

American College of Preventive Medicine

Policy Committee Report February 2006

Chair: Mark Johnson
Vice Chair: Chris Armstrong

Staff: Paul Bonta

Since reporting to the Board in September 2005, the ACPM Policy Committee and policy staff have focused on: (1) aggressively pursuing a legislative initiative to increase federal support for preventive medicine residency programs, (2) designing and activating the ACPM grassroots advocacy web site, (3) providing assistance to IOM staff in their charge to conduct a public health workforce study; (4) recruiting speakers for Preventive Medicine '06 sessions, (5) reviewing a ACPM Climate Change resolution; and (6) supporting a congressional briefing on the public health impacts of hurricanes Katrina and Rita organized by the Coalition on Health Funding.

Advocacy for Preventive Medicine Residency Training

In keeping with the ACPM strategic plan goal to strengthen funding for preventive medicine residency (PMR) training programs ACPM staff continue to pursue a targeted advocacy campaign aimed at advancing our legislative priority through the Congress. ACPM's focus has been on developing a long-range legislative strategy to establish a line-item in the federal discretionary budget devoted to PMR training. Since the September meeting, ACPM has secured draft Senate legislation for a stand-alone bill authorizing \$43 million for PMR training programs, purchased grassroots software that will allow ACPM members to contact their congressional representatives directly on behalf of ACPM, continued forging alliances with partners, and conducted numerous visits to Capitol Hill to meet with staff of targeted congressional members. On February 13, Dan Blumenthal, MD, MPH, Professor and Chairman of the Department of Community Health and Preventive Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine, and Paul Bonta will meet personally with Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-GA), to urge that he agree to be the original cosponsor, along with Sen. Tom Harkin (D-IA), on a bill authorizing \$43 million for PMR training programs. Clearly, Georgia is one of the states that would benefit most from a \$43 million line-item appropriation given that the state currently has three programs that train preventive medicine physicians, Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory School of Medicine, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

ACPM also continues to advocate for funding under HRSA's Title VII health professions education programs. The final FY 2006 appropriations bill signed by the President included a decrease of 12 % for public health, preventive medicine and dental public health programs, notwithstanding a 1.0 % across-the-board cut. Despite the decrease in funding, the PMR training programs within Title VII fared quite well when compared to the overall decrease of 50 % or more sustained by many other Title VII programs. ACPM has begun its advocacy for Title VII

funding for FY 2007, working with several health coalitions to advocate for the highest possible allocation in the Budget Resolution.

Activation of ACPM's Grassroots Advocacy Website

In order to generate grassroots support for ACPM's legislative agenda the College has invested in software that provides ACPM members with direct access to congressional offices through the ACPM web site. This will enable ACPM members to take direct and immediate action when responding to ACPM action alerts on legislative issues of interest to our community. The web site design is now complete and can be viewed at, www.capwiz.com/acpm/home. We expect to send out the first legislative alert on legislation authorizing \$43 million for PMR training programs in the very near future.

IOM Study on Public Health Workforce

Last summer the ACPM learned that Congress, in response to a targeted ACPM advocacy effort, directed the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to conduct a workforce study to determine what knowledge and skills are needed by public health physicians; what type of training program would prepare physicians for public health careers; how many training programs are needed to maintain an adequate public health physician workforce; and how these training programs should be funded.

ACPM staff have met with IOM officials charged with leading this effort and have established an open line of communication in an effort to provide assistance to the IOM as they embark on this study. Since the September meeting, Neal Kohatsu submitted a slate of nominees for IOM's consideration as they seek to form an IOM committee charged with the completion of this study. The ACPM nominated Drs. George Anderson, Mark Johnson, Arthur Frank, Hugh Tilson and Robert Wallace. To date, the IOM has not yet announced its selection of committee members.

Based on recent conversations between ACPM staff and IOM officials, the IOM is seeking additional funding beyond the \$500,000 appropriated by the Congress to complete this study. According to the IOM, the cost of completing a congressional report is \$1 million; however, they could possibly do it for a bit less but estimate at least \$800,000 is needed. The IOM has already approached the RWJ Foundation, WK Kellogg Foundation, the CDC and the AMA; yet, requests for additional funding have been unsuccessful. A small amount was provided by the AAMC (\$20,000) and plans are underway to contact Pfizer for funding. It remains uncertain how the IOM will respond if additional funds are not secured.

Preventive Medicine 2006 Session

The committee has assisted in organizing a plenary session at Preventive Medicine 2006 titled "Avian Flu and Flu Pandemic: How Big a Threat?." Dr. Gregory Gray, Director of the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases at the University of Iowa, will deliver the keynote address followed by a reactor panel that will respond with public health, military and industry perspective. The panelist speakers are: Josh Lipsman, MD, MPH, Commissioner of Health,

Westchester County (NY) Department of Health (public health practice perspective), James Neville, COL, USAF, MC, FS, Commander, Air Force Institute for Operational Health (military perspective), and Paul Antony, MD, MPH, Chief Medical Officer, PhRMA (industry perspective). Participants will gain a better understanding of the avian flu, who is at risk and the potential threat we face as a country.

ACPM Climate Change Resolution

A climate change resolution approved by the Prevention Practice Committee has been submitted to the Policy Committee for review and approval. The committee anticipates the successful review of this resolution and its subsequent referral to the Board of Regents for final consideration.

Congressional Briefing on Public Health Impact of Hurricanes

The ACPM co-sponsored a congressional briefing titled "Public Health 101: The Public Health Response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita -- Applying Lessons learned," organized by the Coalition for Health Funding. Speakers included Donald Williamson, MD, State Health Officer with the Alabama Department of Public Health, Russell Jones, PhD., Professor of Psychology at Virginia Tech University, and Gina Lagarde, MD, Medical Director of the Maternal and Child Health Program in Louisiana. The briefing was a resounding success with more than 90 congressional staff in attendance. The ACPM will follow up with those who attended the briefing with information on ACPM's legislative proposal aimed at establishing a dedicated line-item appropriation to PMR training programs.

Continuing / New Business

- See Attachment A for the ACPM policy compendium since the September Board meeting.

Attachment A
ACPM's policy compendium, September 2005 – February 2006

YEAR	NUMBER	TYPE	TITLE	SOURCE	EFFECTIVE
2004	050	H	Sign-on letter to House/Senate urging co-sponsorship of "STOP" Underage Drinking Prevention Act	National Alliance to Prevent Underage Drinking	10/04/2004
2004	051	H	Sign-on letter to House/Senate urging public health representation in US trade negotiations	Center for Policy Analysis on Trade and Health	10/29/2004
2004	052	F	ACPM position statement: Hospital Privileges for Preventive Medicine Physicians	ACPM Policy Committee	11/07/2004
2004	053	H	Sign-on letter to House L-HHS-E approp subcom urging support for the Senate mark for FY 2005 AHRQ funding	Friends of AHRQ	11/08/2004
2004	054	H	Sign-on letter to House/Senate L-HHS-E approp subcoms urging highest possible CDC appropriation for FY 2005	Research to Prevention	11/19/2004
2004	055	G	ACPM/ACOEM/AsMA/JCPMRD comments on proposed CEPH criteria revisions	ACPM GME Committee	11/15/2004
2004	056	X	Sunset Review: Recommended Actions for Expired ACPM Practice and Public Policy Statements (1996-1999)	ACPM Prevention Practice Committee	11/07/2004
2004	057	D	AMA Resolution: Patient Delivered Partner Therapy	AAPHP	11/07/2004
2004	058	C	ACPM Resolution: Allowing Non-Physician Members in ACPM	ACPM Ad Hoc Committee on Non-Physician Membership	11/07/2004
2004	059	C	ACPM Resolution: ACPM Medical Student Section	ACPM Finance Committee	11/07/2004
2004	060	C	ACPM Resolution: Administrative Home for Doctors Against Handgun Injury	ACPM Management	11/07/2004
2004	061	C	ACPM Resolution: New Goal for ACPM Strategic Plan	Bob Harmon, ACPM President	11/07/2004
NOT POLICY			ACPM Comments on the USPSTF draft, "Screening for Genital Herpes"	USPSTF	
2004	062	G	ACPM Comments to AAMC Title VII Reauthorization Committee	ACPM	12/09/2004
NOT POLICY			ACPM Comments on the USPSTF draft, "Screening for Childhood Overweight"	USPSTF	
2005	001	G	ACPM Comments on the Medicare proposed rule re: smoking cessation counseling coverage	ACPM	01/21/2005
2005	002	H	Sign-on letter to CMS re: Medicare's proposed smoking cessation counseling rule	Partners for Effective Tobacco Policy	01/21/2005
2005	003	H	Sign-on letter to President and Congress urging increased PH funding through Section 550 budget allocation	Coalition for Health Funding	02/01/2005

A = Practice Policy Statements; B = Public Policy Statements; C = ACPM Resolutions; D = AMA Resolutions; E = Coalition/Joint Statements; F = Position Statements; G = Written Comments; H = Endorsements and Sign-On Letters; I = Congressional Letters and Statements; J = Testimony and Quotations; K = Patient Education Statements; X = Internal

Attachment E

AMA Section Council on Preventive Medicine Letter to AMA Leadership

Year	Number	Type	Title	Source	Effective
2005	046	H	Support amicus brief with comments: DOJ v. Philip Morris	Tobacco Control Legal Consortium	08/24/2005
2005	047	C	ACPM resolution honoring Bill Kane and renaming the Rising Star Award the "William Kane Rising Star Award."	Douglas Scutchfield, MD, MPH, FACPM	09/05/2005
2005	048	H	AMA sign on letter to Speaker Hastert in support of National Health Museum Act, H.R. 3630	AMA	10/03/2005
2005	049	H	CDC Funding sign-on letter to Bush Administration		
2005	050	I	ACPM support letter to Sen. Bingaman for Team Nutrition Program	ACPM	09/22/2005
2005	051	H	Sign-on letter to President Bush in support of increased FY 2006 funding for CDC.	Campaign for Public Health	10/13/2005
2005	052	H	Sign-on letter to members of Congress in support of increased FY 2006 funding for the NIH	Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding	10/17/2005
2005	053	H	Sign-on letter to the President urging Admin. to send the FCTC treaty to the Senate for immediate ratification	Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids	10/17/2005
2005	054	H	Sign-on letter to Sen Harkin in support of "Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection" bill	National Alliance for Nutrition and Activity	10/17/2005
2005	055	H	Sign-on letter to EPA Administrator regarding the standard setting process for fine particulate matter.	American Thoracic Society	10/24/2005
2005	056	H	Sign-on letter to Rep Regula in support for increased NIH funding in L/HHS approps bill	Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research Funding	11/08/2005
2005	057	H	Sign-on letter to Reps Regula and Obey in support of increased funding for AHRQ in L/HHS approps bill	Friends of AHRQ	11/08/2005
2005	058	H	Sign-on letter to House members urging their support of Sen passed L/HHS funding and restore funding for health programs that have been zeroed out.	Coalition for Health Funding	12/05/2005

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2005	059	H	Sign-on letter to House L/HHS Approps Sub Comm members urging their support of Senate passed funding level for Title VII	HPNEC	12/09/2005
2005	060	H	Comments to FDA Re: Assessing Consumer Perceptions of Health Claims	Center for Science in the Public Interest	11/17/2005
2005	061	H	Sign-on letter to HHS Sec. Leavitt calling for reduction in sodium levels	Center for Science in the Public Interest	11/08/2005