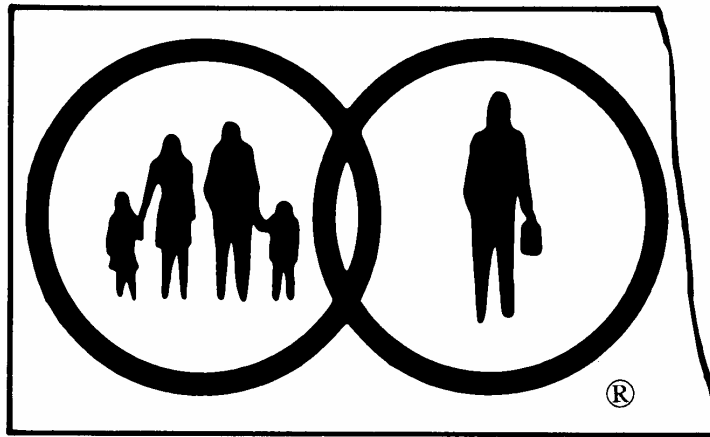


Volume 30, No. 2

Spring 2004

Family Practice Quarterly



**North Dakota
Academy of Family Physicians**

**University of North Dakota
School of Medicine and Health Sciences
Department of Family Medicine**

North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Issues in This Issue	2
Message from the Executive Directors	3
Message from the NDAFP President	3
A View From UND	4
Don Breen Externship Assignments	6
Outstanding Resident	7
Health Sciences Library	8
National Libraries of Medicine	9
Residency Sites, Class of 2004	10
Practice-Based Research Network	12
NDAFP Foundation Minutes	13
Maintenance of Certification	14
NDAFP Board of Directors Meeting Minutes	16
NDAFAP Annual State Meeting Minutes	17
Political Consultant's Articles	Throughout

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The *Family Practice Quarterly* is published by the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians and the Department of Family Medicine. Except official reports and announcements, no material in the *Family Practice Quarterly* is to be construed as representing the policies or views of the North Dakota Academy or Department of Family Medicine. Printed at UND Press. The Editors reserve the right to accept or reject any article or advertisement matter.

Address all correspondence and ads as follows: Co-Editors: Roger Schauer, M.D. and Apryl Nenortas, M.A., for the NDAFP, *Family Practice Quarterly*, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, P.O. Box 9037, Grand Forks, ND 58202-9037, (701) 777-3200.

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## Issues in This Issue

### Roger W. Schauer, M.D. Co-Editor

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With this spring issue of the FPQ we bring you best wishes for a great new year. The wonderment of spring, of new life and new growth, has always made spring for this farm boy the beginning of a new year. In this issue we celebrate new beginnings in many areas.

Before we go to the new, I want to extend my gratitude and best wishes to Jean Rebenitsch as she moves on to her next challenges. I first had the pleasure of getting to know Jean in the early 1980's, as I progressed through the various Academy offices soon after Jean began working with the Academy. For the past twelve years I have had the pleasure of working down the hall from her. Her commitment to the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians is evident in all her work, whether it be working with students or the Family Medicine Interest Group, for the FPQ, for our various CME offerings (Big Sky meeting is a huge project), for the general business of the Academy and the Foundation, for assisting physicians in maintaining their CME records, or for promoting our members and our organization at a national level. Thank you Jean for your work and your commitment. Best wishes as you spend more time with your grandchildren.

I want to extend a warm welcome to Apryl Nenortas, the new Executive Director for the NDAFP. It has been a pleasure getting to know and work with Apryl the past few weeks. Apryl will assume an active role with the FPQ, and already has shared ideas about improvements for upcoming issues of the FPQ. She is adept at editing, abstracting, and writing, as evidenced in her article that addresses maintenance of certification for family physicians.

Apryl will share more about herself in the next issue of the FPQ. Barb Knight from the library of Health Sciences, and Apryl collaborate on two articles to update you regarding access to information.

Dr. Burns provides you with the "State of the Department of Family Medicine" address she provided to the membership at the annual Academy meeting in Mandan in March. Developing a practice based research network is addressed by Dr. Christianson.

Dr. Garman provides his first "Message from the President" in this issue. The minutes of the annual of the NDAFP Board of Directors, membership, and Foundation meetings are enclosed in this issue as well. Congratulations to Larry Halvorson, MD Family Physician of the Year and to Scott E. Knutson, MD, recipient of the 2003-04 William M. Buckingham, MD Outstanding Resident Award. In this issue you will also find the minutes of the annual meeting of the NDAFP, of the NDAFP Foundation, and of the Board of Directors. I want to thank Dr. Kim Konzak-Jones for her regular contributions in "Message From The President" this past year.

Ten students from the class of 2004 selected Family Medicine as their residency. You will find where your clerkship student(s) elected to complete their training on the enclosed class of 2004 residency match roster. The list of the Don Breen Externs and their preceptor assignments for 2004 is also included.

The article by our political consultant, Dave Peske, calls our attention to a number of issues. His contributions are spread out as interjections throughout this issue of the FPQ. Be sure and look for them.

If you have questions, thoughts, recommendations, or perhaps an article you would like to share with your colleagues, please the information to Apryl Nenortas at [anenortas@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:anenortas@medicine.nodak.edu) at [rschauer@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:rschauer@medicine.nodak.edu).

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## **A Message from The President Aaron Garman, M.D.**

*If you have built castles in the air, your work need not be lost; that is where they should be. Now put the foundations under them.” Henry David Thoreau, Walden*

First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Larry Halvorson for being named the Family Physician of the Year for North Dakota. As one of Larry’s former residents (and perhaps his greatest impersonator), I think that Larry embodies what each of us should strive for in our role as family physicians. As a young family doc, I continue to build castles and dream of improvements in family medicine. As a veteran of medicine and life, Dr. Halvorson taught me to “put the foundations under them.”

I think this philosophy is remarkable, for it is only through these castles that we continue to strive for excellence in our practices, the academy and each of our lives. However, we must not lose sight of all the work, blood, sweat and tears required to stabilize those castles with solid foundations.

I hope that this spring each of us can recharge our batteries, work on our foundations and solidify our “Castles in the Air.” Spring is a time for revitalization not only for Mother Earth but also for our local academy. Jean has decided to step-down in her role at the academy. She has done a wonderful job for the ND AFP and has represented us well on the national scene. By virtue of her marvelous accomplishments, those of us that have worked with her, will never forget her.

We need to move forward. Thus, we have hired a new Chapter Executive, Apryl Nenortas. I am excited to begin anew and I will look to Apryl for fresh ideas. I am sure she will be up to the task. Fewer words seem to mean more; thus I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Apryl to the members of the ND Academy. We should all offer her our support. Thank you and I look forward to a great year!

## **A Message from the Executive Directors**

### **Jean Rebenitsch**

As I look back on my 21 years with the NDAFP I realize how fortunate I have been to be given the opportunity to have a position that I have enjoyed each and every day. No two days were ever the same - just a new challenge each morning as I opened the door for another day. The day to day activities of the office included answering questions of physicians, medical students and pharmaceutical representatives. Whether their concern was reporting a physician’s CME, the next CME opportunity, when there will be another ALSO Course, the dates for the next Family Practice Update at Big Sky or when is the suturing workshop for the medical students. The requests of the doctors that contacted the office were always important. My goal was to serve the needs of the family physicians.

Change came slowly - I was very set in my ways. The first computer was a real challenge!! Paper and pencil were so reliable - no lost files because the server went down. Most everything in the office is now on computer.

I hope to pass the love of the position to Apryl Nenortas as she begins her new responsibilities as your new chapter executive. Give her time and your support - this job has so many facets to it it will take a full year to be aware of everything that happens in the office.

You have been wonderful to know and work with - I admire and respect you and your profession. I couldn’t have worked for another specialty that would have given me such pride and enjoyment. I’m proud to have worked with you, and for you. God Bless You. I will miss you.

### **Apryl Nenortas, M.A.**

I am happy to introduce myself to you all! If you have comments, suggestions, questions or just want to introduce yourself, please contact me at 777-3276 or [anenortas@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:anenortas@medicine.nodak.edu). I will be writing the Executive Director’s Column beginning with the next issue. But, this time, I decided to leave this space to Jean for her final column. Good luck in retirement Jean!

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## A View From UND



### **Elizabeth A. Burns, M.D., M.A. Chair, Department of Family Medicine**

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The State of the Department of Family Medicine  
March 2004

*(This information was originally presented at the NDAFP business meeting on 3/26/04. I've updated some of the information in editing it for the Family Practice Quarterly. EAB)*

The Department of Family Medicine is comprised of 7 programs: 3 residency programs, a predoctoral program, a Research and Development Program, the Physician Assistant Program, and the Division of Sports Medicine, an undergraduate athletic training program. Three of the programs had accreditation site visits this past year: Bismarck FP, which received full accreditation for 3 years, Minot FP, which received full accreditation for five years, and the PA Program, which also received full accreditation for five years.

The Medical Student (predoctoral program), under the direction of Dr. Roger Schauer, is active in all four years of the curriculum. Dr. Schauer is a block director and also a group facilitator. Dr. Jim Beal is also active in the M-2 and M-3 teaching with colleagues from the Community Medicine Department, including family physician Greg Holzman. Dr. Beal directs the research project for the M-3 students. Other family physicians involved in block facilitation include Dr. Burns and Dr. Charlie Christianson. The Grand Forks Residency Faculty have participated in the ambulatory experience for M-1 and M-2 students along with Drs. Schauer and Burns. We have had successful FMIG programs this year. We also restarted An Evening with a Family Physician, sponsored by the department, the three residency programs and the NDAFP. Dr. Norman Kahn, Jr from the AAFP spoke on the FFM project. We had an excellent turn out of medical students and family physicians and I'd like to thank those who attended and helped host tables of students.

In our Research and Program Development division, directed by Jim Beal, PhD, we were successful in obtaining a federal grant last year (\$487,840 over 3

years) to promote Interactive Video Education in Remote Family Medicine Teaching Sites. This will enable us to have connectivity to our students on encrypted units that ensure confidentiality. Dr. Schauer and Dr. Beal are the PI's on this grant. We have also submitted a grant under the Academic Units in Primary Care heading for development of a research group in FM at the medical school and statewide, that, if funded, will bring in \$750,000 over 3 years. Dr. Christianson is developing the statewide network and is also active in a telemedicine study in Belcourt. We are also exploring the possibility of having a Center of Excellence in Women's Health in Grand Forks that will also reach statewide. Dr. Beal has also been working with Dr. Steve Stripe of the Minot Program to help him get some innovative ideas off the ground. He also works with Community Medicine on some of their projects with the ND State Department of Health.

The PA Program is directed by Mary Ann Laxen. She has also been busy submitting grants to the feds (\$434,320 over three years) to expand the educational experience of PA training within the state, especially to the reservations. The last certificate class graduated in January. The students now in the program will be awarded MPAS (Master of Physician Assistant Studies) degrees when they complete their education. We also have approval for an on-line Masters degree program for PA's at the bachelor degree level who want to get an advanced degree. With the departure of two faculty members over the last year, we have hired replacement faculty who will be starting at the SMHS this summer. Jeannie McHugo has been working in an orthopedic practice in South Dakota and Sue Kuntz has been working in the Dept of Pathology at UND. The PA faculty have also been teaching in the medical student Introduction to Patient Care curriculum.

The Division of Sports Medicine, directed by Steve Westereng, has been challenged this year to provide services to the Athletic Department with a less than optimal number of faculty. As we have experienced in medical education, athletic training education has increased the level of required supervision for students in training. Additionally, the NCAA has become much more stringent about having certified athletic trainers on site. Steve and I have worked for over a year to increase the funding to the DSM from the UND AD to help them meet these new requirements for all the Sioux teams. This proposal is now on the President's desk and we are hopeful that it will result in a positive response. The DSM & GF FPRP have achieved success from the synergy of working together. It is a model that I would like to promote

For other programs as well. The DSM has also helped out with the PA Program this year and I think adding Ms. McHugo to the faculty will allow for even more interaction between these two groups.

Before I start on residency program specifics, a few general items. Match was tough again this year. No program in ND filled. The good news is that 10 students went into FP (4 last year). 5 stayed in ND for training—a little low, but you are never going to keep all of them. Money also continues to be an issue. CMS (Medicare and Medicaid oversight) took back GME dollars from all the hospitals last year. Bismarck was particularly hard hit, but everyone is affected. State budget money is pretty flat. The only good news we've had on the money front is the Medicare legislation that increased the payments to rural communities. That will help our teaching hospitals and they, in turn, will help us with our teaching programs. But the strain is there and is showing.

The Bismarck FP Program under the direction of Dr. Guy Tangedahl is making great strides in curriculum development.

The inpatient medicine and the pediatrics experience is being revamped this year. We have had several good meetings with the pediatrics faculty and, with the help of Drs. Nick Neumann, the campus dean, and Steve Tinguely, the chair of pediatrics; we have a solution that works for Bismarck, given the challenges of the two hospitals, the resident work hours regulations, the medical students and the residents educational needs. Guy continues to develop the relationship with the IHS clinic at Ft. Yates and look for opportunities in Bismarck. He is working with NDPERS to develop a program there. The practice is starting to grow and he has the help and support of the family physicians in the community (if you define the community as all the way to Hettinger!). With a great RRC site visit under his belt, Guy can really concentrate on developing his program more fully.

The Grand Forks Program is midpoint in the accreditation cycle, so Dr. Greg Greek, the new program director is getting his feet wet a little bit with an internal review in April. He has had many challenges over the past year, some of which have made the nightly news and the local papers. I am hopeful that he can bring this to a solution that works for the program, for UNDSMHS and for our residents and students, because that is why we physician educators are here.

The Minot FP Program, with Dr. Milt Smith as director, does get to crow a little bit with a 5 year reaccreditation report. That really marks a ten plus year effort by Milt and

his faculty to bring the program to goals they set forth and they were pretty high goals. This has been recognized nationally now. They have residents doing scholarly activity and presenting their work on research day. The faculty are actively involved in scholarship as well. Kim Krohn spoke at the GME retreat last month and wowed the Dean with her description of the activities in Minot. They are working to develop an OB fellowship. They've two new faculty coming on board who will work in Minot and in the surrounding communities to strengthen FM education and services as well. The new CFM will break ground next month and will bring together all the UNDSMHS programs in one spot. It is pretty exciting to be in Minot these days.

I think that these programs are all exciting and give me, and I hope you as well, a sense of pride in what we have been able to accomplish and what is possible to accomplish here in North Dakota. This is a group effort. Over the past year, I've been grateful for the efforts of the Family Physi-

## **HIPPA Rules Impact CME**

**By David Peske, Political Consultant**

Across the nation, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) rules are having a varied impact on accredited providers of continuing medical education (CME). In implementing new HIPAA policies, including those which address confidentiality and the release of "individually identifiable patient information," some healthcare organizations have placed restrictions on attendance at certain accredited educational offerings, such as weekly cancer case reviews, where the records of individual patients are displayed and discussed. Physicians who are planning to attend these types of CME offerings at an accredited North Dakota facility where they do not hold staff privileges may wish contact the facility to determine if they have placed any restrictions on who may be allowed to attend the specified program.

## **Administrative Rules**

**By David Peske, Political Consultant**

*Immunizations by Pharmacists* The ND Board of Pharmacy released a proposal to amend the rules governing the administration of immunizations by authorized pharmacists. The current rule requires a pharmacist to obtain a physician order to administer the immunization, usually done under a formal standing protocol between the physician and pharmacist. The protocol must include the name of the physician, the patient, and the authorized pharmacist. The Board's proposed rule change removes the requirement of naming the pharmacist in the order, thus eliminating liability concerns for the physician. The Board's website is [www.nodakpharmacy.com](http://www.nodakpharmacy.com). The hearing was May 10.

**2004**  
**Don Breen Externship in Family Medicine**  
**Students Rural and Urban Sites**

The following students will be participating in the Don Breen Externship in Family Medicine during the summer of 2004.

| <b>STUDENT</b>  | <b>LOCATION</b>                 | <b>PRECEPTOR</b>                        |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Sarah Miller    | Beulah                          | Aaron Garman, MD                        |
| Jill Detwiler   | Bismarck Family Practice Center | Guy Tangedahl, MD                       |
| Rebecca Kadlec  | Devil's Lake                    | Heidi Bittner, MD                       |
| Megan Johnson   | Detroit Lakes                   | Julie Larson, MD                        |
| Ryan Zimmerman  | Dickinson                       | Camille Bachmeier-Sherman, MD           |
| Scott Maanum    | East Grand Forks - Meritcare    | Tom Cariveau, MD                        |
| Katie Polovitz  | Grand Forks - Altru             | Patrick Moore, MD<br>& Yvonne Gomez, MD |
| Rena Nordeng    | Hettinger                       | John Joyce, MD                          |
| Jed Perkerewicz | Hillsboro                       | Chuck Breen, MD                         |
| Nicole Poppinga | Jamestown                       | Scott Rowe, MD                          |
| Christina Tello | Mandan East                     | Tony Johnson, MD                        |
| Peter Klemin    | Mandan North                    | Dale Klein, MD                          |
| Melissa Loney   | West Fargo-Dakota Clinic        | Richard Vetter, MD                      |
| Andy McCoy      | Williston Trinity Community     | Marc Neilson, MD                        |

These students have successfully completed their first year of medical school and are anxious to get into "real" medicine. The Don Breen Externship allows them to shadow a practicing family physician in rural or urban clinics. This is a unique program allowing students access to the feel for a full-time family medicine practice before they are even in their second year of medical school. It is an exciting experience and the students feel privileged to have such an experience so early in their medical training. It also includes a stipend for students to help off-set their expenses while they are on-site for the externship.

A very special thank you to the preceptors for allowing these students to follow them for four weeks during the summer. All preceptors are members of the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians and are fulfilling an important role as they mentor these students during the summer program. Thank you also, to the medical facilities for allowing the students to use their facilities.

This program is funded through a grant from Dakota Medical Foundation in cooperation with the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians Foundation.

Since 1991, more than 170 students have been awarded the externship. To apply for a Don Breen Externship, please contact Apryl Nenortas, Executive Director, North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians, Room 2511, at [anenortas@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:anenortas@medicine.nodak.edu) or (701) 777-3276.



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## ***Congratulations to Scott Knudson, M.D.***

**2003 –2004 William M. Buckingham, M.D.**

### **Outstanding Resident**

Dr. Knudson was born in Minneapolis, MN, received his undergraduate education at St. Cloud State University, St. Cloud, MN. He attended the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and after completing a transitional year at McKennan & Sioux Valley Hospitals in Sioux Falls, SD, he was assigned Minot Air Force Base serving in many medical capacities while stationed there. He began his residency at the Minot Center for Family Medicine in July 2002.

Dr. Knudson thrives on serving the less fortunate and medically underserved. He has been instrumental in the development of a prenatal care program for the Native Americans in the New Town area. He is administrating the entire program including scheduling, follow-up with the community health nurses and providing staff and patient education sessions at the New Town Clinic. He is also involved in contract negotiations with the Indian Health Service (HIS) for 2005. Dr. Knudson has worked with the other residents in the Minot program leading by extraordinary example.

Dr. Knudson is married and his wife, Shannon, is a teacher at Our Redeemer's Christian School. They have three children: Seth, Zachary and Brooklynne. Upon completion of his residency, Dr. Knudson will join the UND Minot Center for Family Medicine as a faculty member.

The William M. Buckingham, M.D. Outstanding Resident Award has the following:

#### ***PURPOSE:***

~To encourage family medicine residents in the practice of

family medicine and in the activities of the North Dakota

Academy of Family Physicians.

~To encourage better role modeling among family practice

residents.

~To recognize positive attributes in future practicing family physicians.

#### ***SELECTION CRITERIA:***

He/She should be a third year family medicine resident who demonstrates an exceptional interest and com-

mitment to family medicine. This person should exemplify a balance of the qualities of a family physician.

- A. Caring and compassionate patient care
- B. Evidence of scholarly inquiry
- C. Community and social awareness
- D. Maturity in all phases of practice
- E. Balance between personal & professional activities
- F. Academy involvement

*Selection is made by a committee from the NDAFP Foundation Board. For more information or to obtain nomination packets, please contact Apryl Nenortas, Executive Director, at [anenortas@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:anenortas@medicine.nodak.edu).*

### **On-Line X-Ray Operator Course. . .**

#### **Coming Soon**

**By David Peske, Political Consultant**

North Dakota personnel operating x-ray equipment, and who are required to obtain training to continue in their duties, will soon be able access the educational course work over the internet from their home or office computer. Approved coursework, similar to that offered in the classroom at UND, will be presented through a modular 40-hour course being developed through the Bismarck State College distance learning program.

Under Health Department regulations adopted in 2003, allied health personnel who are not certified radiology technicians must obtain a total of 80 hours of didactic and clinical instruction in order to continue providing limited x-ray services. Provision of the classroom learning on the Internet will offer healthcare personnel across the state much more convenient access to the necessary coursework.

The ND Healthcare Association worried that numerous operators in need of the training would not be able to receive it in a timely manner, spurred development of the electronic delivery alternative.

*Contact Mr. Peske at (701) 223-9475 or [dpeske@ndmed.com](mailto:dpeske@ndmed.com).*





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## Health Sciences Library Services

*By Barbara Knight, MA, MLS, AHIP*

*Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences*

The Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences has several services available to remote users. Remote users are all faculty, staff and students of the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences and the College of Nursing. The services outlined here are all available through the library's web site at [www.harley.med.und.nodak.edu](http://www.harley.med.und.nodak.edu).

Your affiliation with these programs gives you the opportunity to utilize the services and resources available through the Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks. Some of the services available include:

- Remote access to many databases, e-books, and e-journals;
- MEDLINE searching and LinkOut connectivity to our journal collection;
- InfoPOEMS, an evidence based medicine web site;
- Interlibrary loan services, through ILLiad and Loansome Doc;
- Reference services;
- Training sessions; and
- Live Help, real time co-browsing assistance.

### ***Remote access to databases, e-books, and e-journals***

To determine the resources that are available remotely go to the "Electronic Resources" section and then to the type of resource that you are interested in using. On the page where the resource is listed you will see a column labeled "Access Indicators." An **R** appears as an access indicator for all resources available **remotely**. To access remotely available resources you will need to enter your remote access e-mail User Name and Password. If you already have a <medicine.nodak.edu> e-mail account, enter the User Name AND the Password you use to access that e-mail account. If you DO NOT have a <medicine.nodak.edu> e-mail account, you may e-mail Theresa Norton, Computer Services Librarian at <tnorton@medicine.nodak.edu> requesting an account. Please let Theresa know which department of the medical school holds your clinical faculty appointment and she will return directions for setting up your remote access account.

### ***MEDLINE searching and LinkOut***

Your remote access account will also allow you to

access several of the "UND online" journals within PubMed MEDLINE through the LinkOut feature of PubMed. To do so, go to the library web site, then go to PubMed, select "Option 1." You **must** have your remote access account to utilize this feature. Once you have done your search in PubMed, you can add the phrase "**AND loprovundlib [sb]**" to your search and you will be able to see the journals that are available from this library either through "UND Online" or "UND in Library." The phrase stands for "local provider UND library" the "AND" (in all caps) is a command to search both databases. The "UND Online" buttons will work for you in the same manner they work on campus. The "UND in Library" button means that the library owns the item in print format, and you may request it on interlibrary loan. If you have a question about access to specific journal titles, please refer back to the list of "Electronic Resources" on the home page or e-mail a reference librarian at [hflref@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:hflref@medicine.nodak.edu).

### ***InfoPOEMS***

InfoPOEMS is a database designed to improve the health and lives of people by providing patient-oriented evidence that matters in a rapid and accessible form. Access to InfoPOEMS is possible due to a collaborative effort of several departments, including the Department of Family Medicine. A "Product Tour" is available at [www.infopoems.com/productinfo/inforetirevertour.html](http://www.infopoems.com/productinfo/inforetirevertour.html). If you would like assistance with access please contact the library reference staff.

### ***Interlibrary loan services***

ILLiad is our electronic interlibrary loan system for obtaining and delivering materials that we obtain from other libraries. This system will save you time and effort and will bring many documents electronically to your desktop.

On your first visit you must register as a first time user. You only need to register once! Your user information is retained in the system, so the next time you submit a request, all you do is logon. We can help you set up ILLiad to work with your Loansome Doc account.

### ***Training sessions***

If you would like to have the library staff provide a training session on available services, we would be happy to do so. To arrange training in your area please contact Barb Knight, Head of Public Services, at for details.

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### ***Reference services and Live Help***

If you have any questions or need assistance, you will find several methods of contacting the library's Reference staff on the "Contact Us" section of the library web site. You will also get real-time, online assistance by going to "Live Help" from most pages on the library web site by clicking on the Live Help logo. Live Help is our virtual reference service that allows you to interact real-time with a health sciences reference librarian. Since this is a 5 state project, you could be working with a librarian from Colorado, Utah, Missouri, Hawaii, or North Dakota. The service is currently available from 9 am to 9 pm, Monday through Friday. Please let us know how it works for you.

The library also sends out updated information via e-mail on an occasional basis. If you would like to be included in these announcements, please e-mail Barb Knight at with your request.

### **The National Library of Medicine and The National Network of Libraries of Medicine - What can they do for you?**

***By Apryl Nenortas, MA, & Barbara Knight, MA, MLS, AHIP***

The mission of the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NN/LM) is to advance the progress of medicine and improve the public health by: 1) providing all U.S. health professionals with equal access to biomedical information; and, 2) improving the public's access to information to enable them to make informed decisions about their health. The Program is coordinated by the National Library of Medicine and carried out through a nationwide network of health science libraries and information centers. One of the 5,215 member libraries is the Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences at UND. The Harley E. French Library is also designated as an NNLM Outreach and Resource Library for the state of North Dakota.

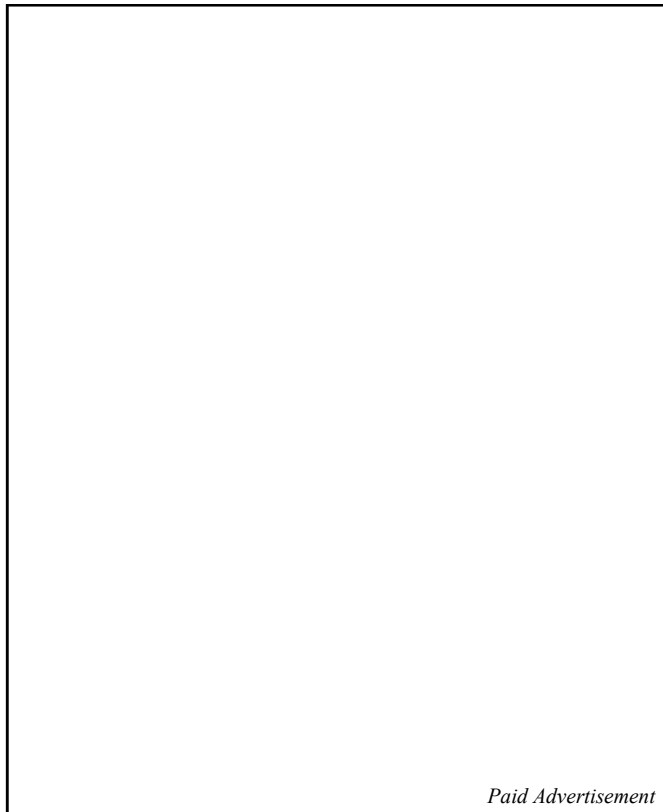
For rural physicians, the NLM and NNLM offer a variety of useful services that can be used in conjunction with the several other libraries around North Dakota. Besides the Harley French Library, there are six full-member libraries throughout the state with librarian assistance available. They are located in Jamestown, Bismarck, Fargo, Minot, Hettinger and Grand Forks. Services offered by the NNLM

include training sessions for the health care provider as well as health care educators. Many of these training courses qualify for CME credit. There are also resources available for public use that may prove to be very useful for your patients. MEDLINEplus is designed specifically for the public and is designed as a partner to MEDLINE which is specifically designed for health care providers.

There are also funding and research opportunities in consumer health education and public health projects, as well as easy-to-use, easy-to-understand websites for patient use.

Additionally, unlike many websites, the NLM and NNLM do not link to any commercial site and they offer a full mirror website in Spanish. Websites in other languages are being developed and should be available in the future. All of these services are provided FREE of charge through a grant from the Department of Health and Human Services.

If interested in more information about these programs or available funding opportunities, please contact Barbara Knight, Head of Public Services, at the Harley E. French Library of the Health Sciences at 701-777-2166 or bknight@medicine.nodak.edu. Information may also be found at the NLM website [www.nlm.nih.gov](http://www.nlm.nih.gov) and the NNLM website at [www.nnlm.gov](http://www.nnlm.gov).



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## **Practice-Based Research Network** *By Charlie Christianson, M.D., Sc.M.* *Department of Family Medicine*

The Future of Family Medicine Project Report ([www.annfammed.org/content/vol2/suppl\\_1](http://www.annfammed.org/content/vol2/suppl_1)) states that the ideal family physician is driven by curiosity, and that the family practice of the future should include “research on best practices, treatments, and outcomes that matter to patients, [and] improving systems of care. . .” Further, “the ongoing development of the specialty. . . will depend on the growth of research and a greater commitment to a culture of ongoing inquiry in family medicine.” The report envisions an ongoing process of collaboration between practicing family physicians and our academic community to perform research directed toward improvements in the care we deliver to our patients.

I invite all North Dakota family physicians to come together to form a network directed toward this goal. Although family physicians have been leaders in practice-based research, most of this has taken place in suburban practices. We have a unique opportunity to generate cutting-edge research targeting the problems and practice characteristics specific to rural family practice. A number of you have already expressed an interest in this idea.

A network of family physicians offers several advantages:

- It allows a larger study population so that results can be generalized more readily.
- It provides the participants with an opportunity for professional stimulation and increased contact with like-minded colleagues across the state.
- It allows you, as a practicing physician, to help determine the direction of investigation and to be as involved in research as you wish.

The Department of Family Medicine could help with the development of research protocols, and with administrative issues involved in execution of studies.

Specific areas of focus would depend on the interests of the group, but could include:

- Partnering with the Neurosciences Department in Fargo to address the delivery of care for problems in rural areas such as depression
- The early diagnosis of eating disorders and Parkinson’s Disease “Best Practice Research”

Dr. James Mold at the University of Oklahoma described in a recent issue of Family Medicine [2003: 35(2) 131-4, [www.stfm.org/fmhub/fm2003/feb03/pm.pdf](http://www.stfm.org/fmhub/fm2003/feb03/pm.pdf)] a process of “tapping the collective wisdom” of the members of their research network in dealing with common office problems such as the management of laboratory test results in order to improve these processes.

Prior to moving to North Dakota, I helped develop such a network in an urban area. And, I am excited about the possibility of helping to create one here to address the problems we face in practice and help us to improve the care we deliver.

Many of you have a long history of devotion to the educational mission of the medical school, and I am hopeful that you will be interested in this activity.

If you are interested in being a part of such a network, or you have any questions, please contact me. My voice mail is 777-3240 and my email is [cchristi@medicine.nodak.edu](mailto:cchristi@medicine.nodak.edu).

### **Candidates Coming to NDMA Meeting** *By David Peske, Political Consultant*

Both political parties have completed the process of endorsing candidates to run in the November elections. Challenging Republican Governor, John Hoeven, will be Democrat Joseph Satrom, a Bismarck businessman and former state senator. Republican Mike Liffbrig, an attorney and consultant from rural Mandan, will challenge US Senator, Bryon Dorgan. Duane Sand, former US Navy officer, now a Fargo businessman, will run for the US House seat held by Democrat Earl Pomeroy.

These candidates will be invited to discuss their positions on timely healthcare issues at a candidate forum during the NDMA Annual Meeting in Fargo on Friday, October 1. Family physicians are encouraged to become involved in their local legislative races by meeting and supporting the candidates early in the campaign cycle. If you take this opportunity to meet and get-to-know your candidates, you can make an informed choice at the voting booth.

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**North Dakota Academy of Family  
Physicians Foundation  
Thursday, March 25, 2004  
Seven Seas Conference Center, Mandan**

Present: Jon R. Rice, M.D., President, Tom Cariveau, M.D., Heidi Bittner, M.D., Dennis Wolf, M.D., Andrew Wilder, M.D. and Jean Rebenitsch

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Jon R. Rice, M.D., President.

The minutes of the November 13, 2003 teleconference meeting were approved as distributed.

A report on the Network Participation Agreement with the AAFP Foundation was given by Jean Rebenitsch. We are in compliance in all aspects at this time.

The Don Breen Externship was discussed. We have sixteen medical students assigned sites. The preceptors were very receptive to the students when approached. We are in the second year of a three year grant from Dakota Medical Foundation. We will receive \$8000 to support this program; in addition we were notified that we are the recipients of an additional \$4000 discretionary grant that will be paid at the same time as the competitive grant (May 15). The Academy and the Foundation will support the program with \$2000 each.

The financial report for 2003 was approved as presented. It is attached to these minutes. The budget for 2004 was approved as presented.

We will be conducting two raffles during the State Meeting. The Ski Package is a donation from the Marketing Department at Big Sky Resort ; the second raffle is for cash - \$100, \$200 and \$300.

Election of officers for the Foundation was held. Dr. Jon Rice was re-elected president, Andrew Wilder, M.D. was elected vice president and Dennis Wolf, M.D. was elected secretary-treasurer. Dr. Greg Greek and Andrew Wilder were chosen new members of this Board for three year terms. Drs. Heidi Bittner, Roger Schauer and Bruce Dahl were re-elected to three year terms.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:30 p.m. Jean Rebenitsch, Recording Secretary

**Keep Tobacco Out of the Workplace  
By David Peske, Political Consultant**

ND Attorney General, Wayne Stenehjem, recently issued an opinion expressing the view that a state law enacted in 1919 allows the ND Labor Commissioner to develop administrative rules addressing environmental tobacco smoke as a workplace hazard. The statute (NDCC Section 34-06-05) states that "It is unlawful to employ in any occupation within this state. . . employees under surroundings or conditions, sanitary or otherwise, which may be detrimental to their health or morals. . ." The April 14th opinion goes on to claim that the law may create a private cause of action against an employer who subjects employees to tobacco smoke in the workplace.

ND Labor Commissioner, Mark Bachmeier, has indicated that he will work with the Health Dept. in reviewing the scientific evidence related to second-hand smoke, and also wishes to hear from healthcare leaders, as he makes his determination whether to initiate the rule-making process. Physicians are being asked to support this proposal. Contact Mr. Bachmeier at [mbachmei@state.nd.us](mailto:mbachmei@state.nd.us).

**The Tar Wars Project  
By Apryl Nenortas, M.A.  
Executive Director, NDAFP**

Anti-smoking advocates are very active in their endeavors to keep tobacco away from the workplace as well as a movement to prevent children from smoking. The American Academy of Family Physicians is spearheading the Tar Wars Project to keep children from trying tobacco products. The project is currently coordinated by myself and Dr. Brian Selland of Rugby. We will be including articles about this project in future FPQ's. For more information on the Tar Wars project, please call the ND Academy of Family Physicians at 777-3276.

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## What is the Maintenance of Certification and What Does it Mean for You?

By Apryl Nenortas, M.A.

Executive Director, NDAFP

(Edited from the American Board of Family Practice Website <http://www.abfp.org> April 2004.)

The American Board of Family Practice is developing a unique program for family physicians within the framework specified by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). The Maintenance of Certification for Family Physicians (MC-FP) process is divided into four major components that provide evidence of professional standing, lifelong learning, cognitive expertise, and performance in practice.

- Professionalism  
This component is designed to ensure professional standing. It will include information provided by both patients and other physicians. Completion of this component will require the following:
  - Possession of a valid and unrestricted license in all states in which you maintain a license. This is the same as the current requirement.
  - Peer review, via a process which is currently under development by the ABFP in partnership with the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS). This will be completed either by phone or over the Internet, and will likely be introduced in 2005. This review will be required once during the seven-year MC-FP cycle.
  - Demonstration of patient satisfaction, also using an instrument currently under development by the ABMS. This will also be required once during the MC-FP cycle.
  - Self-Assessment and Lifelong Learning  
This component has two parts that allow you to focus on specific areas of knowledge of your own choosing. The purpose is to enhance your knowledge and skills in areas that are of greatest use in your individual practice. Completion of this requirement will require the following:
    - 300 hours of continuing medical education (CME). This is the same as the current requirement.
    - One Self-Assessment Module (SAM) per year, for a total of six. These modules

will be accessed over the Internet. They consist of two parts, with the first part assessing cognitive knowledge with respect to a particular disease or problem and the second part assessing your ability to apply that knowledge using patient simulation technology developed by the ABFP. It will be possible to choose up to two modules from providers other than the ABFP. The modules will also count toward your CME requirement.

- Cognitive Expertise  
This component requires successful completion of the ABFP examination, and the requirement is the same as in the past. The examination may be taken either six or seven years after the previous successful examination. Failure to take or pass the examination by the end of the seventh year will result in loss of certification.
- Performance in Practice  
This component consists of a Performance in Practice Module (PPM) which must be completed once during the seven-year MC-FP cycle. The process will be somewhat similar to the current Office Record Review, in that it will require you to select patient records and report their contents. Instead of focusing on recordkeeping, however, the PPM will focus on quality of care.

You will provide this information over the Internet, and will use the information to help you develop an individual quality improvement plan. This process will be introduced in 2005, and will also contribute to the CME requirement.

### Q. Why is MC-FP being implemented at this time?

A. The ABMS requested that all member boards submit their plans for institution of the first three parts of their maintenance of certification (MOC) programs by July 1, 2003 with the expectation that member boards begin their MOC programs shortly thereafter. Plans for the remaining component, Part IV (Performance in Practice), must be submitted to ABMS by December 31, 2004.

### Q. How does MC-FP benefit me?

A. MC-FP will allow you to participate in continuous learning and self-assessment to enhance your



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clinical knowledge, expertise and skill.

The major difference in this new process is that MC-FP will provide access throughout each cycle to educational activities that can enhance patient care. This process may contribute to your professional practice, and to your preparation for the cognitive examination.

In particular, the SAMs will offer learning opportunities that were not possible in the previous certification process. CBAS, the patient simulation, provides an opportunity to demonstrate your ability to manage a patient problem prospectively over months and years. Additionally, the simulator allows you to apply the concepts you explored in the SAMs in a realistic clinical scenario.

And, finally, from a practical perspective, there is clear evidence that physician reimbursement in the future will be tied to quality. The Center for Medicare Services is developing a pilot program to base reimbursement on performance measured against validated quality indicators. The private insurers are expected to follow suit. Participation in MC-FP likely will satisfy these requirements, those mandated by the ABMS, and those being discussed by several state licensure boards regarding relicensing examinations.

**Q. When does MC-FP begin for me?**

A. On January 5, 2004, diplomats who certified or recertified in 2003 began MC-FP. Diplomats will be phased into the program as they certify or recertify, with everyone entering the MC-FP cycle by 2010.

**Q. How do I begin participation in MC-FP?**

A. When you recertify (or are a new diplomat), you will enter your first MC-FP cycle the following calendar year. When you are ready to complete your first component, you should read through the requirements by accessing the MC-FP Instruction Booklet at <http://www.abfp.org>. Once you understand the requirements for each component, you may begin. These may be completed at your convenience.

**Q. What fees will be required for MC-FP?**

A. There are three payment options, depending on whether you want to pay as you go or prepay. The ABFP is a not-for-profit organization, so the costs will be monitored carefully. Any necessary reduc-

tions or increases will be stringently evaluated. Currently, a single one-time payment of \$1150.00 must be made by June 30, 2004 and must be made in conjunction with registration for your first SAM. If payment is not made by June 30, 2004, you must either make annual payments or pay as you go.

Annual payments over seven years is another option. You may choose to pay \$200.00 annually for a total guaranteed cost of \$1400.00. The first payment is due by December 31, 2004 and must be made in conjunction with your registration for your first SAM.

There is also a pay-as-you-go option. This requires a \$50.00 payment each year plus a payment of \$1150.00 at year seven to cover the cost of the cognitive exam. Total cost is estimated to be \$1500.00, but there is no guarantee this will be the actual final cost. However, this is the only option remaining if the prepayment and the annual payment deadlines are missed.

For a complete listing of required program fees and payment options, see page 15 of the MC-FP Instruction Booklet online at <https://www.abfp.org/MOC/InstructionManualMC-FP.pdf>.

**Q. Does the MD-FP apply to the Certificates of Added Qualification (CAQ)?**

A. Yes. Those recertifying for ABFP CAQ's in geriatrics, adolescent medicine, or sports medicine will also participate in the MC-FP process. The one difference for those holding a CAQ, is that one of the SAMs taken during each MC-FP cycle must be in their CAQ content area.

**Q. How many SAMs must I complete during the MC-FP cycle?**

A. ABFP diplomats in the MC-FP program are required to complete six SAMs and one Performance in Practice Module during the MC-FP cycle. It is expected that one SAM will be completed per year. The Performance in Practice module will be substituted for the SAM during one year of the cycle. Diplomats must complete the 60-question assessment with a satisfactory score before being assessed in the simulated clinical encounter. You may repeat the 60-question assessment until a satisfactory score is earned.

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**North Dakota Academy of  
Family Physicians  
Board of Directors**

**Thursday, March 25, 2004**

*Seven Seas Conference Center, Mandan, ND*

Present: Kim Konzak-Jones, M.D., Aaron Garman, M.D., David Field, M.D., Russ Emery, M.D., Steven Glunberg, M.D., Guy Tangedahl, M.D., Heidi Bittner, M.D., Chuck Breen, M.D., Larry Johnson, M.D., Fred Mitzel, M.D., Dennis Wolf, M.D., Gigi Goven, M.D., Glenn Mastel, M.D., Dale Klein, M.D., Thomas Cariveau, M.D., Kimberly Krohn, M.D., Andrew Wilder, M.D., Pat Moore, M.D., Elizabeth Burns, M.D., Jim King, M.D. (Representative of the AAFP Board of Directors), Selmer, TN and Jean Renitsch

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Kim Konzak-Jones, President in the absence of Dr. Wes Borowski, Chairman. The minutes of the November 19, 2003 teleconference meeting were approved as distributed and published in the Family Practice Quarterly.

Dr. David Field, Secretary Treasurer introduced our financial broker/consultant, Mr. Dan Mahrer and our CPA, Jeanette Gravseth. Dr. Field reviewed our financial statements. The Academy is in good financial health with total assets of just over \$419,000. The Investment Committee, consisting of Drs. Richard Vetter, Steven Glunberg, Chuck Breen and David Field feel we have made some very positive gains.

Heidi Bittner, M.D., Chair of the Resident and Medical Student Commission reviewed the points of information as there were no points for consideration from this commission. Sixteen students have been assigned to participate in the Don Breen Externship during the summer of 2004. Dr. Konzak-Jones will guide an experience in reading x-rays for the FMIG students on April 2. Dr. Bittner announced her resignation as chair of this commission; Dr. Konzak-Jones will replace her. Dr. Bittner will remain a member of the commission. Residents from the three residency programs are registered for the state meeting. We will support the residents from Grand Forks and Minot with \$400 for each program to assist with lodging and travel expenses. The Bismarck residency is considered the local residency.

Dr. Fred Mitzel, Chair of the CME Commission reported there were no points for consideration from this commission. He reviewed a few points of infor-

mation. The Family Practice Update at Big Sky was another success with 258 physicians and other health professionals. Planning is well underway for the 28<sup>th</sup> FP Update January 17-21, 2005. The Football CME will not be held, however other CME possibilities are being explored with AstraZeneca who has sponsored the fall CME for ten years. The ALSO Course will very possibly be rescheduled for early this fall.

Dr. Dale Klein, Chair of the External Affairs Commission presented a resolution that he is interested in submitting to the Congress of Delegates in October in Orlando, FL. Following an explanation of the background of the resolution a brief discussion was held. It was moved, seconded and passed to support this resolution. Co-sponsorship from Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and Minnesota will be solicited. Possibility of going to the North Dakota Medical Association for support was mentioned.

In the points of information, the TarWars program was discussed. It was decided that the program would be publicized in the Family Practice Quarterly and encourage physicians to teach the lesson in their local school. The possibility of approaching the residents to possibly get involved with TarWars was discussed. It was decided to offer the residents the opportunity to participate, but not mandate that it must be done by the residents.

Dr. Kim Konzak-Jones presented the points for consideration from the Internal Affairs Commission. The financial report was given by Dr. David Field earlier in the meeting.

A report from the Search Committee for a new chapter executive indicated they had had twenty applicants for the position; twelve were interviewed. The position has been offered to Apryl Nenortas from Grand Forks. She has accepted the position and will negotiate a salary and benefits package with Dr. Field. She is expected to begin in early April. The chapter exec evaluation was discussed. Written evaluations were positive with Jean's ratings being in the very satisfactory category.

Jean's official retirement day will be May 31, 2004. She will be offered a consulting fee of \$20,000. Duties to include helping the new chapter exec with Big Sky, putting together manuals and contacts for Big Sky and other meetings. Structure of payments and specific details of duties will be at the discretion of the Big Sky Committee. It was moved by Fred Mitzel and seconded by Aaron Garman.

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**North Dakota Academy of  
Family Physicians  
Annual Meeting 2004  
March 27, 2004**

*Seven Seas Conference Center, Mandan, ND*

The Annual Business Meeting of the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians was held on Friday, March 27, 2004 at the Seven Seas Inn & Conference Center, Mandan, ND

The meeting was called to order by Kim Konzak-Jones, M.D., President.

Guests present were introduced. They were Jim King, M.D., Selmer, TN, a member of the AAFP Board of Directors, Mr. Bruce Levi, Executive Director, ND Medical Association and Mr. David Peske from the North Dakota Medical Association. Each guest was allowed a few minutes to speak to the membership.

Ms. Nancy Jo Bateman, Executive Director of the ND Beef Commission was introduced. She spoke briefly about the nutritional value of the luncheon they were providing for this meeting. She thanked the Academy for allowing the Beef Commission to continue to sponsor this luncheon. She presented Jean Rebenitsch with gift in appreciation for the excellent relationship we have had with the ND Beef Commission all of these years.

The minutes of the 2003 business meeting were approved as distributed and printed in the Family Practice Quarterly.

The treasurer's report was given by Dr. David Field. The Academy continues to be financially sound. An Investment Committee, consisting of Rich Vetter, M.D., Steven Glunberg, M.D., Chuck Breen, M.D. and David Field, M.D. have been monitoring our investments.

Dr. Elizabeth Burns, Chair, Department of Family Medicine reported on the State of the Department. The Minot and Bismarck residencies have just recently been re-accredited; Minot for five years and Bismarck for three years. The

Minot program will begin building a new facility this spring.

Dr. Andrew Wilder, Vice President of the NDAFP Foundation reported on the Foundation meeting held last evening. Sixteen medical students will participate in the Don Breen Externship during the summer of 2004. Assignments have been made and most students will have their experience during June.

Two raffles will be held during this meeting. All are encouraged to support the Foundation by purchasing raffle tickets and bidding on the silent auction items. New officers were elected; they will be ratified at this meeting.

The following slate of officers and board members were presented to be ratified at this meeting. President - Jon R. Rice, M.D., Vice president - Andrew Wilder, M.D. and Secretary-Treasurer - Dennis Wolf, M.D. and Board members elected for three year terms are Heidi Bittner, M.D., Roger Schauer, M.D., and Bruce Dahl, M.D. Dr. Greg Greek and Dr. Andrew Wilder were asked to join the Foundation Board and agreed to serve three year terms also.

The following slate of nominees were offered for Academy offices:

**Vice President:** Chuck Breen, M.D.

**Delegates:** Russell Emery, M.D. and Thomas Cariveau, M.D.

**Alternate Delegate:** Dale Klein, M.D.

**Board of Directors:** Patrick Emery, M.D., Steven Glunberg, M.D., Larry E. Johnson, M.D., Glenn Mastel, M.D. and Bob Wells, M.D.

The results of the election were as follows: Chuck Breen, M.D. **Vice President**; **Delegates** - Russell Emery, M.D. and Thomas Cariveau, M.D.; **Alternate Delegate** - Dale Klein, M.D. **Board of Directors** - Patrick Emery, M.D., Steven Glunberg, M.D., Larry E. Johnson, M.D., Glenn Mastel, M.D. and Bob Wells, M.D.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.



## Mark Your Calendar

# *28th ANNUAL Family Practice Update*

Huntley Lodge  
BIG SKY, MONTANA  
January 17-21, 2005

*Sponsored by the North Dakota Academy of Family Physicians*

Registration Fee - \$475.00  
NDAFP Members—\$400.00  
Out-of-State Medical Residents - \$275.00  
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