

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

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If you would like to place a classified ad in Toledo Medicine or the *Communique*, or on our new website (www.toledomedicine.org) please call Jan Schutt at 419.471.3131, fax 419/475.6744 or email your ad and contact information to jm.schutt@gmail.com.

APPLICATIONS

RAHUL CHAKRAVARTHY, MD
Anesthesiology

HALEEM N. CHAUDHARY, MD
Orthopaedic Surgery

REKHA T. CHAUDHARY, MD
Hematology/Oncology

We're cleaning house. Send in your updated information today.

At The Academy of Medicine, we are continually updating and making improvements to our email directory, referral files, membership roster and website (www.toledomedicine.org). If you have made any recent changes, please send updated information to Carol at cmosbacher@gmail.com. If you would like to receive website updates and a FREE online subscription to selected articles from *Toledo Medicine* and the *Communique*, please type "subscribe" in the subject header of an email and send it to joey.begeman@gmail.com.

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COMMUNIQUE



SEPTEMBER 2007

Governor Ted Strickland to Speak at Academy/Hospital Joint Meeting

The next Academy Hospital Joint Meeting will be hosted by The University of Toledo Medical Center and will be held on Thursday, November 29, at 6:00 pm at the Toledo Hilton. The keynote speaker will be Governor Ted Strickland, who will speak about the future of health care delivery in Ohio. Watch for your formal invitation and join your colleagues at the Joint meeting on November 29.

Deadline Nears for Winter Seminar '08 Registration

Winter Seminar '08 will be held at the Hotel Meliá Tropical Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, from January 26 to February 2. The Meliá Caribe Tropical has upgraded The Academy group to the *Royal Service*, which has its own buildings, pool, beach, private dining room, private party lounge, butler and concierge services and much more. The reservation deadline is September 27.

For further information on the *Royal Service* and images of the Meliá Caribe Tropical, please check out the Sol Meliá Caribe Tropical website at <http://www.meliacaribetropical.com/royal>. If you did not receive a reservation flyer, please contact Lee Wealton at 419/473.3206 or by email at lwealton@aol.com.

Write for *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. 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.

Create a Lasting Change— Give to United Way

As a physician, you are keenly aware of the energy and commitment it takes to change the lives of your patients. Our United Way also works with that same energy and commitment to change the lives of those who need it most in our community year round.

United Way is creating lasting change in people's lives by addressing the underlying causes of the most significant local issues. By bringing together a broad range of financial and human resources, United Way is in a unique position to positively impact the community. Contributions to United Way support community services that are accountable for delivering measurable results and changing lives.

This year's campaign goal is to raise \$15 million. This additional 10% increase over last year's success will allow United Way to respond to community needs as they arise, not just once a year. They remain committed to creating lasting change and to building a stronger community.

United Way remains committed to getting children off to a great start, providing children and teens strong foundations, empowering vulnerable families to thrive, and giving help and mobilizing resources.

With our continued support United Way will be able to build on the great strides they have made in our community. Please complete the donation form inserted in this *Communique* or respond to the mailing from Academy of Medicine President Dr. Anthony Armstrong that you will soon receive.

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Where Do You Want Your Money To Go?

When you pass away, do you want your wealth to be passed to your spouse, your children, your alma mater, or perhaps a charity? Too often we know who we want to pass our wealth on to, but never formalize our intentions in a will or trust, or if we do have those documents in place, do not update them on a regular basis. Are your good intentions of getting these important documents in place or updated a low priority on the "to do" list?



What are the risks of not having a will in place? The risk is you allow the Probate Court of your state of residence to decide who inherits your wealth! Your intentions may not match how the Probate Court system distributes your assets. The court will decide who inherits based on the laws of your state of residence, under the intestate succession statutes.

What are the risks of not having a trust in place? One of the largest risks is that the value of your estate may be seriously diminished by income, gift, and estate taxes that could have been avoided by seeking the guidance of an estate planning attorney. Having a trust in place can provide management for assets located in several different states (such as, but not limited to, vacation homes or investment property). A trust can also provide management of assets for the donor's convenience, or for legally, mentally, or financially incapacitated beneficiaries. A trust can also provide one person with lifetime benefits, while ensuring that the remainder will go to another person. Not having a trust, can, in many cases cost your loved ones time and money, money that you worked hard to accumulate.

Everyone should review their will annually, to ensure their wishes for the distribution of their wealth are carefully spelled out in writing. Consult with your estate planning attorney to ensure your trust document is updated to reflect changed personal situations and tax law updates.

For further information on the benefits of wills and trusts, please contact:

- Erika Rizzo** 419-885-6554
- Jane Marie Rahe** 419-259-7869
- Martin Orr** 419-885-6581
- Beth Meridieth** 419-885-6552

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The Academy of Medicine and The University of Toledo Pre-Med Honor Society Launch Second Year of Student Mentoring

The Academy of Medicine of Toledo and Lucas County and The University of Toledo Pre-Med Honor Society, Alpha Epsilon Delta, is about to launch its second year of mentoring pre-medical students at UT. The Academy of Medicine's Mentoring Program (AMP) pairs member physicians in the community with pre-med students, in an informal mentoring environment. This can take many forms, including shadowing in the office, communicating by phone or email or just discussing medicine as a career over lunch or a cup of coffee.

Last year approximately 20 UT students were mentored in the program's first year. Some of the students involved had no prior contact with a physician, other than in a doctor/patient relationship. It is particularly useful for these students to have someone in the community to provide guidance on career choice. For those who participated, the program provided a forum for answering questions about career choice, application procedures and physician lifestyles. Many of the students attended The Academy of Medicine Annual Dinner Meeting in January as guests of The Academy of Medicine.

The physicians who participated last year found the program to be very rewarding and fun. The experiences varied, but most met at least once, face to face, with their student. Many developed lasting relationships that may continue far beyond the student's undergraduate life.

The program will have a kick off dinner in October that will allow students to meet their mentor. It is hoped that this will get the program off to a quick start, putting students and mentors together early in the academic year. Many returning students will have the same mentor, but The Academy will need new mentors for those incoming members of the AED chapter at UT.

The Academy of Medicine's Mentoring Program is open to all Academy members who have an interest in working with pre-med students. Anyone interested in participating can contact Lee Wealton at The Academy offices at 419/473.3206 or by email at lwealton@aol.com. There is also a mentoring application included in this *Communique* and on The Academy Website, (www.toledomedicine.org). The AMP is directed at those UT students who are members of the AED Honor Society. These students, who maintain a three semester history of pre-med curriculum and a GPA of 3.2 or greater, will be those most likely to eventually matriculate in a medical school. Information about the program is available via the AED Website (www.ohiobetaaed.utoledo.edu) or from the Pre-med advisory office at UT.

SAVE THESE DATES!

*Academy of Medicine &
The University of Toledo
Medical Center
Joint Meeting*

**Thursday, November 29, 2007
Toledo Hilton, 6:00 pm**

Keynote Speaker
**The Honorable Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio**



Academy Annual Meeting
**Thursday, January 10, 2008
Gladieux Meadows, 6:00pm**

Inauguration of
**Diane A. McCormick, MD
Academy President, 2008**
Keynote Speaker
**Craig W. Anderson, MD
President, OSMA**

Important Information Regarding The Academy of Medicine Retired Fellows Health Insurance Plan

A newly retired physician has 30 days from the date of retirement in which to join The Academy's health insurance plan. If the physician does not do so within 30 days, they are ineligible to do so at a later date. When planning for your retirement, remember to check into The Academy Retired Fellows Health Insurance Plan. **If you have any questions regarding the plan, please contact Jan Schutt by phone at (419) 471-3131 or via e-mail at jm.schutt@gmail.com.**

OSMA Urges Ohio Members of Congress to Fix Medicare

The OSMA sent letters to all members of Ohio's Congressional Delegation requesting that action be taken to address the flawed Medicare payment system.

The letters detailed the problems with the excess payments made to Medicare Advantage plans. The payments average 112 percent of the cost of traditional Medicare, as well as a significant number of plans pay from 120 percent to more than 150 percent of traditional Medicare.

Medicare Advantage plans receive large, above-inflationary increases every year – far exceeding payments for other providers in Medicare, particularly physicians. In contrast, Medicare physician payments have been scheduled for significant cuts every year. In 2002, Medicare physician payments were cut 5.4 percent. In subsequent years, Congress stepped in to prevent payment cuts. However, the resulting updates have been well below increases in medical practice costs, and the funding mechanisms utilized have resulted in either steeper forecasted cuts or more years of cuts.

We need physicians to add their voices and let members know how the physician payment cuts will affect seniors' access to care. To contact your U.S. Representative or U.S. Senators and lend your support, go to <http://capwiz.com/osma/state/main/?state=OH>.

BCBS and the Anthem/Wellpoint Settlement —You May be Eligible to File Claims Under Both

Ohio physicians who submitted claims in the Anthem/WellPoint Settlement may be eligible for payment from the Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) Settlement Fund, even though Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield of Ohio was not a settling plan in the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Settlement. The complaint alleged that physicians were harmed as a result of the Blue parties' conspiratorial activities, which were in violation of RICO. The settlement provides that if a physician did business with any primary licensee of the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Association, Blue Plan, subsidiary, or affiliate from May 22, 1999 through May 31, 2007, even if the physician never did business with a settling Blue plan, subsidiary, or affiliate during that time-frame, he or she may be deemed a class member and entitled to a share of the settlement fund.

Please note that if physicians are relying solely on gross receipts from Anthem BCBS of Ohio (or any other non-settling Blue plan), they would need to check Box I of the claim form. **However**, if they are combining their gross receipts from Anthem BCBS of Ohio (or any other non-settling Blue plan) with those of a settling Blue Plan (listed in the Notice), then they may combine those amounts and check the appropriate box on the claim form.

There is no harm in your practice filing a claim against the Blue Cross/Blue Shield settlement fund; it might even result in additional money for your practice. For more information, contact Sandy Loveland at the OSMA by calling 800/766.6762 or email loveland@osma.org.