

# COMMUNIQUE



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

## How to Get Your NPI

Every physician who submits electronic claims must apply for a National Provider Identifier in time to begin using it by May 23, 2007. The 10-digit number, which is already in use by Medicare, does not expire or change. It will replace all other identifiers that doctors and private payers currently use. There are three different ways to get our NPI according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services:

- Apply online at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/>.
- Call the NPI enumerator, a special contractor hired by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, at 800-465-3203 and request a paper application to complete and mail back.
- Give permission to a CME-approved electronic file interchange organization to obtain an NPI for you. These groups are able to process many NPI requests at one time and may be appropriate for large medical practices and hospitals.

For more information on the NPI, please read the article on page 5 of the December 25, 2006 issue of *American Medical News*.

## New Academy Endorsed Credit Card Processing Program

Are you looking for ways to increase revenue? Are you paying high NSF Fees? Whether you require a multi-location host system or a stand-alone terminal, Fifth Third Bank can provide the right technology for your practice. For more than three decades, Fifth Third Bank has been providing superior credit card acceptance solutions to leading businesses nationwide. Ranked the fourth largest bankcard acquirer in the nation, let Fifth Third Bank explore how they can assist you with your Merchant Processing needs. Please see the enclosed insert for further details. Contact Kelly McCloskey at 419/259.7811 or Janet Meacham at 419/259.6870 today for a free cost analysis!

## Academy of Medicine Election Results

At The Academy of Medicine Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 11, election results were announced. At the festivities, **Dr. Anthony J. Armstrong** was installed as 2007 President by outgoing President, **Dr. Robert E. Kose**.

Other officers elected include **Dr. Diane A. McCormick**, President-Elect; **Dr. Scott T. Dull**, Vice President; and **Dr. Allan Miller**, Secretary.

Councilors elected to a two-year term include **Drs. Timothy J. Anders, Kenneth R. Bertka, Thomas J. Mehelas, Anil Mehta, Thomas G. Padanilam, and James A. Tita**.

Newly elected members of the Nominating Committee include **Drs. Vijay K. Mahajan and James B. Metzger**.

Also honored at the Annual Meeting were those physicians who received their 50-Year Award in honor of their 50th anniversary of graduation from medical school. The recipients who were at the Annual Meeting to receive their award were **Drs. Charles D. Cobau, Paul J. Ditmyer, William D. Eggleston, Mary A. Lenkay, R. Daniel Rigal, R. Donald Woodson and Joses K. Yuan**. **Drs. Frank Abbati, Michael A. Fiore, Claro T. Tosino, Tun Win, Edward G. Young, Belkis Yuce and Metin Yuce** were out of town and were not able to attend the meeting.

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## Missing Mail? Notice to All Academy Members

Please help us keep our mailing list up-to-date. Many of our mailings are sent bulk rate. If you have moved, these mailings may or may not be forwarded to you by the post office. Also, the post office does not return bulk permit mail to inform us of your new address. To insure that you continue receiving our publications, please inform us of any address changes by contacting Carol at The Academy Executive Office via e-mail at [cmosbacher@gmail.com](mailto:cmosbacher@gmail.com); by phone at 419/471.3333; or by mail at 4428 Secor Rd., Toledo, OH 43623. Also, please notify us of your email address. Thank you.

## Healthy Living News

The Community Relations & Communications Commission is recruiting contributors to The Academy Corner in Healthy Living News. Articles for the monthly publication are approximately 300 words and can be sent to Dr. Ron Shapiro at [rshapiro@edok.com](mailto:rshapiro@edok.com). Maintaining the presence of The Academy Corner in Healthy Living News favorably keeps The Academy of Medicine in the public eye, as well as its members.

## Academy Mentorship Program

In 2006, the Academy Mentorship Program was formed to offer support to local pre-med students. One of the most fun and challenging parts of the program is a one on one mentoring relationship with a pre-med student. The Academy continues to recruit potential mentors for the program. If you have an interest in the program and would like a mentor sign-up form, please call The Academy Executive Office at 419/471.3333 or email your request to [lwealton@aol.com](mailto:lwealton@aol.com).

## Community Health Commission Notes

**Tobacco Prevention** – The State of Michigan has spent none of its tobacco settlement money on smoking prevention.

**Immunization update** – The CDC has published the 2007 immunization schedules; the childhood schedule

has been split into 0 – 6 and 10 – 18 to accommodate the new recommendations for adolescents. Tdap is now recommended to be mandatory every 10 years for adults involved in the care or supervision of infants and toddlers; all adults should be boosted with Tdap in preference to T or Td vaccines. The Ohio Immunization Registry continues to be stymied in its growth by technical and economic issues inhibiting participation by private practices.

**School Health** – The CDC published a paper surveying school policies for closure during potential pandemic influenza outbreaks; they recommend that local schools be given the discretion to close if absenteeism reaches a critical level without having to wait for state or health department directives.

The Commission wishes to thank Dr. Philip Lepkowski for offering excess influenza vaccine at cost to practices in need. Please contact Dr. Lepkowski at 419/479.5831.

The Commission wishes to congratulate Dr. Alvin Jackson of Fremont (trained at Mercy Family Practice) for his appointment as director of the Ohio Department of Health.

**Infectious Diseases** – The CDC cited the spread of tuberculosis on a U.S. Aircraft carrier while deployed in the Persian Gulf last year; 12 cases were reported from one contact. The CDC also warned of infections spread by wildlife and exotic pets as well as pet rodents.

**Nutrition** – The CDC raised concerns about the decline in folate levels in women of childbearing age. Although folate intake (enhanced by fortification of refined grain) had increased over the past 15 years with a corresponding decrease in birth anomalies (esp. neural tube defects), levels have declined in the past 3 years associated with decreases in carbohydrate intake and failure to substitute other folate rich foods. Teens and young women should be advised to include adequate foods or supplements in their diets for folate (and calcium and iron!).

**Vision Care** – Ohio was surveyed with four other states for access to and use of vision services by persons over 50. A significant percentage of people (18.5%) at risk for vision problems cited lack of insurance or high cost as barriers to care.

## Sharing of NPI Numbers

The OSMA has received a number of questions from practices regarding whether they should share their NPI numbers with other physicians and other organizations.

The answer is "yes," according to the most recent edition of CMS's newsletter, MLN Matters. The newsletter states that current regulations require all providers, including Medicare providers, that are HIPAA covered providers to share their NPI with other providers, health plans, clearinghouses, and any entity that may need those NPIs for use in standard transactions, including the need to identify an ordering or a referring physician.

The newsletter further counsels that providers should also consider letting health plans, or institutions for whom they work, share their NPIs for them.

## Health Care a Priority for Governor Strickland

During his inaugural address Ohio's 68th Governor, Ted Strickland, outlined a series of agenda items for his new administration with health care among the top priorities. He said, "We share common hopes, common dreams, and a common purpose. We all want health care for those who need it."

Throughout his campaign, Strickland promoted a program called the Ohio Healthcare Exchange, which would make private health plans available to all Ohioans at low prices through group purchasing. The plan, available on a voluntary basis to those who do not have access to employer-sponsored coverage, would partner the administration with insurance companies and small businesses to create an environment in which uninsured Ohioans can purchase affordable care. But the plan has drawn skepticism, with some contending that the Governor's proposal will rely too heavily on Medicaid – a broken program that needs to be fixed before expanded.

Strickland's intentions for reforming Ohio's health care system may not become clear until he submits his budget proposal to the General Assembly in early March. Nevertheless, on January 4, the new Governor appointed Dr. Alvin Jackson as Director of the Ohio Department of Health. Since 1995 Jackson served as the medical director of the Community Health Services in Fremont. In addition, Jackson was Chief of Staff at Memorial Hospital in Fremont from 2003-2005 and staff physician at the Sandusky County Department of Health from 1994-2006. He also served as President of the Midwest Clinicians Network in 2000 and was the Clinician's State Representative to the Ohio Association of Community Health Centers in 2001. Dr. Jackson did his training at Mercy Family Practice in Toledo.

Additionally, Strickland announced the creation of a new cabinet position, Medicaid Director, which will be led by Cristal Thomas. Thomas, an Ohio native, most recently served as the assistant director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. In that role, she helped to manage 2,300 employees and a \$15 billion budget. Governor Strickland also appointed John Martin as Director of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities and moved former ODJFS Director Barbara Riley to the new post of Director of the Department of Aging.

## ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

### *Endorsed Services*

#### **DiaMed, Inc.**

DiaMed, Inc. helps physicians and hospitals get the best price on medical equipment and supplies, while helping to enhance patient care. DiaMed has nationwide purchasing power and offers Starline, its own high quality private label line at lower costs. Call Doug Sharpe at 800/587.6531 for preferred pricing.

#### **Enviro-Medical Waste Services, Inc.**

A full service medical waste management company that provides the legal transportation and disposal of infectious waste, as well as providing support and assistance in implementation of cost-effective medical waste management programs. Call 866/669.9201 for pricing and a brochure or visit [www.enviromedicalwaste.com](http://www.enviromedicalwaste.com).

#### **Fifth Third Private Banking**

If you are too busy to manage your finances, get help from a Fifth Third Private Banker. Call Beth Meridieth at 419/885.6552, Kerrigan Quicker at 419/885.6568, Jane Marie Rahe at 419/259.7869 or Erika Rizzo at 419/885.6554. Member FDIC. Equal Housing Lender.

*If you have or know of a product or service that you believe would help save Academy members time and money, please contact Lee Wealton at [lwealton@aol.com](mailto:lwealton@aol.com).*

[www.toledomedicine.org](http://www.toledomedicine.org)

HOT TOPICS STATE NEWS AMA NEWS PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ISSUES POLICY NEWS COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES  
 UPCOMING EVENTS MEMBERSHIP SERVICES & BENEFITS TIPS & TRICKS BREAKING NEWS ACADEMY MEETINGS NEW  
 MEMBERS THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE OF TOLEDO AND LUCAS COUNTY TORT REFORM

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**Space for Lease** - 4126 Holland-Sylvania Rd. Toledo, Ohio at impressive new 61,000 sq.ft. medical office building. 14,000 sq.ft. available: build to suit with option to buy.  
**Call Dr. Stacy Bowen at 419.473.9210.**

**Space for Sale or Lease** - Sunforest Medical Condo Units for lease or for sale. Sale price \$104.00 per sq. foot. Lease price \$12.00 per sq. foot.  
**Contact Karyn at 419/474.3399**

**Billing Service** - Today's Billing Solution is an established and experienced locally owned and operated billing service offering full practice management. Check us out at [www.todaysbillingsolution.com](http://www.todaysbillingsolution.com) or call 419/866.1489.

## APPLICATIONS

REGINA S. EICH, MD  
 Pediatrics

CATHERINE A. MARCO, MD  
 Emergency Medicine

## IN MEMORIAM

RANDOLPHE G. ROULIER, DO  
 11/23/1930 - 12/30/2006  
 General Surgery

WILLIAM M. JENNINGS, JR., MD  
 5/31/1907 - 1/1/2007  
 Anesthesiology

HENRY P. DRAKE, JR., MD  
 4/20/1920 - 1/6/2007  
 Ophthalmology

## FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN NEEDED

The Toledo-Lucas County Health Department is seeking full-time and part-time Family Practice Physicians to provide primary care services to adults and children. Applicants must have proven experience in diagnosing and managing acute and chronic illnesses and in prescribing pharmacologic agents.

The health department operates clinics in downtown Toledo and in Western Lucas County. Hours are generally Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

For more information please call Barbara Gunning, PhD, Director of Health Services, at 419/213.2882 or David Grossman, MD Health Commissioner at 419/213.4018.

**Resumes may be sent to:**  
 Toledo-Lucas County Health Department, Attn: Barbara Gunning, Ph.D., 635 N. Erie St., Toledo, Ohio 43604 or [gunningb@co.lucas.oh.us](mailto:gunningb@co.lucas.oh.us)



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