



President

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2007 • AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LEGAL MEDICINE

Dear ACLM Colleagues,

As I approach the midyear point of my presidency I can honestly tell you that everyday is more exciting than the previous one. When I analyze what has been accomplished in six months on behalf of ACLM, and on your behalf, I hope that my excitement will become your excitement, too.

Your officers and Board of Governors have worked diligently with your committee chair-people to move us along the high road of activities. We have twenty-eight committees working on policy reform, strategic planning, future meeting dates, venues and themes and appropriate changes in the bylaws, ethics, publications, amicus briefs, student writing competition, moot court, educational opportunities and many other issues within the ACLM structure. In less than a month, your Board of Governors will meet and review all committee reports and I will then let you know of important decisions impacting our future. Our executive administrator, Sue O'Sullivan and her staff are doing a great job coordinating all of our activities.

The membership committee under the chairmanship of Marty Stillman has approved 51 new members so far, but we are still 49 shy of my new member goal of one hundred. Membership retention has improved dramatically this year, indicating to me that we are on the right path of improving member benefits and satisfying the needs of our entire membership. We will continue to improve.

Under the presidency of Sandy Sanbar, ABLM and the ACLM Foundation under the presidency of Bob Buckman have been working closely, diligently and most cooperatively this year with me to help bring ACLM to a higher level. This is a unique relationship, one that has not existed prior to this year. All three levels of the College have been working in concert to provide ACLM members with certification benefits through the ABLM and to develop review courses in legal medicine, medical malpractice education and board certification. In fact, the first review course will be held in Chicago on Friday, October 12th, just prior to the mid-year conference and will subsequently be held in conjunction with all mid-year and annual meetings. In addition to the texts *Legal Medicine* and the *Medical Malpractice Survival Handbook*, ABLM has published the *ABLM Board Review Exam & Study Guide* (available from ABLM by email sssanbar@pol.net or see web site link from www.aclm.org). Board-certified physicians, dentists, nurses and other professionals will have pride knowing that they have successfully completed the comprehensive and rigorous criteria and guidelines required by the American Board of Medical Malpractice (ABMM) to be recognized as possessing exceptional knowledge and expertise in the medical and legal aspects of medical malpractice. I intend to promote that pride for our membership.

The Foundation has taken on a new direction, differing from previous years. You will receive a letter from Foundation President Bob Buckman in the near future outlining many of the changes and differing opportunities for you to contribute to the stability of ACLM future endeavors. Without the Foundation, we would not have our famous Moot Court and would not have the support for our educational endeavors. This year we have 35 teams representing 26 law schools participating in the Moot Court competition, thanks to the cooperative hard work of Gene Basanta, SIU and our Foundation. Without the Foundation, we would not have the unique tri-partite relationship to help guide us into the future. The Foundation has a contribution form that you can use for get-well wishes, condolences or to honor someone. It is available on the ACLM web site.

President-elect Michael Raskin has assembled an excellent faculty to present "*Medical Imaging and the Law*" at the mid-year meeting, October 13 – 14, in Chicago. This year we have more registrants that we have ever had at previous mid-year meetings. This demonstrates just how important the mid-year conference is as part of the ACLM educational mission. It's not too late to register for this or for the Board review course.

To further our education mission, Darren Mareniss has developed a superb "*Standards of Excellence in Medicine*" 49th annual conference, to be held February 29 – March 2, 2008 in Houston. In conjunction with the annual conference schedule, there will be a "*Legal Aspects of Dentistry*" conference, the first of this type in over a decade. Both faculties consist of individuals with unique professorial expertise. Make sure you save the dates to attend; you won't want to miss this meeting in the space city.

Kent Harshbarger, Tom McLean and Alan Hoffman are working with Bob Buckman to refine and redefine the student writing competition to attract more submissions. They will soon be notifying appropriate educational institutions about our four writing categories requesting student participation and we hope to receive outstanding papers as we have in the past.

I have been in communication with Past President Phil Cifarelli and Past President Marty Flamm's wife, Susan. Both developed different types of medical issues in March that have required sessions of chemotherapy. Both are responding to their treatment and are encouraged that remission is in the picture. They are appreciative of those who have emailed and sent cards. They look to regain enough strength to attend the annual conference in Houston, and we pray that they will be there with us. We send our love and prayers to both Phil and Susan for remission and recovery.

I thought it would be appropriate to let you know what some of our members have recently accomplished. Matthias Okoye has been elected secretary of the ABLM. Dorothy Gregory, a past president, recently presented the Distinguished Greyson Lectureship at the SIU Law School. Past president Cyril Wecht and BOG member Matthias Okoye are co-authors of a newly published reference textbook (October 2007), *Forensic Investigation and Management of Mass Disasters*. Cyril was also recently appointed adjunct professor of law at the Aristotle University College of Law, San Diego, California. Treasurer Mel Shiffman has authored over 250 journal articles and 110 book chapters. BOG member Tom Noguchi is an officer of the World Association of Legal Medicine. Rollin Matsui is on the Editorial Board for the *Oral Health Journal* section on Ethics and Sharon Turner is Dean of the University of Kentucky School of Dental Medicine. More member updates will appear in future columns.

ACLM was recently informed that Past President (1993) Dan Cullan, MD, JD, FCLM has passed away. Condolences have been sent to his family.

For those of you who like to long-range plan your combination learn and fun trips, Tom Noguchi is gathering information about the World Congress of Legal Medicine meeting to be held in China in October 2008, with side trips. The Congress will not interfere with our mid-year conference. More information will soon be available.

Please let our staff know of any member who is ill or who is deceased. True to our ACLM name, we are an All inclusive health related educational organization that is has Collegiality as a foundation and intersects Legal aspects of Medical and health related issues for all health related professionals interested in the law.

Until my next message God bless you all, our country and professions, the American College of Legal Medicine and any of our Colleagues or family members who may be ill.

Bruce H. Seidberg, DDS, MScD, JD, FCLM
ACLM President

**Call for Submission of Abstracts for Poster Session Presentations
at the 48th Annual Conference on Legal Medicine
to be held at the Renaissance Houston Hotel – Greenway Plaza
Houston, Texas
February 29 – March 2, 2008**

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 or Dentistry 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, dental 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 48th Annual Conference on Legal Medicine to be held February 29 – March 2, 2008 at the Renaissance Houston Hotel – Greenway Plaza, Houston, Texas.

This is your opportunity to report an interesting case or prepare a scholarly analysis of a medical, dental, 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.

K. Waugh Zucker, MA, JD, LLM
Poster Session Chair

Submit abstracts to: Abstracts/ACLM Executive Office, 1100 E. Woodfield Rd., 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, 2008. For more information visit www.aclm.org.