



PRESIDENT'S LETTER



*Dr. David Taylor
President & Chairman*

Dear NJPCAC Member:

These are interesting times for urologists and those who help us treat patients nationally. Consider what has transpired in just the past few weeks:

- The American Urological Association made an announcement regarding new recommendations for PSA screens causing many patients and family physicians alarm and concern.
- There is hope that a new genetic test - the same test that is now used to predict breast cancer - will soon be available to help us predict more

accurately the aggressive nature of prostate cancer. What a breakthrough this would be and what a help in our determination of the best treatment options for patients.

- Just around the corner, beginning this October and more fully on January 1st, the first large-scale implementation of the Affordable Care Act begins, bringing millions of new patients who find themselves both with coverage for the first time and with numerous questions. When you couple that with a new Stanford study showing that men who are uninsured or underinsured get advanced prostate cancer at nearly four times the national average, you understand that these will be challenging times for all of us.

That is all the more reason for us to stay strong and united here in New Jersey. It also underscores why it is so very important for us to continue to build relationships with those who set public policy in the Garden State. This Spring we have built bridges to a number of key legislators, including Senate President Steve Sweeney, who visited Delaware Valley Urology's Cancer Treatment Center in Cherry

Hill, and former Governor Richard Codey, who spent an hour and a half with a dozen of us over breakfast at The Eagle Rock Diner in West Orange. And we continue to enjoy strong working relationships with the Chairs of both the Senate (Senator Joe Vitale) and Assembly (Dr. Herb Conaway) health committees.

We are only as strong, however, as our collective participation. I understand how very busy each of you are, but I would urge each of you, when asked, to try and make the time to join us at meetings, fundraisers and other events with legislators and others. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Taylor
President & Chairman

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.



Second Annual NJPCAC “State House Day” Set



Our Second Annual New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition “State House Day” is now set for Monday, June 24th from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m.

We need NJPCAC members to volunteer for that day! We do not need you for the entire day - an hour or two is fine.

June is New Jersey’s “Prostate Cancer Awareness Month,” which is set by statute. We are sure to get a lot of questions from legislators and staff about recent announcements and news articles regarding the appropriateness of PSA screening. We will have materials to leave with them, but we also need to make sure that NJPCAC State House Day participants are up to speed on our latest review and analysis of the issue.

If you are able to give us an hour or two in Trenton on June 24th for State House Day, please email Mary Beth Guilbert at marybethguilbert@thestonecenter.org. If you have any questions about State House Day, please call our lobbyist, Donald Sico, at 856-314-8066.

Welcome New NJPCAC Members!



We want to welcome the following New Jersey Kidney Stone Partners to the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition:

Dr. Joel Fischer
Dr. Stanley Rosenberg
Dr. Karen Latzko
Dr. Manuel Rivas

And welcome back returning members Dr. Keith A. Harmon, Dr. Anthony J. Catanese, Dr. Barry Rossman and Dr. Kiritkumar M. Pandya from NJ Kidney Stone.

Thank you for your support and welcome to our growing and increasingly more influential Coalition!



Assembly Health Committee Chairman Dr. Herb Conaway and NJPCAC President and Chairman Dr. David Taylor at last year’s State House Week event

NJPCAC Holds Annual Meeting

The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition held its Annual Meeting on February 28, 2013 at Due Mari Restaurant in New Brunswick.

All seven of NJPCAC's voting-member entities were in attendance for the Annual Meeting. Also in attendance were NJPCAC's legal counsel, Howard Rubin, from Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and NJPCAC's lobbyist, Donald Sico, from Donald Sico & Co.

Mr. Sico gave a "Legislative Retrospective" for 2012 and "Proposed Strategies" for 2013 which provided an overview of NJPCAC's advocacy efforts during 2012 and an outline of key strategic initiatives for the coming year. Mr. Rubin made a separate presentation focused on the defense of integrated cancer care from a federal and New Jersey-specific perspective.

The Board voted to renew the following agreements: NJPCAC/The Stone Center Management Services Agreement and Donald Sico and Co. LLC Professional Services Agreement.

Dr. Taylor provided a brief report on NJPCAC's ongoing discussions with Dr. Grace Lu-Yao regarding NJPCAC participation in Project I-HOPE (Improving Health Outcomes of Prostate Cancer Survivors).

The Board approved the proposed budget for fiscal year 2013 circulated by NJPCAC assistant treasurer, Kelly Snyder.

Mr. Sico made a presentation in connection with the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Political Action Committee (NJPCA PAC) and the NJPCA PAC Board approved the proposed recommendations.

An election was held for the NJPCAC Board of Directors for 2013. The Board elected the following individuals to serve as NJPCAC's officers for 2013:

Dr. David Taylor, Chairman and President
Dr. Alan Krieger, Vice-Chairman
Dr. Pat Ciccone, Treasurer
Dr. Adam Perzin, Secretary
Ms. Kelly Snyder, Assistant Treasurer

The seven member entities unanimously voted for the following thirteen individuals to serve on NJPCAC's Board of Directors for 2013 (New Jersey Urology motion, Premier Urology Group second):

Dr. David Chaikin, Garden State Urology
Dr. Pat Ciccone, New Jersey Urology
Dr. Mark Fallick, Delaware Valley Urology
Dr. Ben Fand, Premier Urology Group
Ms. Mary Beth Guilbert, The Stone Center of New Jersey
Mr. Victor Houtz, New Jersey Urology
Dr. Alan Krieger, Urology Group of New Jersey
Dr. Steve Orland, Urology Care Alliance
Dr. Adam Perzin, Delaware Valley Urology
Mr. Alan Plotkin, Urology Care Alliance
Dr. Ken Ring, Premier Urology Group
Dr. David Taylor, Garden State Urology
Dr. Matthew Whang, Urology Group of New Jersey



Breakfast with the Governor

We had breakfast with the Governor.

No, not THAT Governor!

The New Jersey Patient Care and Access Political Action Committee (NJPCA PAC) hosted a breakfast meeting on Thursday May 2nd with former Governor Richard Codey, the current 27th District Senator at the Eagle Rock Diner in West Orange. Attending on behalf of NJPCA PAC were: Dr. David Taylor; Dr. Alan Krieger; Dr. Matthew Whang; Dr. Domenico Savatta; Dr. Stuart Shoengold; Mr. Ray Dreyfuss; Dr. Patrick Ciccone; Ms. Mary Beth Guilbert; Ms. Kelly Snyder; Dr. Yale Shulman; Dr. Joseph DiTrolino; and Mr. Don Sico.

Governor Codey was MOST gracious and very generous with his time. We had more than an hour with him and engaged in a relatively informal discussion of our issues, including lithotripsy (as it relates to the Codey Act); PSA testing and the USPSTF downgrade; our integrated care model; and general issues concerning physicians and the practice of medicine in New Jersey.

One of the more instructional moments came in response to a question from NJPCAC Vice Chairman Alan Krieger who asked the Governor how he made his decisions regarding legislation and what information he weighs. Governor Codey said that the most important thing to him is individual letters from constituents on issues (not form letters or petitions) and that he personally picks up the phone and responds to many of them. It was an important lesson for our Coalition as more of our physician members live in Governor Codey's legislative district than in any other.

Governor Codey said he would make the time to visit the facilities of the Urology Group of NJ and The Stone Center of NJ. Governor Codey was effusive in his praise for the physicians, professionals and all staff at The Stone Center and had nothing but kind words for the way he was treated there. He added that he got the impression that it did not make any difference if you were the Governor or an ordinary citizen, but that ALL patients were treated similarly. Kudos to The Stone Center team!

We will continue to work with Governor Codey on the lithotripsy issue and other issues and will keep you apprised of our progress.



Senate President Visits DVU Cancer Treatment Center

Senate President Steve Sweeney, the third most powerful state elected official in New Jersey (behind the Governor and Lt. Governor) paid a visit to the Delaware Valley Urology Cancer Treatment Center in Cherry Hill on Monday April 15th. The Senate President gave NJPCAC representatives more than an hour of his time and we had a thorough discussion of our issues.

It was discovered during the visit that the Senate President's brother is a physician (Dr. Robert Sweeney, Chairman of Emergency Medicine at Jersey Shore Medical Center). The Senate President is sympathetic to the issues facing physicians generally and that certainly showed during the visit.

Our President and Chairman, Dr. David Taylor, DVU physician Dr. Lou Keeler III and Nancy Romeo, DVU Chief Operating Officer, led Senate President Sweeney on a tour of DVU's medical office that includes the Cancer Treatment Center and clinical space in which DVU urologists treat patients. The Senate President asked many questions about the process and procedures of the office and Center and was extraordinarily interested in the work that is done there.

All in all, it was a very good and worthwhile visit. We all felt as if we had built a better relationship with the Senate President.



Key Senate Health Leader Visits with NJPCAC

One of the key Republican leaders on the Senate Health Committee, Senator Diane Allen, visited with NJPCAC members at the DVU Cancer Treatment Center in Cherry Hill. In attendance for NJPCAC were Dr. Adam Perzin and Mark Fallick, who led the tour of DVU's medical offices in which the Center is located, and NJPCAC Board member Alan Plotkin, who invited the Senator to tour one of our Centers when he met her at a fundraiser earlier this year. Our legal counsel from Washington DC, Howard Rubin, and our lobbyist, Donald Sico, were also on hand.

Senator Allen is the ranking Republican on the Senate Health Committee and is a member of the Senate Republican leadership team (currently serving as the Deputy Minority Leader under Minority Leader Tom Kean, Jr.).

Senator Allen spent about an hour and twenty minutes with us. Following a tour of the medical office we spent nearly an hour talking with her in DVU's conference room, presenting our national and NJ-specific data on prostate cancer treatment utilization and talking about the clinical and policy reasons why the integrated cancer care model is worth defending.





Advocacy Update

By Donald Sico, Donald Sico & Co. LLC

Odd numbered years are important in New Jersey.

Unlike most states, New Jersey holds its elections for Legislators and the Governor and Lt. Governor in odd-numbered years. In fact, only Virginia and Mississippi join us in that distinction.

And the year 2013 is a rarity in the Garden State as ALL 120 seats in the Legislature as well as the Governor and Lt. Governor are up for grabs. Our Senators, running for four-year terms, are “teamed” with two Assembly members running for two-year terms.

The fact there are elections this year will affect both the legislative calendar and the way legislators behave. The next few weeks will be very busy. Legislators will consider the Governor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2014 Budget, which they must adopt by a Constitutionally proscribed midnight June 30th deadline. They will also consider bills they believe will put them in good stead with the voters this November. There is an August deadline as well for Constitutional questions which Legislators want to put before voters on the November ballot. One such question to raise the state’s minimum wage

and to tie future increases to a cost-of-living index has already been approved and will appear on the ballot.

Both the summer and the fall will be light legislatively as the Speaker of the Assembly and the Senate President give legislators the opportunity to spend more time in their districts meeting and talking with voters. Following the November election and until the second week of January, there will be a “lame duck” session of the Legislature during which numerous bills will be considered.

So what does all this mean to the New Jersey Patient Care and Access Coalition?

It means less time for those issues which we are pursuing proactively - such as a change to the “Codey Act” to permit additional ownership in licensed lithotripsy facilities. But it also means less time for those who may want to limit our integrated care mode through legislation - such as Senate Bill 242 - “Imposes two-year moratorium on certain new outpatient radiation oncology services and establishes Outpatient Radiation Oncology Services Task Force in DHSS.”

It also means that we will have to be vigilant during these next several weeks and again in November and December. Bad things can happen to organizations that fall asleep at the switch, particularly during a lame duck session!

Please take note of an article in another section of this newsletter regarding “State House Day” on June 24th. This is our Coalition’s opportunity to solidify already strong relationships and make new ones. We need your help!



LUGPA Responds to AUA PSA Test Recommendations

Members should be aware of the following statement released by our national organization, the Large Urology Group Practice Association (LUGPA), following the American Urological Association's release of new PSA testing guidelines:

Urologists Support a Man's Right to Appropriate Prostate Cancer Screening

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Large Urology Group Practice Association (LUGPA), representing more than 2,000 urologists nationwide, supports the rights of men to access appropriate prostate cancer screening.

New guidelines released by the American Urological Association include specific recommendations for screening men between the ages of 55 and 69, as well as appropriateness criteria for younger and older men based on risk factors and life expectancy.

“Every man has a right to make informed decisions regarding his own healthcare, and we encourage men to talk with their doctor to determine whether screening is appropriate for them,” said Dr. Deepak A. Kapoor, President of LUGPA and Chairman and CEO of Integrated Medical Professionals, PLLC.

Statistics show that since the advent of widespread PSA testing in the early to mid-1990s, the 10 year survival for prostate cancer has increased from 53 to over 97 percent; simultaneously, the death rate from prostate cancer in the U.S. has decreased by nearly 40 percent. During that interval the incidence of prostate cancer has been virtually unchanged.

“We support clinical decision making customized to the needs of the individual patient,” said Kapoor. “A nuanced approach to prostate cancer screening is far more appropriate than banning access to PSA testing for all men. We must preserve the life-saving strides we have made by targeting screening to where it will do the most good.”

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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