

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

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We enjoyed seeing many of you at the MDSS Business Meeting last month. Our meeting was very well attended, despite selecting the most bitter cold month of the decade to launch this event. The evening included an inspiring talk by Dr. Epstein as he focused on the New Models of Sleep Medicine. We also had some excellent speaker reviews on our new education updates for Maryland technologist licensure law, and a review of Medicare requirements for CPAP qualification. Many of you feel that we should have a meeting such as this yearly, to address salient clinical and business topics that are not covered in our educational Spring conference, and the society board members agree.

I want to thank our sponsors for this meeting, including the AASM, Somnoware, Resmed and Philips Respironics, as we could not have put the meeting together without them.

April 24 and 25, of course, are the dates for our Annual Conference. I hope you have already registered as we are expecting a similar attendance to last year, when we actually filled the facility to capacity. Register this weekend online if you haven't done so already. We have a great line up of speakers, and I think we have covered all the topics from our request bin last year. We will have some special discussions on hypoglossal nerve stimulation, a point-counterpoint debate on the reliability of the full face mask in PAP therapy, a literature review by Dr. Nancy Collop, and many other topics as you can see in the [Conference Brochure](#). We also will have a very special Annual Service Award, and will be providing overviews on some of our ongoing initiatives, including new proposals for High School start times in Maryland!

As always, we will be looking for your feedback in terms of new services that the MDSS can provide, new topics for our future meetings, and will be presenting our open positions for board elections for those of you who want to get more involved.

Hope to see you all there, and God willing, it will be warmer than 30 degrees by then.

Brian

**THE SIXTH ANNUAL
EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE****APRIL 24-25, 2015****Conference Center
at Sheppard Pratt****See page 2 for details...****REGISTER NOW****EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT****REGISTER BY
APRIL 4TH
TO SAVE \$50****Thank you to our
Winter Business Meeting
Sponsors****RESMED**

6TH ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

Enjoy Wonderful Speakers...Network within the Sleep Community... Fulfill all of your Continuing Education Credits.....

APRIL 24-25, 2015

**Conference Center at Sheppard Pratt
Towson, Maryland**

The Conference is a two-day event...full day Friday and half day Saturday.....and includes interesting topics presented by exceptional speakers:

John E. Brown, MD, FCCP

University of MD Sleep Disorders Center

Nancy Collop, MD, FAASM

Emory University

B. Gail Dembo, DMD

Sleep Apnea Dentists of New England

Devon Dobrosielski, PhD

Towson University

Patrick H. Finan, PhD

Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine

Daniel S. Lewin, PhD, D.ABSM

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Suzette K. Mikula, MD

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Sleep Medicine Associates of Maryland

CLICK [HERE](#) FOR CONFERENCE DETAILS AND A REGISTRATION FORM

YOU MAY ALSO [REGISTER](#) ONLINE

Members who pay their 2015 dues enjoy a discount on Conference Registration

**** REGISTER BY FRIDAY, APRIL 4TH FOR A \$50 DISCOUNT ****

A SNAPSHOT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES RELEVANT TO SLEEP

Federal

- **Revised FAA guidelines** to be published 3/2/15: These new guidelines will reflect screening processes intended to reduce “the burdens and disincentives that may have prevented some pilots from seeking an OSA evaluation and treatment.” <https://www.faa.gov/news/updates/?newsId=81444>
- **The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014:** Allows veterans to obtain care from non-VA facilities if they cannot be seen within 30 days or have to travel more than 40 miles to the nearest VA facility. <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/documents/Choice-Act-Summary.pdf>
- The comment period is ongoing (through 5/19) for **Merchant Marines/Coast Guard regulations** <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2015/02/18/2015-03109/medical-waivers-for-merchant-mariner-credential-applicants-with-the-following-conditions>
- **CMS PQRS** reporting mandate now in effect (Physician Quality Reporting System)—financial incentives/punishments based on participation and outcomes <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Quality-Initiatives-Patient-Assessment-Instruments/PQRS/index.html?redirect=/PQRS/>
- **CMS- CHF and COPD Re-Admission Prevention Initiatives** <http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Medicare-Fee-for-Service-Payment/AcuteInpatientPPS/Readmissions-Reduction-Program.html>

State and Local Initiatives

- Currently, there are 12 jurisdictions that require licensure for sleep technologists: California, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington D.C.
- Maryland added a ‘fix’ for long-time out of state RPSGTs which allows A-STEP or CAAHEP education with the credential, competencies, and 642 hours of experience: www.mbp.state.md.us/pages/forms.html
- As of December 31, 2014 practicing polysomnographic technologists are now required to hold a license from the Virginia Board of Medicine: <http://www.vasleepmedicine.org/licensure/main.html>
- North Carolina requires techs to ‘register’ which is not as formal as licensure: http://www.ncmedboard.org/faqs/list/category/polysomnography_registration
- School Start Time legislation passing in various localities (cities, counties, etc.) in a total of 43 states: <http://www.startschoollater.net/success-stories.html>

PEDIATRIC SLEEP MEDICINE MEETING . . .

<http://brown.edu/academics/medical/education/other-programs/continuing-medical-education/pedsleepmedconference>