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## American Association of Public Health Physicians

E- Bulletin

March, 2011

***The Voice of Public Health Physicians-Guardians of the Public's Health***

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## 1. Important American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) Changes

Some licensing boards are now requiring Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for all renewals even for individuals with lifetime certifications. In addition beginning in August 2011, ABMS member boards will be required to report the MOC participation status of all diplomats, including those with lifetime certificates. A letter from ABPM to Diplomats is here [http://www.theabpm.org/Diplomate\\_letter\\_2-14-2011.pdf](http://www.theabpm.org/Diplomate_letter_2-14-2011.pdf)

Registering for MOC is easy and costs 200 dollars. The current requirements are here – [https://www.theabpm.org/moc/moc\\_requirements.cfm](https://www.theabpm.org/moc/moc_requirements.cfm). As a quick summary you need to be licensed, to take MOC and CME credits, to take a cognitive test in years 7 to 10 and to provide an assessment of practice performance which can include a portfolio for those of us who don't see individual patients.

AAPHP has added a page to our website to alert our members to the recent ABPM changes Dr. Dato learned about at the recent meeting. That page is at: <http://aaphp.org/ABPM>

## 2. Membership Website Continues to be built up

Our new membership website <http://aaphp.memberlodge.org> has a lot of functionality under development. Additional content has been added which does not require logging in. A public health basics section has been added to provide a primer on public health to physicians and others who are new to the concept of population based medicine. In addition one tab is now devoted to board certification updates and the tobacco section includes links to the original important documents. The job market section does not list specific jobs but does contain links to all job sites that do contain job listings for public health physicians. A “suggestion's” area has been added where anyone can suggest changes.

We still have the “Member's Only” section where any member can send a message to any other member. This requires the sending member to log in. If you never received a password or forgot your password just enter your email address and click forgot password. The email that you are receiving this bulletin with is the email that will work. The receiving member's email address remains confidential, And member's only discussions can take place in the member's only section. Volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Virginia Dato at [ymdato@gmail.com](mailto:ymdato@gmail.com) or just add a suggestion to the suggestions page.

### 3. Information from CDC



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Your Online Source for Credible Health Information

#### **CDC Health Disparities Report**

CDC has released the [CDC Health Disparities and Inequalities Report, United States, 2011](#), which examines the differences in health outcomes between population groups that reflect social inequalities. This MMWR Supplement is the first in a periodic series examining health disparities in the United States. The report provides an overview of key social determinates of health, including [education and income](#), [inadequate and unhealthy housing](#), [unhealthy air quality](#), and [health insurance coverage](#). Other chapters cover health disparities and illness, injury, risk behaviors, and environmental hazards. [Full report.](#)  
<http://www.cdc.gov/socialdeterminants/>

#### **Winnable Battles**

CDC's Winnable Battles are public health priorities with large-scale impact on health and with known, effective strategies to address them. The current Winnable Battles have been chosen based on the magnitude of the health problems and our ability to make significant progress in improving outcomes.

##### Winnable Battles Topics

##### [Food Safety](#)

CDC is committed to improving the public's health through the promotion of a safe food supply.

##### [Healthcare-associated Infections](#)

CDC is committed to eliminating preventable infections that occur as a function of medical or surgical conditions.

##### [HIV](#)

CDC provides leadership in reducing new HIV infections through awareness of HIV status, prevention for positives, prevention for high risk negatives, and elimination of health disparities.

##### [Motor Vehicle Injuries](#)

CDC actively supports evidence-based interventions such as primary restraint laws, graduated driver licensing, and DUI interlock devices to drive down deaths and injuries from motor vehicle crashes.

## [Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity](#)

CDC is committed to addressing the epidemic of obesity and overweight in the U.S. through the promotion of initiatives that make healthy choices in nutrition and physical activity available, affordable, and easy.

## [Teen Pregnancy](#)

CDC works to prevent teen pregnancies that contribute to poor health and negative social outcomes through evidence-based strategies, policies, and systems change.

## [Tobacco](#)

CDC is dedicated to reducing the death and disease caused by tobacco use and exposure.

For [Winnable Battles Resources](#) and more information use the following link:

## **4. Tobacco Report**

*The FDA has not yet ruled on the American Association of Public Health Physicians, Tobacco Control Task Force (AAPHP) - Citizen Petition submitted over one year ago on February 7, 2010 which requests that the FDA regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products. The document is still open and available for comment by members who have opinions on the issue of regulation of e-cigarettes. Document ID:*

*FDA-2010-P-0095- 0001 Docket ID: FDA-2010-P-0095: available at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!documentDetail;D=FDA-2010-P-0095-0001>*

*On January 24, 2011 the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit rejected the FDA's request to have the entire court review the December decision by a three-judge panel that ruled that "FDA has authority to regulate customarily marketed tobacco products-including e-cigarettes under the Tobacco Act.*

*It has authority to regulate therapeutically marketed tobacco products under the FDCA's drug/device provisions" Regulation as tobacco products would not require removal from the market pending additional research.*

*Regulation as tobacco products would require that good manufacturing practices be used and that these products not be marketed to children. The current decision stands*

*unless the Supreme Court accepts and then overturns that decision.*

*The decision is available on our website under tobacco links*

*<http://aaphp.memberlodge.org/Resources/Documents/SotteravFDADCCourtofAppealsDecision.pdf>*

> >>

*Past Co-Chair. Joel Nitzkin MD MPH DPA has been successful in getting a number of letters related to harm reduction published in academic journals including this one in the Annals of Internal Medicine <http://annals.org/content/153/9/607.abstract/reply>*

## **5. Report from Preventive Medicine 2011 - Tobacco - Free Policies Session**

Current Co-Chair Virginia Dato MD MPH attended a session at Preventive Medicine 2011 session called "Tobacco-Free Policies: Moving beyond the Indoor Environment. Stan Glantz PhD presented evidence about the dangers of indoor second hand smoke. Robert Berger MS discussed some of the policy interventions in California which include banning smoking at beaches. Philip Huang MD MPH Medical Director of the Health Authority Austin Travis County Health Department provided information on their Tobacco Free Initiative and made it clear that their initiative included all smoke free tobacco products in addition to cigarettes. When asked for the justification as to dangers to others,, the response was that this was part of the Gold Standard Initiative for worksites. To the credit of the Gold Standard initiative .

<http://www.cancergoldstandard.org/WhatIsTheGoldStandard.aspx>,

worksites banning all tobacco products also agree to provide medical and pharmaceutical support which unfortunately are NOT available to many smokers.

## **6. Reprint from Americans for Non - Smokers Rights**

Today ANR gave a national award to Avis Budget Group, which is the owner of the Avis and Budget rental car brands, for the company's smokefree policy covering their rental cars in the U.S., Canada, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

This is the first fleet-wide smokefree rental car policy to be enforced with a \$250 cleaning fee. Avis Budget Group management described the move as a sound business decision, citing residual secondhand smoke in their cars as their number one customer complaint.

Additionally, Avis Budget Group recently announced that all their facilities and properties will be 100% smokefree starting in April 2011. They have also ramped up efforts to help their employees quit smoking.

“It's great that this company has stepped up as a leader and has set a positive example for other businesses to follow,” said Cynthia Hallett, Executive Director of Americans for Nonsmokers' Rights. “Today a number of their front-line employees said that they experience less exposure to secondhand and thirdhand smoke, thanks to the new smokefree policy.”

Please show your support by sending a brief email of thanks and congratulations to: [pr@avisbudget.com](mailto:pr@avisbudget.com).

## **7. Have you seen the new CPT codes for Preventive Services ?**

<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/solutions-managing-your-practice/coding-billing-insurance/cpt/cpt-preventive-services.shtm>

## 8. Member in the News

**Congratulations, Rodney Hood, MD, on being recognized with the AMA's 2011 Pride in Profession Award for your exemplary service to our under-served brothers and sisters in San Diego.**

Member in the



## 9. News Updates from NACCHO

### **Results of Local Health Department Job Losses Survey Demonstrates Depth of Program Cuts**

*29,000 local health department jobs lost since January 2008, threatening essential services*

**Washington, DC (March 21, 2011)** – A recent survey analysis found that roughly 19 percent of the nationwide local health department workforce has been eliminated since 2008, posing a staggering challenge to local health departments striving to keep Americans safe and healthy in the face of increasing staff and program cuts, even as the country's economic slump increases demand for services.

Highlights from the 2010 survey results, released today by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), reveal that 6,000 local health department jobs were eliminated last year, bringing the total number of local health department jobs lost since 2008 to 29,000. In addition to the layoffs, 18,000 local health department employees were subjected to reduced hours or mandatory furloughs.

### **NACCHO 2011 Annual Meeting**

Hartford, CT

7/20-22, 2011

To get more information and register go to: <http://www.naccho.org/NA/>

Federal, state, and local budget reductions have also reduced available services. Forty percent of local health departments reduced services in at least one program area between mid-2009 and mid-2010. Maternal and child health programs were among the hardest hit, with nearly one in every five local health departments (18%) reporting reduced or eliminated services to pregnant women, new mothers and children. Population-based primary prevention, environmental health programs, and clinical health services were also among the most common targets for cuts.

“Protecting and defending the health of residents in local communities and meeting their expectations for service is increasingly difficult,” said NACCHO Executive Director Robert M. Pestronk. “These annual budget cuts and job losses threaten the ability of local health departments to prepare for and respond to emergencies, and provide basic services that all individuals and families count on. The future of our nation’s health is jeopardized.”

Learn more about Local Health Department Job Losses and Program Cuts: 2008-2010 survey findings at [www.naccho.org/jobloss](http://www.naccho.org/jobloss).

Follow news about budget cuts and job losses in local health departments across the country at [www.naccho.org/newsmap](http://www.naccho.org/newsmap).

## **About the National Association of County and City Health Officials**

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's 2,800 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district, and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

## **10. AAPHP Call for Resolutions**

Arvind Goyal, MD, MPH, and Joe Murphy, MD, continue to develop excellent relationships within the AMA and its various committees of our respective delegates. Please make use of our AAPHP resolutions process to submit important resolutions to the AMA for considerations in the House of Delegates for the AMA-meeting in June. This is your opportunity as an AAPHP member to submit quality resolutions that represent public health interests, or interests for health policy or the health of all Americans. AAPHP resolutions must be submitted to Arvind Goyal at [Arvindkgoyal@aol.com](mailto:Arvindkgoyal@aol.com) .

## 11. Are YOU Making an Impact ?



Have you renewed your AAPHP membership for 2011? Are you receiving this bulletin and have never joined AAPHP? We need you both! While AAPHP has been growing slightly over the past two years, we need to look at 2011 as a key year to impact our growth by doubling or tripling membership. Every day we hear about budget issues and proposed cuts – local, state and national. Many of our programs and concerns are on the chopping block and we need to be able to speak out with a loud voice and protect these good public health programs. If your officers can say that they are backed by a large number of public health physicians and associates, then we can have a greater impact on future funding for public health. Join us and help make a difference.

Go to <http://aaphp.memberlodge.org> to join on-line or obtain the membership form. You can also email the Membership Director at [magyarsf@bellsouth.net](mailto:magyarsf@bellsouth.net) for a form or more information.

## 12. How to Contact the E- Bulletin

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\*\*\*\*\* About the AAPHP E-Bulletin \*\*\*\*\*

This message is an electronic update from the American Association of Public Health Physicians (AAPHP) to public health physicians.

More information about AAPHP is at <http://www.aaphp.org>.

This electronic newsletter is available to any physician or medical student on request. There is no charge for this E-Bulletin. To subscribe, please send a request to AAPHP Membership Director, Sandy Magyar @ [Magyarsf@bellsouth.net](mailto:Magyarsf@bellsouth.net) Fax 904-529-7761. In your request, please confirm that you are a physician (MD, DO, or international equivalent) or a medical student.

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