

CONNECTICUT FAMILY PHYSICIAN

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“...the Academy, locally and nationally, offers the finest in continuing medical education programs for family physicians.”

New CAFP Members Welcome:

Palvi Jitendra Patel, M.D.
Manchester

Answering Important Questions **This is Where Your Dues Dollars Go**

By: Arthur Schuman

As Executive Director of the Academy for well over 40 years I have had the pleasant opportunity to talk with many members about their Academy experience. Since my retirement I have thought a great deal about the value of Academy membership.

Members break down into three categories: those who strongly support the Academy's mission and who are active in leadership and/or committee activities; those who belong because they feel it is the right thing to do and want to support their specialty; and those who still continue to pay dues, but question the benefits of their membership.

For purposes of this article, let's look at how dues and programs impact all three groups, but specifically the third group. Members of this group are: not active in leadership; attend some Academy sponsored CME to help meet educational requirements; do not really understand the Academy's mission and are potential drop outs.

These members deserve a forthright answer to the question which I have heard most often: what do I get for my dues? In answering the question as best I can, it will also reinforce for loyal and committed members why the CAFP is important to them.

First let's look at the Mission Statement.

- I. Improve the health of patients, their families and the people of Connecticut
- II. Advance and represent the specialty of family practice
- III. Serve the unique needs of members with professionalism and creativity.

Looking at number I, the Academy, locally and nationally, offers the finest in continuing medical education programs for family physicians. The Core Content Review of Family Medicine, developed and administered by the Ohio and Connecticut

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Lectures on Autism, Pain Management, and Child Nutrition Headline Twenty Symposium Subjects

The Program Committee of the Academy has announced that twenty subjects will be covered during the 2012 Scientific Symposium, which will be held on October 24-25, 2012 at the Aqua Turf Club, Plantsville, CT.

Headlining the outstanding list of lectures are presentations on Autism, Pain Management and Child Nutrition. There will also be first-day lectures on Diabetes covering an update on injectible diabetes drugs, Cardiomyopathy and CHF Treat-

ment as well as Adolescent Stress and Anxiety and an Injection Workshop with trigger points.

The second day of the Symposium will include presentations on Domestic Violence, Prescription Drugs, Pediatric Abdominal Pain, Global Health, Cardiovascular Risk and Assessment in Women and Adult ADHD.

According to Drs. Sandra Hughes and Mod Pratinidhi, Chairs of Arrangements for the Scientific Symposium, a com-

plete list of speakers as well as an update on all subjects will be included a future issue of CONNECTICUT FAMILY PHYSICIAN and there will also be an official Symposium program, which will be mailed out in early September.

The Symposium, which will be approved for prescribed credit by the American Academy of Family Physicians, will include breakfast and lunch both days as well as a 40-booth exhibit.

“Serving on the Board would not only set you apart from others in your field, it would allow you to be integrally involved in the future of the Family Practice landscape in Connecticut.”

Calling all FUTURE CAFP Leaders!

The Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians is looking for members who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of Family Physicians from around the state who volunteer their time and talents to help guide the direction of the Organization. Serving on the Board would not only set you apart from others in your field, it would allow you to be integrally involved in the future of the Family Practice landscape in Connecticut.

The Board meets approximately ten times throughout the year (generally after working hours) to present, discuss and/or vote on Academy business. Other communication is conducted via email, so as not to be time intensive for any one Board member.

If you would like to be considered for a Board appointment, please reply directly to Kirsten Longley at klongley@ssmgt.com indicating your interest. Your name will then be submitted to the 2012 nominating committee.

Where Your Dues Dollars Go (continued)

cut Academies, is utilized by thousands of physicians each year from all 50 states and Canada to upgrade clinical skills, meet AAFP membership requirements and prepare for the Board Re-certification exam.

The AAFP Annual meeting is without equal in its depth and breadth of educational offerings.

In Connecticut there is a 2-day Symposium attended annually by almost 30% of the CAFP membership. The cost per credit hour is about the lowest in the entire United States. In addition, your dues dollars go to programs on coding, office management and courses to help meet SAM requirements. This year, for the first time, CAFP in conjunction with the Ohio AAFP held a Virtual SAM Party. Over 50 family physicians “met” online to complete the knowledge assessment portion of the SAM on hypertension. This party was free to all CAFP members.

Mission statement II is much more difficult for members to recognize. Your Executive office

staff is present at the General Assembly throughout the year monitoring and presenting testimony on all legislative proposals affecting family medicine. We also work closely with the Connecticut State Medical Society and other medical specialty societies on bills impacting all of medicine.

CAFP strongly supports the family medicine interest groups at both Yale and UConn. Hopefully, future family physician leaders will come from these men and women. We administer anti-smoking campaigns geared at 5th grade students. The Connecticut Academy gives scholarships through The Joseph and Roberta Czarsty Scholarship to medical students interested in family medicine.

The Academy participates in Annual AAFP Leadership programs training future CAFP and AAFP family practice leaders. This insures that family practice issues will be met head on by experienced and committed family physician leaders here in Connecticut.

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From the Archives of Connecticut Family Physician

Past Presidents Gather in 1995



Can you identify these Past Presidents of the CAFP?

Standing left to right: Drs. Carl Conrad, Kate McShane, Karl Friedmann; Arthur Keefe; Don Timmerman; Neil Brooks; Joe Czarsty; Craig Czarsty; Steve O'Brien and Nelson Walker.

Seated left to right: Drs. Norman Markley, Charlene Li; Mike Kazakoff; Alberto Rodriguez and Tina Krause.

Letter to the Editor

I just received my practice's monthly financial report and since the October 2011 CAFP Scientific Symposium my bottom line has been up significantly. I owe it to the lecture I attended during the Symposium. It inspired me to write to you and give the family docs who gave the lecture on coding a great big thank you. I want to share a few of the tips I learned with my colleagues in CAFP.

Two important things to remember while coding for a physical: (1) if you do a pap smear as well as a complete physical you may code a -25 modifier for the pap. So you code a complete PE then add the modifier for the pap/gyn part of the exam. I found that at least three insurances will honor and pay for the pap in addition to the PE. (2) if during the PE you find something on the exam i.e. adenopathy, mass, skin cancer even a lipoma you may add that as a -25 to that diagnosis as well or If you find and abnormality in the lab work i.e. high cholesterol or anemia or abnormal LFTs that also can be billed. If you would ordinarily bill a regular visit for a diagnosis that you found during a PE you may bill a -25 modifier for it.

These two additions to my coding have made significant difference to my income. Thanks for the raise! I think all family doctors deserve a raise.

Marianne Bette, M.D.

Where Your Dues Dollars Go (continued)

Mission Statement III is also difficult to quantify. Your Executive office maintains valuable contacts with health care lawyers, CPAs, and state agencies, all of which help the Academy answer questions regarding office practice.

CONNECTICUT FAMILY PHYSICIAN is one of the best state chapter journals, which along with periodic membership reports and legislative updates keep members informed with issues of the day. We are now on Twitter and Facebook, which reaches members and the general public presenting health tips and other useful information. Are you following us? You can do so by going to www.twitter.com and establishing an account. Once your ac-

count is established, login and search for @CTAFPDOC and click follow. Also, have you visited our webpage at www.ctafp.org? You will learn much more than this article can include about the services your dues dollars cover.

Connecticut is a small state with a limited number of family physicians who make up the membership of the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians.

Most state chapters in the low-to-medium size range cannot offer their members what the CAFP does. In fact, state chapter executives throughout the country look at the CAFP and say, "there is a small chapter that really acts like a large chapter." What a great compliment to the Connecticut Academy of Family Physicians.

"CONNECTICUT FAMILY PHYSICIAN is one of the best state chapter journals, which along with periodic membership reports and legislative updates keep members informed with issues of the day."

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Strengthen Your Practice Immunization Performance

Family Physicians are in the best position to improve adolescent and adult vaccination rates. Immunization for Flu, Pneumococcal, Shingles, and Tdap vaccines continue to fall short of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services objectives.

Fortunately, the Connecticut AFP has a strong partner in providing our members the resources and support to cost-effectively improve immunization rates, and, in turn, strengthen your practice. Atlantic Health Partners, the nation's leading vaccine buying group, offers you the lowest vaccine prices and finest customer service to improve the performance of your immunization initiatives. Atlantic even has a pro-

gram that enables you to provide vaccines like Zostavax (Shingles) and Adacel (Tdap) to Medicare Part D patients.

CAFP members that currently participate with Atlantic are very satisfied with the savings and support. We encourage you to contact Atlantic at 800-741-2044 or info@atlantichhealthpartners.com to better determine how they can benefit your practice.



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