

California Public Health/Prevention Medical Leadership Forum
Sponsored by California Academy of Preventive Medicine
Chair: Mark Horton; Secretary: Ron Hattis

The Forum gathers representatives of California's schools of medicine and public health, CMA and OPSC, CDPH and DHCS, HOAC, and CAPM, to discuss prevention and public health topics in medical education, actions related to prevention and public health by organized medicine, and medical aspects of public health infrastructure. It holds quarterly conference calls.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF MEETINGS OF 12/16, 3/17, 6/17, AND 9/17

1. December 12, 2016

Paul Bonta from the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) gave a report on efforts in Washington to save prevention funds in the budget. A discussion was held on the teaching of prevention in medical schools, with examples reported from several schools. Recent and pending CMA resolutions were discussed, involving climate change, mistreatment of medical students, and urgent treatment for job injuries. Don Lyman reviewed the CMA's new 5-year plan for public health, developed by the Council on Science and Public Health (which he chairs) and approved by the Board of Trustees. Catherine West reported on a new diabetes prevention and education program at Touro University.

Ron Hattis reviewed the results of the election regarding public health-related ballot initiatives. Those on tobacco tax, gun safety, and raising more money for Medi-Cal passed; requiring condoms for adult films failed. The plastic bag ban was upheld, and recreational cannabis will be legalized.

Ron Hattis discussed AB 446, which since 2014 has required that many primary care clinics offer HIV testing with other blood tests. That law has been poorly publicized.

2. March 7, 2017

Mark Horton reviewed an 8-page document on the Republican health care bill (repealing the Affordable Care Act), and its potential effects. Samantha Pellon described several prevention efforts at CMA, including a committee on firearms violence prevention and a grant for diabetes prevention. The issue of teaching of prevention in medical schools was once again discussed. Stephen McCurdy said that the joint MD-MPH program at UC Davis now has 37 students registered. Touro will soon have a mobile van for diabetes education and screening. Mark Horton related budget challenges at UC Berkeley, including the joint medical program with UCSF and the School of Public Health.

3. June 6, 2017

Several medical school associate or assistant deans in charge of curriculum were in attendance by special invitation, and CMA resolutions were again reviewed on teaching of prevention in medical schools, and on exposing medical students to information about all specialties, including smaller ones like Preventive and Occupational Medicine, which at most schools do not have rotations. Several schools reported on examples of what they do, and several agreed to bring back suggestions from the Forum for discussion at their schools.

Preliminary discussion was conducted on how the obtaining of an MPH influences the practice of clinical medicine. Arrangements were made for an email election process for a Chair for this Forum for the next two years.

4. September 12, 2017

Dr. Horton was announced as the winner of an uncontested election for Forum Chair for the next two years. Dr. Horton described CDC's 6/18 program, to address 6 public health problems through 18 different interventions involving medical care. Brenda Fitzgerald, former Georgia public health director, is now the head of CDC.

Dr. Hattis reviewed 15 bills in the Legislature this year, relating in some way to public health, and 14 resolutions presented to CMA that likewise impact on public health. There was also continued discussion of clinical medical practice by physicians with MPH degrees.

5. December 5, 2017

This is the date of the next Forum conference call. This will have occurred but will not be written up by the time of the 12/7/17 CAPM Annual Meeting.