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THE DOCTORS COMPANY

e-News for Friday, May 9, 2014

Upcoming Events

CONTENTS

1. MDPAC Takes Steps to Protect Tort Reforms
2. MSMS App Is Here to Stay; Keep It Handy for Event Details
3. Atchoo! Does Spring Pollen Increase Spell Trouble for Your Patients?
4. May Is Disability Insurance Awareness Month - PIA Has You Covered
5. Avoid Becoming a HIPAA Violation Cautionary Tale
6. Happy Nurses Week - Celebrating a Team That Works

1. MDPAC Takes Steps to Protect Tort Reforms

On Wednesday, the Michigan Doctors' Political Action Committee (MDPAC) hosted a fundraiser in Grand Blanc to support the candidacies of Justice Brian Zahra and Justice David Viviano, two rule-of-law justices who have records of upholding existing laws, such as the crucial tort reforms physicians fought so hard to pass in 1993.

Conference on Child Obesity

May 13, 2014

The Henry - Dearborn

This conference looks at the "whole" child and provides resources that will help medical professionals assist children and their families with the prevention and treatment of obesity.

[Register Now >>](#)

Conference on Maternal & Perinatal Health

May 15, 2014

The Henry - Dearborn

This must-see program is developed by a multidisciplinary planning committee specializing in obstetrics, family practice, neonatology, maternal fetal medicine and pediatrics.

[Register Now >>](#)

MDPAC thanks the event host committee: Genesee County Medical Society Past President Shafi Ahmed, MD; MSMS Past President Cathy Blight, MD; MDPAC Secretary-Treasurer Amit Ghose, MD; GCMS Executive Pete Levine; MSMS Board Vice Chair S. "Bobby" Mukkamala, MD; and MSMS Treasurer Venkat Rao, MD.



Protecting tort reforms is just one example of why it's so important to join with your colleagues to [become an MDPAC member](#). By doing so, you help MSMS advocate health policy on your behalf and help MDPAC support candidates who will represent your profession and your patients well in all levels of government.

2. MSMS App Is Here to Stay; Keep It Handy for Event Details

Many delegates and MSMS leaders got to experience the new MSMS event application just in time for this year's House of Delegates (HOD) meeting. But just because the House is over, that doesn't mean the app will disappear!

MSMS worked with its partner Docright to develop the convenient app, which will be updated regularly to feature upcoming MSMS educational and other events, as well as additional information.

Next up: The information for the Spring Scientific Meeting (SSM) will be ready to go

[More Events >>](#)

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For more info, please contact Dara Barrera at djbarrera@msms.org or (517) 336-5770.

MDPAC
MICHIGAN DOCTORS'
POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
Activate Your Voice

next week. You will be able to access HOD documents and information for a while longer, as well as new info for the SSM.



Did you use the app at the House of Delegates? Tell us what you think by sending an email to msms@msms.org (subject line: MSMS Event App).

The app is available for Apple and Android mobile devices. To download the app, visit the app store on your mobile device and search under "MSMS."

3. Atchoo! Does Spring Pollen Increase Spell Trouble for Your Patients?

According to the 2014 Allergy & Asthma Foundation annual report, Grand Rapids and Detroit rank in the country's top 50 "most challenging places to live with spring allergies."

Detroit scored 72.37 and ranks as the 33rd worst city for allergies; while Grand Rapids scored 70.63 and ranks as the 36th worst city for allergies. And experiencing a bitterly cold winter followed by a sudden spring warm-up doesn't help.



MSMS will present a course during next week's Spring Scientific Meeting that will offer relief for your patients. "Impact of Allergic Disease in Everyday Lives: Recent Updates in Clinical Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology" will take place Wednesday, May 14, 1:00 - 4:15 p.m., at The Henry in Dearborn, and will include

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breaking developments in the field.

Course director Bhavin Patel, MD, President, Michigan Allergy & Asthma Society, will lead an expert team including Rick Vinuya, MD; Carl Lauter, MD; and Jennifer DeMore, MD.

[Read more and register >>](#)

4. May Is Disability Insurance Awareness Month - PIA Has You Covered

What would you do if you were stricken by a debilitating illness or injury that prevented you from working? The MSMS Physicians Insurance Agency (PIA) reminds you that [Disability Insurance Awareness Month](#) in May is a great time to consider getting coverage to protect your livelihood.



What It Does - Disability Income Insurance is designed to replace a portion of one's income if he/she becomes disabled due to accident or illness and cannot perform the duties of their regular occupation.

For example, if a surgeon becomes disabled, "Own Occupation for Entire Benefit Period" is a type of coverage that enables him/her to go back to work in the field of internal medicine and still continue to receive a disability claim as a surgeon. PIA, the insurance agency created for physicians, is one of the very few agencies that still [offers this type of coverage](#).

Contact Heather Hamilton at PIA to evaluate your current or new DI coverage: 517-202-2604 or hhamilton@msms.org.

5. Avoid Becoming a HIPAA Violation Cautionary Tale

Two health care organizations--New York & Presbyterian Hospital and Columbia University--recently agreed to settle charges that they potentially violated the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules by failing to secure thousands of patients' electronic protected health information (ePHI) held on their network.

The payments of \$4,800,000 include the [largest HIPAA settlement to date](#).



If cases like this show anything, they point out that physicians, now more than ever, need to be aware of revisions to the HIPAA privacy, security, enforcement, and breach notification rules that took effect in 2013. Get started with these MSMS resources:

- [HIPAA Security Rule Webinar](#) - May 21
- [Members-only guidance document](#)
- [HIPAA Guide](#)
- [DocBookMD](#), free HIPAA-compliant, physician-designed mobile application
- Free legal consultations for general questions

For more information about HIPAA

resources from MSMS, contact Stacey Hettiger at 517-336-5766 or shettiger@msms.org.

6. Happy Nurses Week - Celebrating a Team That Works

The expectations of our health system are becoming more complex; patients and purchasers of health care are demanding results that can only be achieved by a coordinated and multi-disciplinary approach to treating the patient.



During National Nurses Week, MSMS recognizes and salutes an integral part of that multi-disciplinary team: nurses. The collaboration between physicians and nurses not only contributes to the well-being of patients, but it also fosters the development of groundbreaking advances in medicine.

We are a team that strives each day for the better health of Michiganders. It's a partnership focused on patient care. It's a partnership that works. It's a partnership worth preserving.

[Find out more >>](#)



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