

1st Annual Business Meeting
Occupational/Environmental Medicine Section
Wisconsin Medical Society
September 28, 2006

Members Present: Mike Lischak, Maja Jurisic, Dave Drury, Bill Greaves, Dennis Schultz

Members Participating Telephonically: Dave Goodman, Henry Anderson

1. The Year in Review

Mike Lischak reviewed our accomplishments as a section since our formation in the summer of 2005. He felt that we have made significant steps in making other physicians and groups in the Medical Society aware of our existence.

We presented the educational session for the House of Delegates during the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Medical Society.

We played an active and vital role in the formation of the Healthcare Provider Advisory Committee to the Wisconsin Workers' Compensation Advisory Council.

We introduced a resolution at the House of Delegates to work in parallel with the HC Advisory committee and solicit wider participation in the development of the WC Treatment Guidelines being undertaken at the state level. This resolution has been sent to the HC Access Committee, was referred to the Council on Legislation, and is now a resolution before the Board.

Norb Rebholz recently helped us to form an occ med ListServe. This was created with the intention of opening up dialogue on the Guidelines, as well as other issues with members of our section, as well as any others who might be interested.

The Environmental Committee also cosponsored some educational seminars earlier in the year.

2. Leadership Development

Everyone present agreed that we would like to encourage more members to take on leadership roles. We need to increase awareness of our activities, and encourage participation.

Suggestions included sponsoring a half-day meeting, as well as taking advantage of having the ACOEM Central States meeting in Madison in the fall of 2007. It was suggested that we might approach the organizers of the Central States meeting and suggest that all states with "active occ med sections" be given the opportunity of having a free booth in the exhibitor's area, so we could share our experience, and spread word of our activities. The more occ docs become

activists at the state level, the better, as that is where the rules and regulations relating to our practice are crafted (editorial comment).

Bill Greaves suggested that we can keep members engaged by using e-mail. He also felt it would be useful to request information via e-mail (demographic info, yearly survey, quarterly message, etc.).

3. Pandemic Influenza

Dennis Schultz learned that the Wisconsin Medical Society has no resource person for information about pandemic influenza planning, nor did the people he contacted at the Medical Society seem particularly interested in this topic.

Others mentioned that there are a lot of groups doing this type of planning. There is a group at the Wauwatosa Health Department engaged in this. The Medical College of Wisconsin has a grant for this as well, and Bill Greaves sponsored a one day workshop on September 22 featuring Kristin Gebbie from Columbia University, who did a session on how to produce educational competencies in this area.

Henry Anderson mentioned several conferences in the Madison area on this topic, including one at the Alliant Center through the University of Wisconsin on “surviving the pandemic.”

The discussion expanded to disaster planning in general. SOTAC is emphasizing disaster planning and the Medical Society is encouraging physicians to get training in Basic and Advanced Disaster Planning.

4. Strategic Planning

Maja Jurisic brought up the idea of sponsoring or co-sponsoring a “Workers’ Compensation Summit” in 2007. Dr. Jennifer Christian has served as the leader in such meetings in other states. It would entail bringing together as many of the stakeholders and key players in the process as possible (physicians, employers, worker representatives, payers, other healthcare professionals providing WC care) and discussing how we can make the system work better. Exploring areas of mutual concern and coming up with ways of dealing with these more efficaciously could well be more effective in saving WC dollars than the Guidelines which the legislature adopted last year. Mike Lischak suggested putting together a “working group” to brainstorm on how to bring this about.

The group felt that we have a great opportunity in 2007 to piggyback on the Central States meeting. Dennis Schultz will contact the organizers. Our section could probably put together a presentation on “Medicine and Politics.”

5. Election of Officers and Committee Chairs

Bill Greaves suggested re-electing everyone to another term. Mike Lischak countered that to maintain the health of the section, we should probably at least do some reshuffling.

In that spirit, Dave Goodman was unanimously elected as Chair, Henry Anderson as the Vice-Chair, and Maja Jurisic as Secretary. They constitute the Officers of the section.

We also decided that the position of Vice-Chair will be considered a "President Elect" position. Henry does not want that role after his term as Vice-Chair, but after his term is up, it will become the natural progression.

Henry Anderson will stay on as Chair of the Environmental Committee. Dave Goodman will also stay on as Chair of the Education Committee. Dave Drury will assume the role of Assistant Chair of the Education Committee. Mike Lischak will become Chair of the WC Committee.

We will leave the rest of the Executive Council/members at large as they are, although Henry Anderson said he would check with Vern Dodson to see if he still wanted to remain in that role. He will let the past and future Secretary know. Bill Greaves suggested posting the vacancy left by Henry's assuming the Vice-Chair position on the ListServe to see who might be interested. We will do so.

The meeting was adjourned. Dr. Goodman, in his new role as Chair, will decide on the date of our next meeting.