AAPHP E-News, February 27, 2009

This is an electronic update for members and friends of the American Association of Public Health Physicians (AAPHP). We issue this from time to time, whenever several items of interest come to our attention.

Please send items of interest for the E-News -- and any other feedback -- to E-News editor Kevin Sherin, MD, MPH. . Thanks!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS: AAPHP MEETS IN CHICAGO, June 13-15, 2009 (see item #1 below)

Great news! The Orange County Health Department PDI (Protect! Don't Infect!) video is now on You Tube! Here is the link.
http://www.youtube.com/orchdept.

1) Your AAPHP at Chicago in June:

Your AAPHP annual meeting will be held in June at the AMA annual meeting in Chicago. Mark your calendars now. The AAPHP annual membership meeting at the AMA in Chicago will tentatively be held on the evening of the 13th of June. The AMA meeting runs from the 13-15th, and is always held in Chicago. I want as many AMA members who are AAPHP members as possible to attend this meeting.

The meeting at Chicago will tentatively include a health policy speaker from the Obama administration to be arranged.

2) AMA Membership renewal:

One of AAPHP's strategic objectives has long been to help recruit public health physicians into the American Medical Association (AMA).
As a result of this policy, AAPHP members have joined the AMA in a higher percentage than almost any other specialty society.

Every 5 years, the AMA audits the AAPHP's membership as part of the certification process for AMA delegates. This audit begins on April 1, 2009. One of the keys is that of our AAPHP members, as many as possible must also be dues paying members of the AMA.

Please renew your AAPHP membership today, if you have not already renewed for 2009, and renew your AMA membership at the same time.
Our vitality as an organization depends on your support!

The mission of the AAPHP is to promote the public?s health; to educate the nation on the role and importance of the public health physician?s knowledge and skills in practicing population based medicine; and to foster communications, education, and scholarship in public health.

AAPHP represents physicians from all
specialties who work in public health, and who have a passion and care about protecting the health of all Americans. Together we are stronger, our AMA is stronger, and we can make a greater contribution to the public health of all Americans.

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3) Health care access:

Our AMA news covered two stories this month about health care access.

The first story is that 27% of households are postponing healthcare access due to costs.
This has policy implications for the types of co-pays and insurance plans. It also can impact surveillance and will have implications for how health data sets will be interpreted in the near term.

Second, a Kaiser Family Foundation survey -- reported in February -- showed that "one in four Americans" reported that a family member "put off needed healthcare in the past year because of cost, including 16 percent who postponed surgery or a doctor's visit for chronic illness." Of 1,204 adults interviewed "by landline and cell phone from Feb. 3-12,"
53 percent indicated that "a family member living with them cut back on healthcare in one or more ways to save money" in the past year, including using "home remedies or over-the-counter drugs instead of seeing a doctor." In total, "27 percent said their household postponed needed medical care." Data also indicated that "62 percent said 'it's more important than ever to take on healthcare reform now.'" In addition, the Congressional Budget Office reported that the number of non-elderly uninsured could reach 54 million within 10 years. President Obama spoke to both houses of Congress in February. In this address, he set health care reform and health IT infrastructure as two of his administration's overarching goals, along with education and alternative energy.

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4) AMA resolutions:

Please make use of our AAPHP resolutions process to submit important resolutions to the AMA for consideration in the AMA House of Delegates.
This is your opportunity as an AAPHP member to submit quality resolutions that represent public health interests, or interests for health policy or the health of all Americans. AAPHP resolutions must be submitted to our AMA Delegate, ARVIND K. GOYAL, MD, MPH, at Arvindkgoyal@aol.com.
I look forward to another great round of quality resolutions from our AAPHP.

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5) Membership services - Renew today!

Sandra Magyar, in Green Cove Springs FL, has been contracted for membership services and she is doing a great job! We look forward to rapidly getting your 2009 dues notices to you. It helps AAPHP with transaction costs if we can do this electronically. Please send your PREFERRED email address to Sandy at magyarsf@bellsouth.net.
Remember, renewal of your dues, membership, and updated information for AAPHP is vital -- especially during March 2009.

THANK YOU for your ongoing support of AAPHP's work!

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6) Public Health blogs, Dr. Kim Buttery:

AAPHP members need to pay more attention to Dr.
Kim Buttery?s public health blogs. For years, Dr. Kim Buttery, our webmaster, who is a Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, has compiled high quality public health blogs.
Dr. Buttery's posts, commentaries, and thought- provoking analysis are second to none.

I hope that you will look at the blog site frequently, especially in this time of rapid change for public health, funding, and national health care policy.

Go to http://www.aaphp.org and click "blogs" on the left, or go directly to the blog and bookmark it to your browser at http://blog.vcu.edu/cbuttery/ .

Below are listed quality blogs from January 2009, which will give you an idea of the overall quality and value for your rapid reading pleasure.
Here is a short sample:

Researchers case doubt on Role of Free Radicals
    in Aging (McGill University)

Smoking kills irrespective of Social class and
    gender (British Medical Journal)

Are Vitamin Supplements Worthwhile or Not?
    (Duke Diet and Fitness)

Landmark Court ruling refutes autism/vaccine link
    (Division of Developmental Medicine)

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7) AAPHP board member uses digital signs for
    community public health messages:

AAPHP Board Member Jason Newsom of Bay County, Florida, makes use of digital signs for his community to disseminate critical public health messages. The messages are rotated regularly and are the talk of the town. Key messages include tobacco use, food and portion choices, fitness, and other important health topics.

For more information email Jason Newsom, MD, MPH, FACPM at Jason_Newsom@doh.state.fl.us , or visit the Bay County Health Department website at http://baycountyhealth.org/ or see Jason?s bio at http://baycountyhealth.org/Director.html .

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8) Please Help Us to Help You:

AAPHP is the voice of public health physicians and welcomes all physicians who are committed to the public?s health.

AAPHP accomplishes its work with a maximum of volunteer labor and a minimum of cash expense. We are proud to make the E-News and other AAPHP materials available without charge to physicians and medical students interested in public health.

If you haven't done so already, please download AAPHP's 2009 Membership Form right away at http://www.aaphp.org/Membership/2009MembForm.pdf , and send it to us by fax or postal mail.

Please make your 2008 membership as generous as you can. Consider "Supporting" or "Sustaining"
membership for 2009 if you are able to do so.

AAPHP is a 501(c)(6) professional membership organization that informs and represents Public Health Physicians. AAPHP dues may be deductible as an "ordinary and necessary" business expense under the Internal Revenue Code. Details may differ based on your individual situation.

AAPHP dues can be paid by credit card -- either by faxing the membership form to 904-529-7761 or by calling the AAPHP Secretary's secure mobile/voicemail at (360) 870-2483.

Please also tell your friends and colleagues about AAPHP's representation of Public Health Physicians. E-News subscriptions are still free, on request, to any interested physician or medical student. We welcome new subscribers and members.

Thank you for your support!

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