

Medical Society Moving Forward with Disaster Communication System

The Medical Society has secured three grants for an emergency communications system for our local hospitals and physicians. The Mobile County Health Department provided a grant to purchase 90 Southern Linc radio phones to be distributed to our local hospitals and one Baldwin County hospital. We also received a grant from the Mobile County 911 Service and the American Association of Medical Society Executives to pay for monthly expenses to activate and retain the radio phones. These phones will be programmed for each hospital and will be available in the event of a disaster.

Our intent is to see that communications systems are not disrupted between the hospitals and physicians like we saw with Hurricane Katrina and Ivan. The Medical Society will coordinate the training for use of the radio phones and provide administrative support for the financial commitment to Southern Linc.

The Medical Society is also actively participating in the formation of a Medical Reserve Corp. Over 180 of our Society members have volunteered to serve on this Corp. Training will be ongoing over the next year and will be coordinated by Volunteer Mobile.

We plan to be better prepared in the event of a disaster and are actively working toward this end.

Upcoming Events

November 14—Alliance General Membership Meeting

December 5—Annual Meeting. Speaker Dr. Mark Williams, Emory University, Topic: "Health Literacy: Do Your Patients Understand You?"

December 12—Alliance Holiday Progressive Luncheon

Doctors In The News

In a ceremony held in the old House Chambers at the State Capital, **Dr. Regina Benjamin**, Past President of both the Medical Society and MASA, was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor on August 21. Membership in the Academy is limited to 100 people whose accomplishments and service have greatly benefited the State.

CLASSIFIEDS

PHYSICIAN NEEDED: The Alabama Disability Determination Service (DDS) invites letters of interest from physicians wanting to work part-time. An Alabama Medical License is required. The DDS is committed to maintaining a diverse workforce; and therefore, we encourage minority applications. The DDS has offices in Birmingham and Mobile. The work is reviewing disability claims. If interested, please contact the Medical Staff Supervisor, DDS, P.O. Box 830300, Birmingham, Alabama 35283-0300.

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Medical Society News



From Your President

I have several random items to address in this issue. First, election day is rapidly approaching, so educate yourselves and your families on which candidates, especially judicial candidates, are likely to be fair minded and friendly to the practice of medicine.

Second, Congress will reconvene after election day, and there will only be a few weeks to try to stop the projected 5.1% cut in Medicare payments. Email or call Representative Bonner, Senator Sessions, and Senator Shelby to urge them to support both a short-term and a long-term solution to this unfair quirk of the system.

Finally, I would like to start a carseat recycling program in which carseats in good, safe,

usable condition are donated to our charitable trust to be distributed to needy families. All too often families chose to make child safety a low financial priority. Local law enforcement officers, social workers, physicians, and even attorneys will be able to refer families who cannot afford a new carseat to us to receive a gently used one at no charge. Mobile Police Chief Philip Garrett has agreed to train more officers in the proper installation of carseats, so these families can go a local precinct to learn how to install and use them safely. We will need carseats in good, clean, usable condition to be donated. We are looking for storage space in the Midtown to I-65 area. This is not intended to be a large scale



Dr. Alexander L. Blankenship

giveaway program, and I only expect 8-10 families per month to participate, but I would like a few volunteers to help make this program practical. If you would like to help or know of secure storage space that we could use, please let me know. Visit the MSOMC website in the next few weeks for more details.

Special points of interest:

- Child Safety Seat Initiative
- Quarterly Meeting Offers a CME
- Thank you to All Who Help Camp Rap-A-Hope
- Sixty-One USACOM Students Join Society

Watch Us Grow!

Over the past 10 years, we have looked at our progress within the Medical Society. We have assembled a few facts for our members.

	WHERE WE WERE - 1997	WHERE WE ARE - 2006
Membership	600 members	943 members, 211 Student Members
Staff	2 Supporting: Physicians, Camp Rap-A-Hope, Alliance, Community	2 Supporting: Physicians, Camp Rap-A-Hope, Alliance, Specialty Societies, USA College of Medicine, Emergency Communications, Disaster Preparedness Organizations, Other Community Organizations
Facilities	Renting <1000 sq ft	Purchased land, built 3000 sq. ft offices including Board room, full kitchen, 3 large offices, work room, storage room. Increased visibility and accessibility
Communications	4 publications yearly (Quarterly meeting announcements).	4 newsletters a year, 4 meeting announcements a year. Wall poster, rosters, Website, Blast Faxes
Database Maintenance	Maintained member records. Provided mailing labels and rosters	Maintain member records with updated database technology. Provide rosters, mailing labels.
Mailing Service	Provide mailing service for members and others using manual system	Provide mailing service with electronic database, enhanced mailing list development, bulk mailing service for Alliance, Camp and others
Quarterly Meetings	4 per year	4 per year
Mobile Medical Endowment Trust	Inactive	Reactivated. Receives memorials. Annual scholarship to USACOM medical student. Annual Bike Race fundraiser for Endowment and Camp targeting involvement by younger physicians.
Specialty Societies	None	Societies have use of board room for meetings Provide administrative support
Support for Camp Rap-A-Hope	Limited storage space for Alliance. One small office for Camp Rap-a-Hope. Limited secretarial support.	Camp occupies one large office and 2/3 of the storage room. Staff of 2 plus an intern. Society provides office equipment and support.
Support for the Alliance	Limited support.	Maintains an office for the Alliance. Provides mailing support and secretarial assistance as needed. Use of Board room and kitchen facilities. Storage area.

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF MOBILE COUNTY
2701 AIRPORT BOULEVARD
MOBILE, AL 36606

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.MSOMC.COM

The Medical Society Joins With the Fetterman Lecture Series for Quarterly Meeting

In conjunction with the Lawrence E. Fetterman Memorial Lecture Series, the Medical Society was pleased to have Mr. Robert B. Doherty as guest speaker. Mr. Doherty is responsible for overall management and direction of the Washington office of the American College of Physicians (ACP), the nation's largest medical specialty society and second largest medical organization in the world.

Mr. Doherty spoke on the "History of Politics in American Medicine." This was an opportunity for our physicians to obtain a CME, as well as attending a fascinating look at the influence of medicine and politics.

Memorials Read at the September 26, 2006 Quarterly Meeting:

Dr. Ermin E. Coleman, Jr.

Dr. Ernest G. DeBakey

Dr. Archie G. Davis

Dr. Samuel Eichold

Dr. Harvey H. Mintz



(l to r above) MSOMC President Dr. Alec Blankenship, Ms. Amy Polite, new member Dr. Scott Markle, and Mrs. Lindsay Blankenship shared some conversation before dinner.



(l to r above) Dr. Rip Pfeiffer talks with Mr. Charlie Waller and Ms. Jeanne Sanderford of the Providence Foundation.



(l to r left) Board of Censors member Dr. Ray Broughton welcomed new member Dr. Mehtab Khan. Dr. Manuel Cepeda joined them.



Dr. Louie Wilson and Mrs. Gail Wilson attended as part of the Providence Foundation guests.



(l to r) Dr. Jerry Jordan, Dr. Peter Bertucci, Dr. Max Moczygamba, and Dr. Bill Daniels socialized before dinner.

Rap-A-Hope Happens Because of the Caring and Giving Members of the Medical Society and the Alliance.

Melissa McNichol, Director

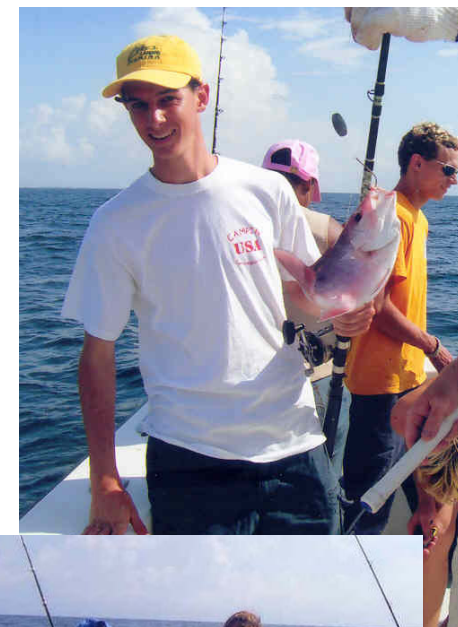
My how this year has flown! As I think back on all that we at Camp Rap-A-Hope have done this year, I am reminded that we are allowed the opportunity to provide "fun" for children with cancer through the consistent support of the Medical Society and the Alliance to the Medical Society. From the doctor's who come to Camp to provide watchful eyes over our children, to bike races that provide financial support, baking

cookies for family fun days and signing Holiday cards till we run out of ink, the support of MSOMC and the Alliance is immeasurable. Camp Rap-A-Hope "IS" because you care. A special Thank You to Sheree LaCoste and Linda Davis for their endless support. I would like to welcome and thank Pam Koch and Leslie Lerner who have just joined our Board of Directors as our Volunteer Coordinators. Both of the special

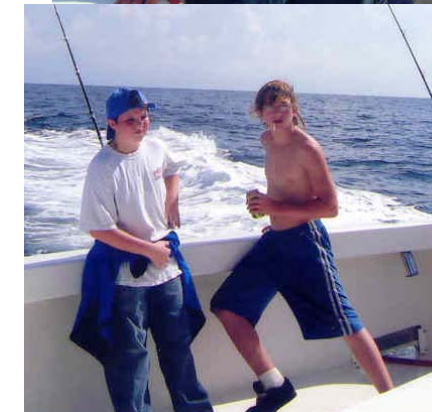
ladies have been part of the Rap-A-Hope family for many years and bring with them love of Camp and the ability to help us continue providing the chance for these special children and their families to enjoy days filled with a bit of happiness. I wish all of you an amazing Holiday Season and all the best in 2007.



James Dickinson shows off his nice redfish. Campers had a ball at the annual fishing trip.



The smile says it all! David Middleton got a nice one.



(l to r) Jeffrey Downey and C.J. Ruppe waiting for the big one.

First Year USACOM Students Introduced to The Medical Society and the State Association at Student Orientation

On August 8, USA College of Medicine students for the class of 2010 met at the Beach Grill on the Causeway. Representatives of MASA and the Medical Society were present to speak to the students about organized medicine, and to encourage them to join. Sixty-one students joined the Society that evening. Our Medical Society supports the students by paying 1/2 of their dues for a 4-year membership to the AMA, MASA, and the County Society.



Dr. Melissa Costello and Dr. Jorge Alsip spoke as representatives of the Medical Society, MASA and the AMA.