



# Montgomery County Medical Society

a fax & email newsbrief for Montgomery County  
Medical Society members only

*release*

May 30, 2010, Vol. V, No. 8

Visit your MCMS web site, [www.montmedsoc.com](http://www.montmedsoc.com)

## Happy Memorial Day!

**It's a Family Affair: Your Annual MCMS Installation & Dinner, June 2** – Reserve your seat today for the Annual installation dinner at the Elmwood Park Zoo, 1661 Harding Blvd., Norristown. *It's a family affair and children under 15 are free.* Frederic Becker MD will be installed as the 163<sup>rd</sup> president of the Montgomery County Medical Society and six members will be recognized for their 50 years of service to the profession. The honorees include L. Stewart Barbera MD, S. Joseph Cardamone MD, David M. Ellis MD, Doris T. Freudenberg MD, James J. O'Brien MD and James W. Thompson MD. The speaker for the evening will be Rep. Josh Shapiro, 153<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District, Montgomery County. RSVP by calling the MCMS office, (610) 878-9530.

**Your MCMS Board Works for You** – The MCMS Board of Directors will hold its next meeting, Tuesday, June 1, 6 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend and become involved by working on one of three task forces – membership, political or public relations. If you are interested in attending the meeting, contact the MCMS office or e-mail, [montmedsoc@verizon.net](mailto:montmedsoc@verizon.net).

**House passes short-term SGR relief** – On Friday, the House passed an amended version of H.R. 4213, the “American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010,” which includes provisions to suspend Medicare physician payment cuts produced by the sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula for 19 months. In lieu of the 21 percent cut originally scheduled for 2010, the House-passed proposal would implement a 2.2 percent payment update for the remainder of this year, and a 1 percent payment update for 2011. In 2012, the SGR formula will resume, with an estimated 33 percent payment cut taking effect that year. To see how your Representative voted, visit <http://clerk.house.gov/evs/2010/roll325.xml>. Because the Senate is adjourning for the week-long Memorial Day Recess, it will not vote on the legislation until after it returns on June 7. This represents the third time this year that Congress has missed a deadline, causing a Medicare payment cut to take effect. As was previously the case, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has instructed its carriers to hold Medicare claims for services provided on or after June 1 for 10 business days, until June 14, which should provide sufficient time for Congress to stop implementation of the cut retroactively. Physicians are encouraged to contact Congress to explain how its mismanagement of the Medicare program is wreaking havoc on their practices. You can access the AMA grassroots hotline, at 1-800-833-6354, or send an email to your congressional leaders, <http://www.capwiz.com/ama/issues/alert/?alertid=15086046&type=CO>. You can find

contact information for your congressional leaders by visiting, [www.pamedsoc.org/capwiz](http://www.pamedsoc.org/capwiz) .

**Willow Grove Practice Manager Joins MCMS Board** – The Montgomery County Medical Society is pleased to have Patricia J. Turner join its board of directors. She brings more than 20 years of experience in practice management. Currently, Ms. Turner is the practice manager for Womencare Obstetrics and Gynecology, P.C., a privately-owned practice consisting of six physicians, two nurse practitioners and a staff of 30 in two locations, Willow Grove and Abington Memorial Hospital. Before coming to Womencare OB/GYN, she worked in various health care environments including internal medicine, pediatrics, geriatrics and neurology. She is involved with various professional organizations that keep her abreast of the evolving health care environment including the Professional Association of Healthcare Office Management (PAHCOM) and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). In the coming weeks, you will learn more about other new board members in *The Pulse*.

**Red Flags Rule Delayed Again** – For the fifth time, the Federal Trade Commission will delay enforcement date of the Red Flags Rule—this time through December 31. The AMA does not agree with the rule because physicians are not "creditors" and should not be subject to the rule, which requires creditors to develop and implement written identify theft programs. On May 21, the AMA, along with the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) and the Medical Society of the District of Columbia (MSDC) filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to prevent the FTC from applying the Red Flags Rule to physicians.

**PAMPAC Encourages Your Support of Sen. John Rafferty** – PAMPAC and the ORTHOPAC are hosting a reception honoring Sen. John Rafferty on June 10 at the Rivercrest Golf Club in Phoenixville, 5:30-7 p.m. The requested donation is \$250 per person. For additional information and to RSVP, contact Amy Dininny at (717) 805-5269 or e-mail, [amy@commonwealthcampaigns.com](mailto:amy@commonwealthcampaigns.com) . Sen. Rafferty voted against the state's \$100 million raid on the Mcare Fund to balance last year's budget.

**IBC Reimbursement Changes Coming** --Independence Blue Cross (IBC) will change reimbursement rates effective July 1. These changes could translate to increases for some physicians and decreases for others. According to IBC, physicians participating with their commercial plans will see an aggregate increase of about 4.5 percent, while those participating with their Medicare Advantage plans will see an aggregate increase of around 1.5 percent. However, reimbursement changes will vary depending on specialty and services provided. For more information, call IBC at (888) 289-3039 or send a fax inquiry to (215) 761-0384.

**Free Public Health Institute Seminar in July** – A regional Public Health Institute (PHI), sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and in coordination with the University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health Preparedness, will be held July 27 in King of Prussia. The intended goals of the PHI are optimal public health preparedness and, thus, community resilience. The training seminar is for health professionals across multiple disciplines and staffing levels. There is no fee to attend the institute and breakfast and lunch are provided. For more information, contact Carol Reichbaum at [upcphp@pitt.edu](mailto:upcphp@pitt.edu) or 412-383-2801 or register at <http://www.prepare.pitt.edu/register/rphi/Default.aspx> .

**Dealing With Pain?** – Visit the Institute of Good Medicine's Family Health and Wellness web page to see Pittsburgh-area anesthesiologist and pain medicine specialist

Doris Cope, MD, discuss chronic pain, [www.myfamilywellness.org](http://www.myfamilywellness.org) . The most common complaints include headache, low back pain, cancer pain, arthritis pain, and pain resulting from nerve damage. Dr. Cope said there is hope in treatment. “Physicians are now able to treat so many diseases better than ever before, but it means that, rather than dying of infection or complications, people live longer. Their bodies are wearing out slowly so, in the long run, this means pain.”

**Need CME? Don't Let Non-Compliance Cost You** – The two-year license CME renewal period is up on Oct. 31, 2010, for DOs and Dec. 31, 2010, for MDs. By then, physicians will need 100 hours of CME, 12 of which must be in patient safety and risk management. For DOs, 20 must be AOA Category 1-A. MDs must have 20.00 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*<sup>TM</sup>. The Pennsylvania Medical Society offers a number of CME activities to help you get there. Visit [www.pamedsoc.org/cme](http://www.pamedsoc.org/cme) to browse activities by topic and [www.pamedsoc.org/newsletters](http://www.pamedsoc.org/newsletters) to browse by publication. All of our activities are designed to meet patient safety and risk management requirements.

**Online CME, Your Speed ?**– There is a useful resource of online continuing medical education courses at the Annotated List of Online Continuing Medical Education, visit [www.cmelist.com/list.htm](http://www.cmelist.com/list.htm) There are links to more than 300 Online CME sites offering more than 13,000 CME courses and more than 22,000 hours of CME credit. The list is updated regularly as new online CME sites and courses become available. There is no charge for accessing the list and no registration is required.

**Patients Want to Find You** – Make sure you are signed up with Find-A-Physician, the Pennsylvania Medical Society online referral service, [www.pamedsoc.org](http://www.pamedsoc.org) . It's free, and only members are listed. But if you've never completed or updated your Member Profile on the website then patients aren't seeing information about you. There are only three steps to new referrals:

--Log in to [www.pamedsoc.org](http://www.pamedsoc.org). (Need help logging in? First-time users should create an account. Previous users should use Login Help to recover usernames or passwords.)

--Go to [Member Profile Updates](#)

--Make sure you include as much information as you wish to be available. (You can also choose to NOT have your information show.)

For more help, email [stat@pamedsoc.org](mailto:stat@pamedsoc.org) or call (800) 228-7823.

*You are receiving this special announcement as a member of the Montgomery County Medical Society. If this communication was sent in error, please contact MCMS at (610) 878-9530.*