



INDIANA CHAPTER

American College of Surgeons

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Carolyn Downing

(800) 969-7545

Editor

Robert Inlow

(317) 398-9580

2406 N Richard

Drive, Shelby-

ville, IN 46176

rinlow@mem.po.

com

Health Care Coalition

The Health Care Coalition for Specialty/Medical Care had its second meeting Dec 7, at ISMA headquarters. The Indiana Orthopedic Society has received a start up grant of \$5000 to form the coalition. Representatives from specialty societies of anesthesia, surgery, plastic surgery, dermatology, and orthopedics were present as well as ISMA and two patient advocacy groups. There was agreement that a coalition would be helpful in the passage of legislation, that there was interest in participation, but confusion as to what the main goals of the coalition were to be. The group will require financial support of the members and must present a single voice on medical issues. Once started, the Coalition will go on its own. The patient advocacy groups will need to be very involved with the mission statement and goals, and physicians, though involved and interested will serve mainly in an advisory capacity.

MacLean to Present Jesseph Lecture

Lloyd D. MacLean of Montreal, PQ, a past president of the American College of Surgeons, will present the annual John E. Jesseph Memorial Lecture. His subject for the Friday night after dinner session will be **Health Care Delivery Systems**. He says that "As I have traveled here and there, I have found that wives are probably better informed on this than their surgeon husbands". On Saturday morning he will speak on **Recent Advances in the Treatment of Obesity**. The Friday session will be at the Columbia Club in Indianapolis, with the social hour at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30.
{ *The Jesseph and Moore lectureships are jointly sponsored by the Department of Surgery at Indiana University and the Indiana Chapter of the American College of Surgeons. This unique partnership has benefited both surgical residents and practicing surgeons through excellent lecturers.*}

Editorial

ADMINISTAR

Administar Federal has sent out letters to surgeons about "aberrancies" in the numbers of "radical" surgeries they perform for breast cancer. They cite medicare billing statistics as their basis for determining this. Their board is in the process of formulating a policy concerning radical surgery for breast cancer. It is apparently their contention and concern that "too many" modified radical mastectomies are being performed in Indiana. The letters are an "educational" effort.

The draft policy fails to differentiate between radical, Urban type, and modified radical procedures, combining them all as "radical". They propose to require that a surgeon justify the use of mastectomy to be paid. They correctly assert that the less radical surgical survival rate is equivalent to the radical procedures.

One must question whether the formulation of such a policy serves the patient's best interest. The patient's consideration of the options of treatment have always

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Meet Your New Councilors

G.A. ROWE

Dr. Rowe is a 1965 graduate of the I.U. School of Medicine. He was an intern and general surgical resident at Methodist Hospital finishing in 1970. After military service at Redstone Arsenal, he completed a pediatric surgery fellowship at Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 1974. George and his wife of 32 years, Joanie, come from Terre Haute. They have Michael, a senior medical student, Cathy, a graduate nurse, and Mark, a sophomore dental student. All are currently attending I.U. Cathy serves as his scrub nurse while working on her graduate degree. George is on the staff of Community, St. Vincents and Riverview Hospitals and lives in north-east Indianapolis.

ROSEMARIE JONES

RoseMarie (Lopez) Jones was born in Chicago, IL and was raised in Crown Point, IN. She received her B.S. degree in Chemistry from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, IN, and went on to

Coming Events

February 2 - Deadline for abstracts for Annual Meeting.

February 16 - John E. Jessep Lecture - Lloyd D. MacLean. Columbia Club, Indianapolis; Social 6:30 PM, Dinner 7:30 PM

May 2-4 - Annual Meeting - Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

attend medical school at Indiana University. Dr. Jones completed her residency training {Indiana University Medical Center} in General Surgery in 1989. Since that time she has been in private practice in Surgery in Indianapolis. She has also been a Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at I.U. Medical Center. Her special interests include treatment of breast cancer and laparoscopic antireflux surgery.

Dr. Jones and her husband Chris, a plastic surgeon, have a 22 month old daughter, Meredith Rose. Dr. Jones speaks four foreign languages. Other outside interest include piano and the history of the English language.

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borne an emotional load. This load has been compounded by the politicization of these choices. The bottom line remains that the patient herself must make the decision, based on an informed foundation. That decision is influenced by many factors only one of which is medical science. Convenience, bodily image, fear of radiation, age, marital status, culture, cost, and choice of physician all enter in.

I agree with Dr Paul Ebert who said, "--One has to ask why there is such a forceful approach to making clinical decisions at an administrative level. With the current direction in which national trends are headed, this question is particularly vexing since it seems that the goal of having fewer radical operations performed is already being accomplished." (A.C.S. Bulletin, Oct. 1995)

This seems to be another attempt to influence medical practice by economic incentive, masked as quality improvement.

The statistical concept of "aberrancies" or "outliers" is based in efforts of quality control. By necessity any average has variation in both directions, the most extreme being the outliers. By the elimination of outliers, one obtains a more uniform, "quality" product. If Administar is investigating and "educating" outliers in one direction only, their position becomes one of advocacy rather than quality control. This appears to be the situation here.

This issue was discussed at the last Councilor's meeting and will again be discussed at the meeting in February. Comments will be welcomed.

R.P. Inlow, M.D., FACS

New Governors

The Indiana Chapter now has three Governors. Past President Inlow was elected Governor at Large, and Stephen W. Perkins of Indianapolis was elected Specialty Governor of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. Governor at Large Thomas Broadie has two years remaining on his term.

Physicians' Online

Physicians' Online added E-mail to its service starting Nov. 1st. Your editor has made extensive use of it. He has found however that very few of Indiana Chapter members utilize this electronic means of communication. Shape up! This appears to be a great way of communicating. In the future a bulletin board may become available which will provide still better communication.