TENNESSEE Winter 2003

FAMILY PHYSICIAN

An Official Publication of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians

Your 2004 President, J. Lynn Williams, M.D., Decherd (see page 1)

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Mark your calendar to attend the 2004 TAFP Legislative Seminar on Saturday, March 6 and the 2004 Tennessee Tar Wars State Poster Contest on Sunday, March 7.

James D. King, M.D. and Eddie Turner elected to AAFP Board of Directors. See page 5.

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President's Corner

I'm so excited about this next year! We have so much to do and we need the help of every one of our members to accomplish everything in the next twelve months.

I can hope for an average year as far as Presidential duties, but we have to be prepared for anything. Our past Presidents have been amazing. I admire Mickey McAdoo for his indefatigability during the start up of TennCare; Tommy Smith with his multiple travels to Memphis on the selection committee for a Dean of the medical school while preparing our fiftieth anniversary celebrations; and Bob Casey, Mack Worthington, Jimmy King, Don Polk, John Outlan, Mike Hartsell and Tim Linder who kept the Legislature on track on the issues of Scope of Practice, Tobacco and lots of TennCare monitoring. I must not forget David Darrah who initially tapped me for Secretary-Treasurer. He set me on a path of service to our Academy. These ten Past Presidents are the ones that I know best and they have influenced the person I am today and the President that I hope to be.

I've been on the Board of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians for the last ten years: first as the Alternate Director of my District Five, then Director; Secretary-Treasurer for five years, Vice President and then President-Elect. I've learned a tremendous amount from the ten Presidents that I served and continue to benefit from their wisdom. I hope they stay involved with the Academy to help us keep perspective on the past, present and the future. In acknowledging the fifty-four past presidents of our Academy, I challenge them to stay involved.

As you may know, I am the second woman to serve as your TAFP President. The first was Grace Moulder, M.D. of Shelbyville, who was President of the Academy in 1977. Naturally, I will bring a woman's perspective to this office, but don't expect doilies at the Board of Directors' meetings. I have been well trained over the last ten years and will do my best for my Academy.

I have a few plans for the next year. We must keep up with the Legislature and what it has in store for healthcare in Tennessee. We have two great resources—Gif Thornton, our lobbyist, and Joey Hensley, M.D. (Hohenwald) our family physician in the Legislature. We must support them and give them feedback on our needs for our state. I hope that Jimmy King and Tim Linder still have the time and energy to keep up their contacts in Nashville. They are both well known and respected in the Legislature.

We need to fully support Tar Wars. Everyone needs to reach out to our Tennessee fourth and fifth graders and encourage them not to use tobacco products by teaching the Tar Wars curriculum. The

continued on page 2

Academy is the official Tar Wars sponsor in Tennessee, with Cathy Dyer serving as State Coordinator.

I would like to rise to the challenge issued by the AAFP's new President, Doctor Michael Fleming. Doctor Fleming challenged Academy members at the 2003 AAFP Scientific Assembly in New Orleans, to enroll in the Active Lifestyle Program. This is part of the U.S. President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports that urges Americans to participate in at least 30 minutes of physical activity five days a week. I was able to enroll in New Orleans and now wear my pedometer daily trying to strive for 10,000 steps.

Thanks for the confidence that you have placed in me as your President. With your help, we will have a successful year.

J. Lynn Williams, M.D., Decherd
2004 President

TAFP 2003 "Family Physician of the Year"

Arthur Winfrey Walker, M.D., Waverly

The Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians' Family Physician of the Year Award is bestowed upon an individual who exemplifies the ideal Family Physician. This year's recipient, as have past recipients, meets these criteria with dignity and outstanding commitment to Family Medicine in Tennessee.

Doctor Arthur Winfrey Walker, Sr. began his practice in 1953 in McEwen and Waverly, Tennessee located in Humphreys County. He has remained there in practice all these years, delivering his medical skill, care and concern to a multitude of families.

He is the true example of the 'country doctor' who has a love of his profession, a love of his community, a love of his church and his family, and a loving care and concern for those who place their lives in his hands. In 2002 he was honored by his community for fifty years of unselfish service. He and his wife of more than 50 years have traveled many places as missionaries.

The Tennessee AFP is honored to have Doctor Walker as a member and to be able to honor him as the 2003 Family Physician of the Year.

TAFP 2003 "John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award"

Forrest Lang, M.D., Johnson City

The Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians' "John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award" is presented to an individual, or individuals, whom the TAFP feels has demonstrated exemplary leadership and character along with outstanding and distinguished service to the Family Physicians in Tennessee. The award is named in honor of the late John S. Derryberry, M.D., Shelbyville, who served the TAFP and AAFP with honor and distinction from 1964 until his passing in 1998.

It is a pleasure for the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians to have had the opportunity to recognize an individual such as Doctor Forrest Lang as the recipient of this award for 2003.

When Doctor Forrest Lang first arrived at ETSU James H. Quillen College of Medicine in 1984, there were few programs emphasizing the rural mission of the school. Doctor Lang has worked for the past 19 years in the Department of Family Medicine at ETSU to develop rural programs which have a substantial impact on rural family practice across the state. He has developed academic programs that span from rural high school students through post-residency fellowship programs. These programs include the Appalachian Preceptorship, the Rural Health Careers Day for rural high school students with strong academic credentials, and, the Rural Primary Care Track through which a majority of students enter careers in family medicine and primary care and settle in rural communities in the region.

Doctor Lang has contributed significantly to the medial education of rural physicians in Tennessee. Sincere congratulations to Forrest Lang, M.D. upon receiving the 2003 "John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award".

VERY SINCERE THANK YOU TO OUR OUTSTANDING 2003 SUPPORTERS

As the year comes to an end, we'd like to offer a very sincere 'thank you' to those companies who provided outstanding financial support to the Tennessee AFP during 2003. This support includes educational grants, function sponsorships, Tar Wars financial support and advertising in your journal; 'Tennessee Family Physician'.

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Leaders on the Move — Information For Members

• *Congratulations to Timothy Linder, M.D.,* Selmer, on his appointment as Chair of the American Academy of Family Physicians' Commission on Membership and Member Services for 2004!

• *Congratulations to James D. King, M.D.,* Selmer, on his election to the AAFP Board of Directors

• *Congratulations also to Eddie Turner,* Memphis, on his election as the Student Member of the AAFP Board of Directors.

• *Congratulations to TAFP member, Allen T. Sherwood, M.D.,* Ooltewah, for being selected as one of fifteen 2003 Pfizer Teacher Development Award winners by the AAFP Foundation. The award promotes interest in part-time teaching of family medicine after residency, and provides funding for each recipient to attend the AAFP Annual Scientific Assembly.

• *Congratulations to the following TAFP members* who received the AAFP Degree of Fellow at the 2003 AAFP Assembly in New Orleans: *Deana Brotherton, M.D.; Sigrid Johnson, M.D.; Carl Pean, M.D.; Steven Pribanich, M.D.; James Shine, M.D.; and, Carl Thomas Younger, M.D.* The AAFP Degree of Fellow recognizes members who have distinguished themselves through service to family medicine and ongoing professional development.

• *Remember* to utilize your Tennessee AFP website at: www.tnafp.org.

• *Please make note of the Tennessee AFP's new email:* tnafp@bellsouth.net. After December the old msn email address will no longer be available for contacting the Tennessee AFP office.

• *The nondeductible portion of your 2004 Tennessee AFP membership Dues* as a result of lobbying activities will be 8.00%.

YOUR 2004 TAFP OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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New Phys.	**Kim Howerton, M.D.**, Savannah	**Donald Ziegler, M.D.**, Hixson
Resident	**Bruce Boggs, M.D.**, Kingsport (ETSU)	**Melissa Yawn, M.D.**, Memphis (UT)
Student	**Patricia Conner**, Jonesborough (ETSU)	**Jon Andy Shull** (UT)

AAFP Board of Directors Acceptance Speech

Given October 3, 2003, by Eddie Turner

Madam Speaker, Board of Directors, distinguished Delegates, physicians, residents, student members, family, and friends.

I want to begin by thanking you for the opportunity to serve this Academy on the American Academy of Family Physicians' Board of Directors.

Believe it or not, I did not enter medical school knowing that I wanted to become a family physician. My local Family Medicine Interest Group (FMIG) first attracted me to family medicine. The summer of my first year of medical school I attended the National Conference of Family Practice Residents and Medical Students (NCFPRMS) in Kansas City. I was able to witness medical students from around the country interact professionally as well as socially.

That's when I decided to be a family doc.

While serving on the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Board of Directors, the AAFP Commission on Legislation and Governmental Affairs, and in my state and local chapters, I met family physicians like Warren Jones, Denise Rodgers, Tim Linder, Jim King and Clay Jackson. I was able to observe the passion which they displayed for Family Medicine and their patients.

That's when I decided to be a family doc.

I had a recent encounter with a patient who was recovering from an abdominal surgery, her husband having passed away only weeks prior and her only daughter lived in a different part of the country. She had completely given up on life. At the end of the encounter my preceptor asked the patient if she would like a hug, the patient replied no, but I would like a prayer. So, we took her hands and prayed for her. And when we finished she stated that she felt much better and wanted to eat. We were able to provide therapy for her without writing a single prescription or ordering an expense diagnostic modality.

That's when I decided to be a family doc.

When I spoke to the student members at the 2003 national conference, I asked them to go back to their perspective schools and tell just one person about their experience and how wonderful family medicine is. Bring just one person to the national conference next year. I told them "If we all do a little no one has to do a lot."

I want to extend that same challenge to the physician members of this Academy. Return to you perspective practice locations and take one medical student under your wings and mentor them in family medicine. Take just one premedical student and give them advice about getting in to medical school. Teach just one Tar Wars program to 4th and 5th graders. We can change the declining interest in family medicine one person at a time, because we are truly the future of Family Medicine.

L to R: James D. King, M.D., Sandra King & Eddie Turner at the AAFP new Board member's installation ceremony in New Orleans

Resolutions Presented to the 2003 TN AFP Congress

Resolution 1-2003: "Mid Level Provider Supervision"
Introduced By: Lee M. Carter, M.D., Delegate-District 8

Whereas, Members of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians have expressed concern over appropriate supervision of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants being provided by Tennessee physicians; and

Whereas, Some members of the General Assembly have expressed an opinion that adequate supervision of mid-level practitioners is not taking place; and

Whereas, The Board of Nursing and Committee on Physician Assistants have thwarted the efforts of the Board of Medical Examiners to promulgate more stringent rules for the physician supervision of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants. Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians continue to support the need for improved supervision of mid-level providers in order that the General Assembly does not pass legislation giving Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants independent practice in Tennessee; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians support legislation to repeal the Tennessee Code provision requiring that Nurse Practitioner supervision rules be promulgated upon concurrence of the Board of Medical Examiners and Board of Nursing and that the Board of Medical Examiners be given the sole authority to promulgate physician supervision rules of Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians urge the Board of Medical Examiners and the Board of Osteopathic Medical Examiners to promulgate rules that will improve documentation and verification that appropriate physician supervision is taking place; and be it further

RESOLVED, That any support provided by the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians will have no fiscal impact upon the Academy's budget.

Action Taken: Adopted as Presented.

Resolution 2-2003: Reactivation of Tennessee AFP Foundation with Consideration of Increased Financial Support for Medical Students and Student Activities
Introduced By: Danny Lewis, TAFP Student Member,
On Behalf of the Family Medicine Interest Group at ETSU James H. Quillen College of Medicine

Whereas, Fewer medical students each year are selecting a career in family medicine; and

Whereas, Financial support provided by the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians for student activities has increased significantly the last three years but the TAFP has limitations on the amount of support available; and

Whereas, This financial support has increased student participation from Tennessee on the national level and has provided many student leaders on the national level including in 2004 the TAFP having their first student ever to serve on the AAFP Board of Directors and a student to serve as the Student Delegation to the AAFP Congress; and

Whereas, The TAFP Foundation has financial resources available which could increase funding by the TAFP of student activities including, but not limited to, financing more students to attend the AAFP's National Conference of Family Practice Residents and Medical Students; and

Whereas, The enactment of the Pharma Code has contributed to a decline in pharmaceutical financial support for many state Academy activities including those activities of students as evidenced by the withdrawal in May of this year, with temporary reinstatement for academic year 2003-2004, of the Family Medicine Interest Group grants by one major pharmaceutical company to the state chapters of the AAFP; and

Whereas, The TAFP Foundation and Foundation Board has been in a state of inactivity for sometime and is a completely separate entity from the TAFP; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the TAFP Congress of Delegates request the TAFP Foundation board to consider adoption of Foundation Bylaws changes for reorganization of the Foundation board; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Congress of Delegates request that the TAFP Foundation give consideration to composition of Foundation officers and board members who have an interest in and a commitment to the TAFP Foundation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Congress of Delegates request that the TAFP Foundation give consideration to additional funding and support of medical student member activities, both at the state and national level.

Action Taken: Adopted as Amended.

Special Resolution-2003: "Commendation of Deceased Members"
Introduced By: Timothy Linder, M.D., President,
On Behalf of the TN AFP Board of Directors

Whereas, The Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians is extremely grateful to its many members who devote their time and effort to the continuing growth of the Academy; and

Whereas, The affiliation of Family Physicians with the Academy of Family Physicians is necessary for the continuing expansion of Family Practice; and

Whereas, Members of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians are deeply saddened by the loss of five (5) of its members and one (1) past president who passed away in the Years Of Our Lord, two-thousand-one and two-thousand-two, namely:

Richard Bruce Heintz, M.D., Knoxville – September 2003
Tom N. Humphrey, M.D., Selmer – June 2003
Scott Carlson Polk, Memphis (medical student) December 2002
David W. Rodgers, M.D., Goodlettsville – May 2003
J. L. Walker, M.D., LaFollette – November 2002
John O. Williams, M.D., Mt. Pleasant (TAFP Past President) – October 2003

Now Therefore Be It

Resolved, That this Congress of Delegates here assembled observe a minute of silent prayer in memory of these members; and be it further

Resolved, That the families of these members be made aware of the deep and sincere sympathy of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians.

Action Taken: Adopted as Amended.

Amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws Presented to 2002 TN AFP Congress

Amendment No. 1-2003: RESTRUCTURE OF TAFP PROGRAM COMMITTEE

TO AMEND THE BYLAWS of the Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians in Chapter VII, Section 1(B) Program Committee, by changing the paragraph in its entirety.

Section 1(B). Assembly Program Committee. The Assembly Program Committee shall consist of the current year's assembly program chair, current year's president who appointed the current year's program chair, the immediate past assembly program chair, the immediate future assembly program chair, the immediate future president who appointed the future assembly program chair and the secretary-treasurer. It shall be the function of the TAFP Assembly Program Committee to plan the scientific program for the Annual Assembly to include the selection of topics and speakers and to additionally obtain outside funding in support of the Assembly program.

Action Taken: Adopted as Presented.

Kyle Brown, 2003 Tennessee Tar Wars State Poster Contest Winner and his family visiting with Senator Lamar Alexander during the 2003 National Tar Wars State Poster Contest in Washington D.C.

2004 Tennessee Tar Wars Volunteers Needed & 2004 Poster Contest Dates Set

If you are interested in teaching Tar Wars in your local 4th and/or 5th grader classrooms, please contact Cathy at the TAFP office in Nashville to receive a copy of the 2003-2004 curriculum guide (or, you can print a copy from the TAFP website at: www.tnafp.org). It only takes approximately one hour to teach one Tar Wars class.

The Tennessee Tar Wars program announces the 2004 Tennessee Tar Wars Poster Contest to be held on Sunday, March 7, 2:00 p.m., at the Embassy Suites, Nashville. The first place winning student, and one parent or guardian, of the Tennessee Tar Wars Poster Contest will receive a trip to the National Tar Wars Poster Contest in Washington D.C. in July of 2004.

If you have posters to submit, please note the requirements below for submission of posters to the Tennessee State Poster Contest:

- All poster entries must have a completed 'School Poster Entry Form' secured to the back of the poster or have information required on the poster form printed clearly on the back of the poster.
- All poster entries must have a completed 'Authorized Release Form' received with the poster.
- All posters submitted for the Tennessee State Tar Wars Poster Contest will NOT be returned.
- All poster entries, with completed 'Entry Form' and 'Release Form' must be received by the Tennessee Tar Wars program by February 14, 2004 for inclusion in the 2004 State Poster Contest.
- You are requested to submit no more than one poster per school.

Letter to the Editor

My name is Jennie Walls and I am an Associate Professor at East Tennessee State University, College of Nursing, Nurse Practitioner Program. I am also a Family Nurse Practitioner of 27 years with a variety of experience in primary care, including 16 years as a FNP in the Family Practice Residency Program at the Quillen College of Medicine at ETSU. Since graduating from UT Memphis as a FNP in 1976, I have been heavily involved in the politics of nurse practitioners.

Recently I obtained a copy of the Summer 2003 'Tennessee Family Physician' publication from a fellow nurse practitioner whose son is a medical student at ETSU. Many articles have come my way over the years and I generally tend to ignore them or file away the information for future reference. The guest editorials in this issue, however, justified commenting upon.

The information in these two articles was somewhat slanderous and definitely erroneous. Nurse practitioners and physician assistants (NP/PAs) are (like physicians) very responsible and professional people who want to provide quality health care within the expertise and scope of their training. We are very careful that we follow the rules and regulations as written by the state of Tennessee. This includes protocols, prescription writing and informing patients/clients who we are. If you review the law regarding supervision, you will also note that physician supervision and chart review is in regard to prescription writing. Nurse practitioners have 6 years of college and training before beginning practice and nursing school consists of a lot more than learning to take temperatures, change beds and empty bed pans. I would like to remind everyone that it has been proven time and time again that the health care a NP/PA provides is of high quality.

Doctor King stated in his article that nurse practitioners were advanced practical nurses. As you well know, practical nurses are LPNs; nurse practitioners are advanced practice nurses. Doctor King also made the comment "step forward and shout, those patients are ours and we don't plan to give them to anyone". Who gave ownership of a person/patient to anyone, including a physician? People/patients have the right to seek health care from whomever they choose.

In Doctor Howerton's article she stated that nurse practitioners could not diagnose. I don't know where she got her information, but she needs to take a serious look at the Tennessee Nurse Practice Act. Nurse practitioners also do not claim to be doctors. We are very proud of our nursing background and are pleased to let patients know who we are. I would also like to remind her that physician preceptors are paid well for their time and effort.

This kind of public insults and rhetoric is not productive for anyone and I feel it makes the physician making the comments appear unprofessional. I hope you will publish a retort of some sort in your next publication and that your publication will refrain from snide comments such as this.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jennie Walls, RNC, MS, FNP
Associate Professor, Family/Community Nursing
East Tennessee State University

Responses:

The intent of my article titled "Are You Following the Regulations?" was to make sure supervising physicians are doing what they are supposed to be doing. It was certainly not intended, nor meant, to be a slander to the APN profession.

As noted by Mike Hartsell, M.D., in the Fall 2003 journal, the term "APN" is the accepted abbreviation for Advanced Practice Nurses.

James D. King, M.D., Selmer

Co-Editors' Note:

The intent of the editorial was to encourage physicians to follow the rules and regulations concerning the supervision of nurse practitioners, not to question the quality of care that nurse practitioners provide. The majority of nurse practitioners and physicians work together to provide excellent care.

However after practicing in an academic center and now practicing in rural Tennessee, it is clearly evident that not all providers know the rules. Supervision involves more than review of prescription writing practices or being available for consultation. The Rules of the Tennessee State Board of Medical Examiners Chapter 0880-6 clearly outlines twelve requirements of clinical supervision.

In addition to the responsibility of following these rules, physicians also assume the medical liability for the nurse practitioner. Physicians are not compensated

well for this. When I questioned several physicians, their compensation was $500 or less per month. This amount is significantly less than the additional liability exposure. The majority of physicians supervise nurse practitioners or physician assistants in order to increase access to medical care, not to increase their income.

Nurse Practitioners, Physician Assistants and Physicians comprise an excellent healthcare team. Together we provide compassionate and competent care for our patients. "Our patients" does not imply ownership but rather an enormous responsibility for their health and well-being. Patient safety must remain one of our top priorities.

Kim Howerton, M.D., Savannah
Co-Editor

I wish that all NP's were of Jennie Wall's character and knowledge. I first met her in the Department of Family Medicine in Kingsport in 1981. She has served with distinction and is a model for the knowledge and skill needed to care for patients. If all NP's possessed these traits, this debate would not be strident nor necessary. We all need to appreciate the variability of training in health professions, whether that be medicine or nursing. When professions join hands to extend service in newer roles, we need to keep the grip firm, constructive and reassuring as not to crush or harm. Patients need to know that quality is our goal whether it is a nurse or a physician that tends to their care.

Mike Hartsell, M.D. Greeneville
Co-Editor

Letter Received

Dear Cathy & Board of Directors:

This note is written in appreciation for allowing me to serve as the Tennessee AFP voting Resident Delegate to the 2003 AAFP National Conference of Family Practice Residents and Medical Students (NCFPRMS) in Kansas City in August. The Academy's gracious financial support and allowance were much appreciated. I hope I represented the Resident population of Tennessee well at the conference. Please extend my thanks to all those on the TAFP Board who helped make my trip possible, as well as those practicing docs who fund such TAFP programs with their payment of membership dues. I hope to continue to serve the TAFP and the Board in the months and years to come.

Best regards,
Shawn Southwick, D.O., Resident
ETSU Johnson City Family Practice Residency

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Highlights of the TAFP's 55th Annual Scientific Assembly

2003 President, Tim Linder, M.D., receives gift of appreciation from 2004 President, Lynn Williams, M.D.

Lynn Williams, M.D. demonstrates her use of Hulk Gloves to keep the TAFP Board moving in 2004.

Tim Linder, M.D., presents 2004 TAFP President's Plaque to Lynn Williams, M.D.

Jim Martin, M.D., AAFP Immediate Past President and 2004 Board Chair, addresses the TAFP membership.

2004 President-elect, Reid Blackerwelder, M.D., and his wife, Alex.

Wine and Cheese

Special Thanks to our Supporters & Exhibitors at the TN AFP's 55th Annual Assembly

The Tennessee AFP wishes to express its most sincere appreciation and gratitude to each and every educational sponsor, function sponsor and exhibitor at our 55th Annual Scientific Assembly the week of October 28-31, 2003 in Gatlinburg.

When representatives of these companies visit your offices, please express to them your appreciation for their support. The TAFP Annual Assembly would not be possible without their support!

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Metro Medical Supply
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Novartis Pharmaceuticals
Novo Nordisk Pharmaceuticals
Organon Pharmaceuticals
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Pathology Consultants of Am-SE
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Pfizer- Cluster X
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Physion
Primary Care Associates
Primary Care Diagnostics
ProAssurance Corp.
Purdue Pharma
QSource
Reliant Pharmaceuticals
Roche Laboratories
Rural Health Association of TN
Saint Thomas Health Services
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Schering-Plough
SMART Moms
St. Mary's Health System
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Tennessee Army National Guard
Tennessee Disability Determination
Tennessee Medical Association
TN Chapter Am. Acad. Pediatrics
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TN Dept. of Health- HIV/AIDS/STD
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MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE IMPORTANT TENNESSEE AFP 2004 DATES:

Annual Legislative Seminar/Board Meeting
Embassy Suites, Nashville, March 6-7

Tennessee Tar Wars State Poster Contest
Embassy Suites, Nashville, March 7

Tennessee Summer Seminar/Board Meeting
Fall Creek Falls State Park, Pikeville, August 6-7-8

56th Annual Scientific Assembly
Gatlinburg, October 26-29

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Legislative Report

The Tennessee General Assembly convened its 2003 legislative session on January 13. Typically in election years, legislators hold shorter sessions, undertake fewer sweeping initiatives, focus on the state budget and seek to adjourn before the end of April. This pattern was disrupted during the tax debate that raged from 1999 to 2002. Governor Phil Bredesen has sent a signal that he would like to see a return to the historical norm. Between the tax increases adopted in 2002 and the budget cuts implemented in 2003, state leaders hope that the budget for 2004-2005 can balance without major changes.

TennCare

In the summer of 2003, Governor Bredesen negotiated a settlement of a number of pending lawsuits brought against the State by the Tennessee Justice Center on behalf of TennCare enrollees. This truce, perhaps temporary, cleared the way for the TennCare Bureau to adopt a preferred drug list, or PDL, for all TennCare enrollees. Pursuant the legislation which passed in 2003, the State can now negotiate supplemental rebates with pharmaceutical manufacturers in selecting medications for the PDL. The Bredesen Administration has told legislators that the adoption of a more restrictive formulary, coupled with manufacturers' rebates, will save $150 million annually.

Physicians generally have welcomed the single PDL and acknowledge the need for TennCare to control its pharmacy expenses. Questions linger about the prior approval process, and some have raised concerns about a new wrinkle in the program whereby pharmacists are paid a bonus for their success in encouraging doctors to prescribe from the PDL. Doctor Jim King of Selmer represents the TAFP on the new TennCare Pharmacy Advisory Committee, which makes recommendations for the PDL.

Governor Bredesen is expected to unveil a global proposal for TennCare in 2004, based in part on the consulting study performed by McKinsey & Co. and paid for by Blue Cross, HCA and other providers. The Governor was elected on the promise of making TennCare work. Legislators thus far have been very deferential to the governor on this issue.

Tort Reform

Senator David Fowler, R-Signal Mountain, and Representative Rob Briley, D-Nashville, chair the legislative committee studying the issue of tort reform. The committee met monthly throughout the summer and fall of 2003. Providers including Lee Carter, M.D. of Huntingdon along with insurance representatives testified about the skyrocketing costs of medical malpractice insurance, even for those providers with no claims history. Rural providers attempting to do obstetrics are particularly hard hit. Legislation is pending which would, among other things, cap awards of non-economic damages, restrict attorneys' fees and provide for periodic payment of settlements or awards.

Average premiums paid by specialists rose in Tennessee and nationally last year, but the cost in Tennessee remained below the national average. Losses incurred by insurers have been rising since 1998 and shot up significantly in 2001 and 2002. 25 states limit economic damages in some way.

The committee is comprised primarily of attorneys. While sympathetic generally to the problem of rising insurance rates, the legislators appear unconvinced currently that the proposed legislation will impact significantly insurance rates. Testimony from groups such as the National Conference of State Legislators indicates that insurance rates are determined largely by national trends and factors, including the performance of the stock market and the investment performance of insurers and reinsurers.

The TAFP will watch these issues and others as the 2004 legislatives session unfolds.

Gif Thornton, Nashville
TAFP Legislative Counsel

Practice Opportunities

If you are looking for a partner or a practice location, send information by mail to: TAFP, 4721 Trousdale Drive, Suite 202, Nashville, TN 37220; or by fax to: 615-833-2677; or by email: tnafp@bellsouth.net. Information for practice opportunities will be accepted only from TAFP members and will be placed in the Tennessee Family Physician at no charge. Please include your name, address and/or telephone number and/or fax number since contact concerning opportunities will be made directly between interested parties and not through the TAFP. Information will be placed in four (4) editions unless the TAFP is notified otherwise. Deadline for the next issue (Spring 2004) is January 9, 2004.

• **Board-Certified Family Physician**. Available for office practice coverage during vacations, illness or leaves of absence. No OB. Willing to do hospital rounds if necessary. Respond to 615-831-1810; or, cell phone 615-972-7601. References available upon request.

• **Seymour** – Moving back to Louisiana and am looking for someone to take over my very busy solo practice. Less than 10% TennCare. X-ray on premises (whoever takes the practice gets ownership). Exam room equipment available. Staff willing to stay as well. Computer network and billing software available. No problems with the practice. I just have an excellent opportunity to move back to the small town I grew up and where my father was one of four physicians and practiced for 50 years. Opportunity for someone to step into a busy, profitable, established practice for a fraction of what it's worth. Contact: 1-877-522-5557; email: jamesbellmd@earthlink.net

BE COOL DON'T SMOKE

Tar Wars

Tennessee State

Tar Wars

Poster Contest

Nashville • March 7

Host a Wonca Attendee . . . Make an International Friend!

The AAFP is excited to be hosting the 17th Wonca World Conference of Family Doctors in Orlando, Florida, October 13 - 17, 2004. This meeting, to be held in conjunction with the Academy's annual Scientific Assembly, will be the largest gathering of family doctors in the world — and AAFP members will have many opportunities to encourage and influence family physicians from around the world.

In order to enhance the meeting experience for all Wonca attendees, we are encouraging U.S. family physicians to consider hosting a Wonca member either before, during or after the meetings. Sample hosting opportunities include:

- Pre-meeting correspondence via e-mail
- Pre- or post-meeting invitation to visit practice (at any number of gateway cities — not limited to Florida physicians)
- Meet in the registration area to assist/answer questions
- Meet for coffee, or lunch, or dinner, or to tour the Exhibition Hall
- Meet for the Opening Ceremony, or another CME event
- Meet for a social event, such as the Assembly Celebration or Foundation Auction
- Provide housing at home in Orlando/surrounding areas

To host a Wonca attendee, let us know your interest by completing a brief questionnaire at http://members.aafp.org/members/surv7/woncahost.htm
We will contact you by e-mail with your "match."

For more information on the 17th Wonca World Conference, please go to www.wonca2004.org. For more information about Wonca in general, go to www.globalfamilydoctor.com.

American Academy of Family Physicians

Editorial

The Next Level

Fall 2003 closes on a note of accomplishment for the TAFP. Besides the usual business before our Congress of Delegates, the Scientific Assembly and the last 2003 meeting of the Board of Directors we stop to catch our breath. See if you agree that things are not what they used to be:

1) Two decades have passed since Tennessee has had membership on the AAFP Board of Directors – now we have two voices in Jim King, M.D. and Eddie Turner, medical student.
2) The second female President of the TAFP, J. Lynn Williams, M.D. of Decherd, took office and dispatched her first board meeting with authority.
3) This closes our fourth year with Gif Thornton as our contract lobbyist who has protected our interests in the Tennessee Legislature.
4) The lone physician in our State Legislature, Doctor Joey Hensley, hails from Hohenwald and sits on our Board representing District 7.
5) Curtis Person, member of the Tennessee Senate General Welfare Committee, recognized and commended TAFP Legislative Chair, Tim Linder, M.D., for his work in compromise wording of the revised Chiropractic Practice Act; thereby avoiding a difficult scope of practice battle at the Tennessee Legislature.
6) The TAFP is now present on the web at www.tnafp.org and includes important links and archives of our journal.
7) The average age of our Board is now 46 years. Male to female ratio is 2:1. In 1982 there were no female members of the Board of Directors.
8) ETSU's Family Medicine Interest Group received its third consecutive award for Program of Excellence from the AAFP.
9) This issue of the journal is the third consecutive one with letters to the Editors and features continuing discussion on an issue.
10) Danny Lewis, TAFP student member at ETSU, was elected at the 2003 National Conference of Family Practice Residents and Medical Students, and served as, a Student Alternate Delegate to the 2003 AAFP Congress of Delegates.

Consider also the good fortune and hard work of TAFP Past President Doctor Mickey McAdoo's recent tenure as TMA President. These events are wonderful culmination of consistent effort by all leaders in the family medicine community. But what does it take to be great? Many of us will share those thoughts and feelings with the Long Range Planning Committee next year. Much remains to be done. Most of what is outlined above resulted from visions of our last LRP Committee planning session. Our leaders have consistently pushed forward and not always in the limelight. While there are milestones to celebrate, we cannot rest. There is another level.

I had the pleasure of hearing Jim King's speech to the AAFP Congress of Delegates in New Orleans. He featured his vision for our profession and I will borrow a phrase from his address and apply it to our cause:

(1) Dare I dream for the day when, Tennessee has another AAFP President?

(2) Date I dream for the day when, Tennessee has more than one AAFP Commission or Committee Chair and twice that many members on others?

(3) Dare I dream for the day when, minority seats on our TAFP board have accomplished their goal and are not needed?

continued on next page

(4) Dare I dream for the day when, State Legislators look to the TAFP for advice on health related issues?

(5) Dare I dream for the day when, allied health providers seek alliance with the TAFP to do what is best for patient care before enacting legislation?

(6) Dare I dream for the day when, all FP residencies in Tennessee fill on Match Day?

(7) Dare I dream for the day when, Tennessee medical students work with at least one enthusiastic family physician before their fourth year?

(8) Dare I dream for the day when, most Tennessee medical students choose family medicine for their careers?

(9) Dare I dream for the day when, Physician Legislators will have numbers sufficient for their own caucus?

(10) Dare I dream for the day when, this journal publishes original clinical work of a member?

(11) Dare I dream for the day when, our TAFP Foundation supports *Tar Wars $10,000 annually; *Residents and Students $10,000 annually; and, our *Annual Scientific Assembly program $10,000 annually?

Dare to dream with me and prepare to work when we awake.

Mike Hartsell, M.D., Greeneville
Co-Editor

Recap of July 2003 TN AFP Board of Director' Meeting

• Discussed campaign of Doctor Jim King for the AAFP Board of Directors, and discussed upcoming resolutions before the AAFP Congress.

• Voted to present the 2003 John S. Derryberry M.D. Distinguished Service Award to Forrest Lang, M.D., Johnson City.

• Voted to present the 2003 Family Physician of the Year Award to Arthur Winfrey Walker, M.D., Waverly.

• Received for information from Lee Carter, M.D., a proposed resolution he will present to the 2003 TAFP Congress of Delegates.

• Approved Reid Blackwelder, M.D., Kingsport, as Representative, and T. Scott Holder, M.D., Winchester, as Alternate Representative, to the State's EPSDT Screening Committee.

• Discussed the American Board of Family Practice's new Maintenance of Certification Process.

• Approved discounting Active member registration fees one-half at all TAFP CME offerings for TAFP Life members other than the Annual Assembly which already offers discounted registration fees.

• Received request from Doctor Linder for all Board members to consider teaching Tar Wars during the upcoming school year.

• Received information that Doctor Linder is the featured Family Physician in the new National Tar Wars promotional video.

• Received reports from the Student Board Member, Eddie Turner, and Alternate Student Board Member, Patricia Conner.

• Sincere appreciation was expressed to Tim Jones, M.D., Program Chair for the TAFP Summer Seminar, for the outstanding speakers and the outstanding program on Bioterrorism which was presented.

For additional information on any of these items, contact Cathy at the TAFP office in Nashville

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