



Newsletter
November 2014
www.ncderm.org

N.C. DHHS Issues Six-Year Cancer Control Plan, Call to Action

Aimed at reducing cancer morbidity and mortality in North Carolina, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services rolled out a six-year plan, [*The North Carolina Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan 2014-2020: A Call to Action*](#), on Nov. 7. The objectives related to melanoma skin cancer are to 1) reduce the mortality rate due to melanoma and 2) reduce the incidence rate due to melanoma. Support for increased protection for teens from the risks of tanning beds is one of the melanoma cancer prevention strategies outlined in the plan. Cancer is currently the leading cause of death in N.C., with approximately 50 North Carolinians dying of cancer each day. The plan provides a framework for collaboration among individuals and organizations in the shared goal of reducing the impact of cancer here in our state. A companion community brochure is also available.

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Events



REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

NCDA 2015 Annual Meeting

Jan. 23 – Jan. 25
Grandover Resort
Greensboro

Book your hotel room:
(800) 472-6301



AAD 2015 Annual Meeting

March 20 – 24
San Francisco, Calif.



Click here to renew
your NCDA
Membership.

Six of Seven DermPAC-backed Candidates Win, NCDA Grassroots Rev Up for 2015 Session

By Rob Lamme, NCDA Lobbyist

Six of seven of the N.C. state legislative candidates receiving support from the NCDA's political action committee, DermPAC, won re-election this month. Candidates receiving support from DermPAC included the following winning candidates:



1. Sen. Wesley Meredith (R-Cumberland) – NCDA tanning bed bill sponsor in 2014. Meredith voted against the Medicaid managed care proposal in the Senate – 1 of only 2 Senate Republicans to do so.
2. Sen. Tommy Tucker (R-Union). Earliest tanning bed bill sponsor in the GOP Senate caucus. Tireless advocate on the issue. Sponsor of NCDA skin cancer screening day at the legislature.
3. Sen. Jeff Tarte (R-Mecklenburg). Early tanning bed bill supporter. Also voted against Senate managed care bill.
4. Rep. Skip Stam (R-Wake), Speaker Pro Tem of the House. One of the NCDA's strongest tanning bed bill supporters in 2014. A likely leader in the 2015 House.
5. Rep. Nelson Dollar (R-Wake), Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. An effective advocate for quality medicine and physicians. Tanning bed bill supporter.
6. Rep. Donny Lambeth (R-Forsyth). A retired hospital administrator, Lambeth is a key voice on Medicaid and health policy in the legislature. Early tanning bed bill supporter.

In one of the most contested N.C. House races, Rep. Tom Murry (R-Wake) was the only NCDA-backed candidate to lose his campaign. Murry was an early GOP House supporter of the NCDA's tanning bed bill. A pharmacist who understands Medicaid and medical issues, Murry's strong voice on health care issues will be missed in 2015.

With the election now over, your NCDA Government Relations Consultant, Rob Lamme, will be contacting NCDA members to help them arrange local meetings with legislators to discuss the Association's policy goals for the 2015 Legislative Session, which begins on January 14.



NCDA Lobbyist Rob Lamme is Available to Assist You in Your Advocacy Efforts

To learn more about the upcoming 2015 legislative session, or for help connecting with your elected representatives on these and other issues that impact your practice and your patients, please contact Rob directly [by email](#) or at 919-630-3375. Rob would also be happy to present an in-person legislative briefing to you and your colleagues locally.

NCDA's 2015 Legislative Priorities:

- **Physician-Centered Medicaid Reform** – While Medicaid is a small part of many dermatologists' patient population, proposals to bring for-profit managed care into N.C. for 1.5 million Medicaid patients is likely to have a negative impact on all physicians, including the many dermatologists who work in independently-owned practices in our state. The NCDA will join with the rest of the N.C. physician community in supporting Medicaid reform that allows physicians to provide the best and most cost-effective care for their patients, while preserving a physician's ability to make important clinical decisions at fair and sustainable reimbursement rates.
- **Prohibiting Minors from Using Commercial Tanning Beds** – Last summer, the U.S. Surgeon General issued a national "Call to Action to Prevent Skin Cancer," which included protecting minors from the dangers posed by tanning beds. The NCDA's bill to provide this protection was approved by the N.C. House of Representatives during the 2013-14 legislative session, but was not debated in the N.C. Senate. We hope to win approval from both chambers – and Gov. McCrory – during the upcoming biennium.

Thank you, 2014 DermPAC Donors, for Your Support!

2014 DermPAC Heroes

Russell A. Ball, MD
Craig N. Burkhart, MD
Robert E. Clark, MD, PhD
Timothy C. Flynn, MD
Suzanne P. Hess, MD
Russell J. Kilpatrick, MD
Rob Lamme
C. Brent Mizelle, MD

2014 DermPAC Champions

David W. Corbett, DO
Michael G. Hitchcock, MBChB
Frederick A. Lupton, III, MD
Patrick S. McElgunn, MD, MBA
Susan C. Sanders, MD
Kevin R. Stein, MD
Gregory E. Viehman, MD
Christine A. Yuengel, MD

2014 DermPAC Friends

Claude S. Burton, II, MD
Kimberly R. Edwards, MD, MS, FAAD
Pamela J. Guest, MD
Marie N. Hardy, MD
Stuart M. Hardy, MD
Esther J. Lee, MD
James M. Polo, MD

2014 DermPAC Donors

Sarah H. Cash, MD
M. Elvira Chiritescu, MD
Carol J. Farroch, PA-C
Vikas J. Patel, MD
Richard H. Shereff, MD
W. Harrison Turner, III, MD

DermPAC Donor Recognition Levels

DermPAC Hero
\$1,000+

DermPAC Champion
\$500+

DermPAC Friend
\$365+

DermPAC Donor
\$1+

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to DermPAC**

Trim the Turkey and Give Thanks for... our Amazing NCDCA Annual Meeting Faculty!

While you're trimming the turkey and decking the halls, your NCDCA will be putting the finishing touches on the NCDCA 2015 Annual Meeting, which is coming up on **Jan. 23-25, 2015, at the Grandover Resort** and Conference Center in Greensboro. The NCDCA welcomes **Elise Olsen, MD, FAAD**, to the meeting program. Dr. Olsen is vice president of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), past president and founder of our NCDCA and professor of dermatology at Duke University School of Medicine, among other titles and distinctions of honor. Dr. Olsen will present a clinical session, "*Alopecia Areata: Evaluation and Current Treatments*" and also provide an update on AAD affairs and patient advocacy efforts.



Your 2015 NCDCA Annual Meeting faculty, led by Program Chair **Pamela Guest, MD**, has developed a high quality educational program. The meeting will kick-off on Friday, Jan. 23, with **Kelly West, MD's** "*Scary Cases from the Scope: How Your Dermatologist Helps Protect You.*" Participants will enjoy additional scientific presentations on **melanoma, blistering diseases, pediatric dermatology, veterinary dermatology, mucosal lesions**, and additional topics with broad appeal for the practicing dermatologist. The program wraps up on Sunday with an important **ICD-10 update**.



Additional meeting highlights:

- **Social Events** - Mix, mingle and be merry with your dermatology colleagues during social events on both Friday and Saturday evenings. Live musical entertainment by a noted jazz trio will be featured at the **family-friendly Saturday evening reception**.
- **Resident Papers** – Three of the state's residency programs will be represented at the NCDCA 2015 Annual Meeting. Resident presentations will take place on Sunday, Jan. 25.
- **Exhibit Hall** - Exhibitor support is crucial to our meeting's success. Please share our [Exhibitor Prospectus](#) (PDF) with company representatives that visit your practice.

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Meaningful Use Hardship Exception Deadline Extended to Nov. 30

All eligible providers are encouraged to apply for the meaningful use hardship exception by the new Nov. 30 deadline to avoid a 1 percent penalty in 2015. CMS extended the hardship exception deadline to Nov. 30 amidst pressure from physician groups, members of Congress and others. This action follows a September 2014 ruling by CMS in which providers were given more ways to meet the 2014 requirements for “meaningful use” of an electronic health record system. However, first-time attestors trying to complete the process and avoid the 2015 penalty in advance of the October deadline were unable to do so because of a computer glitch in CMS’ own system. [Sen. Kay Hagan \(D-NC\) also weighed in](#) (PDF), writing, “it is unacceptable for providers... to be penalized for failing to comply with program requirements because of a technological failing by CMS.”

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NCDA Joins N.C. Coalition to Protect Patients

The NCDA and more than a dozen organizations that represent physicians in the state have banded together in the [North Carolina Coalition to Protect Patients](#) (NCCPP), a statewide organization dedicated to promoting physician leadership of health care teams as the cornerstone of patient safety in North Carolina. NCCPP supports our NCDA advocacy efforts by informing policy-makers and opinion-shapers through a targeted media and educational campaign. The NCCPP website, www.protectNCpatients.com, is a resource for up-to-date patient safety legislation being considered in N.C., as well as headlines and commentary on patient safety issues that are important to our specialty.

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Opportunities to Learn About the Accountable Care Model

Recent reports of huge incentive pay days are piquing physicians’ eagerness to learn more about the accountable care model and why it is important in the current and evolving health care climate. Several resources are now available to help dermatologists and practice managers learn about accountable care.

- **NEW!!** The “[Bundled Payment Guide for Physicians](#)” – The newest resources from the Toward Accountable Care (TAC) Consortium, this Guide was prepared for actively practicing physicians, by physicians and their advisors, to serve as your roadmap for bundled payment success.
- The American Academy of Dermatology’s online “[ACO Resource Center](#)” offers many informative resources.
- The first of two NCMS webinars featuring Dr. Terry McInnis, founder and president of Blue Thorn, Inc., a health care consulting company, “[Physician Opportunities in Accountable Care: What You Need to Know](#)” provides an introduction and overview of accountable care. This webinar is free of charge.
- The NCMS’ follow-up webinar, “[Physician Opportunities in Accountable Care: Payment Models](#)” delves into the various payment models. This webinar is also free of charge.

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N.C. Delegation Urges Congress to Protect Patient Access to Care in Washington, D.C.

Five dermatologists from North Carolina attended the American Academy of Dermatology Association (AADA) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., Sept. 7-9, 2014, where they attended educational sessions on advocacy and policy issues and took part in a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill. Highlights of the conference included:

- An engaging discussion of the political environment and the challenges facing the White House, Congress, and the nation by keynote speaker Bob Woodward, author and Associate Editor of The Washington Post.
- An entertaining insider's look into the 2014 elections by one of America's most respected and revered experts on elections and politics, Charlie Cook, a political analyst for the National Journal and author of The Cook Political Report, an independent, non-partisan online newsletter.
- A captivating health policy address by Congressman Michael Burgess, MD (R-Tex.-26), the Vice-Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee.
- A provocative discussion on local advocacy, payment policy, and state legislative and regulatory policy by AADA physician leaders, including North Carolina's Adnan Nasir, MD, and outside organizations.



Bi-Partisan Federal Bill Would Give Providers More Time to Achieve Meaningful Use Requirements

U.S. Representatives Renee Ellmers (R-N.C.) and Jim Matheson (D-Utah) recently introduced The Flexibility in Health IT Reporting Act ([H.R.5481](#)). The bipartisan bill would let providers demonstrate meaningful use with only three months of reporting in 2015. Currently, CMS requires one full year of reporting. Rep. Ellmers also sent a [letter to CMS](#) urging the agency to refrain from penalizing providers as a result of the computer glitch that left first-time meaningful use attestors unable to meet the October deadline.

Consulting Opportunities Available with N.C.-based Physician Re-entry Program, CPEP

The [Center for Personalized Education for Physicians](#) (CPEP) is recruiting N.C. physicians from various specialties to serve as occasional consultants and associate medical directors (AMDs). CPEP is a non-profit group that assists physicians in the process of reentering clinical practice after a prolonged absence as well as providing general competence assessment and remedial education services. Consulting physicians conduct structured clinical interviews with participants in order to gain insight into their experience, thought processes and clinical judgment. AMDs oversee the interview process and are responsible for the final assessment reports. These positions do come with stipends, but consultants and AMDs are more frequently motivated by a desire to give back to both their profession and their community. We invite you to learn more about the available [consultant](#) and [AMD](#) opportunities.

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2014 NCMS Legislative Summary Now Available

The NCMS announces the availability of its [2014 Legislative Summary](#). The document features a complete summary on the key legislative issues that NCMS was engaged in during the 2014 session of the N.C. General Assembly.

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