your participation also benefits MAFP as the organization receives \$5 for every MAFP member who registers. For more information on The Core Content Review of Family Medicine, please go to www.corecontent.com or call Mary Yokose at 8868-343-CORE (2673)

TWO VACCINE SCIENCE FELLOWSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR FAMILY PHYSICIANS

The American Academy of Family Physicians announces the availability of two vaccine science fellowship positions for family physicians. The 2009 AAFP Vaccine Science Fellowship submissions deadline is April 15, 2009. Please visit the [AAFP Immunization Resources Web page](#) to obtain more information. If you have questions, please contact Bellinda Schoof at bschoof@aafp.org.

"MIND YOUR BUSINESS, STAT!" PRACTICE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE IN APRIL

The Baltimore City Medical Society (BCMS) is sponsoring a half-day symposium, "Mind Your Business - STAT" Saturday April 4th at the Med Chi building in Baltimore City. Medical Students and Residents can learn about options for different forms of practice. Topics include "How to choose your first job" and "What you need to know

before you say YES." There will be presentations and workshops for young physicians considering establishing or growing a practice.

MAFP members Drs. William D. Hakkarinen and Jos. W. Zebley will discuss other practice options for physicians in mature practices or considering retirement. This workshop will cover in a half a day, many of the critical issues that are usually covered in a Semester of Practice Management courses. The attendees will be provided with resources to pursue these topics after conclusion of the workshop. For a detailed schedule and to register by March 27, contact BCMS - 410-625-0022 or info@bcmsdocs.org.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN:

- EHR (Electronic Health Record); How to make electronic medical records a reality
New York Times, March 2, 2009
“Only about 17% of the nation's physicians are using computerized patient records, according to a government-sponsored survey published last year in The New England Journal of Medicine. That market failure is a principal target of the Obama administration's plan: A main feature of the legislation calls for incentive payments of more than \$40,000 spread over a few years for a physician who buys and uses electronic health records. A crucial bridge to success, according to experts, will be how local organizations help doctors in small offices adopt and use electronic records.”
http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/01/business/01unbox.html?_r=1&scp=22&sq=health%20care&st=cse
- Jobless, or about to be, and rushing to use medical benefits
Hartford Courant, March 2, 2009
As millions of Americans lose their jobs, doctors and dentists say they're facing a new kind of medical emergency—patients eager to schedule appointments before their healthcare coverage expires. More than 60% of workers have health insurance through their employers, according to a recent report by The Commonwealth Fund. "Thus, when workers lose their jobs, they generally also lose their benefits," the report said...
<http://www.courant.com/business/hc-ctdocs0302.artmar02,0,7905748.story>
- Attacks mount on preexisting conditions
Philadelphia Inquirer, February 26, 2009
“Rules that exclude patients from insurance coverage for a preexisting condition is one of the thorniest, and most reviled, parts of commercial health insurance. Ending it could make insurance more expensive but the country seems poised to make the change. President Obama told the nation that "healthcare reform cannot wait," and vowed "quality affordable healthcare for every American." A key to accomplishing this, Obama said repeatedly during his campaign, is eliminating preexisting-condition exclusions that deny coverage to countless Americans.”

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/business/20090226_Attacks_mount_on_preexistg_conditions_.html?page=2&c=y

- Survey: Healthcare cost keeps the doctor away
AP/Yahoo News, February 26, 2009
“One in four Americans said in a survey that someone in the family put off needed healthcare in the past year because of cost, including 16% who postponed surgery or a doctor's visit for chronic illness. In all, 53% of Americans in the Kaiser Family Foundation poll said they or a family member living with them cut back on healthcare in one or more ways to save money in the past 12 months.”
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090226/ap_on_go_ot/health_care_poll;_ylt=AqWy6Je0opdCnL3cHdk5Tz5Z24cA
- Malpractice changes are a part of health debate
AP/Yahoo News, March 17, 2009
“As they search for savings to redo the nation's \$2.4 trillion health system, key congressional Democrats and administration officials are indicating they're open to changing a system that's a burden for doctors but a boon to attorneys and some victims of medical error. "The cost issue is the thing that we actually think is the big driver in this whole debate," Obama told business leaders last week. Research, prevention and "medical liability issues—I think all those things have to be on the table," the president said.”
http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20090317/ap_on_go_ot/health_overhaul_malpractice_4
- E-prescribing to soar with new spending
Reuters/Yahoo News, March 17, 2009
“As many as 75% of U.S. doctors will be writing electronic prescriptions within five years, thanks to new federal spending to encourage e-prescribing, according to a forecast. The economic stimulus bill signed by President Barack Obama last month included about \$19 billion to promote the use of healthcare information technology, including e-prescribing. An estimated 13% of U.S. doctors prescribe drugs electronically, leaving the vast majority writing paper prescriptions, according to Surescripts, which operates the largest U.S. electronic prescribing network.”
http://tech.yahoo.com/news/nm/20090316/tc_nm/us_healthcare_usa_electronic_4