

KCA COMMUNIQUE

October 2007

KCA
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SINCE 1911**

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**Kansas Chiropractic
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“Adopt-a-Legislator” in the Mail. The KCA’s Legislative Committee has issued its first round of requests for volunteers to begin or renew their contacts with Kansas state senators and representatives before the new legislative session in January. A cover letter, contact guidelines and reporting form, and a listing of your representative’s home address, phone and e-mail have been mailed to all KCA members statewide. KCA Legislative Committee chairperson Dr. Travis Oller led the development of the materials meant to promote more participation by doctors of chiropractic in the Kansas legislative process.

Dr. Oller said, “We will come out and meet with you and your legislators if it will help get the ball rolling in your district.” The key to the “Adopt-a-Legislator” strategy is to develop and maintain friendly and professional relationships for each and every Kansas legislator with at least one doctor. In some cases it will make sense for two or more doctors to get several legislators together for a luncheon or dinner event. At other times the legislator and doctor will have a natural connection to work from – both go to the same church or have mutual business acquaintances. In either case members of the KCA Legislative Committee and KCA Executive Director John Kiefhaber will be helping to coordinate any meetings as requested.

Please call or e-mail with any questions or comments about the program. KCA will be following up with discussion and short education sessions on political action and health care issue areas that are the most important tools to help with these contacts. LET US HEAR FROM YOU.

FCER Still Looking for Research Committee Members. To date, 19 states have appointed members to state research committees to assist the Foundation for Chiropractic Education and Research (FCER) in working with clinicians to develop validated evidence that will result in the best patient care and outcomes. The FCER’s State of Research initiative will teach clinicians to interpret and apply evidence into their practices and involve them in setting research priorities. Evidence-based seminars in each state are also planned. The existing online FCER Evidence-Based Resource Center will allow doctors to find relevant research evidence and patient resource information. You can contact FCER at (800) 622-6309 for more information and follow-up.

CCC Expanding Its Practice Based Research. Coinciding with its move to Kansas, Cleveland Chiropractic College will be promoting more enrollment of doctors of chiropractic from around the nation to report data on patient outcomes from their practice. Under its Practice Based Research project doctors will report real life patient outcomes for analysis by the college. If interested, please contact Ms. Cathy Evans at (816) 501-0146 or e-mail cathy.evans@cleveland.edu.

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KCA Makes a Top CMS

Contact. Dr. Tobi Jeurink, KCA Medicare Committee chairperson, and KCA Executive Director John Kieffhaber have completed an introductory meeting with the national director of fee-for-service Medicare programs for the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in Kansas City. Mr. Tom Lenz, a regional administrator for CMS for our District V, also serves as the national head of the fee-for-service program for Medicare. KCA discussed changes that might be expected with the new Medicare regional contract for claims processing, which has been awarded to Wisconsin Physician Services. Mr. Lenz explained that the new contract procedure that CMS is now using, based on 2005 health care reform legislation, puts emphasis on overall management of quality care by the contractor. In the past CMS contracting put the focus mainly on claims processing efficiency and anti-fraud and abuse aspects of the program.

Dr. Jeurink also reviewed the KCA comment letter that was recently submitted to CMS headquarters in Baltimore. The letter lays out KCA objections to a federal proposal to disallow Medicare payments for X-ray services ordered for use by doctors of chiropractic. She requested that special attention be given to the effects of this proposed change because of the importance of X-ray services for diagnosis and patient care.

Double Issue Coming. KCA will be issuing a special version of the *JOURNAL* combining its Summer and Fall issues for 2007. The focus will be on clinical articles and Medicare program information. Watch your mail.

KC Metro District Invites Legislators to Dinner.

Thursday, November 1 will be the date this year for the Kansas City Metro District's annual legislative appreciation dinner event. Letters of invitation went out to 34 state senators and representatives in the area to promote attendance. The location will be Healthridge, 17800 W. 106th St., Olathe, and a social hour will start at 6:30 p.m. with dinner to follow. KCA district members hope to renew ties with as many Wyandotte and Johnson county legislators as possible in preparation for the 2008 legislative session beginning in January.

Your Board Report. The KCA Board of Directors met on August 18 in Topeka, and the following items of business were handled:

- Dr. Paul Brackeen, Secretary/Treasurer presented the year-to-date financial report showing revenues of \$164,154 and expense of \$142,736 so far this year. He led a discussion of what the planned uses were for accumulated funds in various bank accounts that KCA had built up over the years. Three accounts are identified as litigation funds to be used if needed in the future. Other issues, including finding the best interest income for the funds, were discussed by the Board.
- Dr. Jerry DeGrado delivered a COCSA report, mentioning the progress being made on CCGPP practice standards project. At this point Board members began discussing what their responsibility was on the issue of experimental therapies and practice standards as a whole. Further development of this issue, with the help of the Board of Healing Arts, is expected in the future.

- Dr. Tim Warren, Insurance Relations chairperson, reported on work the Committee is doing on insurance claims issues reported by member doctors. He also reported that some members are unhappy with the terms of some of the PPO group contracts, and that the benefits of group membership are not always satisfactory to them. He said that a panel presentation on coding and insurance issues is planned for the Fall Convention.
- Dr. Kenyon Erickson reported that new membership recruiting materials were being developed by the Membership Committee. He suggested that some new categories of membership might be needed for corporate members or for the faculty at Cleveland Chiropractic College.
- Dr. Merv McCormac reported on work of the Peer Review Committee, and mentioned that there was no longer a certified reviewer on the Committee. The Board members discussed the need for and cost of reviewer certification.
- Executive Director John Kieffhaber reported that there is quite a bit of interest in the membership for the development of a CA certification program by KCA. Dr. Warren commented on prior proposals for such a program. The Board asked for more information and a plan for this in the future.
- Dr. Travis Oller, Legislative Committee chairperson, presented the outlines of the new "Adopt-a-Legislator" program for making contacts with legislators across the state. He also reported that negotiations are underway to determine if some legislative lobbying services can be shared between KCA and Cleveland Chiropractic College, now that it is coming to Kansas.