



VERMONT ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

SUMMER 2010
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Newsletter of the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians

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Happy Summer, Everyone!



As of this writing, we have had a lot of those perfect Vermont summer days. Even with working, evenings seem like vacation.

The Board met on June 10th as part of the Vermont Day CME sponsored by our Academy during the Family Medicine Review Course. Many Vermont physicians attended and it was great to see everyone. Several changes in administration of the Board have evolved and planning has begun on our strategic plan.

The primary outcome of this meeting was to take the work from our strategic planning session in March and begin to focus on one of the goals. We had delineated five main goals: Advocacy, Practice Medical Support, Leadership, Recruitment, and Member Services. We had multiple ideas at the meeting for each category and will turn those into practical plans. We decided to focus on Advocacy at our September meeting.

We said goodbye to Joanne Reiss who has been Chapter Executive for the past 5 years. Joanne brought much commitment and enthusiasm to the job and was always a great help to the Board. She also brought good humor, organizational skills, and computer savvy to her position. When she joined us, she transitioned with kindness and respect to Betty Farris, M.D., who had served for decades as Chapter Executive while practicing medicine at the same time.

We are fortunate to welcome Stephanie Winters as our new executive. Stephanie has experience working for the Vermont Medical Society, is a registered lobbyist as well as a Web master. We look forward to working with her. She has made the transition over these past weeks and officially started on June 10th. You will see the minutes on the Web site.

Last, but not least, we say goodbye to our treasurer, Paul Reiss. He has served in every Academy position and has been very active in national Academy activities. He has an extraordinary commitment to family medicine and we owe much to him. We also welcome Carol Blackwood from Townshend and Mike Johnson from Williston to the Board.

If anyone has a particular interest in attending Board meetings, or has an idea to offer, please let me know. Keep in touch!

Mary Dill, M.D.

President



Farewell and Best Wishes

As many of you already know, I am leaving my position as Chapter Executive this month.

I would like to thank you all for five wonderful years working with the Vermont Academy of Family Physicians. I have learned so much in my time dedicated to our organization and I leave knowing you will continue to expand and progress. I have met many extraordinary individuals devoted to the medical field and I am continually impressed by the people within the academy who truly make family medicine in Vermont what it is.

I leave the executive position in the very capable hands of Stephanie Winters, who is the Executive Director for the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Vermont Orthopaedic Society, and Operations Director of the Vermont Medical Society.

I know the academy will continue to thrive with her commitment and expertise. I am incredibly grateful for my time spent with all of you in the past five years, and I have truly enjoyed it.

Joanne Reiss

VTAFP New Chapter Executive

I want to thank the board of the VTAFP for the opportunity to work with the family physicians of Vermont. I know that Joanne Reiss has been a wonderful asset to the organization and I hope that I can further that great work.

I work as the operations director for the Vermont Medical Society, and have been there for twelve and a half years. This role includes policy work, membership, graphic and web design, and office management. In this role I am also the executive director for the American Academy of Pediatrics Vermont Chapter, the Vermont Orthopaedic Society, and the Vermont Ophthalmological Society. I am a registered lobbyist and have worked on issues such as lead screening, tobacco, BPA, and a variety of scope of practice issues.

On a personal note, I live in Williamstown, Vermont, with my husband Terry and our two dogs and two cats. I am a native Vermonter, born and raised in Central Vermont.

I look forward to working with all of you! Please feel free to contact me at 802-223-7898 or swinters@vtmd.org.

Stephanie Winters

The newsletter of the Vermont Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians is published quarterly.

We encourage and welcome articles and commentary.

2010 SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Fall Issue: September 5
Winter Issue: December 5

Send submissions to

RBackus@gracecottagehospital.org

FOUNDING EDITOR

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National Health IT Coordinator is VITL Summit Keynote Speaker

David Blumenthal, M.D., the national coordinator for health information technology, will be the keynote speaker at the VITL (Vermont Information Technology Leaders) Summit '10 conference on Wednesday, September 8, at the Sheraton Burlington in Burlington, Vermont.

In his role as the national coordinator, Dr. Blumenthal is charged with building an interoperable, private, and secure nationwide health information system and supporting the widespread, meaningful use of health IT.

After his keynote address, Dr. Blumenthal will participate in a panel discussion about how Vermont health care professionals can achieve meaningful use of electronic health records systems and qualify for federal incentive payments. For the conference agenda and more information, go to www.vitlsummit.net.



Vermont Medical Society Report

In spite of state fiscal constraints, the legislature passed a new budget that did not reduce physician reimbursements. One change that affects us is a new provision for requiring prior authorization for Medicaid patients needing CT, MRI, or PET imaging, but the VMS successfully lobbied for a provision to form an advisory panel that would waive this requirement in the future for physicians who demonstrate reasonable discretion in ordering these procedures. We will have to see how this works out, since I believe the same “gold card” was suggested for prior drug authorizing as well.

The health care bill, S 88, will go into effect without the governor's signature, providing a basis to comply with new federal legislation and expanding the Blueprint program to increase the number of Medical Homes across the state. This bill also calls for a commission to suggest and compare 3 models of health care reimbursement in Vermont, including a single-payer program, and report these options to the next legislature. This sounds similar to the Lewin Group report that was presented 10 years ago, but I guess conditions are a bit different now. The new Dept of Ver-

mont Health Access, which will replace OVHA, will promote and oversee pilot projects to evaluate ways to improve healthcare outcomes across the state. More detail of these bills can be found under Legislative Wrap-Up at the VMS Web site.

I hope physicians, even non-members of VMS, have responded to the VMS Physician Survey, which will guide activities for the coming year. The VMS annual meeting takes place on Saturday, November 6, at the Equinox Hotel in Manchester, Vermont.

Stuart Williams, M.D.

Family Medicine Clerkship Changes

We are excited about changes to the Family Medicine Clerkship beginning in March 2011. We will be expanding the rotation to a total of 6 weeks and are in the process of developing the changes that the longer rotation will allow us to include.

The main focus will continue to be the excellent one-to-one teaching that the students receive with our community preceptors. With the potential for an extra two clinical weeks, we feel the students will get a better understanding of the variety and complexities that we see and the follow up that we provide. It will allow us to expand the number of clinical cases that are covered and we hope to incorporate the

Society of Teachers of Family Medicine “fmcases” into the curriculum and into the exam format.

AHEC is also collaborating with us to help the students link to their communities and do community projects. We are hoping the students can use (on average) one day per week to work on this community link. This will be developed more over the first year and then implemented once we have the details in place. Since the teaching schedule for all of the clerkship year is changing in 2011, we are re-evaluating our curriculum and restructuring our teaching sessions.

There are options for new and continued collaborations and the

new proposed Simulation Center will also provide exciting teaching strategies. The Department of Family Medicine is working on developing other teaching sites in Maine and Connecticut as well to help teach the portion of students who used to rotate through Maine Medical Center.

I appreciate all the support we have received from the many family physicians who role model such great primary care and, in doing so, continue to inspire the students. Martha Seagrave, David Little, and I will continue to try and keep everyone who is involved apprised of pending changes.

*Candace Fraser, M.D.
Colchester, Vermont*



Philosopher's Corner

Father of the Bride



As the father of four daughters, I always thought of the inevitable wedding day with great trepidation.

“Giving a daughter away” was not my idea of fun. Yesterday I experienced being Father of the Bride for the second time in a year. I must say it was enjoyable. It helps greatly that my wonderful daughters (who take after my wife, Mary Jean) are at an age that marriage is acceptable even to the protective father.

I tell people that it feels like being Donald Trump for a day: the music folks, chefs and others are all asking me if things are OK. It makes no difference if my tux (handed down from my Dad) doesn't match the others.

It certainly is bittersweet emotionally for my wife and myself. We all want the same for our sons and daughters: security, happiness, the love of a companion, building upon our family values and beliefs, and making positive contributions to society.

We do important work in medicine, but if we have a family the most important work we do is with our own families. That will make us better family docs and make wedding days more sweet than bitter.

*David M. Coddair, M.D.
Morrisville, Vermont*

VTAFP Receives AAFP Awards

The Vermont Academy of Family Physicians received the 2009 First Place Award for Highest Percent Retention of Active Membership for Small Chapters from the American Academy of Family Physicians. The VTAFP was recognized by AAFP for this achievement and for the 100% Resident Membership Award at the Annual Leadership Forum in Kansas City, Missouri, in May.

Chapter Liaison Report

The Department of Health/Department of Education Joint Committee on School Health was created to transform and improve school health services provided to Vermont students and families. The Joint Committee has met over the past 6 months to review updates to the school health manual which is provided to school nurses throughout the state, and to bring together the Blueprint for Health goals of more cohesive and integrated health care service and the Department of Education plan to improve the quality of learning in Vermont schools.

As Committee Chairwoman Dr. Breena Holmes says, “Vermont's children are in school every day, not at the doctor's office” so schools provide an important venue for health education for children and their families. School health services can provide care integrated with the families’ medical homes. Additionally, sick children do not learn well, so better children’s health is linked to improved academic outcomes.

The Committee has developed the Blueprint for School Health Service Transformation, a model for school health services which will include a leader of School Health Services at the supervisory union level, implementation of best practice which is evidence-based, effective use of electronic medical records, and coordination with health providers in the community.

Quality assessment is integral to the program. Efficiencies allowed in this model will likely reduce costs. The program will be offered as a pilot initiative to Vermont schools to be implemented on a voluntary basis with outcomes measurements directing changes within the model.

*Hannah Rabin, M.D.
Vermont Dept. of Education
Chapter Liaison*

I would enjoy feedback from any of the readers of the newsletter, and I encourage you to do a submission for the fall issue, due to me by **September 5**. See page 2 for details. Also remember, you can advertise for new staff, or you can shop for used medical equipment from your colleagues, or even advertise that your boat is for sale using this newsletter. — *Bob Backus*

Vermont Family Physician of the Year 2010

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The Vermont Academy of Family Physicians is seeking nominations for the 2010 Vermont Family Physician of the Year. Candidates for the award should be a family physician who provides patients with compassionate, comprehensive, and caring family medicine, who is involved in their community and provides a positive role model, and represents the specialty well. Feel free to nominate someone new, or someone nominated before.

PLEASE SEND NOMINATIONS BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2010.

Physician Nominee's Name _____

Office Address _____

Town or City _____

Physician's phone _____ fax _____

e-mail address _____

Physician's Residency Program _____ Total years in practice _____

Practice Type: Solo FP Group Multi-specialty Group Faculty Other _____

Please describe how the physician exhibits the following criteria (attached separate sheet if necessary):

■ Provides patients with compassionate, comprehensive, and caring family medicine on a continuing basis

■ Is directly and effectively involved in community affairs and activities that enhance the quality of his/her community

■ Provides a credible role model professionally and personally to his/her community, other health professionals, and residents and medical students _____

■ What one characteristic makes this person stand out among his/her colleagues? _____

Nominated by _____ phone _____

e-mail _____

Other potential reference source for supportive information about this candidate:

Name _____ Title/Relationship _____

phone _____ e-mail _____

Please complete form and submit to

Stephanie Winters, Vermont Academy of Family Physicians, P.O. Box 1457, Montpelier, VT 05601
phone: (802) 223-7898 fax: (802) 223-1201 e-mail: swinters@vtmd.org

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 1, 2010.



VERMONT ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS

% Bob Backus, M.D.
Grace Cottage Hospital
P.O. Box 254
Townshend, VT 05353
802-365-4331 (4332)

SAVE THE DATE

2010 VTAFP Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 13, 2010
Central Vermont Medical Center
Berlin, Vermont
See below for registration.

Conference Listings (CMEs)

Vermont Child Health Symposium: Partnerships for Care Quality, Integration and Coordination

July 29-31, 2010
University of Vermont Campus
Burlington, Vermont
For information contact:
UVM Continuing Medical Education
128 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 100
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 656-2292
<http://cme.uvm.edu>

VITL Summit '10 Conference

Wednesday, September 8
Sheraton Burlington
Burlington, Vermont.
For the conference agenda and
more information, go to
www.vitlsummit.net

Advanced Dermatology for the Primary Care Physician

October 7-10, 2010
Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center
Burlington, Vermont
For information contact:
UVM Continuing Medical Education
128 Lakeside Avenue, Suite 100
Burlington, VT 05401
(802) 656-2292
<http://cme.uvm.edu>

2010 VTAFP Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 13, 2010
Central Vermont Medical Center
Berlin, Vermont
Please register by October 31
with Stephanie Winters
802-223-7898 or at
swinters@vtmd.org