



# ACUMEN

The Official Newsletter of the  
Ada Canyon Medical Education Consortium

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## News

### February 2014 News

#### 55th ACMS Winter Clinics

1959 a good year to start one of Idaho's premiere medical meetings, soon to be called the ACMS Winter Clinics. Please join us to celebrate 55 on Highway 55 at the Shore Lodge in McCall. The three day meeting, February 21-23, will provide 12 Category 1 hours of CME. The faculty comes from Boston to San Diego and North to Seattle. We are pleased to offer an excellent slate of topics. Please check out the meeting at [www.acmswinterclinics.com](http://www.acmswinterclinics.com) and contact Linda Jackson to register at 208-336-2930.

#### Up-to-Date Queries Show Need

Continuing medical education (CME) plays an integral role in professional lives of health care workers. These educational activities, which often take the form of annual refresher courses or more focused live conferences, serve to inform physicians on the latest evidence and developments relevant to their practice and assist in addressing gaps in knowledge, skill and practice. CME is also a significant time investment for medical professionals with practitioners often documenting 100 hours each year. Maximizing engagement in activities that are evidence-based and designed with the specific identification of needs is a critical first step to ensuring positive changes in physician practice. Because assessing physician needs to develop CME activities is an integral part of CME curriculum development, the depth and quality of needs assessment is an important issue. Surveys of physicians are often a key component of needs assessment for CME activities. While these are relatively easily generated, they may overrepresent issues that are topical and interesting, or given prominent coverage in the medical or general media, and underrepresent the actual learning needs of the practicing physician. The lack of specific identification of individual learning needs in CME events may be a reason why traditional CME offerings often fall short of attendee's expectations for maintaining competence.

ACMEC uses a summary of physician queries on Up-to-Date which provides us a more accurate snap shot of the areas needing to be addressed. Next time you use Up-to-Date remember it runs your CME curriculum too.

#### Upcoming Conferences

**February 20-23, 2014** Ada County Medical Society Winter Clinics, Contact Linda Jackson

[director@adamedicalsociety.org](mailto:director@adamedicalsociety.org)

February 20, 2014 Idaho Perinatal Project Winter Conference, Contact Sarah Jacobson [jacobssa@slhs.org](mailto:jacobssa@slhs.org)

## Regularly Scheduled Conferences

**Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - Anderson Center**

**Wednesday, 12:15 p.m. - Winter Room**

**Friday, 8:00 a.m. - McCleary Auditorium**

### Other Regularly Scheduled Conferences

#### St Luke's RMC

Thoracic Tumor Board - 1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 a.m

Tumor Board - Tuesday, 12:00 noon

Breast Tumor Board - Thursday, 7 a.m.

MSTI Pediatric Tumor Board - 2nd & 4th Wednesday, 12 noon

CHEERS (Children's Hospital Education Enrichment Review) - 1st Thursday, 8 am

Anderson Center - Ada -2; MATCH 2nd Thursday, 8 am

#### Saint Alphonsus RMC - Nampa

Tumor Board- Tuesday, 12 noon

#### West Valley Medical Center

Tumor Board - Monday, 12:30 pm

#### Saint Alphonsus RMC - Boise

Tumor Board - Thursday, 12 noon

Breast Care Panel, Tuesday, 7:00 am

## ACMS Society News

### MEMBERSHIP:

New members

Brian Crownover, MD

Courtney Stewart, MD

**February 20-23, 2014** 55th Annual Winter Clinics, Shore Lodge, McCall Idaho

For complete information and to register, visit [www.acmswinterclinics.com](http://www.acmswinterclinics.com)

## What's Ahead

### March 2014

**5** Vertebral Compression, Anthony Bell, MD

**7** HTN, Jennifer Anderson, MD, PhD

**12** TBA, Speaker TBA

- 14 TBA, Speaker TBA
- 19 St. Luke's Children's Hospital, Grand Rounds, Case Management, Greg Janos, MD
- 21 Update on Lung Cancer, Michael Blumhart, MD
- 26 TBA, Topic TBA
- 26 (Nampa Only), Surviving Sepsis Guidelines 2008-2013, What Changed and Why, Cary Jackson, MD
- 28 TBA, Speaker TBA

## April 2014

- 2 Topic TBA, Speaker TBA
- 4 Mesenteric Venous Thrombosis, Wes Arlein, MD
- 9 Fueling Your Sport Today & Tomorrow, Leslie Bonci, RD, MPH
- 11 Topic TBA, Speaker TBA
- 16 St. Luke's Children's Hospital, Grand Rounds, Childhood Obesity, Richard Jackson, MD
- 18 SAMG Spring Symposium
- 23 Topic TBA, Speaker TBA
- 25 Topic TBA, Speaker TBA
- 30 Topic TBA, Speaker TBA

(Wednesday, 8:00am/St. Luke's RMC; Wednesday, 12:15pm/Mercy Medical Center; Friday, 8:00am/Saint Alphonsus RMC)

## Mohr's Musings...

### Marijuana

Twenty states have now legalized medical marijuana and two states, Washington and Colorado, have legalized recreational use for adults over 21 years of age. More state will have legislative ballot measures in the near future because its legalization is popular in public polls and with legislators.

Good research on marijuana is hard to find because federal law views Marijuana as an illegal drug hence personal testimonials of people have driven its popularity. Marijuana's best known compound is THC, already approved by the FDA in synthetic form to help patients with nausea and anorexia and is thought to be effective in MS patients with neuropathic pain. Proponents say the plant has 105 other unique compounds with potential medical use. The only study cited in the recent Illinois law legalizing medical marijuana is a 1999 Institute of Medicine study whose lead editor, Dr. John Benson, felt legislators stretched the conclusion when they said modern medical research "has confirmed the beneficial uses of cannabis". The report suggested more research is needed and "smoking marijuana is not recommended." Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal, a child psychiatrist and substance abuse specialist, believes teens are especially vulnerable to marijuana's effects. Their brains aren't totally developed and they make rash and risky decisions and its use impairs learning, judgment and memory. They are two times as likely as adults to become addicted.

A recent University of Michigan study found that over 45% of high school seniors have smoked pot and 6.5% smoke it daily. Barely 40% of adolescents believe its use is harmful.

Before physicians rush to support the legalization of marijuana we should be asking serious questions and insist on evidence of efficacy.

1. Are patients getting a therapeutic benefit or are they merely stoned?
2. Will driving stoned be as great a problem as drunk driving?
3. Is the marijuana sold legally more potent than its illegal counterpart?
4. Is its use an entry drug to other hard drugs?
5. Will employers who require drug testing exclude people who test positive for THC?
6. Will its legalization result in more adolescents getting addicted? (One Wag commented that the "only way to sell a lot of pot is to create a lot of pot heads".)

7. Will the near universal ban of smoking tobacco in public apply to marijuana?

The caveat of "First do no harm" has served the profession well. Before we regard marijuana as merely a harmless amusement we must carefully consider the unforeseen consequences of its legalization.

John J. Mohr, MD

## Weekly Conferences

### February 2014 Conferences

#### **Anderson Center, St. Luke's RMC, Wednesday 8:00 a.m.**

5 Antibiotic Resistance, Dennis Stevens, MD

12 Cardiovascular Effects of Depression, Bruce Robert Wright, MD

19 St. Luke's Children's Hospital, Grand Rounds, What do we talk about when we talk about ethics?, John Lantos, MD

26 Management of Scoliosis and Spinal Deformities, Howard King, MD

#### **Winter Room, Saint Alphonsus RMC - Nampa, Wednesday 12:15 p.m.**

5 Antibiotic Resistance, Dennis Stevens, MD

12 Cardiovascular Effects of Depression, Bruce Robert Wright, MD

19 What do we talk about when we talk about ethics?, John Lantos, MD

26 Management of Scoliosis and Spinal Deformities, Howard King, MD

#### **AW Horsley, VA Medical Center, Thursday 8:00 a.m.**

6 TBA

13 TBA

20 TBA

27 TBA

#### **McCleary Auditorium, Saint Alphonsus RMC, Friday 8:00 a.m.**

7 Pediatric Rehab, Jacob Neufeld, MD

14 Early Detection and Management of RA, Eric Palfreyman, MD

21 NO CONFERENCE

28 Marital Health, Thomas Frandsen, MD

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