

The FAOEM Times – November 2009

Message from the Editor:

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

Lots of Little Things to Consider...

August, September and October have been crazy months for the FAOEM leadership! As you may recall, we had a great turnout for our annual meeting in August – 50 people participated in the meeting. Here is a brief highlight of things that are happening in our FAOEM group:

American Occupational Health Conference 2010:

September and October were busy months as a few of our members participated in several conference calls, some face to face meetings and did a great deal of planning for the upcoming AOHC Conference that will take place in May. I hope you will mark your calendars to attend the fabulous conference that is planned. It is scheduled to take place May 2-5, at the Rosen Shingle Creek Resort in Orlando, FL. For more information go to the ACOEM website: <http://www.acoem.org/aohc2010.aspx>. This is our chance to show ACOEM our support and more importantly, to let them see first hand how great FAOEM really is! I will provide a sneak peak of what is planned in the December newsletter!

Workers' Compensation Conference 2010:

Occupational Medicine Session:

October 28th was the first of 2 planning meetings for the 65th Annual Workers' Compensation Educational Conference scheduled for August 15-18, 2010. If you look back at our meeting minutes from the August luncheon, you all requested that we ask for a session on Occupational Medicine, to be presented to the adjusters. I asked the conference chairs and they gave us a preliminary thumbs up. We are responsible for submitting a plan for a 2 hour session on Occupational Medicine by December. At that point the conference chairs will evaluate our plan and give us the final decision as to whether our session will be included. This is great news. Currently there are 3 other 2 hour sessions presented by healthcare professionals to the adjusters: 1) Pain Medicine, 2) Orthopedics and 3) Chiropractic Medicine. Gary Newcomer, Maxine Boyer and I will be arranging this session. Please submit any thoughts, ideas or suggestions to us ASAP.

Booth Space:

At the August meeting you also requested that we investigate booth space at the Workers' Compensation Conference. I investigated this matter and found that booth space will cost \$2,000. This is pretty steep, so I submitted a request for a discounted booth. Our request for discounted space was turned down. I then went to Lorry Davis and a few others for a little history on success of booth space in the past. From what I can gather, it was very difficult to get doctors to staff the booth and many felt that there was very little value. Considering that we no longer have a booth and the high cost of space, we will not have a booth at the conference this year.

Florida Association of Occupational Health Nurses Conference 2010:

The Florida State Association of Occupational Health Nurses graciously asked our FAOEM group if we would like to offer an Occupational Medicine Track at their annual Florida Occupational Health Conference in September 2010. The FAOEM Board members discussed the suggestion, looked at what is coming up in the near future for our group, and had to prioritize. As mentioned above, ACOEM is offering AOHC in the first week of May in Orlando. We have members dedicated to their planning committee and offering sessions. We will also have a session at the annual Workers' Compensation Conference on Occupational Medicine (for the first time), and we have to organize what will be offered at that session. While we would like to believe that our members will attend AOHC, the Workers' Compensation Conference and an additional educational program in September 2010, it probably won't happen. As you know we ran a survey of all the members. 6 surveys were returned. Even after I personally called and emailed the other

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members to try and get input, only 20 more people took time to respond. Most said that they have access to CMEs regularly. With that being said, we declined collaboration on this program. We will ask one of our members to attend the conference on our behalf. We will also send out the call for speakers announcement, with the hope that if someone would like to present, they will submit a proposal to the group. We hope that they will consider working with us potentially in 2011, when we do not have so many commitments lined up.

FAOEM Survey Results:

Important note about results: while 26 completed the survey, not everyone answered all questions. So there are inconsistencies in the number of answers in each section.

Annual meeting site: Orlando, FL, during the annual Workers' Compensation (WC) meeting.

- a. Keep the meeting on Tuesday, 12-3 at the annual WC meeting: Yes: 18 No: 3
- b. Change the meeting to Tuesday, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at the annual WC meeting: Yes: 9 No: 9
- c. Change the meeting to Sunday, 12-3 preceding the annual WC meeting: Yes: 12 No: 8
- d. Change the meeting to Sunday evening preceding the annual WC meeting: Yes: 9 No: 8
- e. Please rank your positive responses in order of preference starting with number 1:
- f. Option (a) preferred by 7 people, option (b) preferred by 2 people, option (c) preferred by 3 people and option (d) preferred by 5 people.
- g. Comments: I wasn't happy with interrupting the conference for three hours for the luncheon; it was a real conflict, as I thought both were important – it was my first FAOEM meeting, but I also wanted to hear a couple of lectures during that time. Thus (a) is an imperfect solution. Option (b) is worse, because it basically precludes a relaxed lunch. The problem with (c) and (d) is that they entail an extra day at the conference for many folks (those who travel to Orlando), with extra time and expense. My preference would be to drive up to Orlando on Sunday, have a FAOEM dinner meeting (e.g., from 5-8pm), stay the extra night, and be ready for the conference on Monday morning. This would also provide the option of driving to Orlando for the FAOEM meeting and skipping the conference, depending upon the practice circumstances.

Annual meeting site/date:

- a. Change the meeting site so it does not coincide with the annual WC meeting:
- b. Yes: 5 No: 18
- c. Change the meeting location to somewhere other than Orlando: Yes: 3 No: 19
- d. If yes to 2.b., please indicate preferred location: only 3 people voted in this section. 2 preferred West Palm Beach and 2 preferred Tampa.
- e. Other (specify):
 - Naples with the nurses Ritz Carlton resort for next two yrs at least.
 - Rotate in different cities every year.
- f. Comments: We should think about this, given the concerns above. There doesn't seem to be anything magical about holding the meeting to coincide with the FWCI conference, other than the travel. The problem here is that it entails another meeting entirely, with travel, expense, etc. In any event, I think Orlando is the natural site for the meeting, given its central location, unless folks want a change of scenery (e.g., the northern people spending time in Naples or Miami, or the southern folks traveling up to Jacksonville or Tallahassee).

I would attend a separate (i.e. separate from our annual meeting) educational program: Yes: 18 No: 7

- a. Comments: These comments relate to questions 3-6: I think we (as physicians) have enough educational meetings from which to choose. I'm currently scheduled for four in 2010: AADEP in Jan, SEAK in Apr, AOHC (ACOEM) in May, and SEAK again in Aug

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– I haven't even factored in the FWCI meeting in the late summer. Other Florida folks may have a different perspective, but I'm not sure we can add much to what's already (or usually) available. (This may of course be different in future years, when AADEP and AOHC are not held in Florida.) Anyone who has presented an educational session knows that it's a tremendous amount of work, and not a task to be lightly undertaken; one doesn't want to do it just to do it. That said, we may be able to coordinate with the FAOHN to find a few topics (e.g., one hour each) that would really be of interest to members of both groups for a limited common meeting. One idea might be to have an educational program for FAOEM/FAOHN on a Sunday afternoon, with the FAOEM dinner meeting to follow, with everyone going home to their practices on Sunday night or Monday.

Preferred location:

Miami: 1, Ft. Lauderdale: 2, West Palm Beach: 1, Tampa: 4, Orlando: 9, Jacksonville: 0, Naples: 6, Tallahassee: 0, Other (specify): Offer 2 seminars one time in North Florida and one time in South Florida.

Preferred timing:

- a. a.m. weekday: 2
- b. p.m. weekday: 1
- c. a.m. weekend: 4
- d. p.m. weekend: 2
- e. full day weekday: 4
- f. full day weekend: 5
- g. Comments: Prefer 2 half days (Sat and Sun) with PM's free to enjoy: other

Preferred program length: 1/2 day: 8 full day: 9 2 days: 0

Preferred time of year: Jan.: 1, Feb.: 7, March: 4, April: 1, May-Aug.: 0, Sept.: 1, Oct.: 3, Nov.: 2, Dec.: 0

List 2 occupational safety & health topics you would like to see presented at an educational program:

a. Topic 1:

- Following Guidelines
- Florida Worker's Compensation Law Issues
- Occ Med Dermatology
- Dermatologist: Occupational Illnesses
- Need time to think about these.
- toxicology CME
- Contact dermatitis and other occupational skin
- When to Order Diagnostic Studies versus referrals
- EMR Experiences/Info/Selection
- Future of Occupational Medicine
- How will health care reform impact Workers' Compensation?
- Spine surgeon (orthopedic or neurosurgical) on his/her thoughts about MRI findings and indications for surgery with outcomes
- OM Legal Issues
- Low Back Pain Assessment and Treatment

b. Topic 2:

- Other Occ Med Functions; managing Coumadin therapy, surgical clearance, etc

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- Radiology Update (Diagnostic Considerations, especially musculoskeletal
- MRI reading
- Corporate health and productivity topics (wellness)
- Legal Expert Witness: Florida
- Corporate Medicine: Lecture from an Accomplished Corp. Med Director
- Occupational Pulmonary Disorders: Current State of Art
- Re-surgery clearance for Workers Comp patients.
- How to give quality medical care and avoid OSHA recordable
- Update on FL Regs
- Problem with apportionment of pre-existing conditions
- Control of Infectious Diseases in the Workplace
- Noise Induced Hearing Loss

I would be willing to teach a session at an FAOEM sponsored educational meeting: Yes: 6 No: 13

a. If yes, please identify the topic:

- I can find a speaker for any Ortho, Psych, Pain Management or Occ Health topic
- Unfortunately not at this time
- Utilization review, IMEs
- Clinical Assessment of Injuries

Are you willing to volunteer to head up the team to arrange the education seminar? Yes: 6 No: 11

I think we should partner with the Florida Occupational Health Nurses group and offer an educational program that coincides with their annual conference in Naples, FL: Yes: 18 No: 2

a. Comments:

- An educational program wit the nurses might be an interesting session.
- Yes, if held during this year's.

Please provide any other comments or suggestions:

- Been to their meetings, well run
- Having an annual business meeting separate from an educational meeting makes sense. Joining up with the nurses would be a great start to this project so the costly plans could be made with them for the meeting
- weekends are better due to conflicts with cross coverage and such. A Saturday from 09:00 until 5:00 pm would be best.
- None at the time.
- I am familiar with conference, it would need major educational overhaul to generate sufficient interest for experienced OM clinicians.
- I would suggest that we partner with the Florida Occ Hlth Nurses in Naples if we agree to have a separate meeting or another meeting outside of Orlando
- The nurses withdrew from the joint conference with ACOEM so I see no reason to plan a joint one at the state level
- To be clear, the meeting with the nurses would be a separate meeting, distinct from the administrative/business meeting held at FWCI (the latter may of course include a limited education component).