

MOA Newsletter

A Publication of the Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association



President's Message *Robert Patz, MD*

As I begin my term as President of the Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association, I would like to give sincere



thanks to Dr. Michael Ayers for his exceptional leadership as President over the last two years. He has provided a steady hand and guidance when needed, as well as stronger advocacy when appropriate. I look forward to his continued leadership and involvement on the Board of Directors and hope to continue the strong tradition of leadership of the

Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association. I am also very happy to congratulate Dr. Samantha Spencer on being elected the first female Vice President of the MOA. We have a committed, passionate Board of Directors and are excited to welcome two new board members, Dr. Arthur Christiano and Dr. Nichola DeAngelis. Our active and involved Board of Directors will continue to advocate on your behalf.

We are in the middle of, what I believe is, an unprecedented, critical period of significant change in the delivery of healthcare. These significant changes greatly impact how we practice and provide care to our patients.

These challenges include:

- Affordable Care Act
- Massachusetts Health Payment Reform
- ICD-10
- PQRS
- Meaningful Use
- Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)
- Insurers Unilateral Payment Modifications

- Scope of Practice Legislation

The Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association strives to serve as your partner in dealing with these issues. Whether this involves providing educational programs, advocating with insurance companies, or speaking to legislators and regulators at the State House, the MOA continues to monitor your interests so that you can continue to provide the best care to your patients.

I believe that the MOA has three primary roles that include:

- Advocacy
- Initiatives
- Education

Advocacy

In terms of advocacy, our lobbyist, Ronna Wallace, continues to work for us at the State House level. She carefully monitors any upcoming legislation for issues that will impact our practices and the way we provide care to our patients. Ongoing issues include scope of practice including podiatry and physical therapy. We have tried to maintain an open dialogue with legislators who potentially could have an impact on these issues. Leaders of your state organization also recently attended the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference in Washington D.C. in May 2015. They met with lawmakers to advocate for issues important to orthopaedic surgeons on a national level.

More recently, we have been communicating with insurers regarding seemingly arbitrary reimbursement decisions. Current issues that we are protesting include the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Reimbursement Policy regarding payment of Viscosupplementation, as well as the Tufts Medical Plan Modifier 25 Policy. We continue to meet

(Cont. on page 2)

President's Message (Cont. from front page)

with both Tufts and Blue Cross/Blue Shield regarding these arbitrary payment decisions. We are hopeful for successful resolutions in the future.

Initiatives

In terms of initiatives, in the past we have in partnership with The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, (AAOS), created a white paper regarding viable practice options which is available on our website. This delineates private practice survival strategies for orthopaedic surgeons in the current marketplace. We are currently investigating the possibility of a statewide joint registry program. It is the opinion of the Board that this very well may improve the quality of patient care regarding joint replacement. We have had a number of preliminary meetings with arthroplasty surgeons and thought leaders across the state. We are currently in the process of speaking with the major insurers regarding funding of this project.

Education

On May 15, 2015, the MOA conducted another successful annual meeting. This year's event combined excellent clinical presentations along with practice management speakers. Clinical presenters included Dr. Charles Cassidy, Chairman of Tufts University School of Medicine, Dr. Mark Vrahas, Partners Chief of Orthopaedic Trauma Service, Dr. Alan Curtis, Chief of New England Baptist Hospital Bioskills Center, and Dr. James Nairus, arthroplasty surgeon from New England Baptist Hospital. We also heard excellent presentations on the Bundled Payments for Care Improvement Program, as well as a presentation on "Private Practice Survival Strategies". We also gave a 2015 Resident Paper of the Year Award to Dr. Kurt Hofmann from the Tufts Medical School Combined Residency Program for his paper, "Triple Prophylaxis for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infections in Total Joint Arthroplasty". We strive to provide an annual meeting that is both pertinent and interesting to our membership. We strive to provide CME credits including risk management. As noted, this year's meeting was very well received. We also, in partnership with Karen Zupko, have provided coding courses and in the spring of 2015 arranged an ICD-10 course with a modified rate for our membership.

Use the MOA as a resource!

Again, one of the main roles of the Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association is to advocate for our members. Our Executive Director, Susan Schaffman, is willing and available to assist in many of the challenges which we

face. If you run across something in your practice, whether it is a payment issue, credential issue, regulatory issue, challenges with the Board of Registration, or anything that is concerning to you or that you have questions with, please do not hesitate to contact her via email maorthoexec@gmail.com or phone (860)690-1146. We will look into issues that are brought to our attention and get back to you. This type of communication significantly helps the entire membership.

Renew Your Membership

As noted above, the MOA provides services of value on your behalf. We will continue to do so and we all certainly benefit from continued vigilance and advocacy. However, this also requires that our members renew their membership and pay their dues. I strongly encourage you to do so, again, as we are all benefiting from these types of activities.

I look forward to the challenges of the next two years that we face as a State Orthopaedic Organization. My goals are to continue to assist our membership in dealing with many of the challenging issues which we are facing within our orthopaedic surgery practices.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Have a great summer!

Don't Let Your MOA Membership Expire!

If you do not renew for 2015* before August 14th, your Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association membership will expire. Every member counts and we all need to renew. Your dues support the many activities and efforts of the Association on your behalf. As the only statewide orthopaedic surgeon association, we represent you at the State House, Regulatory Department meetings, as well as with the major insurers.

If you have already renewed, thank you very much. If you are uncertain of your status, please inquire as to your status by emailing Susan Schaffman, Executive Director at maorthoexec@gmail.com. Thank you.

If you have NOT YET renewed complete the easy online form at www.massortho.org and pay securely using PAYPAL.

Regulatory News

GOVERNOR'S WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNTER OPIOID ADDICTION

Late last month, Gov. Charlie Baker detailed options to counter opioid addiction which has claimed the lives of over 1,000 Massachusetts residents in 2014.

“In a 2015 survey, 36% of MA residents reported that their doctor talked about the risks of painkiller addiction, compared to 61% nationally.” – 2015 Governor Opioid Working Group Recommendations, page 26.

The governor's task force on substance abuse report, with more than 60 recommendations, includes:

- Making the state's prescription monitoring program easier for physicians to use and more efficient at producing real-time data that can be used to target treatment and intervention programs.
- Pain management, safe prescribing training, and addiction training be required for all prescribers as a condition of licensure.

The governor is also discussing with other governors in the region about how to make the state's prescription monitoring data compatible across borders to stop patients from doctor shopping in New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut and other nearby states.

As reported in the MOA June 2015 Insights, the MA Medical Society (MMS) released their recommendations to educate physicians and the public. The MMS also recommended improvements to the state's Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP).

While legislation to implement the Governor's Opioid Recommendations has yet to be filed, and because that bill will go the House, the Senate Opioid Taskforce is moving ahead with legislation that some Senators hope will pass before the August summer recess. Sen. Jennifer Flanagan, Chair of the Senate Taskforce, plans on filing a comprehensive package of reforms that will increase the availability of Narcan, require the PMP to “push” important patient information to prescribers, improve parent and student information on opioid addiction in schools, and investigate insurance coverage of pain management services that provide alternatives to narcotics.

To read the entire report, <http://www.mass.gov/governor/press-office/press-releases/fy2015/governor-releases-opioid-working-group-recommendations.html>

MA ONLINE PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM (PMP)

Over 50% of enrolled prescribers have never logged onto the system and 25% of enrolled prescribers have logged onto the PMP and searched for patient at least 1 time in the past year. Recommendations of the Governor's Opioid Working Group Report (June 2015)

As a reminder, all physicians with a current and valid MCSR must utilize the PMP prior to prescribing, to a patient for the first time, a narcotic prescription drug in Schedule II or III or a prescription drug containing a benzodiazepine.

In addition, pursuant to the Governor's public health emergency declaration requiring prescribers to evaluate a patient's prescription history prior to each instance of issuing a prescription for hydrocodone-only extended release medication that is not in an abuse deterrent formulation, prescribers are required to check the patient's PMP record, at a minimum, every 30 days while he or she is being prescribed this medication.

Physicians enrolled in the MA Online PMP, may have authorized support staff (delegates) obtain patient prescription information from the MA Online PMP on their behalf. The delegate must be registered with an individual account and there is no limit on the number of delegates a physician can have and no limit on how many physicians a delegate can be authorized to work on behalf of. Please note delegates representing more than one physician (even within the same practice) must use a different username and password for each physician. A delegate can assist by performing queries for patients and relieving the physician of the administrative burden.

The MOA is pleased to note significant improvements are in store for the PMP. The final FY'16 state budget includes a requirement for pharmacists to report to the PMP every 24 hours, a vast improvement over the current 7 day reporting requirement. This will improve the quality of the data in the PMP. Moreover, new funds have been appropriated for system revisions that will ultimately allow for “real time” reporting, simplified access by users thus requiring less “clicks” to get to patient information and to allow the PMP to interface with other states.

Delegate registration and additional information can be found on line at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dph/programs/hcq/drug-control/ma-online-prescription-monitoring-program/> To check the status of an enrollment, email mapmp.dph@state.ma.us For password assistance, please call the VG (Virtual Gateway) 1-800-421-0938

MOA 2015 Annual Meeting

MOA 2015 ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The MOA Annual Meeting was held on May 15, 2015, and featured impressive speakers, valuable AAOS and state legislative updates, Orthopaedist of the Year Award, Resident Paper Presentations, Election of New MOA Officers, an array of vendors and a lunch presentation on “*Private Practice Survival Strategies.*”

Special thanks to our speakers who shared their time and experience with their colleagues. The MOA is pleased to offer members an electronic copy of their presentations. Simply email maorthoexec@gmail.com and specify the speaker(s) presentation you would like to receive from those listed below.

Dr. Charles Cassidy, Chairman of Tufts University School of Medicine - Current Concepts for Treatment of Hand, Wrist and Elbow

Dr. Mark Vrahas, Partner’s Chief of Orthopaedic Trauma Services - Patient Based Outcomes Measures

Dr. Alan Curtis, Chief of N.E. Baptist Hospital Bioskills Center - Shoulder Arthroscopy for the General Orthopaedist

Dr. James Nairus, Longwood Orthopedic Associates - Prevention and Management of Infected Joint Replacements

David Terry, Archway Health Advisors CEO - Bundle Payment for Care Improvement Program

Michael McCaslin, CPA, Somerset CPAs - Strategies for Orthopaedic Groups and Practice Survival Tips.

The MOA seeks to provide relevant program content to its membership and we would welcome your input regarding speakers, topics and preferred time for the 2016 annual meeting of the Association. Please email maorthoexec@gmail.com with your comments.

The MOA greatly appreciates the participation and support of the following companies who exhibited at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

- **Associated Xray Imaging**
- **Bioventus**
- **Coverys**
- **DePuy Synthes**
- **Lilly**
- **Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals**
- **Pacira Pharmaceuticals**
- **Physicians Resources**
- **Salescentric**
- **Sanofi**
- **Smith Brothers Insurance**
- **Smith & Nephew**
- **Swissray International**
- **Zimmer Northeast**

MA ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION’S NEW OFFICERS

The Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association elected new officers at the Association’s Annual Meeting held on May 15, 2015 in Waltham, MA. The officers and Board members were unanimously elected by the members. Congratulations to the following new officers.

Serving as the Association’s President is **Dr. Robert L. Patz**, a board certified orthopaedic surgeon and managing partner of Orthopaedic Specialists of Massachusetts. Dr. Patz received his medical degree from Tufts Medical School and completed the Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Program at Boston University Medical Center. He completed a Sports Medicine and Arthroscopy Fellowship at Orthopaedic Research of Virginia (ORV) in Richmond, Virginia. Dr. Patz is affiliated with the New England Baptist Hospital, where he is actively involved in the teaching of the New England Baptist Hospital Sports Medicine Fellows and also serves as an Assistant Clinical professor at Tufts University School of Medicine.

Elected to serve as the Association’s first female Vice President is **Dr. Samantha A. Spencer**, an orthopedic surgeon at Boston Children’s Hospital. Dr. Spencer received her medical degree from University of Michigan Medical School and completed her residency at Harvard Combined Orthopaedic Residency Program. Her fellowship training in Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgery was completed at Boston Children’s Hospital. Dr. Spencer is an Instructor in Orthopaedic Surgery at Harvard Medical School and is the author of numerous clinical research papers.

Reelected to serve as Clerk and Treasurer of the Association is **Richard M. Wilk, MD**. Dr. Wilk is Vice Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at Lahey Hospital in Burlington, MA. He received his medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and completed his residency in orthopaedic surgery and a Sports Medicine fellowship at the New England Medical Center. He is an assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery at Boston University School of Medicine and clinical instructor at Tufts University School of Medicine.

2015 Orthopaedist of Year

The MOA 2015 Orthopaedist of the Year award was presented to Harris Yett, MD at the Association's Annual Meeting on May 15th. He was joined by his wife, friends and colleagues and Murray Goodman, MD, presented him with the award. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the Association in recognition of distinguished service, contributions to patient care, teaching and mentoring of students and residents, and commitment and dedication to the practice of orthopaedics.



MA Orthopaedic Association Board Member, Murray Goodman, MD (left) presents Harris Yett, MD (right) with the Orthopaedist of the Year at the Association's Annual Meeting on May 15, 2015 in Waltham, MA)

Harris S. Yett, MD, was selected by his peers for his leadership role in the Association as President (1991 - 1992) and as a Member of the Board since the MOA's founding in 1981. He was instrumental in advocating for patients and members in reforming the Workers Compensation system in Massachusetts and continues to serve as Director Emeritus member of the MOA Board. His decades of service and unwavering dedication to his patients, the practice, and profession of orthopaedic surgery coupled with his outstanding contributions are noteworthy. The MOA and its Board of Directors was pleased and proud to recognize his achievements and longstanding commitment to the Association, his colleagues, and patients.

Active as an instructor at Harvard Medical School since 1970, Dr. Yett has inspired many surgical residents to pursue a career in Orthopaedic Surgery. He highlights surgery training of orthopaedic surgeons as the most rewarding aspect of his career. After his own residency, he was asked to work to join the BI Orthopaedic Service with the Harvard Combined Residency Program, a project

he spearheaded and successfully completed. This one year commitment turned into a 48 year career with BI Orthopaedic Service.

Dr. Yett is a Clinical Instructor at Harvard Medical School and on staff at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where he previously served as Chief of the Orthopaedic Service. He received his medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine and completed his orthopaedic residency at Massachusetts General Hospital.

New MOA Board of Directors

Arthur Christiano, MD and Nicola DeAngelis, MD

The MOA Board is pleased to announce two new members to the Association's Board of Directors. Approved by a vote of the membership at the 2015 MOA Annual Meeting, Arthur F. Christiano, MD (Orthopaedics New England, Newton, MA) and Nicola DeAngelis, MD (UMass Sports Medicine Center, Worcester, MA) join the Board.

Members of the MOA Board serve as volunteers and represent the collective orthopaedic community regarding private insurance issues, regulatory changes, legislative concerns, Medicare policies, practice matters and CME educational programs.

Please join us in congratulating and welcoming them as they begin their service to the MOA and their colleagues.

New Role for Residents on MOA Board

Also joining the Board as Guest Resident Member is Youssra Marjoua, MD, MA General Fellow in Orthopaedic Surgery. Dr. Marjoua is an AAOS Health Policy Fellow and joined MOA representatives in DC in April, lobbying MA representatives in Congress and Senate on federal issues supported by the AAOS.

MOA Board members look forward to working with Dr. Marjoua who will bring a unique perspective as a resident on legislative issues and orthopaedic practice matters to the Board.

MOA PAC Needs You

HAVE YOU CONTRIBUTED TO THE MOA PAC YET?

Make sure your voice is heard!

It is imperative that legislators hear what you have to say – that they hear the voice of orthopedic physicians loud and clear.

The most effective and really the only way we have to participate in our state’s legislative agenda; to reach legislators and candidates to make them aware of the needs of our patients and our specialty; the way to be sure our issues receive a proper legislative recognition is through the Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association Political Action Committee (MOA PAC). The MOA PAC is an effective tool that allows orthopedic physicians concerns to be heard by state legislative officials.

The MOA PAC makes a careful study of the issues, researches the voting records of incumbents, and reviews the qualifications and expressed opinions of hopefuls before deciding who will receive donations in support of their campaigns. The MOA PAC will help maintains relationships and develop new ones with emerging legislative leaders.

The MOA PAC needs your help to continue our efforts and to work on the issues even more effectively. Therefore, I strongly urge you to consider making a suggested contribution of \$200 to \$500**.

Please, send in your contribution today using the contribution form! With your support, we can make a difference!

*** State law allows any individual to personally contribute up to an aggregate of \$500 to a particular PAC in any calendar year. Please, no corporate checks. Contributions to the Mass. Orthopaedic Association PAC are not deductible for state or federal income tax purposes.*

Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association Political Action Committee Contribution Form



Yes! I do care about the future of Orthopaedic medicine in Massachusetts and want to support political candidates that are knowledgeable and supportive of the issues facing Orthopaedic physicians.

ENCLOSED IS MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE MASS. ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION PAC:

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Employer: _____

**Please make checks payable to
“MOA PAC”**

**Mail to: MOA PAC, 121 Revere Street
Unit B, Canton MA 02021**

Efforts to Help Get Ready for ICD 10 – Less Than Three Months Away

October 1, 2015 marks the compliance date for ICD 10 coding. All MOA members and their staff are encouraged to utilize the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) free assistance including the Road to 10 (<http://www.roadto10.org/>) for small physician practices as well as training videos on the CMS site (<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/ProviderResources.html>) for helpful implementation tips.

In a recent press release, CMS also detailed its operating plans for the ICD-10 implementation including:

- Setting up an ICD-10 communications and coordination center, learning from best practices of other large technology implementations that will be in place to identify and resolve issues arising from the ICD-10 transition.
- Sending a letter in July to all Medicare fee-for-service providers encouraging ICD-10 readiness and notifying them of flexibilities.
- Completing the final window of Medicare end-to-end testing for providers this July.
- Offering ongoing Medicare acknowledgement testing for providers through September 30th.
- Providing additional in-person training through the "Road to 10" for small physician practices.
- Hosting an MLN Connects National Provider Call on August 27th.

At the request of the AMA, CMS will name a CMS ICD-10 Ombudsman to triage and answer questions about the submission of claims and will be located at CMS's ICD-10 Coordination Center. The complete joint release from the AMA and CMS can be viewed at, <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Coding/ICD10/Downloads/AMA-CMS-press-release-letterhead-07-05-15.pdf>

Cyber Liability Risks and Data Breaches in Your Practice – What You Should Know

MOA members and their staff can view a practice specific webinar on the risks, emerging issues, and protection available for data breaches, network and information security, and privacy liability.

Presented by Smith Brothers Healthcare Practice , ARC Excess & Surplus, LLC & McDonald Hopkins, PLC - Topics of the webinar included:

- Real Data Breaches affecting the Orthopedics and Healthcare Industry
- Regulatory Landscape & Development – Federal & State (HHS/OCR, AG's)
- Notification Obligations & Requirements
- Risk Management & Best Practices
- How can I protect my practice with insurance?

Thanks to the following panelists for sharing their expertise:

Charles Bellingrath - ARC Excess & Surplus, LLC
Dominic Paluzzi, Esq - McDonald Hopkins, PLC
David Burke, Professional Liability Lines Broker - Smith Brothers Insurance

The webinar can be viewed online at your scheduling convenience at <https://youtu.be/cMf1EZNq1QQ>

New AAOS Councilor Named

Kenneth Polivy, MD – New AAOS Councilor

The MOA is pleased to announce the appointment of Kenneth Polivy, MD, as the new MA representative to the AAOS BOC, joining current Councilor Samuel Gerber, MD. Dr. Polivy succeeds Christopher Chiodo, MD, who has served the orthopaedic surgeons of Massachusetts as a Councilor from March 2008 to March 2015.

The AAOS Board of Councilors (BOC) serves in an advisory capacity to the AAOS Board of Directors. In addition, the BOC manages AAOS' relations with the state and regional orthopaedic societies.

On behalf of all MOA members, the Association extends appreciation and thanks to Dr. Chiodo for his years of leadership, commitment and dedication to his colleagues through his role as an AAOS Councilor and we congratulate Dr. Kenneth Polivy and look forward to working with him during his tenure.

*Massachusetts Orthopaedic Association
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