

President's Message by Steven Siegel, MD



Steven Siegel, MD

Dear NCS Members and Guests,

Welcome to our 2010 annual meeting! We have worked very hard to make it a worthwhile and memorable one. Please study the academic program. As you will see, it is stellar, with contributions from many of our Section's best and brightest, both up-and-coming and tried-and-true. Our invited speakers, including Shlomo Raz, Jay Smith, Neil Baum, Ann Gormley, Sushil Lacy and Steve Wilson, will bring added depth and perspective. The social program, taking advantage of Chicago's fantastic backdrop, has been crafted with care to balance and complement the daily sessions, and bring our members and guests together in the way that always makes our NCS event particularly special. It has been my pleasure and a great honor participating as your president, and to have an opportunity to work with an

extremely dedicated and talented group of individuals who are serving our Section's interests. I am in debt to our entire board, especially its super-organized and experienced Secretary, Howard Winfield, savvy Social Arrangements Chairs Tamra and Todd Lewis, Wendy Weiser and her wonderful staff, and of course, my life's greatest companion, Carrie Siegel. Only you could make it better! Please come, learn and enjoy!

Secretary's Report

by Howard N. Winfield, MD



Howard N. Winfield, MD

It is hoped that everyone is enjoying a healthy and enjoyable summer and getting ready for the 84th Annual Meeting of the North Central Section, which is expected to be better than ever. The meeting will be held September 29 – October 2, 2010 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers.

We received over 325 excellent abstract submissions this year making the selection process very difficult for the Program Committee. This attests to the robust clinical and academic productivity of both the NCS residency programs as well as the private practice sector. State-of-the-art lectures, panel sessions, debates and early morning breakfast courses will cover many of the exciting as well as controversial areas of urology. The NCS is blessed with a vast number of talented and nationally-recognized leaders who will be contributors to all these program events.

We are most fortunate to have six renowned invited guest speakers who will cover a wide range of subjects. As is traditionally the NCS president's choice, Dr. Shlomo Raz from UCLA will be our Honorary Guest Speaker. Dr. Raz is internationally recognized for his pioneering work in the area of female urology and incontinence. He will give three plenary lectures. Dr. Joseph Smith of Vanderbilt University is internationally renowned for his work in oncology and, most recently, robotic surgery. He brings a very clear and pragmatic approach to all his lectures.

Other guest speakers will include Dr. Steve Wilson from the Institute for Urologic Excellence who is a leader in the use of prosthetics in urology and Dr. E. Ann Gormley from Dartmouth University who is also an international expert on male and female urinary incontinence. Invited speaker Dr.

2010
Pre-Convention
News

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Sushil Lacy, AUA president-elect, will give a report from the AUA and Dr. Neil Baum of New Orleans will give us a unique understanding of “managing your clinical practice” as well as his viewpoint of various aspects of healthcare reform.

A clear understanding of healthcare reform is critical for all members of the NCS. This year, with the assistance of Dr. Herb Reimenschneider, our NCS representative to the AUA Health Policy Council, we will have the honor of having Congressman Phil Roe, MD, speak on healthcare reform and join in on a lively panel session. This event will take place on Friday, October 1st beginning at 1:10 p.m.

Due to the generosity of the AUA Office of Education, we will again be offering one of the most popular AUA Courses entitled “**Update on Cancer – Related AUA Publications: Preparing for Certification/Recertification.**” This course will be directed by Dr. Sam Chang of Vanderbilt University and offered on Wednesday, September 29th beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Also unique this year will be **Live Surgical Demonstrations** at Northwestern University, organized by Dr. Chris Gonzalez. After the AUA Course, as described above, attendees will be offered a medical education luncheon and then bused over to Northwestern University to view two exciting, simultaneously-run surgeries. The selected cases currently are robotic assisted radical prostatectomy, and open urethroplasty. This will be occurring from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday afternoon.

Due to popular demand, the **Young Urologist Symposium** will be held on Friday, October 1st from 10:05 a.m. – 11:35 a.m. The chair of the committee, Dr. James Ulchaker, has again organized an exciting session entitled “**Job Hunt and What to be Looking For.**”

Saturday morning, October 2nd will have a full program finishing again with a two-round, fast-moving **Resident GU Quiz Bowl**. Where will the “top gun” residents within the Section be from this year? It is my understanding that the Education Committee has created a new bank of tough questions to challenge the best!

We are again fortunate to have a number of **medical education lunch seminars** covering important subjects and fully supported by our industry partners. Ample time has been provided to allow registrants to visit the exhibition hall. Please take some time to visit with our industry partners as they play an important role in the financial health of our organization.

Everyone would agree that Chicago in the early fall is “the best.” An exciting social program has been planned by our Local Arrangements Chair Couple, Dr. Tamra and Todd Lewis, in conjunction with Wendy Weiser and her staff. The banquet Saturday evening at the Sheraton Hotel, hosted by our presidential couple Dr. Steve and Carrie Siegel, will be lively and a wonderful venue to renew old acquaintances and form new friendships.

The NCS Board of Representatives had a busy interim meeting in January 2010 and made a number of important recommendations. Three very talented young urologists were nominated to participate in the AUA Young Urology Program. Congratulations to Drs. Aaron Milbank, Manoj Monga and Norm Smith. Nominations for AUA Awards, 2009 – 2010, were again submitted and yielded many winners. This year the NCS did extremely

well! Congratulations to Dr. Edward J. McGuire (Lifetime Achievement Award); Dr. Ananias C. Diokno (Victor A. Politano Award); Dr. Elroy D. Kursh (Distinguished Contribution Award); Dr. Michael L. Blute (Distinguished Contribution Award); Dr. Anthony J. Schaeffer (Distinguished Service Award) and Wendy Weiser (Presidential Citation). In addition, Dr. Christopher M. Gonzalez was the recipient of the AUA Gallagher Health Policy (2010 – 2011) Scholarship.

In closing, I have been truly honored to be your NCS secretary over the past three years and hope that all of you have enjoyed the meetings as much as I have enjoyed putting them together. I have received a huge amount of support from the Board as well as all of the membership. A very special thanks to Wendy Weiser and all the talented people who work in her office that made my job fun and relatively stress-free! I believe that the North Central Section is the best in the nation and will continue to grow in the capable hands of the Board of Directors and membership.

Lori and I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing everyone in Chicago, September 29 – October 2, 2010.

Treasurer’s Report

by Gary M. Kirsh, MD



Gary M. Kirsh, MD

The NCS fund balance, as of June 30, 2010, totals \$2,217,409. The year-to-date operating surplus totals \$153,319. Note that the net unrealized gain/(loss) on investments is (\$63,686) for the period.

Income as of June 30, 2010, totaled \$150,271 and is primarily related to dues income of \$147,550. The Educational Fund of the NCS has a current balance of \$2,060,569.

As of June 30, 2010, NCS has one active money market operating account that is held at Merrill Lynch in Baltimore, MD. Robert W. Costos of Kelly Group is managing the account. This account is used for NCS general operating transactions and convention related transactions. As of June 30, 2010, the operating account (OA) has a balance of \$141,341.

NCS President Dr. Steven Siegel and Secretary Dr. Howard Winfield are working together to plan another outstanding NCS Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Their combined creativity and skillfulness will ensure another outstanding NCS Annual Meeting that will provide additional value to NCS members and meeting attendees. Local Arrangements Chair Dr. Tamra Lewis is working to ensure an excellent meeting site in Chicago and is anticipating everyone’s early registration and presence at the meeting.

I await an exciting and successful 2010 annual meeting for NCS with many state-of-the-art presentations. I look forward to seeing each of you at our annual meeting September 29 – October 2, 2010 in Chicago.

From the Representative to the AUA Board of Directors

by Dennis A. Pessis, MD



Dennis A. Pessis, MD

My experience on the Board of Directors of the American Urological Association as the North Central Section Representative has been most rewarding and informative. I want to thank the North Central Section for giving me this privilege – I will never forget my roots at the NCS.

This past AUA meeting in San Francisco from May 28 through June 2 was well attended and the high quality standard was maintained. I have enjoyed the friendship and leadership of the Immediate Past President, Dr. Anton Bueschen, and look forward to the same opportunity with incoming President, Dr. Datta Wagle.

It has been an honor to serve with Drs. Memo and Flanigan on the Board of Directors, as it is unusual to have three members of the NCS serve simultaneously on the AUA Board of Directors. Dr. Richard Memo is the AUA treasurer, and Dr. Robert Flanigan is secretary. Playing other key roles on the national level – Dr. Anthony Schaeffer is to be congratulated for the superb job he has done for the AUA Office of Research, and Dr. Johannes Vieweg follows as his successor. Dr. Elspeth McDougall continues her work in the Office of Education, instrumental in creating a laparoscopic simulator training course to produce a clinical standard in the use of laparoscopic surgery for urologists.

Our Health Policy Committee, led by Dr. Steven Schlossberg, strives to meet the challenges of this changing healthcare environment. I urge all of you to attend the Joint Advocacy Committee (JAC) meeting in the early spring in Washington, DC. JAC provides urologists the opportunity to voice their concerns and ideas directly to the leaders of Congress.

Along with Dr. Memo, I serve on the Audit Committee for the Board of Directors and participate in over-viewing the fiscal status of the AUA. Mr. Michael Sheppard (CEO-AUA) and Mr. Mark Campobello (CFO-AUA) are to be commended for their work in keeping the AUA in strong financial shape.

The sad news about the passing of Dr. Richard Williams, former chairman at the University of Iowa, was announced at the Board of Directors meeting in San Francisco. On a personal note, I have known Dick for many years, thanks to the North Central Section of the AUA. Dick dedicated so much of his life to the advancement of urology; he was an unusually bright and warm individual. We will all miss him dearly and offer his loving wife, Beverly, our condolences.

My wife, Amy, and I look forward to the NCS meeting in Chicago this September and hope to see you all there. It appears that Drs. Steven Siegel and Howard Winfield have created an excellent academic program. Additionally, I know the social events will have their usual flair under the direction of Wendy Weiser and Associates, Carrie Siegel, and the Local Arrangements Committee. Last, and certainly not least, congratulations to Wendy Weiser, deserving recipient of the AUA Presidential Citation Award at the annual meeting in San Francisco.

Federal Affairs Update

by Joe Arite – Associate Director of Government Affairs

State of the Fed – What Goes Up Must Come Down



Joe Arite

“Doc fix” – this phrase has become ingrained in the American people this last year. The recent stopgap passed in Congress on June 24th will stave off cuts to physician reimbursements through the end of November (just about a month after the 2010 mid-term elections). This short-term fix, the third one since the cuts were originally supposed to go into effect January 1st, will increase doctor payment rates by 2.2 percent. While this fix was necessary, it does nothing to address the problem that has been plaguing physicians for years. Ironically, the same day that the President signed the short-term fix into law, CMS released their new payment rule that would cut reimbursement rates by another 6.1 percent in 2011. If nothing is done, doctors are facing a total of 27 percent in cuts to their payments.

Patients’ access to care is not just a talking point being spouted by proponents of a more comprehensive fix, but is looking to become reality unless Congress stops the political pandering, and steps up and does what they were sent to Washington to do. The bottom line is doctors will no longer afford to see Medicare patients. I have received multiple phone calls over the past year from concerned physicians who are already restricting the number of Medicare patients in their practices. Now they want to know how to opt out of the program all together.

Reversing the planned pay cuts was something leaders on both sides maintained to favor, but the doc fix became stalled in a political battle over a \$118 billion package that included extending jobless benefits plus cash assistance to state governments for their Medicaid programs.

This political infighting is damaging to physicians and the patients they have dedicated their lives to serving. “Short-term patch,” “Kicking the can down the road” – these are phrases we have heard over and over again. Well, I have a new phrase Congress should take note of, “Dereliction of duty.” Members of Congress are sent to Washington to represent the needs of their constituency. They have NOT done this. It’s time we all, patients and doctors, stand hand-in-hand and hold them accountable.

State Government Affairs Update: AACU State Society Network for the North Central Section of the AUA

by Ross Weber – State Affairs Manager

For more information about these bills or any other state legislation, visit the AACU website at www.aacuweb.org or email statesociety@aacuweb.org.



Ross Weber

States Responding to Federal Health Reform

Implementation of key provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, signed March 23, 2010, by President Obama, greatly depends on action by state legislators and governors in each of the 50 states.

At least 39 states took action to challenge the law itself. Four states approved legislation to limit or oppose the federal law (Virginia, Georgia, Idaho and Utah). Four others will send the issue to voters in form of ballot referenda (Arizona, Florida, Missouri and Oklahoma). Similarly, Attorneys General in at least 20 states will challenge the federal law on constitutional grounds.

Many other states are building an infrastructure to apply the law. These efforts include the appointment of “implementation task forces” as well as amendments to current state law. In Michigan, Governor Jennifer Granholm (D) issued Executive Order No. 2010-4 to establish a Health Insurance Reform Coordinating Council, while Maryland Senate Bill 57 (signed by Governor April 13, 2010) requires insurers to allow young people up to the age of 26 to remain on their parents’ plan and bans lifetime caps on coverage. The California Legislature, one of the few bodies that meets year-round, continues to consider a number of bills to implement the new law’s broader Medicaid expansion and health insurance exchange requirements (AB1595, SB900).

However your state responds, however the courts decide and however future Congresses act, we will serve as your patients’ and practice’s advocate.

Legislatures Up for Grabs

Political party control of legislative chambers in at least 18 states may switch hands this fall according to an analysis by *Governing*, a publication that covers state policy and politics.

The number of states in play is the highest since at least 2002 and control will have a direct impact on redistricting, an influential process that takes place only once every 10 years.

Governing’s Louis Jacobson asserts that Democrats must work hard to maintain leadership in 21 chambers, while Republicans will closely watch four. Jacobson reports that this disparity could increase in the coming months given dissatisfaction with Democratic control of Congress and the White House – one factor in the Democrats’ favor-division within the Republican Party amongst tea party and establishment activists.

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Thank you to our 2010 Industry Partners

(as of 8/24/2010)

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The North Central Section of the AUA would like to acknowledge the following companies who will be exhibiting at the NCS 84th Annual Meeting.

We appreciate their continued support!

(as of 8/24/2010)

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NCSAUA INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Industry Partnerships are a vital part of our success. The NCS is currently seeking Industry Partners who share our commitment to growth and excellence in the field of urology.

The partnership packages we offer include additional marketing opportunities and enhanced exposure throughout the meeting. Through this program, we hope to work in tandem with our industry colleagues to identify ways to enhance our current member programs and implement new projects that will lead to improved patient care through better physician education and mentoring. Please invite your industry contacts to become NCS Industry Partners. Partnership packages are promotional opportunities and, unlike educational grants, are appropriate to discuss with your sales representatives. Please ask them to contact Donna Kelly at donna@wjweiser.com for more information.

If you have vendors you do regular business with, please ask them to become more involved with NCS. Thank you for your help!

Plan to Attend!



NCS 85th Annual Meeting

October 18 – 22, 2011

The Westin Mission Hills Resort & Spa
Rancho Mirage, California

Abstract Submissions: January 3 – March 11, 2011

For more information, visit: www.ncsuaa.org



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