

WCMS News

October 2011

Upcoming Events

October 24, 2011

Board of Directors mtg

October 28-29, 2011

ISMS BOT mtg

November 16, 2011

Henry Aaron

Brookings Institute

WCMS/UIC/

Rockford Chamber

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Welcome to the community!

Winnebago County Medical Society and University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford invited physicians that have recently joined the medical community to join their colleagues for a welcome reception at Noonan's on Wednesday, September 7th. Guests enjoyed complimentary hors d'oeuvres and wine samplings and a putting contest.

Thank you, Accelerated Rehabilitation Centers for hosting this event.

Welcome New Members!

Tamara L. Dutter, MD, Board Certified in Anesthesiology, is affiliated with Rockford Anesthesiologists Associated. She received her medical degree from the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis. Dr. Dutter completed her internship in Internal Medicine at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis and her residency in Anesthesiology at the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis.

Gary P. Fernando, MD, Board Certified in Pediatrics, is affiliated with Crusader Community Health. He received his medical degree from University of Illinois, College of Medicine, Chicago. Dr. Fernando completed his internship and residency at Stony Brook University in New York.

John P. Rudzinski, MD, Board Certified in Emergency Medicine/Internal Medicine, is affiliated with Rockford Health System. He received his medical degree from Northwestern University Medical Science in Chicago. Dr. Rudzinski completed his internship and residency at Northwestern University Medical Science in Chicago.

The following Medical Students are welcomed as new members.

Erik Anderson
Angela Baja
Erin Canopy
Isela Caro
Carolina Freire
Mitchell Hammel
James Han
Ashley Kaytor
Michael Koerner
Scott Lotz
Jacob Moore
Claudia Nevarez Flores
Schon C. Roberts
Harsh Shah
Obada Subei
Niki Tsuruta

Your Colleagues!

Dr. Brian Bear, Rockford Orthopedic Associates, was selected as an instructor for hand surgeons and other medical professionals from around the world who specialize in the treatment of hand and upper extremity conditions at an American Society of Surgery of the Hand conference.

Dr. Anthony Sorkin, Rockford Orthopedic Associates, was accepted for membership in the prestigious Foundation for Orthopedic Trauma. The Foundation strives to influence and enhance orthopedic traumatology through education, mentorship and research founded on firm clinical grounds.

Mark your Calendars!

The 14th Annual Clinical Aspects of Medical Psychiatry conference is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2011 at Forest Hills Country Club. The conference is designed especially for physicians who are interested in the cutting edge treatments and medications for psychiatric disorders. Experts will give presentations on: forensic psychology; delirium, depression, and dementia; suicidality and suicide; schizophrenia; bipolar disorder; and psychiatric aspect of pain. 7 AMA PRA Category I Credits for physicians are available. For more information contact Jane Mordick at 815-971-7082.

A Risk Management Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2, 2011 in the Funderburg Auditorium at Rockford Memorial Hospital. Presentations will be made on: informed consent; disclosure; social media in healthcare; EHR's & litigation; and criminalization of healthcare. 6.75 AMA PRA Category I Credits for physicians will be available. For more information contact the medical education department at 815-971-7081.

WCHD Flu Season Update 2011-2012

The Centers For Disease Control and Preventions (CDC) and the Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) recommend an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older as the single best way to protect against influenza.

The 2011-2012 U.S. seasonal influenza vaccine virus strains are identical to those contained in the 2010-2011 vaccine. International surveillance indicates that the viruses from last flu season continue to be the predominant circulating viruses, making them the ones most likely to cause illness during the upcoming season. The recommendation to receive an annual flu vaccine is the same even during years when vaccine composition (viral strains that vaccine protects against) remains unchanged from the previous season. The 2011-2012 vaccine will protect against influenza A H3N2 virus, an influenza B virus, and the 2009 H1N1 virus.

It is important to get vaccinated each year because a person's immune protection from vaccination declines over time and annual vaccination is needed for optimal protection. This flu season, only one influenza vaccination is necessary. However, children younger than 9 years old who

are being vaccinated for the first time need a second dose 4 or more weeks later in order to be protected.

People at high risk of serious flu complications, including young children; pregnant women; people with chronic health conditions like asthma, diabetes or heart and lung disease; people over 65 years and older should make getting vaccinated a priority. Vaccination is also important for health care workers, and others who live or care for high risk people. Children younger than 6 months of age are at high risk of serious flu illness, but are too young to be vaccinated. People who care for them should also be vaccinated.

An estimated five to twenty percent of Americans come down with the flu each year, leading to more than 200,000 hospitalizations from related complications. Flu-related deaths vary yearly ranging from a low of about 3,000 to a high of 49,000 people according to the U.S. CDC.

The WCHD flu clinic schedule can be found at www.wchd.org or by calling 815-720-4264.

SWEDISHAMERICAN WOUND CARE & HYPERBARIC CLINICS

A trusted local source of treatment is available to your patients with chronic, non-healing wounds. The SwedishAmerican Wound Care Clinic provides specialized, evidence-based treatment to patients with pressure ulcers, arterial, venous, diabetic, neuropathic and non-healing surgical wounds. Our clinic staff is experienced, trained and certified in wound care. Our latest addition is hyperbaric oxygen therapy. This adjunct treatment may be indicated for some types of chronic non-healing wounds and/or skin changes from radiation therapy, bone infection and hypoxic wounds. In order to assure the best possible outcomes, we put patients' needs first, provide advanced treatment options and keep referring physicians involved and informed. For more information, or to make referrals, call (815) 489-4891.

Catherine Rogers, APN, BC, CWCN, CWS, FACCWS, Program Manager; Dr. Leslie Edgcomb, Medical Director; Ross Reavis, Safety Director.

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ISMS UPDATE

ISMS lobbyists have been diligently working on your behalf in Springfield. ISMS has successfully opposed numerous bills: licensure for direct-entry midwives; prescriptive authority for pharmacists; naturopath licensure; independent practice/prescribing authority for advance practice nurses; single payer system, workers compensation reforms. These types of bills come up every year and it is imperative the legislative team is active in opposing such bills. It is a reminder of the importance of ISMS legislative advocacy.

ISMS supported: insurance and third party payer issues; advanced directives in Illinois; license revocation for health professionals convicted of sex crimes; amending provisions in the Illinois Insurance Code concerning mental and emotional disorders, including substance use disorders, to provide that certain coverage provided under those respective provisions through a group health insurance, or managed care plan shall be subject to the provisions requirements concerning mental health parity; controlled substance rewrite; illegalization to possess methylenedioxypropylone (MDPV) and several synthetic designer drugs that are sold as bath salts or plant food; immunization registry; safe pharmaceutical disposal act to provide that any city, village, or municipality may authorize the use of its city hall or police department to display a locked, secured container suitable for use as a receptacle for used, expired or unwanted pharmaceuticals.

Medical Practice Act remains unresolved. It is set to expire in November. The law governs the practice of medicine in Illinois. The Act is primarily concerned with licensure and discipline. The General Assembly will attempt to make changes detrimental to Illinois physicians: increase license fees, renew licenses more frequently. The ISMS is ever vigilant against harmful changes. Your help is needed. Make your voices heard. Watch ISMS publications or the legislative hub at www.isms.org to learn about changes. Call your legislators and urge them to support ISMS positions on changes that erode physician rights.

For a summary of the Medical Practice Act and its importance for all Illinois physicians and patients, visit www.isms.org and click on *Illinois Medical Practice Act- Why It's Important to You*.

Impact Legislation!

While ISMS is the “watchdog” on legislative activity that will either negatively or positively affect Illinois physician, your involvement with the legislative process has never been more important. ISMS has the tools to assist busy physicians with this effort.

Know the Issues

Learn what’s going on in Springfield by accessing the ISMS’ online *Legislative Action Hub*, your go-to site for top active issues. The Hub makes it easy to track legislation.

Watch for Alerts

When legislators are in session, issues move very quickly. ISMS will deliver e-mail alert to inform you of urgent issues and pending legislation, including a call to action to either rally for a bill or help crush dangerous legislation.

Call your Lawmakers

When you receive an alert, time is a critical factor. Believe it or not, the most effective method to use to contact your lawmakers is the phone. Your personalized alert will include links to your own lawmakers and their contact information.

The fall Veto Session begins October 25. This session’s agenda includes all legislation Governor Quinn vetoed during the spring session and possibly other important or time sensitive issues. Of special concern will be action on the Medical Practice Act, scheduled to sunset on November 30, 2011.

As always ISMS will be in Springfield to monitor the activity, take action and inform members. So be on the lookout for ISMS alerts and keep your phone ready to dial for fair medicine in Illinois!

For more information, contact Jim Tierney at jamestierney@isms.org or call 800-782-476, ext 2484.

A Personal Decision Brochure

ISMS’ brochure, *A Personal Decision*, which can guide patients through difficult end of life issues, has been updated. The brochure is available for download at www.isms.org under the “For Patients” tab; or order up to 300 free copies to make available to your patients. To order, send an email to purchasing@isms.org

WCMS ANNUAL GOLF PLAY DAY

The WCMS Golf Play Day was held on Wednesday, August 24, 2011.

Everyone had a great time competing in the contests on individual holes and enjoying frozen candy bars and drinks on the 5th hole, courtesy of our premier sponsor, BMO Harris.

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*Thanks to our golfers and committee for
making the day a huge success!*



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Protecting Illinois Students

Illinois students will have access to emergency epinephrine should the need arise. ISMS was instrumental in negotiating this law, which also protects physicians from incurring liability if they provide standing protocols or prescribe supplies of emergency epinephrine to schools. The new law authorizes school nurses to assess whether any student is experiencing severe allergic reactions and administer emergency epinephrine. The law also permits schools to maintain a general supply of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors (EpiPens) for use in these cases and for when students do not have their own prescribed EpiPens with them.

Physician Online Profiles

The Patients Right to Know Act signed into law August 9 requires the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations (IDFPR) to post physician profiles on its web site once again. These profiles were on the IDFPR web site until 2010 when Illinois' medical liability reform law was overturned.

You must review, verify and update your profile information by October 15. Last month IDFPR mailed letters to physicians with instructions.

To access your profile:

- Visit IDFPR's web site www.idfpr.com
- Click on "Continue to login Page" in the blue box
- Enter your medical license number and one personal identifier, such as your social security number, your date of birth or the PIN that was included in the letter from IDFPR.
- Click "Secure Login". You will then be able to review, verify and update your profile.

If you don't participate, you may face fines or disciplinary action against your medical license. Log on today!

Behavioral Health

Gov. Quinn signed new laws affecting treatment of behavioral health problems in Illinois. The law will require insurance companies to provide equal coverage for mental health and substance abuse disorders; creates a task force to develop a plan for state mental health and developmental disabilities services; create regional behavioral health networks statewide and permanently excuse those with serious behavioral disorders from jury duty.

Chicago Area Payer Update

The Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) and the Illinois Medical Group Management Association are hosting the annual Chicago Area Payer Update on October 7, 2011 in Oak Brook. Hear first hand from Illinois' major health insurers about policy changes, administrative and operational processes and procedures, and how to minimize administrative hassles. ISMS members and their staff pay \$100 when registered by September 23rd. Non-members pay \$175. After September 23rd cost increases to \$140 and \$215 respectively.

Register online at <http://blt.ly/n.Ydqzg>

ISMS Member Advocacy team provides assistance to physicians who are having difficulties with third party payers, state or federal regulations affecting their practices and any adversities that impact the ability to deliver or receive reimbursements for care. For more information, contact www.isms.org; click on "For Physicians" at the top and select "Hassel Factor Program," call 1-800-782-4767 ext. 1470 or email advocacy@isms.org

Lunchtime RX: For Your Medical Practice

Lunchtime RX is an educational webinar series for physicians and their practice managers. Each webinar will cover a timely topic for your medical practice and feature a well-informed presenter, followed by a question-and-answer period. Webinars are held between noon and 1pm and are free of charge to ISMS members and staff. Non members pay a \$100 registration fee.

Breast Cancer Guidelines & Addressing Disparities in Care

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Medical Records FAQs Part 2: Release

Thursday, November 10, 2011

Controlled Substance Act Update & Your Practice

Thursday, December 15, 2011

Visit www.isms.org/lunchtimeRX or call 1-800-782-4767 ext. 1625 for more information or to register.

Continuing Medical Education is available for physicians and continuing education credit for practice managers.

Benefits of Membership

Following are examples of how you can save some serious cash with ISMS Affinity Partners and Recommended Solutions Providers. If you as a member would take advantage of all possible services you could save \$7068 per year.

AlertMD – high tech answering service

Physicians who switch to AlertMD save an estimated \$360 per year compared to their existing answering services. ISMS members are offered an additional savings of \$110.

If you switch to AlertMD, you may realize potential savings of \$470 per year.

Coker Technology – EHR consulting

A 10 percent discount is offered on hourly rates, fixed fees and resources made available to ISMS members and to offices with 100 percent ISMS membership.

If you spend \$1500 on EHR consulting service fees in one year, the potential savings would be \$150 per year.

CTS Language Link – medical interpretation services

ISMS members receive a 30 percent discount on per-minute fees (\$1.40) with no monthly minimum and no sign up fee.

If you used translation services an average of 10 hours per month, (\$840) you would save \$3,024 per year.

Energy Plus – electricity supplier for office and residence

Practices would save approximately 10 percent on electricity generation costs, plus a \$50 enrollment bonus and 5 percent cash back after one year of enrollment.

If the electric bill for your practice is \$750 per month, you would save \$900 per year. Add this to 5 percent cash back after one year, and your total savings could be \$1,305 per year.

Job Target – job board for job seekers and employers

ISMS members receive a discounted rate of \$115 for a 30-day job posting (\$400 for non-members) and a rate of \$175 for a 60-day job posting (\$500 for non-members), offered to groups with a 100 percent ISMS membership.

Employees can come and go. As an ISMS member, if you posted one job for six months, you would save \$975 that year.

JPB Medical Marketing – comprehensive marketing services

ISMS member offices will receive a 10 percent discount, regardless if paying a monthly retainer or per year.

If your practice pays \$2000 a year for marketing services, you would realize savings of \$200 per year.

MedWait Time – online appointment setting

Physicians can communicate “real time” wait times to patients. ISMS members receive MedWaitTime services free for 18 months, as long as they sign up by May 2013.

Potential savings: \$900

Prescriber’s Letters – developments in drug therapy articles; trustworthy advice

ISMS members pay \$68 per year (retail cost \$112 per year for non-members) for the monthly letter, online resources and the potential to earn up to 12 AMAPRA Category 1 Credits.

Save \$44 per year.

To access more savings and resources for members visit the Affinity Partners web page (login required) and the Recommended Solution Providers web page on the ISMS web site www.isms.org or call 800-782-4767 ext 6525.

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Not an ISMIE Mutual policyholder and interested in obtaining a comparison quote for your medical liability coverage? Contact our Underwriting Division at 800-782-4767, ext. 3350, or e-mail us at underwriting@ismie.com. Visit our web site at www.ismie.com.

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Janet Corirossi – Executive Director – 815-395-9267

The Board of Directors of the Winnebago County Medical Society meets on the fourth Monday of each month, 6:30pm at the Medical Society office.

Our phone number is 815-395-9267(wcms); fax number 815-484-4109, e-mail wcmsl@aol.com, and web site www.wcmsonline.com.

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