



Dear ENT Advocacy Network Member:

October 5, 2018

Legislative and political activity directly affects our practices and our patients. As a leading advocate for otolaryngology-head and neck surgery, we hope you enjoy reading this edition of The ENT Advocate, your premier source of advocacy information for the specialty!

## Lead Story

### Advocacy Events at the AAO-HNSF 2018 Annual Meeting & OTO Experience in Atlanta, Georgia

The AAO-HNSF 2018 Annual Meeting & OTO Experience at the Georgia World Congress Center (GWCC) starts this weekend, and there are several opportunities to receive legislative, political, and regulatory updates while in Atlanta! Mark your calendar for these advocacy-related events:

- **BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting:** Saturday, October 6, 2:30-3:30 pm, Building A, Room 313-314, GWCC. Join your colleagues for a meeting that will feature updates on the Academy's federal and political programs, state advocacy, grassroots initiatives, as well as discussion and report-outs from the Committee's Communications and Grassroots Taskforces.
- **Advocacy Leadership Luncheon (Invite-Only):** Sunday, October 7, 11:30 am-1:00 pm, Building A, Room 404, GWCC. Hosted by the ENT PAC Board of Advisors, this invitation-only event welcomes members of the ENT PAC Leadership Club, Chairman's Club, "First 50" Investors, as well as representatives from the various Sections, and other key advocacy leaders. This year's special guest speaker is U.S. Representative Earl "Buddy" Carter, who serves on the U.S. House Energy & Commerce Committee and its Health Subcommittee.
- **FDA Perspective on OSA: A Growth Area for Otolaryngology:** Monday, October 8, 8:45-9:45 am, Building B, Room 408, GWCC. This spring, the AAO-HNS participated in an FDA-sponsored workshop, "Study Design Considerations for Devices Including Digital Health Technologies for Sleep Disordered Breathing in Adults." As a follow-up to the April workshop, this Panel Presentation will include a summary of workshop findings, including current status and future opportunities. Eric A. Mann, MD, PhD, an otolaryngologist working for the FDA in this area, and other physician leaders will share their thoughts on the direction of treatment for sleep-disordered breathing and the role of the specialty.
- **How the CMS Proposed Rule Affects Your Practice and Patients:** Monday, October 8, 1:15-2:15 pm, Building A, Room 302, GWCC. Don't miss this opportunity to share your opinions on the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule. This session will include thought leaders from the AAO-HNS who will summarize the Academy's comments and recommendations to CMS on the proposed rule. Additionally, the session will feature a representative from CMS who will provide additional information on the agency's "Patients Over Paperwork" initiative.

## Action Requested

### Visit the Advocacy Booth

Be sure to stop by the AAO-HNS Advocacy Booth, located in Building B of the GWCC, to learn more about the Academy's legislative, political, health policy, and grassroots programs, or to make or increase your 2018 contribution to ENT PAC\*, the Academy's political action committee. Additionally, morning and afternoon snacks will be available as a "thank you" to ENT PAC donors!

## Attention PAC Investors: Call for ENT PAC Board Nominations

The ENT PAC Board of Advisors and staff are now accepting nominations for individuals interested in serving on the PAC Board (self-nominations welcome). All potential nominees must have a strong history of supporting ENT PAC and an interest in helping to strengthen the Academy's political advocacy efforts. Contact [entpac@entnet.org](mailto:entpac@entnet.org) to submit a nomination and/or learn more about the responsibilities associated with serving on the PAC Board. Nominations accepted through Wednesday, October 31.

## Legislative & Political Reports

### U.S House Passes "Minibus" Spending Deal

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a Defense-Labor-HHS "minibus" funding bill (H.R. 6157) that will fund the federal government through December 7, 2018. Among other things, H.R. 6157 included funding for the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program and the CDC Office of Smoking Health. H.R. 6157 was signed into law by the President on September 28.

## Other News

### Medicare CY 2019 Hospital Outpatient Proposed Rule

On September 24, the [AAO-HNS submitted a comment letter](#) to CMS regarding the CY 2019 Medicare Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment System (OPPS) and Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) Payment System proposed rule. The Academy's comments included support for Medicare's proposed changes to reduce site of service disparities, as well as removal of CPT 31241 (*Nasal/sinus endoscopy, surgical; with ligation of sphenopalatine artery*) from the Inpatient Only List.

### Advocacy in Action: Balloon Ostial Dilation

The AAO-HNS [submitted a comment letter](#) to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Federal Employee Program opposing its position designating Balloon Ostial Dilation for Treatment of Chronic Sinusitis as investigational. The letter highlighted the procedure as consistent with the standard of care and the recently-released AAO-HNSF Clinical Consensus Statement: Balloon Dilation of the Sinuses.

Sincerely,

Susan R. Cordes, MD  
BOG Legislative Affairs Committee Chair  
and the AAO-HNS Legislative Advocacy Team

For more information, contact [govtaffairs@entnet.org](mailto:govtaffairs@entnet.org). Don't forget to bookmark [The ENT Advocate!](#)

If you no longer wish to receive important legislative and political updates via *The ENT Advocate*, please reply to this email with CANCEL ADVOCATE in the subject line.

\*Contributions to ENT PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. Contributions are voluntary, and all members of the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits ENT PAC from accepting contributions from foreign nationals. By law, if your contributions are made using a personal check or credit card, ENT PAC may use your contribution only to support candidates in federal elections. All corporate contributions to ENT PAC will be used for educational and administrative fees of ENT PAC, and other activities permissible under federal law. Federal law requires ENT PAC to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation, and the name of the employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

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