The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio
THE VOICE OF NE OHIO PHYSICIANS FOR 196 YEARS
AMCNO Working on Behalf of Our Members and Their Patients
AMCNO Highlights and Recent Activities

LEGISLATIVE/ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES
• Reviewed and took positions on bills that would impact physicians under review at the state legislature, making our position known to the legislative sponsors and committee chairmen; and worked with local healthcare institutions and statewide coalitions to address legislative matters;
• Provided testimony, letters and presentations on bills—supporting changes to the practice of surprise billing, opposing psychologist prescribing, opposing fireworks legalization, supporting telehealth legislation, voicing our support for legislation to address infant mortality issues; supporting legislation to protect patients from insurer discriminatory practices, supporting legislation to prohibit sunlamp tanning to individuals under 18, supporting mental health parity legislation, and expressing concern about certified nurse anesthetist and advanced practice nurse scope independent practice;
• Participated in advocacy events to address changes in Medicaid managed care procedures, tobacco cessation issues, opioid issues, and immunization concerns;
• Worked with a statewide medical coalition on issues related to the State Medical Board of Ohio.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT
• Participated in a Region V State Medical Society meeting with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS);
• Participated as an active member of the CGS Provider Outreach and Education Group and provided updates to our members on tools and practice management information available to their practice;
• Worked with local law firms and other organizations to provide timely information to our members on topics such as the physician-patient relationship and professional liability, The SECURE Act, Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) eligibility and the Quality Payment Program, federal opioid legislation, and cybersecurity issues;
• Provided our members with information on the retention and appropriate changes for medical records.

COMMUNITY/PUBLIC HEALTH EFFORTS
• Posted and sent critical information and resources to our members and the public about COVID-19;
• Provided representation to the Center for Health Affairs Board of Trustees;
• Hosted the 30th Annual Mini-internship program that allows community members to shadow AMCNO physicians in their practice setting—the longest continuous program of its kind in the country;
• Continued as a participant in the Rx Abuse Leadership Initiative (RALI) and participated in the launch of their statewide tour of the RALI CARES (Code 3) educational trailer;
• Continued as an active participant in Better Health Partnership;
• Participated in the Greater Cleveland/Cuyahoga Community-Wide Heroin/UpTake Task Force;
• Continued as a member of the CliniSync Physician Advisory Group and provided timely articles about the work of CliniSync in our magazine and on our website;
• Continued as a community partner in First Year Cleveland—an initiative addressing infant mortality in our region, and including work on structural racism, safe steps, advocacy and public policy and centering pregnancy; also provided timely articles on this issue in our magazine and on our website;
• Continued as a member of the U.S. Attorney Heroin and Opioid Task Force;
• Continued our partnership with the Northeast Ohio Hospital Opioid Consortium.

PUBLIC RELATIONS
• Continued to meet with Ohio state agency administrators to provide key information about the AMCNO and physician concerns in Northern Ohio;
• Entered the 58th year of operation for the AMCNO Pollen Line, garnering extensive media attention for the service; utilized social media to provide information on the pollen counts to the community;
• Provided media interviews regarding the importance of physician wellness and highlighted the work of the AMCNO as part of the Ohio Physician Wellness Coalition;
• Sent news releases and utilized social media to reach the community, our members and the media;
• Provided videos on our website for our members on legislative advocacy, foundation sponsorships and AMCNO activities.
• Met with the Surgeon General as part of the Northeast Ohio Hospital Opioid Consortium to discuss opioid issues of importance to our members.

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP AND SPONSORSHIP ACTIVITIES
• The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) awarded eight $5,000 scholarships to local third- and fourth-year medical school students;
• Sponsored a statewide immunization conference that included a keynote from the Ohio Department of Health;
• Supported and sponsored the work of the Ohio Physicians Health Program (OPHP) — an organization focused on physician well-being;
• Co-sponsored an Epidemic Seminar in partnership with the Siegel Lifelong Learning Program at Case Western Reserve University;
• Partnered with the Cuyahoga County Alcohol, Drug Addiction, and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) board to co-sponsor First Responder Appreciation Week;
• Offered sponsorship opportunities for educational seminars and events and promoted this opportunity to hospitals, medical schools and community associations;
• Bestowed the AMEF $1,000 award to a graduating student who has shown outstanding commitment to the Northern Ohio community;
• Sponsored the AMEF annual golf event, which has now brought in nearly $500,000 to the foundation—funds that are utilized for medical student scholarships;
• Sponsored the Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine “Doc Opera.”

Legislative and Young Physician Engagement
• Provided membership information to residents and new medical students across the region to garner their support and AMCNO membership;
• Partnered with CWRU School of Medicine to co-host a two-day mentoring program for first-year medical students;
• Partnered with the William E. Lower Fund to present a seminar on “Understanding the Legal and Financial Aspects of Practice Medicine”—a program launched in Northern Ohio by the AMCNO and designed for resident members and their spouses;
• Presented information about the AMCNO and sent physician leadership to a Meet and Greet event for first-year medical students and recruited students for AMCNO membership.

Physician Education Opportunities
• Collaborated with the AMEF and CWRU School of Medicine to provide opioid prescribing education courses for physicians;
• Hosted a networking reception and policy update meeting in partnership with the Ohio State Medical Association;
• Offered CME videos and topics on issues related to physician well-being, mental health and burnout through our partnership with the Ohio Physicians Health Program (OPHP) and the Ohio Physician Wellness Coalition (OPWC).

Board Initiatives/Advocacy
• Continued to work with First Year Cleveland (FYC) to focus on accurate data collection to identify and resolve issues contributing to infant deaths;
• Supported the AMCNO becoming a partner in the Cleveland Healthy Kids’ Meals Campaign—an initiative led by the American Heart Association that includes removing sugary drinks as the default beverage in kids’ restaurant meals;
• Met with two Ohio Supreme Court (OSC) justices to learn more about the role of the court and how AMCNO amicus briefs can have an impact;
• Agreed to submit four (4) amicus briefs to the OSC in cases that would have an impact on physicians. The board approved filing a brief in the following cases:

  • Madora Jones v. Cleveland Clinic – this case deals with the integrity of a jury’s verdict and whether a certain rule of evidence applies to juror’s communications.
  • Malieka Evans v. Akron General Hospital – this case reviews whether a claim for negli-gent hiring is actionable if there is no actionable claim for the underlying conduct giving rise to the negligent-hiring claim.
  • Menorah Park Center for Senior Living v. Rolston – this case deals with what constitutes an unauthorized disclosure of protected health information in the context of collecting a medical debt.
  • Durrani v. Sand and Durrani v. Wilson – this case deals with how long after the fact a physician can be sued for his or her treatment of a patient. Depending on how the Supreme Court decides the case, the answer could be either four years, or decades.

  • Agreed to submit comments to the OSC on three rules under review by the OSC—opposing rules that would have changed the Ohio rule of evidence known as the “learned treatise,” opposing rules that would have shortened the time for parties to seek an extension to file a brief with the OSC, and supporting rules that would add a proportionality requirement to the OSC rule to put the rule in line with the federal rule;
  • Agreed to send a detailed survey reply to the Ohio Department of Medicaid in response to their request for information regarding Medicaid Managed Care plans;
  • Agreed to send comments to the State Medical Board of Ohio (SMBO) voicing our concern with the SMBO’s determination that certain podiatric procedures were within a podiatrist’s scope of practice;
  • Agreed with the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) to promote tobacco cessation treatment options that are available to the public and promote the Ohio Tobacco Quit Line;
  • Supported the SMBO position statement that the term “nurse anesthetist” should not be used by a non-physician;
  • Agreed to support the federal Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment (MAT) Act, which would eliminate barriers and barriers for opioid treatment;
  • Approved to support the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) consideration of acupuncture as a Medicare-covered treatment option for patients with chronic low back pain;
  • Agreed to support an initiative to address the co-pay accumulator issues—regarding discriminatory health plan practices that drive up costs of patients;
  • Continued to work with the Ohio Physician Wellness Coalition (OPWC) and with the Ohio Physicians Health Program (OPHP) to provide physician well-being education and information.

Is YOUR Voice Being Heard?
Already an AMCNO member? Now is the time to renew your commitment to organized medicine that makes a real difference in your practice and our region. Please look for a 2021 dues billing in your mail soon.

Not yet a member? Now more than ever is the time to join the only regional medical association tirelessly working in the best interest of you — the NE Ohio physician. Call our membership department at (216) 520-1000, ext. 101, for details on all the benefits and services available exclusively to our members.

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