



January 23, 2009

Society Outlines 2009 Advocacy Agenda

During its January meeting, the Society's Council approved the advocacy agenda for 2009, defining the legislative and regulatory priorities of the Society for the year. This year the Society will focus on six main topics: biomedical research funding, diabetes, endocrinologist workforce issues, obesity, minority health disparities, and physician reimbursement. The Society will also continue to be active and responsive in the areas of bioidentical hormones, conflict of interest in research, copyright protection, DXA payment cuts, endocrine disruptors, drug safety/shortage/reimportation, hormone abuse, stem cell research, and other emerging issues that become relevant throughout the year.

The coming year promises to be a challenging federal fiscal environment with a projected \$1.2 trillion deficit for fiscal year 2010 and an economy in recession. The Endocrine Society will be working hard to secure federal money for programs and agencies important to its scientific and clinical members and to patients with endocrine diseases and disorders.. The Society faces an uphill battle to convince Congress of the importance of increasing appropriations for the growing biomedical research field, although the research community has strong champions in the House, Senate, and White House. Additional challenges lie in advocating for fair reimbursement under Medicare for physicians' services, and ensuring that the needs of the endocrinologist are addressed in health reform legislation.

In 2009, the Society will continue to be an active leader in the national public policy debate surrounding obesity and diabetes. Congress and various federal agencies continue to craft policy hoping to curb America's obesity epidemic and the resulting increase in obesity's comorbidities. The Society will continue to meet with congressional leaders and Administration officials to provide them with the most up-to-date science and reports from the field so that policy makers have the best available information with which to make decisions. In addition, the Society's Advocacy and Public Outreach Core Committee will build on the exposure received in 2008 for the Society's white paper on increasing minority participation in clinical research.

Stimulus Package Includes Funds for Research

The House Democrats released their stimulus package on January 15, which includes money for the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, and the Department of Energy. If the package passes in its current form, the NIH will receive \$1.5 billion for grants, \$500 million for intramural construction, and \$1.5 billion for extramural facilities

renovation. NSF will also receive \$3 billion and DOE will receive \$1.9 billion. The NIH will be required to spend one half of the \$1.5 billion allocated for grants by September 30, 2009 and the remaining half by September 30, 2010.

The House Appropriations Committee marked-up the bill on January 21 and the House is expected to take up the legislation during the week of January 26th. In the coming weeks, The Endocrine Society will notify its researcher members by email regarding how to contact their members of Congress to support research funds in the stimulus package. Any questions about the House Democratic package may be directed to Stephanie Kutler, Director of Government & Professional Affairs, at skutler@endo-society.org.

CMS to Delay ICD-10 Implementation after Pressure from Medical Specialties

As a result of comments provided by The Endocrine Society and other medical specialties on the difficulty of quickly implementing the new International Classification of Diseases, 10th edition (ICD-10) coding system, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced in its final rule that it will delay implementation of the system. The delay will help to ensure that ICD-10, which is used to code inpatient and outpatient medical diagnoses, is ready for use across the medical community.

In the agency's proposed rule, both ICD-10 and HIPAA transaction standards x12 version 5010 (version 5010), which are to replace the outdated ICD-9 coding system, were to be operational by October 2011. In the January 16 Federal Register, CMS' final rule on the ICD-10 and version 5010 proposals pushed back the compliance date for version 5010 from October 2011 to January 2012, and the implementation date for ICD-10 from October 2011 to October 2013. The delayed implementation will allow providers, health plans, and CMS more time to appropriately test the new system and plan for a smooth transition.

Clinical Practice Guideline on Transgender Care Approved by the Society

Last week, The Endocrine Society's Council approved the Society's 11th guideline, *Endocrine Treatment of Transsexual Persons*. The guideline was developed by a task force of content experts chaired by Wylie Hembree, M.D., with assistance from a medical writer and a methodologist. Co-sponsored by the European Society of Endocrinology, European Society of Pediatric Endocrinology, Lawson Wilkins Pediatric Endocrine Society, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, the guideline addresses treatment of adolescents, hormonal therapy for transsexual adults, long-term care, and sex re-assignment surgery.

The Society's 10th guideline, *Evaluation and Management of Adult Hypoglycemic Disorders*, developed by a task force chaired by Philip E. Cryer, M.D., was approved by Council in October 2008 and will be published in the March 2009 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology & Metabolism*.

All published Society clinical practice guidelines are available at <http://www.endo-society.org/guidelines/Current-Clinical-Practice-Guidelines.cfm>. The guideline on hypoglycemic disorders will be available in mid-April.

The Society has nine other guidelines nearing completion and coming soon. Please contact the Society's Government & Public Affairs department at govt-prof@endo-society.org for more information.

For questions regarding articles listed in *Endocrine Insider* or information on advocacy and policy activities within The Endocrine Society, contact the Government & Public Affairs department:

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