

Newsletter Date
August 2007

Society of Medical Consultants
to the Armed Forces
www.smcaf.org

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SMCAF ANNUAL MEETING 2007



U.S. Navy Host's 62nd Annual Meeting October 19-21, 2007

The Council will meet on Friday, October 19, 2007 at USUHS in the Board of Regents Room.

The conference will be held all day Saturday and half day on Sunday. We have applied for CME Credit hours for the one and a half days of attendance.

Committees will meet on Saturday afternoon during the scheduled lunch break. Box lunches will be provided for these breakout sessions.

Saturday night there will be a banquet, where spouses and guests are invited. This year the dress will be business attire.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS

More details on the conference, registration, and hotel reservations may be found in this newsletter.

From The President

On October 20 -21 we will have our annual meeting at USU. The agenda for the meeting is available elsewhere in this newsletter. This year there are going to be some slight changes in our meeting format.

The theme of the meeting is Combat Stress Disorders. This may be the first time the Society has focused exclusively on Mental Health in its program. This is appropriate because mental health casualties are the “signature” wounds of the current conflicts. All the terrible physical wounds seen in past wars are still occurring – but in much fewer numbers because of the nature of the current conflicts and the much wider use of body armor. Though there has been much publicity about loss of limbs and TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), the fact is that the total of these types of wounds number only in the several hundreds.

In contrast, the number of men and women serving in the current conflicts suffering from mental health problems associated with deployment are now at least an order of magnitude higher, perhaps two orders of magnitude higher than those with physical injuries. The reasons for this are probably totally because of our greater awareness of them and intensive efforts to find people affected with these disorders. We are finding them, and finding them early.

The military services medical departments and the Department of Veterans Affairs will present the current status of their programs to deal with these problems. We will also hear what we have learned about these disorders from following veterans of past conflicts. We will hear about how the services are handling disability claims and the changes that we can expect to soon see in these programs. Finally we will hear about important ongoing research regarding the long-term health of those who serve in our military in a high level review of the Millennium Cohort Study.

We will also get an update on each services progress in medical recruiting. Saturday evening is where the biggest departure from our usual format will occur. We are doing away with Black-Tie and Mess Dress uniforms, speeches, toasts and entertainment. Instead we'll have a social ½ hour, then our salad and entrée and then we'll go back to the Sanford Auditorium to see the yet to be released film, “Fighting for Life.” This is a ninety-minute film about USU, the war in Iraq and a wounded warrior. If you want to see a trailer of the film go here: <http://www.fightingforlifethemovie.com/> When the film is over we'll return to the dining room for coffee, dessert and conversation. After the film I am sure there will be plenty of the latter.

Harold M. Koenig, M.D.
President, SMCAF

SMCAF 62ND ANNUAL MEETING 2007

DRAFT AGENDA: SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Friday, 19 October 2007

- 0700 Breakfast, Board of Regents Room, USUHS
- 0800 Meeting of SMCAF Council
- 1000 Break
- 1015 SMCAF Business Meeting

Saturday, 20 October 2007

- 0730 Bus pick up at hotel
- 0730 Registration Opens, Building B Lobby, USUHS
Continental Breakfast
- 0815 Welcome & Distribution of Membership Certificates
VADM Harold Koenig, USN, Retired, President, SMCAF
- 0830 USUHS Welcome
President, USUHS
- 0840 Opening Remarks
VADM Adam Robinson, MC, USN
Navy Surgeon General
- 0900 Introductory Remarks, Vietnam POW Experience
CDR Everett Alvarez, USN, Retired, Chairman, USUHS Board of Regents
- 0915 Break
- 0930 Responses to Major Stresses – Timing Duration and Recovery
CAPT Richard Rahe, MC, USN, Retired
- 1030 VA Programs for Veterans with Combat Stress related Disorders
Michael Kussman, MD, Under Secretary for Health, Veterans Health Administration
- 1130 Lunch / Committee Meetings
- 1300 Overview of the WRAIR Research on Veterans of OIF/OEF
Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, WRAIR
- 1430 Break
- 1445 The DoD Mental Health Task Force Final Report
VADM Donald Arthur, MC, USN, Retired

- 1530 The Tri-Service Disability Board
CAPT Noel Howard, MC, USN, Retired
- 1550 Q&A Session
Speaker Panel
- 1630 Buses depart for hotel

Saturday, 20 October 2007

Evening Banquet & Film

Business Attire

- 1830 Buses pick up at hotel
- 1845 Social (cash bar)
- 1915 Dinner
- 2000 Showing of the film “Fighting for Life”
- 2130 Coffee, Dessert & Conversation
- 2230 Buses Depart for Hotel

Sunday, 21 October 2007

- 0730 Buses depart hotel
- 0745 Continental Breakfast
- 0800 Welcome and Administrative comments
VADM Harold Koenig, MC, USN, Retired, President, SMCAF
- 0810 The Millennium Cohort Study
Tyler Smith, Study Director, Naval Health Research Center
- 0915 Break
- 0930 Combat Stress Disorders – The Primary Perspective
COL Michael Roy, MC, USA Department of Internal Medicine, USUHS
- 1100 Problems and Progress in Medical Recruiting
US Army—
US Navy—
US Air Force—
- 1200 Closing Remarks
VADM Harold Koenig, MC, USN, Retired, President, SMCAF
- 1215 Bus departs for hotel

Committee Meetings

For this year's annual meeting committees will meet on Saturday afternoon during the scheduled lunch break. Box lunches will be provided for members to enjoy as they participate in committee meetings. You are encouraged to take up issues in your committee about which the council can discuss, inquire, vote, resolve, study, and engage in correspondence with the OSD, other government agencies, and the Surgeons General. Committee room assignments will be available at the registration desk on Saturday morning.

CURRENT COMMITTEE CHAIRS ARE:

Archives and Medical History:	John R. Pierce, M.D.
Electronic Media and Communication:	A. Herbert Alexander, M.D.
Ethical Issues in Military Medicine:	Edmund G. Howe, M.D.
Legislative and Legal:	Peter F. Hoffman, M.D.
Medical Education:	Joel C. Labow, M.D.
Membership:	Kenneth G. Swan, M.D.
Professional Services:	George K. Anderson, M.D.
Recruitment and Retention:	A. Mason Ahearn, M.D.

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the continuing education program at the 62nd annual meeting of the Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces is to provide continuing education specific to military medicine, uniformed physicians and medical consultants to the armed forces; and provide the opportunity to network for the purpose of advancement of military medicine.

ACCREDITATION

The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences is accredited by the Accreditation Council of Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide education for physicians.

REMINDER LAST CALL!

Come join your friends and comrades at the 62nd annual SMCAF meeting. This year's program is being hosted by U.S. Navy, and it's an outstanding one, centered on topics of currently high interest and concern.

ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION AND HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Registration for the annual meeting may be made by mail or on the SMCAF web site prior to the meeting. Please use the registration form included in this newsletter or you may download one from the website at www.smcaf.org. On site registration will be available for those who were unable to pre-register. **MEAL CHOICE FOR THE BANQUET CAN NOT BE GUARANTEED IF YOU REGISTER ON SITE SO IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE BANQUET IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT YOU PRE-REGISTER.**

The Society has reserved a block of rooms at the Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, located at One Bethesda Metro Center (7400 Wisconsin Ave.), Bethesda Maryland.



Report of the Delegate to the American Medical Association House of Delegates

The Society again observed a tradition begun by the National Medical Veterans Society when it hosted a reception at the AMA House of Delegates Meeting in Chicago on June 23, 2007. About thirty current, former, or future military physicians were in attendance to participate in an open forum on current areas of importance to military medicine. The discussion was moderated by COL (Ret) Earl Fauver the SMCAF Delegate; COL Cathy Nace, Director of Medical Education at Walter Reed and Director of Graduate Education at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center and COL (Ret) Manoli Cassimatis, the AMSUS Delegate. Discussion highlights follow:

Brig Gen David Young USAF MC discussed the progress with implementation of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission recommendations in the San Antonio area. He noted that the emphasis was on graduate medical education (GME) with 600 + residents, 20 specialties at Wilford Hall and 40 specialties represented in SAUSHEC. He briefly described the space limitations at the new Wilford Hall occasioned by limited availability of funding. On the other hand, the new Medical Education Training Campus at Brooke will bring 100 new buildings and 1100 new jobs to the area.

He also discussed the concerns in the Air Force when 43 of 51 selectees for USUHS next year declined the positions. Interviews of those declining did not reveal any specific pattern but the war was an obvious factor in some of the decisions. Maj Gen George Anderson USAF MC (Ret), AMSUS Executive Director spoke of the role of SMCAF in recruiting efforts. He emphasized the importance of quality of life issues and benefits.

Dr. Cassimatis spoke briefly about current issues at USUHS and, in relation to the BRAC, noted that the school would play a greater role in GME. He also noted the increasing involvement of the University in international activities.

BG Michael Kussman MC USA (Ret), newly confirmed Under Secretary for Health of the Veterans Health Administration spoke of the increasingly vital role that the MHS and VHA are playing in the continuity of care of the warriors injured in Iraq and Afghanistan. He emphasized that the federal health system response should be a source of pride and that we should not be ruled by the tyranny of the anecdote as in the case of press coverage of conditions at Walter Reed. He noted that no civilian counterpart for the care of the polytrauma patients even existed. He described PTSD, TBI and polytrauma as the signature injuries of the current war and emphasized that better tracking for those exposed to situations likely to cause TBI was essential since not all affected patients will have identifiable symptoms initially.

Maj Gen Gerry Harmon USAFR MC (Ret) spoke of the need for total human support system with provision of preferential care for the wife and family as well as the injured soldier. Brig Gen Byron Hepburn USAF MC added comments on the synergy necessary between the MHS and the VA.

BG James J. James MC, USA (Ret), Director, Center for Public Health Preparedness and Disaster Response of the AMA, joined the group to discuss the AMA's current and future initiatives in disaster preparedness. Federal/Military medicine is actively represented.

**SOCIETY OF MEDICAL
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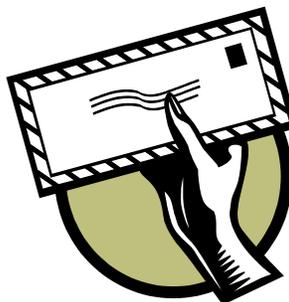
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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.smcaf.org

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Please take time to notify us of any changes in your mailing address,
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