



ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP 2004

Letter from President



Dear Members,

As I have taken the leadership helm of the Academy, I want to start by thanking Past President Wayne McCormick for his leadership and reflect on accomplishments during his tenure that have continued into 2005. In this, our 20th year, we have much to be proud of.

Our **Public Policy** focus this year has been on attempting to assure an appropriate increase in payments for house calls in **domiliary care** facilities. The rapid growth of assisted living and related facilities across the country makes this a new and important care venue, especially for seniors who wish to age in place. George Taler, MD has continued to provide leadership on this issue. Watch upcoming editions of the Newsletters for the CMS final decision in the fall, 2005.

Our **Publications Initiative** for this year was, in addition to the Newsletter, to produce a complete revision of the widely-read Guidelines for the Medical Care Management of Patients in the Home. This originally was developed by the AMA with input from the Academy. This time, most of the Board members of the AAHCP participated in making the extensive revisions and updates in the jointly-copyrighted effort, under the Editorship of President-Elect Joe Ramsdell, MD and with the help of Joanne Schwartzberg, MD of the AMA.

The growing interest in house calls and home care medicine was once again exhibited at the 2004 Annual Meeting which was sold out. We also have been proud of the increasing diversity of our membership, with a third now nurse practitioners, PAs, pharmacists, and home care agencies.

Other projects have continued such as the home care exam, under the leadership of Edward Ratner, MD, the Faculty Development Seminar, under the leadership of Peter Boling, MD. Ed and Wayne have continued to provide leadership for Medical Directors of Home Care Agencies.

Much more is underway in 2005. With your support, we will become a stronger force for better patient care in the home.

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George Taler, MD

Director of Long Term Care, Washington Hospital Center
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Past AAHCP Presidents

2002-2004	Wayne McCormick, MD, MPH
2000-2002	Edward Ratner, MD
1998-2000	George Taler, MD
1996-1998	Peter A. Boling, MD
1994-1996	Allen I. Goldberg, MD, MBA, FAAP, FCCP, FACPE
1992-1994	Joanne Schwartzberg, MD
1989-1992	Joseph M. Keenan, MD
1988-1989	John Lewis, MD

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Director of Administration and Membership Services

Membership, Programs, and Services

- 1. Membership Diversification:** While the AAHCP's membership remains small (just over 700 members), we are delighted with the growth in diversity of our membership, reflecting the diversity of interest in our field. Today, Nurse Practitioners, Registered Nurses, Physician Assistants, Geriatric Care Managers, Social Workers, and Pharmacists make up 21 percent of the Academy's membership.
 - 2. Building and Documenting Qualifications**
 - a. The Home Care Credentialing Examination:** This self-study examination, taken over from the American Board of Internal Medicine, gives home care medical professionals (MDs, NPs, PAs, and others) the opportunity to gain a credential that will document their advanced qualification in this field. To date, 47 home care medical providers have passed the exam. The Academy also developed a **bibliography of articles relating to home care** that also serves as a study guide for the exam.
 - b. The Faculty Development Seminar:** In the seminars, invited faculty who teach residents are given a program to acquaint them with options for teaching house calls and home care medicine to residents. This year, successful seminars were held in Philadelphia and Richmond, VA. The **Residency Training Faculty Development Seminar Materials** are available for those interested in hosting.
 - 3. Developing Best Practice Guidelines and Recommendations and Member Recognition**
 - a. Guidelines:** *Wound Care Guidelines* began development in 2004 and are expected to be published in 2005. The guidelines cover recommendations for recognizing, assessing, treating, and monitoring unintended weight loss in homebound patients, accounting for both the advantages and limitations of care in the home setting.
 - b. Booklets:** The Academy's popular booklets "**Making Home Care Work in Your Practice**" and "**Making House Calls A Part of Your Practice**" were updated.
 - c. Medical Direction of Home Care Agencies:** "**Medical Directorship of Home Health Agencies,**" written for physicians who either are or are considering becoming medical directors for home care agencies, covers topics such as the role of the medical director; rules, regulations, and standards; billing and reimbursement; Stark regulations; and includes sample contracts and forms. In addition, the **Medical Director Binders** that were developed for the course given in the last 1990s are available for purchase as well as **Communication Templates** to facilitate doctor-nurse communication. (Contact the AAHCP office for details.)
 - d. Annual Scientific Meeting and Member Recognition:** Called "Keeping the Home Fires Burning", the 2004 program included presentations on pain management, wound care, proactive health technologies for the home, billing and payment issues, and a legal update. Winners of the House Call Doctor of the Year Award was Benneth Husted, DO, and of the Clinician of the Year Award, nurse practitioner Whitney Doiron.
 - e. Newsletter:** This year's bi-monthly editions have covered new models of house call practices, making the case for support to Academic medical centers, Medicare fraud and abuse management, abstracts of the home care literature, and a variety of public policy, clinical and practice management topics. The Newsletter continues to be a valuable resource to all working in the field.
- 4. Public Policy:** We began a renewed effort to raise payments for domiciliary care codes. We continue to track development in the CMS chronic care programs for opportunities to shape policy and represent members having issues with the CMS payment process.

AAHCP Publications and Training Materials

The Home Care Certification Examination: Exam, detailed score report, and the Home Care Bibliography. CD-Rom. \$325.

Home Care Bibliography: The first-ever bibliography of home care articles with 130 full-text articles and dozens of abstracts. CD-Rom. \$30.

Residency Training Faculty Development Seminar

Materials: One-day course designed for internal medicine and family practice residency faculty. Binder, diskette of presentations, grant template, licensing agreement, and the videotape "The House Call: An Introduction." \$1,000.

Making House Calls A Part of Your Practice: Offers practical tips for those considering adding house calls to their practice. Booklet. \$21.50 members (\$28.50 nonmembers).

Making Home Care Work in Your Practice: A Brief

Guide to Reimbursement: Covers codes and billing, domiciliary care visits, documentation for common house call codes, CPO billing, HME orders, and other issues. Booklet. \$13.50 members (\$15.50 nonmembers).

Medical Directorship of Home Health Agencies: Covers topics such as the role of the medical director; rules, regulations, and standards; billing and reimbursement; Stark regulations; and includes sample contracts and forms. Booklet. \$33.50 members (\$53.50 nonmembers).

All prices include shipping and handling.

Discounts available on orders for five or more copies of any one title. Contact the office.

Financial Information: 2004

(from the form 990 submitted to the Internal Revenue Service)

Total Revenue:	\$194,535
Expenses:	
Program Services	\$63,285
Management and General	\$90,036
Fundraising	-0-
Payments to Affiliates	-0-
Total expenses	\$153,321
Excess or (deficit) for the year	\$41,214
Net assets or fund balances at the end of the year	\$664,881

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