



A CHAPTER  
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# THE BULLETIN

Ohio Chapter, American College of Radiology, Inc.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fredrich H. Dengel, MD

### THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

Those of us who have been in the practice of radiology for more than a few years can scarcely remember a time when there was no controversy or contention in our specialty. If you have been following the American College of Radiology literature as of late, you will be aware of the concern being directed toward the rapid growth of self referred, highly reimbursed imaging. The technical component has proven particularly irresistible for non-radiologist physicians who are installing CT's and MRI in ever increasing numbers. Evolving patterns of utilization, if continued would be unsustainable from the payer's point of view.

The Ohio Radiological Society executives have been in the process of education these past few months, including frequent communication from the American College of Radiology by mail, email and newsletters. We had an emergency meeting in Chicago this last February, which was followed the next day with the Ohio Radiological Society executive meeting in Columbus. This allowed the prompt sharing of information and ideas.

This spring's American College of Radiology Chapter Leadership Conference held in Washington focused on "inappropriate imaging". After extensive discussion, it was, by consensus decided to follow the Board of Chancellors recommendation to work with national organizations to promote high quality as our principal goal. This high quality of medical imaging would be achieved by developing strict credentialing procedures and standards. Development of these new standards is intended to raise the minimum requirement for entry into the market of medical imaging. Not only would raising the quality bar limit entry of new services in the market, it would increase the likelihood of that patients in our communities would receive higher quality medical imaging.

The national payors, including Medicare, will not stand idly by while double-digit rates of increased utilization occur. Alternatives to limiting entry of new service into the system are not particularly beneficial to anyone. One alternative would be across the board drastic cuts in reimbursement. This would most harm current sites, which practice high quality medical imaging in capital intense facilities such as hospitals and multimodality centers. These sites not only provide the highly reimbursed, high margin imaging, they provide low margin imaging as a service to the community. These low margin services must continue to be provided despite their relatively poor reimbursement.

Our responsibility is first and foremost to our communities. We must find ways to deliver access to high quality imaging in a sustainable fashion, working with

facilities and institutions that are dedicated to providing not only near term quality product, but also to have a long term plan to provide 24 hour, 7 days a week service, including poorly reimbursed, yet beneficial and necessary examinations and procedures.

Educating our colleagues, administrators, Boards of Directors, payers and Legislators will take time, dedication and patience. Now is the time to proceed with our best efforts.

### **F**ellowship Committee Report

- Three Ohio radiologists became fellows at the ACR meeting in Washington, April, 2005.
- There is one fellowship application to consider at this time for 2006.
- May 1, 2005 was the deadline for submission to the ACR for fellowship consideration for 2006.
- Councilors and alternate councilors need to identify candidates for ACR fellowship in their regions, and encourage them to apply. A new list of eligible members will be distributed to all members of the OSRS Executive Council.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stanley B. Ignatow, MD, FACR

### **R**adiation Safety & Physics Committee

The American Association of Physicists in Medicine is undergoing a national rezoning of her chapters. The Ohio River Valley chapter of the AAPM extend as far West as Indianapolis, IN, South to Louisville, KY East to Columbus and North to Toledo. The reorganization is chaired by Marty Weinhaus at the Cleveland Clinic. In the past OSRS has had difficulty communicating with "Ohio" medical physicists, who could be in one of three chapters: The Ohio River Valley chapter, The Penn-Ohio chapter or Cleveland Area Medical Physicists. This would be an appropriate opportunity for OSRS to inquire for an alignment to the borders of a given state.

In a social gathering, I was opportune to meet the director of the Yacca Mountain Project. The program is the central focus for the disposal of materials containing radioactivity including those from nuclear medical procedures of diagnostic and therapeutic uses.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerome Dare, Ph.D., MS

### **S**ilver Medal Winners

George H. Belhobek, MD, Past-President of the OSRS from 1998-1999 and Daniel Singer, MD, Past-President of the OSRS from 2000-2001 were awarded the Silver Medal in Washington DC this year. The Silver Medal was presented to Drs. Belhobek and Singer conferring its highest honor in appreciation for their invaluable leadership and service to the Society for furthering the image of the specialty of Radiology and the practice of the principles of Medicine, and for their dedicated service as physicians.



George H. Belhobek, MD and  
Daniel Singer, MD

### **T**hree Physicians From Ohio Elected Fellows of the American College of Radiology

Dr. Thomas B. Poulton, Past-President, of the Ohio Radiological Society. Dr. Poulton is affiliated with the Aultman Hospital in Canton, Ohio and Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla.

Dr. Michael J. Seider, President-Elect, of the Ohio Radiological Society. Dr. Seider is affiliated with Summa Health System in Akron, Wooster Community Hospital in Wooster, Ohio, and Medina General Hospital in Medina, Ohio. He has also been active in other medical societies.

Dr. Bradford J. Richmond is affiliated with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Cleveland.

"These physicians were inducted as Fellows of the American College of Radiology at a formal convocation ceremony on April 10, during the ACR 82nd Annual Meeting and Chapter Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. Fellowship is one of the highest honors conferred by the ACR. While all ACR members are expected to maintain high standards, only about 10% are selected for ACR Fellowship. Nominees are considered based on their service to organized medicine; their significant accomplishments in scientific or clinical research in the fields of radiology, radiation oncology, or medical physics; their exemplary performance as a teacher; and their outstanding reputation among colleagues and the local community."



## Senator DeWine Co-sponsors Medicare Pay Fix

The Ohio Constitution mandates that the state have a balanced budget in place by June 30. In a battle that has waged nearly five years, leaders in the US House and Senate recently introduced legislation that would correct Medicare payments to physicians.

HR 2356, introduced by Reps. Clay Shaw (R-FL) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), permanently corrects Medicare's flawed physician payment formula, while S 1081, introduced by Sens. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Debbie Stabanow (D-Mi), implements the payment update recommended by the Medicare Payment Advisory Committee (MedPAC). While this measure would not permanently address the payment formula, it implements a 2.7% reimbursement increase in both 2006 and 2007.

U.S. Senator Mike DeWine (R-OH) and U.S. Senator George Voinovich were two of the first Senators to co-sponsor this legislation.

I would like to thank Senators DeWine and Voinovich for their leadership on this issue," said OSMA President Molly A. Katz, MD. "I hope the rest of Ohio's congressional delegation follows suit and supports stopping these disastrous cuts to Medicare."

A recent survey published by the American Medical Association highlights the potential damage caused by these cuts. If the proposed Medicare cuts go into effect, 38% of physicians will decrease the number of new Medicare patients they see.

Unless Congress acts, Medicare will cut physician reimbursement 4.3% on January 1, 2006. This will be the first in a series of cuts averaging 5% each year from 2006 to 2011 and compounding to a 26% overall reimbursement cut.

Without Congressional action, the average Ohio physician will lose \$20,000 annually in Medicare reimbursement alone.

The best action physicians can take is to call their U.S. Representatives and Senators and ask them to co-sponsor these bills," said Tim Maglione, JD, OSMA senior director of government relations. "I would also urge physicians to call Senators DeWine and Voinovich to thank him for co-sponsoring this legislation."

To thank Senators DeWine and Voinovich, or to call your U.S. Representative, physicians can use the AMA's Grassroots Action Hotline at 800-833-6354.

## Ohio Senate Passes State Budget

The Ohio Senate passed the state's biennial operating Budget (HB 66), which includes the most comprehensive set of Ohio tax reforms in over 40 years. The Senate-backed budget bill also included Medicaid reforms designed to control the program's growth to just 4% each year for the next two years.

Governor Taft's tax reform package remained largely intact, and closely mirrors the original proposal. Tax reform remaining in the budget bill include:

- A 21% across the board cut in the personal income tax, replacing the corporate franchise tax with a Commercial Activity Tax of .26% on all gross receipts above \$1 M annually;
- Eliminating the 10% property tax rollback; and
- Repealing the tangible personal property tax.

The Ohio Senate also significantly reformed the state's Medicaid program, which originally included in the House version of the budget bill controversial proposal to place all of Medicaid's Covered Families & Children (CFC) into mandatory, full risk managed care.

OSMA successfully limited the scope of the proposal, with the Senate agreeing to limit ABD managed care to a pilot program in two counties, one of which would be for institutional patients; the other for out-patient settings.

OSMA also successfully defeated a measure that would require physicians in ABD pilot counties to contract with Medicaid HMOs, and instead, convinced Senators to apply the state prompt law to Medicaid HMOs. Prompt pay currently does not apply to Medicaid HMOs.

I want to thank the Senate for agreeing the Medicaid HMOs should reimburse physicians in the same time frame as commercial insurers," said OSMA President Molly A. Katz, MD

Senators also significantly reformed the way Medicaid reimburses for nursing home care. Currently, nursing homes submit their expenses to Medicaid and the program reimburses based on those costs. The current nursing home funding formula has given nursing homes 5% to 8% annual increase in their reimbursement.

Under the Senate plan, the Medicaid program, starting in 2008, would set reimbursement rates similar to how it sets rates for other providers.

Our intent is to drive down costs, said Barb Edwards, Medicaid director.

House and Senate leaders will now appoint a conference committee to resolve differences in the two versions.

"OSMA will continue to lobby the state legislature to ensure a sound tax reform plan and efficient Medicaid program," said Tim Maglione, JD, OSMA senior director of government relations. "We'll continue to keep you apprised of the status of the budget deliberations."

Mike Ware  
Associate Director, Government Relations  
Ohio State Medical Association



## Treasurer's Report

Dr. Kathryn Gardner reported as of June 7, 2005, the society had a cash balance of approximately 102,000.00 and that we are at this time financially stable.

## Secretary's Report

Dr. Robert Paul reported on the following:

- Motion Made and Seconded - Keep Standing Committees
- Motion Made and Seconded - Drop State from the Society name and referred to as *Ohio Radiological Society*
- Motion Made and Seconded - Executive Committee Quorum
- Motion Made and Seconded - Continue having Annual Meeting and offer CME

Dr. Dengel suggested that the council try to encourage more participation due to the need of councilors.



If you would like to help support Ohio Radiology as a player in the Ohio political arena, mail your check today to:

ORSPAC  
c/o Billie Fiori, Treasurer  
88 East Broad Street, 9th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215

**\$200.00 Club** (\$200 or greater donation)

**Sustaining Membership** (\$75 or greater donation)

**Resident Membership** (\$10 or greater)

**Note:** Contributions to PAC organizations are not tax deductible, and should be made by personal check.

## Membership Committee Report

Dr. Yogesh Patel gave the following membership report as follows:

### NEW MEMBERS

Jeffrey M. Ekstein, MD  
Robert A. Harris, DO  
Charles T. McConnell, MD  
James M. Meranus, MD  
William B. Mitchell, MD  
Joseph S. Yu, MD

### TRANSFERRED TO OHIO

Brian A. Aronson, MD  
Neil Matthew Borden, MD  
Vincent Chung-Yin Chan, MD  
M. Mikael Getachew, MD  
Matthew Donald Kane, MD  
Christine M. Kennedy, MD  
Donald R. Kirks, MD, FACR  
Kevin Michael McCann, MD  
Terry Pietryga, MD

### TRANSFERRED FROM OHIO

Noel G. Dias, MD  
Joseph Wayne Eke, Jr., MD  
Alfonso Gay, Jr., MD  
G. Daryl Hallman, MD  
Steven Carl Harper, MD  
Jonathan Stuart Lewin, MD  
Diana V. Marin, MD  
James Stephen McEvoy, DO  
Srinivas Potturi, MD  
Parshan S. Ramsingh, MD  
Philip J. Silverman, MD  
Daniel Singer, MD, FACR

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR AND PLAN TO ATTEND THE OHIO RADIOLOGY SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2005 at the Columbus Marriott Northwest located off of 270 at the Tuttle Crossing exit. Please note the flyer enclosed in this Bulletin. Featured Speaker Dr. Robert C. Gilkeson on Advances in Cardiac CT Imaging.

