Member Spotlight

Theodore Long, MD

This issue’s Member Spotlight shines on Theodore (Ted) Long, MD, Associate Councilor of the CSMS Resident and Fellow Section. Action News caught up with Ted at Yale’s School of Medicine, where he is a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar.

Ted grew up in Southern California, where he volunteered in the Los Angeles inner city during high school. Though his father is a physician, Ted’s volunteer interest was focused less on medicine and more on a passion for serving the underserved – “people I thought needed help.”

Equally comfortable on the east coast thanks to his undergraduate days at Yale College, Ted earned a degree in political science and healthcare policy. While there, Ted also established the Yale Journal of Medicine and Law, an undergraduate medicolegal policy journal. He then headed west to attend the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, where he started USC’s first student-run free health clinic.

After med school, Ted returned to Connecticut and completed his internal medicine training at Yale-New Haven Hospital. During residency, Ted was a founding member of the VA Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education site in West Haven, an interprofessional model for primary care training. Although USC and Yale may seem very different at first glance, Ted notes that his med school and residency programs both provided opportunities to continue working with diverse, underserved patient populations.

As he nears the halfway point in his two-year RWJF fellowship, Ted finds his biggest challenge in helping to figure out ways to improve healthcare delivery, “especially primary care. How do we reach the most people? We’re looking at different medical home models and what makes them effective, then taking the salient, scalable pieces and bringing them to other populations.”

Ted has a strong commitment to organized medicine. His first encounter came even before he went to medical school when he worked as a policy researcher for the California Medical Association. With that background, along with his CSMS Action News

Honoring a Career of Excellence

The Eiji Yanagisawa, MD International Visiting Scholar Endowment

The creation is just a few weeks away, and CSMS looks forward to building on of the Eiji Yanagisawa, MD International Visiting Scholar Endowment was announced at the AAO-HNSF 2013 Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO. Dr. Yanagisawa’s wife, June, and his sons, Ray and Ken Yanagisawa, MD were in attendance. Ken and his wife, Julia Shi, MD (both CSMS members), established this endowment to honor Dr. Yanagisawa’s five decades of dedicated work, mentoring, innovation and excellence and life time of achievement.

Henry Ward Beecher has said, “We should not judge people by their peak of excellence; but by the distance they have traveled from the point where they started.” Dr. Yanagisawa has a medical career demonstrating not only excellence but also encompassing a remarkable journey.

Born in Japan, Dr. Yanagisawa attended medical school at Nihon University School of Medicine and graduated in 1955. He came to the United States on a Fulbright Travel Grant and began his Otolaryngology residency at Yale. He has remained in New Haven, CT where he has had a profound influence on the training and development of over 100 Yale residents from the 1960s to the 2010s. Resident education has been Dr. Yanagisawa’s driving “mission.”

Once fully funded, the Eiji Yanagisawa, MD International Visiting Scholar Endowment will award an annual scholarship to a meritorious international otolaryngologist enabling him/her to participate in the AAO-HNSF Annual Meeting & OTO EXPO, in a two-week observership at a U.S. Center of Excellence, and to forge meaningful relationships

(cont’d on p. 3)

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Matthew C. Katz, MS, is the Executive Vice President and CEO of the Connecticut State Medical Society.

For the 2014 General Assembly Session, the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) took a step back to see how our members communicated most effectively with state legislators about pending legislation over the past decade. This evaluation, led by CSMS President Michael Saffir, MD, CSMS Legislative Chairman Courtland Lewis, MD, and CSMS President-Elect Robert Russo, MD, found that direct and repeated communication between our physician members and the legislators, who represent them at home and work, was the most effective means of positive and proactive communication and advocacy.

CSMS had regularly asked members to call legislators early in the session. However, these calls can't be tracked so it is difficult to tell how many legislators are being contacted; for some physicians, there wasn't enough time during business hours to make calls. In response, CSMS brought back a revitalized system of direct member-to-legislator communication. The VoterVOICE system allows physicians to send emails to multiple legislators with just a few mouse clicks. This revised system generated a tremendous number of emails tied to the APRN independence legislation (SB 36 - An Act Concerning The Governor's Recommendation To Improve Access To Health Care), with more than 2,500 unique contacts made by more than 600 CSMS members. In addition, approximately 200 members sent nearly 700 emails on the expanded scope of practice for naturopaths bill (SB 437).

This level of use is tremendous, considering that the system was introduced in April, near the end of the legislative session. However, only about a tenth of our membership used the system – imagine what we could have achieved if fifty percent or more of CSMS physicians had participated.

The bottom line is that we need everyone – you and your office staff – to use VoterVOICE more frequently. The fact that only a tenth of our membership used this system is a bit disconcerting, considering how many members contacted CSMS to complain about these bills, asking CSMS to stand firm, not compromise by offering or supporting amendments, and tell the General Assembly that they need to vote against this bill. While CSMS repeatedly stressed the importance of patient safety and transparency in face-to-face meetings with the Governor and key legislative leaders, that message would have been much stronger with 3,000 physician contacts instead of 600.

Moving forward, CSMS will further expand VoterVOICE to include state regulators when medical issues arise, and also federal legislators when critical votes on bills of importance to physicians are needed, such as SGR and Medicare physician fee schedule changes. We look to our members to tell us what more they would like in the way of direct access to legislators. CSMS will continue to advocate for our members with the Governor's administration, the General Assembly, state regulators, US Senators and Representatives, federal agencies and the Obama administration. Help CSMS ensure that the physician's voice is heard loud and clear tied to legislative and regulatory priorities: we ask each and every one of you to please use the CSMS tools and resources available to you and communicate with those who represent you locally and nationally. When there are issues of critical importance to you, your practice and the profession of medicine, we must stand together and speak with one voice.

CSMS ANNUAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS

TO: ALL ACTIVE MEMBERS, LIFE MEMBERS, STUDENT MEMBERS, AND POSTGRADUATE PHYSICIAN MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY

The Annual Meeting of the CSMS House of Delegates is scheduled for Friday, September 12, 2014.

Pursuant to CSMS House of Delegates Policy, all resolutions must be submitted in writing and received by the CSMS Executive Vice President/Chief Executive Officer not later than 30 calendar days prior to the date of the meeting in order to be considered by the House as regular business.

Please, therefore, submit any resolutions you may have through your County Society, Specialty or other Society, or directly to CSMS, at 127 Washington Avenue, East Building, 3rd Floor, North Haven, CT 06473, by no later than August 13, 2014 in order to be considered as regular business.
current role as RFS Councilor, Ted has a real appreciation for the “extraordinary interest” CSMS has in interacting with residents and fellows, and listening to their priorities and needs. “David [Hass, MD] and Matt [Katz] have been very motivating.” CSMS and NHCMA have enthusiastically supported Ted’s efforts in establishing a well-attended health policy lunchtime lecture series for YNHH house staff.

Tying together his interest in physician advocacy and the research requirements of his fellowship, Ted came up with the idea of studying resident and fellow attitudes, knowledge and priorities in health policy. Ted and his co-authors Ali M. Khan, MD, MPP, Shady Henien, MD, and David Hass, MD developed a survey that was sent to all house staff (PGY-1 through PGY-7) at Yale-New Haven Hospital and the University of Connecticut Health Center. CSMS EVP/CEO Matt Katz also assisted in the project.

“The stereotype is that residents are ‘too busy,’ with no time or energy to pursue health policy interests,” said Ted. The survey results showed something very different: 89% of respondents felt that health policy was important – yet only 21% felt confident in their health policy knowledge. The survey also included questions about the Affordable Care Act and the Connecticut State Medical Society. Malpractice reform topped the list of health policy priorities for house staff, followed by future salary, loan repayment, Medicaid expansion and scope of practice issues. Ted and his co-authors submitted their findings to Connecticut Medicine, and their article appears in the May issue (Long T, Khan AM, Henien S, et al. Resident and fellow assessment of health policy attitudes and advocacy priorities. Connecticut Medicine. 2014;78:283-7).

By revealing the extent of house staff interest and awareness of health policy issues, and providing details about their policy priorities, the survey results offer potential pathways to educate and empower residents and fellows. With a clearer idea of how to become involved in organized medicine, house staff, who currently comprise 15% of the state’s physicians, can become more effective advocates for their policy priorities. Building on recent successful CSMS RFS bylaws amendment efforts, Ted hopes to see residents and fellows develop an even stronger presence in CSMS.

Between his work as an RWJF Clinical Scholar and his leadership role at CSMS, Ted doesn’t have much down time. When it’s available, he enjoys playing strategy games. He and his wife, Andrea Halim, MD, an orthopaedic resident at YNHH, are also planning a trip to Bhutan this summer.

What’s next? After completing his program at Yale, Ted plans to remain clinically active, interacting with policy “in a meaningful way” through organized medicine or the governmental side of healthcare delivery.

**RWJF Clinical Scholars Program at Yale**

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Clinical Scholars program was created to “prepare a select group of physicians to improve health and healthcare in the US through scholarship and action at the national, state, and local levels.”

The two-year program features a mix of coursework and research, including a New-Haven based community-partnered project. Scholars also spend 20 percent of the fellowship maintaining clinical skills and teaching.

Go to [http://rwjcsp.yale.edu/index.aspx](http://rwjcsp.yale.edu/index.aspx) for more information.

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**Physician Workforce Survey**

The Physicians Foundation, a non-profit group of physician and medical society leaders, is conducting its third national survey of America’s physicians. The PF survey is instrumental in conveying physician opinions about the current state of the medical profession.

This landmark survey, one of the largest physician surveys in the country, examines physician morale, practice patterns, patient accessibility and career plans. Previous survey results have been reported on by The Wall Street Journal, USA Today and many other publications.

If you would like to participate, the survey link is available at [CSMS.org > Practice Info You Need > Physician Workforce Survey](http://csms.org/practiceinfo/physician-workforce-survey). The survey is currently active and will close on [May 28](http://csms.org/practiceinfo/physician-workforce-survey).

All participants who include their email address will have the full survey report emailed to them, and will be entered in a drawing for a $10,000 travel voucher, a $2,000 Apple voucher, and multiple iPad Airs.
The Connecticut State Medical Society is accepting nominations for this award in memory of Paul K. Maloney Jr., MD.

The award is given annually to a member physician who has exemplified Dr. Maloney’s intense commitment to community service.

Nominations must be submitted in writing no later than July 1, 2014.

Submit to:
Paul K. Maloney Distinguished Service Award
Connecticut State Medical Society
127 Washington Avenue,
East Building, 3rd Floor
North Haven, CT 06473

Or email to: rhawes@csms.org

Submissions should include your contact information, the nominee’s contact information, and an explanation (no more than three pages) of why you feel the physician should be considered for this award.
Antimicrobial Stewardship Campaign: A Call to Action

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) has issued a call to action to Connecticut physicians, urging a new approach to reducing the number of antibiotic-resistant infections in our state.

National and international experts recognize resistance to antibiotics and other antimicrobials as a serious public health threat. CT DPH Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD urges her fellow physicians to take action and establish effective antimicrobial stewardship programs. In particular, she notes the importance of educating your patients about the importance of judicious appropriate antibiotic use. The text of Dr. Mullen’s letter to physicians is available at CSMS.org > Practice Info You Need > Antimicrobial Stewardship.

Several actions are recommended as part of a comprehensive stewardship program:

1.) Talk to patients frankly about the need for antibiotics
2.) Refer to evidence-based clinical guidelines before prescribing
3.) Talk to colleagues and pharmacists about judicious antibiotic use
4.) Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for information and educational resources, including Get Smart (for patients and providers), Antibiotic Resistance Threats Report 2013, and provider toolkits.
JOIN A COMMITTEE — SERVE YOUR PROFESSION

Connecticut State Medical Society

The County Medical Associations will soon begin proposing members of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) to participate in the various committees and activities listed below. If you would like to be considered for participation, please indicate by inserting number 1, 2 and/or 3—in order of preference but not more than three—on the following list, and return those selections to Barbara Levine at CSMS by no later than July 1, 2014. You may send your selections by fax: (203) 865-4997, by email: blevine@csms.org, or by U.S. Mail: CSMS Committees, 127 Washington Avenue, East Building, 3rd Floor, North Haven, CT 06473.

CSMS Governance
____ Bylaws Committee
____ Finance Committee

Medical Education
____ Committee on Continuing Medical Education

Medical Economics
____ Committee on Workers’ Compensation

Professional Relations
____ Committee on Ethical and Judicial Affairs
____ The Health Equity Committee

Public Affairs and Communication
____ Committee on Legislation
____ Committee on Public Education and Communication
(formerly Public Affairs)

Representatives and Advisors
____ Representatives to Connecticut Advisory Council on School Health
____ Delegates to Connecticut Public Health Association, Inc.
____ Delegates to Connecticut Nutrition Council
____ Liaison to Connecticut Cancer Coalition

Scientific and Socio-environmental Medicine
____ Committee on Quality of Care
____ Committee on Medical Aspects of Sports
____ Addiction Medicine Committee
____ Committee on Public Health
____ Committee on Organ and Tissue Transfers
____ Committee on Medicare and Senior Health Issues
____ Committee on Medicaid
____ Committee on Maternal and Perinatal Morbidity & Mortality
____ Committee on Disaster Preparedness
____ Committee on Ethics

Sections
____ Medical Student Section
____ Resident/Fellow Section
____ Young Physician Section
____ Senior Physician Section
____ Organized Medical Staff Section
____ Medical Group Section

Name: ____________________________________________ Telephone No.: __________________________

Office Address: ____________________________________________________________

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Email Address: ____________________________________________________________
Members Matter

Congratulations to these CSMS members for their latest achievements!

The American Medical Association has re-appointed Syed Aleali, MD to the AMA Council on Legislation. Dr. Aleali, a past CSMS President, has a hematology practice in Bridgeport.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) announced the election of Mark S. DeFrancesco, MD, MBA, of Connecticut, as President Elect; Dr. DeFrancesco took office on April 30, 2014. Dr. DeFrancesco has served in many ACOG positions at the local, regional, and national levels. He is currently the president of the New England Obstetrical and Gynecological Society, and is a past president of the Connecticut Society of American Board Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Peter Dodds, MD and Eric Mazur, MD were named as the 2014 recipients of Norwalk Hospital’s William J. Tracey, MD, Award for their leadership, character and superior clinical skills (pictured accepting the award with Dr. Edward Tracey, middle, grandson of award’s namesake). The Tracey Award honors physicians whose exemplary commitment and philanthropic leadership strengthens Norwalk Hospital as a progressive leader in the healing arts.

CSMS Immediate Past President John Foley, MD has been named Regional Director of Cardiovascular Services at Backus and Windham Hospitals.

Claudia Gruss, MD has been named Chair of the 2014 New England Comparative Effectiveness Public Advisory Council (CEPAC). CEPAC is a regional body whose goal is to provide objective, independent guidance on the application of medical evidence to clinical practice and payer policy decisions across New England. Dr. Gruss chairs the CSMS Quality of Care Committee, and also serves as an alternate to the AMA Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement.

Shady Henien, MD was interviewed by the Yale Daily News for his efforts in founding and promoting Student Promise, an Iowa-based company that aims to help students secure low interest rates for their student loans. By bundling students’ collective debt for investors, the company plans to offer students interest rates lower than the federal loan rate for post-graduate students, which is currently 5.4 percent. In May 2013, the company made it to the semi-final round of “Shark Tank” — an ABC television show that brings in aspiring entrepreneurs to pitch their ideas to potential investors — and is now in the process of securitizing the student loans and issuing bonds.

Michael Hunt, DO, was named as one of the “100 Hospital and Health System CMOs to Know,” by Becker’s Hospital Review. Individuals selected for the list have demonstrated commitment to continuous improvement in safety and quality and have contributed to excellence at their respective institutions. Dr. Hunt is the CMO and CMIO of St. Vincent’s Health Partners in Bridgeport.

N. Chandra Narayanan, MD and Peter B. Wade, MD were honored with the St. Francis Distinguished Physician of the Year Award. This award is presented to physicians who have demonstrated clinical excellence and achieved a high degree of recognition for their non-clinical contributions in the Hospital, regionally or nationally. The recipients are chosen by the medical staff’s Medical Executive Committee which consists of the officers of the medical staff, the chair of the credentials committee, the chair of the quality oversight committee, the medical department chair, the surgical department chair and five active medical staff members elected at-large.

Robin Oshman, MD, PhD, was presented with the Presidential Citation Award from the American Academy of Dermatology on March 20, 2014. Dr. Oshman, a CSMS Councilor and President of the Fairfield County Medical Association, received the award at the AAD Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. The Presidential Citation Award is the American Academy of Dermatology’s highest honor.

After completing his 2-year term as President of the CT ENT Society, Ken Yanagisawa, MD, was recently appointed Vice Chair of the Socioeconomic and Grassroots Committee, Board of Governors, American Academy of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery. Dr. Yanagisawa also just completed a term as President of the New England Otolaryngological Society, and he is the immediate Past President of the University of Connecticut Medical Alumni Association.

Ted Zanker, MD has been appointed to serve as a member of the AMA HOD Reference Committee on Science and Technology. Dr. Zanker has also been elected to the Board of Directors of Connecticut Hospice.

Governor Dannel Malloy has named Peter M. Zeman, MD to the Connecticut Board of Medical Examiners. Dr. Zeman, a Hartford psychiatrist, will serve on the Board with fellow CSMS members Jeffrey A. Gordon, MD, Robert A. Green, MD, Howard J. Sadinsky, DO, Andrew L. Salner, MD, and Joel Sorosky, MD.
CSMS Events

Transforming the Medical Liability System in Connecticut
January 22
Connecticut has long been known as one of the worst states for medical liability. Legislative efforts, such as Certificate of Merit (COM), have provided limited physician protection at best. Over the past few years, CSMS has worked to turn back attempts by the trial attorneys to weaken COM.

To help physicians and legislators think outside the liability box, CSMS joined with the CT Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (CTACS) and the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society (COS) to host a discussion on health courts, alternatives to the current liability system, and how to advocate for change on January 22. The evening featured a panel of national experts who addressed a range of critical liability issues. Moderated by Kimble Ross, a national expert in effective physician advocacy and former Texas Medical Association VP of Lobbying, panel speakers included Philip K. Howard (founder and Chair of Common Good, a nonpartisan reform coalition), John Mastropietro (Chairman of the Connecticut Workers’ Compensation Commission), Stephen R. Permut, MD, JD (American Medical Association Board of Trustees), and Oge Young, MD (Past President of the New Hampshire Medical Society). An audience of physicians, legislators, and attorneys filled the room for this well-attended event. Dr. Young’s presentation on New Hampshire’s successful liability reform efforts, including malpractice screening panels and an early offer system, was of particular interest to the audience.

Physician Asset Protection: Strategies and Tactics
March 11
CSMS joined with Affinity Partner Webster Bank to host a panel discussion on physician asset protection on March 11. Held at the Webster Bank training facility in New Britain, the well-attended event featured a panel of experts in banking/finance, insurance, and law. The panelists discussed the implications of recent litigation decisions, and suggested strategies to protect individual assets from future claims. From there, the discussion turned to ways that asset protection goals can be coordinated with other estate, succession, and financial planning strategies. After the presentation, panelists opened the floor to questions, and the physician attendees took advantage of the room’s expertise to ask about a range of issues. The evening was a success, and CSMS is working with Webster Bank to schedule similar meetings in other areas of the state.

CSMS Open House
April 9
After 221 years in New Haven (and seven decades on St. Ronan Street), the Connecticut State Medical Society moved to new offices in North Haven at the end of last year. To celebrate this new beginning, CSMS hosted an Open House for members, legislators, Affinity Partners and other friends of CSMS on April 9. Guests enjoyed viewing the spacious, bright offices, as well as the opportunity to connect with colleagues.

CSMS President Michael Saffir, MD debuted the new CSMS webinar platform with a live update on legislative issues in Hartford. Dr. Saffir was joined by President-Elect Robert Russo, MD and Vice President Henry Jacobs, MD, JD in discussing critical bills and the CSMS legislative agenda.

If you have any questions or want to learn more, contact Jace D’Amico at 203.962.5839 or jdamico@websterbank.com.

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*Subject to internal credit approval process. The Webster Symbol and Webster Bank are registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
Disaster Relief Effort

Shortly after Typhoon Haiyan struck southeast Asia in November 2013, CSMS accepted donations from our members earmarked for disaster relief efforts in the Philippines. On April 9, 2014, CSMS President Dr. Michael Saffir, presented a check to CSMS Life Member Dr. Norberto Belleza (photo at left), payable to the Philippine-American Association of Connecticut, Inc. (PAAC), a local non-profit organization founded several years ago by a group of health care professionals at Yale. Dr. Belleza is on their board of directors. CSMS is happy to have played a small part in the massive disaster relief efforts.

Medicare Advantage Bill Proposed

On Friday, April 11, U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (CT-03) held a community meeting to announce her introduction of a bill to protect the rights of Medicare Advantage Patients. The bill would address a number of patient and physician concerns which arose during UnitedHealthcare’s abrupt termination of thousands of Connecticut physicians from its Medicare Advantage network last fall. Among other things, the legislation would prevent insurers from dropping physicians mid-year, and finalize networks before the Medicare Open Enrollment period begins. CSMS Vice-Chair Steven Wolfson, MD, President-Elect Robert Russo, MD, and Councilor Robin Oshman, MD, PhD spoke about their experiences with the United terminations, and the impact on their patients.

CSMS issued a statement of support for Rep. DeLauro’s proposed bill, and thanked her for her continued efforts to address issues of fairness, transparency and access to care for the Medicare Advantage patients of our state.

Nominations Now Open

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2014 Maloney Award, and the 2014 Healthcare Leaders and Innovators (HLI) Award. Though the awards focus on different aspects of medicine, both honor the dedication and talent of CSMS member physicians.

The Maloney Distinguished Service Award is the highest honor CSMS can confer upon a member. The award was established in 2008 to honor the life and work of Dr. Paul K. Maloney, Jr., a distinguished physician known for his intense dedication to the community.

Nominees for the Maloney Distinguished Service Award should carry on Dr. Maloney’s tradition of exemplary service and active engagement.

The Connecticut Medicine Healthcare Leaders and Innovators Award was established in 2013, in response to the significant changes in the healthcare landscape. Nominees for the HCLI Award may be at any stage of practice, including residents and fellows. Nominations should demonstrate exceptional commitment to leadership and innovation in the practice of medicine.

For more information about the Awards and the nomination process, please contact Rhonda Hawes (203-865-0587 x122/rhawes@csms.org).

Biondino Golf Classic – CSMS Charitable Trust

Mark your calendar for the annual C. Robert Biondino Golf Classic on July 28 at the Wallingford Country Club. This is a fun day for golfers and non-golfers alike, with a kickoff luncheon, raffle prizes, a cocktail reception and dinner. 100% of the proceeds go to the CSMS Charitable Trust, which donated $41,000 to Connecticut charities in 2013.

The registration form and a list of 2014 sponsorship opportunities can be found on the CSMS website (Click on “CSMS Charitable Trust/Biondino Golf Classic” link on the home page).
Physicians’ Day at the Capitol

CSMS had a great turnout for Physicians’ Day at the Capitol on March 20. Physicians from across the state came to meet with legislators and provide a front-line perspective on critical healthcare issues, particularly APRN independent practice, network adequacy, and collaborative agreements.

The morning kicked off with a warm welcome from CSMS President Michael Saffir, MD. Dr. Saffir also spoke about the challenges facing physicians during this session, and he was joined by CSMS EVP/CEO Matthew Katz and CSMS SVP for Government Affairs Ken Ferrucci. CSMS Immediate Past President John Foley, MD provided a detailed analysis of the APRN bill and its flaws.

After individual meetings with legislators, physicians gathered in the historic Old Judiciary Room at the Capitol for lunch and a legislative briefing from Senate Minority Leader John McKinney. Sen. McKinney was followed by Christine Stuart, Managing Editor of CT News Junkie, who provided an overview of digital media and political reporting. The session concluded with a presentation by Toni Karnes, Development Manager for the CT Department of Economic and Community Development. Ms. Karnes’ presentation on the CT Small Business Express Program highlighted the types of loan and grant assistance available to small businesses, including medical practices.

Capitol Day: CSMS Immediate Past President John Foley, MD and HCMA President Bo Subbarao, MD; CSMS President Michael Saffir, MD (right).

Physician ID Theft

First reported in a handful of states in late April, forty-nine states have now reported cases of tax fraud involving stolen physician IDs. CSMS continues its efforts to assist in the federal investigation, led by the U.S. Secret Service. CSMS has also kept Connecticut Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy up to date on the situation in our state.

Senators Blumenthal and Murphy released a letter to the Director of the Secret Service and the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, asking them for a detailed briefing and pledging their support for Connecticut physicians and their families who have been affected by this fraud.

In a press release, the Senators stated:

“The magnitude of this fraud is shocking and alarming — approximately 75 physicians in Connecticut alone. The federal government must dedicate all necessary resources to identifying the source of this serious breach and to bringing the perpetrators to justice. Physician practices are vital healthcare providers and small businesses, contributing substantially to the welfare of their communities. Attempts to steal these valuable tax refunds not only harm the physicians themselves, but their patients and employees who count on them every day for their physical and economic wellbeing.”

CSMS President Michael Saffir, MD said “We are very grateful to Senator Blumenthal and Senator Murphy for their support and concern for our members and their families. Their efforts to bring more attention and resources to this important matter are critical in helping to stem the effects of this massive data breach.”

Full text of the CSMS press release is available on the CSMS website at CSMS > Newsroom > Press Releases.

The Connecticut State Medical Society continues to cooperate actively with the ongoing federal investigation. If you are a CSMS member who may be affected by the physician identity theft/tax fraud, please email CSMS General Counsel Layne Gakos immediately (lgakos@csms.org). Members can also visit the CSMS website for additional information about how to protect themselves and their practices.

Please note: CSMS is not contacting members by phone about this issue. CSMS staff are placing calls only in response to member-initiated contact. If you receive an unsolicited call from someone claiming to be a CSMS staff person, do not provide any information and report the contact to Attorney Gakos at CSMS.

CSMS News

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AMA News

AMA NAC Report

The AMA’s Annual National Advocacy Conference (NAC) to was held in Washington, DC on March 4-6, 2014. The Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) was represented by Seyed Aleali, MD (Fairfield), who also attended the AMA’s Council on Legislation meetings; Steven Wolfson, MD (New Haven), Vice Chair of the Council, and Michael Deren, MD (New London), Chair of the CSMS AMA Delegation. Dr. Deren also attended the Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI).

The main purpose of the NAC meeting is to learn about, have input into and discuss the legislative agenda for organized medicine. Meetings are arranged and then physicians visit their Representatives and Senators to apprise them of our legislative concerns. Members of the CSMS delegation were to go to Capitol Hill and meet with our Senators and Representatives. Unfortunately, however, all of our federal legislators were home in Connecticut meeting with President Obama, who was visiting our state to discuss his minimum wage proposals. Hence we met with their legislative aides, who were all very knowledgeable and welcoming.

We discussed issues of particular interest to Connecticut, including:
1. The United situation. All aides were very receptive, especially in Representative Rosa DeLauro’s office; 2. The Health Insurance Exchanges and their narrow networks, as well as the grace period in payments; 3. ICD-10 and its abolition and/or postponement.

CSMS also shared a number of AMA legislative priorities, including SGR repeal, the Medicare Patient Empowerment Act (Contracting), the Protect Seniors’ Access to Medicare Act (IPAB repeal), the 2-Midnight Rule, the Diabetes Prevention Act, and residency slots.

Lectures included topics such as the future of medicine, leadership issues, how to “close the deal” with your legislator, and improving health outcomes through expanded health care coverage. Bob Woodward Associate Editor of the Washington Post gave an excellent talk on what it’s like to be inside the Beltway. Marilyn Tavenner, Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), spoke about the ACA and regulations. She assured us that there would be no further postponements of the ICD-10 implementation! Dana Perino, former White House Press Secretary under President George W. Bush and Robert Gibbs, Senior Advisor to President Obama, gave a point/counterpoint discussion.

The Nathan Davis Award Ceremony, where national figures are recognized for their contribution to medicine, was hosted by Bob Schieffer, CBS News Chief Washington Correspondent and moderator of Face the Nation.

Connecticut State Medical Society
Annual House of Delegates Meeting

September 12, 2014
Omni Hew Haven Hotel at Yale,
155 Temple Street, New Haven, CT 06510

Friday:
• House of Delegates Meeting
• President’s Reception

Look for updates at www.csms.org
Security Issues

Get Ready: They’re Back

On February 24, the Office for Civil Rights (OCR), a division of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced its intention to resume the HIPAA Audit Program. In 2011 and 2012, OCR undertook a pilot audit program involving HIPAA audits of 115 randomly selected healthcare organizations. These audits involved a review of each organization’s privacy, security and breach notification systems. While complete results of the pilot audit program are not yet available to the public, OCR has discussed the results at several conferences. OCR has stated the audits revealed wide range of compliance failures, including outdated policies and procedures, failure to properly implement policies and procedures, failure to conduct regular risk assessments and an overall lack of awareness of compliance requirements.

This time around, it appears that OCR is stepping up their game. Currently, OCR has proposed a pre-audit “survey” of up to 1,200 organizations, 800 HIPAA covered entities and 400 business associates, to assess audit readiness (Under the HIPAA Omnibus Rule, business associates are now directly liability for compliance with certain of HIPAA’s privacy and security requirements). Based on the information obtained through the survey process, OCR will then use the information to verify and determine which entity is suitable for a full HIPAA audit. OCR will not say at this point how many organizations will undergo a full audit.

The message now to all physicians is be ready. OCR will be selecting a full range of organizations for audit, including small physician provider offices. All physicians should be assessing their current HIPAA compliance program. Key activities and questions include:

1. Review your HIPAA policies and procedures. Are they up-to-date with the latest HIPAA Omnibus Rule?
2. Have you undertaken a timely and thorough security risk assessment, as required under HIPAA? According to OCR, about two-thirds of the covered entities audited in 2012 failed to conduct the appropriate security risk assessment. HHS has recently developed a tool to help providers comply with this requirement. This tool is free and can be found at: http://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/security-risk-assessment
3. Have you reviewed your Notice of Privacy Practices? When were they last updated? Are they posted prominently? Are they in compliance with the HIPAA Omnibus rule?
4. Review your HIPAA training. Has your entire staff received recent HIPAA training? If not, HIPAA training and updates should be part of a regularly-scheduled training.

Windows XP: A Thing of the Past

On April 8, 2014 Microsoft ended its support for Windows XP. This means that security updates and patches will no longer be available for this Windows platform. Microsoft issued a statement that “businesses that are governed by regulatory obligations such as HIPAA may find that they are no longer able to satisfy compliance requirements.” Physicians need to be acutely aware of this change to the Windows XP platform. There is widespread disagreement in the legal and security industry on the impact of the change to Windows XP. On one side of the fence, there are those that believe that any covered entity simply having Windows XP operating on a computer on April 8, 2014 will result in a per se HIPAA violation. On the other side sit those who recognize that while the exposure to HIPAA violations is certainly greater, simply running Windows XP as of April 8, 2014 will not result in an automatic HIPAA violation.

The bottom line is that every physician’s office must meet certain HIPAA requirements for storing electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI). As of April 8, 2014, offices running Windows XP are going to have to upgrade their Windows platform and/or undertake a detailed risk analysis of the continued use of Windows XP and the potential HIPAA violations that come with that continued use.

Speaking of Security...

Unauthorized access to ePHI can translate into significant HIPAA violations for physicians. In February 2014, a whitepaper analysis entitled Health Care Cyberthreat Report (sponsored by the Norse corporation and written by the SANS Institute, an information security training corporation) was published. The results of the whitepaper showed just how vulnerable the healthcare industry, and ePHI, is to cyberattacks. Key takeaways for physicians from the report include:

- Multiple devices, applications and systems can be exposed to cyberattacks, including radiology imaging software, video conferencing systems, digital video systems, call contact software, security systems and devices such as virtual private networks, firewalls and routers.
- Hackers did not discriminate in choosing targets. Entities targeted included small and large healthcare providers (physician offices), medical supply companies, health plans and clearinghouses.
- The costs of cyberattacks is astounding. The unauthorized access to ePHI for physicians can be a tremendous cost. In addition to fines or settlements for HIPAA violations, the whitepaper concluded that healthcare organizations pay an estimated $233 per compromised record for expenses such as notifying victims, incident handling, credit monitoring and projected lost opportunities.
- Unauthorized access to ePHI means HIPAA violations for physicians. Physicians need to be aware that medical equipment that is administered or updated remotely, like dialysis or diagnostic imaging machines, can provide a hacker with access to ePHI if the data stored in these machines is not protected.
- Physicians must remember that a true assessment of ePHI security risk ePHI must go beyond evaluating compliance with HIPAA and state privacy laws. Physician offices may be compliant with all technical aspects of these laws, yet still have security risks and holes. Legal compliance and security are not the same.

If you have any questions on HIPAA compliance, please contact CSMS General Counsel Layne Gakos, JD (lgakos@csms.org).
The Connecticut State Medical Society and the Connecticut Psychological Association present:

IMPROVING QUALITY OF CARE AND COST EFFECTIVENESS

Evolving Models of Collaboration Among Behavioral & Medical Health Care Providers

Jointly presented by the Connecticut State Medical Society and the Connecticut Psychological Association, this program is open to physicians, psychologists, and other behavioral and medical health professionals.

Topics include:

- Structural options and legal considerations for implementing various models of care: Working together through partnership, shared location/collaboration, and virtual collaboration
- How it works in other states: Example of a Collaboration Model in Rhode Island

The Connecticut Psychological Association is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. The Connecticut Psychological Association maintains responsibility for this program and its content. Up to 2.5 credits will be awarded for this program. Evaluation forms must be completed at the conclusion of the program to receive CE certificate.

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the essentials and standards of the Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and the Connecticut Psychological Association through the joint providership of Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. CCMC is accredited by CSMS to provide continuing medical education for physicians. CCMC designates this educational activity for a maximum of 2.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)/TM. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Please mail completed registration to:
Denise Tyrrell, CSMS, 127 Washington Ave., East Building, 3rd Floor, North Haven, CT 06473 or fax to: 203-492-3836

For online registration, please visit us at www.csms.org
As the healthcare landscape continues to change, Connecticut physicians are looking for new ways to face those challenges. In recognition of the many ways our members have developed creative and innovative approaches to the modern practice of medicine, Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS) and Connecticut Medicine are pleased to present the 2014 Healthcare Leader and Innovator Award.

This award will recognize physicians at all stages of practice who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to leadership and innovation. Nominations from fellow physicians are being accepted through July 1, 2014.

Download a nomination form at www.csms.org.

The Award will be presented at the CSMS House of Delegates meeting on September 12, 2014. The winner will be featured in a special section of the October 2014 issue of Connecticut Medicine.

Nominees must hold active CSMS membership. They must have demonstrated proven leadership accomplishments in their medical fields and/or innovative achievements in the medical profession.

For questions, please contact Connecticut Medicine Managing Editor Patrick Prince at pprince@csms.com, or call 203-865-0587 x113.

Connecticut State Medical Society and Inbox Health Present:

**2014 Healthcare Leader & Innovator Award**

**Strategies to Profit in a World of Increasing Deductibles and Co-insurance**

- **Improve** cash flow by understanding patient payment behaviors
- **Drive** patient revenue cycles with strategic communications
- **Gain** actionable insight into collections avoidance techniques
- **Collect** more while protecting your patient-provider relationship

**Average deductibles for visits are increasing**

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Source: PwC 2013 Health and Well-being Touchstone Survey

**Please join us at CSMS Headquarters**

**Wednesday - June 25, 2014**

Registration and Dinner: 5:30 PM
Program: 6:15 PM - 7:30 PM

CSMS, 127 Washington Avenue, East Building, 3rd Floor, North Haven, CT 06473
Registration online - please visit us at www.csms.org

CSMS Member/Member Staff: $15
Non-Member: $45
SAFE PLACE is a national youth outreach program designed to provide access to immediate help and safety for all young people in crisis. Locations across the country are designated by Safe Place’s yellow and black diamond-shaped logo.

How Safe Place Works:

• Through partnerships with community locations and businesses that appeal to youth, Safe Place connects teens looking for help with a local youth service agency.

• A young person enters a designated Safe Place location and asks for help. The employee finds a quiet, comfortable place for the youth to wait while they call the local Safe Place agency. A Safe Place volunteer or staff member will arrive to talk with the youth and transport them to the agency for counseling, support, a place to stay or other resources.

• Once at the Safe Place agency, counselors meet with the youth and provide support. Family members or guardians are called to ensure that their child is safe. Then agency staff makes sure the youth and their families receive the help and professional services they need.

How TXT 4 HELP Works:

• TXT 4 HELP is a 24-hour text-for-support service for youth in crisis to get immediate access to help and safety. Teens can text the word “SAFE” and their current location to 69866 and receive a text message with the name and address of the closest designated Safe Place as well as the number of the youth shelter agency. Teens also have the option to text interactively with a mental health professional for more help. The service is free, but regular text messaging rates will apply to the user’s phone bill.

How You Can Help:

• Inform your staff about Safe Place, including the procedures to follow if a youth requests help.

• Make promotional materials for Safe Place readily available to your at your location.

The Youth Continuum is New Haven’s National Safe Place headquarters. To receive a supply of the above cards or for more information about Safe Place, contact Paul Kosowsky, Vice President, Program Operations at 203-562-3396 x18, pkosowsky@youthcontinuum.org.
Please visit our website to view information about many of the new and exciting CSMS programs, services, and member benefits. You can also view Connecticut Medicine, Action and SportsMed newsletters online, update your profile, or find one of your Connecticut colleagues. CSMS continues to make every effort to update our benefits and services to better serve you and the entire membership.

If you have comments or questions concerning our site email kellyr@csms.org or call us at 203-865-0587.

Between issues of CSMS Action News, get the latest news delivered to your Inbox: send your email address to news@csms.org.

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