



Volume 3 • Issue 2 • Spring 2012

# No Bones About It

## Not Politics As Usual

by **Joe Prud'homme, MD**  
**President, WVOS**

The West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS) visit to Capitol Hill during the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference was similar to those in previous years, but with one big exception.

We got to have a long and personal meeting with Senator Manchin. He was very open, straight forward and explicit about which of our issues he could support and which he would not. He even told us exactly why. In the past, we have had some success in getting a personal audience with some of our members of Congress. Recently, we have always gotten to meet with at least one of the three. Two years ago, all three met with us. We have not had any chance to visit with our Senators in the recent past.

We have been working hard for three years to get in

to speak to them. Senator Rockefeller always said, "No thanks, talk to my staffer." This year Senator Manchin said, "Yes." This kind of access can be very crucial.

The concept of the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) came from the Senate, and, effectively, only the Senate can kill it. It has been a long time since the medical profession has been at such great risk for a major loss of control over what happens to us and to our patients. The appointed and all powerful IPAB board can tell us "no" at any time they want. If we allow this board to come in to being, visiting with our Congressman or Senator will have a lot less impact. They have no power over the IPAB board decisions. The only hope is to repeal the IPAB legislation altogether.

**Politics** Continued on page 8

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# The View from K2

Changes  
(mostly  
onerous)  
are coming  
to medicine.

My first time flying "solo" at the AAOS Board of Councilors meeting in Washington, D.C. last month was invigorating. A lot is happening on the national scene that will make a huge impact (mostly onerous) on how we practice orthopaedics.

Let's begin:

- **Medicare audits.**

Presently, CMS is performing audits and take-backs in Florida and Texas for total joints. Spinal fusions also are being evaluated. Where West Virginia stands in the pecking order is unclear; however, it is coming. Our Academy is taking steps to be proactive rather than reactive in regards to these audits. Please contact me ASAP if you or your hospital is being audited. The rumor is that audits will begin nationwide in November.

- **Evaluating our practice performance.**

There is a big push for evidence based standards. Unfortunately, many payers are using proprietary guidelines (i.e. Milliman) that have no transparency in how they come to their decisions. The AAOS is working on transparent evidence based guidelines that we may utilize. If anyone has the opportunity to become involved in this process, it is imperative to

join and let your data be included.

- **The Independent Payment Advisory Board.**

This has been repealed by the House, but no action is planned by the Senate. The general thinking is that if the Supreme Court throws out "Obamacare", the issue becomes mute. We should know something by June.

- **Maintenance of Licensure.**

As of this writing, I know of nothing going on at our state level, but we must be vigilant on this issue.

- **Blowing in the wind.**

There is a whole lot of alphabet soup changes coming down the road, including:

- RAC Recovery Audit Contractor
- VBP Valued Based Purchasing
- VPM Valued Based Modifier
- SCIP Surgical Care Improvement Program
- HAC Hospital Acquired Condition
- PQRS Physician Quality Reporting System
- FOS Full of ----
- QRUR Quality and Resource Use Reporting

**View from K2** Continued on pg 8

# 2013 "Spring Break" Meeting



Based on the success of the 2012 event, highlighted on the following pages, the 2013 West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS) and West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives (WVAOE) "Spring Break" Meeting is staying at Stonewall Resort!

Make plans now to attend the 2013 "Spring Break" Meeting on April 26 and 27. There are several additions to the meeting, including the fact that it will be a "combined" meeting with the WV Physical Therapy Association. While we will have separate clinical sessions, there will be joint activities during the weekend.

The fun begins Friday with golf tee times starting at 11:00 a.m. We have reserved eight tee times for foursomes. The golf fee is \$89, and includes green fees, a shared golf cart and unlimited use of the practice facility.

Additional Friday activities will include a special session on drug diversion, now required for licensure, and the Business of Orthopaedics seminar for residents at Marshall and West Virginia Universities. A reception will take place

during the evening.

Saturday morning will begin with a continental breakfast, followed by our outstanding array of speakers. The final topics for the meeting will be announced following the August 24 membership meeting at The Greenbrier.

The meeting is open to physicians, physician assistants, allied health professionals and exhibitors.

The sleeping room rate will include your sleeping room, all meals, the resort fee, on-site parking, shuttle service throughout the park, local telephone calls, high speed internet access and Wi-Fi throughout the facility, use of fitness equipment, indoor/outdoor pool, sauna, steam room, paddle boats, canoes, kayaks, mountain bikes, excursion boat and basic fishing equipment. For those wanting to bring the family, rates are available for Saturday night.

Additional details will be available later this year, but go ahead and put us on your calendar for 2013. You won't want to miss the fun, fellowship and learning!

**Don't miss the  
fun, fellowship  
and learning...  
put  
April 26-27  
on your  
calendar now!**

By WVOS Program Chair Jack Steel, MD

# 2012 MWM Called "Best Ever"

Members raved  
about the 2012  
meeting!  
Make plans  
now to attend  
the 2013  
meeting on  
April 26-27.

The 2012 WVOS MidWinter Meeting, focusing on diagnostic and therapeutic injections in orthopaedics, saw a gathering of orthopaedic surgeons from across the state for this first-ever meeting at Stonewall Resort.

This event featured golf on Friday, a reception in the exhibit hall and our first speaker on Skype, Dr. Brian Cole of Chicago.



We'd like to thank our speakers: Injections About the Knee, Jack Steel, MD, Scott Orthopedic Center, Huntington, WV; Injections About the Foot and Ankle, Robert Santrock, MD, WVU Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Morgantown, WV; Injections About the Hip, Tony Majestro, MD, Orthopedic Healthcare Associates, Charleston, WV; Visco-Supplementation, William Post, MD, Mountaineer Orthopaedic Specialists, Morgantown, WV; Platelet Rich Plasma, Brian Cole, MD, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, IL; Injections About the Shoulder, Joe Prud'homme, MD, WVU Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Morgantown, WV; Injections About the Wrist

and Hand, Alan Koester, MD, Marshall University Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Huntington, WV; Epidural Steroid Injections, Matt Walker, MD, Brain & Spine Specialists, Charleston, WV; Current Issues in Physical Therapy, Eric Tarr, DPT, Generations Physical Therapy, Milton, WV; Orthopaedic Residency Update, Ali Oliashirazi, MD, Chair, MU Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Huntington, WV; ACL Reconstruction in Obese Patients, Michael Chambers, MD; Constraining Function as a Means of Reducing OR Traffic, Jonathan Salava, MD; Sports Health Benefits of Vitamin D, Matthew Wingate, MD; Orthopaedic Residency Update, Sanford Emery, MD, Chair, WVU Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Morgantown, WV; COX-2 Inhibitors and Wound Healing Complications, Mark Floyd, MD; Effect of Femoral Component Design on Patellofemoral Crepitance and Patella Clunk Syndrome after Posterior Stabilized Total Knee Arthroplasty, Benjamin M. Frye, MD; and Impact of Repeat CT Scans on Care of Trauma Patients, Alvin Jones, MD.



**Best Ever** Continued on page 5

## Best Ever Continued from page 4

In addition to the WVOS meeting, members of the West Virginia Association of Orthopaedic Executives (WVAOE) met with a focus of "Personnel and Practice Issues: Enhance Your Bottom Line."



WVAOE speakers included: Ten Secrets About HR in WV I Wish Every Practice Manager Knew, Bernie Deem, President, DeemHR, Charleston, WV; Utilizing Portable Ultrasound in Your Clinic, Ben Dings, Carticept Medical, Inc., Pittsburgh, PA; Practice Issues Surrounding Meaningful Use Readiness and ICD-10, Antoinette Summers, West Virginia University Dept. of Orthopaedic Surgery, Morgantown, WV; and Motivating Without Money, Bernie Deem.

Our attendees had some great comments to make about the speakers, the topics and the venue:

- Overall great experience.
- All topics were excellent and relate to everyday orthopaedics.
- Enjoyed resident papers -

please continue.

- Best WVOS meeting ever.
- Must keep it at Stonewall Jackson and keep it in April.
- I like the focus over the potpourri.
- Great family friendly location.
- The Skype presentation was great.
- Very well organized.

We'd also like to thank our exhibitors: Biomet Tristate; Bledsoe Brace/Rocks Medical, Inc.; Carticept Medical; CityInsurance Professionals; DePuy Orthopedics; EHRsolutions; Eli Lilly and Company; Ferring Pharmaceuticals; Janssen; McKinley Carter Wealth Services; Medtronic; Medtronic Advanced Energy; Mid Atlantic Surgical Systems (Arthrex); Ossur Americas; Sonoma Orthopedic Products; Stryker Surgical; Stryker Three Rivers; Synthes; Wright Medical Technology, Inc.; WV Medical Insurance Agency; and Zimmer-Randall Associates, Inc.



Our first meeting at Stonewall was very well received!



By WVOS Executive Director Diane Slaughter, CAE, APR, Fellow PRSA

# WVOS Leaders Visit Capitol Hill

Please contact your legislators and urge their support of our legislative positions on bills.

Representatives of the West Virginia Orthopaedic Society (WVOS) visited offices of West Virginia's Congressional delegation as part of the AAOS National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference in April.

The delegation included WVOS President Joe Prud'homme, MD, Vice President David Ede, MD, AAOS Councilor Greg Krivchenia, MD, and Executive Director Diane Slaughter, CAE, APR.



As you know, orthopaedic physicians get people back to work and lives they love throughout life. The WVOS delegation asked the West Virginia Congressional delegation to:



- Support H.R. 1409 to allow physicians to negotiate to provide the

best care to patients through fair application of antitrust laws.



- Support a "clean" IPAB repeal bill if H.R. 5 does not become law.



- Help Americans face the challenges of bone/joint issues with unencumbered access to care.

Photos:

Left column, top photo, from left: Joe Prud'homme, Greg Krivchenia, Senator Joe Manchin, Dave Ede and Diane Slaughter.

Left column, bottom photo, from left: Congressman David McKinley and Greg Krivchenia.

Right column, top photo, from left: David Ede, Joe Prud'homme and Senator Joe Manchin.

Right column, bottom photo, from left: David Ede, Congresswoman Shelley Moore Capito, Joe Prud'homme, Greg Krivchenia and Diane Slaughter.

# AAOS collecting patient stories

Your Academy is launching a new public awareness campaign called "A Nation in Motion: One Patient at a Time." This campaign will tell the stories of patients across the country whose lives have been saved or restored by orthopaedic care.

As you know, our strongest ambassadors are our patients, whose lives are forever changed by our care. With this in mind, we ask that you identify patients who are willing to share their stories of restored independence, productivity and improved quality of life.

Here's how you can help us make this initiative a success:

1. Choose patients whose stories embody "A Nation in Motion: One Patient at a Time."
2. Talk to them—or ask someone in your office to do so—and invite your patients to submit their

stories on our website, [www.anationinmotion.org](http://www.anationinmotion.org), or alternatively, ask them for permission to use their story. Then you or someone on your staff can then submit the stories on their behalf.

3. We would like to have these responses as soon as possible.

AAOS staff members will contact some of these patients to develop more comprehensive profiles. In April, selected stories will be shared on the Academy's new "A Nation in Motion" website as part of a national media outreach campaign launch.

Thank you in advance for your leadership and participation. If you have any questions or would like additional information about this campaign, please call or email Sandra R. Gordon, 847-384-4030 or [gordon@aaos.org](mailto:gordon@aaos.org).

**Share your  
patients'  
stories with  
the nation.**



**Don't miss the fun, fellowship and  
learning...April 26-27, 2012!**

**Alphabet soup  
on the rise.**

**Get to know  
your elected  
officials.**

## **K2 View Continued from page 2**

EOC Episode of Care  
(not Equal  
Opportunity  
Commission)

and the list goes on and on  
and on and on.....

We will discuss these in  
future newsletters as they  
come to the forefront in

the changing health care  
paradigm. I can see the  
excitement (or depression) in  
the eyes that are reading this.

“If you fail to prepare, you  
have prepared to fail.”

- Mark Spitz

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## **Politics Continued from page 1**

Everyone is sitting back  
and wanting to see if the  
Supreme Court throws out all  
of “Obama Care” lock, stock,  
and barrel. If they do, then  
IPAB will get thrown out with  
it. You may be able to breathe  
easily for a year or two. But it  
will come back. Our medical  
care costs are unsustainable.  
Our own Senator Rockefeller  
wrote the IPAB legislation.  
He won’t talk to us about it.  
Senator Manchin at least has  
an open mind and is willing  
to look at alternatives. So

please, visit with your elected  
representatives. Establish a  
relationship so that when a  
major issue affecting your  
patients arises, such as IPAB,  
your representative will take  
your call and listen to your  
opinion. But to have any  
real influence, they have to  
know and trust you before  
you need their ear. So if you  
should see Senator Manchin  
at an event, introduce  
yourself, and please tell him  
thanks for taking time to talk  
to the WVOS.