



Delaware Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons

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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER WINTER 2009

Presidents Message By: Paul C. Kupcha, MD



President Paul C. Kupcha, MD

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Delaware Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons quarterly newsletter. 2008 proved to be a pivotal year for DSOS due in large part to the success of the First Annual Delaware Orthopaedic Symposium. I want to thank Dr. Brian Galinat and Dr. Randeep Kahlon for putting together such an exceptional event. The Orthopaedic Symposium positioned the spotlight on DSOS giving the

Society valuable exposure that will open many doors for future endeavors.

As we begin a new year we are faced with new challenges and opportunities. Changes in orthopaedic care in the state of Delaware are currently being decided by legislature, insurance companies, and hospital administrators. It is vital that as orthopaedists we remain vigilant. I encourage you to elevate your level of activism in the upcoming

year. I am very appreciative of your participation in the Delaware Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons and encourage you to contact me with any issues, thoughts, or concerns.

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“1st Annual Delaware Orthopaedic Symposium” Features Dr. Joseph Zuckerman



The First-Vice President of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), Joseph Zuckerman, MD was a featured keynote speaker at the “1st Annual Delaware Orthopaedic Symposium” held on Saturday, November 1, 2008. Dr. Zuckerman gave a

thoughtful presentation entitled “The Future of Medicine : Challenges and Opportunities” to a group of over 150 medical professionals including orthopaedic surgeons, primary care physicians, physician assistants, nurses, and physical therapists. The Orthopaedic Symposium marked Dr. Zuckerman’s first trip to Delaware to speak at a DSOS event. Dr. Joseph Zuckerman will assume the role of President of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons at the AAOS Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, NV on Thursday February 26, 2009.

The Orthopaedic Symposium brought together an exceptional group of physicians eager to share their expertise with the local community of medical professionals.

The feedback received from Symposium participants was overwhelmingly positive, most noting their enthusiasm and interest in the “2nd Annual Delaware Orthopaedic Symposium” planned for 2009.



Orthopaedic Symposium Speakers Pictured Above (Top row from L-R: James B. Talmage, MD; Elliott H. Leitman, MD; Charles A. Steele, MD; Michael J. Axe MD; Brian J. Galinat, MD; Douglas A. Palma, MD; David Sohn, MD; Joseph Verneae, MD

Bottom Row from L-R: Randeep S. Kahlon, MD; John D. Kelly, MD; Joseph Zuckerman, MD; Eric T. Johnson, MD; William Hozack, MD. Not pictured Paul C. Kupcha, MD and Bruce J. Rudin, MD

Membership Update

The Delaware Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons seeks to unite orthopaedic surgeons from around the state in promoting information to our members, policymakers, and the public about issues that affect the orthopaedists' ability to provide timely and top quality musculoskeletal health care services to their patients

The Delaware Society of Orthopaedic Surgeons welcomes the following new members:

Damian Andisani, MD

Drew Brady, MD

Matthew Harding MD

James Rubano, MD

David Slocoff, MD

If you know of someone who is not currently a member and is interested in joining DSOS please contact the DSOS Office by telephone at (302) 335.1560 or email at Meaghan@managetool.com

CMS Releases Issues Paper on Value-Based Purchasing, Senators Plan Introduction of Bill

The U. S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released an "issue paper" to help frame the debate on transitioning Medicare physicians and other healthcare professionals to a value-based purchasing (VBP) program. Value-based purchasing is a concept where buyers hold providers of health care accountable for the quality and cost of care. The paper outlines a draft proposal for the value-based system, including objectives and design principles, in order to promote evidence-based medicine through measurement, public reporting and financial incentives. Other objectives include reducing waste in the system, encouraging effective management of chronic disease, and

accelerating the adoption of health information technology. The paper served as a discussion piece at a public meeting held on December 9, 2008. Additionally, Senators Max Baucus (D-MT) and Charles Grassley (R-IA) announced their intentions to introduce a bill into Senate that would require CMS to implement a VBP program for hospitals beginning in the fiscal year (FY) 2012.

The incentive bonus would be financed by reducing all hospitals' payments by two percent to create a bonus pool. That bonus pool would then be redistributed to the highest performing and greatest improving hospitals based on performance scores. Performance scores would be based on measures from the already existing hospital

quality reporting program. The bill would require CMS to include measures for acute myocardial infarction, heart failure, pneumonia, and surgery. A performance score will be calculated based on the higher of a hospital's "level of achievement" or "level of improvement".

Senate staff stated their intention to introduce the VBP bill by the end of 2008 before the adjournment of the 110th Congress. The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons will continue to work with CMS and Congress to ensure that value-based purchasing programs are implemented efficiently and that performance measures reflect true quality care for orthopaedic patients.

(reprinted with permission from the December 2008 issue of AAOS in the States)

Debut of the New DSOS Website

The American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, in their ongoing outreach effort to state orthopaedic societies, have provided DSOS with the means to create a website. The website, which can be found at www.statesociety.org/delaware will contain such information as how to join DSOS, upcoming meeting information, news, advocacy and legislative information, as well as provide information to the public on the role of orthopaedics in the health care arena.

Members are encouraged to check the website frequently for new and updated information as it becomes available. If you have information you would like to include as part of the website, please contact the DSOS Office at (302) 335-1560.

CMS Issues Final Rule on 2009 Physician Fee Schedule

Under a final rule issued by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Medicare payments have increased 1.1 percent effective January 1, 2009. The update is based on a provision included in the "Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008" (MIPPA) which halted a 10.6 percent pay cut scheduled for July 1, 2008. The final rule also establishes a new incentive program for eligible providers who adopt and use qualified electronic e-prescribing systems to transmit prescriptions to pharmacies. Physicians who successfully report under the new e-prescribing program and the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative could receive an overall payment boost of up to 5.1. percent in 2009.

This is your newsletter!

Please forward your comments and/or information for inclusion in upcoming issues to Paul Kupcha, MD at inthekup@comcast.net or Meaghan Jerman at Meaghan@managetool.com