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ACLM Notes from the President

April 2010

ACLM LMP and Q&A March/April 2010 Issues

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Comments from ACLM Members:

If you have thoughts or opinions on articles in either the *ACLM Q & A* or *LMP* that you would like to share with the membership, please email them to Lisa Oesterreicher at lisao@wjweiser.com

Notes from the President: *Dale H. Cowan, MD, JD, FCLM*

It is with pleasure and humility that I greet each of you with this, my first report as president of the American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM).

I want to start by expressing my thanks to my predecessor, Melvin Shiffman, MD, JD, FCLM, for the outstanding leadership he provided to the College during the past year. He oversaw the affairs of the College with a deep respect for the history and traditions of the College, an understanding of the current challenges and opportunities facing the College, and imagination and insight in furthering the goal of making membership in the College increasingly valuable.

The recently concluded Annual Meeting of the College was outstanding. Many members have commented that this was one of the best educational programs the College has had. The lion's share of the credit for this goes to Victoria Green, MD, JD, MBA, FCLM, who served as the program chairperson. One cannot overstate the time and effort provided by Vicky in assembling and managing this program. It is altogether fitting that Vicky was nominated and elected to be secretary of the College for the coming year and attain a place on the Executive Committee.

The program chairperson for the 2011 Annual Meeting, to be held in Las Vegas at the Planet Hollywood Hotel on February 25 - 27, is Kent Harshbarger, MD, JD, FCLM. Kent is already beginning to plan the agenda for that meeting. He has stated that in order to expand the roster of speakers, he will be sending out a notice to all members of the College who want to present at that meeting. The notice will direct members to send a statement to Sue O'Sullivan at the ACLM office including the topic he/she wishes to present, a short summary of the content of the presentation, and a brief summary of one's background and qualifications in the area of the presentation. It is understood that not every proposal can be accepted, but there is a genuine desire to expand the roster of presenters and the scope of the educational program.

A number of members have expressed an interest in assisting the College in using the very special talents of its members, most of whom have degrees in the field of health science and the law in order to project its expertise in legislative and regulatory matters. Francois Blaudeau, MD, JD, FCLM is the new Chair of the Legislative Committee and will be proposing a number of initiatives by which members of the College can provide their unique perspectives and expertise to legislative committees and to regulatory bodies to help shape policies affecting the delivery of and payment for health care.

A continuing issue for the College is that of membership. One need not belabor the fact that most of us are under increasing financial pressures. Nonetheless, a good case can be made for the proposition that the cost of being a member of the College is well worth benefits provided by membership when one considers the various publications, the educational meeting, and the opportunity that College membership provides for networking with colleagues around the country engaged in similar activities to one's own. Future reports will present to you suggestions as to how each of you can contribute to membership recruitment.

Finally, I wish to extend an invitation to every member of the College to

send me any suggestions you have with respect to new initiatives the College might undertake and to improve the value of College membership.

INTRODUCING THE NEW ACLM RESOURCE CENTER

The ACLM executive office is pleased to announce a new web-based feature for our members. The ACLM Resource Center is now under development at www.aclm.org. In this section of the website, users will be able to search an extensive list of medical and legal journal links, all combined in one place for a convenient way to access professional articles. This section of the site will also house ACLM Members in the News and Links from Members. If you have anything that you would like to contribute to this new section, please contact Lisa Oesterreicher at the ACLM executive office at lisao@wjweiser.com or by calling (847) 264-5918.

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