

Briefly Stated - April 3, 2017

Save Big- Summer CME at the Beach

[Have you registered for the GAFP Summer Family Medicine Weekend yet?](#) Don't miss your chance to SAVE BIG, member only rate of \$320 to earn up to 35 CME* credits! Join your colleagues at the Summer Family Medicine Weekend, scheduled for June 8-11, 2017 at the Wild Dunes Resort on the Isle of Palms, SC.

In addition to multiple social events, we will offer the latest updates on clinical topics including: Treating IBS, Vitamin Deficiencies, Dementia, and much more! We also balance the CME sessions with family and beach activities. The full agenda is available to preview at www.gafp.org.

To register, [click here](#) and then follow the registration link, or you can always call GAFP offices at 800-392-3841 to register by phone.

If you have any questions about the meeting schedule, registration or other concerns, feel free to contact me at twallace@gafp.org or Ciera Mitchell at office@gafp.org

* Application for CME credit has been filed with the American Academy of Family Physicians Determination of credit is pending.

Nominate a Colleague Today

To my GAFP Colleagues:

We are all busy. But I am asking that you take less than 10 minutes to think about honoring a fellow Georgia family physician. Please help me and the rest of your Georgia family physicians in recognizing our friends for their exemplary service to the profession of family medicine and contributions to our State, by nominating someone for one of the following awards:

<u>GAFP Awards</u>	<u>Deadline To Submit Nominations</u>
Family Medicine Community And Volunteer Services Award	May 5, 2017
Georgia Family Physician of The Year	May 5, 2017
Family Medicine Educator of The Year	May 5, 2017

The Membership Committee will nominate a slate to be approved by the Board of Directors, and presentation of the awards will be held during the 2017 GAFP Annual Meeting in October.

Many noteworthy colleagues may not have been considered for an award because they were not nominated. To download an electronic copy of the awards nomination package go to <http://www.gafp.org/awards.asp>. New this year is that the documents are now in a PDF format that you can fill out and email back to GAFP, which makes it easier for the Membership Committee to read your nomination.

The awards nomination package includes the awards and criteria, nomination forms and a list of past winners of each award.

If you have questions, please contact Alesa McArthur of the GAFP at 1-800-392-3841 or amcarthur@gafp.org.

Sincerely,

Eddie Richardson, Jr., MD, FAAFP

2017 President

Georgia Academy of Family Physicians

AAFP "Pick Your Pace" Resources Available For MACRA/QPP

Most AAFP members will fall into the Merit-based Incentive Program (MIPS) track under QPP. The most up-to-date guide includes [AAFP's "Pick Your Pace" resources](#) to members to help them set their pace, avoid negative payment adjustments, and understand what qualifies as reportable quality data.

Failure to report at least one measure or activity in 2017 will result in a negative 4% adjustment in 2019.

Most AAFP members will fall into the Merit-based Incentive Program (MIPS) track under the Quality Payment Program (QPP). To help you adjust to the shift to value-based payment, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) deemed 2017 a transition year.

You now have the option to "Pick Your Pace" during the performance period. By selecting one of three "Pick Your Pace" options under MIPS, you will avoid a negative adjustment in 2019.

To help you succeed, the AAFP has a variety of "Pick Your Pace" resources available, including:

The AAFP has your back. Avoid negative payments by assessing your current activities and visiting the AAFP's ["Pick Your Pace" resources](#) today. Call (800) 274-2237 or [email](#) with questions."

This is a critical year for all physicians, especially since their performance in 2017 determines their payment adjustments in 2019. To give physicians more time to adjust to QPP, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) deemed 2017 a transition year to "Pick Your Pace."

Spring Cleaning: How Family Physicians Can Ease the Child Dental Crisis in Georgia

A family physician or pediatrician typically sees a child and their family about 13 times for routine checkups and vaccinations. Each of these visits presents an opportunity for you and your clinical staff to review risk factors for oral disease. In the U.S., tooth decay is the most prevalent chronic disease of childhood, five times more common than asthma. Research has shown that from 1994-2004, 28 percent of 2-5-year-olds experience tooth decay. Which is an increase of 15 percent from the prior decades. We also know that if family has poor oral health status, so will their children.

What Can Family Physicians Do to Turn a Frown Upside Down for Our Children?

For all children and their families, it's important to educate them and hit these main points:

- Educate parents about good oral health habits for them and their children
- Explain why primary teeth are important
- Encourage that they brush teeth regularly with a smear of fluoridated toothpaste
- Encourage regular dental visits

- Outline proper dietary habits

Start providing fluoride varnish application in your practice!

Effective 2015, physicians can offer this service to Medicaid children with a new CPT code 99188. Georgia's Department of Public Health has a small staff dedicated to expanding fluoride varnish in primary care physicians' offices around the State. Please see the contact below and consider adding this benefit to your practice.

Want to learn more? Register for the upcoming webinar--
- <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1873115196169259267>

For more information, please outreach to the following:

Carol C. Smith, RDH, MSHA, *Director of Oral Health*

Maternal and Child Health

Georgia Department of Public Health

2 Peachtree Street, 11-222

Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3142

Phone 404-657-3138

Fax: 404-657-7307

Carol.smith@dph.ga.gov

Register Now!! April Webinar: HB 436 (GA HIV/Syphilis Pregnancy Screening Act of 2015) – April 26th

This month's webinar, HB 436 (GA HIV/Syphilis Pregnancy Screening Act of 2015), will be held on April 26th at 1:15 pm with Rana Chakraborty MD, MSc, FRCPCH, DPhil (PhD), Director, Ponce Family and Youth Clinic at Emory University School of Medicine. He will be accompanied by Dr. Somer Smith from the Department of Public Health and Dr. Martina Badell who is an Obstetrician at Grady Memorial Hospital. From this webinar, you'll learn the facts on HIV Testing During Pregnancy. The most common route of HIV infection in children is HIV transmission from mother to baby during pregnancy, labor and delivery, or breastfeeding. Come learn how healthcare providers can help implement the Georgia HIV/Syphilis Pregnancy Screening Act of 2015 – H.B. 436

1st and 3rd trimester HIV/Syphilis testing is required for all pregnant Georgia moms.

No written evidence of test at delivery? Attending physician MUST order an HIV/Syphilis test.

Mom refuses test? Documentation of refusal is required to relieve provider of any responsibility.

Please click the link to register for the April
26th webinar. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4886357598629140482>

Who would speak for you to maintain your quality of life when the need arises?

JENNIFER JUDSON, RN BSN ~ Project Lead, Palliative Care jennifer.judson@alliantquality.org

April 16th is Healthcare Decisions Day. It is the day designated to ensure that we have a document in place that outlines our healthcare decisions if we are unable to speak for ourselves due to a serious or life limiting illness. Having the conversation and documenting decisions are just as important for our patients as it is for us and our families. National Healthcare Decisions Day is the day that calls attention to encourage us to think about, decide and document the care we would want before we were faced with a healthcare crisis. Sometimes we look at a serious illness or life limiting illness as END-OF-LIFE and do not consider the quality of how we live the end of life. Most of us would like to live the end of our life at home around loved ones and not in an ICU with tubes and machines while our family is down the hall. However, we have not taken the time to have the discussion with loved ones and documented our decisions. While we are aware of Hospice Care at the end of life, it is not the only option for symptom support as our patients and family have significant decline in their health and function yet still reside in the outpatient setting.

Let's consider Palliative Care. Palliative Care is the management of pain and symptom relief to improve quality of life. It can be provided in any healthcare or home setting. Outpatient palliative care is becoming more available and acceptable. An article in **JAMA Internal Medicine** entitled "The Effectiveness and Value of Palliative Care in the Outpatient Setting", synthesizes evidence describing the effectiveness of outpatient palliative care relative to usual care, its drivers, and associated costs. Could this be the care you are looking for to preserve the quality of life for your patients or family members? Other useful resources can be found at www.gapolst.org.

GHFA Community Health Grant Award Spotlight on: The Adult Disability Medical Home's (admh) "Get Fit and Be Healthy" Project

The Adult Disability Medical Home located in Marietta, GA is led by Georgia Academy of Family Physicians member Andrea Videlefsky, MD. Approximately 65% of the patients are from metropolitan Atlanta, 25% from rural Georgia and 10% from other neighboring states. Patient ages range from those transitioning in their teens/early twenties to those beginning to show loss of functioning in late 30's and 40's and beyond. Currently the youngest patient is 12 years old, and the oldest patient is 70.

This ongoing community health pilot project is for adolescent and adult (ADMH) patients with down syndrome and other developmental disabilities, a 30+ BMI and other health conditions that can be improved by a healthier lifestyle. Adolescents and adults with down syndrome and other developmental disabilities are often neglected within the traditional healthcare systems. The lack of knowledge and expertise in managing their healthcare needs and access to services is often limited.

With a \$3500 Community Health Grant Award, participating patients (and their caregivers) attended a series of workshops to learn skills that would enhance independent living. Using the Medical Home principles of person-centered planning and family-centered involvement, many individuals can improve on self-skills, personal hygiene as well as personal nutritional training, exercise and enhanced use of communication devices that promote independence. Communication Assertive Devices with software applications (e.g. Proloquo2go) were made available to patients who are non-verbal or who have limited expressive language. Workshops focus on healthy food, drink choices and exercise.

All Get Fit and Be Healthy Workshop Participants received tote bags for partitioned food plates, pedometers, measuring cups, measuring spoons and memory sticks preloaded with resource programs. Over the course of the project obesity risk factors decreased among participating patients by encouraging daily physical activity and healthy food and beverage choices.

ADMH "Get Fit and Be Healthy" participants received tote bags with pedometers, measuring spoons and nutritional information.

Register Now!! GCT2 Monthly Webinar: The Hypertensive Burden in African Americans: Reaching a Community in Crisis – April 26th

The GAFP serves as a partner of the Georgia Clinical Transformation Team (GCT2), a coalition of organizations who have aligned programs and services dedicated to connecting and collaborating to lead Georgia providers in transforming healthcare using technology and quality improvement processes.

The GAFP coordinates and hosts 30-minute monthly webinars on topics that foster collaboration on practice quality improvement, facilitated efforts around cardiac care, diabetes management, motivational interviewing, behavioral health, and medication adherence. These educational CME webinars offer a streamlined, comprehensive approach to services that are needed and accessible to clinicians.

This month's webinar, *The Hypertensive Burden in African Americans: Reaching a Community in Crisis*, will be held on April 26th at 12:30 pm with Monica Hendrickson NP, CDE, Hypertension and Diabetes Nurse Consultant at the Department of Public Health. From this webinar, you'll learn more about hypertensive risks in the African American population; the economic and physical burden of hypertension in this population; the reasons why African Americans delay visits to health care providers; and community myths and beliefs in treating hypertension in Black Americans.

Please click the link to register for the April 26th webinar. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/6353936240793489921>

Member Access to March Board Minutes and Leadership Decisions

In an effort to keep GAFP members more informed of Board decisions, members can now access the March Board minutes. Even though major activities tend to be reported in our newsletter, members may keep track of leadership decisions and adherence to the GAFP mission and strategic plan by reviewing quarterly Board minutes via a simple request to staff. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the GAFP Board minutes, please contact the staff by email at gafp@gafp.org. Only GAFP members have the privilege to review the GAFP's Board of Director's minutes.

Day at the State Capitol – Reaps Ongoing Benefits

Georgia Academy family physicians, residents and medical students stormed the Capitol in late February. A busy day at the State Capitol as GAFP members stood in line to speak to their legislators. Many of the legislators joined us across the street for lunch to continue the dialogue. Our members focused on key issues which included:

- Payment Reform – Increasing Medicaid rates to Medicare levels for primary care physicians and OB/GYN's for most utilized codes for primary care. House Bill 44.

- Public Health – Support additional funding of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.
- Medicaid – Support innovations to provide affordable access to health insurance for low income Georgians.
- Tax Credits for Physicians Precepting Georgia Medical Students – House Bill 301

House Bill 301 will change preceptor tax deductions to tax credits. If approved, it will be added to our list of legislative priorities. This will help with primary care physician disparity from around the state.

- **Georgia Academy also supports the Expedited Partner Therapy Bill (House Bill 360). This bill is a public health issue and will assist physicians to treat patients with sexual transmitted diseases.**

We would like to acknowledge and thank our sponsors for this event that had over 150 physicians in attendance: Amerigroup Community Care, Cancer Treatment Centers of America, MAG Mutual Insurance Co., Peach State Health Plan, Phyttest, Inc., Sterling Risk Advisors, Inc. and WellCare of Georgia.

Don't miss out on the fun in 2018. Mark your calendar for Family Physicians at the State Capitol for Thursday, February 15, 2018.

GAFP leaders attending Day at the Capitol: Treasurer Jeff Stone, MD, Board Chair Mitzi Rubin, MD, President Elect Chip Cowart, MD and Vice Speaker Samuel "Le" Church, MD

Crowded day at the State Capitol!

Former Board Chair Dr. Wayne Hoffman discusses key legislative items. Also, pictured (seated) – State Representative Ben Watson, MD (internal medicine) from Savannah.
