

# The FAOEM Times – September 2009

## Message from the Editor:

Please email me if you would like to be featured in one of our upcoming newsletters: [dmccclusk@health.usf.edu](mailto:dmccclusk@health.usf.edu)

### Your fellow FAOEM members at the annual luncheon and meeting!



This year's FAOEM annual meeting was quite fun, with 50 people in attendance (not all were present for the photograph). We had a dynamic and entertaining speaker who talked to our group about medication monitoring and many other interesting topics. We also added a new member to our board of directors, Dr. Phyllis Gerber. If you missed out, please take a few minutes to read the minutes of our meeting below.

### ***FLORIDA ASSOCIATION OF OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE***

Tuesday, August 18, 2009, 1 – 3 p.m.

Orlando World Center Marriott

*Thank you to Dominion Diagnostics for sponsoring our luncheon.*

### ***ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES***

**Presiding:** Dr. Stephen MacDonald, President

**Present (alphabetized):**

Ms. Kim Age, Dr. Michael Band, Ms. Maxine Boyer, Dr. Chris Brylem, Mr. Alberto Caban-Martinez, Dr. Antonella Carlozzi, Dr. Karen Carlson, Dr. Robert Chapa, Dr. Ray Christopher, Dr. Michael Coupland, Ms. Lorry Davis, Dr. Robert Dehgan, Ms. Helene Dennis, Dr. Seth Feldman, Mr. John Ferreira, Dr. Robert Fleigelman, Dr. Frank Fornari, Dr. Phyllis Gerber, Dr. Esaias Giorgis, Dr. Monica Grinberg, Dr. Arlene Guzik, Dr. Stanley Haimes, Dr. Harry Hazelwood, Dr. Kathleen Jenkins, Dr. Richard Johnson, Dr. Hossein Joukar, Dr. Nancy King, Dr. Richard Kuehne, Dr. Peter Lamelas, Dr. Michael MacDonald, Dr. Stephen

# The FAOEM Times – Page 2

MacDonald, Dr. Bob Mantia, Ms. Diana McCluskey, Ms. Connie McMullen, Dr. Joseph Mignogna, Dr. Gary Newcomer, Dr. Scott Norris, Mr. Fred Nussbaum, Dr. Karen Olson, Mr. Kevin Page, Dr. Neil Potash, Mr. Lee Puckett, Dr. Jill Rosenthal, Dr. Jock Sneddon, Dr. Julio Sotolongo, Dr. Richard Spirer, Dr. Joseph Thomas, Dr. Barbara Toepfen-Sprigg, Dr. Joan Watkins and Dr. Michael Webb.

1. Presentation by Frank Fornari, Ph.D, Chief Executive Officer of Dominion Diagnostics:
  - a. Dr. Fornari presented an in-depth overview on drugs, why they are important and the role that Dominion Diagnostics can play in the healthcare setting. Dominion Diagnostics is a National medical laboratory that provides clinical pharmacological/toxicological and molecular diagnostic services. They are accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), the Clinical Laboratory Amendments Act (CLIA) and other appropriate state specific governing bodies. The team at Dominion Diagnostics invents, develops, validates and performs state-of-the-art quantitative medication monitoring. They also provide pharmacokinetic and pharmacogenomic data regarding drug usage, drug-drug Interactions, elimination, and prescription adherence.
  - b. With a mission to *Create a personalized diagnostic-based model for pharmacotherapy* (every patient is an individual clinical trial), their goals are to 1) Improve patient care and clinical efficiency, 2) Ensure objective patient outcomes analyses through quantitative drug testing integrated with traditional clinical metrics and 3) Establish diagnostic guidelines and a financial model for the development, management and monitoring of pharmacotherapeutic agents.
  - c. Dr. Fornari provided FAOEM members with a comprehensive look at why these types of services are essential in the Workers' Comp environment. There are many concerns related to clinical pharmacotherapeutic and pharmacokinetic issues, substance abuse, misuse, diversion and addiction issues, as well as medico-legal concerns. While laboratory medicine accounts for less than 5% of the national healthcare expenditures, greater than 85% of all medical decisions involve laboratory results. Relevant to the Workers' Comp environment, the medical expense is almost 60% of the total claims costs. In 2006, medical expenses were over \$35 billion, with pharmacy accounting for more than 14% of the total medical expenses.
  - d. Dr. Fornari ended his presentation with the following conclusions:
    - Prescribing drugs to patients who need them and demonstrating pharmacovigilance need not be divergent issues.
    - Sound monitoring, patient documentation and adherence with state and federal legal guidelines are essential.
    - The integration of every aspect of the healthcare system is necessary to ensure patient safety, clinical efficacy, fiscal responsibility, expediency, accuracy and ethicality.
    - Making new technologies including UPLC/MS/MS the standard of care is a rational way to move healthcare forward.
2. Self-introductions all around.
3. Minutes of the August, 2008, Orlando meeting – Stephen MacDonald, DO  
Minutes of the August 2008 Orlando meeting were discussed and approved with no changes.
4. Membership and Treasury Report – Diana McCluskey, MPH
  - Membership Report: FAOEM**
  - a. As of August 2009, we have 157 members. We are up 1 member from last year. Fluctuations in our member numbers are due to individuals moving out of Florida, illnesses and individuals moving out of the field of occupational medicine. New members have increased as a result of individuals moving to the state of Florida. The primary reason given by Florida members who did not renew: lack of funds.
  - b. Members who are late paying their dues are encouraged to renew their membership through the monthly newsletter, personal contacts by ACOEM, phone calls from the FAOEM board members and emails/phone calls from the FAOEM executive director.

# The FAOEM Times – Page 3

## **ACOEM Membership overall:**

According to Dr. Marilyn Howarth, chair of the membership committee for ACOEM, overall membership has decreased both in total numbers of members as well as in dues paying members, by about 3% per year since 2006. However, it has leveled off now in 2009. She stated that some potential reasons for this could be that employers are decreasing reimbursement to employed physicians for conference attendance, and/or possible hardship for physicians to participate in continuing medical education activities due to time constraints from work. The majority of members who are failing to renew their ACOEM membership are < 40 years of age and have been members < 5 years.

## **Financial Report:**

We are in good financial shape.

- a. Current funds: \$21,991
  - b. Total Deposits from Membership Dues (September 2008 – the present): \$16,271.71
    - Fall 2008: \$1,210
    - Winter 2009: \$9,311.71
    - Spring 2009: \$5,365
    - Summer 2009: \$435
  - c. Remaining 2009 expenses: \$6,500
    - Executive Director: \$3,000 (\$750 per month through December 2009)
    - Delegate to the FMA August 2008 Meeting: \$1,000 (these expenses were inadvertently not submitted in 2008)
    - Delegate to the FMA August 2009 Meeting: \$1,000
    - Fall FAOEM meeting (2): \$0 (delegates will participate via teleconference)
    - Executive Director Travel/lodging/meals for FWCI: \$450
    - Travel for FAOEM president to FWCI meeting: \$550
    - Office Supplies/Copying/Misc: \$500
  - d. Estimated funds remaining following the 2009 expenses: \$15,941 (roughly the same amount as last December).
5. FMA Report – Michael Webb MD
- a. Dr. Webb recently attended the FMA meeting in Boca Raton, FL. As always, Dr. Webb encouraged FAOEM members to renew their memberships to the FMA or to consider joining if they currently are not members. The FMA acts as an advocate on behalf of the physicians and has been vital in helping to resolve difficult problems in the past. There are many notable things that the FMA accomplished for the 2009 legislation. A thorough report of the legislative activities conducted by the FMA was provided in the July FAOEM Newsletter, so he did not repeat this information.
  - b. Dr. Webb also provided a handout on the 2009 House of Delegates Actions. Within the handout, he highlighted a few different resolutions that might be of interest to members. These resolutions include:
    - 09-25: Fraudulent Auditing Activity: Resolved that the FMA work with the Florida Insurance Commissioner and the Florida Attorney General to adopt administrative and regulatory procedures to prevent chart auditing practices that arbitrarily deny claims based upon the purported assertion that the level of care was not sustained. House action: Adopted as amended.
    - 09-20: Post Nutritional Information in Chain Restaurants: This resolution is essentially about restaurants providing nutritional information for consumers and what types of information should be provided. House action: Adopted substitute resolution.
    - 09-15: Reimbursement for Professional Services: Resolved that the FMA's delegation to the AMA introduce a resolution that will require the AMA to pursue legislation

# The FAOEM Times – Page 4

requiring physician reimbursement for time spent providing professional services through the use of such modalities as telephone, email and other electronic communication methods regardless of the treating physicians physical proximity to the patient at the time those services are rendered. House action: Adopted as amended.

- 09-5: Outpatient Medical Department: Resolved that the FMA encourage hospital medical staffs to incorporate into their bylaws, a membership category for physicians who refer, but not admit, to their hospital, and that the FMA Board of Governors determine how to best communicate this encouragement. House action: Adopted.

## 6. Phyllis Gerber, MD: AOHC 2010 - Orlando, FL

- a. Dr. Gerber is on the planning committee for the upcoming AOHC 2010, which will take place in Orlando, FL during May. FAOEM is proposing sponsorship of a workshop with Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. This workshop will target MDs and DOs, and will provide and introduction to the philosophy and practice of Osteopathic Medicine and hands on instruction in basic Osteopathic Manipulation for MDs or advance techniques for DOs.
- b. Dr. Gerber had a banner printed up for the AOHC conference and asked that our incoming and outgoing presidents sign the banner. A photograph was taken of the members standing in front of the banner. Dr. Gerber also displayed the banner in the exhibit hall of the Workers Compensation Conference. The banner will be presented to the current ACOEM President, Pamela Hymel MD at the upcoming AOHC planning meeting. Speaking on behalf of the members of FAOEM, the Florida members of the planning committee created a certificate suggesting that the banner make the rounds of the component meetings this year with the current president and then be displayed at the AOHC conference in May 2010. Our banner received a Standing "O."

## 7. Election of Officers:

Three members ran for the open officer position of Director: Dr. Richard Johnson, Dr. Phyllis Gerber and Dr. Bruce Bohnker. Dr. Gerber received the most votes, so she will fill the open position. Please be sure to welcome Dr. Gerber to the Board.

## 8. Update on ACOEM: Michael MacDonald, DO

Earlier this spring members were emailed a copy of Dr. MacDonald's ACOEM Report of 86<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the House of Delegates, so he asked if any of the members had questions about the report. A question was raised about whether or not ACOEM is spending more money than they are bringing in. Apparently, other professional associations are facing financial difficulty due to the fact that they are spending more than they are bringing in revenue. Members of these other groups have been surprised when they learned of the financial distress of their professional group. FAOEM members agreed that we should inquire with ACOEM to see if they are spending more than they are bringing in. Dr. MacDonald mentioned the different cost-cutting measures taken by ACOEM, such as dropping the SOTAC meeting and cutting back on administrative staff at the headquarters. A motion was made to inquire with ACOEM to determine whether or not they are spending more than they are bringing in. If we find this is the case, we will send correspondence urging ACOEM to strive to be cash neutral/financially solvent and to only spend as much as they bring in and no more.

## 9. Future Chapter Meetings/Luncheons – Ms. Diana McCluskey

- a. There were a few members who cannot attend the meeting as it is scheduled each year. Ms. McCluskey asked if members felt the meeting should be held in a different geographic location, on a different day, at a different time or stay the same. Most members present agreed that meeting in Orlando during the Workers' Compensation Conference is convenient. However, many of these same members also agreed that perhaps a different time/day should be identified for scheduling the meeting in the future. A suggestion was made to schedule it on the Sunday before the conference – perhaps with a lunch or dinner to coincide with the meeting. Ms.

# The FAOEM Times – Page 5

McCluskey agreed to survey all members via the internet, to determine if the meeting should be switched from Tuesday afternoon to Sunday afternoon and if it should continue being held in August at the Workers' Compensation Conference.

- b. Ms. McCluskey also discussed the prospect of an educational themed meeting at an alternate time of year, possibly in the South Florida area. She expressed concern that an attempt had been made to organize such a program in years past, but with little interest or follow up by FAOEM members. Ms. McCluskey suggested that Dr. Hana Osman of the University of South Florida, Sunshine ERC, could take the lead on organizing such an educational program. Dr. Chandra Bilgi has provided thoughtful insight on such a meeting, therefore Ms. McCluskey will try to bring Dr. Osman and Dr. Bilgi together to plan such an event, with FAOEM as the partner organization. Such an effort will likely require one additional partner who can provide CMEs free of charge. Many hospitals or large healthcare organizations have the ability to provide CMEs free of charge. In addition to surveying the members about changing the date of the annual meeting, Ms. McCluskey will also survey them about the educational program.

10. Ms. Maxine Boyer:

- a. Prior to his passing, Dr. Dolsey was very active in the state trying to raise awareness of the specialized and unique services provided by occupational medicine physicians. Part of this effort involved going around and providing educational seminars on the importance of an OM doctor. Ms. Boyer suggested that members of the FAOEM group should consider going back out into the community to do consciousness raising once again. Ms. Boyer asked if there were any individuals in the group that had somebody at their practice that they would like to send out to help re-educate the carriers on the importance of an OM doc. Dr. Richard Johnson said that Lakeside is sending out Dr. Arlene Guzik to talk to carriers, but it seems like the carriers aren't as interested. Additionally, The Summit 60 Meeting was a meeting intended to do just what Ms. Boyer is emphasizing – to educate the carriers on the importance of using an OM doc.
- b. A suggestion was made to put together a letter to the carriers, reminding them of who we are and why we are important. This letter should also go to the networks. Perhaps another option would be to see if we could get an educational program into the adjustor breakout at the Workers' Comp Conference next year. The key is to follow the money. Carriers love to follow minimization of cost. If you can educate them on how use of an OM doc will lower their costs, they are going to be interested.
- c. Dr. M. MacDonald suggested that a committee should be formed to draft the letter. Those individuals who will serve on the committee include: Ms. Maxine Boyer, Dr. Stanley Haines, Dr. Monica Grinberg, Dr. Kathleen Jenkins (she will serve as an advisor from the carrier perspective), Dr. Richard Johnson and Dr. Phyllis Gerber.
- d. We should also revisit the idea of having a booth at the conference. There seem to be a lot of physicians exhibiting in the hall, especially Ortho's. However, when we had a booth in the past, it was very difficult to get our members to staff it. People are more willing to listen if it is a physician they are talking to at the booth.

11. Presentation by Alberto Caban-Martinez, MPH:

- a. Mr. Caban-Martinez is a student who is very interested in the field of occupational and environmental medicine. He is currently conducting research through the University of Miami Occupational Research Group. Mr. Caban-Martinez is also a 4th-Year Osteopathic Medical Student (DO); Nova Southeastern University, College of Osteopathic Medicine with an expected graduation date of May 2011, and a 3rd-Year Doctoral Epidemiology (PhD); University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine with graduation expected in May 2010.
- b. Through his research with the University of Miami, he works with the Miami NIOSH research Group, where they are working on the National Health Interview Survey and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. This occupational research group conducts various studies in

# The FAOEM Times – Page 6

the morbidity and mortality of US workers as well as whole host of other complex scientific and research tasks.

- c. Dr. Caban-Martinez presented a poster at the ACOEM meeting in San Diego last year, where he was befriended by Dr. Phyllis Gerber and several other FAOEM members. He will be a great addition to the field of Occupational and Environmental Medicine when he finishes his studies.

12. Any other items of business: there were no other items of business to discuss.

13. Board of Directors Meeting: All necessary topics and discussions were covered during the full membership meeting, so the Board of Directors Adjourned with the group.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana McCluskey, MPH  
FAOEM Executive Director