



# DELAWARE ACADEMY of MEDICINE

*...to enhance the well-being of the community through  
education and the promotion of public health.*

## *Year in Review* 2011





The Academy is in good shape, I am happy to report.

In a time of tectonic shifts in the world of medicine, the Academy is secure and well positioned to deliver on its mission of enhancing the health and well-being of the community.

We have refocused our programs to be relevant in a rapidly changing electronic world. We are forging new collaborations to extend and multiply our benefit to society as we steadily expand both our one-time and recurring programs.

We are currently addressing the final details in the long transition from our Lovering Avenue home to our new base of operations on the Christiana campus. I believe the final legal details forging a long-term mutually beneficial relationship are imminent. The devil is always in the details. We can now focus completely on our mission.

Our finances are in good shape because we have carefully addressed both spending and income. Thanks to the careful and frugal budgeting of treasurer Dr. Barry Kayne, executive director Tim Gibbs, and administrator Liz Lenz, our expenses are predictable.

On the income side, our Investment Advisory Committee, chaired by Kent Riegel, has done magnificent work with oversight and direction of our trust accounts with Tiedemann. Financially, we are secure, have a predictable income stream, and are confident in the safe growth of our endowment.

We welcome our first female president, Dr. Kathleen McNicholas, who became president-elect one year after Dr. Kelly Eschbach was elected vice president, the first female to be in the presidential line. These elections reflect the demographic change in our constituency and a pattern of responsiveness that I hope continues in the Academy.

In our roles as physicians, dentists, and surgeons—not to mention our new board colleagues some of whom are “lay” healthcare advocates—we are going to have to deal with issues of access, rationing, and central, regional, and local planning and the ethics that necessarily follow.

Calling ourselves nonpartisan will no longer be a credible excuse to dodge these issues. We have gone from our Ivory Tower to our Silo, and both are crumbling. I am confident that the Academy of Medicine will rise to the occasion.

— Christopher D. Casscells, M.D., *President*

The Delaware Academy of Medicine is a collaborative organization, providing a “meeting place” for the medical and dental professions in the First State.



This 2011 annual review provides a snapshot of the dozens of activities we have sponsored, supported, and promoted over the past year. All of these activities and events are aimed at enhancing the well being of our community through education and the promotion of public health.

By providing student financial aid for physicians and dentists, we **affect** the direction of people’s lives and career directions. Once those students become practitioners, we continue to affect them by providing valuable continuing education options such as our “Top Ten Clinical Pearls for Primary Care Providers.”

We **apply** our resources to promote such activities as Sports Medicine Grand Rounds and the Global Health Series.

The Academy has tremendous **impact** on the community through programs like our medical mission to India for eye care and our production and dissemination of vaccine and immunization awareness materials for patients and providers.

We **reach** out to the broader community by providing valuable health-related information through the Gail P. Gill Consumer Health Library and the medical library at Penn Presbyterian.

We **touch** the lives of consumers and patients through programs like the Delaware Mini Medical School, talks on medical-legal partnerships as a path to better patient outcomes, and talks on compliance, adherence, and persistence to prescription drugs by patients.

The Academy also uses its position at the center of the Delaware medical community to **influence** public opinion in a positive way. Examples include an editorial on not “criminalizing” all physicians (written in response to the Bradley case) and testimony on specialty tier drug pricing by insurance companies and its impact on public health.

As always, partnership and collaboration are strong traditions of the Academy, as are those programs that are uniquely ours. We look forward to the opportunities ahead as we pursue our mission of education and the promotion of public health.

— Timothy E. Gibbs, *Executive Director*

*...affect*

*...reach*

*...influence*

*...touch*

**...IMPACT**





# Delaware Mini Medical School

Delaware Mini Medical School, jointly sponsored with Christiana Care Health System, provides participants with a window into the latest trends in medicine—without the stress of exams and sleepless nights. In 2011, the free six-week lecture series presented information on topics including heart disease, women's health, diabetes, stroke, shortness of breath, and interventional radiology.

Now in its fifth year, Delaware Mini Medical School is open to high school students and adults of all ages and backgrounds. The two-hour lectures, delivered by local experts in medicine and science, are geared toward creating a more educated public in all areas of health from wellness and prevention to diagnosis and treatment of disease.



In 2011, each lecture attracted between 100 and 150 participants, some seeking guidance in career choices, others looking to make positive changes to improve their own health, and still others just wanting to learn more about advances in modern medicine. Participants also have the opportunity to ask questions of the faculty after each lecture.

In addition to improving the public's understanding of medicine, the series is aimed at encouraging middle and high school students to learn about medicine and health as possible career options. Delaware Mini Medical School is offered in New Castle County and downstate in Sussex County.

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## The Power of Partnerships

Many of the education and public health initiatives we support are carried out in partnership with other organizations, and feedback we've received suggests that we're playing an important role in facilitating these programs.

*Update 2011: Managing Educational Outcomes for Children with Hearing Loss* brought together educators, speech pathologists, audiologists, and physicians through chaired sponsorship of the Delaware Academy of Medicine and the education advocacy group Choices Delaware. After the event, otolaryngologist Michael Teixido wrote to us:

“Working with the Academy has been a pleasure, and I can truly report to you that Academy of Medicine is indeed *fulfilling* its mission of providing essential education to physicians and the public regarding health issues.”

Last May, Tim Gibbs chaired a panel discussion—“Medical Ethics: How Should Scarce and/or Expensive Resources Be Distributed?”—at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. In thanking Tim for his participation, Osher's Diana Stevens wrote:

“Your questions and the honest, informative answers the panelists provided were *excellent*... Students were thinking, questioning, connecting and left the class with a greater

understanding of the challenges healthcare professionals face when it comes to the distribution of scarce and/or expensive resources.”

*In addition:*

- The Delaware Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics acknowledged us in its Summer 2011 newsletter, crediting Tim Gibbs with being “proactive at organizing us to realize the potential of having all these entities [AAFP and ACP] collaborate.”
- The Delaware Valley Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association cited the Academy for providing “amazing support” for a public input session held in August 2011 to inform the development of a National Alzheimer's Plan. Their note said, “This event would not have been possible without it [the Academy's support].”
- Tony Reed, Director of Sports Medicine at CCHS, wrote to express his appreciation for our role in promoting the Sports Medicine Grand Rounds. Tony's letter said that attendance has increased steadily over the past year for this monthly event, and “having the notification feature of those registered is also a benefit, allowing my assistant to plan room/seating scheduling and food more efficiently.”

We're always pleased to know that our support is helping to foster collaboration and promote professional development as well as public education in a broad range of health-related areas.



The Delaware Academy of Medicine was founded by fifteen doctors and a dentist in 1930. Their goal was to provide a professional library and a meeting place where doctors and dentists from all over the state could gather to exchange ideas and experiences and so improve the quality and delivery of medical care. They also intended the Academy to be a historical repository for the Delaware medical community, documenting and memorializing the lives of its members.

Dr. Lewis B. Flinn served as the Academy's first president, occupying the office for twelve years. Many years later, in 1984, the Academy's library was renamed in his honor.

The Academy was originally housed in the former Bank of Delaware building, which was built in 1815 on Sixth and Market Streets in Wilmington. After the bank vacated the building in 1931, Mrs. Henry B. Thompson and Mrs. Ernest I. duPont led a fund-raising drive to purchase the structure for the newly founded Academy.

With their help and support, the building was relocated to a site on Lovering Avenue. The Academy took up residence there in 1932. In 1958, an addition was constructed, expanding the auditorium and creating more office space for the various medical groups that had their offices in the building.

In the fall of 2006, the Academy moved to the John H. Ammon Medical Education Center at the Stanton Campus of the Christiana Care Health System. This move was the result of a strategic alliance set in motion in the late 1990s between the Boards of Christiana Care Health System and the Delaware Academy of Medicine.

*The Academy provides a broad range of services to the First State, including:*

- Financial aid to medical students totaling \$1.7 million to date.
- Health information resources, including a professional reference librarian service and vetted internet resources.
- Consumer health information services at public libraries in Kent and Sussex Counties through a partnership with the Delaware Division of Libraries.
- Lectures and seminars to educate the public on important health topics.

## Student Financial Aid

The Delaware Academy of Medicine approved **\$108,000** in loans for **12 Delaware students** studying medicine and dentistry in 2011.

The Academy's Student Financial Aid program was established in 1961 to encourage Delaware students to study medicine and dentistry. To date, **over 300 students** have received close to **\$2 million** in loans.

The program is self sustaining in that the loans are given based on the amount of money collected annually from the students after they graduate. Most medical/dental students come out of school with more than \$100,000 in debt. To relieve some of the debt burden, repayment doesn't begin until after the students graduate. This year, we increased the total loan amount per student to \$9,000 a year.

Any student interested in applying for a loan can submit an application to the Academy by May 15th of each year. To be eligible, students must be Delaware residents currently studying medicine or dentistry at an accredited graduate school.

Funds are made available through endowments established by doctors, dentists, and other benefactors. The Academy has six separate funds specifically for the purpose of issuing student loans.

## Top 10 Clinical Pearls

Each year, the Delaware Academy of Family Physicians and the Delaware Academy of Medicine jointly sponsor a monthly lecture and discussion series called Top Ten Clinical Pearls: Year in Review.

"The Top Ten Series has been an incredible opportunity to bring together colleagues from primary and specialty care, in a setting that is both academic and collegial," said Omar Khan, MD, MHS. "The speakers have been top notch and the topics pertinent and timely. The Delaware Academy of Family Physicians has been extraordinarily pleased with this joint venture."

- January - Pediatrics
- February - Update on Vascular Disease Management
- March - Psychiatry Today
- April - Orthopedics
- May - Dermatology and Allergy
- June - Pain and Palliative Care"
- September - Thoracic Problems in your Patients and Surgery Management of Lung Cancer
- October - Urologic Update: Robots, Romance, and Erectile Restoration
- November - Models of Primary Care Practice

## History & Archives

For more than 80 years, the Academy has been the recipient of various collections of historically significant books and periodicals, medical instruments, and equipment. Major additions were made to these collections in 2011, including the donation of 21 books by New Castle bibliophile Herbert T. Pratt.

Valued at more than \$2500, the collection includes books dating as far back as 1792, with an additional eight volumes published in the 1800s. The titles alone provide a window into the practice of medicine in earlier eras: *Electricity as a Medicine and Its Mode of Application* (1887); *Venereal Diseases and All Their Forms* (1881); and *Chloroform – Its Actions and Administration* (1865). The Academy is privileged and grateful to have acquired this unique and valuable collection of rare books.

In addition to the Pratt collection, the Academy was fortunate to receive the following donations for its archives during 2011:

- Dr. Christopher Casscells donated an entire collection of the *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery* dating back to 1939.
- Diane Klein donated her mother's 1950s-era nursing uniform, pins, and a related nursing book.
- Dr. James Ziccardi donated artwork of the "great minds in medicine" as distributed by Parke-Davis Pharmaceuticals in the late 1950s.



The Academy also has an extensive oral history project underway. We're working on creating short videos from 26 hour-long interviews with local physicians. Their stories are fascinating, from their personal motivations for entering the field of medicine to their recollections of the healthcare scene a half century ago. These important documentaries take us back to a world where doctors took and developed X-rays themselves, hospital wards were racially segregated, and patients spent at least a week in bed after joint replacement surgery.





# Event Sponsorship, Planning, and Promotion Activities

Each year, the Academy of Medicine supports a number of specialty education conferences for the professional medical and dental community, with support ranging from funding to logistics and promotion to full conference coordination. Hundreds of doctors, nurses, physician's assistants, therapists, residents, and medical students attend these events for professional development, continuing education, and networking. All conferences are done in collaboration with other academies and institutions as noted in the list below.

*Conferences in 2011 included a variety of ongoing events, as well as four new conferences and two new series.*

- 9th Annual Sports Medicine Symposium, DAFP
- Vaccine Science, Realities, and Fears in the Popular Mind – College of Physicians of Philadelphia
- 22nd Annual Update in Cardiology – Cardiology Consultants
- SNAP - Special Needs Alert Program and Deaf Culture Training 101 – DE-AAP
- Prevention and Clinical Management of HPV – CCHS
- Delaware Academy of Medicine 81st Annual Meeting – DAM only
- 15th Annual Diabetes Update – CCHS
- Top 10 Clinical Pearls Series – CCHS
- 11th Annual Stroke Conference – DSI
- Delaware Academy of Family Physicians Annual Scientific Assembly and Dinner – DAFP
- 48th Annual William J. Holloway Infectious Disease Symposium – CCHS
- Sussex County Vascular Conference and Wine Tasting – Nanticoke
- Creating Sustainable Models of Primary Care Practice – DAFP, MSD, DSOMS
- R.O.Y. Warren Memorial Seminar – Nemours
- Frank M. Hoopes Memorial Lecture — Delaware State Dental Society
- Ferris Memorial Lectureship in Pediatric Urology – Nemours
- Updates on Breast and Cervical Cancer: Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment – St. Francis Hospital
- Sussex County Vascular Conference – Nanticoke
- CHOICES: Managing Listening, Language & Educational Outcomes for Today's Children with Hearing Loss – DAO

## *New Series*

- Global Health Series – CCHS Residency Council
- Sports Medicine Grand Rounds – CCHS

## *New Conferences in 2011*

- Breastfeeding Symposium – Delaware Breastfeeding Coalition, CCHS, and Nemours

*CCHS - Christiana Care Health System  
DAFP - Delaware Academy of Family Physicians  
DE-AAP - DE Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics  
Nanticoke - Nanticoke Memorial Hospital  
MSD - Medical Society of Delaware  
DSI - Delaware Stroke Initiative  
Nemours - Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children  
DAO - Delaware Academy of Otolaryngology  
DSOMS - Delaware State Osteopathic Medical Society*

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