

AAMC AND AHC CONCUR ON HEALTH CARE REFORM ISSUES

Washington, D.C.— The Association of Academic Health Centers (AHC) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) have joined forces to urge Congress to include an all-payer education and training fund for the health care workforce in national health care reform. The associations believe that without this designed funding stream, the academic missions of medical schools and teaching hospitals will not be supported adequately in a reformed health care system, largely because revenue from patient care is expected to decrease.

"Our solidarity on these issues reflects our commitment to work together to ensure that the important services medical schools and teaching hospitals provide the nation in medical education, research, and patient care are upheld in health care reform," said AAMC President Jordan J. Cohen, M.D., and AHC

President Roger J. Bulger, M.D., in a joint statement. "We believe continued leadership on these issues from all those involved in health professions education, and in academic medicine in particular, is essential to the development and support of a reformed, quality system of care for the American people."

The AHC and AAMC strongly support:

- health care delivery networks for America's underserved rural and urban populations as an integral component of national health care reform and a leadership role for the academic medicine community to develop and support such systems.

- a national council to address physician workforce issues, develop goals for the number and specialty mix of residency positions, and possibly recommend a regulatory approach for graduate medical

education if market forces are judged to be ineffective.

- that the National Fund for the Physician Workforce, currently included in the Clinton administration's Health Security Act (HSA), reflect the total costs of graduate medical education and include resident stipends and benefits, faculty supervision costs and benefits, overhead costs, and inflation.

- that the HSA Academic Health Center Fund be redesigned as two funds - a Teaching Hospital Fund and a Medical School Fund. The Teaching Hospital Fund would be designed to provide an all-payer equivalent to the current Medicare Indirect Medical Education (IME) payments, to recognize the legitimate differences in patient care and medical education costs between teaching and non-teaching hospitals, and to enable teaching hospitals to compete for patient care serv-

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ices in an increasingly managed care environment.

- an all-payer Medical School Fund to finance increased ambulatory care education experiences and other new initiatives required of all allopathic and osteopathic medical schools in support of health care reform and to replace the decreased

patient care revenues currently supporting essential academic activities.

- the continuation of the Medical Education payments to teaching hospitals until 1998 when they would be replaced by the Teaching Fund and the National Fund for the Physician Workforce. The Association of

American Medical Colleges and the Association of Academic Health Centers together represent more than 100 academic health centers, the nation's 126 medical schools, approximately 400 major teaching hospitals, 92 academic societies, and more than 140,000 medical students and residents.

— HEALTH BRIEFS —

WEIGHT-CONTROL STUDY FOR BLACK WOMEN

One of the first major attempts to work with African-Americans on long-term weight control is under way at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

Funded by the National Institutes of Health, two-year Black American Lifestyle Intervention study is specifically designed for black women.

Even though 44 percent of these women are clinically obese, no weight-control programs currently available have been tested for effectiveness in minority populations, said Dr. John Foreyt, director of Baylor's BeBaKey Heart Center Nutrition Research Clinic.

One group of the BALI women will follow a diet that includes twice-daily liquid meal replacements. They will also receive diet and behavior-modification counseling specific to their ethnic needs as well as

group-support meetings.

Another group will receive written materials on healthy eating and will not receive counseling or group support.

★★★★★

FREE BROCHURE ON BLOOD PRESSURE

For the millions of people with high blood pressure — and the millions include a high percentage of blacks — here are two words of advice: Take control.

A new brochure developed by Baylor College of Medicine in

Houston, "Blood Pressure: Take Control," recommends ways to reduce risk of hypertension and improved overall health.

A free copy of "Blood Pressure: Take Control" is available to U.S. residents by sending a self-addressed, stamped business-size (#10) envelope to: Blood Pressure, Baylor College of Medicine, Room 176B, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, TX 77030. Canadian residents should enclose a self-addressed business-size (#10) envelope.

HELP THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY STRIKE DOWN CANCER

By striking down pins — bowling pins that is — you can help the American Cancer Society strike down cancer, a disease that kills one out of every three Nevadans.

The bowl-a-thon, co-sponsored by Jack in the Box, will be held at the Santa Fe Bowling Lanes Sunday, July 10, from noon to 5 p.m. Entry forms can be picked up at any local Jack in

the Box Restaurant or by calling the American Cancer Society at 798-6877.

Entry for the event is \$10 to pre-register and \$15 to register the day of the event. The registration fee includes an official bowl-a-thon T-shirt, bowling shoe rental and game fees.

The American Cancer Society encourages people to bowl in teams to make the event more

exciting. Teams can be formed from businesses, church groups or civic organizations.

Money collected from the event will go to support the American Cancer Society's programs of research, education and patient services.

Last year, the American Cancer Society provided \$400,000 worth of patient services and supplies to cancer patients in the Las Vegas/Henderson Community.

For more information, call Kate Maxam at the American Cancer Society at 798-6877.

WELL-BABY CLINIC

Free well baby clinics are offered on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Doolittle Community Center, 1901 N. "J" Street. Childhood immunizations for ages 2-21 are available between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Examinations for infants to age four are also given, but by appointment only. To schedule an appointment call 383-1307.

This service is provided by the Clark County Health District and was arranged by the City of Las Vegas Department of Parks and Leisure Activities.

PREGNANT? NEED HELP?

Pregnancy termination by gentle caring physician. Strictly private and confidential. Parental consent not needed. Family Planning Institute 382-0303

Women's Health Centers of Southern Nevada

Cheryl Y. Edwards, M.D.
Kenneth A. Jones, M.D.
Gloria L. Martin, M.D.

Se Habla Español

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