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**CHICAGO**

**June 12, 2010**

# American Association of Public Health Physicians

**E-Bulletin**

**March/April, 2010**

***The Voice of Public Health Physicians-Guardians of the Public's Health***

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## AAPHP Delegates to the AMA Report on Upcoming Activities for the 2010 AMA Meeting

Message from Dr. Arvind Goyal:

Dear Colleagues:

I and Dr. Joe Murphy, your alternate delegate, wanted to share with you some important timely information relating to the upcoming annual meeting of the AMA on Saturday, June 12 until Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel:

1. The **initial resolution deadline for next month's AMA meeting is Friday, May 5, 2010**. Please submit your proposed resolution/s to me at my e mail address ([arvindkgoyal@aol.com](mailto:arvindkgoyal@aol.com)) with reasons (whereases) and expected or desired outcomes and or actions (resolves) by May 4, 2010 at the latest, preferably by May 1, to allow for timely submission to the AMA in their prescribed format. Please include your best phone number in case we need to contact you for our education or clarification.

2. **Activities at the AMA meeting** that may be of interest to you include:

\* Sat, June 12, 11:30 AM-2:00 PM--A Medical Student Specialty Showcase at which there will be an AAPHP table to meet with and encourage medical students who visit us to consider a career in public health. Please consider volunteering to "man" the AAPHP table. This event was highly successful last year with 3 volunteer AAPHP members (Dr. Mack, Dr. Sherin and Abe Shamsi, a medical student) at the table who in addition to career counseling ended up recruiting several new student members to join the AAPHP. Please e mail me if you are able to commit to participate in this event on June 12.

\* Sat, June 12, 2:00 PM-5:30 PM-- AMA House of Delegates Opening session which all members and guests are able to attend.

\* Sat, June 12, 5:30 PM-8:00 PM--AAPHP Annual Membership Meeting with the Current AAPHP President, Kevin Sherin presiding and AMA's incoming President, Cecil Wilson as the keynote. Dr. Tim Barth will step in as the new President of the AAPHP also at this meeting. We will meet in the Gold Coast Room at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel.

Sun, June 13, 8:30 AM-6:00 PM--Resolutions Reference Committee hearings with an hour break for lunch. Your delegates would appreciate your support and testimony on resolutions introduced on behalf of the AAPHP; the more of our members testify, the greater the chance of success. You also have to be an AMA member to have the privilege of the floor at the reference committees.

**3. Please direct any questions or suggestions about the resolutions or events at the AMA meeting to me or Dr. Joe Murphy anytime. We remain indebted for your trust in our abilities to represent you.**

Sincerely, ARVIND

Arvind K. Goyal, MD, MPH  
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### **AAPHP to Meet at AMA Meeting in Chicago**

Join AAPHP members at the AAPHP Annual Meeting being held during the AMA meeting. AAPHP will meet June 12, at 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM, in the Hyatt Regency Goldcoast Room. AAPHP is honored to have Dr. Cecil Wilson, AMA President, as the keynote speaker. This meeting is also special as Dr. Kevin Sherin will be turning the gavel over to President-Elect Dr. Timothy P. Barth. There will also be voting for other AAPHP positions.

## Items of Interest

1. The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) ask for American Association of Public Health Physician's endorsement of a new campaign called "The 10 X "20 Initiative" an effort to mobilize key leaders and resources in the United States and abroad to create a research and development (R & D) enterprise powerful enough to produce 10 new antibacterial drugs (antibiotics) by the year 2020. The 10 x "20 Initiative's inaugural statement is available in the April 15 issue of the journal Clinical Infectious Diseases.
2. The Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® (PCPI) is engaging in a pilot project with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) to develop performance measures related to high priority clinical areas for integration into ABMS Maintenance of Certification® programs. The PCPI and the American Board of Radiology are jointly beginning a measure development, specification, and testing project to identify and define quality measures toward improving outcomes for pediatric and adult patient populations related to **patient radiation dose optimization**.

The PCPI invites you to submit a nomination(s)) to serve on the work group or advisory group for this pilot project. Attached are a more detailed invitation to submit a nomination, a nomination form for the work group and advisory group, and the PCPI Conflict of Interest policy. Please submit your nomination materials by e-mail to [consortium@ama-assn.org](mailto:consortium@ama-assn.org) by **Friday, May 14, 2010**.

## Medical Ethics Confronts Obesity

On April 1, Virtual Mentor, the online ethics journal of the American Medical Association, posted a theme issue entitled "Medical Ethics Confronts Obesity" at [www.virtualmentor.org](http://www.virtualmentor.org) or <http://www.virtualmentor.org/>. AAPHP Resident Member, Fatima Cody Stanford, MD, is the theme issue editor. AAPHP encourages you to check out this article.

**Orange County Health Department (Orlando, FL) Awarded 6.6 Million Dollars as Part of Recovery Act Prevention and Wellness Initiative, *Communities Putting Prevention to Work***

Today, the **Orange County Health Department (OCHD)** was awarded a grant of 6.6 million dollars for tobacco prevention and control in our community. OCHD will work with the Orange County Tobacco Free Partnership to implement policy changes and will partner with key community agencies such as the **American Lung Association, Orange County Public Schools, and community based organizations** like the **Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention** and **county and city governments** to improve the health of Central Florida residents and to help prevent deaths associated with smoking and second hand smoke.

This grant award is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) *Communities Putting Prevention to Work* initiative to support public health efforts to reduce obesity, increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and decrease smoking—four critical actions for combating chronic diseases and promoting health.

The \$372.8 million, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, was awarded to 44 communities, including cities, towns, and tribes. These communities are receiving awards to implement policy, systems and environmental change strategies over the next two years as one of several initiatives of HHS *Communities Putting Prevention to Work*.

"The burden of chronic diseases like cancer, heart disease, strokes, and lung disease threatens to overwhelm our health care systems. An estimated 81 Floridians die every day due to tobacco related diseases, said Dr. Kevin M. Sherin. "The answers in part lie in tobacco prevention programs such as those funded by this grant. Working together as a community we can save more lives."

The competitive funding awards to cities, towns, and tribes across the country will allow communities to support healthy choices among their residents through a variety of methods including increasing the availability of healthy foods and beverages, improving access to safe places for physical activity, discouraging tobacco use, and encouraging smoke-free environments.

Specifically, this initiative in Orange County will work to help make Orlando and Orange County parks smoke-free environments, reduce youth access to tobacco, and encourage physicians to refer patients to smoking cessation programs.





## Job Market Initiative (JMI) Report

**Current Month:** Our work to re-invigorate our JMI job listings is going well. One significant boost this last month is our inclusion of a listing of 141 federal jobs which we deemed suitable for PHPM physicians (mainly non-clinical or only partly clinical jobs dealing with health issues on a group or population basis). Our usual abstraction process generated a list of 125 jobs (this is the number comparable to previous months). One reason for the uptick in hits this last month is because this monthly report is based on data from April 19 – adding four days to the current month.

(the following text is continued from previous monthly reports)

**Historical Background from Previous Monthly Reports:** Again, as historical perspective on the JMI – it began in 2001, steadily grew through 2005. Then, having lost the volunteer manpower to abstract ads and do more than minimal maintenance of the site – it languished for more than three years before we secured new funding from AAPHP to reinitiate the abstraction of ads. This began in June of this year, and is now growing nicely.

Public Health and Preventive Medicine – fields that substantially overlap, but are not identical – have a unique problem among medical specialties. That problem, from an employment perspective, relates to the fact that public health and preventive medicine are nowhere listed as medical specialties on employment pages or web sites. While as many as 7% of physician jobs could benefit from these skills – they are almost always listed under clinical specialties, or as non-physician jobs. For this reason, we initiated the JMI to pull together such jobs for the benefit of both PH/PM applicants and potential employers. For additional background information, please go to the [www.aapHP.org](http://www.aapHP.org) web site, click on “Jobs,” and explore the 2005 “Job Market Initiative Plan” referenced on the bottom of that web page.

*JMI*

*Continued*

Joel L. Nitzkin, MD, MPH, DPA

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Chair AAPHP Tobacco Control Task Force

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for job listings see [www.aaphp.org](http://www.aaphp.org), and click on "Jobs"

## AMA Morning Rounds Highlights

Here are some of the headlines and bits of articles from the AMA Morning Rounds.

### **Morning Rounds**

#### **FDA urged to curb salt content in processed food.**

The CBS Evening News (4/20, story 4, 2:20, Couric) reported, "We Americans consume about a teaspoon and a half of it everyday. But the Food and Drug Administration says one teaspoon is plenty and now...a panel of medical experts is urging the FDA to set limits on the amount of salt manufacturers put in our food." Michael Jacobson, of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, said, "Salt is probably the single most harmful chemical in our food supply."



According to [ABC World News](#) (4/20, story 6, 2:15, Sawyer), the Institute of Medicine "is proposing new government rules that would eventually cut one-third of the salt out of what we buy at groceries or eat at restaurants, saying Americans aren't cutting back salt on their own." ABC quoted FDA Commissioner Dr. Margaret Hamburg as saying, "Sodium in the American diet is a very serious problem."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/21, Healy, Zajac) reports, "The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday announced a gradual but potentially far-reaching effort to reduce the amount of salt Americans consume in a bid to combat high blood pressure, heart disease, strokes, and other health problems that have soared to near-epidemic proportions." The agency's "efforts will begin by seeking voluntary cutbacks by the food industry."

The [Washington Post](#) (4/21, Layton) reports, "Two members of Congress urged the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday to move quickly to limit the amount of salt in processed foods, calling the matter a 'public health crisis' that demanded a swift response from government."

Dr. Hamburg also said, "We believe we can achieve some substantial voluntary reductions. ... We are shaping a strategy, and that strategy involves working in partnership," according to the [AP](#) (4/21, Neergaard). But, "Dr. Jane E. Henney of the University of Cincinnati, a former FDA commissioner who headed the IOM's study," said, "This needs to be a mandatory standard." She added, "Because salt is so 'ubiquitous, having one or two in the industry make strong attempts at this doesn't give us that even playing field over time. It's not sustainable.'"

[Bloomberg News](#) (4/21, Pettypiece, Armstrong) notes that the IOM report stated, "Voluntary efforts by the food industry and government health officials have failed to curtail salt use by US consumers, the report said. The vast majority of sodium comes from packaged food and restaurant meals." The IOM also said that decreasing Americans' salt intake "could prevent 100,000 deaths a year from heart disease and strokes."

[McClatchy](#) (4/21, Pugh) reports that in a statement, the FDA said, "Over the coming weeks, the FDA will more thoroughly review the recommendations of the IOM report and build plans for how the FDA can continue to work with other federal agencies, public health and consumer groups and the food industry to support the reduction of sodium levels in the food supply. ... The Department of Health and Human Services will be establishing an interagency working group on sodium at the department that will review options and next steps."

[USA Today](#) (4/21, Hellmich) quotes Nancy Brown, chief executive officer of the American Heart Association, as saying, "We applaud this report because we know the overconsumption of sodium is a leading culprit for the alarming rates of high blood pressure and cardiovascular disease in the United States."

[CQ Today](#) (4/21, Ferguson) reports that in response to the IOM's recommendation, the "Grocery Manufacturers Association...said it is already cooperating in reducing sodium levels in food." It stated, "The food industry is committed to continue to reduce the sodium content in thousands of products to help consumers reach the current US Dietary Guidelines recommendation of no more than 2,300 milligrams of sodium per day. ... And we look forward to working with the US Food and Drug Administration to develop a national sodium reduction strategy that will help consumers."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/21, Adamy), the [New York Times](#) (4/21, A16, Neuman), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (4/21), and [NPR](#) (4/21, Hensley) also cover the story, as did [ABC News](#) (4/21, Childs, Fiore) on its website.

**In *JAMA*: Higher consumption of dietary added sugars associated with unfavorable cholesterol and triglyceride levels.** Consuming a higher amount of added sugars in processed or prepared foods is associated with lower levels of high-density lipoprotein cholesterol and higher levels of triglycerides, which are important risk factors for cardiovascular disease, according to a [study in the April 21 issue](#) of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*. View a video recap of the study in [Windows Media](#) or [QuickTime](#).

**California Assembly panel approves insurance exchange legislation.**

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/21, C1, Colliver, Lagos) reports, "Taking a step that prepares the state to carry out the new federal health overhaul law, the Assembly Health Committee approved a bill Tuesday that would ultimately create a marketplace where Californians could go to buy health insurance." The legislation "introduced by Assembly Speaker John Pérez, creates the framework for a state-based 'exchange,' a vehicle through which individual consumers and small-business owners will be able to band together to buy private insurance under the rules of the new health law."

**Pilot program offering shots at OB-GYN offices boosted HPV, Tdap vaccination rates.**

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/20, Dennis) "Booster Shots" blog reported that aiming "to improve immunization rates among women," Duke University researchers "set up a pilot program at three North Carolina ob-gyn offices to offer vaccinations against human papillomavirus and tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis." They eventually discovered that the "program boosted rates of HPV vaccination, but its shining success was for the percentage of women who accepted the so-called Tdap shot." In fact, "in one office, preliminary data shows, vaccination rates among postpartum patients soared, from 16.7% to 85.7%." This is noteworthy, because "more than half of infants less than one year of age who get the disease must be hospitalized," and "often, the illness can be traced to siblings or adults who don't even know they're infected."

**Healthcare authorities should emphasize potential for an epidemic to quell vaccine-autism fears, experts say.**

In an op-ed in the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (4/21, A12), science writer Liza Gross and medical anthropologist Sharon R. Kaufman, of the University of California-San Francisco, point out that "overwhelming scientific evidence refutes a connection between autism and the MMR vaccine or mercury-based preservatives or anything else in vaccines," and many in the medical community think such "rebukes should have reassured parents." Still, "one in four parents think vaccines cause autism." But, because "health experts know all too well what it's like to watch a child die from a vaccine-preventable disease," while many parents do not, Gross and Kaufman conclude, "Let's hope it doesn't take an epidemic to show them."

**Early screening for type 2 diabetes cost effective, may prevent complications.**

[American Medical News](#) (4/20, Moyer) reported that, according to a [study](#) published online March 30 in *The Lancet*, "early screening for type 2 diabetes is cost effective and prevents diabetes-related complications, including myocardial infarction and blindness." By "using mathematical modeling to assess several screening strategies, researchers determined the most cost-effective approach is to begin screening patients for type 2 diabetes between ages 30 and 45, with follow-up every three to five years." They arrived at this conclusion by studying a "simulated population of 325,000 non-diabetic 30-year-olds using the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data from 1999 through 2004."

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## AAPHP Can Help YOU

### Please Help Us 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 Bulletin 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 2010 Membership Form** right away at <http://www.aaphp.org/Membership/2010MembForm.pdf> and send it to us by fax or postal mail. Please make your 2010 membership as generous as you can. Consider "Supporting" or "Sustaining" membership for 2010 if you are able to do so.

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**AAPHP** dues can be paid by credit card -- either by faxing the membership form to **Sandy Magyar**, Our Membership Secretary at (904) 529-7761 or by calling her at (904) 860-9208

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

Kevin Sherin, MD, MPH ([ksherin@yahoo.com](mailto:ksherin@yahoo.com)) **AAPHP** President-elect and E Bulletin, Editor

## How to Contact E-Bulletin

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\*\*\*\*\* About AAPHP E-Bulletin \*\*\*\*\*

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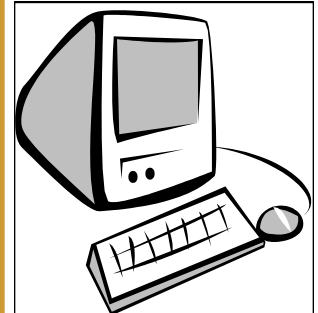
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