



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Dr. Alan Krieger  
President & Chairman*

Dear NJPCAC Member:

At our last annual meeting of the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition held in February, I had the distinct honor of being elected as the new President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Coalition. We could not have been as successful in our defense of the independent practice model without the leadership and tireless efforts of our immediate past president, Dr. David Taylor.

David has been a key player in

helping build what is now one of the finest - and more importantly, most effective and respected specialty practice organizations in the State, if not the country. In keeping with the progress that we have made since the Coalition's inception, it is my goal to maintain the strong advocacy record throughout the coming year and I encourage everyone to get involved with the process as well.

I have had the occasion to join with other NJPCAC members at meetings with public policy makers and it is clear they respect our profession, what we do, and how hard we work at it. One of the proven values our Coalition has to offer is the ability to engage elected representatives on both sides of the aisle in meaningful dialogue in order to advocate for the quality of care our patients throughout New Jersey deserve.

But it is critical, in my view, that they hear it from us.

That they hear about our

successes and our frustrations; about the patient we saved and the patient we wanted to save, but could not. Most importantly, though, that they learn firsthand why our integrated care model works for everyone - the patient, the payer and the physician. That we back up that contention with cold, hard facts meticulously compiled through a lot of hard work by the Board of the Coalition and the administrative staffs of our member practices.

I look forward to serving as your Chairman and President during the coming year and encourage your involvement and input. Most importantly, please feel free to contact me directly regarding any suggestions or concerns you may have about the Coalition.

Sincerely,

*The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition (NJPCAC) promotes and represents the common interests of urological care physicians in the State of New Jersey who are dedicated to the highest standards of practice and focuses on addressing the challenges that confront our healthcare system. NJPCAC's membership includes nearly 200 practicing urologists and scores of additional healthcare professionals, including radiation oncologists, pathologists, nurses and administrative staff, who have come together to educate policy makers, regulators, insurers and other key stakeholders, including patients and peers about regulatory changes that will adversely affect the quality and accessibility to care provided to patients in New Jersey and those that will advance care in New Jersey. NJPCAC promotes and pursues educational, legislative and regulatory interests that are common to these urological care physicians and the advancement of patient care and access in the State of New Jersey.*



## Alan Krieger Elected New NJPCAC President and Chairman

Alan P. Krieger, MD was unanimously elected Chairman of the Board of Directors and President of the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition at the Coalition's Board of Directors' annual meeting on February 19th in New Brunswick. Dr. Krieger had previously served as Vice Chairman.

"I am honored to have been given this responsibility by my peers," said Dr. Krieger. "This Coalition has been important not just to protecting our integrated model of care, but in educating public policy makers on the issues that are critical to us. I hope to be able to build on the success of my predecessor Dave Taylor and strengthen the Coalition."

Alan Krieger is a Board-certified urologist and President of the Urology Group of New Jersey (UGNJ), a large independent practice with twelve office locations throughout four counties in New Jersey. He serves as the Division Chief

of Urology at Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth and oversees the clinical and didactic medical education in urology for students from St. George's University in Grenada, and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York, where he is an Adjunct Clinical Assistant Professor of Urology.

After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History at New York University and attending medical school at the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara in Mexico, Dr. Krieger went on to complete his urology training and Chief Residency at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn, New York.

Alan is a Past President of the Union County Medical Society in New Jersey and is a member of the American Urological Association, New York Section of the AUA, Medical Society of New Jersey and the Union County Medical Society. Dr. Krieger currently resides in New Jersey with his wife Laurie, and is the proud father of three grown children.



## David Taylor Honored at Annual NJPCAC Meeting in New Brunswick

David Taylor, MD, was honored by the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition Board of Directors at its annual meeting in New Brunswick on February 19th for his service as Chairman of the Board of Directors and President for the past three years. Dr. Taylor will serve as Vice Chairman for the coming year. He was succeeded as President and Chairman by Alan Krieger, MD.

“It has been a privilege to serve this Coalition which we all worked together to build,” said Dr. Taylor. “I believe it has served our interests well and is a model for other specialties that want to come together to protect the voice of independent physician specialty practices. I am confident that Alan will continue to build on our past successes and I intend to remain actively engaged as Vice Chairman.”

In presenting a recognition award to Dr. Taylor, Dr. Krieger said, “Dave’s tireless efforts on behalf of the Coalition and the critical role he played in elevating NJPCAC’s profile and relationships in Trenton with key legislators and regulators did not go unnoticed and are certainly not unappreciated by all of us.”

Other Board members also expressed their appreciation to Dr. Taylor.

In addition to Dr. Krieger as Chairman and President and Dr. Taylor as Vice Chairman, Dr. Pat Ciccone was reelected Treasurer, Dr. Adam Perzin was re-elected Secretary and Ms. Kelly Snyder was re-elected Assistant Treasurer. The Board of Directors for 2015 will also include Dr.



*Dr. Taylor receiving the recognition award  
from Dr. Krieger*

David Chaikin, Dr. Mark Fallick, Dr. Ben Fand, Ms. Mary Beth Guilbert, Mr. Victor Houtz, Dr. Steve Orland, Mr. Alan Plotkin, Dr. Ken Ring and Dr. Matthew Whang.

In other business at the annual meeting, the Board approved an NJPCAC Budget for the coming year; approved a management services agreement for the Coalition with The Stone Center and a Professional Services Agreement with Donald Sico & Co. LLC for lobbying and public relations. NJPCA PAC Board members approved a budget for the PAC for the coming year.

Board members heard a national perspective presentation from NJPCAC Counsel Howard Rubin on “The Defense of Integrated Cancer Care” and a “Legislative Retrospective for 2014 and Proposed Strategies for 2015” by Donald Sico, NJPCAC lobbyist.

## Advocacy Update



*By Donald Sico, Donald Sico & Co. LLC*

### It Cuts Both Ways

Steep cuts proposed by Governor Chris Christie in his Fiscal Year 2016 Budget cut both ways when it comes to NJPCAC priorities.

On one hand, the \$148M proposed reduction will restrict the ability of some hospitals to adequately compensate physicians for the services they provide and may thus ask some of them to perform the same level of services for less. On the other hand, the reduction in charity care strengthens the argument for one of NJPCAC's top legislative priorities - phasing out and eventually eliminating the Ambulatory Care Facility Assessment.

Under the Governor's proposal, some hospitals will be hard hit - the biggest losers in terms of actual dollar funding reductions are:

Capital Health Medical Center Hopewell (\$5,045,162); CarePoint Health - Hoboken University Medical Center (\$5,656,787); Hackensack University Medical Center (\$7,106,195); Jersey City Medical Center (\$7,955,335); Newark Beth Israel Medical Center (\$5,080,871); St. Clare's Denville/Dover (\$4,440,424); St. Francis Medical Center

Trenton (\$3,877,480); St. Joseph's Medical Center (\$6,747,376); St. Mary's Hospital Passaic (\$5,475,077); St. Michael's Medical Center Newark (\$10,738,518); Trinitas Regional Medical Center (\$8,907,936); and University Hospital (\$19,610,665).

(The full proposed FY 2016 New Jersey hospital funding can be found on the New Jersey Department of Health website here: [http://www.state.nj.us/health/documents/hf\\_budget2016.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/health/documents/hf_budget2016.pdf) )

Last September Senator Jeff Van Drew from Cape May County (District 1) introduced our Ambulatory Care Facility tax phase out legislation:

S2406 - Phases out ambulatory care facility assessment over five years.

The bill was referred to the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee chaired by Senator Joe Vitale. We are hopeful that the Committee will consider the bill soon. This bill would phase out, over a five-year period, the assessment on ambulatory care facilities imposed in 2004 to fund charity care.

Our argument now is stronger than ever because the Ambulatory Care Facility tax is now paying a much higher percentage of the total charity care amount. Fairness is an argument that resonates with public policy makers.

We will soon meet with key legislative leaders in an attempt to convince them to take action now - in this budget cycle - before the ACF tax bears a higher and higher percentage of charity care costs.

## Major Study by AMA on In-office Ancillary Services

The American Medical Association (AMA) recently released the results of a major study examining the utilization and cost of critical services, such as anatomic pathology and intensity modified radiation therapy. The study, “Outpatient ancillary trends in the Medicare fee-for-service population: 2008-2012”, was prepared for the AMA by the nationally recognized actuarial firm Milliman, Inc. and explores the comparative changes in utilization and cost of in-office ancillary services in the physician office versus hospital setting

The study’s findings are a powerful retort to those who attack the integrated model of care furnished in independent medical practices such as NJPCAC’s urology groups. Milliman found that for most ancillary services, physician offices provided a significantly lower number of services than did hospitals; and in general, there has been a downward trend for both utilization and spending in physician’s offices over the five years examined as compared to when the same services are furnished in the hospital setting.

AMA concludes that “these trends indicate that concerns about potential cost and utilization related to physician ownership are unwarranted.” Further, AMA suggests that trying to discourage physician investment in ancillary services will actually increase overall health care costs by driving these procedures to more expensive hospital settings.

[You can read more here.](#)

## NJPCAC Member In the News

### The Stone Center Acquires Powerful New Prostate Cancer Targeting Tool

NEWARK, NJ – The Stone Center, one of the largest lithotripsy centers in the United States, announced that it is expanding its urological services for patients through the acquisition of a powerful new tool for the analysis, planning and targeted biopsy of the prostate. The new technology, available in New Jersey only at The Stone Center, is known as the “UroNav fusion biopsy system” and clinicians have found that it is better able to pinpoint trouble spots and lead to a quicker prostate cancer diagnosis.

“This is a groundbreaking medical technology breakthrough and a real ‘game changer’ for physicians and patients,” said Dr. Patrick N. Ciccone, Medical Director and Chairman of the Board of Governors at The Stone Center and NJPCAC Treasurer. “We are confident that this new technology will mean more accurate diagnosis for patients. The Stone Center is excited to be able to equip New Jersey urologists with the latest technology to identify and target suspicious prostate lesions.”

Introduction of UroNav was the result of nearly a decade’s research and development, principally conducted at the National Cancer Institute. Prostate cancer experts believe that “targeted MR/ultrasound biopsy” will become the new standard in prostate care. (Click [here](#) for more information.)

In an ultrasound guided needle biopsy, urologists use a fine needle to collect a number of tissue samples from the prostate gland, which are then examined for cell abnormalities that are a sign of

prostate cancer. With this new technology, urologists can more easily locate aggressive prostate cancer. The technology offers the potential to minimize the over-diagnosis of non-aggressive cancers, while maximizing the likelihood of detecting aggressive tumors.

“For those men who are moderate to high risk,” says Dr. Ciccone. “UroNav can cut down on random biopsies that may find nothing. It can also help to diagnose the cancer faster.”

UroNav fuses pre-biopsy MR images of the prostate with ultrasound-guided biopsy images in real time, for never before available clear delineation of the prostate and suspicious lesions. The UroNav fusion biopsy system uses this critical diagnostic information to provide urologists with a targeted approach to prostate biopsy.

Biopsies guided by MR/ultrasound fusion enable both physicians and patients to make more informed decisions ranging from prostate cancer diagnosis to treatment options—such as active surveillance or more radical interventions.

The Stone Center has invited all NJPCAC member physicians to come to the Facility and see this new tool first hand.

## Join Us at the State House



On **Thursday June 18th** (9am to 1pm) the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition will hold its Fourth Annual “State House Lobbying Day” in Trenton. Coalition members will greet legislators, staff and members of the Christie Administration to make them more familiar with the Coalition and our issues.

If you would like to join us, please reach out to our lobbyist Donald Sico at [dsiconj@gmail.com](mailto:dsiconj@gmail.com).

### Did You Know

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men (after skin cancer), but it can often be treated successfully. More than 2 million men in the US count themselves as prostate cancer survivors. (American Cancer Society)

The American Cancer Society’s estimates for prostate cancer in the United States for 2015 are:

About **220,800** new cases of prostate cancer diagnosed

About **27,540** deaths from prostate cancer

New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition members diagnose almost half of ALL prostate cancer cases in the Garden State!

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## Must Reads



**NY Times** February 6, 2015

[When Hospitals Buy Doctors' Offices, and Patient Fees Soar](#)

## Calendar

### Wednesday, April 8th

Breakfast with Assembly Health Committee Chairman Herb Conaway

8:30 am ♦ Mastoris Diner, Bordentown

### Tuesday, April 14th

Speaker Vincent Prieto Tour/Meeting

10:00 am ♦ Prostate Cancer Center of NJ, West Orange

### Wednesday, April 15th

Breakfast with Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean Jr and Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick

8:00 am ♦ Westfield Diner

### Thursday, April 23rd

Breakfast with Senate Health & Human Services Chairman Joe Vitale

8:00 am ♦ Skylark Diner, Edison

### Thursday, June 18th

NJPCAC 4<sup>th</sup> Annual State House Day

9:00 am ♦ State House, Trenton

## Calling All New Jersey Urologists

We are always looking to expand the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition because we understand there is “strength in numbers.” If you know of a colleague who is not a member, please invite him or her to join and to take a look at our [webpage](http://www.njpcac.org) (www.njpcac.org) for additional information. There is also a membership application form on the webpage they can use to contact us if they want to join.

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