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Fall Is Rapidly Approaching

Do you ever wonder where your time goes? As we speed along with all the technological advances, there is hardly even time to brush our teeth the old fashioned way, with a regular toothbrush. The "supersonic tooth scrubbers" of today are guaranteed to clean those pearly whites in faster times. So as we rapidly speed ahead, I would like to reflect back.

As I look back over 2009, many things jump out to me as special highlights. However, one such highlight is the reminder of those less fortunate. As MAPA's President, I realize that many PAs also hold the profession in high regard because of the dedication of many to the less fortunate. My family and I have a passion to serve and have had the opportunity to serve overseas and stateside as a commitment to our faith and our medical professions. Here is a brief outline of our travels over the past 10 years: 2000 – Monterrey, Mexico (Education Outreach); 2002 – Liberia, West Africa (Medical Supplies); 2004 – Appalachia, Kentucky (Construction Support); 2006 – Pascagoula, Mississippi (Katrina Relief) and 2008 – Denver, Colorado (Inner City & Homeless Mission).

Another Michigan PA has demonstrated her commitment to the less fortunate through her service. As a Michigan Resident who has a stateside residence in mid-Michigan and is a graduate of Wayne State University's PA program, Julie Malacuský was recently highlighted as the AAPA's "Humanitarian PA of the Year" at the annual conference in San Diego. I had the opportunity to catch up with Julie and discuss her passion. After reading AAPA's article about her and speaking with her, my heart was stirred to want to do more. Therefore, in coordination with MAPA's Fall Conference, I am asking my fellow Michigan PAs and PA students to join with me in considering Julie and "The Dream Project" for our special service campaign. The last two years, MAPA has taken on a campaign to raise much needed materials for a women's and children's shelters at the annual conference. It has been a huge success and I believe "The Dream Project" to be another great opportunity to demonstrate PAs' commitment to quality health care around the world. Please see Julie's article in this newsletter P.2 as she highlights the work that she is doing, and be sure to visit www.michiganpa.org for a highlight about the difference her project has made in one individual's life, Pedro's Story. Finally, be sure to visit www.thedream-project.org for more information.

In a recent interview in "Success" magazine, Montel Williams shared how he rose above the diagnoses of Multiple Sclerosis and challenged me with these words, "A living is made from what you get, a life is made from what you give." As fellow practicing PAs and PA students, please consider giving financially towards this year's conference special service campaign. You can either send your checks made out to "The Dream Project" to MAPA or feel free to donate online at www.thedream-project.org using MAPA's fund account, either way you will receive a tax deductible credit. With the conference taking place during our profession's PA Week (October 6-12), it makes this special project even more memorable. Julie's project will be highlighted at the President's Banquet on Saturday, October 10th, where the checks collected will be presented to her. I look forward to seeing you all at Boyne Mountain for a great conference. Until then, blessings to you and yours!!



By Wallace Boeve, EdD, PA-C
President
Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants

Pedro . . . the Face of Hope

"Mama Julie," as the Mozambican children call PA Julie Malacusk, has spent an astonishing career around the world caring for children who do not have homes, for parents who have lost their children to malnutrition and for communities that need an infusion of tenderness and attention. She has tirelessly given her time and money to fund trips to India, Brazil and Mozambique, bringing along with her much needed medicines and donations.

An ordained minister, Malacusk wanted to become a PA to relieve the suffering of underprivileged children. Her goal was realized in her early twenties during a six-week trip to Calcutta, India. The lack of sanitation and protection provided for children throughout Calcutta led her to build a home for children a year and a half later.

"After this trip I knew my life would be about easing the suffering of impoverished children," said Malacusk.

Upon completing her work in Calcutta, Malacusk traveled to Brazil where she witnessed children living on the streets and sidewalks of Brazil, malnourished and involved in drug activities. Such children had no way of improving their situations. Malacusk and her colleagues decided to take action, and founded The Dream Project, which helps street children reintegrate into society and sponsors their vocational training. The Dream Project also places orphaned and abandoned children into family style orphan-homes. Malacusk was the impetus for the opening of a safe shelter for young girls on the street in Brazil.

When Malacusk returned from Brazil to her home in Michigan, she was determined to further improve the lives of children around the world. Malacusk is responsible for raising the funds to pay local staff, provide for the needs of the children, and train relief volunteers.

In 2004, Malacusk moved to Mozambique with a heart compelled to make a difference for those suffering in the AIDS and orphan crisis of Africa. For two years Malacusk lived without running water or electricity, and faced her great fear of black mamba snakes. Along with a co-worker, she oversaw the construction, human resources, health care and social service aspects of building homes for orphans.

Her next venture was to convince the district administrator to allow children to move from the streets into new orphan homes she would build. He gave the go-ahead and contributed six acres of land to the project.

As one fellow PA described, "She [Malacusk] has dedicated her life to these orphaned children in hopes of rescuing them, raising them as leaders, equipping and empowering them to bring hope and help to their country."

The 2009 AAPA Humanitarian of the Year Award recipient has selflessly put her own life on the line for individuals and communities around the world. Any setbacks she has encountered serve as fuel for her determination, and her smile grows wider with each life saved.

Malacusk was quick to give credit to others. She accepted the award on behalf of her team and said, "I want to thank the Lord Jesus without whom none of this would be possible."



Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS):

Assists Health Professionals to Track Patients' Controlled Substance Use

According to Dr. Scott Fishman, author of the Federation of State Medical Boards' *Responsible Opioid Prescribing: A Physician's Guide*, "Appropriate concerns about the potentially harmful or addictive aspects of opioid medications can be balanced with the equally valid needs of optimal pain relief with adequate risk management." One of the tools that will allow for adequate risk management is the Bureau of Health Professions' Michigan Automated Prescription System (MAPS).

Users of MAPS — dentists, veterinarians, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants and pharmacists — are encouraged to request MAPS reports on their patients to review their prescription records of Schedule II – V controlled substances. Online requests for reports take, on average, less than five minutes. Faxed requests take a minimum of 24 hours.

Become a MAPS user today! It takes only minutes to register as a user of MAPS. For registration instructions or for more information on MAPS, please visit the Department of Community Health website at www.michigan.gov/healthlicense, or email MAPS at mapsinfo@michigan.gov. If you would like to speak with a MAPS staff person, please call 517-373-1737.



Region 1 Update

Our next Region 1 meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 30th in Marquette. GlaxoSmithKline and Takeda are sponsoring Dr. Juan Mella from Escanaba's OSF Medical Group for an educational talk on COPD at Up Front and Company in their private meeting room. Social begins at 6:00pm with dinner scheduled for 6:30pm. Invitations to MAPA Region 1 members will be coming soon. For more information, contact Region 1 Representative Jan Ryan-Berg, PA-C at 906-789-4466 (office) or 906-399-3425 (cell).



MAPA

Joins Social Media

MAPA now has a fan page on Facebook. In order to view the page, you must have a Facebook profile. Members can keep up to date with all the breakthroughs in health care reform that MAPA is making, post questions and/or voice concerns and view all upcoming MAPA events. We encourage members to become a fan of the page and share your thoughts and ideas. Visit us at www.facebook.com. Search for Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants, and the page will pull up. See you on the Web.

Just an Observation

Marcos A. Vargas, MSA, PA-C



As a PA for the past two decades and a preceptor, I have fielded a number of questions throughout the years from many PA students and newly minted PA grads. Most of the questions are of the clinical variety--naturally. However, of the non-clinical variety, there is one that I get asked the most; the one that many grapple with or fret about as they embark on their new chosen careers.

"Would it be best if I go into a specialty right off the bat, or should I do family practice first?" In other words, should they become a "specialist" or become a "generalist." Many wrestle with this from the outset, and rightfully so...I did too, 21 years ago.

As much as I try to remain unbiased in my answer(s), I always seem to gravitate to the (somewhat expected) biased response that most senior or experienced PAs would provide when asked to play "Mr. Career Advisor."

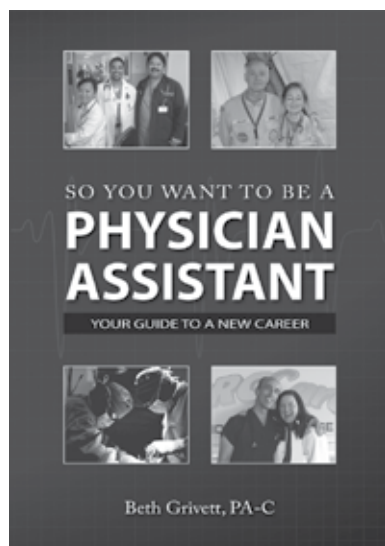
Become a "generalist" first, then a "specialist". Why? In my opinion and experience, many PAs get locked in to a specialty for a number of years without developing their "generalist" (primary care) foundation. Without expanding their knowledge base, they may jeopardize their market appeal should they become burned out after a long strings

of specialty jobs. I have witnessed this with many of my peers, in spite of having the ability to transition between specialties.

But keep in mind that to become a truly knowledgeable & effective clinician, you must have at least three to five years of solid "generalist" experience under your belt. Yet having said that, we all know that there are always exceptions to the rules. For instance, I know a few of my classmates who have never done primary care or family practice since graduating from PA school. All they have done is specialty medicine and nothing else and quite successfully, I must add.

So which career track to choose? My solicited or unsolicited advise is always "know thyself" and follow your heart. But if you have an inclination or a burning desire to become a "specialist" first, then, by all means, pursue your dreams and nothing less. Do not let anyone dissuade you otherwise, just go for it! However, if you are in no rush to get to the top of the mountain (so-to-speak) and want to become the very best while building your credentials and marketability, then the "generalist" route may be the way to go.

But then again, that's one individual's opinion---my personal observation.



YOUR GUIDE TO THE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT CAREER

Finally, the ultimate guide to becoming a physician assistant is all in one book. Here is everything you need to know, from choosing the right PA program, to experiencing the diversity of PA specialty practices, to understanding the issues that the profession faces as it continues to grow. As health care delivery changes, and the general population ages, the PA profession will become an even

more essential component of the physician-led health care team. Learn how you can make this your career and how you can become part of this outstanding profession.



So You Want To Be A Physician Assistant

by Beth Grivett, PA-C

Complete information:

www.physicianassistantbooks.com

UD Mercy PA Students and Faculty Participate in MiDoor Outreach

By Kendra Rogers, UD Mercy PA-S, Class of 2010

On Saturday, May 16, 2009, PA students and faculty from the University of Detroit Mercy provided free health screening, blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol checks to Detroit-area patients attending the Michigan Day of Oral Health Outreach (MiDoor). Patients were also provided with educational materials on diabetes, dyslipidemia and hypertension, as well as a list of community organizations offering free or reduced cost health care. PA students Jay Williamson and Linda Verhun ('09) received a \$2500 grant from the National PA Foundation to purchase equipment and supplies for this screening. The MiDoor event was hosted by the UD Mercy School of Dentistry

and Clinic in partnership with the Michigan Department of Community Health, and over 250 low-income adults were screened and received basic dental services such as fillings, extractions and minor denture repair. Other UD Mercy health professions students and staff also participated in providing pre-dental work health screening. Governor Jennifer Granholm, who had called for the Michigan Day of Oral Health Outreach in her 2009 State of the State address, personally attended the event and visited with patients and volunteers.



2009 Komen Race for the Cure

UD Mercy PA students and faculty together with family and friends walked and ran on Saturday, May 30, 2009, to raise funds for the 18th Annual Susan G. Komen Detroit Race for the Cure. This event supports breast cancer screening, education and treatment programs in Detroit and draws thousands of participants every year. The UD Mercy PA team was captained by student Laura Wallace ('09) and raised over \$1400 for the cause.



34th Annual Fall Education Conference Oct. 8-11, 2009, Boyne Mountain Resort

Calling All PAs...

*It is Time for the 34th Annual
Michigan Academy of Physician
Assistants Fall CME Conference!*



A new venue this year should be an exciting one. We are at Boyne Mountain Resort. With a theme of “Climbing the Mountain of Career Success”, we will have plenty of excellent CME opportunities to help you advance your knowledge. We are even including a wilderness medicine topic.

Given the current health care crisis in our country, we will be having a health care round table discussion on Saturday morning. Our hope is to have the opportunity to discuss health care with those responsible for the health care policy.

We will be having an opening session this year on Thursday morning. Our speaker is Leslie Charles, a motivational speaker who has written several books on stress management, and should have some enlightening and light hearted topics to share.

There will be many activities to enjoy at the resort when you are not earning CME. Of course, that includes your families also. The Avalanche Bay water park will be available at a reduced fee. Golf is always an option at Boyne. We will have a Thursday family night with arts and crafts along with a hayride and bonfire. On Friday, we will have a family movie on the big screen with munchies. There will be hors d'oeuvres during the silent auction on Saturday followed by the President's Banquet.

There are spa facilities on-site, and on Sunday, we will have Tai Chi followed by a breakfast lecture. Once again, our plan is to have breakfast and lunch available to conference registrants throughout the conference.

We look forward to having you join us for great CME at a wonderful vacation spot and enjoy spending good times with your peers at the Michigan Academy of Physician Assistants Fall CME Conference.

FALL CONFERENCES

Michigan Physician Assistant Foundation will be hosting its 6th Annual Silent Auction on Saturday, October 10, 2009 at the annual MAPA conference at Boyne Mountain.

To support and donate items, please contact Vaughn Begick, PA-C, MI PA Foundation President via email vaughnPA@aol.com or 989-686-0587

All Proceeds from the auction will fund scholarships for prospective PA students who may not otherwise be able to continue their education.



EARLY BIRD RATE EXTENDED

- The CME committee has decided to extend the early bird rate until Sept 14, 2009. This allows you to save the \$50 for PA-C and \$20 for students.
- The preliminary conference brochure will be mailed out late August. Watch for it in your mailbox.
- To register online, you must know your MAPA ID to log in. Call the MAPA office for assistance. **877-YES-MAPA (937-6272)** www.michiganpa.org
- The hotel reservation form is available online for you to print off and fax directly to the hotel.

Thursday Family Night

- Arts & Crafts for kids followed by hayrides and s'mores by a campfire.

Friday Family Movie Night

- Join us to watch a movie on a large screen with blankets and pillows.

- Relaxation Station will be offered for attendees to get complimentary massages or paraffin hand treatments.
- Frisbee Golf lessons will be available for those who are interested in playing Frisbee golf onsite.
- Avalanche Bay Indoor Water park – Discounted ticket prices for hotel guests will be available on-site.
- Hands on workshops to include: splinting, advanced suturing, intubation, and joint injections.

PA Week – “The Dream Project” is the charity MAPA has chosen to collect money for this year. As fellow practicing PAs and PA students, please consider giving financially towards this year's conference special service campaign. You can either send your checks made out to “The Dream Project” to MAPA or feel free to donate online at **www.thedream-project.org** using MAPA's fund account, either way you will receive a tax deductible credit. We will also be collecting money on-site at the fall conference.

MAPA's Presidential History

Let us take a moment to reflect on, and thank, those who volunteered their time, after work, before dinner, on their day off, or during their child's soccer game in order to lead this organization to where it is today. For every president there was a treasurer, secretary, committee chairs, and the members that supported MAPA.

In the earlier years we truly had a professional struggle on our hands. Proving credibility, showing we were not a threat to organized medicine and now, coming into our own, as an organization that

puts our patients first. Everything we have accomplished has been because we show legislators and other health care organizations how important our care is to patients well being.

If you know these PAs, take a moment to thank them and also the countless others who contributed on MAPA's board, CME Chair, MAPA committees or the PA Task Force to provide “community service” in order to advance, protect and maintain a healthy practice environment for Michigan PA's

1974-1975	- William Klerk (<i>was president with 6 fellow members!!!</i>)
1975-1976	- William Klerk
1976-1977	- Michael Davis
1977-1978	- Kenneth Klegon
1978-1979	- Norman Holton
1979-1980	- James Frick
1980-1981	- Judy Willis (<i>became President of AAPA</i>)
1981-1982	- Wayne Augustyniak
1982-1983	- Ron Nelson (<i>became President of AAPA two times!</i>)
1983-1984	- Cary Wisniewski
1984-1985	- John Emond
1985-1986	- Mark Eichenlaub
1986-1987	- Marsha Schultz
1987-1988	- Richard Evans
1988-1999	- Michael Nido
1989-1990	- John Kircher
1990-1991	- John Kerney
1991-1992	- Dennis Furlong
1992-1993	- Vaughn Begick

1993-1994	- Robert Ross
1994-1995	- Barbara Wolk
1995-1996	- Barbara Wolk
1996-1997	- Kathleen Dobbs
1997-1998	- Gregor Bennett (<i>became President of AAPA</i>)
1998-1999	- Rad Hayden
1999-2000	- Greg Haskell
2000-2001	- Lori Oswald
2001-2002	- Gale Easton
2002-2003	- Jim Doernecour
2003-2004	- Phil Schafer
2004-2005	- Dan Ladd
2005-2006	- Michael McClain
2006-2007	- Andrew Booth
2007-2008	- Jim Kilmark
2008-2009	- John McGinnity
2009-2010	- Wallace Boeve
2010-2011	- Sue York (<i>President-Elect</i>)
2011-2012	- Could be you!.....get involved!

Immunity Protection for Michigan PAs

Phil Schafer, PA-C

Legislative and Governmental Affairs Chair

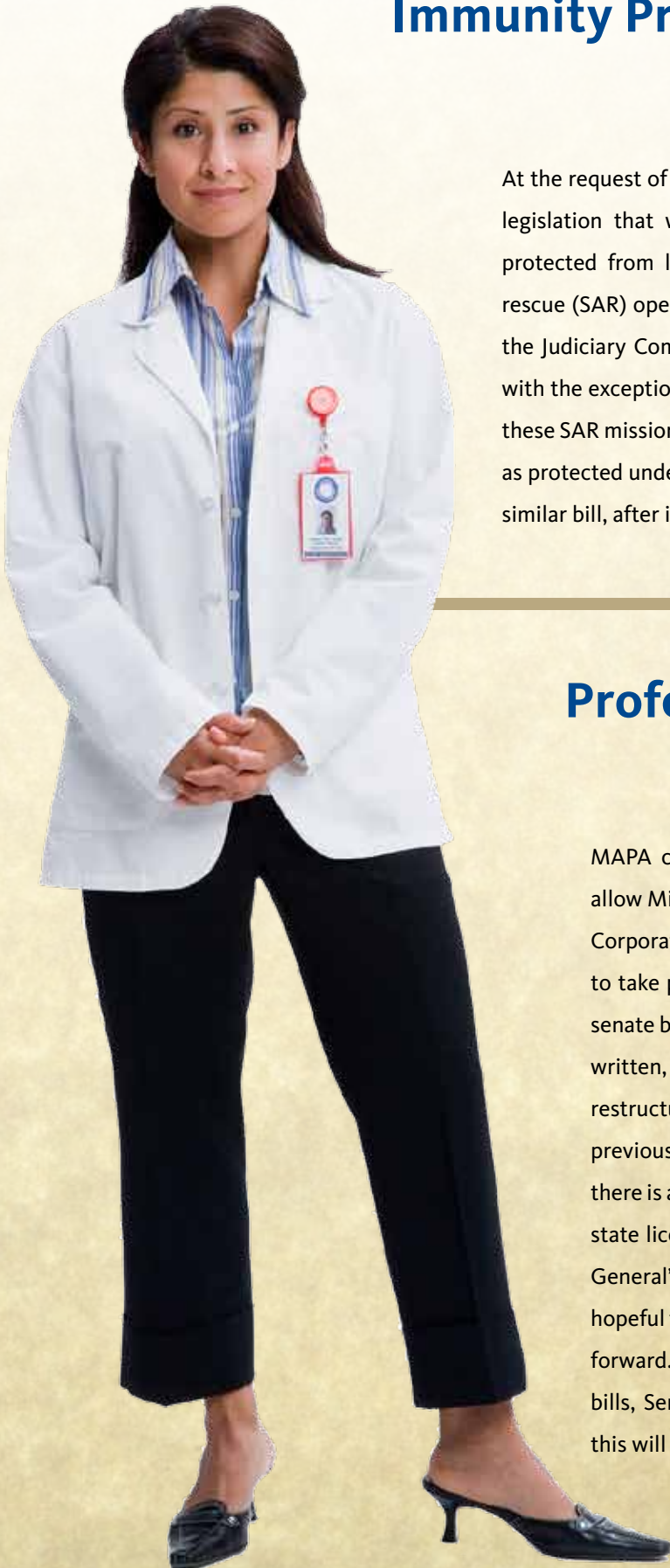
At the request of MAPA, Senator Tom George of Kalamazoo has re-introduced legislation that would add PAs to the list of those health care providers protected from liability while volunteering for a governmental search and rescue (SAR) operation. Senate Bill 688 has been introduced, and referred to the Judiciary Committee. PAs in Michigan would be protected from liability, with the exception of gross negligence, while caring for patients during one of these SAR missions. Currently Physicians, nurses, and EMS personnel are listed as protected under Michigan law. Last year the Judiciary committee rejected a similar bill, after it was opposed by the trial lawyers association.

Professional Corporation Issue

Phil Schafer, PA-C

Legislative and Governmental Affairs Chair

MAPA continues to work diligently to pass legislation that would allow Michigan PAs to partner with physicians to form a Professional Corporation (PC). Many meetings, discussions and changes continue to take place, which has brought this reality closer than ever. Three senate bills were introduced this spring to resolve this problem, but as written, would force the current PCs that are solely owned by PAs to restructure or become illegal. MAPA has continued to fight for these previously established PCs and the PAs who own them. Currently there is an agreement among the major parties involved, including the state licensing bureau, the commerce department, and the Attorney General's office, that would allow new wording to be added. MAPA is hopeful that we can now have this important piece of legislation move forward. MAPA continues to work closely with the sponsor of these bills, Senator Tony Stamas of Midland, and we remain hopeful that this will move through the legislature this fall.



August Membership Alert 2009

*Karl Wagner, PA-C
MAPA Membership Chair (2009-2010)*

It is that time of year again, when the MAPA Membership Committee is looking at those who have not renewed their fellow memberships. I would like to invite anyone interested in becoming an expert in remembering when their MAPA/AAPA fees are due, to join the membership committee. You can be our committee representative to your region, hospital system or maybe your county.

Start developing your leadership skills at the state level by volunteering to be on the membership committee and see the resources we provide for your development as a future leader of our profession. It does not become a huge time commitment unless you have a huge amount of time to give. Remember, if you can give two hours of your time a month, or a quarter or even a year, we have the assignment that will benefit all the PAs in Michigan and still give you one the satisfaction of being an active member of the profession. Contact karl.wagner@stjohn.org or call (734) 612-8206 (cell) to be heard and engaged in our profession.

MAPA board members visit the PA programs in Michigan to introduce students to our organization and discuss the benefits of membership. Then we look to the student members in August who will be graduate PAs from Central Michigan University, University of Detroit Mercy, and Western Michigan University PA Programs. This is a busy time for them. Preparing and taking the NCCPA, looking for a break from the rigors of medical education and then starting a new job or beginning their career as a PA. The committee is looking to assist them in the transition from new graduates to fellows of MAPA.

Recently, it has been brought to our attention that the MAPA web site had member aids that were not perfect, and we immediately started to work on correcting this. The membership committee is working on a new members' guides to benefits, which will be coming out soon. If you know a PA who has come to Michigan for a career opportunity, by all means invite them to our meetings, conferences and CME dinners so we can get to know them and offer them the benefits of membership.

Membership Committee

Region 1: JanRyan-Berg, PA-C
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University of Michigan Health System
Christine Oldenburg-McGee, PA-C
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New Educational Web-cast Will Help Doctors and Their Patients “Just Say No” to Antibiotics for Colds and Flu

MARR Coalition and Wayne State University School of Medicine

Join Forces to Preserve Michigan’s Antibiotic Lifeline



Okemos, Michigan, August 4, 2009 – The Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition (MARR) and Wayne State University School of Medicine are joining forces to host a new CME-accredited (continuing medical education) web-cast on Tuesday October 6, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. to promote appropriate management of upper respiratory infections. The program will be accessible for registration from the MARR website at www.reduceemisuse.org and the Wayne State University website at www.med.wayne.edu/cme in early September.

“Wayne State University School of Medicine is pleased to be part of this effort to educate primary care practitioners on appropriate antibiotic use,” said David Pieper, Assistant Dean, CME Wayne State University School of Medicine, Executive Director, Southeast Michigan Center for Medical Education, “It is very much in tune with our mission to provide the medical resources needed to improve the overall health of the community.”

Specifically designed for Michigan primary care practitioners, including physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners, the presentation will include information about antibiotic resistance, treatment guidelines for upper respiratory infections (URIs), and strategies to improve patient satisfaction when antibiotics are requested but not necessary for the treatment of the illness. It will also provide useful advice on how to establish effective practice protocols that improve patient outcomes by setting reasonable expectations for URI treatment and management.

The web-cast will be presented by members of the MARR Coalition, including Stephen Lerner, MD, Professor of Medicine, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases; Mohamad Fakih, MD, Medical Director, Infection Control, St. John Hospital and Medical Center; and Marla Rowe Gorosh, MD, Senior Staff, Family Medicine, Organizational Development, Henry Ford Health Systems. David Pieper and MARR Coalition Executive Director, Jane Finn, will provide additional support and content development.

For healthcare professionals unable to participate in the live event, the program will be archived online for one year, until October 5, 2010. Healthcare practitioners nationwide will also be invited to participate through MARR’s partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Michigan Osteopathic Association will provide CME accreditation.

“This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of Wayne State University School of Medicine and the Michigan Antibiotic Resistance Reduction Coalition (MARR).

The Wayne State University School of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Wayne State University School of Medicine designates this educational activity for a maximum of 3 AMA PRA Category I Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.”

The Michigan Osteopathic Association is accredited by the American Osteopathic Association to sponsor continuing medical education. The Michigan Osteopathic Association designates this program for 3 hours of AOA Category 2-A CME credit.

The MARR Coalition is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving our antibiotic lifeline through education, research and collaborative partnerships. MARR is affiliated with the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI).

For more information about the web-cast, please contact Jane Finn, MARR Coalition Executive Director, via e-mail at jane@mi-marr.org.



Health Care Employers, Providers and MSLRP Marketing Partners

The Michigan State Loan Repayment Program (MSLRP) provides loan repayment assistance to medical, dental and mental health care providers who enter into MSLRP service obligations. These service obligations require participants to provide full-time, primary health care services at an eligible, non-profit practice site, located in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for a period of two to four years.

FY 2009 First-Come, First-Served Application Period Remains Open. Employers may still take advantage of combining their contributions equally with available federal program funds to double their resources intended for provider loan repayment contracts.

Remaining federal funds must be committed no later than August 31, 2009, or be returned to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Interested Providers and Employers should apply As Soon As Possible!

- Participants receive these loan repayment benefits tax-free.
- Contracts are awarded to eligible providers on a first-come, first-served basis, regardless of priority status.
- Contracts may start as soon as the month following application and employment.
- Application forms are available on the MSLRP Website at: www.michigan.gov/mslrp.
- These contracts are not affected by the State's budget situation, because no state funds are involved.

Call Ken Miller at 517 241-9946 for further details.



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Email: mapa@michiganpa.org
Website: www.michiganpa.org

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the registration fee.**

**Boyne Mountain,
Boyne Falls, MI**

October 8-11, 2009

Register online www.michiganpa.org