

WSMA LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT REVIEW

February 2009



BENTON FRANKLIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

The Society Pages

On January 26th, four of your physician colleagues and I attended the WSMA Legislative Summit in Olympia where Governor Gregoire addressed our group.

Four main issues were the focus of the day: The state budget crisis' impact on access to care; expanded scope of practice for medical assistants to allow them to orally administer drugs they now are able to administer intravenously; the wrongful death act that, if passed, would expand the cause of action in wrongful death cases; and public health funding.

In addressing the summit attendees, Governor Gregoire noted the need to make tough decisions on services and cuts as the legislature must find \$6 billion in cuts in a \$30 billion budget (where only 40% of which is "cut-able"). She said US Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has assured her that the SCHIP bill that will be passed out of the Senate shortly should treat the state more fairly, after all these years. The bill will provide an additional \$94 million to our state for the current fiscal year and over \$500 million over next five year to bring coverage to all kids up to 300% of the federal poverty level. Our current Medicaid federal matching rate is 50/50, but the house federal budget proposal now in markup in the Senate, should provide an additional \$2 billion to the state to undo some of the cuts in the governor's budget.

In addition to the address by the Governor, attendees also heard presentations by Ms. Patricia Clark, a national communications consultant and the Honorable Denny Heck, Past Member of the WA State House of Representatives and Chief of Staff to Gov. Booth Gardner. They gave participants hands on tools and information regarding communicating with you legislators. The afternoon portion of the seminar allows participants a chance to speak one on one with legislators from your district regarding the issues that will directly impact you as physicians.

This conference was invaluable. I can not recommend it enough to anyone considering attending next year. You may refer to the WSMA Monday Memo dated 1/26/2009 for more information about the seminar.

BOARD MEMBER PROFILES

John Droesch MD, joined the BFCMS Board as Secretary-Treasurer in 2007 and is currently serving his term as President for the 2009 year. Dr. Droesch is originally from Northern Idaho and received his Medical Degree from the University of Washington. He also obtained his postgraduate training in General Surgery from the University of Washington and his breast cancer training at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.

In addition to managing a wide range of surgical issues, Dr. Droesch's practice places a special emphasis on the surgical management of breast cancer, laparoscopic colon surgery and minimally invasive surgery. Dr. Droesch was drawn to the Tri-Cities because of the close proximity of family, the great weather and our strong medical community. He opened his surgical practice in October of 2005 in Richland and is committed to providing the latest in surgical care and management.

Dr. Droesch currently resides in Pasco with his wife and four children. Interests outside of the operating room include photography and spending time with his family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

6:30-7:00 pm, Social Hour

7:00-8:30 Membership Business and
Presentation

**No general membership in February– see
you at the CME Seminar!**

March 17, 2009

Meadow Springs Country Club, Richland
Chris Mertens, J.D.,
Miller, Mertens, Spanner & Comfort
“Medical Professional Liability Issues”

April 21, 2009

Meadow Springs Country Club, Richland
Topic TBA

May 19, 2009

Meadow Springs Country Club, Richland
Tim Layton, JD,
Director of Legal Affairs, WSMA
“Physician Rights and Responsibilities”

September 22, 2009

Meadow Springs Country Club, Richland
New Physician Reception

October 20, 2009

November 17, 2009

25th Annual CME Seminar

February 13-14, 2009

Presentations

Prescription Drug Abuse
ADD/ADHD in Primary Care
Prevention of Obesity
Surgical Treatment of Obesity
Dermatology in Primary Care
Asthma Management in Primary Care
Palliative Care
Early Diagnosis of Ovarian Cancer
MS Update
Parkinson’s Update
Latest Developments and Treatment Options for
Stroke and TIAs
Medicare Updates for Physicians

**If you know of vendors who would like to
exhibit, please have them call me at
582-2866!!**

The Best or Wits End Medical Humor at Its Brainiest is
now available directly from Dr. Harold Ellner or online at
barnesandnoble.com, amazon.com, borders.com,
xilibris.com or by calling 888-795-4274, ext. 7876

Applications for Membership

Second Notice:

If any member has information as to why any of the following applicants should not be a member of this Society, please furnish this information to the Board of Trustees.

Hannan Chaugle MD

Board Certified Cardiothoracic Surgery

Medical School: Grant Medical College (1986)

Internship: Oregon Health Science University,
Portland, OR

Residency: Oregon Health Science University,
Portland, OR

Recommended by: Neil Rawlins MD and
W. Hugh Maloney MD

Jennifer Brindle MD has reinstated her membership with the society– **Welcome Back Dr. Brindle!** Dr. Brindle is currently practicing at the KGH Urgent Care at 7201 W. Grandridge Blvd. in Kennewick.

Luzcel Tuazon MD

Voted New Secretary Treasurer

Luzcel Tuazon MD was unanimously voted in as the new Secretary-Treasurer at the January general membership meeting.

Dr. Tuazon is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and practices in Kennewick.

Welcome Dr. Tuazon!!

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2009 Board of Directors

John Droesch, MD	President
Stanley Ling, MD	Vice-President
Luzcel Tuazon MD	Secretary-Treasurer
Heather Phipps, DO	Past President
Richard Long, MD	Past President

Trustees

David Fischer, MD, John Henriques, MD
Larry Jecha, MD, MPH
Sheila Rege, MD AMA Delegate

The objectives of the Benton Franklin County Medical Society are to promote the art, science and practice of medicine and the practitioners who pursue these goals; to promote the care and well being of the patients of Benton and Franklin Counties; to protect and improve the health of the public; to provide medical education and to provide leadership for the members of the Society.

Please contact Nicole Austin with any questions, comments or information you would like added to the Newsletter.