

MSDC

eNewsline

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Upcoming Events

**The Cancer Project's
Food for Life Series**
The Cancer Project HQ
5100 Wisconsin Avenue,
NW Suite 300
11:00am to 1:00pm

Introduction to How
Foods Fight Cancer
Wed., February 3

Fueling Up on Low-Fat,
High-Fiber Foods
Wed., February 10

Discovering Dairy and
Meat Alternatives
Wed., February 17

Cancer-Fighting
Compounds and
Healthy Weight Control
Wed., February 24

CME Program -

The District of Columbia Council Continues to Impact Health Care in the Nation's Capital

Introduced by Councilmembers Gray, Mendelson and Catania on January 19, 2010, the "Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Initiative Amendment Act of 2010" would provide access to marijuana for medicinal use for qualifying patients. This provision was approved in a ballot initiative passed by District voters in 1998 but never implemented. The Council's Committees on Health and Public Safety and the Judiciary will hold a joint hearing on **February 11, 2010, at 10 a.m.** Physicians interested in testifying or obtaining a copy of the legislation should contact **Ed Shanbacker, MSDC Executive Vice President**, at shanbacker@msdc.org.

In addition, the Council is currently considering legislation that would impact long term care facilities, ban certain chemicals, and re-write of the District Statute on Corporations, both for-profit and non-profit.

To address the long term care legislation, titled "Health Care Facilities Improvement Act of 2009," MSDC is working with the District's nursing home association to have the bill amended to make it less onerous for physicians. To address the corporations bill, titled "District of Columbia Official Code Title 29 (Business Organizations) Enactment Act of 2009," MSDC has partnered with the D.C. Chamber of Commerce and other health care organizations in the city urging the Council to proceed deliberately because of a number of problems in the legislation. On the chemical ban, titled "Human and Environmental Health Protection Amendment Act of 2009," MSDC has received a commitment from one of the bill's sponsors that the ban on certain chemicals, including Bisphenol-A, would not apply to medical supplies and equipment.

Copies of these bills and all bills before the Council are available by contacting MSDC headquarters.



MSDC Members Continue to Support Haiti and Haitian Relief Efforts

**Update on
Alzheimer's Disease &
Related Disorders**
Friday, February 26
7:30am to 5:00pm
Intercultural Center
Auditorium; Georgetown
University
37th and O St., NW
Washington, DC
[Click Here for more info](#)

**ProAssurance Loss
Prevention Seminars****
April 20
American College of
Cardiology
2400 N. St. NW
Washington, DC

May 20
American College of
Cardiology
2400 N. St. NW
Washington, DC

June 16
American College of
Cardiology
2400 N. St. NW
Washington, DC

July 14
Hilton Arlington
950 N. Stafford St.
Arlington, VA

**All programs begin
registration at 5:30pm,
and have the program
from 6pm - 8pm.

Corporate Partners



The Medical Society of DC and Washington Psychiatric Society have been active in their support of Haitian medical relief efforts. Many MSDC members and WPS members have volunteered their time, knowledge and skill to the victims of the January 12th earthquake.

There are many opportunities to support the aid effort. Even here in Washington, DC.

The loss of life and devastation is not bounded by the waters of the Caribbean. Many staffers at the Haitian Embassy have family and friends that remained in the country. The WPS has volunteered to act as a mental health resource for the Embassy of Haiti, and if you are interested in volunteering some of your time, please [click here](#) for more information.

Many other members are involved on the ground in Haiti, or on their way, with other organizations, such as Partners in Health, Doctors Without Borders and the American Red Cross. MSDC continues to stay in contact with the volunteers, and their organizations.

If you would like to support the Haiti relief effort in any other number of ways, please visit the [Pan-American Health Organization](#), the [Center for International Disaster Information](#) and the [American Medical Association](#). The AMA has recently started it's Disaster Volunteer Physician Registry for any interested physicians. [Click here](#) for more information and to volunteer.

Medicare Updates from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)

Medicare Contractor Provider Satisfaction Survey has Started

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is currently conducting the Medicare Contractor Provider Satisfaction Survey. The survey is mailed to 30,000 randomly selected participants nationwide, including physicians. The survey covers seven business functions of the contractors, and physicians are expected to rate their satisfaction with their specific contractor. If you receive one of these surveys, be sure to complete the forms as accurately as possible.

Medicare Remit Easy Print (MREP) Software Codes have been Updated

The latest Claim Adjustment Reason Codes and Remittance Advice Remark Codes are available in the Codes.ini file for the MREP software. You can access this file in the Zipped folder for "Medicare Remit Easy Print - Version 2.7" at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/AccessstoDataApplication/02_MedicareRemitEasyPrint.asp on the CMS website.

Medicare Updates Teleconference for Part B Participants on February 9, 2010

Highmark Medicare Services has scheduled an informational teleconference for Medicare Part B participants for 9:00am on Tuesday, February 9th. Dial 1-877-322-9648 to call-in to the teleconference, and enter participant code 287124. Please [click here](#) to access the teleconference hand-outs. For more information on Highmark Medicare Services, please [click here](#).



**Dr. Peter Lavine, MSDC President,
Addresses the DC Chamber's 2010**



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Policy Forum Panel on Health Care

With health care at the top of the national agenda, the DC Chamber of Commerce's 2010 Policy Forum and Legislative Reception will focus on why health care is vital to the future of business and industry in the District. The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, will lead a distinguished panel of elected leaders, economists and policy experts in a discussion on the most pressing health care issues affecting the local business community. Our MSDC President, Dr. Peter Lavine, has been invited to speak on the topic of malpractice liability reform and its effect on physicians.

The topics addressed will highlight:

- The growing costs of employer sponsored health care coverage
- The impact of chronic illnesses and HIV/AIDS in the workplace
- The question of malpractice liability reform's role in health care

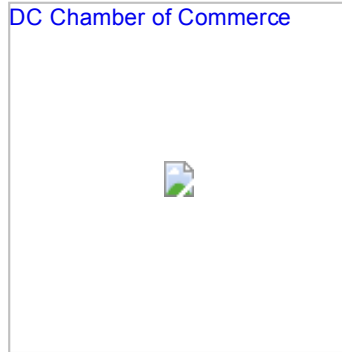
Other panelists include DC Councilmembers David Catania and Phil Mendelson; Victor Schwartz, Chair of the Public Policy Group at Shook Hardy & Bacon, and Dr. Pierre Vigilance, Director of the DC Department of Health.

Immediately following the Policy Forum, the Chamber will host a Legislative Reception with the District's elected and appointed leaders. The Legislative Reception is the companion event to the Policy Forum, and an outstanding opportunity for Chamber members to meet government leaders and share ideas on current legislative affairs.

If you would like more information on the Chamber's Policy Forum and Legislative Reception, please [click here](#) for more information.

The Policy Forum will be held **Monday, February 8** from **4:00pm to 7:30pm** at the **Ronald Reagan Building Amphitheater** located at **1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW**.

[DC Chamber of Commerce](#)



MSDC

MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

New Virginia Governor Nominates Orthopedic Surgeon from Fairfax County for Cabinet Post

Virginia Governor-elect Bob McDonnell has nominated William A. Hazel Jr., M.D., to serve in his cabinet as secretary of health and human resources. Dr. Hazel's appointment is pending confirmation by the Virginia State Senate. As Virginia HHR Secretary, Dr. Hazel will oversee 12 state agencies which provide vital services to Virginians with intellectual disability, mental illness, substance abuse and physical disability concerns to low-income working families; and to the aging community.

Dr. Hazel is a founding partner and president of his practice group, Commonwealth Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation in Fairfax County, Virginia. He has been very active in organized medicine, at both the local and national levels. He served as the president of the Fairfax County Medical Society and the Medical Society of Virginia. After serving 11 years with the Virginia Delegate to the American Medical Association, he was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2004.

Dr. Hazel continues to practice as an orthopaedic surgeon in Northern Virginia, travelling between his two surgery centers, seven rehabilitation clinics and eleven offices.

Congratulations on the appointment, Dr. Hazel!

American Psychiatric Association Announces the New Mental Health Parity Watch Website

The American Psychiatric Association's Office of Healthcare Systems and Financing has created a new website, <http://www.mentalhealthparitywatch.org/Pages/default.aspx>, as a resource to monitor the progress of the Mental Health Parity Act of 2008 and to facilitate reporting issues that arise. The best way to know whether the law is being implemented appropriately is by hearing from patients and physicians about specific concerns they have with a group health plan's mental health coverage relating to the Parity Act's requirements.

The Wellstone-Domenici Mental Health Parity Act, which became law on October 3, 2008, and went into effect for most calendar-year plans on January 1, 2010, is really an extension of the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996. Specific federal regulations, however, were not published by the deadline for health plans. They are expected to be released in the immediate future.

The website is continually updated as more information is released, so check back frequently to stay as up-to-date as possible.

MSDC Members in the News

Janis M. Orlowski, MD has been appointed the Chairperson of the DC Board of Medicine. She was nominated for the position on October 30, 2009 and approved for as a physician member of the Board on December 19, 2009, for a term expiring August 3, 2011. The Immediate Past Chairperson is **Frederick Finelli, MD, JD**, the current MSDC President-Elect. Other MSDC members currently on the Board of Medicine include **Marc Rankin, MD** and **John J. Lynch, MD**.

Neal Barnard, MD, long-time MSDC member and founder/president of The Cancer Project, will be leading a series of cooking classes focused on cancer prevention and cancer survival. Classes are held every Wednesday during the month of February from 11am until 1pm at The Cancer Project's headquarters at 5100 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 300 on the third floor. If you'd like more information, please visit [The Cancer Project](#).

Raymond Tu, MD, received the Physician Recognition Award from the American Medical Association for his dedication to patient care and continued professional development efforts. The award was recognized on January 1st of this year. The AMA Physician Recognition Award is given to all physicians who average 50 CME credits per year. For more information about how you can receive this award, please contact your MSDC office at (202) 466-1800.

Frank MacMurray MD, graduate of Harvard Medical School in 1943 and founding partner at Foxhall Internists, died January 25th at the age of 91. Dr. MacMurray has been an active and committed member of MSDC and other medical societies, including the American College of Physicians, where he was distinguished as a master of the college.

Jack Kleh, MD, graduate of GWU Medical School in 1944 and former Medical Director at the regional Blue Cross/Blue Shield and the Presbyterian Home of Washington, died January 17th at the age of 88. Dr. Kleh has been an active and committed member of MSDC and other local medical societies throughout his dedicated career.



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