



**NEW JERSEY CHAPTER  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS**

# **NEWSLETTER**

Volume 1; Issue 2

Summer, 2009

# **58TH ANNUAL CLINICAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY**

**DECEMBER 5, 2009**

**7:45 A.M.—5:30 P.M.**

**RENAISSANCE WOODBRIDGE  
HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER**

**Route One South, Iselin**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Colleagues:

Well the “hazy, lazy” days of summer are unfortunately coming to an end. But I can assure you that these have been anything but “lazy” for the leadership of the Chapter. We have had continuous meetings at the national and state level to guarantee you representation on many significant issues. The most important issue addressing Congress right now is the new health care initiative advanced by the President. We have been relentless in making sure your voices are heard. We are stressing that a tort reform parameter has to be part of this plan. Also, although we are delighted that the SGR (Sustained Growth Rate) will be deleted in the way Medicare reimbursement will be calculated, nevertheless, we feel this is a pittance compared to our ability to balance bill on any new “public option” insurance plan if a provider decides to “opt” out of participation.

On the state level, I have chaired a committee with Senator Jennifer Beck from Monmouth County who has drafted tort reform legislation. The bill will hopefully be posted this year. Details of this bill will be published shortly and I am confident it will address many of your previous concerns. I want to formally thank Drs. Carniol, Fletcher, Goldfarb, Moritz and Scott for their tireless efforts in moving this project forward.

We are currently putting the final touches on the program for our annual meeting in December. Dr. Paul Carniol is optimistic about a truly interesting and productive conference. Pursuant to suggestions from you, this year in lieu of the General Surgical Session, Dr. Michael Goldfarb is initiating a “Job Fair” for all surgical specialties. This will be an opportunity for surgeons looking to hire an associate to meet with prospective

residents and young surgeons from the tri-state area. We are extremely excited about this new endeavor.

On the state level again, The Society of Surgeons of New Jersey is hosting a meeting to also address the issue of universal health care as it pertains to our state. I have invited Senators Joseph Vitale and Jennifer Beck to discuss the issues. The meeting is scheduled for the evening of October 7 at The Manor Restaurant in West Orange. Seating is limited so please RSVP directly to Ms. Linda Bartolo (NJ Society of Surgeons, 26 Eastmans Road, Parsippany, NJ 07054) as soon as possible to confirm your attendance. There is no charge for NJSOS members. The cost for spouses and or guests is \$50.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the retirement of Dr. John (Jack) Donahue from his position as our surgical liaison to the Medical Society of New Jersey. He has held that position for almost a dozen (12) years. Equally important, he has been involved in the leadership of our society/chapter for over twenty (20) years. After being on the Council for six (6) years, he progressed appropriately up the executive ladder to finally being President in 1998. His leadership was always outstanding and many of us are grateful for his mentoring and sagacity. He was an outstanding asset to our Chapter. Besides wishing him well, I want to thank him one last time.

Obviously, we are continuously attempting to address and satisfy all your concerns. We would appreciate your input at [njsurgeons@aol.com](mailto:njsurgeons@aol.com) or [lewiswetstein@yahoo.com](mailto:lewiswetstein@yahoo.com). I look forward to hearing from you or seeing you in December.

Sincerely,  
Lewis Wetstein, M.D.  
President

## MEDAC

MedAC is the political arm of the Medical Society of New Jersey. MedAC advocates on behalf of physicians on issues that directly effect them. It is important to keep MedAC strong. MedAC's purpose is to help elect legislators, regardless of party affiliation, who are concerned about physicians and their patients. We need your help to maintain medicine's power at the healthcare bargaining table. Monies donated to MedAC are used for state legislators.

Please consider making a contribution to MedAC and be part of the solution. MedAC contributions (\$150) can be written on either a corporate or personal check. A donation in the amount of \$1,000 is required to be included in the Capital Club. Please mail your checks to the Chapter office, 51 Elm Street, #A7, Morristown, NJ 07960 or use the form found on page 6.



**Lewis Wetstein, M.D.**

## CLINICAL MEETING SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS

### Morning Session, 9:00am to 12 Noon

Bariatric Surgery  
Ophthalmology  
Otolaryngology  
Residents & Young Physicians  
Urologic Surgery  
Vascular Surgery

### Moderator

Michael Nussbaum, M.D.  
Michael Spedick, M.D.  
Gabriel Wong, M.D.  
Ronald Chamberlain, M.D.  
Louis Galdieri, M.D.  
Mark Moritz, M.D.

## BUSINESS MEETING , SHEEN AWARD & LUNCH

12:00 pm to 2:00 pm  
Lewis Wetstein, M.D., President

### Thomas Sheen Award and Lunch Speaker

J. Larry Jameson, M.D., PhD.

“Genetics in Clinical Medicine: Hype vs. Reality”

### Afternoon Session, 2:00 pm-5:00pm

Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Colorectal Surgery  
Job Fair  
Neurosurgery  
Oncology/Breast Surgery  
Plastic Surgery  
Trauma Surgery

### Moderator

Mark Widmann, M.D.  
Michael Arevanitis, M.D.  
Michael Goldfarb, M.D.  
Luis Cervantes, M.D.  
Aaron Chevinsky, M.D.  
Gary Smotrich, M.D.  
Felix Garcia, M.D.

### NEW JERSEY CHAPTER, AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

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#### 2009 Chapter Officers

President.....Lewis Wetstein, M.D.  
President-Elect.....Paul J. Carniol, M.D.  
Vice-President.....Frank T. Padberg, Jr. M.D.  
Secretary.....Fred Weber, M.D.  
Treasurer.....Ronald S. Chamberlain, M.D.  
Executive Director.....Andrea Donelan  
Immediate Past President.....Mark W. Mortiz, M.D.

#### Chapter Councilors

Steven E. Ross, M.D.	Cherry Hill
Jeffrey S. Hammond, M.D.	New Brunswick
Stephen F. Lowry, M.D.	New Brunswick
James N. Gardner, M.D.	Summit
Jordon M. Garrison, M.D.	Florham Park

#### Chapter Councilors Continued

Frank C. Koniges, M.D.	Camden
Howard M. Berger, M.D.	Toms River
Stanley Z. Trooskin, M.D.	New Brunswick
Richard J. Scott, M.D.	Little Silver
Leonard Galler, M.D.	Somers Point
Felix Garcia, M.D.	Neptune
Frank Ehrlich, M.D.	Montclair
Michael A. Goldfarb, M.D.	Long Branch
Stephen J. Pilipshen, M.D.	Moorestown
Henry Davison, Jr. M.D.	Princeton
Louis Galdieri, M.D.	West Orange
Michael Nussbaum, M.D.	Livingston

## STATEMENT FROM THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS REGARDING RECENT COMMENTS FROM PRESIDENT OBAMA

CHICAGO, August 13, 2009

The American College of Surgeons is deeply disturbed over the uninformed public comments President Obama continues to make about the high-quality care provided by surgeons in the United States. When the President makes statements that are incorrect or not based in fact, we think he does a disservice to the American people at a time when they want clear, understandable facts about health care reform. We want to set the record straight.

- Yesterday during a town hall meeting, President Obama got his facts completely wrong. He stated that a surgeon gets paid \$50,000 for a leg amputation when, in fact, Medicare pays a surgeon between \$740 and \$1,140 for a leg amputation. This payment also includes the evaluation of the patient on the day of the operation plus patient follow-up care that is provided for 90 days after the operation. Private insurers pay some variation of the Medicare reimbursement for this service.

- Three weeks ago, the President suggested that a surgeon's decision to remove a child's tonsils is based on the desire to make a lot of money. That remark was ill-informed and dangerous, and we were dismayed by this characterization of the work surgeons do. Surgeons make decisions about recommending operations based on what's right for the patient.

We agree with the President that the best thing for patients with diabetes is to manage the disease proactively to avoid the bad consequences that can occur, including blindness, stroke, and amputation. But as is the case for a person who has been treated for cancer and still needs to have a tumor removed, or a person who is in a terrible car crash and needs access to a trauma surgeon, there are times when even a perfectly managed diabetic patient needs a surgeon. The President's remarks are truly alarming and run the risk of damaging the all-important trust between surgeons and their patients.

We assume that the President made these mistakes unintentionally, but we would urge him to have his facts correct before making another inflammatory and incorrect statement about surgeons and surgical care.

### About the American College of Surgeons

The American College of Surgeons is a scientific and educational organization of surgeons that was founded in 1913 to raise the standards of surgical practice and to improve the care of the surgical patient. The College is dedicated to the ethical and competent practice of surgery. Its achievements have significantly influenced the course of scientific surgery in America and have established it as an important advocate for all surgical patients. The College has more than 74,000 members and is the largest organization of surgeons in the world.

## ANNUAL MEETING RSVP DECEMBER 5, 2009

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, I am attending the **58th Annual Clinical Meeting**. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$70.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the Morning Session

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the Afternoon Session

\_\_\_\_\_ I will attend the Sheen Award Luncheon

**Mail with check to  
New Jersey Chapter, American College of Surgeons  
51 Elm Street, Suite #A7, Morristown, NJ 07960**

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

**S2550/A3799** (Weinberg, Codey & Conaway). Permits physicians to issue multiple prescriptions for a total of up to a 90 day supply of Schedule II drugs. Awaiting Governor Corzine's signature.

**S-2471/A3633** (Vitale & Conaway) Requires DHSS to report certain patient safety indicators on a hospital by hospital basis and prohibits hospitals from charging for certain medical errors. Awaiting Governor Corzine's signature.

**S114/A132** (Weinberg & Huttle). Requires managed care plans to pay health care claims on assignment of benefits directly to the physician.

**S565/A2029** (Sweeney & Watson-Coleman). Permits revised methods of treatment for chiropractors and establishes continuing education requirements.



### RED FLAG RULES EXTENDED AGAIN

In 2003, Congress enacted the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act (FACTA). Pursuant to FACTA the FTC issued what have become known as the "Red Flag Rules."

**The Red Flag rules take effect November 1, 2009** and physicians who extend credit to their patients are required to comply. Does that include your practice? It does if your practice **DOES NOT** require payment in full from all patients at the time of service.

Chapter members can obtain a "Red Flag" model template from the Chapter office.

### MEETING SCHEDULE

The Executive Committee meetings are as follows:

**Wednesday, September 9, 3:00 p.m.**  
at The Prospect House, Princeton University, Nassau Street, Princeton. Dinner to follow at 6:00 p.m., spouses and guests are invited. Cost for spouses/guests is \$75. Should you have any questions, please call the Chapter office.

### DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT ADDRESS?

Are we sending your mail to the correct address? Have you moved recently? Please notify the Chapter office of any changes in your address, telephone number, fax number or e-mail address.

### CHAPTER ADDRESS CHANGE

The Chapter office moved on January 1, 2009. Our new address and telephone number is: 51 Elm Street, Suite #A7, Morristown, NJ 07960; (973) 539-4000; FAX: (973) 539-9493; E-mail: [njsurgeons@aol.com](mailto:njsurgeons@aol.com).

### REMINDER

The following certificates are required to practice medicine in New Jersey.

**NJ State BME**  
**Mr. William Roeder**  
Executive Director  
P.O.Box 183  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0183  
**(609) 826-7100**

**CDS Registration**  
Susan Gartland, Chief Drug  
Control  
Department of L& P Safety  
P.O. Box 45022, 124 Halsey  
Street, 7th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07101  
**(973) 504-6545**

**County Clerk Registration  
Certificate**  
NJ SBME regulation 45:9.17  
requires that you register your  
license with the County Clerk in  
the County in which you reside.

**Drug Enforcement  
Administration**  
80 Mulberry Street  
Newark, NJ 07102  
**(973) 273-5063**  
**FAX: (973) 297-4842**  
**(800) 882-9539**  
**[www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov)**



2 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648  
PHONE: 609.896.1766 ext. 245; E-MAIL: [lhibbs@msnj.org](mailto:lhibbs@msnj.org)  
for more information please visit [www.msnj.org](http://www.msnj.org)

## 2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM

<b>Participation Levels:</b> <b>(Please check one)</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>President's Club</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Capitol Club Elite</b>	<b>\$2,500.00</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Capitol Club Executive</b>	<b>\$1,750.00</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Capitol Club</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>500 Club</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Legislative Club</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Other Amount</b>	_____

**I'd like to contribute to MedAC with a personal or corporate check (circle one):**

Please make your **CORPORATE OR PERSONAL CHECK** payable to MedAC and send to MedAC, 2 Princess Road, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

**I'd like to contribute to MedAC using a CREDIT CARD:**

***I'd like to pay my membership dues by credit card (please circle corporate or personal):***

Please fill in the amount paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Card type:  VISA  MasterCard  AMEX Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Cardholders Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternate Payment Option for credit card payments only:**

Bill my credit card in equal installments for the remainder of 2009 \_\_\_\_\_  
*(initial here)*

*The New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission requires us to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer of contributors whose contributions exceed \$300 in a calendar year.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (work): \_\_\_\_\_ Fax (work): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address City State ZIP

*If you are sending a check from a partnership entity or from a limited liability entity, please provide written instructions concerning the allocation of the contribution amount to a contributing partner(s) or member(s); a signed acknowledgment of the contribution from each contributing partner or member who has not signed the contribution check or other written instrument; and, contributor information for each contributing partner or member. One hundred dollars of each contribution exceeding \$200.00 will be forwarded to AMPAC for use in federal elections.*

Contributions to MedAC/AMPAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Funds from corporations given to AMPAC will be used for political education activities where allowed. Contributions are not limited to suggested amounts. Neither the MSNJ nor the AMA will favor or disadvantage anyone based upon the amounts of or failure to make PAC contributions. Voluntary political contributions are subject to limitations of FEC regulations Section 110.1, 110.2 and 110.5 (Federal regulations require this notice.)

## COLONEL WETSTEIN RETIRED FROM AIR NATIONAL GUARD

After 33 years in the Active Air Force Reserve, Dr. Lewis Wetstein retired at the rank of Colonel on July 11, 2009. At the time of his retirement, Dr. Wetstein was the Chief Flight Surgeon and State Air Surgeon for the New Jersey Air National Guard. He was previously Commander for ten years. A retirement dinner was hosted in his honor at McGuire Air Force Base.

Dr. Wetstein entered the Air Force in 1976 and served as General Medical Officer, Governors' Island until 1980. He was promoted to Major in 1983, Lieutenant in 1990 and Colonel on May 1, 1995.

Dr. Wetstein has received the Meritorious Service Medal; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with three oak leaf clusters; National Defense Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster; Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with five oak leaf clusters and the Air Force Training Ribbon. He was activated during Dessert Storm. Upon retirement Col Wetstein received the Legion of Merit Award.

We thank Dr. Wetstein for his long and distinguished service to our Nation.



Airman 1C Berish Wetstein and Retired Colonel Lewis Wetstein at his retirement dinner, July 11, 2009

## SPONSORSHIP FOR ANNUAL CLINICAL MEETING

The Chapter is seeking sponsorship for the annual clinical meeting. Do you know a drug representative or a supplier who might be interested in having a sponsorship booth at the Annual Clinical Meeting? We hosted over 20 sponsors last year and each company was pleased with the attendance of over 300 surgeons from throughout New Jersey. The sponsors help defray the cost of the meeting to our membership. Copy the following form and please ask your pharmaceutical and other suppliers to sponsor a table at the annual meeting. There are several sponsorship options available.

### Sponsorship Opportunities

**Gold Sponsor – Contribution of \$3,500**

*Credit for sponsoring all meal functions and AV support. Gold sponsors will be given NJ-ACS website home page recognition and a link to their own website for one year. Acknowledgement of this level will appear in promotional materials, on site signage, and post-meeting communications. Gold sponsors also enjoy all the benefits of Bronze Sponsors (see below) and 4 representatives.*

**Silver Sponsor – Contribution of \$2,500**

*Credit for sponsoring the membership luncheon. Silver sponsors will be given NJ-ACS website home page recognition and a link to their own website for one year. Acknowledgement of this level will appear in promotional materials, on site signage, and post-meeting communications. Silver sponsors also enjoy all the benefits of Bronze Sponsors (see below) and 3 representatives.*

**Bronze Sponsor – Contribution of \$1,500**

- Bronze sponsors will enjoy the following benefits and privileges for 2 representatives:
- One 6' draped table display area and chairs
- Access to an electrical outlet
- Continental breakfast, morning break and luncheon
- Badges for company representatives
- Registration list of conference attendees

The exhibit hall will be open from 7:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

**FEDERAL TAX ID #22-6064585**

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Company Website \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to New Jersey Chapter,  
American College of Surgeons  
Mail to 51 Elm Street, Suite #A7, Morristown, NJ 07960  
Questions: Please call (973) 539-4000  
FAX: (973) 539-9493**



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