MID-YEAR REPORT TO CAPM MEMBERS

Joannie Shen, President, and Ron Hattis, Secretary-Treasurer, July 15, 2026

This is not a request for dues or donations. That will come later in the year. This is simply an attempt **to keep you informed of some of the important work in support of public health and Preventive medicine that your California Academy of Preventive Medicine has accomplished this year so far.** At a time in which public health has been challenged and attacked by the federal Administration, we hope you will be reassured that **your specialty organization, CAPM, is fighting to maintain and improve public health and prevention in California.**

SUPPORT FOR RESTORING INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AID

CAPM leaders were dismayed, as you probably were, by the destruction of USAID (U.S. Aid for International Development). This included a cessation of important international work to control TB and malaria, famine assistance, and U.S. Ebola control efforts. It also ended the entire PEPFAR (President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief) program, which had provided treatment for HIV around the world and saved tens of thousands of lives, which are now endangered. In addition, the current Administration has left WHO (World Health Organization), and has defunded thousands of positions at CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), NIH (National Institutes of Health), and other agencies dealing with health.

The response of the Board has been to become members and supporters of Aid on the Hill, a new organization lobbying Congress to restore these programs. We have also had presentations at our Annual Meeting and at the Medical Leadership Forum that we sponsor, from Peter Kerndt, one of our past-Presidents, whose work for the USAID TB program was terminated by the closure. Peter has done work in Washington for Aid on the Hill. He has also just drafted a resolution supporting restoration of USAID, rejoining WHO, and restoring public health and research funding for CDC and other federal agencies. If the Board approves, this will be submitted to CMA (California Medical Association), which has not yet adopted policy on this crisis issue, although the AMA (American Medical Association) has called for restoration of USAID and rejoining WHO.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CAPM MEMBERS TO JOIN OUR LEADERSHIP

There are upcoming vacancies in several important positions in CAPM. Karen Studer, our President-Elect, is relocating to Virginia in early October. **Therefore, at our fall Annual Meeting, we will need to elect a new immediate President-Elect, who will become president for 2027**, in addition to electing the usual President-Elect for 2027 who will become President in 2028. Don Lyman, Chair of our Legislative Committee, is also planning to move out of state at the end of the year. We do currently have an active committee to assist the Chair, but we will need to designate a new Chair. We wish Karen and Don the best of luck.

In addition, we will need one or two new directors (Board members) to serve on our Board for three year terms. A new Secretary, Treasurer, or combined Secretary-Treasurer, is also sought,

because Ron is hoping to entice, train, and assist a successor. **Anyone interested in being considered for any of these positions should contact Ron at preventivemed@aol.com, and our President and Nominating Committee will be made aware.**

WORKING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH CMA

Our affiliation with CMA provides several opportunities to influence the organization's policies on public health issues. **Over the years, our influence has contributed to some new state laws on HIV, flavored tobacco, and other issues.** CAPM is part of the Specialty Delegation of CMA. We were represented at last year's annual House of Delegates by Don Lyman and Karen Studer. This October, Don will represent us for the last time and will be joined by Patrick Nguyen. We are also invited to the annual Council on Legislation and to CMA's Day in Sacramento, both of which Don and Patrick attended, and are eligible to submit testimony on CMA resolutions. Resolutions related to public health are reviewed by the CMA Council on Science and Public Health, which is chaired by our past-President Aimee Sisson.

WORKING GROUP ON HEPATITIS C, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES OF THE MEDICAL LEADERSHIP FORUM THAT WE SPONSOR

CAPM has sponsored the California Medical Leadership Forum for Public Health and Preventive Medicine since it was founded in 2014. The Forum gathers together representatives from the state's schools of medicine and public health, organized medicine, health officers, and state government agencies, for quarterly virtual meetings. Ron Hattis has been the Chair, Sumedh Mankar is interim Chair, and Christine Thorne has been has been slated by the Nominating Committee to take over after the September 8 meeting. **Any CAPM member interested in being a guest should contact Ron at preventivemed@aol.com.**

Each meeting has a special topic on an important public health problem, and sometimes we undertake important projects for California public health. The latest is that we have assembled a Working Group on hepatitis C, co-chaired by George Rutherford and USC hepatologist Norah Terrault, to recommend new directions for the state strategic plan for this disease. With curative medications available, California should be doing a better job in getting everyone who is infected into treatment, and the Forum will be presenting specific actions that would help. Other recent special topics, which have drawn large numbers of guests to the Forum's meetings, have been screening for and treating tuberculosis infection, and what is new in nutrition. Past topics have included climate change, heat emergencies, gun safety, and many others.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH BY YOUR ACADEMY

Each year, thousands of bills are introduced to the state legislature, and reviewing them all exceeds our capacity. Fortunately, we got a head start by reviewing about 150 health-related bills on the list that CMA staff presented with their analysis and recommendations to the CMA Legislative Council. HOAC (Health Officers Association of California) also identifies ills of interest to public health.

Selection of recommended bills to support, and a "Watch List" of next most favored bill to consider, was done by Don, Ron, and Immediate Past-President Prasad Acharya, with final trimming by President Joannie Shen The Board received a list of 17 bills, of which 13 received majority support votes. Of these, **3 bills have died (**AB 1557, AB 1819 ,and AB 2382), **but 10 that we are supporting have passed their first legislative house and have progressed in the second house.** Support letters were drafted by Prasad, Patrick, Silvia Caswell, and Ron, and were posted on the online Legislative Portal.

Here are the 13 supported bills and their current status as of July 16, to give you an idea of the wide variety of topics and the work done by some of your colleagues:

AB 634 (Jeff Gonzalez): Would ban tianeptine ("gas station heroin"). Progressed to Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 1557 (Papan): Would have limited power of electric bikes to 750 watts, speed to 16 mph, and motor would only work while pedaling. (Died in Assembly Appropriations Committee.)

AB 1586 (Ramos): Would have required school peace officers (which schools are not required to have) to carry naloxone. Changed to training every two years, and voluntary administration of naloxone without liability. (Progressed to Senate Appropriations Committee.)

AB 1753 (Wicks): Would require a person subject to a restraining order for domestic or workplace violence to surrender ammunition, and allows remote appearances at hearings. (Progressed to Senate Appropriations Committee.)

AB 1819 (Sanchez): Would have required new structures serving 50 or more adults age 55 and older to have a defibrillator. (Died in Assembly Appropriations Committee.)

AB 1843 (Elhawary): Would prohibit prior authorization and stepped approvals (tiers) for hepatitis C medications. This was first bill backed by CAPM Board and highest support level approved. (Progressed to Senate Appropriations Committee.)

AB 1943 (Gipson): would require Internet posting of model language on safe storage of firearms, and would encourage school boards to develop policies of distributing a notice on this if there are threats against students or of self-harm. (Referred to Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.)

AB 2047 (Bauer-Kahan): Would provide added safeguards against 3-D printers producing firearms (which is already illegal), by requiring blocking technology to prevent printing of firearms in all 3-D printers manufactured or sold after March 1, 2029. (Progressed to Senate Appropriations Committee.)

AB 2346 (Wilson and Berman, sponsored by CMA): Would require front and rear lights on all electric bikes, and speedometers on Class 2 electric bikes, on sale after January 1, 2029; and would authorize local speed limits on bike paths. It would be an infraction for a person under 16

years of age to ride an electric bike at a speed greater than 15 mph. (Progressed to Senate Appropriations Committee.)

AB 2382 (Patterson): Would have permitted digital completion of death certificates. (Died in Assembly Appropriations Committee.)

AB 2502 (Pellerin): Would expand DUI liability by making it illegal to operate a vehicle with driver-support features but that requires human supervision, with an elevated blood alcohol level of 0.08% of greater. (Progressed to Senate Appropriations Committee.)

SB 895 (Wiener, Perez, and Wahab): Would authorize the sale of up to $23 billion in state bonds to fund health research grants, managed by a new foundation, in the event that federal funding (e.g., through NIH) is cancelled. (Progressed to Assembly Appropriations Committee, in Suspense File.)

SB 945 (Weber Pierson): Would require that an existing commission, which develops curriculum recommendations, consider adding CPR and AED operation to the physical education framework, when that framework is next revised in 2027. (Progressed to Assembly Appropriations Committee, in Suspense File.)