

By Barbara Caruso, BA

## Physician News Roundup

### Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group (MAPMG)

#### MAPMG Names Philip S Carney, Jr, MD, as New President and Medical Director



Philip S Carney, Jr, MD

On June 19, 2003, the MAPMG shareholder physicians ratified the election of Philip S Carney, Jr, MD, as president and medical director of the Mid-Atlantic Permanente Medical Group. Dr Carney is board-certified in emergency medicine, family practice, and geriatrics. In addition, he earned both a Masters of Public Health and an executive MBA. He has been Area Medical Director in the Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG) and Chief of Staff at the Kaiser Foundation Hospital in Fontana, Kaiser Permanente's birthplace in Southern California.

Shortly after taking office, Dr Carney announced the appointment of Yancy Phillips, MD, as MAPMG Chief Operating Officer. Dr Phillips served as Associate Medical Director for Clinical Affairs of The Southeast Permanente Medical Group (TSPMG), which he joined in 2000, following a 20-year career in a variety of leadership positions at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC.

### Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG)

#### SCPMG Leadership Team Appointments

Jeffrey Weisz, MD, SCPMG Medical Director-Elect, who will take office on January 1, 2004, announced in May the partnership ratification of the following SCPMG leadership team, also effective January 1: Michael Kanter, MD, Associate Medical Director of Quality and Clinical Analysis; Paul Minardi, MD, Associate Medical Director of Operations; and Jeffrey Selevan, MD, Associate Medical Director of Business Management.

#### Kidney Disease Patients Do Better at KP

The results of a Medicare demonstration project recently released to Congress by the US Department of Health and Human Services show that dialysis and kidney transplant patients can receive high-quality, affordable care in a managed care setting. KP Southern California was one of four health plans in the country chosen by Medicare to participate in the three-year demonstration project.

The goal of the demonstration project was to determine the medical outcomes and costs when fee-for-service patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) join a managed health care program.

"The independent scientific evaluation is clear. Medicare ESRD patients who joined KP showed a 31% reduction in mortality rates," said Peter Crooks, MD, Physician Director for the Southern California KP site. "We have believed for a long time that our medical care program provided very good outcomes for ESRD patients, and it is nice to have validation and confirmation from Medicare."



Barbara Caruso, BA, is a Communications Consultant for The Permanente Federation. E-mail: barbara.caruso@kp.org.

**Southern California Permanente Medical Group (SCPMG) *continued***

**KP School of Anesthesia/CSU Fullerton Named One of the Top Programs in the US**

*US News and World Report*, in its directory *America's Best Graduate Schools*, 2004 Edition, has named the Kaiser Permanente School of Anesthesia/California State University Fullerton as one of the top ten anesthesia training programs in the country. The *US News* rankings spotlight the country's academically excellent graduate programs. John Nagelhout, CRNA, PhD, Program Director, noted, "The high-quality anesthesia education afforded our nurses is a reflection of the excellent health care provided by the Kaiser Permanente system and by our continued partnership with California State University Fullerton." The KP School of Anesthesia is affiliated with 16 KP and community hospitals throughout the KP Southern California Region.

**Fred Ziel, MD, Receives CMI's "Lifetime" Diabetes Achievement Award**



Fred Ziel, MD

Fred Ziel, MD, KP Woodland Hills, has received the Care Management Institute's (CMI) 2003 Honorary Achievement Award for his outstanding commitment to improving outcomes and care for KP members with diabetes. As Director of the KP Woodland Hills Diabetes Program, SCPMG Regional Coordinator for diabetes outcomes, and SCPMG Chairman of Regional Endocrinology, Dr Ziel has been an innovator and a motivator in his efforts to improve standards of care. His accomplishments for the diabetes program include: improving testing outcomes from 25% to 80% through use of the "point-of-service fax," which was conceived by his regional team; sending letters to patients; creating quarterly physician reports; publishing eye data (photos) in a leading diabetes journal, thus setting a national standard for practical, accurate assessment of eye health in diabetic patients; and developing telephone outreach.

**The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG)**

**First Honorees of New Morris F Collen Research Award Announced**

In July, TPMG Executive Director/CEO Robert Pearl, MD, announced the first honorees of the new annual Morris F Collen Research Award, named for the TPMG physician who pioneered the field of medical informatics in the 1950s and started what is now the Division of Research. The honorees are William Durston, MD, whose research has focused on the role of ultrasound in the emergency department; and Barry Rasgon, MD, Research Director of the KP Oakland Head and Neck Surgery Residency Program.

**Domestic Violence Prevention Program Receives National Award**

The American Association of Health Plans (AAHP) honored Kaiser Permanente Northern California for its Family Violence Prevention Program with the AAHP/Wyeth Gold HERA Award. The HERA Awards recognize programs that have made a measurable difference in the lives of women and children.

The Family Violence Prevention Program, a comprehensive program to prevent and reduce domestic violence, began at the KP Richmond Medical Center in 1998. Conceived and directed by Brigid McCaw, MD, MPH, the program has four components: a screening and referral system, a supportive environment, on-site resources, and community linkages. "Clinicians have been trained to screen, identify, and support women who are at risk for abuse," said Dr McCaw. "Part of this support may be referral to an on-site social worker, participation in a support group, or contacting a community advocacy agency. Community resources include 24-hour crisis hotlines, emergency housing, and legal services."



Dr McCaw with KFHP Chairman and CEO, George Halvorson at the HERA Awards dinner.

### The Permanente Medical Group (TPMG) *continued*

#### NCQA Reports Cardiovascular Disease Has Met its Match in KP Northern California

The 2003 annual report of the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) pays tribute to KP Northern California's cardiovascular care programs with a special section titled "Doing Cardiovascular Care Right." Stating that "The Nation's Number One Killer—Cardiovascular Disease—Has Met its Match in Northern California," the four-page feature describes how health care professionals at KP Northern California have accomplished the remarkable: They have reduced death from heart disease among its three million members so significantly that it is no longer the leading cause of death in the KP Northern California population, despite remaining so in the general population.

### Northwest Permanente Medical Group (KPNW)

#### KPNW Ranked #1 HMO in Nation

Results of a national consumer magazine's 2002 annual survey published in October 2003 ranked Kaiser Permanente Northwest as the #1 HMO in the nation. The rankings were based on the responses of more than 42,000 readers. HMOs and PPOs were ranked according to ease of getting needed care, choice of doctors, customer support, billing problems, access to doctors, and satisfaction with primary care doctors. Four other KP Regions and the Group Health Cooperative also ranked among the top 15 HMOs nationwide. ❖

Barbara Caruso compiled this material from *California Wire*, *Partner News*, and other PMG newsletters and sources. To submit news of physician or PMG awards and recognitions, contact Ms Caruso at [barbara.caruso@kp.org](mailto:barbara.caruso@kp.org).

## Competition

[Permanente] Doctors compete with each other, not in the economic sense but in the realm of professional excellence.

*Herman Weiner, MD, second Medical Director of SCPMG, describing the advantages of group practice in general and Permanente in particular.*

*This "Moment in History" quote collected by Steve Gilford, KP Historian*