ACOEM and Your Future in Occupational Medicine

*How we can work together for a stronger profession*

Natalie Hartenbaum, MD, MPH, FACOEM
President-elect, ACOEM

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The Good News...and the Bad News

• First, the good:
  – OEM skills and expertise are needed more than ever before

• Why is OEM so important?
  – The rise of chronic disease in the workplace
  – The coming of the “Silver Tsunami”
  – Global, interconnected workforces and populations
  – U.S. health care reform debate and role of workplace health
OEM Physicians are at Ground Zero

- Nation’s experts in workplace health

- We have unique training, skill sets and vantage point among stakeholders

- We’re in the right place at the right time to influence health care reform

That’s the good news…
What’s the **bad** news?

- Low visibility of OEM in health care community
  - 10,000 specialists, but pipeline is shrinking
  - Only 23 OEM residency programs in U.S.

- Average age of OEM physicians: 55

- Low numbers of board-certified OEM specialists
  - Only 42% of ACOEM members are board certified in OEM

Bottom line: Our specialty needs higher visibility. It’s time for OEM leadership!
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How ACOEM is meeting this challenge

• Focusing on YOU
  – Engage grassroots OEM physicians
  – Create a long-term strategy for professional strength

• A three-point vision
  – Demonstrate strong connection between workforce health and the U.S. economy
  – Enhance the value of our specialty to medicine
  – Enhance the value of your membership
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Point 1: Demonstrate connection between health of the workforce and health of U.S. economy

• New, aggressive national advocacy
  – Pushing for policy changes aimed at worker health
  – ACOEM Health and Productivity Management Center
  – “Healthy Workforce Now” initiative – Washington D.C.

• Key Messages:
  – Health reform must include the workplace
  – OEM physicians should play a leadership role
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Point 1: Demonstrate connection between health of the workforce and health of U.S. economy

- Energizing the employer community
  - ACOEM/IBI National Summit on Workforce Health and Productivity
  - Education: webinars, HPM Toolkit
  - JOEM research and studies
Health and Productivity Management Center

Smart business leaders are confronting spiraling health costs in a new way by promoting a healthier workforce. They recognize that health and wellness programs can actually improve productivity, bringing a better return to the bottom line than mere cost containment.

This concept is at the heart of a major new ACOEM initiative:

The Health and Productivity Management Center

Housed at ACOEM headquarters in suburban Chicago, the HPM Center offers the most comprehensive mix of Health and Productivity Management services in the nation—from the leading experts on HPM:

- Educational course at HPM Clinic—Ranging from 2-3 hours to full day; can be customized for in-house training or in conjunction with regional or national meetings; the course is packed with hands-on instruction in the principles of HPM. Click here for the current HPM Clinic course offerings.

- Webinars—A taped webinar on introduction to HPM is currently available through the ACOEM Shopping Cart. Beginning June 11, 2009 and running through August 20, 2009, a 6 part webinar series will be held. These webinars were developed based on the successful HPM Clinic as well as the new Roadmap for Implementing Workplace Health and Wellness programs. Click here for more information on the webinar series.

- HPM Toolkit—ACOEM offers the most thorough site on HPM available. The Health and Productivity Management Toolkit is a special workplace resource created by ACOEM. The Toolkit helps individuals understand the concepts of Health and Productivity Management (HPM) and the value of a healthy workforce by providing access to video, audio and written content—including more than 1,000 pages of academic and research material—that you can use to build your skills in Health and Productivity Management. The HPM Toolkit will be periodically updated and is available through an on-line subscription.
ACOEM’s Seven-Point Health Advocacy Agenda

1. Establish a federal **Office of Worker Health and Productivity** to develop and promote workplace health initiatives.

2. Establish a **President’s Council on Worker Health and Productivity** to advise the President on important workplace health issues.

3. Require employer-provided health plans to **include an integrated health and productivity enhancement program** for work-site prevention, health promotion and health protection, under the direction of a qualified occupational medicine physician.
4. Require employer-provided health plans to reimburse for preventive services provided to employees as part of an integrated health and productivity enhancement program.

5. Pass federal legislation that would provide a tax credit to companies that offer effective and comprehensive wellness programs.

6. Amend existing federal law to provide Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) funding for occupational medicine residency programs that include training modules specific to health and productivity to ensure an adequate supply of Board Certified occupational medicine physicians.
ACOEM’s Seven-Point Health Advocacy Agenda

7. Fund research through CMS to determine the most effective health and productivity enhancement strategies, ranging from health promotion to disease management in the workplace.
The American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (ACOEM) believes that the time has come for the United States to recognize the workplace as a critical location for achieving the goals of health reform and for improving the overall health of employees and their families.

It will be impossible to achieve true health care reform without this shift in focus. Our workforce – the engine that drives our economy and supports the financial underpinnings of our health care system – is aging and aging, with a rapid rise in chronic disease across all age groups. At the same time, many baby boomers are exiting the workplace altogether. As a consequence, the pipeline of healthy, productive workers in the United States is threatened. Without a healthy, able, and available workforce, the United States will not be able to sustain its long-term health care programs – nor will it thrive in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.

ACOEM has launched its “Healthy Workforce Now” initiative to raise awareness of these vital facts. We are seeking changes in federal policy in order to ensure America’s workforce remains strong and that workplace health becomes a fundamental element in the nation’s health care reform efforts.

To learn more about ACOEM’s advocacy on workforce health, please review the various documents posted to the left. These materials illustrate the significant connection between the productive capacity of the American economy, the health and well-being of its workforce, and the future of the nation’s health care system.

On June 1, 2009, these materials were provided to Congressional leaders during an ACOEM briefing on
Point 2: Enhance the value of our specialty

- **ACOEM Practice Guidelines (APG)**
  - Published for more than a decade
  - New management team
  - New online resources and access

- **Embracing Evidence Based Medicine**
  - ACOEM guidelines considered the “gold standard” of care for workplace injury and illness
Online Practice Guidelines

Neck and Upper Back Disorders

- General Approach and Basic Principles
- Initial Assessment
- Medical History
- Physical Examination
- Diagnostic Criteria
- Work-Relatedness
- Initial Care
- Activity Alteration
- Work Activities
- Follow-up Visits
- Special Studies and Diagnostic and Treatment Considerations
- Surgical Considerations
- Summary of Recommendations and Evidence
- References
- Chapter Downloads
- Recommendations
ACOEM Practice Guidelines content update

The Hand Wrist and Forearm content has been updated on the 19th October 2009. The new content includes over 200 recommendations focusing on diagnostic testing and treatment for 29 hand, wrist or forearm disorders. Recommendations regarding vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty were updated on September 22, 2009 reflective of new evidence. Updated recommendations for these treatment types are now found in separate treatment summaries located under ‘Low back Disorders - Surgical Considerations’.

ACOEM’s Guidelines are the gold standard in effective treatment of occupational injuries and illnesses. They are intended to help improve or restore the health of workers who incur occupationally related illnesses or injuries through identification of the most efficacious treatment strategies to be implemented at the earliest date. ACOEM’s are the only quality evidence-based guidelines that focus on improving the health of injured workers and returning them to functional life and work within 90 days of an injury or illness. This is clinically appropriate, as data show that more than 90 percent of workplace injuries are resolved within this time period. However, health issues outside of the 90-day range are also comprehensively addressed throughout the Guidelines.

The Guidelines were developed in response to rising expectations for improvements in the quality of care; increased expectations for good outcomes and medical safety; the need to decrease ever utilization and to curb unproductive and even harmful interventions; and the need to reflect advances in healthcare based on the best available quality evidence. The Guidelines—which were developed, tested, and refined in healthcare practices—present essential evidence-based information to address the injured worker’s functional impairment and safely return him or her to work. The treatment approach takes a comprehensive view that encompasses the medical, health, psychosocial, and functional outcomes of the injured worker. This approach enables the Guidelines to be an integral, seamless part of treatment planning and case-management systems. The Guidelines are an important tool for physicians and other health care providers, and all others with responsibility for or involvement in worker health and workers’ compensation systems to optimize the health of injured workers.

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Point 2: Enhance the value of our specialty

• ACOEM standard-setting extends beyond APG
  – Formal Competencies
  – Fellowship program: highest distinction for OEM physicians
  – Position Papers and Guidance documents

• ACOEM’s role as a liaison and partner
  – Strong relationships with regulatory and policy organizations
  – NIOSH, NTSB, ongoing presence with Administration and Capitol Hill

Our Goals:
Represent your voice…
Influence the environment
Point 3: Enhance the value of your membership

• Start with organizational effectiveness
  – Listen to members; hear their needs

• Reviewing and updating ACOEM’s structure
  – Councils, committees, sections
  – Example: New Environmental Section – requested by members

• New task forces seek to serve you better
  – Private Practice – help your practice succeed
  – Physician Payment – ensuring a level playing field for OEM physicians
Point 3: Enhance the value of your membership

• Strengthen the Components
  – Coordinate advocacy; provide resources to help you
  – Executive Directors calls
  – Component Handbook ????

• Provide more education: A key value
  – New education director at ACOEM
  – More online access and “virtual” programming

• Reach out to the next generation of OEM physicians
  – Aggressive advocacy for more OEM residency programs
  – New mentoring program
  – Engaging students and residents
OEM’s Future: There’s a role for YOU

• Number one: Think LEADERSHIP and INVOLVEMENT
  – Take steps beyond the clinic...We need your voice

• Be a part of “Healthy Workforce Now”
  – Read the 7-point plan – www.acoem.org
  – Watch for action alerts from ACOEM or your component – and get involved
  – Contact your Senator or Representative

Becoming active raises the profile of our specialty
OEM’s Future: There’s a role for YOU

• Number two: Get involved with ACOEM & your component
  – Join a section
  – Speak out

• Recognize/leverage your “connectedness”
  – OEM physicians are uniquely positioned in workforce infrastructure
  – Use your position to influence
Welcome to the ACOEM Members’ Only Area

What's New

An ACOEM Update on Health Care Reform

On Thursday, September 10, Patrick O’Connor, ACOEM’s government affairs representative, held a conference call briefing for the ACOEM Board of Directors concerning the prospects for federal legislation to reform health care. ACOEM’s position regarding health promotion and prevention in the workplace as a part of health reform and the College’s strategies going forward were discussed. ACOEM plans to hold additional briefings as the health care reform debate evolves. As a new member benefit, these briefings will also be recorded and posted under the ACOEM Members Only site. ACOEM’s seven point Action Plan for Workforce Health and Prevention can be found by clicking on Healthy Workforce Now.

Download Health Care Reform Conference Call (.MP3)

2010 Annual Award Nominations Being Accepted: Deadline is October 1, 2009

Nominations for ACOEM’s 2010 Annual Awards are now being accepted for the Health Achievement, Meritorious Service, William S. Knudsen, and the Kehoe Award of Merit, to be presented next year during AOHC in May in Orlando, Fla. Complete the on-line Nomination Form and press the “Submit” button. Click here to view winners of past years’ awards.

New Member Forum – Advice for New Members

As a new member of ACOEM you may have questions on how to make the best use of your membership,
Commercial Driver Medical Examiner – Informational Resources

JOEM Articles | FMCSA Resources | Related Organizations | Acronyms//Terminology

JOEM ARTICLES


- Impact of a Hypertension Management/Health Promotion Program on Commercial Driver’s License Employees of a Self-Insured Utility Company. JOEM. 50(3):359-365, March 2008. Harshman, Robert S. MD; Richerson, Gerald T. AET, BSE; Hadker, Nandini MS; Greene, Beth L. BA; Brown, T Michelle PhD; Foster, Talia S. MS; Turner, Beverly H. RN; Skreplne, Samantha H. MPH; Doyle, Joseph J. RPh, MBA.

- Executive Summary: Sleep Apnea and Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators: Statement From the Joint Task Force of the American College of Chest Physicians, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, and the National Sleep Foundation. JOEM. 48(9) Executive Summary:S1-S3, September 2006. Hartenbaum, Natalie MD, MPH, FACOEM; Collop, Nancy MD, FCCP; Rosen, Ilene M. MD, MSCE, FCCP; Phillips, Barbara MD, MSPH, FCCP; George, Charles F. P. MD, FRCPC; Rowley, James A. MD; Freedman, Neil MD, FCCP; Weaver, Terri E. PhD, RN, CS, FAAN; Gurubhagavatula, Indira MD, MPH; Strohl, Kingman MD; Leaman, Howard M. MD; Moffitt, Gary L. MD; Rosekind, Mark R. PhD.

- Truckers with OSA, Should They Be Driving? JOEM Editorial. 48(9):871-872, September 2006. Hartenbaum, Natalie MD, MPH, FACOEM; Collop, Nancy MD, FCCP; Rosen, Ilene M. MD, MSCE; Phillips, Barbara MD, MSPH, FCCP.
OEM Credentialing Form

Historically, hospital credentialing has been used to ensure that physicians were of good character and properly trained, experienced, and skilled. Hospital credentialing served an important role in protecting the public from unqualified medical practitioners. In spring of 2007, the ACOEM House of Delegates passed a resolution (7S-02-CR) which called for the development of guidelines for the credentialing and privileging of physicians in occupational and environmental medicine to aid hospitals and other organizations which credential OEM physicians.

This OEM Credentialing Form was subsequently developed under the auspices of the ACOEM Council on Occupational and Environmental Medicine Practice. It was approved by the ACOEM Board of Directors in July 2009. OEM physicians who are seeking hospital or clinical credentials are welcome to use this form to assist them in the credentialing process.

Download OEM Credentialing Form
Careers in Occupational and Environmental Medicine

Welcome to the ACOEM Career Center
This purpose of the Center is to acquaint physicians with the field of occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) – perhaps the widest ranging of all medical specialties – and assist them in finding employment in the field. Now, not only can you find information that will help you advance your career, but you can search for jobs or post an ad through ACOEM’s new on-line recruitment resource.

Occupational and environmental medicine belongs to the future. Devoted to prevention and management of occupational and environmental injury, illness, and disability, and the promotion of health and productivity of workers, their families, and communities, it is a specialty of unlimited challenges and opportunity. Because the majority of the population is employed, the need for specialists in the field continues to grow. Whether you are looking to enter the field, negotiate an employment contract, or change jobs, the ACOEM Career Center can provide you with the tools you need.

The ACOEM Career Center is a member of the HEALTHeCAREERS Network, an integrated network of dozens of prestigious healthcare associations. Tap into hundreds of healthcare disciplines by visiting the Career Center and selecting the box next to “Uncheck for NP, PA & other disciplines”.

Occupational and Environmental Medicine Competencies
Occupational and environmental medicine (OEM) comprises a spectrum of competencies ranging from those of the general practitioner.
OEM Practice Settings and Career Opportunities

ACOEM invites you to meet some of the leaders of Occupational and Environmental Medicine to learn more about the variety of careers in OEM.

These conference calls are offered free to all interested health care professionals who are entering, or considering entering, this exciting profession of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. Participate from your own phone!

We will be pleased to inform you of the upcoming conference calls where you can ask questions and enter into dialogue with the presenter. Please e-mail memberinfo@acoem.org with your name and e-mail address, and put “Careers” in the subject line.

If you would like to download an .MP3 file to your iPod or MP3 player, right click on one of the “Download” links in the MP3 column and click on “Save Target As...” This will download the MP3 file to your workstation where you can synchronize it with your iPod/MP3 player.

Audiocasts/Podcasts of the presentations may be accessed below.

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<td>Download (6MB)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAREERS IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE – April 1, 2009</td>
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Download links are provided for each presentation.
Thank you!

• ACOEM appreciates your commitment to our profession.

QUESTIONS?