

Subject: **[TEST SEND]: IAFP Electronic Newsletter**
 From: Neva Santos
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IDAHO ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2011 has been an exciting year for student interest in Family Medicine. According to the NRMP (National Resident Matching Program), a record-breaking 94.4% of the 2,730 family medicine residency positions were filled in the 2011 Match. 8.9% of U.S senior medical students chose family medicine as a career in 2011, representing an increase for the past two consecutive years. This is a trend that we all hope continues, however, it is absolutely vital that we actively nurture student interest in family medicine, especially as the Idaho primary care workforce faces significant challenges with retiring physicians and the lowest percentage of physicians per capita in the nation. [More...](#)

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/Barinaga%20IAFP%20Newsletter-June%202011.pdf>

2011 Idaho Family Physician of the Year

James Irwin, M.D. was selected as the 2011 Idaho Family Physician of the Year. Dr. Irwin, practicing in Jerome, Idaho. Dr. Irwin received his award at the 63rd Annual Idaho Academy of Family Physicians' Conference on May 21, 2011. Dr. Irwin was selected because he provides patients with compassionate and comprehensive family medicine on an ongoing basis. This is also a tribute to a family doctor who is directly and effectively involved in community affairs and activities that enhance the quality of their community. [To read more about Dr. Irwin...](#)

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/PRESS%20RELEASE%20for%20Dr.%20Irwin.pdf>

**AAFP Makes a Strong Request for RUC
 Changes, Creates Task Force to
 Identify Better Payment for
 Primary Care Services**

New Members

Educational Opportunities

Thank you to the Doctors Company for supporting the IAFP's mission of fostering family medicine by promoting the understanding of our specialty as the foundation of a higher performing health system, and facilitating student interest and recruitment of family physicians to Idaho.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE ONE-DAY PRIMARY CARE UPDATE IN JACKPOT, NEVADA ON NOVEMBER 12, 2011. **FOR MORE INFORMATION...**

AAFP Board Chair Lori Heim, MD sent a letter to the RUC, essentially there are two actions taken by the AAFP Board of Directors that they believe will lead to more accurate and equitable payment for family physicians, other primary care physicians, and patients.

First, the AAFP called on the RUC to make specific changes in its structure, process and procedures to help re-balance payment to primary care physicians and more accurately reward the complex and comprehensive care they provide to patients.

Secondly, separate from and independent of the decision to work for changes from within the current RUC structure, the AAFP Board also approved the formation of a task force to explore the development of alternative methods for appropriately valuing the services provided by primary care physicians in the current fee-for-service model.

In the words of Dr. Heim, "our hope is that these actions will go a long way in better balancing the payment system that has too long been biased toward acute care and procedures, and not primary care and prevention." [To read the entire letter...](#)

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/AAFP%20Letter%20to%20RUC.pdf>

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATIONS

[REVIEW A LIST OF FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT ACOS.](#)

http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/ACO%20FAQ_Final%20to%20design-web.pdf

Medscape Modules are Available on the CMS EHR Incentive Programs

CMS is pleased to announce that through Medscape Education, you now have the opportunity to achieve CME credits by learning more about the Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Programs.

On Medscape's EHR Learning Center [website](http://www.medscape.org/sites/advances/ehr), (<http://www.medscape.org/sites/advances/ehr>) leading physician experts in medical informatics provide information, resources, and tools to help providers determine eligibility for the EHR Incentive Programs, understand the requirements for participating, take steps to participate, and recognize the immediate benefits of participation and future consequences of not participating. [More...](#) <http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/Medscape%20Modules.pdf>

Idaho Mental Health at the Crossroads

The Idaho State Planning Council on Mental Health Submits Their Report to the Governor and State Legislature

The role of the Idaho State Planning Council on Mental Health ("Council") is to monitor, review and evaluate the provision of mental health services in Idaho and serve as an advocate for consumers and their families. In light of the significant reductions in mental health staff and services the Council believes it is imperative to fully monitor and collect meaningful data in order to be knowledgeable and prepared to adequately address the statewide impact on individuals whose lives have been altered due to these budgetary decisions.

The Council anticipates the cuts to services for people with mental illness will adversely affect the quality of their lives and also result in long term increased costs to local communities and the State. Our report includes a sampling of occurrences across Idaho that supports our position. [To review the entire report...](#)

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/Governors%20report%202011%20word.pdf>

2011 Idaho Family Medicine Residency Graduates Where will you find them now?

ISU FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/ISU%20Graduate%202011.pdf>

FAMILY MEDICINE RESIDENCY OF IDAHO

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/FMRI%20Graduates%202011.pdf>

NEW IAFP BOARD MEMBERS INSTALLED

PRESIDENT: Mary Barinaga, MD - Boise

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Suzanne Allen, MD - Boise

IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT: Scott Dunn, MD - Sandpoint

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Samuel "Sam" M. Summers, MD - Caldwell

Haley Minnehan, MD - Cottonwood

Mikael Bedell, MD - Cascade

William Vetter, MD - Emmett

Boyd Southwick, DO - Idaho Falls

Jacob Curtis, DO - Preston

Keith Davis, MD - Shoshone

Ted Epperly, MD - Boise

Cher Jacobsen, MD - Post Falls

Paul Beckett, DO - Shelley

RESIDENT: Ben Marcum, MD (Pocatello Residency)

RESIDENT OBSERVER: Sarah Staller, MD (Boise Residency)

MEDICAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: Kathleen Wachtler - Boise

AAFP DELEGATES:

William Woodhouse MD - Pocatello

Barry Bennett, MD - Idaho Falls

AAFP ALTERNATE DELEGATES:

Suzanne Allen, MD - Boise

David Schmitz, MD - Boise

Proposed 2012 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule

On July 1, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the proposed 2012 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PDF, 1.46 MB, link to change on July 19). This proposed rule addresses changes to the physician fee schedule and other Medicare Part B payment policies, and it implements certain provisions of the *Affordable Care Act* of 2010 (ACA) and the *Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act* of 2008 (MIPPA). It also discusses payments for Part B drugs, the 2012 Physician Quality Reporting System (PQRS), the Electronic Prescribing (eRx) Incentive Program, the Physician Resource-Use Feedback Program, and implementation of the value-based payment modifier. [More information...](#)

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/AAFP%202012%20proposed%20MPFS%20summary.pdf>

The Partnership for Medicaid - a non-partisan, nationwide coalition of safety-net providers and other key organizations with a role in delivering services to Medicaid enrollees - would like to offer these ideas for strengthening and improving the Medicaid program as Congress and the President considers Medicaid changes with an eye on deficit reduction. The Partnership recognizes the importance of reducing the deficit, and would offer these solutions that are not budget-driven but would create efficiencies in the program and improve care. [To read the Medicaid Policy Options...](#)

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/Partnership%20Policy%20Options.pdf>

For Weekly Reports on Family Medicine Specific Information from Capitol Hill Click Here

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/legislative.html>

LOOKING FOR PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES - Log on to the IAFP Web Page for a list of practice opportunities.

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/jobs.html>

More than 2,000 Healthcare Providers Sign Up for WIREC's Free Technical Assistance to Reach Meaningful Use of EHRs. Enrollment Still Open icaid

Services have already begun making incentive payments to healthcare providers who demonstrate meaningful use of electronic health record systems (EHRs). Providers who meet all the requirements can earn incentives of up to \$44,000 from Medicare or \$63,750 from Medicaid.

The Washington & Idaho Regional Extension Center for Health Information Technology (WIREC)-a program spearheaded by Qualis Health and several partner organizations across the region- just reached its 2,000 enrollee milestone, putting them at 86% of their enrollment goals. [For more information...](#)

<http://www.idahofamilyphysicians.org/Newsletter%207-11/WIREC%20IAFP%20Newsletter%20Article.pdf>

QUIT AND LIVE

The Quit With Nancy(tm) Tobacco Cessation Program(c) is a comprehensive 8-Hour Instructional Video. This set includes 4 DVDs (approximately 2 hours each) and a full color 40 Page Workbook. Nancy Caspersen, RN, is a Tobacco Cessation Specialist and ex-smoker. She has been studying tobacco and passing on her knowledge to smokers and chewers for over 10 years. Her program is entertaining, educational and always enlightening.

Nancy is that rare instructor who makes concepts come alive and learning fun. She guides tobacco users through the dirty secrets behind all tobacco products. She demonstrates successful quitting options of which many tobacco users are unaware. She has the talent to motivate teens and adults to want to quit and empowers them to quit for good. [For more information...](#)

Update on Idaho Medicaid's Electronic Health Record Incentive Program

Idaho Medicaid is currently developing the State Plan to implement the EHR incentive program. A date for implementation has not yet been set but the goal remains to implement as soon as possible. [More...](#)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Active Member:

Bridgette Latimer, MD Caldwell, ID

David (Luke) Luther, MD St. Maries, ID

Richard Sandison, MD Twin Falls, ID

Stephanie Sobczynski-Patton, DO Idaho Falls, ID

Faine Stenhouse, MD Post Falls, ID

Educational Opportunities

July 15-19, 2011; 119th Annual Idaho Medical Association Meeting, Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho For more information

Friday, September 30, 2011; SAVE THE DATE - Pediatric Asthma Learning Collaborative 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Learning Session Locations: Boise, Pocatello and Video conference locations throughout the state. [More information](#)

Saturday, November 12, 2011; One-Day Primary Care Seminar; Cactus Pete's, Jackpot, Nevada. [More information](#)

Contact Information

Neva Santos, CAE, Executive Director
777 N. Raymond Street, Boise, Idaho 83704
(208) 323-1156 Cell: (208) 407-1854
Idahoafp@aol.com
www.Idahofamilyphysicians.org

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