



## AMA Alliance E-Connection

The family of medicine touching your community

September 2007

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### 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](http://www.amaalliance.org).

### • *Screen Out! News*

The AMA Alliance's *Screen Out!* campaign is offering a new opportunity for East Coast members to get involved in the campaign by holding a one-day Eastern Regional *Screen*

*Out!* Conference. This will be a day-long workshop held at the AMA Washington D.C. office on November 3, 2007. All members are welcome to attend this **FREE** training which aims to educate and motivate AMA Alliance members to join in the Alliance's *Screen Out!* campaign, while also increasing membership and activity of East Coast Alliance groups. Look out for more information coming soon to the Web site. Please contact [Melissa Walthers](#) if you have any immediate questions or interest in getting more information.



Also, we encourage you to work with local organizations in your area to garner organizational endorsements for the *Screen Out!* Campaign. Your local PTA, school district, hospital administration or church are all great places to start in gaining endorsements for the "Four Solutions" to getting smoking out of youth-rated films. [Click here](#) to link to the *Screen Out!* section of the Web site and access a letter that you can adapt for an organization in your local community. *Screen Out!* is off and running and gaining organizational endorsements is a great way to keep the

"Whispering strokes" often go unheard, but still cause damage

**A study finds that even minor strokes can lead to significant impairment, and it calls for greater awareness of symptoms.**

*AMNews*, August 27, 2007

Stroke symptoms are common among people older than 45, but many of these patients never receive a diagnosis or related medical care. Their untreated array of symptoms -- termed "whispering strokes" in a study published in the Aug. 2 *Stroke* -- can lead to a lower quality of life and declines in physical functioning comparable to that from a confirmed transient ischemic attack. Cognitive problems also are worse in this population, according to the study.

"These results show a need for greater awareness of stroke symptoms and a need to take these symptoms seriously," said George Howard, DrPH, lead author and

momentum up!

#### • Health News You Should Know

##### **Web Drugs Costly**

*Journal of the American Medical Association*, August 22/29, 2007

Overseas Internet pharmacies attract some US consumers looking for a bargain, but many US pharmacies offer less expensive generic versions of the same drugs, according to new data from the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

[Read on...](#)

##### **Hospital Infection Monitoring**

*Journal of the American Medical Association*, August 22/29, 2007

Hospitals throughout the United States now have the opportunity to join a national Web-based surveillance network that will enable them to track, and possibly prevent, safety problems facing patients and staff in their facilities.

[Read on...](#)

#### • What Are You Doing Right?

We want to hear about it! If you have stories of successful fundraisers, extraordinary members getting involved in their community or even just original projects that you want to share with us, we want to know about it.

Share your achievements with your fellow national AMA Alliance members by submitting them to the national office for consideration for one of our many publications. Email your stories to [amaa@ama-assn.org](mailto:amaa@ama-assn.org) and one of our communication staff members will contact you for more details.

the chair of  
biostatistics at the  
University of Alabama  
at Birmingham's  
School of Public  
Health.

[Learn more...](#)

## Quick Links...

- [AMA Alliance](#)
- [Alliance Logo  
Wear](#)
- [Children's  
Activity Books](#)
- [Join Now](#)

## • Leadership Development Conference Only a Month Away!!!

The 2007 AMA Alliance Leadership Development Conference is a two-and-a-half day networking and team-building opportunity designed to boost membership growth and service throughout the country in support of health advocacy initiatives, health promotion and fundraising for medicine's future.



The program content is a blend of general sessions and community action and professional skills programs. County leaders who are interested in attending should contact their state president for registration details.

The Leadership Development Conference will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at the Drake Hotel in Chicago.

[To view the registration and program materials, or to make a hotel reservation, click here...](#)

## • Active for the Uninsured

The AMA Alliance is reaching out to voters and candidates in partnership with the AMA in early primary states and Washington, D.C. to talk about the problem of the uninsured and the AMA's solution proposal that would ensure that the majority of Americans have access to quality, affordable health care coverage. Join us to help give a voice to the uninsured.

More than 45 million, or one out of seven Americans, are uninsured. And 20 percent are children. These individuals receive less preventive care, are diagnosed at more advanced disease stages, receive less therapeutic care and have higher mortality rates than insured individuals.

To address the problems, AMA Alliance and AMA members are working together to help get petitions signed in support of their proposed plan to provide all Americans with the means to purchase health care coverage.

A message from AMA Alliance President Dianne Fenyk:  
*"The Alliance is a natural partner with the AMA and by virtue of our membership in the Family of Medicine; we must speak up for those uninsured citizens who are cared for around the country by Alliance members, physician spouses, medical students and residents. In fact, Alliance members already worked side by side with AMA*

:: [leia.vincent@ama-  
assn.org](mailto:leia.vincent@ama-assn.org)

::  
[http://www.amaalliance.  
org](http://www.amaalliance.org)

*representatives at the Iowa State Fair on August 16, passing out literature about the campaign, soliciting signatures for a petition and listening to fair-goers share stories about being uninsured. Across America, Alliance members work to improve the health of our communities- it's now time to become vocal advocates for those who have no health care safety net. I hope you'll join me by adding your voice to this pressing issue."*

**[For more information about the campaign and how you can get your Alliance and local medical society involved, click here...](#)**

### • **Get Moving: Gather Your Team for the Walking Challenge**



Make a difference in YOUR health...one step at a time! Get your team together to mark the miles from Chicago to Washington. From the shores of Lake Michigan to the US Capitol, it's 705 miles. Together, our steps will be stronger in the

hall of the Capitol. Winning teams will be announced at the National Advocacy Conference.

Registration deadline for the teams and members on the team is September 1, which is the date the AMA Alliance Health Promotions Walking Challenge begins. Please e-mail [jennifer.west@ama-assn.org](mailto:jennifer.west@ama-assn.org), with the team members, including the team captain, contact person and contact information.

**[To find out ways of converting your activity into steps, visit the Web site 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](http://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

**January 26-28, 2008:** Southern Regional Alliance Development Conference in Huntsville Alabama

**March 30-April 2, 2008:** Combined AMA Alliance Conference-Winter Session and AMA National Advocacy Conference (NAC) in Washington, D.C.

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](mailto:Leia.Vincent@ama-assn.org).

**[For more information about these events, or for a full calendar listing, click here...](#)**

- **We want your suggestions!**

If you have any comments about or suggestions for 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](http://www.amaalliance.org).