



**Saturday, June 23**

# Dr. Bangasser celebrated

The family of medicine gathered Friday evening to celebrate the spirit of giving and pay tribute to the life of the late Ronald P. Bangasser, MD.

The AMA Foundation's Celebration of Giving also honored the many generous donors to the Foundation's "Uniting for the Future of Medicine" campaign—a major movement to raise \$10 million to increase funding for medical education and advance new physician-led community health care programs and clinics for the uninsured. Launched in 2005, the campaign's success is evident—reaching nearly \$2 million in gifts and pledges to date.

"We are supporting future physicians, today's physicians and patients—and we do significant work for those who need assistance in accessing medical care," said AMA Foundation Board President-elect Barbara P. Rockett, MD.

Dr. Bangasser, a family medicine physician from Redlands, Calif., was named posthumous honorary chair of the celebration. Scheduled to begin a term as AMA Foundation president this year, Dr. Bangasser was renowned for his contributions to patient care, organized medicine and philanthropy before his death on May 2. He served in leadership roles in the San Bernardino County Medical Society, the California Medical Association and the AMA for nearly 30 years.

He served on the AMA Foundation's Board of Directors since October 2002 and was a tireless supporter of the Foundation's programs in medical education, public health and research.

Hundreds of guests enjoyed live music and dancing, and socializing with colleagues and friends. Twelve prize packages



(Top) William Sternfeld, MD, and Susan Hubbell, MD, at the AMA Foundation Celebration of Giving. (Right) Stuart Gitlow, MD, and Colette Willins, MD, enjoy the festivities.



and numerous individual items were part of the silent and live auctions, including a golfing trip to Vero Beach, Fla., a weeklong vacation to Majorca, and a mountain retreat to Vail, Colo. James L. Milam, MD, an ob-gyn from Vernon Hills, Ill., successfully bid on a trip to China.

"I'm very happy to have the opportunity to support the Foundation and at the same time celebrate my 20th wedding anniversary," said Dr. Milam.

## Saturday's highlights

- **WPC Women's Caucus and Reception**, 5:30–7 p.m., Williford A
- **IMG Section Caucus and Candidates Forum**, 5:30–8:00 p.m., Williford B
- **Disaster Medicine Caucus**, 5:45–6:30 p.m., PDR 1
- **Catholic Mass**, 6:30 p.m., Stevens 4
- **IMG Section "Desserts from Around the World" Reception**, 9:30 p.m., Normandie Lounge

## Sunday's highlights

- **HOD "Second Opening" Session**, 8–8:30 a.m., International Ballroom
- **Ref. Committee B**, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Grand Ballroom
- **Ref. Committee E**, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Continental C
- **Ref. Committee F**, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., International Ballroom
- **Ref. Committee G**, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m., Continental A-B
- **Constitution and Bylaws**, 1:30–6 p.m., International Ballroom
- **Ref. Committee A**, 1:30–6 p.m., Grand Ballroom
- **Ref. Committee C**, 1:30–6 p.m., Continental C
- **Ref. Committee D**, 1:30–6 p.m., Continental A-B

# A call for global volunteers

A visit to Tanzania when he was a fourth-year medical student affected Edward O'Neil Jr., MD, so much that he's since dedicated his life to improving the health of the poor around the world.

"That experience was powerful enough to change my life, and that can be the same for many other people," said Dr. O'Neil, an emergency physician in Boston and founder of Omni Med, a nongovernmental organization that runs programs emphasizing health care volunteerism in such countries as Kenya, Thailand and Guyana.

Dr. O'Neil shared his passion for providing quality health care for people in the most underprivileged countries at Friday's "Global health inequality: A call to understanding and action," a session hosted by the Section on Medical Schools and the Medical Student Section. He detailed many misperceptions about why the citizens of many countries lack decent health care and explained the need for more physicians and medical students to volunteer to help them. He also disputed the notion that health care professionals in the United States should worry more about patients here at home rather than abroad.

"We have the resources to help both, and we can and should help both," he said.

Dr. O'Neil stresses those same points in two books, *Awakening Hippocrates: A Primer on Health, Poverty and*



Edward O'Neil Jr., MD, said many Americans have misperceptions about foreign aid from the United States and do not understand the causes of health disparities around the globe.

*Global Service* and *A Practical Guide to Global Health Service*, both published last year by the AMA. Ultimately, his message is simple: get involved.

"Medicine's Achilles' heel is that physicians' knowledge and talents are concentrated among people who can afford them," Dr. O'Neil said. "Our challenge is to change that."

# Students visit local community center

More than 30 volunteers from the Medical Student Section and four local physicians visited a youth arts center on Chicago's Northwest Side Friday morning to help connect neighborhood families with needed health care resources.

The visit to the Miracle Center was part of the section's 2006-08 National Service Project, "Covering the Uninsured and Protecting Access to Care."

In collaboration with the American Diabetes Association and the Healthy Hermosa Coalition, the medical students worked with local children and adults who do not have regular access to health care. More than 100 neighborhood residents showed up for

free blood pressure, cholesterol and vision screenings, glucose testing, and to receive educational information about diabetes. As the children enjoyed games, adults participated in exercise classes. The medical students set up a booth to enroll kids in the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

"The best part about today's event is that we are providing a service that educates the children not only today, but we are also providing referrals and enrollment for kids to make sure they have medical care in the long term," said John Vasudevan, MD, the at-large officer on the section's Governing Council and a recent graduate of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. "We are



AMA student members helped conduct health screenings and enrolled kids in the State Children's Health Insurance Program on Friday as part of their National Service Project.

more than the policy we create—it's the willingness we have to put it into action that is important."