

California Public Health/Prevention Medical Leadership Forum  
11th Conference Call Meeting  
**Tuesday, June 7, 2016, 8:15-9:30 am PDT**  
**MINUTES**

**Call in: (712) 432-1212**

**Access Code: 457-029-043#**

**“Handouts”:** Links were posted on meeting “wall” for this meeting at  
[www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/457029043](http://www.freeconferencecall.com/wall/457029043).

**1. Attendance by Institution**

CAPM:	Mark Horton (Chair), Ron Hattis (Secretary), Don Lyman
State of Calif.:	Karen Ramstrom
HOAC:	Kat DeBurgh
CMA:	Samantha Pellon
OPSC:	Alesia Wagner
UC Davis:	Stephen McCurdy
Touro:	Catherine West
Loma Linda:	Akbar Sharip
Western U.:	Susan Mackintosh
UC Irvine:	Dean Baker
UC San Diego:	Linda Hill, Jill Waalen
UC Berkeley:	John Balmes
UCLA SPH:	Jonathan Fielding

**2. Minutes of March 8, 2016 Meeting**

There were no additions or corrections.

Action: A motion by Ron Hattis to approve the minutes was approved without objection.

**3. Follow-up, Preventive Medicine Residency Funding Challenges: Linda Hill**

Linda recapped some of the information presented at the last meeting, including that 25 residency programs are currently getting federal grants as line items in the HRSA budget, which covers only a fraction of the total residency costs. but that the Administration, through Grants Management, has redlined further funding in the budget three times. Congress restored the money twice, but it is not yet known whether a recent letter-writing effort coordinated by the American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM) was successful in restoring it for a third time in the 2016-17 federal budget. That campaign is now over, and residency directors are waiting for the final result. Linda Hill and Jill Waalen have spoken to residency directors across the country.

Linda clarified that Preventive Medicine is not excluded from Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) funding to university medical centers for graduate medical education, and in fact is the only residency that can be funded even if it is a second specialty during training. However, Medicare GME money has been capped since 1996, and most training hospitals have more residents than the cap allows for funding. For example, UC San Diego has about 800 residents and fellows, with a cap for maximum CMS funding of about 500, and the excess being funded by the medical center from local resources. In most residency programs, Preventive Medicine residents do not provide enough coverage to medical center patients to be deemed worthy of being included under the cap to receive any of the federal funds. Linda will arrange a call with Paul Bonta of ACPM and Ron Hattis regarding whether to request assistance from the Surgeon General.

George Rutherford noted that Preventive Medicine residents are expected to spend 20% of their time in clinical care, however much of that is provided at health departments, which are not eligible for the HRSA funding. George announced that Tom Novotny, formerly the San Diego State University representative to this Forum, is now Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health in the federal Department of Health and Human Services, and could be an important ally.

#### **4. California Medical Association (CMA): Samantha Pellon**

In her role with the Center for Health Policy, Samantha staffs the Council on Science and Public Health (CSPH), of which the Chair, Don Lyman, is participating in this call. All of CMA's councils and committees are undergoing an annual renomination process. Current members of the Council need to reapply (even though they have only been in place for 8 months). Applications and letters of endorsement need to be submitted, by the deadline of June 16.

This October's House of Delegates (HOD) will convene for a briefer period than previously, and will focus on a limited number of major topics. Representatives from the various delegations recently met and were asked for their priorities for the HOD deliberations. They selected six, including the development of a five-year public health plan for CMA, which the CSPH will review in draft form and submit to the Board of Trustees before the HOD meeting. Over the past few years, CMA has strongly supported a public health agenda on multiple issues including immunization and tobacco, which have arisen independently, without an overall plan.

Most resolutions are now submitted online through a year-round process with quarterly assessments. Testimony by CMA members is still open until June 19 for the third quarter of this process for 2016. One of the current quarter's resolutions is about action on climate change. The councils will then evaluate the resolutions in the same manner as reference committees used to do in the past. A second comment period open to all CMA members, on the decisions and amended versions from the councils will begin at the end of June. The Board of Trustees will then review the Council reports as well as the second phase testimony and will act on these.

In follow-up of the two 2015 resolutions relating to medical schools which have been discussed at several past meetings of this Forum, Ron Hattis recapped that the Forum officers hope to draft a letter, polling medical school deans or designees on their current practices on teaching of prevention and on acquainting students with the full range of specialties, and to assemble a list of the appropriate persons to receive it. Forum members may be consulted about the latter. The plan is for Samantha and other appropriate CMA staff to then review and edit the letter and send it out on behalf of CMA. Mark Horton expressed appreciation for the attention CMA has devoted to public health issues and said that we would look forward to future updates from CMA including the actions of the CSPH. Alesia Wagner noted that occupational and environmental medicine are included in one of the 7 core osteopathic competencies, and suggested including a query on how medical schools how they are addressing this.

#### **5. Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of California (OPSC): Alesia Wagner**

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) House of Delegates will meet in Chicago at the end of July. The incoming President from Kentucky has played a major role in unifying the MD and DO accreditation of graduate medical education under the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), a five-year ongoing process. At the state level, OPSC joined CMA in efforts for the initiative for a new state tax on tobacco (which did not qualify for the November ballot). OPSC is studying legislation that involves graduate medical education. The OPSC resolutions committee did not take any action related to the CMA resolutions on medical school education.

#### **6. Update from UC Berkeley: John Balmes**

For the last two years, John has been directing the 5-year UC Berkeley/UC San Francisco medical program, operating out of the School of Public Health, which is over 40 years old. The first 3 years are at UC Berkeley, and include the first two years of medical school interwoven with a Master's program in Health and Medical Sciences, emphasizing research. Each year's class consists of 16 students, 48 total. The last two years are spent at UC San Francisco completing medical school. Board scores of the graduates are equal to those who spend all four years at UC San Francisco, and 64% go into primary care.

The net cost to UC Berkeley is \$600,000/year (the highest cost per student at UC Berkeley), but the Legislature provides equivalent funding to UC Berkeley originally intended for this program but which is no longer being channeled through to fund the program. The university also keeps the tuition. Consequently, the program is currently endangered. John said that CMA support would be appreciated. Ron Hattis provided the email address of Cora Hoover, current CAPM President, who is a graduate of the program. Senator William Monning, the Senate Majority Leader, is supportive. Jonathan Fielding suggested also working through one or more of the Regents. John Balmes will continue to participate in this Forum.

#### **7. Updates from Schools of Medicine: Student Interest Groups and Other Activities in Preventive Medicine**

- a. UC Riverside: Ron Hattis recently was on a guest panel on Preventive Medicine at a joint student interest group for Family Medicine and Preventive Medicine. There were 27 students in attendance, and the several presentations that included personal career stories as well as slides about the specialty and residencies. Participating students were to be sent the ACPM slides on Preventive Medicine.
- b. UC San Francisco: George Rutherford said there is no student interest group, but that there is a global health track that elicits interest. George is the advisor for Preventive Medicine, for interested students, only about 2/year out of an annual class of 180. Approximately 12 students/year enroll in the dual degree MD/MPH program. Elective fourth year rotations are available at local health departments and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) attract 6-10 students/year. An average of 3 graduates per year become Epidemic Intelligence Service Officers with CDC.
- c. UC Davis: Steve McCurdy reported that there is a student interest group for Preventive Medicine, which varies in activity from year to year. Each specialty interest group has historically received about \$300-500 for speakers and food but Steve is not sure that funding has been preserved. Steve is the faculty advisor.
- d. Touro: Cathy West reported that there is a formal student interest group with some funding from the school but little continuity. The dual DO/MPH degree program draws 20% of medical students and also some pharmacy students. All PA students get MPH degrees as part of their training. Over 100 students and faculty have become certified as lifestyle coaches in diabetes prevention, and this may be part of training for all medical students in the future. Few students actually end up in public health careers, but Cathy plans to emphasize career opportunities in the future.
- e. UC San Diego: Jill Waalen reported that there is a student interest group, fairly new and focused on lifestyle medicine (Jill asked that it be added to the spreadsheet). It includes a journal club, currently run by a Preventive Medicine resident. The resident's time is authorized but there is no cash budget.

## **8. Legislative Update Related to Public Health**

Ron had posted a written update as of June 6, of a report initiated by Don Lyman for CAPM. Bills that did not pass their house of origin by June 3 are dead. Efforts for gun violence prevention and tobacco control have stimulated the largest number of public health bills. Ron described orally a package of 8 gun control bills that have recently passed the Senate and been passed on to the Assembly. Six tobacco control bills passed both houses in a special session, five of which were signed into law by the Governor. Among the bills that have already failed is one that would have established a tax on sugary drinks. A bill that is still alive would require instruction in compression-only CPR for grades 9-12. Another bill would establish a Community-Based Health Improvement and Innovation Fund, and another bill on funding for STDs, but the money would need to separately

approved in the budget. Another bill would call for a 2-year study of HIV testing in emergency departments. Mark Horton also drew attention to additional bills on the list: one that would expand Medi-Cal coverage of smoking cessation; another that would speed up the reporting of cancers by facilitating their reporting by pathologists; and a third that would simplify TB screening of community college employees to be consistent with current public health recommendations (using a screening questionnaire rather than requiring testing for everyone). Jonathan Fielding said that the set of opportunities created by the new tobacco legislation “augurs well.”

The ballot initiatives for the November ballot include a Childrens Education and Health Care Protection Act, which would extend the Prop 30 tax until 2030; a Drug Price Relief Act that would prohibit the state from paying more for drugs than the Veterans Administration pays; a Condoms in Pornographic Films initiative that would require the adult film industry to use condoms; and a Plastic Bag Ban Referendum to reaffirm the plastic bag ban that the Legislature passed but which the bag industry has challenged.

9. **New Harvard study published in JAMA Oncology - Four Lifestyle Changes (Tobacco, Alcohol, Weight, Exercise) Might Cut Overall Cancer Rates Almost in Half**  
<http://oncology.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=2522371>

Mark Horton drew attention to this article on lifestyle changes and cancer rate. Ron Hattis noted that if taken seriously, this could influence what is taught in schools of medicine and public health, because lifestyle and nutrition could prevent more cancer than all of our current medical treatments. Mark added that it is a major contribution to support lifestyle changes in prevention of cancer.

## 10. Next Meeting

Ron Hattis suggested a Tuesday morning in September for our next quarterly call. In the absence of alternative proposals, the date will be selected by Chair Mark Horton and Ron.

Submitted by Ronald P. Hattis, MD, MPH  
Forum Secretary

These minutes were approved at the Forum meeting, 12//6/16