

Newsletter Date

June 2012

# Society of Medical Consultants to the Armed Forces

[www.smcaf.org](http://www.smcaf.org)

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## **SMCAF ANNUAL MEETING 2012**

### **67th Annual Meeting November 11 - November 16, 2012**

This year's conference will be held in conjunction with the AMSUS 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting being held in Phoenix, AZ. CME Credit hours will be available. Continuing education forms may be obtained at the Continuing Education Desk.

For further information and registration visit the AMSUS web site at:

<http://www.amsus.org/index.php/annual-meeting>

Registration & Hotel Block Opens on August 20<sup>th</sup>

Preliminary Program available in August

### **PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



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

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

In late April, your SMCAF Council met at USUHS for our business meeting. And by the way, members are invited to attend. We just need to know ahead of time in case the number exceeds the capacity of the Board Room.

SMCAF and AMSUS continue to pursue our planned partnership. To that end, Dr. John Chandler is heading the transition team on the SMCAF end to complete that endeavor. Some of the issues discussed and likely to be resolved include the amount of membership dues and the amount SMCAF members have to pay to attend the portion of the AMSUS Annual Meeting that includes the SMCAF meeting. AMSUS is working on a prorated charge based on the number of days attending (2 days if just attending SMCAF). Also, our plan is to reduce the SMCAF dues to what they were before the last dues hike in consideration of the fact that we are also now required to pay annual dues to AMSUS.

While I'm on the topic of dues, have you paid your annual SMCAF dues? This is something easy to overlook, as the "invoice" appeared in the newsletter. Please take a moment to review your check register to see if you paid. I'm embarrassed to say, that I overlooked the notice; that's why I'm mentioning it here.

Other new developments include our new acting President-elect, MG George Weightman, MC, USA (ret). We welcome his experience and leadership. We have some new initiatives that are in the development phase. We're exploring the possibility of having a Spring Meeting in conjunction with our Council meeting. We're exploring revitalizing the concept of SMCAF's mission as "consultants" by tapping the expertise of SMCAF members and making them available to the various MTF's.

If you have thoughts on any of the above or other suggestions, please don't keep them to yourself. Email me at [herb\\_alexander@msn.com](mailto:herb_alexander@msn.com).

Respectfully,  
A. Herbert Alexander, MD  
CAPT, MC, USN (ret)  
President, SMCAF

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**MINUTES FROM THE SPRING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE  
SOCIETY OF MEDICAL CONSULTANTS TO THE ARMED FORCES**

**April 13-14, 2012**

**Attendance:**

Dr. Herb Alexander, President, 13 and 14 Apr  
Dr. John Chandler, Vice President, 13 and 14 Apr  
Dr. Kevin Berry, Secretary-Treasurer, 14 Apr  
MG George Anderson USAF, MC (ret), Executive Director AMSUS, 13 Apr  
Dr. Fred Cecere, Past President, 13 and 14 Apr  
COL Dominic DeFrancis, 13 Apr  
Dr. Edmund Howe, 13 Apr  
Dr. George Weightman, Councilor, 13 and 14 Apr  
Dr. Fred Sanford, Councilor, 13 and 14 Apr  
Dr. David Lichtman, Councilor, 13 and 14 Apr  
Dr. A. Mason Ahearn, Councilor, 13 and 14 Apr  
COL Cathy Nace, Councilor, 13 and 14 Apr  
Ms. Margo Cabrero, Assistant to the President, 13 and 14 Apr

Meeting called to order at 1300 13 April 2012 by Dr. Herb Alexander.

1. The minutes of the November 2011 were approved.
2. MG George Anderson, Executive Director of AMSUS was present for a discussion of the partnership of AMSUS and SMCAF. Though the plans have been made, the process to actually doing so has stalled somewhat. In accordance with the vote of the SMCAF membership, we will now hasten the process. Many issues regarding the partnership were discussed. Specifically, SMCAF raised its dues without really discussing with the AMSUS leadership and it was suggested that we probably should reduce the dues to what they were previously as all SMCAF members now also pay AMSUS dues. We also discussed getting relief from paying the meeting fee for the AMSUS Annual Meeting since most SMCAF members are in attendance for only 2 days. MG Anderson mentioned that a prorated meeting fee is in the works. Also discussed was "control" of the Federal Physicians/SMCAF section at the annual meeting. Essentially, this meeting has replaced our annual meeting and its SMCAF's desire to have control of this portion of the AMSUS Annual Meeting. The SMCAF Council voted to proceed with the partnership and to form a transition team to do so. This passed unanimously. MG Anderson asked Dr. Alexander to send a note to him formally notifying AMSUS of this decision. Dr. Chandler was appointed to head the transition team with additional team members to be Dr. Berry, Margo Cabrero, and Dr. Alexander (ex officio).
3. COL DeFrancis, who was appointed by AMSUS to head the SMCAF/Federal Section, presented the plans for the meeting. Theme for Physician Section for AMSUS meeting in conjunction with SMCAF: "Prevention, Treatment and Long Term Care of Combat Wounds Both Seen & Unseen". COL Joe Anderson, (SMCAF Liaison to AMSUS for the meeting), had planned to phone in but was unable. His report was circulated after the meeting but was covered by COL DeFrancis. COL Anderson's report appears below:

"AMSUS Annual Meeting Federal Physician Section Academic Program: Coordinating with Col Dom DeFrancis and Maj Eric Sherman plus Dr Alexander to plan themes and speakers. Other members of AMSUS planning committee are CDR James Oberman and CDR Edward Chin.

**MINUTES FROM THE SPRING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE  
SOCIETY OF MEDICAL CONSULTANTS TO THE ARMED FORCES CONTINUED**

**April 13-14, 2012**

- Currently proposed themes are Warrior Care (“Prevention, Treatment and Long Term Care of Combat Wounds Both Seen & Unseen”) as well as Disaster Response Medicine. Some potential speaker and topics include
  - Christopher Born (chair of orthopedics at Brown University) – speak about disaster medicine
  - Urologist at Jacksonville who won Bronze Star and wrote book entitled “On Call in Hell”
  - CAPT Marlene DeMaio – AD physician at NMC Portsmouth who worked on new innovations in body armor
  - PTSD day program at Jacksonville run by civilian psychologist – includes aggressive day treatment, art and equine therapy
  - Dr. Carmona – previous surgeon general who currently lives in AZ
  - Chronic pain session
  - Lessons learned in military trauma care
  - Primer on blast and high velocity injuries for primary care providers
  - Health care needs of amputees
  - Representatives from Japanese Defense Force Surgeon General to speak on Japanese Defense Force response in Operation Tomadachi.”
- 4. Several names were brought up to be the speaker for the Enrique Mendez SMCAF luncheon.
  - Task: Dr. Lichtman will invite Andrew Gurman, MD (Speaker of the House of Delegates for the AMA) for the 2013 meeting and Dr. Alexander will invite LTG Bruce Green (Air Force Surgeon General) for the 2012 meeting.
- 5. SMCAF Constitution and bylaws were discussed. Last revised Nov. 2010. Several changes were made and the changes will go to the membership for review and then will be voted on at the annual meeting in Nov. 2012. Task: Dr. Lichtman will prepare the draft to be circulated to the Council. If any further changes needed, the Council is to get back to Dr. Lichtman.
- 6. The meeting was adjourned until 0830 14 April 2012.

The meeting was recalled to order 0830 14 April 2012 by Dr. Herb Alexander.

- 7. Allgood Memorial – Dr. Mason Ahearn, MD. Army COL Brain Allgood, MC, died with 12 others in a helicopter crash in Iraq 20 January 2007. SMCAF and The Society of Military Orthopedic Surgeons (SOMOS) deposited \$5000 each into a Henry M. Jackson Foundation account in order to fund a memorial statue on the campus of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS). Dr. Ahearn communicated with Dr. Dale Smith, PhD, Chairman of the Department of Medical History, USUHS, who said the University would not approve the proposed Allgood memorial since COL Allgood was not a graduate or a faculty member of USUHS. Dr. Fred Sanford added USUHS and the Chair of Friends of USU, Tammy Alvarez, “has lost interest.” A new direction was taken.
  - Motion Passed: Explore with AMSUS a SMCAF-sponsored award for selfless service in operational medicine in the face of significant personal risk.
  - Tasks: Dr. Kevin Berry, draft an introductory letter to AMSUS. Dr. George Weightman will contact San Antonio to see if they would be interested in this memorial. Dr. Ahearn will touch base with SOMOS about their feelings on the different options since they have donated \$5000 to this memorial.

**MINUTES FROM THE SPRING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE  
SOCIETY OF MEDICAL CONSULTANTS TO THE ARMED FORCES CONTINUED**

**April 13-14, 2012**

8. The history of the specialty of Emergency Medicine – Dr. Alexander. Dr. Lee Payne is coming to the DC area in the summer/fall and could not be in attendance at the Spring Council meeting. He is pursuing a scholarly work on the emergency medicine topic.

9. Electronic Media – Dr. Alexander. Dr. Alexander has been managing the SMCAF website for about 10 years. The cost is modest, \$84 per 3 years. AMSUS and SCMAF share links to each other's websites. Drs. Weightman and Berry suggested SMCAF could develop a strategic communication plan. Task: Drs. Alexander and Berry.

10. Legislative and Legal Affairs – Dr. Fred Sanford.

- The DoD submitted its plan to GAO for review for the Defense Health Agency (DHA) that would subsume the TRICARE Management Activity, the National Capital Region and the 12 or so other multiple service medical markets. The DoD plan recommended the DHA be led by a 3-star Flag or General Officer. If approved by Congress the DoD would establish the Defense Health Agency by 2 January 2013. The Service Surgeons General would retain control of service assets.
- United Health Military and Veterans Services won the re-compete of the TRICARE west region's third generation managed care support contract from TriWest. TriWest has held the contract for about 16 years protested the contract award and the selection is under review.

11. Succession Plan – Dr. Alexander. Dr. John Chandler tendered his resignation as current Vice President. The SMCAF Nomination Committee, Dr. Mason Ahearn, Dr. Fred Cecere, and Dr. Herb Alexander nominated Dr. Weightman as Vice President.

- Motion Passed: To install Dr. Weightman as acting Vice President pending full vote of the membership in November 2012. Dr. Chandler was appointed the Chair of the AMSUS-SCMAF Transition Team.

12. Membership – Dr. Alexander. Membership numbers were discussed. At the time of this meeting, SMCAF has 42 paying members for 2012. Would like to see more MD's joining in the future. Numbers are important but quality is what is looked for. Membership goal will be to get 100 paying members. Confirm nominees for SMCAF membership.

- Motion Passed to approve the following membership applications: Joseph B Anderson, MD, Family Medicine, Aerospace & Preventive Medicine; Honorary Member Pawan Goyal, MD, otolaryngology; Member Joyce Johnson, MD, Public Health, Preventive Medicine, Psychiatry; Member Peter B. Letarte, MD, neurosurgery; Frank Nuar, MD, Emergency Medicine; Lee E Payne, MD, Emergency Medicine.
- Task: Dr. Weightman will put together a strategy plan. Dr. Alexander will pursue communications with the active duty service specialty leaders.

13. Discussion of a possible Spring Meeting in Washington DC in partnership with USUHS and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Consider Grand Rounds on Friday, CME meeting Saturday morning, Council Meeting Friday and Saturday afternoon, social gathering Saturday night. The idea needs development. Also discussed was a return to our roots as an organization of consultants. This would be a new "consultant" program tapping in to the expertise of SMCAF members and making them available to the various MTFs.

- Task: Drs. Weightman, Chandler, Nace and Berry.

**MINUTES FROM THE SPRING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE  
SOCIETY OF MEDICAL CONSULTANTS TO THE ARMED FORCES CONTINUED**

**April 13-14, 2012**

14. AMA Update – COL Cathy Nace.

- AMA Delegate meeting June 2012. COL Nace will provide a report of the Federal Caucus to SMCAF.
- No military Issues to report.

15. Medical Education – COL Cathy Nace.

- New duty work hour restrictions for interns will be 16 hours in a row followed by a 10 hours rest period. Senior residents could work hours more than 16 hours in order to follow patients' inpatient course in preparation for post-residency work requirements as long as the senior resident adheres to the 80 hours per week limit.
- The Joint Commission is lobbying ACGME to develop guidelines for levels of supervision of residents.
- Talk about 'strategic napping'.
- Residents in the Millennial Generation are having trouble with professionalism more so than other generations. Greater numbers of residents are late, not returning pagers, leaving pagers turned off, and lying.
- Training Programs are increasing Residents' exposure to Patient Safety committee activities and residents are participating in Root Cause Analyses.
- Overall, military GME is performing better than civilian GME. First-time Board pass rates:
  - Navy – 95%
  - Army – 92-93%
  - Air Force – 93%
- The military training programs are experiencing relatively high rates of dropouts, academic probation, and problems of professionalism for the incoming classes of 2004-2007, the lean years for Health Professional Scholarship Program (HPSP). GME candidate numbers and the quality applicants have recovered since the beginning of the Great Recession in 2007. Army is developing HPSP minimal recruiting standards to include minimal MCAT scores (i.e., 24 overall, no less than an 8 in any of the three sections).
- Case mix and patient volumes are low in the National Capital Region and in San Antonio. A couple of unnamed surgical programs have had to decrease the numbers of residents in each year group. Because patient numbers are down, the Residency Programs are making greater use of out-service rotations at an increased cost.
- The Residency Review Committees (RRCs) require continuity of the Program Directors (PDs). During the long war the Army has been deliberating managing dwell time for PDs. Air Force and Navy have not done this and have had RRCs findings due to poorly timed deployments and turnovers of the PDs.
- The quality and quantity of teaching faculty has been degraded over the last decade because Majors (Lieutenant Commanders) are more likely to leave the service than in the previous decade. Exit interviews indicate families are not able to sustain multiple deployments.
- Interns are showing low interest in: Aerospace Medicine, Psychiatry, and Primary Care, especially Family Medicine.
- Question from Dr. Chandler: Are simulation centers helpful? Answer: Yes, but not yet a major factor due to poor funding and lack of support staff. Program Directors and Directors of GME are still marketing the concept and the practice of simulation centers. Madigan Army Medical Center has the most mature simulation centers in the Army GME system.



**MINUTES FROM THE SPRING COUNCIL MEETING OF THE**  
**SOCIETY OF MEDICAL CONSULTANTS TO THE ARMED FORCES CONTINUED**  
**April 13-14, 2012**

16. The Military Coalition (TMC) – Dr. Sanford. The DoD's proposed increase in user fees is the big issue for TMC. Only a few organizations are holding out for no increase in fees. But most TMC member organizations are resigned to some increase and a formula for annual fee increases. MOAA is advocating the cost increases to be indexed to the cost of living adjustment (COLA). TRICARE For Life fees are expected to increase as well.

- Dr. Chandler asked about the impact on the MTFs, won't patients be driven away? Answer with support from Dr. Weightman: Yes that is the risk. The Services are talking again about ways to recapture patients, ways to give the Commanders the authority and responsibility for all the care in the multiple service markets.

17. Meeting adjourned at 1130 14 Apr 2012 by Dr. Alexander.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kevin G. Berry, M.D.  
Secretary-Treasurer, SMCAF



## **67<sup>TH</sup> SMCAF ANNUAL MEETING**

The 67th SMCAF Annual Meeting 2011 will be held in conjunction with the AMSUS 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ Nov. 11 – Nov. 16. Registration and housing, which open's August 20<sup>th</sup>, will be handled by AMSUS, and only through their website. Housing must be procured through the AMSUS Housing Bureau in order to get the military per diem rate. SMCAF members need to register on line for the AMSUS Annual Meeting, when registration opens in August. The meeting registration fee for current SMCAF members will be determined by your membership category in AMSUS. SMCAF luncheon and Awards Banquet tickets will be extra. Upon arrival, members will need to pick up their badges and meal tickets at the registration area.

All additional meeting registration information is available on the AMSUS website:  
<http://www.amsus.org/index.php/annual-meeting>

**We look forward to seeing you 11 November - 16 November in Phoenix, AZ  
for the 67th Annual Meeting.**

## **67<sup>TH</sup> SMCAF ANNUAL MEETING**

- Registration will open August 20<sup>th</sup>. All members, non-member, early bird and onsite rates will be made available at that time.
- Housing will open on 20 August. In order to receive the prevailing government per diem rate you must book through the AMSUS website. All properties will be listed when housing is available.

To register and find information visit the AMSUS web site at:  
<http://www.amsus.org/index.php/annual-meeting>

The SMCAF Meeting will take place on November 14 and 15, 2012. The SMCAF Council meeting will be on November 13, 2012 at 1600 hrs.

The Annual SMCAF Luncheon with the Fourth Annual Enrique Mendez, Jr., M.D lecture will be on November 14, 2012.

Please Note: The date will not change; however, the room location could so please double check room numbers upon arrival. It is important that all attendees check the AMSUS website for the most up to date information.



### ***SMCAF AWARD***



At the Graduation Awards Ceremony on 10 May 2012 for the Class of 2012 at the School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, the Vice Admiral James A Zimble SMCAF award was granted to the student who had achieved the highest level of academic performance over all four years. This year, COL Joseph Anderson, on behalf of SMCAF presented the award to Second Lieutenant Daniel Brillhart, MS, USA.

2LT Brillhart has 6 years of prior service as an Armor Officer, including a combat tour in Iraq. His awards include the Bronze Star and the Meritorious Service Medal. While a student at USUHS, 2LT Brillhart earned the Dean's Award for Academic Excellence in both his MSI and MSII years. Dan has served as the USU student representative to the AAMC since 2008, and was nominated by the Dean for the national student position on the LCME. He was also appointed by the Commandant as a student representative to the Middle States Accreditation Committee. Dan is an active student member of the AMA and the SAEM, EMRA, and ACEP. In addition, Dan has participated in research with one peer-reviewed publication and one poster presentation over the past four years. His overall academic excellence was recognized when he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society in his MSIII year.



**FINAL REMINDER**

ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR SMCAF 67<sup>TH</sup>/ AMSUS 118<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HANDLED BY AMSUS: MEETING REGISTRATION; HOTEL REGISTRATION; SMCAF LUNCHEON; AWARDS BANQUET AND ALL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE THROUGH THE AMSUS WEBSITE. ALL REGISTRATIONS OPEN ON THAT WEBSITE AUGUST 20<sup>TH</sup>. THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER MAIL-OUTS FROM SMCAF REGARDING MEETING REGISTRATION.

AMSUS WEBSITE IS <http://www.amsus.org/index.php/annual-meeting>

***ACTIVE & ASSOCIATE  
MEMBERS*****Dues Notice**

If you are an "Active or Associate Member" of SMCAF, you are required to pay dues annually.

Active members are physicians who served on active duty in one of the branches of the Uniformed Services of the United States and who have served as Medical Consultants to a component of the Uniformed Services. Physicians in the reserve components who are consultants are also qualified for Active Membership. All active members are required to pay dues in the amount of \$100 on a yearly basis.

Associate Members are those of similar qualification to Active Members, currently on Active Duty. All associate members are required to pay dues in the amount of \$100.00 on a yearly basis.

If you have any questions in regard to your membership status, contact the Executive Director at [smcaf@usuhs.mil](mailto:smcaf@usuhs.mil)

**SMCAF**

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We're on the Web!  
*See us at:*  
**[www.smcaf.org](http://www.smcaf.org)**

**IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP  
INFORMATION CORRECT?**

**Is your information correct?**

**Please** take the time to notify us of any changes in your mailing address, phone numbers, e-mail address, and on retirement from or termination of Active Duty.

Also, be sure that we have your current e-mail address as all future correspondence will take place only by e-mail.

