

SEPPIAN *Summer Issue*

The newsletter of the *Society for The Education of Physicians and Patients*

DARING TO TELL THE TRUTH ABOUT HEALTH CARE

Volume 10, Issue 1

Seppian

Summer—2007

Dr. Lessmann Takes Gavel Ready To Lead

Hans Lessmann, O.D., is the newly elected president of SEPP. Dr. Robert Urban – Founder and Past President of SEPP—congratulated Dr. Lessmann as he passed on the gavel. Elections were presided over by immediate past presi-



Drs. Robert Urban and Hans Lessmann

dent Dr. Dennis Gabos. SEPP members, Board of Trustees, and former presidents hailed the new leadership and offered support for his new endeavors. Dr. Lessmann enthusiastically received the charge of leadership of an organization that has done much to promote freedom in health care and patients rights and responsibilities. He reaffirmed his intention to build on the rich history of SEPP, now in its fifteenth year. Dr. Urban reminded us that one of the main forces for the birth of SEPP was the specter of socialized health care. Many members of SEPP have witnessed the hardships patients have faced in managed care and are very aware that a government run system is not only top heavy and costly to tax payers but one where rationing and inadequate care are commonplace.

Tort reform, market based measures for empowering patients to obtain quality care, and discussions of what could be done on state and federal levels are part of the agenda of SEPP and its new leader.

“An Inconvenient Truth”

“Healthcare Collapses as Bureaucrats Salivate for National Healthcare”

By

Hans F. Lessmann, OD

President of SEPP

REJECT UNIVERSAL COVERAGE, SUPPORT BUSH'S HEALTHCARE DEDUCTION, WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN-NOW!!! Join SEPP!

As former Vice President Al Gore's recent documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” has drawn attention to the global warming, we are in the midst of Medicare's collapse. Medicare is the senior government voter appreciation healthcare plan. Democratic presidential candidates are all touting Universal Healthcare (aka single payer, universal coverage, national healthcare). Meanwhile Britain has given up on their National Health Plan and allowed free market private plans to compete. The Swiss have voted down their national health plan, while Canada's universal plan continues to fail with increasing wait times and fleeing or dying patients. Yet we in America, in the media, and in academia want to mimic the failed policies of universal government sponsored healthcare. Why?

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Imagine walking into a county, state, or federal building for your healthcare. Are these inspiring places? Are the workers attentive to your needs? Is customer or

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Join The Battle against Socialized Health Care

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patient service foremost on their minds? Is this a good or healthy idea (i.e. government run healthcare)? Do you want a government doctor or nurse? Of course not!

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So why are so many interested in national healthcare? **Cost Control! The Uninsured!** Government can save us money from those greedy gouging insurance companies??? When has government ever saved us money? Not in taxes, not in education, not in college and not in healthcare. Never, they want more money and there is a lot of it in healthcare. This is **fool's gold**, the morality of cost control and the altruism of government. The uninsured are covered by law at emergency rooms. Should we forfeit our entire healthcare system for a small percent of people who are uninsured? The Bush healthcare income tax deduction would make individual and family health insurance plans have the same tax advantages as employer sponsored plans.

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Join SEPP!**

Yet government, media, and politicians deception and/or ignorance are even greater, for it is government intervention that has escalated costs. Estimates project **government increases costs by 250%**. So government causes the problem and then claims to be the "*shining knight*" to solve the very problem they created! And we the people, the media, and the politicians believe them. Why? We believe them because we do not want to pay for our expensive healthcare. We want that free coke in the water fountain promised by our high school president in la-la land. Well this is healthcare la-la land well spun by the media, government, and politicians.

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Join SEPP!**

We should not retreat from personally paying for our healthcare. We are worth it! However, we should be empowered to expect value from our investment. We can only control the value if we are the primary investor/payer.

Pay for your healthcare, Pay for Family, you and they are worth it!

We should not expect or demand that our employer or government be responsible for our healthcare for they

(Pres.Lessmann -Continued on page 3)

**What They're Doing Behind
Your Back-1**
A Patient Advisory Series

This segment of the SEPPIAN will intermittently present health care issues that relate to little known policies and practices that compromise patient care. We want to warn you—the patient—of the continued undermining of care and the ability for medical professionals to care for you.

Did you know that on a regular basis that physicians receive "Length of Stay" report cards that advise them if they are over the "average" number of days expected to be in the hospital with a specific diagnosis? The implication here is that the physician opts to do this—that it is not a reflection of the cumulative needs of the patient. This turns out to be an implicit threat to physicians. The argument that reviewers of course make is that we are excessively using a limited resource with fixed reimbursement from insurers and losing money. The reviewers may be salaried hospital based physicians or personnel whose jobs are on the line if they don't make it clear that your doctor is a financial threat to the hospital. Indeed, in some parts of the country re-credentialing of your doctor to practice in the hospital may be based on such parameters.

These monitoring functions are the purview of utilization personnel and case managers hired by the hospital to contain costs and control your doctor. The hospital generally receives a roughly fixed reimbursement for a given diagnosis. This is a Medicare practice many other insurers emulate. Thus if one is sick enough to need much care and your doctors tries his best to give it, your doctor may be at risk. If you think your being discharged to soon—express concern to the doctor. If the response is inadequate ask to speak to a Patient Advocate and/or Hospital Administrator. If you have Medicare you can appeal. They frequently will offer the threat that you may have to pay a large bill if you don't accept discharge. Tell them that your lawyer will help you and stay. Medicare does this because it is a single payer government run program that is failing like most government run systems and rations dollars. This puts pressure on the hospitals to discharge soon and limit care. If you think a test such as and MRI or CT scan or stress test is not being recommended when it should—be aware that your physician's use of the resource is being monitored and even potentially micromanaged by the threatening vigilance disguised as "utilization management."

The ever increasing expense of administration and bureaucracies that micromanage your care typify universal single payer government run systems throughout the world yet there are politicians and presidential hopefuls who want to control you, your doctors and your health by creating government care for all! Don't let them!

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(Pres.Lessmann - Continued from page 2)

have many other priorities. Secondly, *we want and need our doctors and care givers (not providers) to be directly accountable to us* and our family and not our employer and/or government. We need our doctors to be direct and sole advocates for our care. Government single payer healthcare divorces us from our own care. Single payer is fools gold. **SINGLE PAYER DISENFRANCHISES PATIENTS!**

**REJECT UNIVERSAL COVERAGE, SUPPORT BUSH'S HEALTHCARE DEDUCTION, WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN-NOW!!!  
Join SEPP!**

**The inconvenient truth is that government healthcare is not a solution but an expansion of the problem.** This will lead to the decimation of the healthcare system. Reject National Healthcare and support President Bush's Healthcare income tax deduction. This will even the tax distortion between employer sponsored plans and privately purchased plans, empowering individuals and families to advocate themselves. **Health Savings Accounts** provide the financing vehicle to empower patients to own, control, and pay for their doctors and care while securing their advocacy and health.

**VOTE YOURSELF IN AND VOTE OUT NATIONAL HEALTHCARE, YOU ARE WORTH IT!**

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## **Lawrence Dunegan Memorial 2007 Scholarship Winner**

Dr. Robert Urban, Chairman, of the Scholarship committee, presented to Bassem Mikhael of Fox Chapel H.S. the annual \$2000 scholarship



**Dr. Robert Urban presents award to Dr. Mikhael-father of scholarship winner**

award. Elise Liu of Fox Chapel H.S. and Stephen Gabauer of Montour H.S. received \$1000 awards. Dr. Mikhael, father of the winner graciously accepted for his son who could not attend.

The competition is based on academic performance, a written commentary, and an interview. The topic for this year's commentary was focused again on Freedom Principles with a discussion of the Constitution as a "living" document or an unchanging enduring document.

The scholarship committee requires a discussion of critical freedom principles to encourage an increased understanding of the concepts of government envisioned by our Founding Fathers. SEPP considers part of its mission to reinvigorate awareness of those concepts as they have been eroded not only in the area of health care but in many facets of American life.

The group heard a very enlightening discussion of the Constitution and the role of the Courts and Government presented by Judge Lally-Green.

Members of the Scholarship committee expressed their great respect for the maturity and accomplishments of so many hard working students. Congratulations Winners!



**Judge Lally-Green addresses attendees of SEPP Scholarship Awards**

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**SEPP—Meeting Announcement**  
**Peter's Place—South Hills Off I-79 at Kirwan Heights Exit**  
**Monday, August 20, 2007**  
**Route 51 South**  
**Time—6:00 PM for Board of Trustees**  
**7: 00 PM General Meeting—Open to all**  
**Dinner Meeting**

**SOCIETY FOR THE EDUCATION OF  
PHYSICIANS AND PATIENTS**

*The mission of The Society For The Education of Physicians and Patients is to promote the education of patients and health care professionals in order to facilitate unencumbered participation in a healthcare system that respects and nurtures patients' and physicians' freedoms, rights, and responsibilities. The Society focuses on the responsibility of the physician as patient advocate and promotes quality medical care by supporting policies that encourage freedom, choice, enhancement of the patient-physician relationship, and fiscal responsibility.*

***S.E.P.P.-Society for the Education of  
Physicians & Patients***  
**A Health Care Professional and Patient  
Advocacy Organization**

***Protecting and preserving patients and  
health care professional's Rights,  
Freedoms, and Responsibilities***

<http://www.sepp-online.com>

If you received this copy of THE SEPPIAN as complimentary issue-- Please read and give to a friend and JOIN SEPP



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