



President

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2006 * AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LEGAL MEDICINE

Dear ACLM Members, Colleagues and Friends,

The American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is the leading organization in Health Law, the area where medicine and law converge. This is partly because it is the place where those who have already obtained degrees in Law and Medicine can meet to keep current and to discourse with their fellows. This will occur at the Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida, March 2-4, 2007 when members attend the excellent conference program established by Dr. Gary Birnbaum. Everyone who wishes to stay in the forefront of health law should plan to attend. Registration data is available on our ACLM web site: www.aclm.org.

At these sessions, which feature stellar speakers, anyone interested may hear and question the leaders in various areas of Health Law that are of current concern. Others members may participate in the interactive Poster Sessions, which will be chaired by Dr. David Benjamin. Submissions are still being accepted for those wishing to present to and discuss topics with their peers. Posters can be submitted by following the directions on the ACLM web site.

However, as important as this meeting is in keeping present members up to date, it is also vitally important for us to ensure that the field of Health Law will be kept dynamic. This can be done by the constant infusion of younger people into the confluence of the disciplines of law and medicine. One of the ways in which ACLM has led in this area is through encouraging student writing on Health Law topics. A principle means to accomplishing this has been by ACLM sponsorship of students writing in this field.

The ACLM offers multiple methods for the young to gain exposure, and particularly, to get their thoughts and ideas into the hands of those already practicing in the field. One method of doing this is for young people to enter the ACLM Student Writing Competitions. The Schwartz Award, which goes to the medical student writing the most outstanding paper, is worth \$1,000. The same amount is available to the winning submission from a law student through the Letourneau Award and another \$1,000 can go to a student in the health fields of dentistry, podiatry, nursing, pharmacy, health science, health care administration or public health through the Hirsh Award.

Separate from these awards is a newer competition, the Hoffman Bioethics Student Writing Competition. Ila Rothschild, MA, JD. serves as the Chair of this competition. This contest offers three prizes for original papers written by law or health professions students on topics in Bioethics. The third prize is \$250, the second prize is \$500 and the first prize is \$1,000, plus the first place winner also receives the opportunity to present the winning paper at the Annual Meeting in Orlando with payment of travel and lodging costs as well.

Brochures describing the applicant criteria, format, content and deadlines for all of these competitions have been distributed to law schools, medical schools, dental schools and other health profession education programs throughout the country. Details may also be obtained by visiting the ACLM website.

The entire judgment process, including reading and impartially judging the merits of many different submissions in different competitions, is a difficult one that would not be possible without the enormous amount of effort expended by the Student Awards Committee under the capable leadership of its Chair, Alan Hoffman, JD, FCLM.

Because so much of Health Law has international ramifications, the biannual World Congress of Medical Law attracts experts from all over the globe. The most recent one, the 16th Annual, was held August 7-11 in Toulouse, France. It gave the Americans attending a chance to present the US points of view and to learn the many different approaches to similar problems from experts throughout the rest of the world. Among the ACLM Leaders attending were current president, Richard S. Wilbur, past presidents Phillip Shelton and Miles Zaremski and Board of Governors members Dale Cowan and Judith Gic. While the long-planned Orlando International Congress of Legal Medicine subsequently had to be canceled pursuant to a decision of the World Association for Medical Law Executive Committee, ICLM Meeting Planner Cowan was able to establish the US presence.

One of the many pleasant aspects of being ACLM President is the ability to represent ACLM at prestigious meetings. One such occasion was the Hollowell Health Law Forum which is held yearly at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, Greenville. Other speakers included Anthea Daniel, President of the American Health Lawyers and Dr. William Plested III, AMA President.

Sincerely,

Richard S. Wilbur, MD, JS, FCLM

Call for Submission of Abstracts for Poster Session Presentations
at the 47th Annual Conference on Legal Medicine
to be held at the Caribe Royal All Suites Resort & Convention Center
Orlando, FL – March 2 - March 4, 2007

A Request for Submission of Papers for “Poster Presentation”

The American College of Legal Medicine encourages you to participate in our annual program by submitting a paper for “Poster Presentations.” Poster Presentations involve:

- Selecting a scholarly topic or area of Legal Medicine that interests you
- Researching the legal opinions, medical literature or case studies
- Preparing PowerPoint slides, tables, graphs, or other exhibits which educate and inform the attendee about the topic
- Discussing your work with other experts in law and medicine in a friendly, collegial way

The Program Committee hopes that this format will: (1) encourage more presenters to submit abstracts, (2) permit papers which might have avoided selection due to time constraints to be presented, (3) broaden the scope of presented topics, (4) increase the opportunity for conference attendees to interact personally with other faculty members and presenters, and (5) provide more time for discussion and questions.

The American College of Legal Medicine invites members of the College, non-members and medical and law students who receive sponsorship from a College member, to submit an abstract of a paper for possible presentation as a “Poster Paper” at the 47th Annual Conference on Legal Medicine to be held March 2 - March 4, 2007 at the Caribe Royal All Suites Resort & Convention Center in Orlando, FL. This is your opportunity to report an interesting case or prepare a scholarly analysis of a medical, legal, or ethical issue that is of particular interest to you. Then, you get to discuss your opinions and conclusions with the brightest minds in legal medicine over breakfast.

For complete instructions for authors, please visit our website at www.aclm.org.

Submit abstracts to: Abstracts/ACLM Executive Office, 1111 N. Plaza Drive, Suite 550 Schaumburg, IL 60173, telephone 847-969-0283, e-mail: info@aclm.org. All papers become the property of the ACLM. Accepted papers will be published in the conference syllabus. Presented papers can be expanded into longer manuscripts and submitted to the Journal of Legal Medicine for consideration.

The Deadline for Abstract submission is January 15, 2007.

David M. Benjamin, Ph.D., FCLM
Poster Session Chair

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Touch with You!**

Please visit the ACLM website regularly to update your member profile, particularly your mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

www.aclm.org