

Philadelphia Medicine



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Incoming PCMS President will stress unity while recognizing diversity

By David Woods, PhD



The theme for her term of office, when she becomes the 142nd president of PCMS later this month, is contained in two simple words: *in unison*, says Dr.

Sheila Moriber Katz. "It's about *we*, not *me*." And it's about the patient.

Dr. Katz, whose medical training was at Duke, Yale, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the University of Pennsylvania, also has an MBA from the Wharton School of Business.

A pathologist, she was the first to detect and find the microbe of Legionnaire's Disease, and her work in renal pathology and transplantation has led to her more than 200 published works, including in the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *JAMA*. Asked to set up a pathology division at Hahnemann in 1974, she later became Dean of that Medical School. In 2000, she served as executive director of President Bill Clinton's White House Committee on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy.

The rationale for her theme *in unison*, says Dr. Katz, is that Philadelphia is a diverse medical community. It contains representatives of different employment and life situations—academics and private practitioners, young and old, native and foreign-born, solo and group physicians, myriad specialties and subspecialties. She wants not only to form a bond—*in unison*—among those professionals, but to get them actively involved in PCMS on

behalf of patient care. *In unison*, she will also pursue current joint efforts between PCMS and its political partners and will explore new collaborative activities in the city and environs. Specifically, she says, opportunities for doctors to work *in unison* include medical liability reform; insurance and reimbursement issues; access to medical care, and patient advocacy. "That's my agenda," she says. "And I intend to stick to it."

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Dr. Katz and her husband, gastroenterologist Dr. Julian Katz (PCMS' 138th president) have two children (Drs. Jonathan Katz and Sara Ward) and two in-laws (Drs. Sharyn Ingram Katz and Parker Ward), all physicians. Their grandson, Jack Parker Ward, 2, has not yet declared himself. Dr. Katz describes herself as a problem solver who enjoys reaching solutions and taking action. Her most recent venture, NewMedicine, LLC, concerns itself with the future of medicine.

When not involved in her many professional activities, Dr. Katz's cerebral ones include being a serious poet, and an infatuation with the spoken and written word; her physical ones include weight training and indoor rowing.

In unison and diversity? Her varied interests vested in one individual exemplify those traits.

The Philadelphia County Medical Society 2003 Award Recipients

Strittmatter Award Recipient:

PAUL BRUCKER, MD



Since 1923, the Strittmatter Award has been presented to a physician who has made the most valuable contribution to the healing arts—surgical or medical. Dr. Brucker has been a member of the Society since 1960 and is the current President of Thomas Jefferson University.

Practitioner of the Year Award Recipient:

JUDITH A. FISHER, MD, FAAFP



The Practitioner of the Year Award goes to a physician who demonstrates dedication to the profession in the areas of quality patient care and community service. The

Award is supported by the Wiener Fund established by Jacob S. Wiener, MD, member of PCMS, and honors the memory of Rose Janet Feldman Wiener.

Cristol Award Recipient:

SUCHA O. ASBELL, MD



The Cristol Award is presented to a physician member of The Philadelphia County Medical Society who has made a significant

contribution to the Society, past or present, furthering and enhancing the educational, scientific and charitable goals, purposes and functions of organized medicine.

PCMS Board of Directors invites you:
**President's Ball & Awards Night
Annual Meeting**

Sheila Moriber Katz, MD, MBA will be installed as the Society's 142nd President

Friday, June 20, 2003
Park Hyatt at the Bellevue
Broad & Walnut Streets

Reception: 6 PM
Program, Dinner & Dancing: 7 PM
Guests Invited • Black Tie Preferred
Cost: \$90 per person;
residents and students \$50

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editorial

A call to arms: Get involved

By Stephen L. Schwartz, MD



We congratulate those physicians who participated in political protests during the last few weeks throughout Pennsylvania. Many are still continuing

with these efforts. These physicians are exercising their constitutional right to protest government inaction in effecting lawsuit abuse reform. We applaud them and encourage all physicians to get involved one way or another.

As your President, I have participated in several events. I was one of the speakers at the rally at the Valley Forge Convention Center on Monday, April 28. Three thousand physicians and supporters engaged in a spirited protest. Speakers included United States Congressman James Greenwood, Pennsylvania Speaker of the House John Perzel, Pennsylvania Senator and Majority Whip Jeffrey Piccola, Pennsylvania Rep Ellen Bard, Pennsylvania Rep and House Majority leader Samuel Smith and Pennsylvania Senator Connie Williams.

We received extensive media coverage. Although the coverage was not always entirely favorable, it served to keep the issue in public view.

We are indebted to many groups and physicians for making it such a success. The Philadelphia County Medical Society participated with the other county medical societies in our area in helping to coordinate, staff and pay for the event. However, we are mostly indebted to the Politically Active Physicians Association (PAPA) and its founder and leader Dr. James Tayoun. He and his organization were the driving force behind the success.

I also spoke at the Philadelphia County Medical Society's "We Care" program on Wednesday, April 30, at PCMS headquarters. One hundred and fifty block captains from the City of Philadelphia attended a presentation by the Cardiovascular Institute on the effects of obesity on health. Other participating organizations included the Visiting Nurses Association, City of

Philadelphia Department of Public Health, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and the Philadelphia Corporation for Aging. We served a specially prepared healthy lunch for all attendees. Fifteen physicians in white coats mingled with the attendees to answer general questions regarding health and medical care.

Residents from each block in the city elect captains who meet with the city leaders to discuss certain issues. The captains then have the responsibility to pass the information on to those from their blocks who elected them. We have identified certain captains who function very well and meet with them periodically. This particular event gave

Political protests during the last few weeks throughout Pennsylvania gave physicians the opportunity to show patients that even though we were not in our offices, "we care" about the health and needs of patients.

us an opportunity to explain why physicians were not in their offices and to educate them on the need for tort reform. It also gave physicians the opportunity to show patients that even though we were not in our offices, "we care" about the health and needs of patients.

The Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society together with the Politically Active Physicians Association led a rally at Love Park across from City Hall in Philadelphia on Thursday, May 1. More than 500 physicians and supporters participated.

Speakers included Pennsylvania State Representatives Ellen Bard and Melissa Murphy Weber. PCMS helped advertise this rally by mailings and through our web site. I was proud to be there and am pleased that we helped it succeed.

On Tuesday, May 6, the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the Politically Active Physicians Association staged rallies on the steps of the Capitol in Har-

Please see A call to arms on page 3

Incoming State Secretary of Health will stay connected to physician community

Governor Ed Rendell's cabinet nominee for Secretary of Health, Dr. Calvin B. Johnson, plans to tackle broad public health issues such as bioterrorism, emerging diseases such as SARS and re-emerging ones such as West Nile Virus. And he wants to enlist the state's medical community in those endeavors.

"I understand the many challenges facing the medical profession," he says, "But physicians' primary goal is to provide optimal health to their patients. Even in the midst of their current concerns they can have a major impact on public health issues."

Stating that he intends to stay connected to and involved with the physician community, Dr. Johnson is understandably reluctant to comment on pressing issues now facing doctors, such as the medical liability crisis and physician flight from Pennsylvania, until after his official confirmation by the State Senate.

He did note, though, that he expects to play a role in the Governor's Office of Health Care Reform, chaired by Rosemarie B. Greco, part of whose mandate is the malpractice issue.

One specific issue he will have to come to grips with is deciding whether

the State should have a physician general, a position that is optional when the Secretary of Health is also a physician. Before assuming his new office, replacing nonphysician former Secretary of Health Robert Zimmerman, Dr. Johnson, 36, was a pediatrician at

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Temple University, where he was also on the faculty of that University's School of Medicine. A native Philadelphian, he graduated from Johns Hopkins where he also attained a master's degree in public health.

Married, with a three-year-old daughter, Dr. Johnson's particular hobby is the martial arts—specifically karate—which, along with his public health credentials, might prove to be a useful additional qualification for the skirmishes that may lie ahead.

—David Woods

A call to arms *from page 2*

risburg. We estimate 3,500 physicians and supporters rallied. It was spectacular. Speakers included Pennsylvania Senate Majority Whip Jeffrey Piccola; State Senator Jake Corman; Rep. Sam Smith, new House Majority Leader; PMS President, Dr. Edward Dench; and Politically Active Physicians Association founder, Dr. James Tayoun.

I was pleased to be selected to read aloud the names of many of the physicians who have been forced to retire or reduce practice because of the cost of insurance. Prior to the rallies, I visited the offices of State Representatives John Perzel, Ellen Bard and Melissa Murphy Weber to thank them for their support. I also visited the offices of State Representatives William Keller and Denny O'Brien who are considered swing votes.

Many other rallies and "We Care" events occurred in this region and throughout Pennsylvania. Many physician organizations worked together to make them effective. The Philadelphia County Medical Society, other county medical societies in this region, Politically Active Physicians Association, Pennsylvania Medical Society, and the Pennsylvania Orthopedic Society each played a lead role in the events I attended.

All these physician organizations are allies. I urge you to join each one for which you are eligible. Contribute to their PACs. Rally and get public attention.

I urge you to speak to your patients. At a minimum you should have literature in your waiting room that explains the tort reform issue. The Pennsylvania Medical Society has numerous publications that you can distribute to patients. You can access them on www.codebluecentral.org or by calling PMS at 800-228-7823.

Take the initiative now. This is a war. This is a call to arms. Get involved. This battle did not end on May 6, 2003. This struggle will continue and continue until there is sufficient change to permit doctors to practice in Pennsylvania and to protect access for our fellow citizens.

—Dr. Schwartz is President of PCMS

Immediate access to tort-reform information

We encourage you to visit these web sites for instant updates on tort reform efforts:

- Philadelphia County Medical Society at www.philamedsoc.org
- Pennsylvania Medical Society at www.pamedsoc.org
- Politically Active Physicians Association at www.fightingdocs.org

In addition, PCMS sends out e-mails regularly. Do we have your e-mail address? If you have not been receiving the PCMS e-newsletter, e-mail us at stat@philamedsoc.org.

We Are United

The Pennsylvania Medical Society delivered the We Are United document to all Pennsylvania legislators. It protests a broken liability insurance system and includes the names of more than 140 organizations representing nearly every physician in Pennsylvania. PCMS was one of the first to sign.

The document reads in part:

What we need now!

"Real" tort reform

- Caps on noneconomic awards (\$250 K)
- California-style limits on attorney's contingency fees and limits on delay damages

The complete document is posted on the PCMS web site (see below).

50 Years of Medical Service Awards Graduating Class of 1953

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 Zefferino A. Aversa, MD
 *Grace A. Bastian, MD
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 *Jose G. Hamann, MD
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 Bernice S. Silver, MD
 Joseph W. Simpson, MD
 Albert D. Wagman, MD
 Howard F. Warner, MD
 Joseph A. Witkowski, MD
 Ruth P. Zager, MD
 * Deceased

Want to attend the PMS Annual Meeting? Here's how.

PCMS may need additional physician members to represent Philadelphia physicians and patients at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Medical Society in Hershey, PA at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center on Saturday, October 18, and Sunday, October 19, 2003. Expenses will be reimbursed.

This is an opportunity to have a voice in setting your medical society policy. All physician members are welcome. Call 215-563-5343, Ext. 102.

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