

THE GREEN MOUNTAIN PHYSICIAN

A PUBLICATION OF THE VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY

"Not for ourselves do we labor"

Sept./Oct.

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• VMS 200th Annual Meeting

HEALTH CARE POLICIES DISCUSSED DURING ANNUAL VMS PLANNING RETREAT



VMS' annual policy-setting process kicked into high gear on August 10th when the Society held a planning retreat at the home of Paul and Elaine Harrington in Middlesex.

The well-attended retreat served as a brainstorming session and gave members an opportunity to suggest and discuss various health care policies. Many of the issues raised ultimately became resolutions [see page 6 for more information] that members will vote on during the Oct. 19th annual meeting at the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes, Vt.



2013

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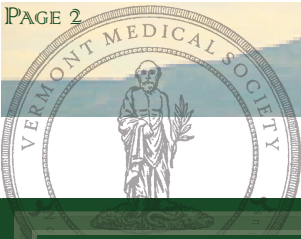
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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Norman Ward, M.D.



Please plan on joining me in attending the Vermont Medical Society's 200th annual meeting at the beautiful Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes on October 18-19. The VMS annual meeting is one of the few opportunities that provide physicians with a chance to get to know their colleagues better and share their common concerns and ideas.

Highlights of the weekend will include:

Friday

- Leadership event with Maine's Hanley Center and Brandeis University leadership programs; and,
- Family BBQ with music, dancing and socializing.

Saturday

- CME presentations;
- Setting of VMS policies that all advance the message on the need for physician leadership;
- Election of VMS officers; and
- Honoring your colleagues at the Awards Banquet in the evening.

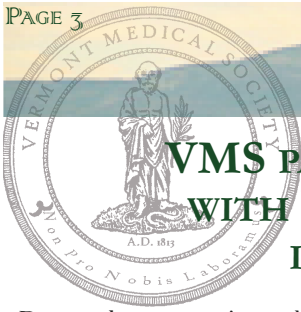
Fun for the entire family

- Kids Camp (3 to 15 years old) - Runs on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, then again from 5 to 9 p.m. (There is a fee for dinner for the kids). After dinner the kids have activities until 9 p.m., giving mom and dad time to enjoy dinner. Some of the children's activities offered will be: pumpkin carving, games, arts and crafts and fall activities such as hiking on the trails;
- Basin Harbor is a pet friendly resort and guests may bring a pet if they are staying in a studio, one, two or three bedroom cottages. There is a \$10 per day pet fee which includes a goodie bag for Fido with doggie cookies, pick up bags and a welcome letter from our owner's dogs. The dogs also have their own beach at the resort;
- For adults who are coming but not attending the meeting, the following options are available: spa treatments including, massage, manicure and pedicures (treatments must be signed up for in advance); and,
- Guided fall foliage hike (\$8), narrated Lake Champlain cruise (\$10) and fall arts and craft classes (\$10-12). These may be signed up for on-site.

It's our 200th annual meeting anniversary, so I hope you will join your colleagues for the weekend for a chance to effect change, network, socialize and celebrate!

Sincerely,

Norman Ward, M.D., VMS President



VMS PARTNERSHIP TO HELP MEMBERS WITH VERMONT HEALTH CONNECT INSURANCE ENROLLMENT

Do you have questions about how the new Vermont Health Exchange will affect the health insurance benefits your practice provides its employees? Confused about the options available to you and your staff?

Luckily, the Vermont Medical Society can help you make informed decisions as Vermont transitions to Vermont Health Connect.

Through a grant VMS received in partnership with the Vermont Businesses for Social Responsibility and the Vermont Retail Association, a team of navigators has been made available to VMS members. The navigators are trained to provide simple, direct, and useful information to small businesses, including physician practices, in order to help them make timely decisions as Vermont transitions to Vermont Health Connect.

“All physician practices with less than 50 employees will have to go through the exchange to insure their employees, so the move to Health Connect will definitely be a change for many practices,” said Colleen Magne, VMS’s business manager and leader on the project. “They’ll need to explore their options with the new insurance offerings and requirements and the navigators are specially trained to help them with that.”

For assistance with your practice’s insurance plans, contact either of the two navigators assigned to help the partnership’s membership:

Annisa Lewis, (802) 989-4844, navlewis2013@gmail.com

Tim Davis, (802) 324-1920, navdavis2013@gmail.com



Health Connect enrollment began on October 1st and continues through December 31st.

NEW MEMBER BENEFIT GIVES DISCOUNT ON MASSACHUSETTS MEDICAL SOCIETY’S ONLINE CME COURSES

The Vermont Medical Society has formed a partnership with the Massachusetts Medical Society that gives VMS members a 25-percent discount on all of MMS’ online CME courses.

MMS offers approximately 35 world-class online CME courses in the following topics: End of Life Care, Electronic Health Records, Pain Management, Patient Safety and Quality Improvement, Communication, Practice Management, Clinical Medicine, Public Health, Ethics, Risk Management CME, and Medical Marijuana.

To take advantage of this special membership benefit, visit VTMD.org/cme-courses.

Additional ways that VMS helps physicians fulfill continuing medical education requirements include hosting several CME programs during its annual meeting and hosting numerous CME resources on its website, including online courses from Boston University School of Medicine, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, and Office of Civil Rights Educational, as well as linking to the University of Vermont and Dartmouth College medical school CME programs.

Also, upon request VMS will document members’ fulfillment of CME requirements. For more information, call VMS at 223-7898.



Vermont Medical Society

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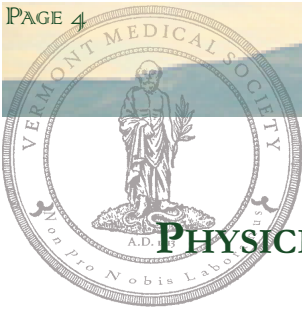
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Colleen Magne
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Justin Campfield
Communications Director

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Cyrus Jordan, M.D.
VMSERF Administrator



VMS FOUNDATION TO EXPLORE PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP DURING ANNUAL MEETING SESSIONS

The Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation will explore the important topic of the role of physician leadership in health care reform with a trio of programs during the VMS annual meeting weekend.

Kicking things off will be a discussion titled Policy, Politics, Advocacy & Public Service: Can Physician Leaders Really Make a Difference? taking place Friday, Oct. 18, at 3 p.m.

Exploring the experiences of Maine's Hanley Center and Brandeis University's Physician Leadership programs, the goal of the session will be to hear Vermont physicians, regional and national leaders discuss why physicians need to be involved in the current health policy debates, what skills they will need to be effective leaders. Most importantly, the session will be a generative discussion about establishing a Vermont program for physician executive leaders.

Panelists will include:

- Jon Chilingirian, PhD., Brandeis University
- Maroulla S. Gleaton, M.D., partner, Atlee Gleaton Eyecare, past president, Maine Med. Assoc.
- James Harnar, executive director, Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership
- Cyrus Jordan, M.D., director, VMS Education & Research Foundation
- Joshua Plavin, M.D., medical director, Gifford Medical Center
- Michael Rouse, M.D., chief hospitalist, chair of medicine, Northeastern VT Reg. Hosp.

Interested physicians and their administrative colleagues will find value in the session and are encouraged to attend.

On Saturday morning, the Foundation will facilitate a CME session that presents the research findings of Joshua Plavin, M.D., of Gifford Medical Center and Michael Rouse, M.D., of Northeastern Regional Hospital.

Their research outlines physician opinion on key issues for the Green Mountain Care Board to consider when developing a statewide Health Resource Allocation Plan for Vermont. The goal of this session is to get input from the VMS membership on the draft recommendations based on research to date, with a formal presentation to be made to the Green Mountain Care Board in November. The draft recommendations will likely initiate a lively discussion and be of interest to anyone potentially affected by a redesigned statewide delivery system.

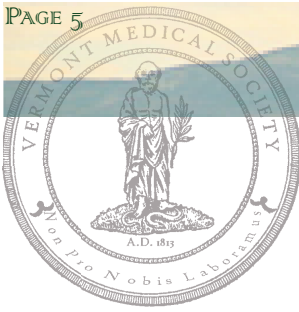
A second session Saturday morning will feature a panel discussion about key roles for physicians in this time of transition in the health care delivery system, encouraging audience participation on the topic.

The panel will include Anya Rader Wallack PhD., a principal architect of Vermont's health care reform act; Jon Chilingirian PhD., a national and international authority on physician leadership; Maroulla Gleaton, M.D., a physician leader in Maine and Todd Moore, Senior Vice President, Accountable Care and Revenue Strategy, FAHC.



VMS Education & Research Foundation

helping physicians help patients & communities



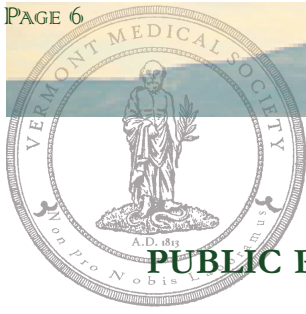
Schedule of Events

Friday, October 18, 2013

- 3:00 pm** **Policy, Politics, Advocacy & Public Service:
Can Physician Leaders Really Make a Difference?**
Experience with Maine's Hanley Center and Brandeis University's Physician Leadership program
- Jon Chilingerman, PhD** * *Brandeis University*
Maroulla S. Gleaton, MD * *Partner, Atlee Gleaton Eyecare* * *Past Pres., Maine Med. Assoc.*
James Harnar * *Executive Director* * *Daniel Hanley Center for Health Leadership*
Cyrus Jordan, MD * *Director, Education & Research Foundation* * *Vermont Medical Society*
Joshua Plavin, MD * *Medical Director* * *Gifford Medical Center*
- 6:00 pm** **Family Cookout and Music & Dancing with
Charlie Miceli and the Wolfpack of the Green Mountains**

Saturday, October 19, 2013

- 7:45 am** **Registration, Breakfast & Exhibits Open**
- 8:45 am** **Welcome and Introductions**
Norm Ward, M.D. * *VMS President*
Rick Morin, M.D. * *Dean, UVM* * *College of Medicine*
- 9:00 am** **Physician input on health planning and payment reform**
Joshua Plavin, MD * *Medical Director* * *Gifford Medical Center*
Michael Rousse, MD * *Chief Hospitalist, Chair of Medicine* * *Northeastern VT Reg. Hosp.*
Cyrus Jordan, MD * *Moderator*
- 10:00 am** **Break**
- 10:15 am** **Steps to creating a healthcare system, rather than a sickcare system.**
Rebecca Onie * *Co-Founder and CEO* * *Health Leads USA*
- 11:15 am** **Break**
- 11:30 am** **Reforming Vermont's health care delivery and payment systems to
lower costs, improve quality and reduce administrative burdens**
Jon Chilingerman, PhD * *Brandeis University*
Maroulla S. Gleaton, MD * *Partner, Atlee Gleaton Eyecare* * *Past Pres., Maine Med. Assoc.*
Todd Moore * *Fletcher Allen Health Care*
Anya Rader Wallack, PhD
Cyrus Jordan, MD * *Moderator*
- 12:30 pm** **Luncheon followed by interactive discussion with Paul Harrington on
the single-payer financing plan**
- 2:00 pm** **VMS Annual Membership meeting with Priority Setting**
- 6:00 pm** **VMS President's Reception, Awards Banquet
and 200th Annual Meeting Celebration!**



VMS MEMBERSHIP TO VOTE ON SIX PUBLIC POLICY RESOLUTIONS AT OCT. 19TH ANNUAL MEETING

The VMS Council has endorsed six resolutions ranging from alleviating the burden of quality reporting and supporting physician leadership, to improving the transition of care and setting standards for investigations conducted by the Vermont Board of Medical Practice.

The resolutions will now be voted upon by VMS members at the Society's Oct. 19th, annual meeting at the Basin Harbor Club in Vergennes, Vt. All VMS members are invited and encouraged to attend.

The process of developing the resolutions, which will form the basis of the organization's public policy efforts in 2014, began last spring with the distribution of the annual member survey. The survey's results were then used to inform discussion during the annual planning retreat held in August. VMS staff, working in consultation with the Council, the drafted resolutions based on the retreat's overriding themes and topics.

The six resolutions endorsed by the Council were:

Electronic Health Records and the Medical Record

Encourages Vermont's Congressional delegation to support the efforts of the Health Story Project to ensure that health information exchange standards go beyond a narrow, common data set to encompass the common types of medical records. Also calls for Electronic Health Records and other communication applications to respect the clinical voice and emphasize the medical record as a critical element in providing high quality care to patients.

Advances in Primary Care and Public Health Integration through Population Health

Calls for increased integration of efforts between public health and primary care to better address the root causes of illness, prevent additional cases of disease, and to make the default choices of individuals healthy ones. Seeks to accomplish this by committing VMS to work with numerous organizations and government agencies to implement the set of principles developed by the Institute of Medicine that they deem essential for successful integration, such as:

- A shared goal of population health improvement;
- Community engagement in defining and addressing population health needs;
- Aligned leadership;
- Sustainability, including shared infrastructure; and
- Sharing and collaborative use of data and analysis

Burden of Quality Reporting

Seeks to address the amount of time physicians spend dealing with quality reporting requirements by recommending the elimination of reporting requirements where there is a lack of evidence supporting their benefits and identifying ways to standardize the definitions and calculations for quality metrics used by the federal and state government entities, insurance payers, and others.

Support for Physician Policy Involvement and Physician Leadership Education

Seeks to capitalize on physicians' unique qualities that are critical for health care reform leadership to ensure that physicians have opportunities to be actively involved in forming policy in all arenas of health care reform. Additionally, the resolution calls for the portion of hospital budgets allocated by the Green Mountain Care Board for staff engagement in health care reform initiatives be used in part to support physician leadership, with special emphasis on Vermont Medical Society Education and Research Foundation efforts to have the training and education they need to function effectively as leaders in the health care reform environment.

Improving Transition of Care

Recognizes that the U.S. health care system often fails to meet the needs of patients transitioning from one care setting to another (i.e., hospital, home or a long-term care facility), and that care is frequently rushed, responsibility is fragmented, and

Continued on Page 7



VMS POLICY RESOLUTIONS

(Cont'd from pg. 6) there is often little communication between care settings and multiple providers. The resolution calls for improved transition of care by resolving VMS to work the physician community and payors to educate on the use of the transition of care codes and improving care coordination, providing better incentives to ensure patients are seen in a physician's office, rather than be at risk for readmission, and encouraging precise and meaningful discharge summaries.

Investigation Standards for the Vermont Board of Medical Practice

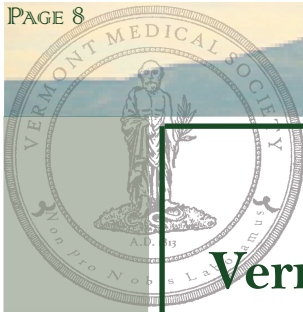
Citing physician concerns that investigators from the Vermont Board of Medical Practice (VBMP) sometimes arrive unannounced at practices and request copies of patients' records, the resolution calls for the VBMP to establish by rule procedures for investigations of alleged unprofessional conduct, as well as:

- Providing meaningful notice of unprofessional conduct charges to licensees and a meaningful opportunity to respond to complaints;
- Adopting clear and transparent standards for the use and disclosure of patients' medical records requested in the course of an investigation of a licensee; and,
- Amending the physician license profile law to require the VBMP and Department of Health to remove any charges, findings or orders if the licensing authority or a court has dismissed the charges.



PART-TIME MEDICAL DIRECTOR NEEDED IN ST ALBANS

Northwestern Medical Center is seeking a dynamic physician to serve as its part-time Medical Director of Physician Services. The right candidate is a seasoned leader who can work hand in hand with NMC's AVP of Physician Services to manage its outpatient practices. NMC is looking for a physician champion for its EHR and quality initiatives. Find out more about this exciting leadership opportunity and the award-winning NMC by calling physician recruiter Jennifer Savage at (802) 524- 1292 or by visiting www.vtdocs.org.



Vermont Medical Society 200th Annual Meeting

October 18 & 19, 2013

Basin Harbor Club and Resort, Vergennes, Vt.

“BE PART OF THE FUTURE”

Friday’s afternoon session is designed specifically for physicians and their employers with the authority to influence organizational investments in physician leadership. Saturday’s morning session is designed for any and all physicians who need to know more about the coming new payment models from both CMS and the State of Vermont. A plenary speaker will share their experience with ongoing federal and out of state payment experiments. The presentation will be followed with smaller discussion groups to allow active participation and the opportunity to get up close and personal with the issues.

The promise and challenges of Vermont’s 3 new payment models – P4P, Bundled Payments and ACO’s – will be hammered out. Invited speakers will share their insight with existing payment reform initiatives in other states. Effects on organizational operations, regional integration, quality and safety of care and physician roles will be examined in detail.

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