



North Carolina Dermatology Association

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DermNews

January 2012

President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

Happy New Year! I am pleased to share with you our first NCDAs newsletter for 2012 – I hope that it will help keep you up to date with the goings on among dermatologists in North Carolina, as well as the North Carolina physician community.

2012 promises to be another busy year for the Association, with our Annual and Summer meetings, as well as an increasing profile in state policy circles and engagement with state and federal legislators. Your support of these activities has been impressive and I know I speak on behalf of the NCDAs leadership in expressing my appreciation.

In 2012, the Association and its members will continue to work with other physician groups to protect the landmark medical malpractice reforms achieved in 2011. These reforms took more than a decade to achieve but will only last if doctors and other healthcare stakeholders are vigilant in protecting them. That means making sure the legislature does not tinker with the new rules during the 2012 short session, which begins in May. We will also continue to educate legislators about the risk of tanning beds for children and others in North Carolina.

Another part of our work in the New Year is to support those elected officials who support our policy priorities. One way to do that is contribute to *DermPAC*, which provides financial support for candidates who are advocates for dermatologists and quality patient care. If you have not made a contribution to *DermPAC*, I hope you will consider joining me in doing so early in 2012.

Another way to help support good policy and good medicine is to contribute a few hours this spring to the Association's *Skin Cancer Screening Day* at the Legislature, when dermatologists from all over the state will provide free screenings for legislators and staff. This is a great way for legislators to learn more about our work and our issues - and for doctors to learn more about our state government. An invitation for this event – including specific dates and times – will reach you shortly and I hope you will choose to participate.

Finally, you will find contact information for me and the rest of the Association's board of directors inside – please feel free to contact us. We welcome your ideas and suggestions about how NCDAs can better serve you and your patients. Thank you again for your support.

Sincerely,
Craig Burkhart, MD, President
NC Dermatology Association

2011 Legislative Update

Rob Lamme, NCDA Lobbyist



The North Carolina Dermatology Association took its advocacy and policy work to a new level in 2011 –and built momentum for the 2012 session of the North Carolina General Assembly, which begins in May.

Last spring, the Association hired Rob Lamme, to help guide its work in the legislature and join with the rest of the medical community to win important reforms in North Carolina’s medical malpractice laws. By working with other specialty societies, the Association helped establish a \$500,000 cap on noneconomic damage awards. We also helped win changes in the state’s tort system to reduce jury awards.

North Carolina was also one of more than twenty state legislatures that considered regulating tanning beds this year. The Association’s bill to limit teens’ access to tanning beds was sponsored by all of the physician-members of the legislature and approved by a key legislative committee. The bill also garnered statewide media attention and helped us lay the groundwork for future success on this important preventive health initiative.

With the state’s finances expected to be tight again this year, the Association’s legislative agenda for 2012 will include preserving Medicaid rates for physicians and protecting the gains we have made on medical malpractice reform. The Association will also host a Skin Cancer Screening Day for legislators and staff to help build awareness of dermatology issues. Look for announcements early in 2012 regarding the date and time for this event.

Finally, the Association is working with the American Cancer Society, The UNC-Chapel Hill School of Public Health and others to educate legislators and others about protecting children from the dangers of indoor tanning.

For more information about how you can be involved in the Association’s policy and advocacy efforts, contact Rob at roblamme@gmail.com or (919) 630-3375.

NCDA Government Relations Consultant Visits Doctors, Practices

The Dermatology Association’s government relations consultant, Rob Lamme, will be traveling across the state in 2012 to update members about the Dermatology Association’s legislative work and hear from them about their policy priorities.

Lamme (pronounced LA-may) has represented the Dermatology Association in the state legislature since March, 2011. He is President of Rob Lamme and Associates, a government relations, communications and policy consulting business based in the Triangle.

As the Dermatology Association’s consultant, Lamme advocates for issues of special concern to dermatologists while also assisting in the NC Medical Society’s efforts to address issues of concern to the entire physician community.

Lamme is the former Government Relations Director for the NC Department of Health and Human Services and former Budget Director and Communications Director for the North Carolina Senate.

Lamme spearheads the Association's government relations work under the auspices of Association Executive Director Alan Skipper and the Association's Executive Committee.

To schedule a meeting for a practice, physician discussion group or an individual meeting, contact Lamme at roblamme@gmail.com or (919) 630-3375.

DermPAC Report Card



DermPAC, the political action and education committee of the NCDA, continues to grow and a big Thank You goes out to all NCDA members who have joined the ranks of *DermPAC* supporters. In 2010 our PAC had 22 members as contributors and in 2011 that number grew to 34. This increased involvement has enabled us to establish and build relations with candidates and legislators, which is vital in our effort to improve the public health and patient care in North Carolina. There is no better example of effective political advocacy than this past year's success with Medical Liability Reform. That experience gave all of medicine some advocacy momentum and we must seize the opportunity to build on that success.

Online contributions to *DermPAC* are now possible. You can access our new online payment option at:

<https://secure.pirya.com/donate/OBN2cq9n/ND-Dermatology-Association-Political-Action-Committee>

Thank you for your support of our advocacy efforts.

New Study Links Indoor Tanning to BCC

A new study in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology links indoor tanning to the development of basal cell carcinoma (BCC). Anti-indoor tanning advocates know well that the evidence linking indoor tanning with melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, and squamous cell carcinoma, one of the more common forms of the disease, is abundant. But research concerning the use of tanning beds and the development of BCC, the most frequent type (accounting for 80 percent of non-melanoma skin cancers) has been inconsistent at best. Now advocates have new research to link tanning to BCC.

The Yale Study of Skin Health in Young People is a case-control study of early-onset BCC conducted in Connecticut between July 2007 and December 2010. The study enrolled 389 patients who had to be younger than 40 years at the time of skin biopsy, reside in Connecticut, speak English and be mentally and physically capable of completing all study components. The study also included 458 control subjects.

The results were noteworthy. Indoor tanning was associated with a 69 percent increased risk of early-onset BCC, and this association was stronger for those patients with multiple cases of BCC. Of importance to state legislative efforts to prohibit tanning for minors under the age of 18, BCC risk was higher for the youngest age of initiation (younger than 16 years). Furthermore, risk of early-onset BCC was significantly increased with every use of each type of tanning device, with stronger associations for high-speed/high-intensity and high-pressure beds.

The study's findings are in line with and extend the recent conclusions of the International Agency for Research on Cancer's (IARC) decision to reclassify UV-emitting tanning devices as a group 1 carcinogen. The results also fulfill many of the criteria for causality including biologic plausibility, strength of the association, and dose-response effects among other factors. For a link to the study, visit <http://www.aad.org/member-tools-and-benefits/publications>.

NCMS Adopts Indoor Tanning Policy

At its 2011 Annual Meeting, the House of Delegates of the NC Medical Society adopted a new policy stating that “the North Carolina Medical Society supports state legislation banning minors under 18 years of age from indoor tanning salons.” The NCMS has been a partner with the NCDA in working to strengthen North Carolina’s indoor tanning law.

AIM at Melanoma names its first Chapter President in NC

AIM at Melanoma, the largest international foundation dedicated to melanoma research and patient advocacy, has named Anne Stokes Bowman as president of its Charlotte chapter - it’s first in North Carolina.

Bowman is responsible for the foundation's fundraising and volunteer efforts in North Carolina and will also support AIM’s public policy initiatives, including the NC Dermatology Association’s efforts to protect children from tanning beds.

Bowman first became involved with AIM after her 2010 Melanoma diagnosis. In November 2011, she coordinated the AIM for a CURE Melanoma Walk in Charlotte, NC. The inaugural event included almost 200 volunteers and raised more than \$37,000.

In addition to experience as a teacher, Bowman has also worked in marketing and event planning. She lives in Charlotte, NC with her husband, Brent, and their two children, ages three and one. She can be reached at anne@AIMatMelanoma.org or 704-907-7113.

AAD Happenings – 2012 Annual Meeting



Made your plans for the Academy meeting in March?

Information is available online at:

<http://www.aad.org/meetings-and-events/annual-meeting>

2012 NCDA Summer Meeting

Mark Your Calendar!

July 13-15, 2012

The Homestead / Hot Springs, VA

NCDA Leadership

President Craig N. Burkhart, MD Department of Dermatology UNC-Chapel Hill 410 Market Street, Suite 400 Chapel Hill, NC 27516 919-966-4035 919-966-5008 FAX craig_unc@yahoo.com	President-Elect Robert E. Clark, MD, PhD Cary Skin Center 200 Wellesley Trade Lane Cary, NC 27519 919-363-7546 919-363-3616 FAX rclark@caryskincenter.com	Secretary-Treasurer Susan C. Sanders, MD Dermatology Group of the Carolinas 335 Penny Lane Concord, NC 28025-1221 704-784-5901 704-785-8097 FAX susancsand@yahoo.com
Past President Elizabeth F. Rostan, MD Charlotte Skin & Laser 130 Providence Road, Suite 100 Charlotte, NC 28207 704-333-9113 704-333-9757 FAX elizabeth.rostan@charlotteskinandlaser.com	Executive Director W. Alan Skipper PO Box 27167 Raleigh, NC 27611 919-833-3836 919-833-2023 FAX askipper@ncmedsoc.org	

NCDA Membership – It’s Time to Renew

Renew or Join Online: www.ncderm.org

Thank you for your membership!
