

The FAOEM Times – February 2011

Message from the Editor:

Please email me if you would like to be featured in one of our upcoming newsletters: dmcclusk@health.usf.edu

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Ken Phillips, Dr. Kathleen Jenkins, and Dr. Laurie Kardon. They are the new 2011 ACOEM fellows from Florida. Great job folks!!

February Update:

Things have been a little quiet in the world of FAOEM this month. We had a bustling end to the fall, and the beginning of 2011. Members of the FAOEM breakout session finalized plans for a dynamic and exciting 2 hour session for the Workers' Compensation Conference. It's titled: "Would You Like Experience With That? Why An Occ-Med Doctor is the Only Way to Go." This is an interactive skit which involves the audience and incorporates PowerPoint slides. Basically, it's a look at injury treatment performed by an experienced Occ-Med Doc, illustrating why he or she is the one you want in your corner. In the session, we will follow a case from the point where there's an injury reported on the job to the employee being sent to the clinic, and we will also cover a brief patient history (including an actual exam). Our goal is for the adjustors, case managers, insurance reps and everyone else who attends, to learn the best practices that lead to decreased litigation and successful injury management. Some of the key points to be covered will include: major contributing cause, commorbidities, compensability, stay and work/return to work, medical necessity of tests, referrals, MMI and PIR and PAIN. Please make sure you have this event on your calendar, it just won't be the same without our members present! It takes place on Tuesday, August 23, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Last summer at the end of our meeting, I expressed my desire to become more useful to the OM group – once my law degree was completed. As part of that effort, I am currently taking a full semester course on Workers' Compensation Law at Stetson. As part of my class, I am reading many of the Workers' Compensation statutes and landmark cases. Last week I quizzed my professor on how we can address the continuing problem of the carriers discounting many of the bills our members submit for payment – even though there is a set fee schedule. He gave me some tips, I wrote them down, and I will begin researching what he suggested. He did not give me a ton of information, but I at least have a little bit of a lead. You know how lawyers are – when I asked him for more information, he said that was the end of the free legal advice (all with a smile of course). When I finish out school this summer, I plan to spend more time investigating the situation and seeing what our options are. I will keep everyone posted on what I discover.

With our Breakout session taking place on a Tuesday – yet again, and competing sessions taking place when we normally host our luncheon, I am going to investigate offering the luncheon on Sunday, August 21st. First I need to find a sponsor. Normally by this time I have someone arranged. With the economy continuing to be sluggish, **I am hoping that one of you can recommend someone that might consider sponsoring the luncheon.** Otherwise we will need to charge each person who attends. Please call or email me if you have suggestions on potential sponsors. I will be looking at alternate venues for the luncheon as well – just to see if there is somewhere a little less congested than the Orlando World Marriott.

The Florida Office of Legislative Services will offer the annual Doctor of the Day program again for the 2011 legislative session. The Session begins on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, and adjourns on Friday, May 6, 2011. The legislature needs two physicians for each day of the legislative session, one for the House of Representatives and one for the Senate. If you are interested in serving as a Doctor of the Day, please contact Althea Houston, with the Florida Office of Legislative Services at 850-488-6803.

Well, this is all for now. For all who are attending AOHC, I hope you have a great trip.