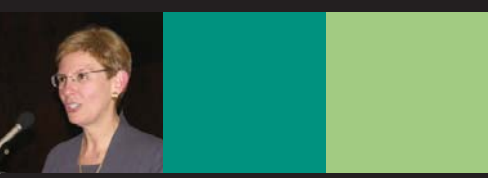




Continuing Medical Education Connections

Volume 3, Number 2

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Does Your Regularly Scheduled Series Need Help? Do You Know? by Lea Mabry, MEd

Do your participants sign in, sit down, and retreat into their I-phones or Blackberries, take a nap, or otherwise disengage? Even if they are interested and participating, how do you know that your learners are learning? Moreover, and most importantly, are the learners in the RSS able to meet the objectives that you set out at the beginning of the year? Are you closing the identified practice gaps? How do you know?

Course directors are required to evaluate each series on an annual basis. However, is this adequate? If you have a patient that is not responding to treatment, how do you know? Do you not continue to monitor the patient and change treatment if the original course of treatment is ineffective? Of course you do.

Well, education is often like a patient. It needs to be monitored and if it is not bringing about the desired results, then perhaps adjustments or changes need to be made. Effective CME should address identified practice gaps that the targeted participants have in their knowledge, competence, and/or performance in order to improve their patient's outcomes. Performing an evaluation quarterly or semi-annually can identify strengths and weaknesses in the current instruction. Analyzing the results of this formative evaluation allows for corrections to improve the instruction and hopefully, bring about improved patient outcomes.

Begin this mid-year evaluation by reviewing your planning documents. What are the practice gaps you identified in your needs assessment? Are those gaps being reduced or closed? If no changes are yet evident, ask why. Are we addressing the appropriate topics? Are we using effective instructional methods? Next ask, if no changes are made, will the gaps be closed by the end of the year?

Why wait until the annual evaluation to discover that you completely forgot to address one of your objectives? Conducting a mid-year evaluation will allow you to make informed decisions that may make the difference between effective and ineffective CME. Can your patient outcomes afford to wait another year?

See page 3 for links to information on performance. . .

Published by
UAMS Office of
Continuing Medical Education
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Little Rock, AR 72205

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in the
spotlight:

LAUREN WILLIS



Lauren Willis is our CME Associate of the Quarter because she does an outstanding job organizing the Diamond Conference, an annual conference about pediatric respiratory issues. She has worked diligently over the years with exceptional professionalism to provide great quality education. Lauren is very thorough and pays close attention to details to make sure everything is done correctly. She is not only an asset to Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) but to the UAMS CME department as well. Thanks for all that you do. You are truly a pleasure to work with. Keep up the great work Lauren!!

How long have you worked for ACH? I have worked in the ACH Respiratory Care Services Department for 14 years.

How long have you been planning The Diamond Conference? This is a long standing conference, but I've had the pleasure of serving on the planning committee for the past 11 years.

What do you like best about the work you do to support The Diamond Conference offered through ACH Respiratory Care Services? I enjoy working with our team to plan interesting topics that relate to our audience and advance education in the areas of professional care practices, research, and evidence-based medicine.

What is your advice for planning CME activities? My advice is to work closely with the experts in the CME office to navigate the ACCME regulations.

What is the most surprising thing that has happened or that you have observed during your CME work? The most surprising that has happened during the Diamond Conference was when the Fire Marshall came to the hotel and required testing of the internal fire alarm system which interrupted the conference. Needless to say, the alarm system was very loud and annoying. Everyone had to keep their hands over their ears for what seemed like an eternity.

What do you like to do for fun and relaxation? I enjoy spending time on Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs, AR.

Please share something interesting about yourself...A few things you may not know about me include that I once sang with my college choir in the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra. I have been salmon and halibut fishing in Alaska. I love to cook and frequently subject my family to new recipes.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Please join us to view the following live webinars to be held at Freeway Medical Towers, Suite 502. There is no charge to attend but please register so that we can have enough handouts ready. You may register by calling the OCME at 661-7962

Engaging Physicians in Quality Improvement by Teaching a Fair Culture: Partnering of CME, Medical Staff, and QI Leaders

Tuesday, December 14, 2010
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

The State of CME Funding

Tuesday, January 18, 2011
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

The experienced staff in the Office of Continuing Medical Education can provide a variety of meeting planning services (with or without CME credits) to help ensure your meeting is a success!

Select from a menu of services to match your needs and budget.

- Full and Customized Meeting Management Plans
- Provide Convenient Online Meeting Registration
- Marketing and Promotion Coordination
- Syllabus Preparation and Production
- Evaluation Data Summary
- Commercial Support Coordination
- Accredited CME Provider

As a nationally accredited provider of AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™ we can also guide you through the process of providing an educational activity that is in compliance with the Essential Areas and policies of the Accreditation Council of Continuing Medical Education.

Improving Practice, Improving Outcomes by Barbara Smith, RN, BSN, CPC

Since its beginning in 2003, the Antenatal and Neonatal Guidelines, Education and Learning System (ANGELS) has offered interactive video continuing education opportunities to Arkansas' health care providers via a variety of discipline-specific teleconferences. Held at regularly scheduled times throughout each month, the teleconferences invite physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to meet interactively to discuss obstetrical and neonatal issues pertinent to practice today. The teleconferences are sponsored by the UAMS College of Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and the ANGELS Program.

During the High Risk Obstetrics Teleconference, active learning begins with a case study by family practitioners and obstetrical providers from across the state. Specialists from multiple disciplines such as maternal-fetal medicine, neonatology, anesthesiology, psychiatry, and internal medicine contribute current expertise and management practices. This teleconference has grown beyond Arkansas borders to include discussions with physicians from other universities in the United States and around the world, including Ecuador, Germany, India, and Russia.

This continuing medical education forum contributes to the development of obstetrical guidelines as an educational strategy to improve practice and positively impact patient outcomes. Expanding this venue in collaboration with Arkansas Children's Hospital and the Center for Distance Health, the PedsPLACE teleconference contributes to the development and distribution of neonatal and pediatric guidelines.

To date, thanks to physician participation and this teleconference forum, over 150 evidence-based guidelines for high-risk obstetrical, neonatal and pediatric conditions have been developed and are available on the internet at www.uams.edu/angels or by mail on a CD upon request. Quick facts from the ANGELS web site demonstrate over 1,700 registrants access the guidelines or information regarding the teleconferences and hail from 45 states and more than 20 countries.

Interactive video provides the capability of collaboration unheard of just a few short years ago. We invite you to participate in this provider-driven network that focuses on improving obstetrical, neonatal, and pediatric outcomes throughout Arkansas! For more information, visit our website or email smithbarbaral@uams.edu.



Links to performance information continued from page 1:

National Quality Assurance and Research Data Sources

Quality Measures

National Quality Forum – ABCs of Measurement

National Quality Measures Clearinghouse

Performance Measures

AMA Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement (PCPI)

Commonwealth Fund – States Scorecard

Commonwealth Fund – Arkansas Scorecard

National Guidelines Clearinghouse

Registries

Comorbid Disease Management Database (COMMAND)

UPCOMING EVENTS

2010

DECEMBER

- 02 **Medical Practice Comprehensive Risk Management**
Washington Regional Medical Center, Fayetteville, AR
- 09-12 **2010 Advances in Inflammatory Bowel Diseases**
Westin Diplomat, Hollywood, FL
- 10 **2010 Oncology Update for the Primary Care Physician**
UAMS Winthrop Rockefeller Cancer Institute

2011

MARCH

- 05 **Kidney Update 2011**
UAMS Reynolds Institute on Aging
- 10-12 **Symposium on Critical Care and Emergency Medicine**
Arlington Resort Hotel, Hot Springs, AR

APRIL

- 09 **Diabetes Update 2011**
UAMS I Dodd Wilson Ed Bldg, Little Rock, AR
- 14 **Best Practices in the Continuum of Care**
Crowne Point, Little Rock, AR

MAY

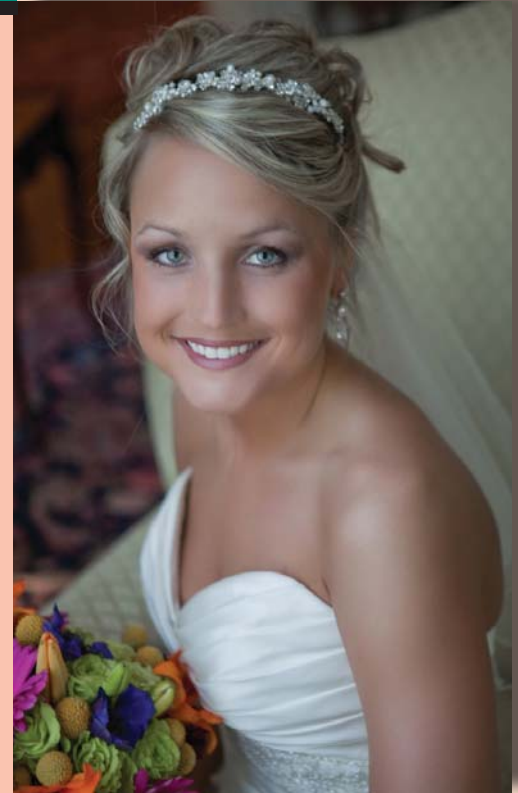
- 06 **The Diamond Conference**
Holiday Inn Airport, Little Rock, AR
- 14 **Skin Pathology Focus: 2011 Dermatopathology Conference**
UAMS I. Dodd Wilson Education Bldg.

JUNE

- 03-07 **Evolution of Prostate Cancer Mgmt**
Chicago, IL
- 08-09 **Palliative Care Conference**
TBA

Congratulations
and
best wishes to...
our RSS Administrator.

RSS Update



Lindsay Ratliff and
Magnus Kullenberg
were married
November 13, 2010



CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

7th Annual Arkansas Statewide Preparedness Conference: A Successful Educational Collaborative

By Alicia Edmiaston

On September 17-18, 2010, the 7th Annual Arkansas Statewide Preparedness Conference was held at the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock with 324 registered attendees. The Preparedness Conference originated in 2004 as the First Arkansas Statewide Terrorism Preparedness Conference.

In 2002, the Department of Homeland Security was established after the 2001 9/11 terrorist attacks and the subsequent anthrax attacks. As a result, federal funding became available to state health departments through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for terrorism preparedness. Both the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) and UAMS became recipients of grants for the building of infrastructures to improve security measures and terrorism preparedness efforts in Arkansas. Some funds for this initiative were allocated to develop education and training opportunities for individuals involved in planning, preparing and responding to national terroristic events or natural disasters.



Over the years, the conference has evolved to include national and international disaster preparedness and response. It has become one of Arkansas' leading educational training resources in this area. It is open to

medical personnel, emergency management coordinators, public health officials, first responders, law enforcement and fire protection officials, state and local government officials, teachers, school nurses and other professionals interested in disaster preparedness.

Originally, it was a collaborative effort between four institutions: the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, and the Arkansas Hospital Association. The partnership has since expanded to include three more organizations, the Arkansas Branch of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 2005, Arkansas Children's Hospital in 2007, and Arkansas Tech University in 2009.

The theme of the 2010 conference "Bridging the Gap: Building Preparedness Solutions and Partnerships" included opening remarks by Congressman Vic Snyder and presentations by representatives from all of the collaborative partners, the Arkansas Office of the American Red Cross, Witt Associates, and the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission. Panel discussions highlighted the Haiti disaster and lessons learned from the 2009 Pandemic Flu.



Dr. Todd Maxson spoke on the AR Trauma System.



Participants visit one of the vendor exhibits.

If you are interested in highlighting your conference in future CME newsletters, please contact Alicia Edmiaston or Lea Mabry in the Office of Continuing Medical Education.