

National Physicians Alliance 2007 Annual Meeting
Making Medicine Ours Again: Patients and Doctors United for Health

- Schedule in Progress -

Friday, March 9th, 2007

6:30 – 10:00pm

Welcome & Meeting Registration

6:30 – 8:15pm

Health Justice Celebration and Art Exhibition

Mingle and build mentoring relationships with colleagues in Congress, medicine, public health, and advocacy at this special happy hour and exhibition sponsored by the Committee of Interns and Residents and the American Medical Student Association. View AMSA's Humanism in Medicine art installation, a powerful collection of medical student created photos and paintings. Programming begins at 7pm and includes a special dance performance. *Held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, sponsored by CIR and AMSA*

7:00 – 9:00pm

D.C. Docs Meet-up featuring Dr. Fitzhugh Mullen

Join fellow meeting-goers for this fun and interactive session in the hotel Grille area. Build connections with other like-minded physicians and meet Dr. Fitzhugh Mullen who will be present for a special book-signing of his newly re-issued *White Coat Clenched Fist: The Political Education of an American Physician*. Light refreshments provided. *Held at the Crystal City Courtyard by Marriott*

Saturday, March 10th, 2007

All Saturday events are held at the Crystal City Courtyard by Marriott unless otherwise indicated.

9:10 – 10:00am

Keynote: Paul Farmer, M.D., Ph.D.

Founding Director, Partners in Health

Held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City; sponsored by the American Medical Student Association (AMSA)

10:00 – 10:30am

Meeting Registration

10:30 – 11:20am

Sessions/ Workshops

I. Mistakes, Money, Medical Justice Medical and the Greater Good: Solutions from the Worlds of Aviation, Tax, Insurance and Finance

Victoria J. Powell, J.D., LL.M.

Ms. Powell's presentation focuses around 3 main themes. (1) Most doctors have a good idea what needs improving in the system in which they work, but are prevented from implementing changes by laws, regulations, and threat of lawsuits. Working techniques in other life-and-death professions (aviation and nuclear power) offer solutions which can translate successfully to the medical office and hospital setting. (2) Most doctors lack adequate understanding and control over one of the key pieces of the puzzle: the "almighty dollar" and the stunning complexity of its influence on policy in medicine. Do doctors have the financial power (individually or in small groups) to effect permanent changes in the delivery of care? How can it be done? With due respect for the complications, and the constancy of regulatory change, Ms. Powell provides every doctor with tools to make changes, even permanent changes, he or she believes to be positive, through sensible use of the tax and labor laws as they exist today. With inside information, and without abandoning their ethics, doctors can learn to swim with the financial sharks. And, (3) do-it-yourself malpractice reform is now available in most states. Learn how a growing group of doctors are fighting back and winning the fight against frivolous lawsuits, often without having to actually go to court. Most society solutions are well-intentioned, but too little, too late, offering help after a doctor has been sued. Most risk management techniques focus on changes the doctor must make to prevent patients from suing him or her; this course will offer multiple pro-active prevention and deterrence techniques with teeth.

II. The NetRoots and the DocRoots – Building the Health Justice Movement Online

Anjali Taneja, M.D., M.P.H., Chair, NPA Web Committee, Resident in Family Medicine, Harbor-U.C.L.A.

III. Mentoring: How to Find the Right Mentor and Keep the Relationship Productive

Marisa Rogers, M.D., M.P.H., Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

Finding the right mentor can be essential to an early start in the medical profession. This workshop will provide physicians in training direction in finding a mentor and give them tips on making the relationship successful and productive.

11:30am – 12:20pm

Sessions/ Workshops

I. A History of Urban Poverty: Why Should We Care?

David Hilfiker, M.D., *Author of Not All of Us Are Saints and Urban Injustice: How Ghettos Happen*, Joseph's House, a home and hospice for the homeless, Washington, D.C.

A white physician from a middle-class background who spent most of my practice among impoverished inner-city African Americans, I continue to be shocked at how little of my patients' experience I have understood. Americans have lived so long with segregation that it seems if not desirable at least quite normal, but we have not grasped how deleterious it is to our society. The lives of the poor are always difficult beyond my understanding, but the conditions in which poor black Americans have had to live are something else again. This session will examine the little-known history of the formation of the inner-city ghetto and begin to explore what that history means to all of us.

II. From Pearlbook to Policy: Realizing the Weight of Doctors' Stories

Jean Silver-Isenstadt, M.D., Ph.D., Executive Director, National Physicians Alliance

Given the importance of physicians' personal testimony for both legislators and reporters, this session will describe a pearlbook created collectively by a medical-school class and explore ways in which the NPA could similarly develop a vignette database as part of an advocacy toolbox.

III. Saving Sign-Out: Promoting Patient Safety through Effective Transfer of Care

Simon Ahtaridis, M.D., M.P.H., President, Committee of Interns and Residents; Chief Resident, Internal Medicine, Cambridge Health Alliance

12:20 – 2:00pm

Lunch & Exhibits

Book signing with David Hilfiker, M.D.

2:00 – 2:50pm

Sessions/ Workshops

I. Healthcare in America - As Sick As It Gets

Rudolph J. Mueller, M.D., F.A.C.P., Author of *As Sick As It Gets - Healthcare in America*, Assistant Professor, Department of Family Practice, SUNY at Buffalo College of Medicine

Dr. Mueller will educate the audience on the magnitude of the health care crisis, the human suffering and the costs. He will also offer potential solutions to the numerous problems currently facing patients as well as physicians and other health care professionals.

II. Their Drug Problem and Ours - The Challenge of Pharmaceutical Company Marketing to Medical Professionalism

David Rothman, Ph.D. & Susan Chimonas, Ph.D., The Institute on Medicine as a Profession

3:00 – 3:50pm

Sessions/ Workshops

I. Protecting Patient and Physician Privacy: How to Take Back the Prescription Pad

Featuring Marcia Hams, Director of Prescription Policy Initiatives and presented by the NPA Policy Committee

Marcia Hams, Director of Prescription Policy Initiatives for the Prescription Project, will discuss public policy strategies to combat the influence of pharmaceutical marketing and foster greater reliance by physicians and public programs on evidence-based prescribing. Policies include expanding states' use of systems like the Drug Effectiveness Review Project; academic detailing; ending data mining of physician prescribing information; limiting gifts and other marketing to physicians; and state clinical trials registries. There will be time for discussion of strategic approaches and opportunities for collaboration.

II. The Politics of Universal Health Care

Peter Beilenson, M.D., M.P.H., Former Baltimore City Health Commissioner

This session will include a brief overview of the problem of lack of insurance in the US, followed by a case study (from Maryland) on the political ramifications of attempting to pass legislation that would guarantee comprehensive, affordable health coverage for all citizens of a state.

4:00 – 5:30pm

Sessions/ Workshops

I. Council of Consumers

Introduction by Lydia Vaias, M.D., M.P.H., NPA National President

Panelists: Ron Pollack, Founding Executive Director of Families USA; A. Gene Copello, Ph.D., Executive Director, The AIDS Institute; and, Marcia Hams, Director of Prescription Policy Initiatives at Community Catalyst and former Deputy Director of Health Care For All, Massachusetts.

Moderated by Jeff Huebner, M.D., Coordinator, Council of Consumers

One of the primary missions of the NPA is to put patients first in the advocacy endeavors of physicians. This session will help launch NPA's innovative Council of Consumers, a body of consumers/patients which will provide feedback on NPA's policies, as well as facilitate partnerships in

advocacy that will benefit our patients and communities. Come hear from a group of nationally experienced health activists here to help NPA fulfill its mission - we'll have plenty of time for discussion.

II. Solidarity Medicine: A Discussion and Video Presentation of Medical Work during the People's Movement in Oaxaca, Mexico

Eowyn Rieke; Revere, MA & Brian Conley, Videographer

7:00 – 10:00pm

Social Event

Sunday March 11th, 2007

All Sunday events are held at the Crystal City Hyatt unless otherwise indicated.

9:00 – 9:50am

Sessions/ Workshops

I. Working with Health Care for Homeless Programs

Jean L. Hochron, M.P.H., Director, Office of Minority and Special Populations Bureau of Primary Health Care/Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services & Susan Montauk, M.D., Professor of Clinical Family Medicine, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, National Health Care for the Homeless Council Education Committee

Millions of persons in the United States with minimal health care access experience barriers to care, but persons who are homeless face additional unique obstacles. Difficulties can arise when a physician tries to build trusting relationships in a population where histories of mental illness and abuse are often the norm. Even when trust is won, finding the appropriate prescribing patterns and education techniques to help ensure adherence can be a challenge for any physician, particularly when food and housing concerns often outweigh those for ongoing health care. Ideally, physicians should develop individualized care plans that incorporate the meeting of basic daily needs.

Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) programs in the U.S. are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an operating division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The program office is located within HRSA's Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), Office of Minority and Special Populations.

This workshop will introduce participants to HCH in the U.S. We will familiarize those who attend with many of the clinical and educational adaptations suggested in the care guidelines developed by the Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians Network. We will also describe the role of HRSA in HCH as well as describe how such projects get funded and what the future may hold for new and current HCH programs.

II. NPA Committee Organizational Times

(1) Finance and Development

(2) Communications and Public Relations

(3) Organizational Structure

10:00 – 10:50am

NPA Committee Organizational Times

(1) Policy

The Policy Committee has created several unique issue briefs and has begun campaigns to advocate for legislation on three of our initial policy priorities: banning the sale of prescription data for commercial purposes, implementing a no-fault system for handling malpractice claims, and expanding the healthcare workforce in developing countries. Join us to hear progress reports on these campaigns, and to help the committee's new leadership map out their goals and activities for the upcoming year.

(2) Meetings and Retreats:

Lend your creative voice to NPA's planning body for national meetings and regional retreats. This is your chance to engage our physician membership in dynamic forums of intellectual exchange and hands-on advocacy.

(3) Membership and Benefits

11:10am – 12:15pm

Keynote: Sanjay Gupta, M.D.

CNN Senior Medical Correspondent for the Health and Medical Unit, Chief of Neurosurgery, Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia

Cosponsored by National Physicians Alliance and AMSA

12:15 – 1:30pm

Lunch

1:30 – 2:20pm

Sessions/ Workshops

I. Expanding Developing Country Health Workforce: The Role of U.S. Physicians

Jennifer Cohn, M.D., Member, Board of Directors, Health GAP (Global Access Project), Resident Physician in Internal Medicine, University of Pennsylvania

The AIDS pandemic and the universal treatment access have highlighted the urgent need for increased numbers of trained, compensated, well-supervised healthcare workers and stronger healthcare infrastructure. Sub-Saharan Africa, the epicenter of the AIDS crisis, faces a shortfall of approximately 1.5 million health workers. Many factors combine to create health workforce double jeopardy so that poor, AIDS-burdened countries not only face a dire shortage of health professionals, but often lose doctors and nurses to wealthier nations. While in recent years, the US has increased international health aid, support for training and retention of indigenous health professionals in recipient countries is only beginning to be explored. Many crucial questions are being discussed in a growing policy debate around how to build a global health workforce: will the US support salaries and other recurrent expenses to increase retention? Should wealthy nations restrict immigration of health care professionals from countries where they are desperately needed? How should the skills-mix of health care workers be developed? How can professionals and lay-health workers at the community level each support the other? As the shortage of trained health workers at all levels frustrates global efforts to combat AIDS, growing interest and research from the medical community is influencing emerging policy solutions. In this policy debate, what role does the US health care worker play? How can each of us use our skills, resources and energy to help US policy makers create and enact sustainable solutions to the global health resource disparity dilemma? This session will review the most relevant, recent literature on health workforce development and will outline current and proposed US policies around health workforce development in recipient countries. There will be time for participants to discuss and explore ways for US health care providers to contribute to efforts underway to increase health workforce capacity in developing countries.

II. Local Action Event Workshop

Charlie Bergstrom, M.D.

2:30 – 3:20pm

Balance Among Physicians

Lydia Vaias, M.D., M.P.H., President, National Physicians Alliance, Robert Graham, M.D., & David Evans, M.D.

3:30 – 4:00pm

Closing Remarks

Lydia Vaias, M.D., M.P.H., President, National Physicians Alliance

5:00 – 9:00pm

National Physicians Alliance Meeting of the outgoing and incoming Board and Committees

Held at the Crystal City Courtyard by Marriott

Monday March 12th, 2007

8:00 – 11:00am

Lobby day

Hosted by the NPA Policy Committee

As a young organization, the NPA has focused our legislative advocacy at the state level. However, the time has come for us to introduce our organization and its ideals to legislators on Capitol Hill. Join us for a lobby day during which you can meet with members of the U.S. 110th congress and discover ways we can work with them towards a common goal of improving healthcare for all Americans. Appointments will be arranged for you.

Noon – 3:00pm

NPA New Board and Committee Meetings

Location TBA