



MPMS News

Massachusetts Podiatric Medical Society

July 2010

Reservations for the MPMS Community Service Foundation Summer Social, Fundraising Auction and Casino Night Still Available

Just a few days left to register for the first annual MPMS Community Service Foundation (CSF) Summer Social and Casino Night. Dr. Peter Paicos, Jr. will be hosting our event at his home in Byfield, MA from 5:30 to 10:30 pm. MPMS members and their guests and board members of both MPMS and CSF will be attending along with representatives for the two sponsoring companies, BioMedix, Inc. and The Tetra Corporation. Net proceeds will benefit the new MPMS Community Service Foundation. Space is limited to the first 40 guests, so don't be left out of this special, exciting evening. Send in the registration form that was mailed and emailed to you or download it from www.massdpms.org.

The evening will start with an open bar and appetizers followed by the barbecue buffet with all the fixings. Entertainment for the night will include a live auction with some pretty spectacular prizes, including two getaway weekends at a Cape Cod vacation home and a one night getaway with four passes to the CoCo Key Indoor Water Park at the Crowne Plaza Boston North Shore in Danvers, MA, and the chance to test your luck at the gambling tables.

We've arranged for a special rate of \$109 at the Crowne Plaza Boston North Shore, about 10 minutes from Dr. Paicos' home, for Saturday night for those who would prefer a short drive at the end of the night.



\$25 per person includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, barbecue buffet and casino entertainment.

APMA Region One/Podiatry Institute Conference

Friday, October 22 to Sunday, October 24

Save the date and plan to join us for the 2010 APMA Region One/Podiatry Institute Conference that will be held Friday, October 22 to Sunday, October 24 at the Crowne Plaza Boston North Shore, in Danvers, MA (formerly the Sheraton Ferncroft Resort). We are pleased to partner again with the Podiatry Institute who will bring several of their nationally known surgical speakers to New England. We will also be offering the PICA risk management 10% discount program to PICA policyholders.

Featured highlights of our 2010 conference include:

- 20 Continuing Education Contact Hours
- Friday morning hands-on surgical workshops, AFO and hands-on casting workshop, wound care and ancillary services workshop and wound care/Dermagraft workshop
- Friday morning and evening PAD workshops
- Podiatric medicine and surgical lectures Friday afternoon and all day Saturday - many presented by leading national speakers from the Podiatry Institute
- CPR refresher course Friday night
- Assistant program all day Friday including breakout clinical sessions for podiatric medical assistants on AFO and orthotics casting, DME and shoe fitting.
- PICA risk management presentation offering PICA policyholders a 10% discount off their malpractice insurance -- a savings of \$800-\$900 for most.
- Sunday morning biomechanics/orthotics workshop
- Sunday morning National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) Massachusetts Coalition presentation and podiatric medicine potpourri
- Registration fees include lunch Friday and Saturday for doctors and Friday for assistants
- New England's largest exhibition of podiatric products and services
- Crowne Plaza features the CoCo Key indoor water theme park -- great fun for a family weekend



Drs. Scott Horwitz, left, and Regis Boudreau at last year's conference

Full brochure including educational objectives and registration form will be mailing and posted on the MPMS and Podiatry Institute websites in early August.

Collaborating with Podiatry to Detect PAD

Based on interviews with Dr. Robert Schainfeld, a vascular medicine specialist at MGH, and Dr. Scott Aronson, a podiatric physician and surgeon.

The collaboration between vascular and podiatric physicians represents an excellent model, which serves to help raise awareness and facilitate the early diagnosis of Peripheral Artery Disease (PAD). When indicated by the medical history and accompanying symptoms, a non-invasive vascular test may be administered in a podiatry office and the patient may be subsequently referred to a vascular medicine specialist for further care, if appropriate. "This model has proven to be especially successful for the podiatric community-podiatrists are connected to vascular specialists by their respective roles as vascular testers and test interpreters, giving them the opportunity to work together to offer the best care. Patients ultimately reap the benefits. Connecting physicians fosters the exchange of advice and expertise, builds bonds among colleagues and creates professional partnerships that help to optimize patient care." said Dr. Robert Schainfeld.

"At the Massachusetts General Hospital Vascular Center, we have implemented a collaborative PAD detection program, enabling multiple specialties to come together to better serve our mutual patients. The Mass General Vascular Center is one of the only vascular centers in the country with specialists represented in every area of vascular disease. Clinicians from seven specialties diagnose and treat the full range of vascular conditions, create new treatments and educate the next generation of medical leaders. Distinguished physicians comprising the Vascular Center include specialists from Vascular Medicine/ Cardiology, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Vascular/Endovascular Surgery, and Vascular Interventional Radiology with participation and important contributions from Podiatric Physicians. Over the past five years, the Mass General Vascular Center has emerged as a state-of-the-art, world renowned program which serves as an exceptional collaborative environment in which to practice," said Dr. Schainfeld.

"The single most important benefits of maintaining a seamless collaboration between vascular physicians and podiatrists are the optimization of patient care and better outcomes. The earlier symptomatic patients seek care, the more positive clinical outcomes we will achieve," remarked Dr. Schainfeld. An open line of communication and effective physician referrals can contribute to successful patient outcomes via the early detection of disease, making a PAD detection program an integral part of providing optimal patient care.

"Non-invasive in-office vascular testing strengthens the collaborative relationship formed with the vascular group interpreting patient exams while providing a new referral source that continues to grow as partners refer patients back and forth. It gives my patients peace of mind to know that within a very short period of time, a highly trained vascular specialist will interpret the exam that was performed by an assistant in my office," added Scott Aronson, DPM.

"I see this collaborative program leading to a future of earlier detection, more aggressive preventive and treatment measures for vascular disease and reducing unfavorable procedures such as amputations. There is also potential for other forms of collaboration to develop, following in the footsteps of initiatives like the collaborative care model. Growing partnerships between vascular specialists and podiatric physicians can also create a positive financial impact - earlier detection of PAD saves money in an era when the healthcare system is financially strapped for resources. With more shared interest between the vascular and podiatric medical communities there is more potential for new clinical research projects to further improve patient care and ensure successful positive clinical outcomes, commented Dr. Schainfeld.

Dr. Robert Schainfeld is a Vascular Medicine Specialist who is presently Associate Director of Vascular Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. Scott Aronson is a Podiatric Physician who has been practicing for 13 years and is president-elect of the MPMS.

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DME Billing Update

The last specific change in DME billing regulations for 2010 involved a new \$250 single plan deductible and \$750 family deductible for GIC patients with regards to all DME supplies.