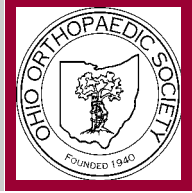


# The Ohio Orthopaedic Society Newsletter



WINTER 2006

## 2006 Ohio Orthopaedic Society Annual Meeting May 11-13, 2006 The Bertram Inn and Conference Center

The 2006 Ohio Orthopaedic Society Annual Meeting preparations are well underway and you should have already received your registration materials in the mail

This year's meeting will be held May 11<sup>th</sup> –13<sup>th</sup> at The Bertram Inn and Conference Center in Aurora, Ohio. Paul Anderson, M.D. has agreed to join us this year as our Guest Lecturer. Dr. Anderson is the Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Wisconsin Medical School and is a nationally recognized expert in spinal trauma and, in particular, complex cervical spine disorders. He will be presenting two lectures during the meeting, which are titled "Cervical Disc Arthroplasty" and "Motion Preservation in Treatment of Spinal Stenosis".

In addition to our regularly scheduled meeting events, including the Member Paper's Contest and Resident Paper's Contest, we will be hosting a members only golf outing at The Barrington Golf Club on Thursday afternoon and an additional golf outing for members and exhibitors on Friday afternoon followed by a member and guest Friday Night Dinner at The Bertram.

This area of the state hosts a wide range of activities for the whole family to partake in, including Geauga Lake and Wildwater Kingdom, which is located just miles from The Bertram Inn. Aurora Farms Premium Outlets and Marios' International Day Spa.

If you have not received your registration materials in the mail, please contact the Society at (614) 464-2878. We look forward to seeing you in May!

### INSIDE:

- Members Needed for Key Contact Program
- Legislative Update
- Update on Medical Malpractice Rates in Ohio

## Members Needed for Key Contact Program

Michael Albert, M.D. from Dayton who presently serves as an Ohio Representative on the AAOS Board of Councilors is currently looking for orthopaedic surgeons in Ohio willing to serve as a key contact with their member of Congress in Washington, D.C.

The Orthopaedic Key Contact Program is an initiative begun within the AAOS Board of Councilors. Advocacy for our patients and our profession is a critical component of our association. By far, the most effective advocacy is person to person, especially when that person is a known and trusted source.

The mission of the Key Contact Program is to identify orthopaedic surgeons around the country who either have a personal relationship with a member of congress, or are willing to develop one, in order to more effectively reach out to these members when issues of importance to orthopaedics arise. With 435 US House Members and 100 US Senators, we need to identify 535 orthopaedic surgeons who will serve in this capacity.

Ohio currently has 18 US House Members and 2 US Senate Members are listed on page 3. Please review the list. If you have a personal relationship or would like to establish one,

(Members continued on page 3)

---

---

## Rx for docs as malpractice rates continue to fall

Profitability and the need for modest single-digit rate increases have seemed to be a pipe dream a few years ago for Ray Mazzotta and other CEOs at medical-malpractice insurers in Ohio.

But that has become reality for Columbus-based OHIC Insurance Co., where Mazzotta has directed a financial turnaround the past two years. It also appears to be the case with the rest of the medical malpractice industry in the state.

OHIC posted a 2005 profit of \$8.5 million on \$42 million in premium revenue. The black ink, about half of which came from reinsurance contracts, followed earnings of \$5.1 million on premium revenue of \$93.8 million in 2004.

That performance halted two years of losses that totaled more than \$33 million for OHIC.

Mazzotta thinks the insurer can sustain its turnaround – and possibly do it without the double-digit premium hikes its imposed on doctors and hospitals for six years.

“We think the severity has leveled off,” he said. “We will see (premium) increases in the near term in the low-to-mid-single digits, 5 to 7 percent on average.”

Such increases are in line with the average premium hikes of 6.7 percent in Ohio last year, said Ann Womer Benjamin, director of the Ohio Department of Insurance. Another round of single-digit increases is expected this year, she said, indicating medical malpractice insurance may have finally found a formula that allows them to make a profit while covering their risks without steep premium hikes.

That would spell relief for Ohio physicians, who were socked with premium increases that averaged more than 20 percent a year from 2001 to 2004. Those hikes pushed annual premiums as high as \$100,000 for high-risk specialists, such as neurologist.

Doctors complained the skyrocketing rates forced some to retire early, leave the state or limit their practices to lower-risk procedures. It also spurred state legislators and insurance regulators to carry out a wave of reforms aimed at easing some of the rate pressure on physicians.

“You can’t do a lot of predicting in insurance based on one year,” Womer Benjamin said, “but it’s encouraging that the trend in rates is definitely changing.”

Excerpt From Business First

\* If you would like a copy of the complete article please contact The Society at (614) 464-2605

---

---

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

There are currently over 800 bills that have been introduced in the Ohio Legislature. The following is a brief summary of legislation that has an impact on the practice of medicine. The OOS is currently monitoring these bills. If you would like more detailed information on any of this information, please contact our offices in Columbus at (614) 464-2878.

**HB87 PHYSICIAN LOAN REPAYMENT PLAN** (John R. Willamowski) To require the Director of Health to designate state correctional institutions as health resource shortage areas for the purpose of the Physician Loan Repayment

**Program. 11/16/2005 Senate Health, Human Services and Aging (Fourth Hearing)**

**B117 HEALTH CARE SERVICES** (Linda Reidelbach) Regarding provision of complementary or alternative health care services. **10/11/2005 House Commerce and Labor (Sixth Hearing)**

**HB255 TAX CREDIT-PHYSICIANS** (Allan Sayre) To create a nonrefundable tax credit for physicians for services rendered to the patients and expenses incurred in rendering those services, for which the physicians were not paid. **06/02/2005 House Ways and Means (First Hearing)**

---

---



**The Orthopaedic  
Research and  
Education  
Foundation**

The Orthopaedic Research and Education Foundation (OREF) is an independent 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Service tax code. OREF raises funds to support research and education on diseases and injuries of bones, joints, nerves, and muscles.

Since 1955, OREF has funded more than \$58 million for more than 2,000 grants on research subjects ranging from studies of the capacity of proteins to bind in the tendon – which led to further studies that ultimately resulted in the development of Bone Morphogenetic Protein – to investigations of the process of fracture healing. OREF-funded research enhances clinical care, leading to improved health, increased activity, and better quality of life for patients. To make a contribution to OREF's 2006 Annual Campaign, or for more information about OREF, please log on to [www.oref.org](http://www.oref.org)

**Members Needed (continued)**

please contact our office at (614) 464-2878 or email us at [michelle@ohioorthosociety.org](mailto:michelle@ohioorthosociety.org), so you can become a member of the Key Contact Program.

The goal would be that when the network is alerted, via email, to an issue of importance, that each of those orthopaedic surgeons would contact their member of congress, with whom they have a personal relationship, and deliver a coordinated message.

“We have all complained that our elected representatives don't pay attention to us,” added Dr. Albert. “ This is your chance to be heard!”

**US Senators– Ohio**

Mike Dewine                      George Voinovich

**US Congressional Delegation—Ohio**

John Boehner	Michael Oxley
Sherrod Brown	Rob Portman
Steven Chabot	Deborah Pryce
David Hobson	Ralph Regula
Paul Gillmor	Timothy Ryan
Marcy Kaptur	Ted Strickland
Dennis Kucinich	Patrick Tiberi
Steven LaTourette	Michael Turner
Robert Ney	Stephanie Tubbs Jones

**HB469 ABORTION** (Keith L. Faber) Concerning distribution of medication that will or may result in abortion or termination of life and performance of medical procedures that will or may result in termination of life. **03/01/2006 House Health (Fourth Hearing)**

**HB516 PHYSICIANS** (Diana M. Fessler) To require the State Medical Board, not later than two years after the complaint is filed, to make a decision regarding the disposition of a complaint alleging that a physician's failure to meet minimal standards of care resulted in a patient's death and to require the attorney general to monitor and enforce this requirement. **02/23/2006 Referred to House Health**

**HB522 SURGICAL PROCEDURES** (Jon M. Peterson) To require ambulatory surgical facilities, hospitals, and physicians who perform surgical procedures in private offices where general anesthesia is administered to assign a circulating nurse to each surgical procedure performed. **03/08/2006 Referred to House Health**

**HB524 PHARMACISTS** (Earl Martin) To modify the authority of pharmacists to administer immunizations. **03/01/2006 Introduced**

**SB32 MEDICAID** (Robert Spada) Regarding audits of Medicaid providers and a performance audit of the Medicaid program. **04/27/2005 Senate Health, Human Services and Aging (Third Hearing)**

**S B 8 8 M E D I C A L NEGLIGENCE** (Kevin Coughlin) To establish a pilot program mandating arbitration for claims of medical negligence prior to the filing of a complaint and to terminate the provisions of this act ten years after the effective date of this act. **01/10/2006 Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor (Fourth Hearing)**

**SB231 Medical Malpractice Premiums** Imposes a moratorium for one year on increases in medical malpractice insurance premiums and to declare an emergency. **03/07/2006 Senate Insurance, Commerce and Labor (First Hearing)**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS !**

# The Ohio Orthopaedic Society Annual Meeting May 11-13, 2006



The Bertram Inn  
600 North Aurora Road  
Aurora, Ohio

**The Ohio Orthopaedic Society**  
66 East Lynn Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

**Officers**

*President* James T. Lehner, M.D., Dayton

*President Elect* Raymond S. Duffett, M.D., Youngstown

*Secretary-Treasurer* Anthony D. Frogameni, M.D., Toledo

*Secretary-Treasurer Elect* Mark A. Snyder, M.D., Cincinnati

*Past President* James J. Wanken, M.D., Mt. Vernon

**Members-At-Large**

Patrick G. Kirk, M.D., Cincinnati

John K. Sontich, M.D., Cleveland

**Councilors to AAOS**

Michael C. Albert, M.D., Dayton

John R. Kean, M.D., Columbus

Mark C. Leeson, M.D., Akron

**Membership Chairman**

Jaren D. Bombach, M.D., Columbus

**Resident's Chairman Member**

Scott D. Weiner, M.D., Akron

**Historian**

Warren G. Harding, III, M.D., Cincinnati

**Executive Director**

Stephen C. Landerman