



AMA Alliance E-Connection

The family of medicine touching your community

July 2007

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RADAR explores adverse drug event detection

A recent study suggests that this

Greetings!

Welcome to the AMA Alliance E-Connection, the monthly e-newsletter for Alliance members.

Please share this e-newsletter with other Alliance members and nonmembers. For more information on the latest AMA Alliance activities and resources for physician families and to encourage a friend to join, visit www.amaalliance.org.

• Welcome...From Your New President!

For the AMA Alliance, June is the month of sweet endings and exciting beginnings. Our Annual Session is not just for establishing policy that will keep our organization relevant; it's also a time to celebrate and thank our leaders for the countless hours of work they have given to the Alliance. I want to honor and thank our 2006-07 President Nita Maddox for taking us in a new direction of collaborative effort with the AMA and with the Legacy Foundation. *Screen Out!* may well be the defining project of the AMA Alliance in this decade - our work is already creating buzz across the country - and not just in Alliance circles! I'd also like to congratulate and thank all of those Alliance leaders who gave their time and talents this past year -- you have left us with big shoes to fill.



The Annual Meeting provided me with the kind of exciting beginning that dreams are made of. I feel very privileged for the opportunity to lead another talented group of dedicated Alliance leaders in 2007-08. At orientation this year, we focused on Jim Collins' book, *Good to Great*. Mr. Collins discusses how the most successful organizations

pharmacovigilance project may add significantly to Food and Drug Administration and drug company efforts.

AMNews, July 2, 2007

It takes time for the Food and Drug Administration's Adverse Event Reporting System to detect problems with drugs on the market. But a group of physicians at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago aren't waiting. They've taken matters into their own hands, and their efforts are paying dividends.

According to a study in the May 28 Archives of Internal Medicine, this independent drug safety project, which proactively seeks out data on suspected adverse events, is sometimes able to gather more information than the FDA on such incidents and disseminate alerts with greater detail to guide physician response. Those behind this initiative -- Research on Adverse Drug events And Reports, or RADAR -- are seeking more cooperation with the agency and drug companies.

"We're filling a void," said Charles Bennett, MD, PhD, the study's lead author and RADAR's principal investigator. "But we don't want to compete with the FDA. We want to collaborate."

assure you that this year's team of Officers, Directors, Chairs and Committee Members are the right people in the right seats! They will do their best to move our Alliance in the direction it needs to go to be of value and relevance to the Family of Medicine and to the good health of all Americans.

Watch this space during the year for positive news of Alliance successes!

I hope to hear from you as the year progresses. Take care and don't forget to write!
Dianne

• **Health News You Should Know**

Improved Use of BMI Needed to Screen Children for Overweight

Journal of the American Medical Association, June 27, 2007

It sounds relatively simple: measure a child's height and weight and use those numbers to calculate body mass index (BMI), a reliable gauge of body fatness. But new research shows that despite recommendations from prominent health groups, pediatricians have not widely adopted the practice.

[Read on...](#)

Genetic Nondiscrimination

Journal of the American Medical Association, June 13, 2007

On April 25, after years of being blocked by Republicans, the House passed legislation designed to prevent discrimination based on genetic information.

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (HR 493 [<http://thomas.loc.gov>]) prohibits employers from using genetic information as a basis for hiring, firing, or promoting individuals. The act also forbids insurers from denying coverage or charging higher premiums to individuals based on genetic information. A by-product of approving the legislation is that people will now be more willing to undergo genetic testing as an element of preventive health and for use in clinical research, said Rep Louise M. Slaughter (D, NY), a cosponsor of the bill.

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• **Award Winners**

The 2007 AMA Alliance award winners were recognized during the Alliance Annual Meeting, June 24-27, for their commitment in the areas of legislative advocacy, health promotion, membership and fundraising. Here is a complete list of awards and winners:

The 2007 American Medical Association (AMA) Alliance considered a number of proposed bylaws amendments, resolutions and policies and took the following actions:



- Considered and recommitted to the Bylaws Committee of 2007-08, a bylaws amendment to add the term "domestic partner" wherever the word "spouse" appears in the categories of membership, assuming the following definition: "Domestic Partner" shall mean a person who meets the following criteria: (a) 18 years of age or older; (b) is in a committed relationship with a physician/resident/medical student (as applicable); (c) is not related by blood or marriage to the physician/resident/medical student (as applicable) in a manner that would be prohibited in the state in which the partner resides.
- Considered and adopted an amendment to add a "spouse" and "widow" or "widower" of a medical student member to the "regular" and "associate" categories of Alliance membership.

[For a more detailed list of amendments voted on by the AMA Alliance House of Delegates, click here...](#)

- **Meet Your 2007-08 Slate of Officers**



President-elect: Sandi Frost of Somerset, Kentucky previously served as Treasurer, Director for two terms, Legislation Chair and as the Alliance representative to the American Medical Association's Council on Legislation and as Chair of the Legislative Education and Awareness Promotion (LEAP) Awards.



Secretary: Nancy Kyler of Staunton, Virginia, previously served as Legislation Chair, Director for two terms, a member of the Legislation Committee, as the Alliance representative to the American Medical Association's Council on Legislation and as Chair of the Legislative Education and Awareness Promotion (LEAP) Awards.



Treasurer: Carolyn Plested of Los Angeles, California previously served as Chair of the Health Promotion Committee, Director for three terms, two years on the AMA Foundation Committee and as a member of the Nominating Committee. She has served on the AMA Foundation Motivational Analysis Committee, on the National Bullying Prevention Campaign Implementation Working Group, representing the AMA Alliance.



Immediate Past President: Nita Maddox of Huntsville, Alabama was installed as President of the American Medical Association Alliance, in June 2006. Maddox previously served on the

national level as President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Field Director. She has been chairman of the AMA Foundation Committee, the HAP Awards committee, and the Finance committee. In her work for the AMA Alliance, she has served on the American Medical Association's Foundation board and has been chairman of its nominating committee.

- **We are Here to Help!**

One of the most useful leadership tools is the organization's staff. As we prepare for the 2007-08 leadership year, please know that your Chicago office staff are ready to help you and serve as your resource for membership marketing, health promotion, advocacy, fundraising and communication. Here's your handy "who's who" to these resources for Alliance leaders:

Communications

(Web site development, newsletter production, public and media relations, electronic publishing and marketing communication)

Rosetta Gervasi, Director of Communications

312-464-4473

Leia Vincent, Communications Administrator

312-464-4476

Jennifer West, Communications Assistant

312-464-4498

For a full staff listing, click here...

- **Save the Date**

The AMA Alliance posts "Save the Date" items two weeks prior to the event date or registration deadline. For a full listing of events go to www.amaalliance.org.

September 1, 2007-March 8, 2008: Walking Challenge

September 29-October 2, 2007: AMA Alliance Leadership Development Conference, Chicago, Drake Hotel

October 10, 2007: 13th Annual SAVE Today

Does your state or county Alliance have an upcoming event? Get it listed in the "SAVE THE DATE" section of the AMA Alliance E-Connection. E-mail your event information to Leia Vincent at Leia.Vincent@ama-assn.org.

- **We want your suggestions!**

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the AMA Alliance E-Connection we want to hear from you. Simply reply to this e-mail or call us at 312.464.4470.

Visit our Web site at www.amaalliance.org.