

The FAOEM Times – March 2010

Message from the Editor:

Please email me if you would like to be featured in one of our upcoming newsletters: dmcclusk@health.usf.edu

AOHC – Will Florida have an EXCELLENT Showing?

We are very lucky that the American Occupational Health Conference is being offered in Florida this year. How great to have the conference in our own back yard. You will have the opportunity to fulfill your CME requirements and network with other Occupational Medicine Professionals from around the country. Although I have emailed reminders about registering and booking your hotel rooms, only a handful of people have indicated that they are attending. With 150+ FAOEM members or affiliates around the state, I hope we will show ACOEM our strong support by attending the conference. *Please email me if you are planning to attend. I will compile a list and send it out via email as we get closer to the conference.*

Did you know that a few of our members are teaching sessions at the conference? Are you one of those lucky folks? If you are, *please email me the name of your session and the time you are presenting.* I will share this information with the group as well.

As a result of Dr. Phyllis Gerber's hard work on the AOHC planning committee, we will be given a 10X10 booth space free of charge. While FAOEM does not currently own a booth, I am in the process of coming up with a design to have printed and we will borrow an exhibit booth from the University of South Florida, Center for Biological Defense. A couple of our members have graciously offered to represent FAOEM at the booth in the exhibit hall. The clinics which will send representatives to monitor the booth include University Community Hospital and InterGold LLC. Be sure to stop by our booth and say hello to these hardworking volunteers!

Deadlines:

- ❖ March 31, 2010: Cut off date for the group rate (\$221 plus tax) at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort. Please call **1-866-996-6338** and mention ACOEM or AOHC to receive the special group rate.
- ❖ Pre-registration ends March 31, 2010. All rates listed for the conference on the AOHC website are the pre-registration special price.
- ❖ April 11, 2010: Discounted attraction ticket order form must be submitted by this date in order to request discounted attraction tickets. For a listing of attractions available, visit this website: <https://www.hello-usa.com/tickets/aohc10/>

Highlights of the great programs planned for AOHC:

- ❖ **Sessions are broken down and identified by tracks. The tracks are:**
 - OEM Clinical Practice
 - Management and Administration in OEM
 - OEM Education and Scientific Research
 - Environmental Health and Risk Management
 - Regulatory, Legal, Military, and Governmental OEM Practice
- ❖ **Site Visits: For an extra fee, you can participate in an informative and exiting site visit. Destinations include:**
 - Sea World
 - Nature Conservancy's Disney World Preserve

Everybody Hates Workers' Comp

Margaret Spence, one of the individuals who is presenting in the occupational medicine breakout session at the Workers' Compensation Conference recently wrote an article titled: "Everybody Hates Workers' Comp". You can access the article by clicking on this link: <http://www.claimsmag.com/Issues/2010/MARCH-2010/Pages/Everybody-Hates-Workers-Comp.aspx>



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Another Legal Battle...

“Lawsuit filed against Blue Cross Claims Reimbursement Rates Kept ‘Artificially’ Low”. Now that I have your attention, you should check out the article in the Palm Beach Post. An attorney in Palm Beach Gardens has filed a suit regarding the practice of underestimating how much medical procedures cost. The issue in the lawsuit is the claim that insurance companies are using a system to determine the “usual, customary and reasonable rates” that is “rigged to artificially deflate” the cost of treatment. You can access the article at this link: <http://www.palmbeachpost.com/news/lawsuit-filed-against-blue-cross-claims-reimbursement-rates-241862.html?printArticle=y> .

What’s the FMA Up To?

FMA President, Dr. James Dolan, expressed that he has asked the FMA staff to begin crafting **an initial summary of the healthcare reform bill which was passed**. As stated by Dr. Dolan, today’s medical practice is very different from last Friday’s so their goal is to try and help FMA members adjust to the changes resulting from the bill. They would also like your input about what is needed by physicians from the FMA.