

## Health Care Careers e-Letter

July 2009

Dear Reader,

Save the date: September 9, AMA Webinar, "Emerging Trends in Health Care Workforce Development."

This live event will address questions such as:

- What are the top health care career opportunities over the next ten years?
- What impact has the recent economic downturn had on current and projected shortages?
- How can local groups better promote health care careers in secondary and post-secondary institutions for both traditional and non-traditional students?



Stay tuned for more details on this exciting event.

We welcome your responses on this or other health care career issues.

*Best Regards,  
Fred Donini-Lenhoff, editor*

### Table of contents

- [1. President Obama addresses the AMA](#)
- [2. Reminder: 2009 survey of health professions programs coming in September](#)
- [3. New Health Care Careers Directory now available](#)
- [4. Featured profession: Orthotist and prosthetist](#)
- [5. Featured program: University of Washington, prosthetics and orthotics](#)
- [6. Celebrate health professions' events in July and August](#)
- [7. Enroll now for free online courses in patient safety and quality](#)
- [8. Exam counts in radiologic technology mirror education, workforce trends](#)
- [9. Report on job vacancies shows some positive signs for health care](#)
- [10. Physician assistants, nurse practitioners can help practices run smoother](#)
- [11. Health care \(and health care workforce\) reform taking shape in Congress](#)
- [12. Buddhist chaplains attend to patients' spiritual needs](#)
- [13. Physician assistant board seeking public member](#)
- [14. Traveling art exhibit on rural health care](#)
- [15. Five certified athletic trainers inducted into hall of fame](#)
- [16. Congratulations to vascular technology educator on SVU award](#)

## 1. President Obama addresses the AMA

President Obama received a warm reception from AMA delegates at their annual meeting in mid-June.

The President outlined his vision for health system reform in an hour-long speech punctuated by nine standing ovations. He repeatedly expressed appreciation for the work of doctors and for the AMA's voice in current deliberations.



## 2. Reminder: 2009 survey of health professions programs coming in September

The 2009 version of the Annual Survey of Health Professions Education Programs should be e-mailed to program directors in September. This survey will collect data for the 2008-2009 academic year.

## 3. New Health Care Careers Directory now available

The *Health Care Careers Directory* for 2009-10 has been published. Be sure to order this newly expanded edition, now with more than 8,000 educational programs in 81 different health care fields. New this year:



- Anesthesia Technologist/Technician
- Cancer Registrar
- Medical Coder
- Medical Transcriptionist

To order your copy, call 800 621-8335. To receive a copy of the order form, send an e-mail to [meded@ama-assn.org](mailto:meded@ama-assn.org). For fastest service, be sure to specify the phrase "HCCD" in the e-mail's subject line.

## 4. Featured profession: Orthotist and prosthetist

Orthotists and prosthetists work in the rehabilitation of the physically challenged. The orthotist designs and fits devices, known as orthoses, to provide care to patients who have disabling conditions of the limbs and spine. The prosthetist designs and fits devices, known as prostheses, for patients who have partial or total absence of a limb.

Check out these informative links from the [AMA](#) (PDF), [American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists](#), and [Health Professions Network](#) for more information on education and careers in the field.

Finally, be sure to consult the AMA's chart of [health care career income ranges](#), for salary in this and other health professions fields.

## 5. Featured program: University of Washington, prosthetics and orthotics

Each issue we profile a randomly selected educational program from the *Health Care Careers Directory*.

This month we feature the [University of Washington Prosthetics and Orthotics program](#). The university currently offers a Bachelor of Science degree in this field, with plans to move to the Master's level beginning with the class entering in fall 2011.

The current degree consists of a two-year preparatory phase of general education and prerequisite coursework and a two-year professional phase after acceptance into the program. The program is integrated with the physical and occupational therapy curricula during the first year of didactic coursework.

## 6. Celebrate health professions' events in July and August

Following is a list of events in July and August honoring various health professions; many thanks to e-Letter reader Debbie Schwarzberg for compiling this list.

The complete list for 2009 is available on the Web site of the [Health Professions Network \(HPN\)](#).

[National Therapeutic Recreation Week](#), July 12–18

[National Medical Dosimetrist Day](#), Aug. 19

## 7. Enroll now for free online courses in patient safety and quality

The [Open School for Health Professions](#), of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, offers free online courses to help health professions' students learn about quality improvement, patient safety, teamwork, leadership, and patient-centered care.

The program was also covered in [American Medical News](#) (May 4).

Speaking of online education, the results are in, and "online learning has definite advantages over face-to-face instruction when it comes to teaching and learning," according to the U.S. Department of Education ([Inside Higher Ed](#), June 29).

## 8. Exam counts in radiologic technology mirror education, workforce trends

[Data from the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists](#) (ARRT) on examination volume showed increases in 2008 but at smaller rates than in past years.

Exams in nuclear medicine technology, for example, were up 5.5 percent over 2007 but had increased at an average of 17 percent over the preceding four years.

Radiography has been virtually flat for two years, and radiation therapy volume dropped 1.9 percent in 2008, following a 5.3 percent drop in 2007.

## 9. Report on job vacancies shows some positive signs for health care

In June, advertised vacancies for healthcare support occupations were at the same level as last year, according to a [new report from the Conference Board](#) (PDF).

Advertisements in the "Healthcare practitioners and technical" category, however, declined from 565,000 to 534,000 over the same period (refer to pp. 4 and 12).

In other economy-related news, the June 12 [Wall Street Journal](#) reports that "the nation's deep recession is helping to alleviate the decade-long nursing shortage, as workers who had left the field in better times are returning in droves."

## 10. Physician assistants, nurse practitioners can help practices run smoother

Many specialty medical practices are using physician assistants and nurse practitioners to improve access to services, reduce

wait times, and improve quality of care. A [study by the Center for the Health Professions](#) at the University of California, San Francisco, examined these emerging models, focusing on three specialties in particularly high demand: orthopedics, gastroenterology, and dermatology.

The report was also covered by [HealthLeaders Media](#) (June 11).

## 11. Health care (and health care workforce) reform taking shape in Congress

Among its 600-plus pages, the "[Affordable Health Choices Act](#)" (PDF) includes provisions to address health professional shortages by creating a new workforce commission.

The legislation also proposes increased funding of the National Health Service Corps and reauthorization of the Title VII health professions program, as well as an allied health recruitment and retention program and a youth public health program, which would "expose and recruit high school students into public health careers."

## 12. Buddhist chaplains attend to patients' spiritual needs

In our last issue, we referenced a story about a hospital chaplain helping both patients and staff battles loneliness, depression, and pain ([Chicago Tribune](#), April 26).

Chaplains come in all shapes, sizes, and denominations. A recent *Los Angeles Times* article, "[Zen in their bedside manner](#)," describes the work of Buddhist chaplains at Beth Israel Medical Center in New York.

## 13. Physician assistant board seeking public member

The National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) is [seeking candidates to serve as a public director at large](#) on its Board of Directors. Deadline for applications is July 15.

Important: The individual filling this role cannot be affiliated with the PA profession either as practitioner, educator, employee of a related organization, family member of a PA, or member of another health profession.

For more information, [e-mail the NCCPA](#).

## 14. Traveling art exhibit on rural health care

The [Vision Project](#) (PDF) is seeking funding and sites for a traveling art exhibition on rural health care, focusing on the Mississippi Delta region. The exhibition will include photographs with text, a video documentary, an optional multimedia booth, and panel discussions focusing on healthcare issues.

Universities, education centers, and community organizations throughout the United States are invited to participate.

For more information, contact [Rick Falco](#).

## 15. Five certified athletic trainers inducted into hall of fame

Congratulations to the following certified athletic trainers, who were inducted into the [National Athletic Trainers' Association \(NATA\) Hall of Fame](#) during the association's recent annual meeting:

- Michael Ferrara, PhD, ATC, FNATA (Athens, GA)
- Joe Iezzi, MS, ATC, PES (Downingtown, PA)
- Thomas E. Koto Jr., ATC, LAT (Boise, ID)

- Bill Lyons, MS, ATC (Laramie, WY)
- Chad Starkey, PhD, ATC, LAT, FNATA (Athens, OH)

## 16. Congratulations to vascular technology educator on SVU award

Sandra (Sam) Parmiter, BA, RVT, RCVT, of Morristown, NJ, received the [2009 Professional Achievement Award from the Society for Vascular Ultrasound \(SVU\)](#) at its recent annual meeting.

The award recognizes Ms. Parmiter's 22 years of work as an educator in vascular technology with the Morristown Memorial Hospital School of Cardiovascular Technology, resulting in 170 vascular technologist graduates.

---

### Want to learn more about graduate medical education?

The [Graduate Medical Education \(GME\) e-Letter](#) is a free monthly e-mail newsletter that covers a wide range of issues affecting GME -- everything from resident work hours and health workforce concerns to updates on accreditation activities and development of new subspecialties.

### Are you a member of the American Medical Association (AMA)?

If so, thank you! If not, please [join or renew your membership](#) now.

### Do we have your most current address?

Attention US physicians and students attending accredited medical schools in the US: Access our [secure data change form](#) to provide any address updates or other data changes.

### Interested in news about health care careers/education?

Then subscribe to the AMA's free [Health Care Careers e-Letter](#), which covers educational trends and career-related issues in all health professions.

### About us

The [Health Care Careers e-Letter](#) is produced by the American Medical Association (AMA).

This monthly newsletter covers educational trends and career-related issues in the health professions.

### Give us your story ideas and feedback

Direct comments to [Fred Donini-Lenhoff](#), (312) 464-4635

### Subscribe/unsubscribe

[Subscribe to this e-Letter](#)

Also: Please add the domain name "@enews.ama-assn.org" to your address book or e-mail filter "whitelist" or tell your organization's IT group to allow this address to pass through any filtering software they may have set up.

To unsubscribe: click [unsubscribe-%%email.list%%](#) to bring up a new e-mail message and click "send." No subject line is necessary. Or send a blank email to [unsubscribe-%%email.list%%](#)

You are currently subscribed as %%emailaddr%%

Sent by: American Medical Association \* Helping doctors help patients

515 N. State Street  
Chicago, IL 60654

Copyright 2009 American Medical Association. All rights reserved.

