

NEWSLETTER



Montana Academy of Family Physicians
2021 11th Avenue, Suite 1
Helena, MT 59601-4890

Phone: 406-443-4000
Fax: 406-443-4042
e-mail: linda@mnaoffice.com

Winter 2006

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From The President...

Happy 2006 from the Montana Academy of Family Physicians. They say that time goes faster as you get older and I am certainly finding this to be true; or maybe it's the two little people who now live in my house and the constant sleep deprivation. Whatever the case may be, I find that the years go quickly. Already it is February and the Big Mountain Medical Conference and winter MAFP board meeting are over for another year. I always enjoy getting together with friends and catching up on their families and practices.

The MAFP board continues to work hard to make family medicine in Montana better for all of us. This occurs on several levels. The board offers opportunities for members to attend national meetings. In May the Annual Leadership Forum and National Conference of Special Constituencies will be held in Kansas City. This is a great opportunity to get some additional training in leadership which can be applied to every aspect of your life. It is a very motivational, uplifting meeting and offers the chance to meet some of AAFP's national leaders face to face. The NCSC portion of the meeting offers a chance to be more involved in the policy making side of the AAFP (a very eye opening experience for those of us who are politically challenged!) Please see Rebecca Canner's article in this newsletter for more details on available positions.

The Montana Family Physician of the Year award is up and running. At the winter board meeting a recipient for the 2006 award was chosen. You'll have to show up at the summer meeting in June to find out who the winner is. A category has also been created for Lifetime Achievement Awards to honor individuals who have spent their careers making a difference for their patients and communities. If you have nominations for either of these categories please get them to any board member or to Linda Edquest in the MAFP office.

If you are interested in becoming more involved in the MAFP, an opportunity is on the horizon. In June at the annual meeting three more director positions will be added to the board (pending membership approval). Terms for this position are three years long but carry minimal obligation or responsibility other than contributing your ideas and opinions. If you are interested contact a board member or show up in Red Lodge and express your interest.

Finally, the 2006 annual summer meeting will be held in Red Lodge June 22-24 in conjunction with the 10 year anniversary of the Montana Family Medicine Residency program. As a graduate of the MFMR, I am very excited for this event. The residency faculty has been working hard to coordinate the CME and festive events for this meeting. Tom James' article later in this newsletter will give you more specifics. It promises to be a great meeting with opportunities for learning, meeting fellow Montana family docs and having some fun. Come for the CME and if you like what you see consider getting more involved.

See you in June!

Susan Gallo, MD

President, MAFP

Congress of Delegates 2005...

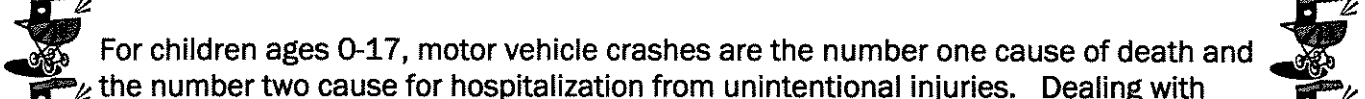
Last September, I was honored to again be part of the Montana Delegation to the 2005 AAFP Congress of Delegates in San Francisco. Heidi Duncan and I were the two Alternate Delegates. In addition to the obvious benefit of getting to visit San Francisco during the most beautiful time of year, the Congress of Delegates is always, for me, a whole lot of fun! I enjoy participating in the process: listening to testimony and following the course of various resolutions, meeting candidates for national offices and sharing my concerns with them, and generally just getting to meet and talk with a lot of really interesting and fun people.

It was especially exciting to see so many Delegates stand up in support of small chapters (like Montana) in opposing a proposal (which did not pass) to consider changing the Congress structure from 2 Delegates per chapter to one where each chapter would have a number of Delegates proportionate to their membership. I appreciate the privilege of being able to represent my colleagues from Montana at the National level and to help make sure all of our voices are heard.

Rebecca Canner, Alternate Delegate



Hospital "Grand Rounds" Tour Effort



For children ages 0-17, motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death and the number two cause for hospitalization from unintentional injuries. Dealing with child occupant injuries *and* helping patient families avoid them are key healthcare issues in 2006.

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies is leading a statewide effort to help healthcare professionals understand what an important part they can play as part of Montana's effort to ensure that children ride safely in motor vehicles. Presentations by guest speaker, Joseph M. Colella, at hospitals throughout the state, are being organized in weeklong tours. The first four tours are scheduled in February, March, May and June, and will include 25 hospitals.

Colella, recognized as a leading national expert on child occupant protection, is helping Montana provide the latest information to healthcare professionals. His interactive sessions will use research, crash-test videos, and demonstrations to provide practical information about what happens to children in motor vehicle collisions, how specialized safety equipment manages injury-producing energy, as well as, what restraint systems are optimal for children of various ages and why.

For more information about the tour schedule, call Patty Carrell at 406-449-8611.



Winter Big Mountain Medical Conference 2006...

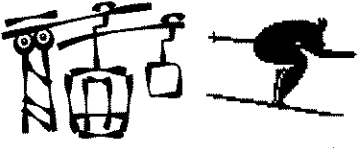


The 48th annual MAFP Big Mountain Medical Conference brought us together for education and fun again in Whitefish January 31st through February 3rd, 2006. Nearly 60 attendees as well as 16 speakers enjoyed the chance to escape the office and beef up on topics pertinent to our practice of medicine. A diverse range of topics in the fields of medicine, pediatrics, ortho/sports medicine, women's health care, dermatology, wound care, radiology, otolaryngology, urology served to focus our skills both cognitive and procedural. As it does for the summer conference, the steering committee, consisting of members of the board of the MAFP, worked hard in selecting topics of interest and importance to practicing FP's and in obtaining quality speakers from across the region.

We are indebted to our fellow family physicians who participated in teaching as well as our colleagues in the different specialties providing this valuable opportunity to learn. So a big Thank You from myself as the chair of the conference and for all those who attended and taught helping to make the conference a success. It was also a great time to meet old friends and catch up with each other while enjoying some fun in the snow. We had a record number of ski and snowboard racers this year vying for the gold, silver and bronze (not really) trophies. Always a fun time to see the faces of the children (and adults) light up when they receive their awards for the races. Who knows, maybe some aspiring racers will end up in Vancouver in 2010 for the next Olympics?

So plan on joining us next year January 30th through February 2nd, 2007 on the "hill" in Whitefish for the 49th annual Conference!

Jon Miller, MD, Course Chairman
First Vice-president MAFP



2006 Summer Meeting in Red Lodge

Mark your calendars and plan on attending the 56th Annual summer meeting of the MAFP which is being held June 22nd - 24th at the Rock Creek Resort in Red Lodge, Montana. An optional ALSO course is being offered prior to the conference on June 21st and concluding on the 22nd.

Our conference program committee has worked hard to arrange a variety of presentations ranging from Pediatric Pearls to Pain Management. 12 hours of CME are available. Larry Fields, MD, the current AAFP President, will be on hand at the business luncheon on Friday.

The conference schedule allows plenty of time for family fun in the beautiful area surrounding Red Lodge. We are planning group activities to include white water rafting, wine tasting (a big hit last year!), a kids activity, and of course, the annual golf tournament. Or you can head into Yellowstone over the scenic and beautiful Beartooth Highway. On Saturday night we will have the BBQ and officer installation and will present the award for the Montana Family Physician of the Year. Following the BBQ we will be having a party to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Montana Family Medicine Residency. Everyone is invited!

So plan on coming to Red Lodge this summer for some great CME and a good time with your family and colleagues from across the state. You should be receiving a conference brochure in the mail very soon or you can go on line to register at www.montanaafp.org.

See you there!

Tom James, MD Program Chair

WWAMI Academy Leaders Meeting with UWSOM Dean Paul Ramsey

September 9, 2005



The Washington and Montana Academies were represented at the annual meeting with the University of Washington School of Medicine Dean, Dr. Paul Ramsey. We talked about the Pipeline issues for our respective states, including the needs for more primary care physicians to graduate to supply both current shortages and future replacements for practicing family doctors. Dean Ramsey is keenly aware of these needs, and he has directed much effort toward changes that are expected to yield more doctors selecting primary care fields (General Pediatricians, General Internal Medicine, and Family Doctors). Drs. Al Berg, John Coombs, and Tom Norris are all very involved in different aspects of solving this supply problem.

For mentoring, the UWSOM has developed a College System, which places students into one of five Colleges, which allow for more input and collaboration with faculty interested in aiding students with physical examination skills, professionalism training and career counseling. Future considerations are a Primary Care Track, expansion of the class size at UWSOM, and selective increases in WWAMI sites.

The Medical School Admission Review Committee has produced a collaborative report which details several of the challenges and many of the changes needed to accomplish this transformation. The Dean supports this document and its goals.

Like other members of the 5 state group, Montana is not alone when experiencing difficulty recruiting new Family Physicians, but with regionalized training as WWAMI's focus, our own "pipeline" of talent rests in the new physicians coming from within our communities. As individual physicians feel the squeeze of a practice, time spent with high school and college students will yield handsome returns on efforts to find future partners and replacements family physicians.



Mike Strekall, MD Immediate Past President

News From The NCSC....

by Rebecca Canner



Last summer, I wrote an article about my participation in the National Conference of Special Constituencies and finished with a plea to members of the MAFP to consider going to either NCSC or ALF (Annual Leadership Forum) in Kansas City May 4-6 2006. Well, now is the time! When the Board meets at our winter meeting in February, we will be deciding who will go to represent Montana at these meetings. As I stated previously, it is often difficult to find a full delegation of members willing to go.

If you've ever had a desire to get a little more involved in the leadership activities of the academy, now is the time to act! Contrary to what some believe, this meeting is not just for current academy leaders or for "young physicians." Anyone who is a member of one of the "special constituencies" (Women, racial/ethnic Minorities, New physicians in practice less than 7 years, International medical graduates, and physicians sensitive to and supportive of issues relating to gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered physicians and their patients) is welcome to present themselves to be an official representative for that constituency. The MAFP has funding to pay travel expenses for a representative from each constituency to attend NCSC as well as for 2 representatives to attend ALF. This is a great opportunity to meet the AAFP leaders at the National level and to learn more about the process of writing and debating resolutions which will eventually end up at the Congress of Delegates.

If you would like to represent the MAFP at either of these meetings please contact Linda Edquest or one of the board members.



San Francisco Congress of Delegates...

The 2005 Congress of Delegates convened in San Francisco, CA September 26-28. Montana was well represented by our two Delegates, Mike Strekall, M.D. from Helena and Laura Bennett, M.D. from Lewistown. The Alternate Delegates were Rebecca Canner, M.D. from Bozeman, and me (Heidi Duncan from Billings.) We also usually send our president and a "member at large" with the intent of giving more people in our MAFP the chance to see the Congress of Delegates at work. This year, our president Sue Gallo, M.D. was due to have her baby the week of Congress, so could not make the trip. We sent Glenn Guzman, M.D. from Billings and Jeff Zavala, M.D. from Red Lodge as members at large. Dennis Salisbury, M.D. from Butte was also in San Francisco as part of the Committee for the Scientific Assembly, and joined us for our breakfast Montana caucuses where we discuss the issues and candidates for office to give our delegates some direction for voting.



I always find myself returning from the Congress reinvigorated about Family Medicine, and this year was no exception! There are always at least one or two "hot" issues that come up that generate quite a bit of discussion in the Reference Committees and/or the floor of the Congress. I appreciate hearing from Family Physicians from all over the country and territories, and gain an appreciation for the wide variety of work that Family Physicians do. Some of the big topics of discussion this year were:

Maintenance of Certification—much concern and input from the AAFP to the ABFM continues about process that the ABFM has put in place, and the challenges Academy members have encountered with the new certification process. The Board of Directors of the AAFP had a special board report specifically about the ongoing discussion between the two groups over the last year, and several chapters presented resolutions that reinforced members desire to see these discussions continue. Concerns were expressed about how the process was introduced, about the difficulties encountered with the SAMS (self-assessment modules), and about how letting certification lapse might affect individuals if they chose to do so.

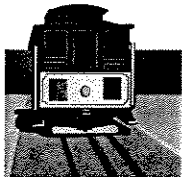
Proportional Representation—several of the large chapters introduced resolutions proposing that Congress move to a proportional representation system, modeled after the U.S. House of Representatives. The main argument for from the big chapters is to allow more of their members to participate in Congress. The downside is that the smaller chapters lose some of their "power" in that model. Ultimately, the Congress voted down proportional representation, and Congress will continue to be modeled more after the Senate where each chapter gets two votes. Interestingly, not all the big chapters supported this resolution.

The Future of Family Medicine—this project (available for review on the AAFP website, if you're not familiar with it) continues to generate discussion that crosses multiple areas of concern for all of us. The report advocates for many systemic changes to US healthcare, medical education and clinical practice. One of the main concepts of the report calls for the development of patient-centered care and the idea that each person needs a "medical home" to best meet and coordinate their health care needs. Family Medicine is an ideal specialty to meet this need.

Disaster Planning—with the hurricane season still quite fresh in everyone's minds, disaster preparation was a big topic. We heard heart-wrenching and heart-warming stories from physicians living in the disaster areas, and from those who went to help. Members called for the Academy to help develop education for members to better equip us to aide when disasters strike. The Academy already has a Basic Disaster Life Support course that was offered at the Scientific Assembly. We were also informed of the existence of Disaster Medical Assistance Teams for which physicians can volunteer.

Finally, the job of electing officers for the AAFP was once again impressive. I am inspired by the people who are out there practicing family medicine and who choose to devote time to lead the Academy. They are hard-working, well-spoken people who represent us well and give Family Medicine a good face. On the plane ride to San Francisco, I read an article in a women's magazine that quoted our Past President Mary Frank, M.D. Dr. Larry Fields was installed as the current president, and we elected Rick Kellerman, M.D from Kansas to the office of President-Elect. The new Directors are Brad Fedderly, M.D. from Wisconsin, Lori Heim, M.D. of Uniformed Services, and Robert Pallay, M.D. of New Jersey.

I encourage any of you who might be attending future Scientific Assemblies to consider stopping by the Congress of Delegates if you're in town a day or so early. Any member of the AAFP can visit, and it is invigorating to see fellow Family Physicians work to address issues that are important to us and our patients. I am proud that our Academy seeks to put our patients first, and wants to see quality health care for all.



By Heidi Duncan,
Alternate Delegate



FamMedPAC Report

Speaking with a **stronger** voice in Washington.

Mark Cribben

Director, FamMedPAC

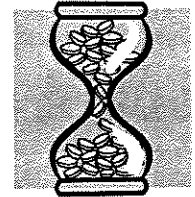
1-888-271-5853

mcribber@aafp.org

In 2005, the PAC raised the following amounts from these fundraising activities:

- Congress of Delegates PAC Booth \$40,455
- Assembly PAC Booth \$3,345
- October Membership-wide PAC Mailing \$16,435
- December Membership-wide Blast E-mail \$3,575

www.fammedpac.org



Message from the Chair

2005 saw our Academy enter a new era in its federal advocacy efforts with the formation of FamMedPAC. Your support helped us usher in this new era. Over 600 of your fellow AAFP members have contributed almost \$165,000 to FamMedPAC. This is a great beginning, but it is just that, only the beginning. The FamMedPAC Board is committed to increasing awareness about the PAC among AAFP members and in raising funds to enable FamMedPAC to have a major impact in this election and in future elections. To achieve those goals, we are planning to have a presence at as many AAFP meetings, regional chapter meetings, and state chapter meetings as we can. In addition, our PAC-specific fundraising efforts will continue as we educate every member of AAFP about the importance of political involvement. If you are interested in helping in this effort, let us know and we will get you PAC brochures, contribution forms, power-point presentations or whatever you need to help promote FamMedPAC.

This is the first FamMedPAC newsletter and will let you know about how the PAC did in 2005 and what we are planning for 2006. We will send you this information each quarter through the coming year to keep you informed of our activities.

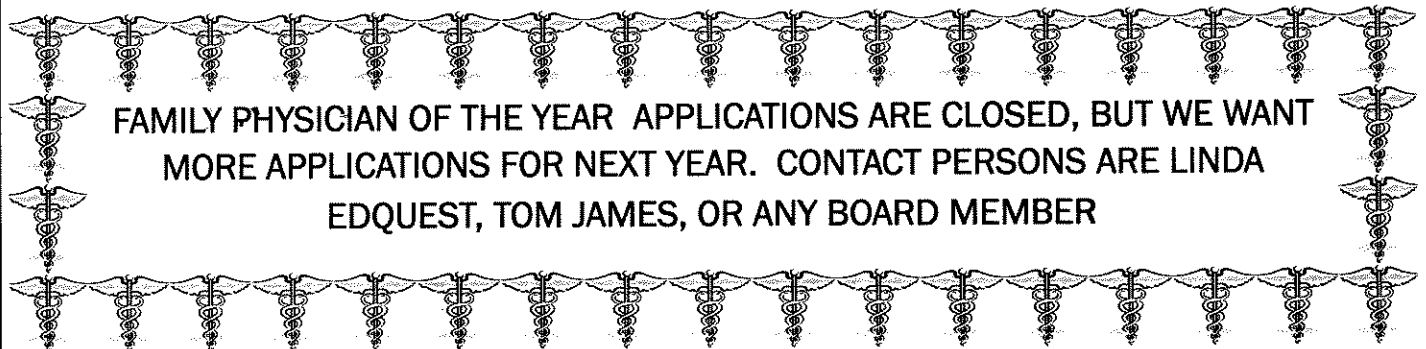
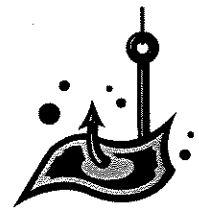
Thank you for your continued support of FamMedPAC. I look forward to working with you now and in the future as we fight to promote and preserve the practice of family medicine.

Sincerely,

Michael Fleming, MD

2005 Fundraising Totals

For 2005, a total of 595 AAFP members contributed \$155,011 to the PAC. The average contribution amount is \$261.



FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR APPLICATIONS ARE CLOSED, BUT WE WANT MORE APPLICATIONS FOR NEXT YEAR. CONTACT PERSONS ARE LINDA EDQUEST, TOM JAMES, OR ANY BOARD MEMBER



CHIP teams up with providers to insure more kids!



Every day, health care providers treat children who do not have health insurance. In Montana, about 17 percent, or more than 40,000 kids do not have health insurance.

Health care providers are in a unique position to help these families by telling parents about the Children's Health Insurance Plan or CHIP. This program provides free or low-cost health insurance for children who do not qualify for Medicaid and do not have other health insurance.

Recent legislation increased CHIP funding and opened up thousands of slots in this popular program. CHIP's goal is to increase enrollment by 2,000 children in 2006. There is no current waiting list.

Over 30 Montana hospitals, community health centers, and doctors' offices are helping to insure more children by distributing CHIP information to families in their local communities. CHIP provides all the materials, including brochure display stands.

Many parents do not realize their children may be eligible for CHIP. It is estimated that more than 15,000 children in Montana meet the CHIP eligibility guidelines.

CHIP has a new, shorter, and easier-to-complete application form. There is minimal paperwork involved as proof of income is not required at the time of application (but may be requested later).

The easiest way for families to apply for coverage is to visit the CHIP website at www.chip.mt.gov. Parents can complete the application on their computer or quickly and easily download an application form to mail or fax to CHIP.

Applications are also available at local public health departments, Offices of Public Assistance, community health centers, Head Start locations, Indian Health Services and Tribal Clinics, and at participating health care facilities. Applications can be requested by e-mail at chip@mt.gov or by calling CHIP toll-free at 1-877-KidsNow (1-877-543-7669).

Health care providers interested in receiving CHIP applications, brochures, display stands, and posters for their offices should call Michael Mahoney, CHIP Community Relations Manager at 406-444-7877 or toll-free at 1-877-543-7669.

INCOME GUIDELINES FOR CHIP*

(EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2006)

Family size (including adults)	Family annual income (approximately)
2	\$19,800
3	\$24,900
4	\$30,000
5	\$35,100
6	\$40,200
7	\$45,300
8	\$50,400

Some employment-related deductions apply.

These are 2006 guidelines. After 2006, income guidelines may be higher.

* If a child qualifies for Medicaid, health insurance will be provided by Medicaid.

The Montana Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics is concerned about the inconsistent approach to choice of newborn screening tests, with some hospitals mandating as few as 4 and some recommending 38 (and various numbers in between). They are also concerned that our statewide program which provides follow up to newborns with positive test results is incomplete.

At the annual MT/AAP meeting in October 2005, the members drafted a recommendation as follows:

"That all hospitals and birthing centers in Montana offer uniform newborn screening tests, mandated by state rule, per the national American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines; and that funds generated by the newborn screening program be directed to a comprehensive statewide program to include family counseling and the appropriate medical care of the child."

Marian Kummer, MD, FAAP, President of the Montana Chapter, AAP, is participating in a process initiated by the Family and Community Health Bureau, DPHHS to evaluate the current newborn screening program. She would welcome comments and suggestions by the Family Practice Physicians in Montana. Contact her at mekummer@hotmail.com or 406-238-6600 (work).

Jan Donaldson, RN, BSN
Executive Director, MT Chapter
American Academy of Pediatrics

7575 Priest Pass Rd. Helena, MT 59601
406-443-5006 sweenycrik@aol.com
E-fax: 928-447-7713 (receive only)



**56th Annual Meeting of the Montana
Academy of Family Physicians
Rock Creek Resort, Red Lodge, MT
June 22nd—24th, 2006**

This program has been reviewed and is acceptable for 14 Prescribed hours by the AAFP. AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the AMA as equivalent to AMA/PRA Category 1 for the Physicians Recognition Award. (When applying for the AMA/PRA, Prescribed hours earned must be reported as Prescribed hours, not as Category 1).

**Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics
Program**

**Rock Creek Resort, Red Lodge
June 21– 22, 2006**

This program has been reviewed and is acceptable for 16 Prescribed hours by the AAFP. AAFP Prescribed credit is accepted by the AMA as equivalent to AMA/PRA Category 1 for the Physicians Recognition Award. (When applying for the AMA/PRA, Prescribed hours earned must be reported as Prescribed hours, not as Category 1).

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Phone: 406-443-4000
Fax: 406-443-4042
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Mission Statement

As the representative of Family Medicine and Family Physicians in Montana, the Montana Academy of Family Physicians:

Promotes Family Medicine;

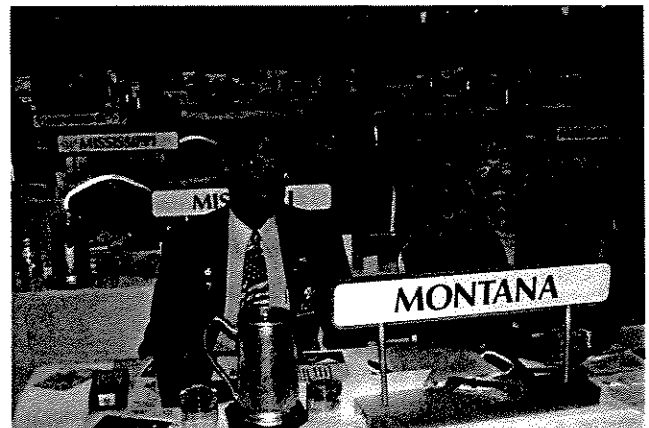
Provides education for Family Physicians;

Represents the personal and professional interests of Family Physicians, and;

Is the guiding force for quality primary care in Montana

Congress of Delegates—2005– San Francisco

Delegates Mike and Laura getting ready for the work at hand



Alternate Delegates Rebecca and Heidi always handy and ready for work.

Mike and Jeff hardly working but enjoying a break

