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**Subject:** 2011 October Aesculapian Medical Society Meeting Minutes  
**Date:** Monday, October 17, 2011 4:04:00 PM

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**In attendance:**

Chrystal Anderson, MD  
Paul Baptiste, MD  
Bennett Desadier, MD  
Joyce Gill, MD  
Kimberly Harris, MD  
Ray Henderson, MD  
Andrew Moore, MD  
Luis Nunez, MD  
Chris Obeime, MD  
Mercy Obeime, MD  
Raymond Pierce, MD  
Mario Pyles, MD  
Bettye Jo Rawls, MD  
George Rawls, MD  
Jerry Smartt, MD  
Arthur Sumrall, MD  
Sheila Thomas, MD  
Patricia Treadwell, MD  
Wilbert Washington, MD

Carla Baxter

Adrienne Cobb, MSIII, SNMA Officer  
Crystal Higgs, MSII, President of SNMA  
Shaylar Padgett, MSIV  
Jose Espada, Volunteer

**Dr. Desadier** introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. Mario Pyles. He will speak on Praxada. Dr. Desadier also thanked Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc for their sponsorship. The contact is:

Frank O'Connell  
(317) 580-0004

**Dr. Desadier** asked members for updates at the start of the business meeting.

**Jose Espada**, on behalf of Dr. Rausch, sends his regrets from not being able to attend the meeting this evening. Diversity Week planning is well underway with potentially two speakers secured. Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord, first Navajo woman to be a board certified in Surgery. We are hoping to secure the newly elected President of the NMA, Dr. Cedric M. Bright, an Assistant Dean of Special Programs and Admissions at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill School of Medicine. We are actively pursuing the President of the National Hispanic Medical Association, Dr. Elena Rios as well. A plea was made that if anyone know the NMA President and could make a call on our behalf, that would be great.

**Crystal Higgs** updated the group on SNMA happenings specifically on the mentor volunteering for the 1<sup>st</sup> years. She thanked them for volunteering to be on the physician group.

**Carla Baxter** made the group aware of the Community Health Fair, held October 29, 2011 at Martin University from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. This is another excellent opportunity for the AMS to get involved with the community and involve AMS members. More will be distributed as information is made available. The flyer is attached for more information. She mentioned that booth space was going for \$150. Carla will work with Dr. Henderson to coordinate the manning of the booth and send out a request for volunteers.

**Dr. Desadier** posed a vote to support the health fair. It was approved.

**Dr. Henderson** reported that we are very low on AMS Brochures. An update is scheduled for the first of the year and made an appeal to the group to make sure their information is updated. Make sure to get information to Jose for a January 1 roll out. Dr. Moore reminded everyone that any expenditures for the brochure update will need to be voted on by the group. The cost is around \$1,300 and Dr. Henderson did not see it going over that amount. A vote was posed and approved to spend the funds on an updated brochure. The amount was not set in the vote.

**Jose Espada** let the group know about the e-mail received from Dr. Moye. She was not able to attend the meeting, but did send an e-mail on some of her ideas for continued AMS involved in the

community. Below is the information she sent to Dr. Moore and Jose Espada:

I have been thinking about how to get the Aesculapian Society more visible in the community so here are the ideas I have come up with:

1. Have a quarterly conference (question/answer session on the specialties) involving the students at the Crispus Attucks medical Magnate School. This would require various specialties come to speak to the students and answer question they might have. Also included in this would be the opportunity for the students to shadow someone in a specialty of their interest. I have spoke with Sherri Sebree who stated she would also speak with the school. The students loved it last time.

2. The Amos Brown experience went over well also. I received feedback from patients and other who heard the show. If we could keep this up quarterly with again different specialties represented that would be a nice touch.

3. The UNCF campaign. This is a difficult one. Maybe we can have them come and speak to us as a group before the main speaker to explain on some ways we can help as an organization. They did express interest in this last year, but we had no room on the schedule before we broke for Summer.

I do look forward to working on these ideas and would like your input on these issues gentleman.

**Dr. George Rawls** expressed his concern on what he saw was very evident as a result of the Amos Brown Radio program. People did not have any concept on what Aesculapian Medical Society was and searching for it on the website proved difficult (not knowing how to spell it). Jose mentioned that searching on the website has become much easier to search for black physicians with the adding of key word Black Physician on the website. When searching for Black Physicians, AMS comes up first.

**Dr Desadier** agreed that it was a concern that Aesculapian was very difficult to pronounce much less spell. Once again, mention on changing the name was stated. Carla indicated that one way to help with the issue is to get Aesculapian Medical Society members more out into the community so that the question is not what "IS Aesculapian Medical Society", but that "They are" and associate doctors with the name. It is about heightening the awareness and getting the name out there more in the community. This is true of any organizational name, no matter what it is. She mentioned that many called into the radio station during the program. This is a good thing and more of these types of programs are needed to help people associate the name with the black physicians. One of these attempts to getting the name out is at the October 29<sup>th</sup> Community Health Center. The booth there will help. Having an opportunity like the Amos Brown radio program quarterly is also helpful.

**Jose Espada** mentioned the ongoing work of organizing a Signature event like the one next year in June that is being look at and planned. More on this in November. The amount of exposure that

the AMS has had in the last two years is evidence that the word is getting out on who is the AMS. Focusing in on the event in June will allow for less competing programs and allow AMS to be more visible within the community. A concern was raised that funds raised for scholarships needed to be accounted for and pulled out of such an event so they do not get mixed in with AMS operational funds.

The Rawls Scholarship Dinner is no longer happening, so having an AMS signature event will capitalize on filling that void. The scholarship still exists and will continue to be managed by the Wishard Memorial Foundation. They now collaborate with the medical school to make the school aware of the available funding each year so student(s) are selected.

**Dr. Henderson** posed the question as to why go with an AMS signature event and not focus more on supporting the Rawls Scholarship Dinner, so it can continue. A suggestion that a meeting with the Wishard Memorial Foundation would be necessary to find out what could be done. Carla reiterated that the AMS signature event would be a fundraiser for the AMS scholarships in addition to creating exposure for AMS.

The Rawls Scholarship requires the recipients to practice in Indiana for at least one year. To date this is happening with the exception of a couple of Rawls scholars who are not yet meeting that requirement. Discussions are ongoing with the Wishard Memorial Foundation on pursuing the two scholars for repayment of the scholarship.

**Dr. Rawls** expressed concern that the John Joyner Scholarships have not continued. Dr. Moore stated that AMS has never really earmarked funds for continuation of those scholarships given in Dr. Joyner's honor in 2005. There have not been John Joyner Scholarships since 2005, but last year AMS scholarships were awarded to three medical students as the start of a new tradition. Hopefully, this will continue with the funds that can be raised in a signature event. The funds held at IUSM as part of the school's gift to AMS as part of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary is still intact with the exception of \$6,000 used for scholarships in 2005. Dr. Moore mentioned that a broader use of those funds was talked about, but not concluded. The continuation of the Dr. John Joyner Scholarships was somewhat of a sticky issue with others in the organization whereby there could be others that could also be honored. So, using AMS as the title of the scholarships is appropriate for now.

There is a scholarship established at the IUSM for Keith Woodard that is supported by family and friends, but not yet at the point of generating a large amount of funds.

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