

Newsletter

APRIL, 2002

President's Column

I was honored to serve as CAPM's president between May 2001 and April 2002. One of my goals for my tenure was to have a newsletter produced, and here it is! Among other items, you will find information on our May 1 annual meeting in Napa, which I hope you can attend. If you have an item for the agenda, such as a bill you would like CAPM to support or oppose, please e-mail any relevant information to Zabrina Cooper at the e-mail address given on the last page.

To those of you who renewed your membership this year, thank you. Among other activities, your support allowed CAPM to:

- In 2001, introduce and support a resolution at the House of Delegates (HOD) of the California Medical Association (CMA) which became CMA Policy HOD 608-01, "Funding Stipends For Preventive Medicine Residents."
- In 2002, introduce and support three CMA HOD resolutions related to preventive medicine

and public health, all of which became CMA policy (see article in the middle of this newsletter).

- Argue for and against other resolutions of the CMA HOD.
- Comment on HIV reporting regulations from the California Department of Health Services (CDHS).
- Request that CDHS hire a physician to lead the Division of Communicable Disease Control.
- Write letters pertaining to two bills in the State Legislature.
- Ask that a county hire a full-time (not part-time) physician health officer.

I would like to express appreciation to the 2001-2002 CAPM Board members who gave so much of their time and effort to make the above activities possible: Ellen Alkon, Andy Deckert, Bette Hinton, Neal Kohatsu, Don Lyman, and Jim Seward. Furthermore, Ron Hattis deserves a great deal of credit for his contributions, especially in our organization's

relations with CMA. Finally, if you haven't heard already, the Preventive Medicine 2003 meeting of the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) will be held February 19-23, 2003, in San Diego. Neal



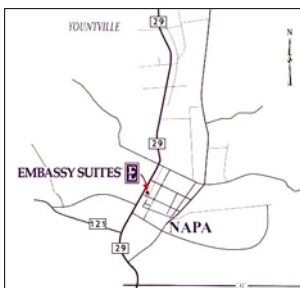
Richard Sun, M.D., M.P.H.

Kohatsu of the CAPM Board is chairing the meeting overall, and I am assisting with one part of the planning. Please mark your calendars; I hope that CAPM and ACPM can mutually benefit from this meeting.

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CAPM Annual Meeting 2002 -- How to Get to the Hotel



The CAPM Annual Meeting will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel Napa Valley on Wednesday, May 1, 2002 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The hotel is located at: 1075 Cali-

fornia Boulevard, Napa. Phone: 707/253-9540. The CAPM meeting is being held between sessions of a California Conference of Local Health Officers meeting on bioterrorism. For information, call (916) 654-0023.

If you stay at the hotel, there is a complimentary cooked-to-order breakfast. All suites include: king or two double beds, wet bar, refrigerator, microwave, coffeemaker, iron, ironing board, hair dryer, two dual line telephones, two remote control color televisions, and

full size sofa sleeper.

From San Francisco across the Golden Gate Bridge:

Take Highway 101 north to Highway 37 east. Continue on Highway 37 until you reach Sears Point Raceway. Turn left at the intersection onto Highway 121 north. Continue on 121 north to Highway 29 north. Turn left onto Highway 29 north and continue until the "First Street/Downtown Napa" exit. Turn right at the stop sign off the exit and turn left at first

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2002 Actions by CAPM at the CMA House of Delegates -- Ron Hattis

Following is a brief report by the delegation of CAPM to the California Medical Association's annual meeting of House of Delegates in Anaheim, February 2002. All three of the resolutions sponsored by CAPM passed, and CAPM was influential in the support and amendment of other resolutions, which will impact on preventive medicine and public health. For a full report, please contact Ron Hattis at:

ronhattis@aol.com

You can view the final "Actions of 2002 House of Delegates" on the CMA Web site at <http://www.cmanet.org/publicdoc.cfm/584/207/GENER/738>.

Background:

CAPM is the recognized specialty in Preventive Medicine by CMA and has one vote at the House of Delegates (HOD). The CAPM delegation for 2002 consisted of Ron Hattis (Delegate) and Don Lyman (Alternate).

CAPM's Delegate and non-voting Alternate are part of the Specialty Delegation representing the interests of all medical specialties. CAPM thus has an opportunity to influence the positions and testimony of that large and influential delegation. CAPM was also represented through Don Lyman on the Council on Scientific Affairs (CSA), which provides influential testimony on resolutions with scientific and public health impact. (Don's seat on CSA is as Chair of the Scientific Committee on Preventive Medicine and Public Health, in which CAPM plays a leading role along with academic representatives; Ron was the immediate past-chair and also is a member of that committee.)

The recommendations of the reference committees that hold hearings on the resolutions are even more important. Any CMA member can testify before the reference committees, but the Delegate and Alternate assure that all resolutions of interest to CAPM are addressed.

2002 Resolutions Sponsored by CAPM

- **114-02, Strengthening Public Health Under Medical Leadership** - Support public health infrastructure and hiring physicians to leadership posts in state and local governments. (Adopted as editorially amended.) CAPM role: Board voted to introduce and sponsor this resolution; authored by CAPM delegate Ron Hattis. **RESOLVED: That CMA continue to work actively to preserve and strengthen the public health infrastructure in California at the state and local level, including funding increases for infectious disease and disaster preparedness programs; and that CMA continue to work actively for the appointment of qualified physicians to fill leadership positions in public health within state and local government.**
- **207-02, Tobacco Taxes and Medical Uses of Tobacco Funds** - Encourage state and local medical societies to work with advocates in cur-

rent construction of an additional tobacco tax. (Adopted as editorially amended.) CAPM role: Board voted to sponsor this resolution; authored by CAPM delegate Ron Hattis. **RESOLVED: That CMA collaborate with medical specialty societies an appropriate non-profit organizations regarding further tobacco taxation proposals, and that CMA work to assure that the uses of any further tobacco taxes include preservation of funding for prevention and cessation of tobacco use as well as for other critical medical needs; and that CMA urge and assist local medical societies to collaborate with appropriate local non-profit and medical organizations to assure direction of county tobacco settlement funds toward prevention and cessation programs related to tobacco use, and for other medical priorities within the local jurisdictions.**

- **208-02; Evaluation of HIV Reporting System** - Advocates evaluation of "unique identifier" system of HIV reporting and if found wanting to move to revise that system. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Board voted to sponsor this resolution; authored by CAPM delegate Ron Hattis. **RESOLVED: That CMA work actively to include and involve medical representation from CMA and appropriate state medical specialty societies in the evaluation of California's HIV reporting system; and that CMA consider the CDC criteria of completeness, timeliness, accuracy, and lack of duplication as necessary components of a successful HIV reporting system; and that if the state's HIV reporting system should be found by the CMA not to meet the above criteria, then CMA will work actively to revise it so that it does.**

2002 Resolutions of Interest to CAPM:

This is a summary of the resolutions CAPM was active in addressing this year, and the actions taken by the HOD on each. Resolutions introduced or sponsored by CAPM are shown in bold print.

- **101-02, Screening for Impaired Glucose Tolerance and Diabetes Mellitus** - Support for screening for DM. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Board supported. Testified in favor at reference committee; voted in favor at HOD. **RESOLVED: That CMA endorse and encourage physician-directed use of screening for impaired glucose tolerance and diabetes**

mellitus in appropriate patients.

- **102-02, Speeding the Decline of Tuberculosis in California** - Support Tbc control efforts in California and support use of unlicensed public health staff to do skin tests. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Board supported if amended. Testified in favor at reference committee and at CSA; successfully supported amendment to better define what type of staff ("appropriate public health") could do TB skin tests; voted in favor at HOD. **RESOLVED: That CMA continue to support the state's Tuberculosis Elimination Plan and support legislation enabling the training and certification of appropriate public health staff, working under the supervision of the local Health Officer, to place a tuberculin skin test and measure result.**

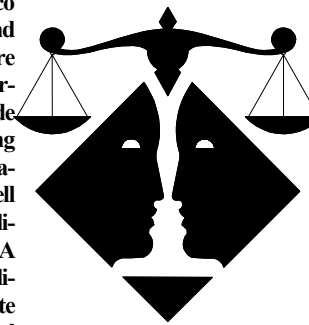
- **103-02, Human Germline Genetic Engineering** - Support ban on germline genetic engineering with potential to pass into population at large. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Initial position of CAPM Board was "Watch." After amendments by reference committee, CAPM voted in favor at HOD.

- **104-02, Action on Environmental Contributors to Disease** - Support research into and support of groups addressing the links between environment and diseases. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM Role: Board supported. Testified in favor at reference committee; voted in favor at HOD. **RESOLVED: That CMA urge greater public and private funding for research into the environmental causes of disease and urge the National Academy of Sciences to undertake an authoritative analysis of this issue; and that CMA ask the steering committee of the Medicine and Public Health Initiative coalition to consider environmental contributors to disease a priority public health issue and this matter be referred for national action.**

- **105-02, Air Pollution, Energy, and Health** - Lengthy resolution addressing power generation and air pollution. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Board supported portions of the original resolution. Testified in favor of these at reference committee; voted in favor of amended resolution at HOD.

- **106-02, Climate Change and Human Health** - Urge the President to address this matter. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Board voted to support but to delete specific reference to Kyoto accords. CAPM supported at HOD after amendment by reference committee. **RE-**

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2002 Actions by CAPM at the CMA House of Delegates - cont'd

(Continued from page 2)

- SOLVED: That CMA strongly urge the President of the United States to take proactive steps to curb greenhouse emissions and work with other nations to address the increasing dangers of global climate change by committing to binding reduction targets for emissions, and that this matter be referred for national action.
- 107-02, Labeling of Genetically Modified Foods - Support labeling of foods which contain genetically modified materials. (Substitute adopted.) CAPM role: Testified in favor of labeling of genetically modified food components at reference committee; voted in favor of compromise amended resolutions at HOD. RESOLVED: That CMA support accurate labeling requirements for foods, including genetically modified foods, by appropriate regulatory agencies.
- 108-02; Avoidance of Cigarette Sales Under FDA Supervision - Lengthy resolution against tobacco. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Board took a "Watch" position on original contentious wording; CAPM supported after amendment by reference committee. RESOLVED: That CMA continue to support appropriate efforts to inform the public and elected officials that the tobacco industry profited from their deadly products despite the industry's full awareness of the connection between tobacco use and multiple diseases; and that CMA continue to support appropriate efforts to inform the public and elected officials that even though the tobacco industry has claimed to have isolated the addictive elements of tobacco, there still remain many harmful and dangerous ingredients in tobacco; and that CMA support all efforts to inform the public that even if tobacco is placed under the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), it remains unsafe and unhealthy; and that CMA continue its efforts to prohibit the sale and marketing of tobacco products.
- 109-02, Increasing Legal Age of Smoking in California - Support to raise legal age to buy tobacco to 21. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Board support. Testified in favor at reference committee; voted in favor at HOD (this surprisingly passed as part of the consent calendar, without further debate at the full House). RESOLVED: That CMA support legislation increasing the legal age to buy tobacco products in California to age twenty-one, and support increased fines and enforcement efforts to prevent exposure of adolescents to cigarette and other tobacco products.
- 110-02, Reckless Driving and Vehicular Accidents - Parents who permit their children to drive recklessly should have more and better insurance. (Not adopted.) CAPM role: Board opposed.
- 111-02, Dangers of Boxing - Opposition to boxing and support for use of Olympic Boxing Rules. (Not adopted.) CAPM role: Board opposed because this weakened the existing CMA position in favor of banning competitive boxing.
- 112-02, Reducing "Junk Food" in Schools - Support to control junk food in schools. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Board support with amendments. Testified and offered amendments at reference committee, which were adopted; voted in favor at HOD, where there was additional debate. RESOLVED: That CMA urge county medical societies, member physicians and other appropriate local groups to encourage palatable, health-promoting foods in K-12 schools and oppose the emphasis of on-campus sale of so-called "junk food" (food with inadequate nutritional value or excessive caloric content) as part of a comprehensive effort to reduce obesity.
- 113-02, Body Fat Measurements and Eating Disorders - Support to delete caliper measurements of skin thickness to measure body fat of children and use something else. (Adopted as amended.) RESOLVED: That CMA ask the California Department of Education to alter its recommendations regarding fitness measures of fifth to ninth graders by removing from the category "Body Composition" the use of percentage body fat derived from caliper measurements of skin thickness.
- 115a-02, Assistance for Emergency Medical Services - Encourages CMA and local medical societies to meet with emergency medical service officials to address disaster planning (Substitute adopted for combined resolutions 115-02 and 118-02.) CAPM role: Board support original resolution 115; 118 was a later resolution from Young Physicians Section. Supported combined, amended resolution from reference committee at HOD. RESOLVED: That CMA meet with the Emergency Medical Services Authority to plan what assistance CMA can provide in the event of a disaster; and that CMA encourage participation by local medical societies in efforts of local Emergency Medical Services Agencies and other appropriate agencies in developing local response plans for disasters, including bioterrorism.
- 116a-02, Vaccine Shortages - (Substitute adopted for combined resolutions 116-02 and 117-02.) CAPM role: Board did not have these late resolutions. Supported combined, amended resolution from reference committee at HOD. RESOLVED: That CMA continue to work with the American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the FDA and relevant specialty societies, vaccine manufacturers and other stakeholders, to take more stringent measures to assure an adequate, consistent supply of vaccines with reasonable pricing for recommended populations; and that CMA continue to communicate its deep concern about deficiencies in the existing vaccine infrastructure and the resulting delays and shortages to state and federal government leaders.
- 206-02, Immunization Registries - Advocate for access to registry information at state and national levels. (Substitute adopted.) CAPM role: Board originally voted to "watch." Supported substitute resolution from reference committee at HOD. RESOLVED: That CMA support the development of an accurate statewide immunization registry and the use of available technologies and software to assure that voluntary regional and provider-based registries can link into a statewide registry.
- 502-02, Bioterrorism - Protection from Liability - Release of physicians and pharmaceutical companies from liabilities in case of bioterrorist attacks. (Adopted as amended.) CAPM role: Board recommended amendment to limit immunity to use of vaccines and antibiotics in accordance with public health guidelines. Supported if amended at reference committee; voted in favor of amended version from reference committee at HOD. RESOLVED: That CMA continue to work with the legislature to release physicians from liability arising from their participation in an organized governmental response to bioterrorism; and that CMA refer this for national action.
- 607a-02, Physician Education on Agents of Bioterrorism - Call for physicians to be educated and require CME hours for such education. (Substitute adopted for combined resolutions 607-02 and 608-02.) CAPM role: Board voted to support with amendments to delete bioterrorism education as a requirement for medical staff membership, and legislatively mandated courses in medical schools. Testified to that effect at reference committee; voted in favor of combined, amended resolution at HOD. RESOLVED: That CMA recommends all physicians educate themselves regarding the clinical presentation, diagnosis, and reporting requirements for the likely agents of a bioterrorist attack; and that CMA recommend county medical societies work closely with local health officers and hospital medical staffs to provide training and educational programs for responding to likely agents of a bioterrorist attack; and that CMA encourage medical schools to incorporate bioterrorism preparedness into the medical education curriculum.

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stop light onto California Blvd. The hotel is on the left. (You can see it from the exit.)

From San Francisco across the Bay Bridge:

Take Highway 80 east to Highway 37 west, passing Marine World-Africa USA. Continue on Highway 37 to Highway 29 north and exit at First Street. Turn right at the stop sign off the exit and turn left at the first stop light onto California Blvd. The hotel is on the left (you can see it from the exit).

From Sacramento:

Take Highway 80 west to Highway 12 west. Turn right at second light onto Highway 29. Stay left at fork in the highway toward Calistoga and exit at First Street. Turn right at the stop sign off the exit and then left at the first stop light onto California Blvd. The hotel is on the left (you can see it from the exit).

For more information, visit the hotel's Web site at <http://www.embassynapa.com>.

Preventive Medicine on the Web--Alex Kelter

By now, many of you have explored the internet in various ways. In the old days (1996 and before), most internet exploration took the form of text-based tools like "ftp" and "gopher." Now, the graphical interface known as the World Wide Web has pretty much taken over for most of us, making our 8 Megabytes-of-RAM computers obsolete.

The number of sites, and the amount of information, available on the Web is too much to count. As

with any free source, the quality varies from totally correct to totally incorrect, and you have to know what you're doing to have a chance of telling one from the other.

Journals, studies, newspapers, forums, organizations, and companies, all have their own web sites, and visiting them will expand your ideas of what you can find out just sitting at your computer. It will also severely cut

into your free time if you get any pleasure at all from it.

CAPM's own web site is now in development. When it is "put up" on DHS' own server, it will be accessible either directly or by navigating through DHS' site: www.dhs.ca.gov/cdic. Follow the path through Chronic Disease and Injury Control to find the future location of CAPM's site.

Constitutional Amendments -- To be Voted Upon May 2002

Don Lyman

We'll be on the web
soon!
www.calprevmed.org

The URL has changed! As
of February 2003, it's:

<http://capm.us>

If you attend the Annual Meeting, you will be asked to vote on the following issue. Last year CAPM voted to amend our By-Laws to change the titles of members. "Diplomate Membership" became "Fellowship," and "Associate Membership" became "Regular Membership." Unfortunately, we did not concurrently amend the Constitution. The proposal this year is to amend the Constitution to be consistent with the By-Laws in this regard. Two additional changes are "cleanup" (noted by * below).

- Article IV ("Membership"), Section 1. Line 1, Delete the first two words ("Diplomate Membership ...") and replace with the word, "Fellowship ..."
- Article IV ("Membership"), Section 1. Lines 6 & 7, Delete the words ("...Associate ...") and replace with the word "...Regular ..."

- Article IV ("Membership"), Section 2. Line 2, Delete the first two words ("member ...") and replace with the word, "fellow ..."
- * Article IV ("Membership"), Section 2. Line 2, Delete the word ("...his ...").
- * Article IV ("Membership"), Section 3. Line 2, after the words, "... American Board of Preventive Medicine ..." add the words, "...or other Specialty Board as noted in Section 1, ..."

