

Briefly Stated - January 3, 2017

Legacy Club Members Honored For their Generous Support of the Alliance

The 2016 Georgia Healthy Family Alliance Legacy Club Members and their families were recognized during the 10th Annual Legacy Club Dinner held following the GAFP Scientific Assembly Welcome Reception November 10, 2016 at The Palm Restaurant inside the Buckhead Westin. Georgia Healthy Family Alliance Board Members were also in attendance to convey their appreciation to the twenty four 2016 Legacy Club members who donated \$1,000 or more to the Alliance this year.

2016 Legacy Club members are:

Dr. Mike Busman, Americus

Dr. Lanny and Mrs. Mica Copeland, Brentwood, TN

Dr. Loy and Mrs. Elizabeth Cowart, Statesboro

Dr. Denise Crawley, Rome

Dr. Ellie Daniels, Atlanta

Dr. Tom Fausett, Adel

Dr. Wayne Hoffman and Mr. Tom Torrey, Atlanta

Dr. Beulette Hooks, Midland

Dr. Kevin Johnson, Lawrenceville

Dr. John and Mrs. Denice Kludt, Duluth

Dr. Patrick and Mrs. Lindsey Lynn, Rome

Dr. Bruce and Mrs. Sheila LeClair, Evans

Registration Open for Day at the Capitol!

Travel Stipends for Students and Residents....

Legislative Day @ the Capitol

Thursday, February 23, 2017

Plan to Attend the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians Legislative Day at the Capitol! Meet your state legislators and top government officials and learn how the state government and legislature impacts your practice and family medicine in Georgia. Join us under the Gold Dome!

Who Should Attend: The meeting is open to all GAFP members – family physicians, family medicine residents and medical students. We will be joined at the meeting by our MD and DO colleagues in internal medicine, ob/gynecology and pediatrics.

Register here: <https://www.gafp.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/2017-GAFP-Legislative-Day-Flyer.pdf>

Register Now for 2017 Georgia Clinical Transformation Team (GCT2) Webinars

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 Georgia Clinical Transformation Team (GCT2) is comprised of the GAFP, Alliant Quality, Department of Public Health, Georgia HITEC, Morehouse School of Medicine, HomeTown Health, MAG, GA Pharmacy Association, and the Georgia Hospital Association. One role of the GAFP in the consortium is to coordinate and host 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.

Please click the link <https://www.gafp.org/gct2webinars/> to register for the any of the following upcoming webinars in 2017:

- January 18, 2017 2017 Quality Payment Program - MIPS Overview
- February 22, 2017 Using Antibiotics Wisely for Adult Patients in Primary Care

We will continue to add webinars in 2017 so check back frequently! You can also access the recordings of past 2016 webinars on the GAFP website. We hope you're able to join us in 2017!

Medicare Advance Care Planning Fact Sheet

Adrienne Mims MD MPH FAAFP, AGSF - Vice President, Chief Medical Officer, Medicare Quality Improvement

As family physicians, we have an important role in ensuring that our patients' end of life wishes are known and honored.

We have all seen the family feuds, hurt feelings and general chaos when no one know what the patient's wishes are. Also, long and costly hospital stays at the end of life raise our overall Medicare patient Cost Profile and are preventable.

The Medicare Advance Care Planning fact sheet includes information that you can use in your practice to have discussions with your patients and their families about developing end of life plans.

It also details how to bill Medicare for these interactions. This valuable tool can enhance practice revenue while lowering overall practice attributable costs.

Promote and use the Advance Care Plan: <https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNProducts/Downloads/AdvanceCarePlanning.pdf>

Member Access to November Board Minutes and Leadership Decisions

In an effort to keep GAFP members more informed of Board decisions, members can now access the November 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.

Congratulations to our new Resident Board Members

Congratulations goes out to Jessica N. Brumfield DO (Moultrie), Joshua Nolen Koerner DO (Gwinnett), and Monique Merritt-Atkins MD (Morehouse) whom you have elected as your 2017 representatives to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Brumfield comes from the Georgia South Family Medicine Residency Program in Moultrie and states that she is interested in participating on the GAFP Board to serve as a voice on behalf of her fellow residents and provide representation at meetings throughout the state, specifically representation for South Georgia. Being from a small rural town, she states that she relates well to the citizens of South Georgia and wants to provide a voice for the family physicians who practice in the area. Dr. Brumfield will serve as Alternate Resident Board Director this year, transitioning into the role of Resident Director in 2018 (for a two year term).

Dr. Koerner is at the Gwinnett Medical Center Family Medicine Residency in Lawrenceville. He states that he is looking forward to getting involved with the GAFP to contribute to his profession in the state of Georgia and represent his program. He feels that this is an excellent opportunity to serve his community. Dr. Koerner will serve as Alternate Resident Director (one year term).

Dr. Merritt-Atkins is at the Morehouse School of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program and states that, "Community health and prevention are dear to me, with that said engaging with the board is the perfect place to effectively be an advocate in these areas. I look forward to working with well-rounded individuals with whom I may exchange skills and information, with an ultimate goal of improving the family physician workforce and becoming a well-rounded physician." She will serve as Resident Board Director in 2017 (one year term).

The Georgia Healthy Family Alliance Board of Trustees welcomes Emory University Family Medicine Resident Dr. Mark Aparna (PGY1) to a two year term on the Alliance Board. Dr. Aparna states that: "As a member of the Georgia Healthy Family Alliance I want to continue to develop skills that will equip me to devise and implement strategies to target those underserved patients and communities in Georgia who need our care the most."

Congratulations to these stars in our family medicine residency programs!

Board Chair Speaks Out on Importance of Meningitis B Vaccines

Mitzi B. Rubin, MD, FAAFP - Board Chair

Parents: Make sure your students are protected from meningitis B

<http://www.georgiahealthnews.com/2016/12/parents-students-protected-meningitis/>

As both a family physician and a mom, I know that the to-do list for parents is often a long one. And if you're the parent of a high school or college student, you might not think about making sure your student is up to date on vaccines. But young adult vaccinations are critical, especially when it comes to meningitis.

Georgia public university students living in on-campus housing must be vaccinated against meningococcal disease, which describes the bacterial form of meningitis, but they likely aren't fully protected against the disease.

While the traditional meningococcal vaccine protects against four of the common strains of meningitis, it does not protect against meningitis B — a prevalent strain that is responsible for a whopping 40 percent of the 2,600 meningitis cases in the United States.

Two FDA-approved meningitis B vaccines are available, yet they are relatively new to the market, and the CDC has not yet issued a broad recommendation on who should receive them. As a result, parents may think their children are protected when they leave for college, not realizing that the current meningitis vaccine doesn't cover the B strain.

Parents may need to ask specifically for the meningitis B vaccine in order for their students to receive it.

Protection against all strains of meningitis is especially critical since one-fifth of all meningococcal infections occur in young adults between the ages of 14 and 24. College students are especially at risk because dorms and apartments are ideal environments for spreading the disease.

Bacterial meningitis not only progresses at an incredibly fast pace, but it is also often tragically misdiagnosed. Meningitis is frequently mistaken for the flu, since the symptoms, such as headache, fever, and nausea, are so similar — yet it moves quickly and can be deadly in a matter of hours.

I have seen the devastation of what meningitis can do to both children and families. The CDC estimates that even with prompt treatment, the fatality rate is between 10 percent and 15 percent.

Furthermore, up to 20 percent of survivors suffer permanent complications such as loss of limbs, injury to the nervous system, deafness and brain damage.

While we are waiting for health leaders at the CDC to issue broader recommendations for meningitis B vaccination and for university leaders to explicitly make meningitis B vaccination a requirement for all students, parents do not have to wait. Consider asking your child's family physician or pediatrician about meningitis B vaccinations.

Vaccines are the most effective tools to prevent disease and save lives. With the power to protect our students from one more life-threatening illness at our fingertips, every life lost or harmed by meningitis B is one too many.

Members in the News!

AAFP selects GAFF member for AMA delegation....

Dr. Evelyn Lewis&Clark of Newnan has been selected by the AAFP to serve as one of the AAFP's delegates to the American Medical Association! Her two year term will begin in 2017. The GAFF Board of Directors nominated her in August for this prestigious leadership position.

Members of the AMA House of Delegates serve as an important communication, policy, and membership link between the AMA and grassroots physicians. The AMA delegate is a key source of information on activities, programs, and policies of the AMA. The delegate is also a direct contact for the individual member to communicate with and contribute to the formulation of AMA policy positions, the identification of situations that might be addressed through policy implementation efforts and the execution of AMA policies.

Delegates to the AMA are expected to foster a positive and useful two-way relationship between grassroots physicians and the AMA leadership.
