



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Dr. David Taylor
President & Chairman*

Dear NJPCAC Member:

As a medical professional, are there days when you wonder why the heck you decided upon this career path in the first place?

You know the days I mean. The days when the billing department tells you that the fourth and fifth calls to the insurance company to clarify payment were to no avail. The days when the computer crashes and you cannot send out even routine emails. The days when the latest medical malpractice premium comes in the mail with yet another increase. Or a day like recently when I am at a conference and I hear a public policy maker say that he believes ALL physicians

should simply be forced to accept Medicaid patients as a condition of licensure.

It is especially on THOSE days that I am appreciative that I am not in this alone – that I am a member of a vibrant and active coalition that works tirelessly to put our patients' needs first and to ensure that our independent and integrated model of urologic care is protected under state law. The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition, now nearly 200 members strong, works because we all work together. That does not mean that we always agree. But we do always hash things out, discuss them thoroughly and and come to a common conclusion and strategy for the betterment of our patients and our practices.

When the idea of forming our coalition was told to me four years ago this summer, I was skeptical. I thought, "Here we go again. Another group to which I will have to pay dues; have little say and accomplish little." But nothing could be further from truth. In just a few short years, we have established a coalition "to be reckoned with" and one that is recognized by key public policy makers in New Jersey as an

important resource on health issues.

And we have done some charitable good as well. Last year, we participated in the Great Prostate Cancer Challenge race for the first time and were the second most successful race in this nationwide series in funds raised. This year we are returning to Camden on September 22nd and hope to do even better.

As always, if you have ideas on how to improve the Coalition please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Taylor
President & Chairman

PS. I want to send all of you my best wishes for the GPCC race and my regrets that I cannot be with you this year. I am traveling to Chicago for the American Association of Clinical Urologists State Society Network Advocacy Conference where Dr. Herb Conaway, Chairman of the Assembly Health Committee, will receive AACU's "Distinguished Leadership Award."

The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition (NJPCAC) was organized to promote and represent the common interests of urological care physicians in the State of New Jersey who are dedicated to the highest standards of practice and focused 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, that 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.



NJPCAC Commemorates Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in New Jersey with “State House Week” June 18-21



The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition commemorated “Prostate Cancer Awareness Month” in New Jersey with a special educational display in the State House in Trenton the week of June 18th through 21st.

Participating in the event were:

- Dr. David Taylor, President and Chairman of NJPCAC
- NJPCAC Board Member Alan Plotkin
- NJPCAC Board Member Dr. Eric Seaman
- NJPCAC Board Member Mary Beth Guilbert
- Dr. Bill Niedrach from Delaware Valley Urology
- Kelly Snyder from The Stone Center
- NJPCAC Lobbyist Donald Sico

The group was able to have conversations with scores of legislators and staffers during the week and help educate them regarding prostate cancer treatment and symptoms as well as the dangerous United States Preventive Services Task Force recommendations on PSA screening. In addition, the Great Prostate Cancer Challenge race in September was promoted.



Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean Jr. and NJPCAC President and Chairman Dr. David Taylor



Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick and NJPCAC President and Chairman Dr. David Taylor



Assemblyman Troy Singleton and NJPCAC President and Chairman Dr. David Taylor



Assembly Majority Leader Lou Greenwald and NJPCAC President and Chairman Dr. David Taylor



Assembly Regulatory Oversight Committee Chairman Rueben Ramos and NJPCAC President and Chairman Dr. David Taylor



Assemblyman Angel Fuentes and NJPCAC President and Chairman Dr. David Taylor



Assembly Health Committee Chairman Dr. Herb Conaway and NJPCAC President and Chairman Dr. David Taylor



NJPCAC Board Member Dr. Eric Seaman prepares for testimony before the Senate Health Committee on a resolution declaring June "Men's Health Awareness Month."



(From Left) NJPCAC Board Member Alan Plotkin, Assemblyman David Wolfe, Dr. Bill Niedrach (Delaware Valley Urology) and Assemblyman Scott Rudder



Alan Plotkin and Dr. Niedrach with Senate Republican Health Committee Aide Victoria Brogan



Alan Plotkin and Dr. Niedrach with Senator James Whelan



Alan Plotkin and Dr. Niedrach with Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee Chairman Gary Schaer



Alan Plotkin and Dr. Niedrach with Senator Ron Rice



Alan Plotkin and Dr. Niedrach with Senate Republican Leader Tom Kean Jr.



Alan Plotkin and Dr. Niedrach with Assembly Republican Senior Policy Advisor Glen Beebe



Alan Plotkin and Dr. Niedrach with Senator Vitale's top aide Laurie McCabe



Alan Plotkin and Dr. Niedrach with Assembly Women and Children Committee Chairwoman Pamela Lampitt

Prostate Cancer Awareness Fundraiser A Success!

The New Jersey Patient Care Access Coalition held a fundraiser June 27 at The Stone Center's Administrative offices in Short Hills. The fundraiser was sponsored by Garden State Urology, New Jersey Urology, Premier Urology, Urology Group of NJ and The Stone Center of NJ. The event was attended by over 100 guests, including board members David Taylor, Alan Krieger, Ken Ring, Mary Beth Guilbert, Alan Plotkin, Eric Seaman and Kelly Snyder.

The night included a raffle, with prizes being donated by multiple vendors. A total of over \$8,000 was raised to benefit ZERO: The Project to End Prostate Cancer. Thank you to all who helped to make this event such a success!

NJPCAC Signs On in Support of Blackburn/Barrow Legislation

NJPCAC joined almost 40 urologic organizations across the nation to support the USPSTF Transparency Act legislation. NJPCAC became a signatory on a letter sent to Representative Blackburn in July. The full text of the letter follows.

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United State House of Representatives
217 Cannon Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Blackburn:

The undersigned urologic professional organizations are pleased to support H.R.5998, the USPSTF Transparency and Accountability Act of 2012. We commend your introduction of this measure (for yourself, Mr. Barrow, Mrs. Christensen, and Mr. Terry), and encourage co-sponsorship by additional Members of Congress who respect the time-honored doctor-patient relationship and believe official recommendations on the value of preventive health services should be informed by those specialists who manage the related condition.

For many years, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommendations have been repudiated by physicians, patient advocate groups and the United States Congress. Not only does that panel of primary care providers not have expertise in the management of diseases the preventive services seek to minimize, the USPSTF is free from Congressional oversight.

While this is never a prescription for good government, only recently did the reforms proposed in H.R. 5998 become an absolute necessity. Your legislation amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Pub.L. 111-148, section 4105(a), PPACA) to strike language granting the USPSTF unprecedented authority to determine whether public programs may cover vital preventive services. By stripping the USPSTF of that power, millions of Americans, including vulnerable populations, will maintain access to tests and exams that promote awareness and early detection of life-threatening illnesses.

We are also firmly behind provisions of H.R. 5998 that call for consideration of varied opinions and evidence during the development of USPSTF recommendations. The proposed “balanced representation of primary and specialty care providers”, as well as the Preventive Services Task Force Board, will ensure that medical experts and the patient community contribute to the recommendation process before a potentially ill-informed draft is presented to the public. This will not only strengthen the recommendations, but also promote general support once they are issued.

H.R. 5998 improves USPSTF processes and will affirm the validity of its recommendations, thereby providing great benefit to the American people. We urge your colleagues to co-sponsor this measure and for the Senate to join the House in considering similar legislation.



Rep. Blackburn

Thank you for your service.



Advocacy Update

By Donald Sico

Donald Sico & Co. LLC

“First, Do No Harm.”

This principle precept of medical ethics, taught to every first-year medical student, might just as well be the motto for the first half of the First Annual Session of the 215th Legislature in New Jersey. The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition was not harmed.

Legislation to impose a moratorium on new radiation oncology facilities that are not owned by hospitals or radiation oncologists (S242 Senator Bob Gordon - “Imposes two-year moratorium on certain new outpatient radiation oncology services and establishes Outpatient Radiation Oncology Services Task Force in DHSS.”) never received as much as a committee hearing.

Legislation to license and possibly impose a fee on Surgical Practices (S1210 Senator Joseph Vitale - “Requires surgical practices to be licensed by DHSS as ambulatory care facilities.”) was released from the Senate Health

Committee in late January, but has seen no further action.

And we appear to be in the same exact boat as the last session when it comes to Out of Network reform: A bill (A2751 - Assemblyman Gary Schaer "Healthcare Disclosure and Transparency Act.") has been released from the Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee but has little chance of becoming law.

So we are in good shape when it comes to legislation that would fundamentally alter the way Coalition members conduct business and deliver care to their patients.

On another positive note, legislation (AJR38 - Assemblyman Angel Fuentes “Designates June of each year as "Men's Health Awareness Month.") was passed unanimously in both houses and awaits the Governor’s signature. Many thanks to NJPCAC Board Member Dr. Eric Seaman who traveled to the State House in Trenton to submit testimony before the Senate Health Committee in support of the legislation.

Generally, I would say we are “safe until the fall,” but in a highly unusual move, the Senate President has scheduled committee meetings and voting sessions throughout the month of August and the Assembly Speaker is expected to follow his lead. While there are specific tax and pension issues the Legislature would like to tackle, there is always the chance that other issues can be raised as well and we will have to be vigilant – even if it is from remote vacation spots via the internet.

Get your tickets for the GPCC Beef and Beer!

A Beef and Beer will be held September 8, 2012 to raise funds for the upcoming Great Prostate Cancer Challenge (GPCC) race. The event will be held at the Maple Shade 25 Club, 60 East Rudderow Avenue in Maple Shade, NJ 08052 from 8pm to midnight. Tickets are available for \$30 per person or \$50 per couple and include door prizes, dancing, beer, wine and food. An auction will also be held with lots of exciting prize baskets, including Coach bags and wristlets, restaurant gift cards, and passes to Adventure Aquarium! There will also be a special raffle to win an iPad or iPod. Only 160 tickets are available for this fun event, so purchase yours soon at any Delaware Valley Urology office (find yours by going to www.dvurology.com) or by contacting Nicola Howard at zerocancernj@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please call 856-252-1000 ext. 1015 for Nicola or ext. 1013 for Karen B. Hope to see you there!



Visit the race's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/#!/pages/The-Great-Prostate-Cancer-Challenge-Camden-New-Jersey/185514021484225 to find out more about fundraising events.

To register for this year's Challenge (and receive a discount on the registration fee), go to <http://greatprostatecancerchallenge.com/races/camden/>. For more information, contact Nicola Howard at zerocancernj@gmail.com.

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."

We recently completed a mailing to every urologist in the State of New Jersey and asked them to join our growing Coalition. 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.

New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition

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