

THE SKELETON

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North Carolina Orthopaedic Association

Fall 2008

NCOA Leadership

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AAOS Councilor	Stephen N. Lang, MD Durham
Executive Director	W. Alan Skipper Raleigh



*Coming to a
town near
you...*

The NCOA is undertaking an initiative to take its "show on the road" to visit locally with North Carolina orthopaedists. The purpose of the project is to meet with as many of our colleagues as possible to present a brief NCOA update and overview and to demonstrate the importance of the association to our profession.

In that effort, we need help in identifying opportunities at the local and regional level. Please assist in this effort by notifying the NCOA (ncoa@ncmedsoc.org / 919-833-3836) of possibilities in your area, including regularly scheduled practice meetings, regional orthopaedic society functions, journal clubs, sponsored dinner meetings, etc. We look forward to coming to your area.

CONTACT INFORMATION

North Carolina Orthopaedic Association
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Phone: (919) 833-3836 / Fax: (919) 833-2023
Email: ncoa@ncmedsoc.org
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Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Soboleski

President's Message

Stand up for your profession and your patients

Al Rhyne, MD / President



With the 2008 elections at hand and the 2009 legislative session on the horizon, now is the time to step up our **Political Advocacy** efforts and make **Legislative Advocacy** preparations for next year. Now is the time for us to establish and strengthen relations with our elected legislators and plan strategically for the future. We need to reinforce our efforts to represent orthopaedic surgery in North Carolina and the patients for whom we provide care. The NCOA needs your participation in those efforts.

Regarding our Political Advocacy efforts, we need every North Carolina orthopaedist to support our political education and action committee – **ncoaPAC**. This ongoing political advocacy program enables orthopaedists to participate in the process whereby legislators are elected to represent their local constituents, a group which includes our patients and us. We must help elect those officials who support the best interests of our patients and our profession, and **ncoaPAC** is the mechanism which enables us to accomplish that goal.

The second important element in our advocacy program is to maintain a current and effective network of **Key Contacts**. Being a key contact is a simple way to represent your profession and offer your expertise as an orthopaedist and a physician when issues arise. You are a valuable resource to those elected officials who serve in Raleigh in the General Assembly and who quite literally know very little about what you do as an orthopaedic surgeon. Absent the willingness of physicians to communicate with legislators, legislators are left to surmise what they can from the information they obtain elsewhere - which can obviously have a detrimental impact on patient care and how we practice medicine. It's happened before and can certainly happen again.

So, what we're asking you **today** is to **support ncoaPAC** and to **join the list of Key Contacts** that we maintain. Please respond **today** by email to us at ncoa@ncmedsoc.org, or by calling (919) 833-3836. If you've signed up in the past, we'd appreciate your re-registering as an **ncoaPAC** supporter and a Key Contact so we can maintain an accurate database.

Simply put, **we need you**. As the saying goes - *When everybody leaves it to somebody, we end up with nobody*. And, then we're more likely to be left on the outside looking in when decisions are made and legislation is passed that impacts you and your patients. If you have any questions about **ncoaPAC** or being a Key Contact, please do not hesitate to give me a call or contact our Executive Director, Alan Skipper. **Thank you for your support.**

Sincerely,

Alfred L. Rhyne, III, MD, / President



Local Advocacy Opportunities

LOCAL LEGISLATOR MEETINGS

The North Carolina Orthopaedic Association is looking to schedule a series of local meetings with legislators between now and the 2009 session of the General Assembly. Our goal is to meet face-to-face with those elected members of the House and Senate who represent us and our patients in Raleigh. The purpose is to:

- Create new relationships with legislators;
- Improve existing relationships with legislators;
- Increase awareness among North Carolina orthopaedists of the importance of political involvement;
- Increase awareness among North Carolina orthopaedists of importance of legislative involvement, such as being a key contact; and
- Increase awareness and understanding among legislators of the issues of importance and concern to medicine in general and orthopaedics in particular.

Our intent is to hold these sessions at local orthopaedic practices across the state. The meetings will be brief - no longer than an hour - and will be informal enough to have comfortable conversation but structured enough to accomplish our purpose.

Our partner in this project is the North Carolina Medical Society. The NCMS will be working with us to help set our agenda, to make sure we as orthopaedists are tuned in to the spectrum of legislation and regulation affecting medicine, and to help us establish the NCOA and individual orthopaedists as resources that legislators can call upon when these issues are debated.

We need you to help us with the next step in getting this project moving. We need your local assistance in helping identify opportunities where we can set up a meeting with legislators in your city/town. All we need from you are the basics - a place to meet and some dates or days of the week options. The preferred scenario is a late-afternoon or early evening meeting in an orthopaedic practice. We'll plan to have light refreshments, but no meal.

Please let us hear from you right away so we can begin to get our calendar set. Please respond to our NCOA Executive Director, Alan Skipper, at (919) 833-3836 or ncoa@ncmedsoc.org. If you can help with the basic date, time and place logistics, we'll take it from there and pull the event together.

We look forward to hearing from you and to our increased effectiveness as advocates for our patients and our profession.



N.C. Industrial Commission Update

BILLING FOR SECOND OPINIONS ON PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY (PPD) RATINGS AND INDEPENDENT MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS (IME) Scarlette Gardner, Esq., NCMS Assistant Counsel

John A. Welshofer, MD, Chair, NCIC Liaison Committee and I are currently serving on the NC Industrial Commission's recently created Critical Medical Issues Task Force which is focusing on concerns of medical providers, payers, employees, and employers that may be addressed without statutory or administrative rules changes. The employer/payer community has cited reimbursement issues for second opinions on PPD ratings and independent medical examinations (IME). Payers state that some physicians who have only been authorized to provide a second opinion on a PPD rating are regularly refusing to release the PPD rating until payment is received of \$1,000-\$1,500 for services similar to an IME.

Please be aware that the NCIC Medical Fee Schedule CPT Code 99456 addressing second opinion ratings includes the following services and sets reimbursement at \$182.13.

CPT Code 99456: Work related or medical disability examination by other than the treating physician that includes:

- Completion of a medical history commensurate with the patient's condition;
- Performance of an examination commensurate with the patient's condition;
- Formulation of a diagnosis, assessment of capabilities and stability, and calculation of impairment;
- Development of future medical treatment plan;
- Completion of necessary documentation/certificates and report.

Therefore, pursuant to the Fee Schedule, a physician who has been authorized **ONLY** to provide a second opinion on a PPD rating is eligible to receive only \$182.13 in payment unless other arrangements have been made between the medical provider and payer. However, physicians who provide an independent medical examination (IME) may privately contract with the requesting party, patient or payer, for an agreed upon reimbursement for all services provided which may include giving an opinion on a PPD rating and other items.

Some patients do not understand the services included in a second opinion rating examination and often demand at the visit that the second opinion physician fully assess their condition and provide an opinion regarding overall diagnosis, prognosis, work restrictions, etc. To avoid unnecessary confusion concerning scope of services and payment between all parties, it is suggested that the medical provider obtain written preauthorization from the payer for the exact services to be provided and reimbursement amount and that this preauthorization be shared with the patient and/or his legal counsel prior to the scheduled appointment.

North Carolina Delegation participates in the Academy's 2008 National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference



Earlier this year, a delegation from the NCOA participated in the AAOS National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference. Participants included:

- Charles H. Classen, Jr., MD (Kinston)
- H. Lee Gooch, Jr., MD (Statesville)
- Shepard R. Hurwitz, MD (Chapel Hill)
- Stephen N. Lang, MD (Durham)
- David H. Sohn, MD (Resident, Duke)
- Alan Skipper (NCOA)

The group visited the offices of:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Sen. Richard Burr | Rep. Walter Jones |
| Sen. Elizabeth Dole | Rep. Brad Miller |
| Rep. G. K. Butterfield | Rep. David Price |
| Rep. Howard Coble | Rep. Heath Shuler |
| Rep. Virginia Foxx | |

The messages carried to The Hill included:

- 1) Fix the Medicare Physician Payment Formula to avoid the 10.6 percent reimbursement cut.
- 2) Support and/or cosponsor the AAOS Bill (Access to America's Orthopaedic Services Act). This year, the AAOS has helped draft a very specific orthopaedic bill to address musculoskeletal diseases and conditions in the United States, including such issues as aging, pediatrics, trauma, etc. This legislation has major cosponsors (Democrat and Republican) in the U.S. House of Representatives. Members of both the House and Senate were urged to support the legislation.



Parekh Selected as 2008-2009 Leadership College Scholar

Congratulations to Selene Parekh, MD, MBA, Assistant Professor of Orthopaedics at UNC for being selected as a 2008-2009 scholar in the Leadership College of the NC Medical Society Foundation. Dr. Parekh is being sponsored by the NCOA. The Leadership College is a leadership development course designed to orient and train physicians for future leadership positions at local, state and national levels. The Leadership College combines the elements of mentoring, organizational education, skills training, and guided experiences that cover the three "P's" of leadership: philosophy, principles, and practice.

NCOA Delegation on the Hill . . .



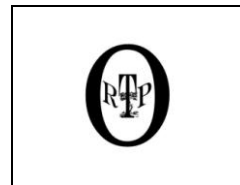
NCOA delegation on the Hill



NCOA visits with Senator Elizabeth Dole



NCOA Delegation visits with Senator Richard Burr



You're Invited To the Research Triangle Park Orthopaedic Society

The Research Triangle Park Orthopaedic Society invites all North Carolina orthopaedists to attend its monthly meetings. The RTPOS meets in the Triangle area and brings nationally prominent orthopaedic surgeons

Information on the RTPOS and a schedule of meeting dates is available at:

www.rtporthosociety.com

Welcome New Members

Ian D. Archibald, MD, *Gastonia*
Barton S. Arthur, MD, *New Bern*
David S. Baker, II, MD, *Charlotte*
Brian J. Battersby, MD, *New Bern*
Walter B. Beaver, Jr., MD, *Charlotte*
Werner C. Brooks, MD, *Hendersonville*
Christofer C. Catterson, MD, *Clyde*
Bruce E Cohen, MD, *Charlotte*
Jeffrey M. Daily, MD, *Monroe*
David A. Dalsimer, DO, *Tarboro*
Stephen M. David, MD, *Asheville*
W. Hodges Davis, MD, *Charlotte*
Brian S. DeLay, MD, *Charlotte*
Robert J. Esther, MD, *Chapel Hill*
Louis C. Fiore, MD, *Shelby*
Harold M. Frisch, MD, *Asheville*
Manuel C. Garcia-Ariz, MD, *Flat Rock*
R. Glenn Gaston, MD, *Charlotte*
Gordon I. Groh, MD, *Asheville*
Matthew A. Gullickson, MD, *Charlotte*
Patrick R. L. Hayes, MD, *Shelby*
John B. Hubbard, MD, *Boone*
Shepard R. Hurwitz, MD, *Chapel Hill*
Kevin T. James, MD, *Shelby*
Jay C. Jansen, MD, *Asheville*
Todd S. Jarosz, MD, *Statesville*
Carroll P. Jones, III, MD, *Charlotte*
Mark S. Lemel, MD, *Brevard*
Stephen I. Lester, MD, *Williamston*
Erika G. Lumsden, MD, *Charlotte*
Ranjan S. Maitra, MD, *Gastonia*
Peter G. Mangone, MD, *Asheville*
J. Bohannon Mason, MD, *Charlotte*

John L. Masonis, MD, *Charlotte*
Sameer Mathur, MD, *Chapel Hill*
Robert D. McBride, Jr., MD, *Charlotte*
John B. Meade, MD, *Matthews*
David C. Napoli, MD, *Hendersonville*
Edwin C. Newman, III, MD, *Fayetteville*
Duong H. Nguyen, MD, *Charlotte*
Prerana N. Patel, MD, *Durham*
Joshua C. Patt, MD, *Charlotte*
Shepherd F. Rosenblum, MD, *Raleigh*
Paul J. Saenger, MD, *Asheville*
Troy G. Schmidt, MD, *Asheville*
Ronald W. Singer, MD, *Charlotte*
Myron W. Smith, III, MD, *Asheville*
Leo R. Spector, MD, *Charlotte*
Bryan D. Springer, MD, *Charlotte*
Marc S. Stevens, MD, *Smithfield*
William V. Stucky, MD, *Shelby*
Mark D. Suprock, MD, *Huntersville*
John D. Temple, MD, *Matthews*
John P. Ternes, MD, *Charlotte*
Kurt Voos, MD, *Greenville*
J. Michael Wattenbarger, MD, *Charlotte*

Help us grow

Are there nonmembers in your practice or area? The NCOA encourages your referrals for membership and assistance in membership recruitment. Please contact the NCOA at (919) 833-3836 or ncoa@ncmedsoc.org with any potential member referrals. The strength of our association is proportionate to the amount of support from orthopaedists across the state. Thank you for your membership and support.

North Carolina Orthopaedic Association
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