

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS NEWSLETTER



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Physicians' Health Foundation of Louisiana - Holiday Greetings

The holiday season can be a very difficult and trying time for many people. Feelings of depression, anxiety, loss or grief and self-medication often contribute to the difficulties that individuals, including physicians, experience during this time of year. The Physicians' Health Foundation of Louisiana's Physicians' Health Program (the "PHP") wishes to remind all physicians of its resources and availability to offer assistance during the holidays and throughout the year.

The goal of the PHP and the Board is to assist physicians suffering from chemical dependency, psychiatric illness and other conditions before such impact one's ability to practice medicine with reasonable skill and safety. The PHP has many local and nationally recognized resources at its disposal to assist in the evaluation or treatment for chemical dependency and psychiatric conditions. The PHP has no obligation to report to the Board a physician experiencing difficulties who has not previously undergone adequate treatment for the same or a substantially similar problem and/or has not been monitored by a professional monitoring program such as the PHP. Since 1999, approximately ninety-five (95%) percent of physicians who have participated in the PHP have sufficiently resolved their problems and maintained their practice. If you are suffering from chemical dependency, a psychiatric illness, physical limitation and/or disruptive behavior, or you know a physician who is, or if you are having a difficult time coping during this holiday season, please contact the PHP and allow their staff the opportunity to provide you with the full measure of the PHP's assistance. In the meantime, the PHP would like to wish each of you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season.

Representatives and Contact Information: The representatives of the PHP and their contact information is noted below for your ready reference:

Michael R. DeCaire, MPA <i>Administrative Director</i>	8032 Summa Avenue, Suite C Baton Rouge, LA 70809 (Local) 225-766-0421
Gary D. Olbrich, M.D. <i>Medical Director</i>	(Toll-free) 888-743-5747 (Fax) 225-819-0833
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Bioterrorism Preparedness

The threat of anthrax, smallpox or other epidemics is all too real post 9-11. Physicians who will necessarily be on the front line of any local or national disaster should take measures to educate and prepare themselves to lend assistance in any way possible should the need arise. A number of state and national programs and resources focusing on preparedness and response efforts are available and will be discussed in further editions of this publication. In the meantime, the following web sites are being provided for your ease of reference:

- The Centers for Disease Control provides public health alerts, advisories and updates and emergency response plans.
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/index.asp>
- The American Medical Association has developed disaster preparedness and medical response information.
<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/6206.html>
- The AMA has also launched web-based educational programs featuring leading experts on clinical, psychosocial, and disaster preparedness issues raised by terrorist acts. Physicians may earn continuing medical education by participating in the programs.
<http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/article/2403-5839.html>
- The University of Alabama at Birmingham has established a resource site that also provides continuing medical education, which addresses how to diagnose and treat rare infections and exposures to bioterrorist agents such as anthrax and smallpox.
<http://www.bioterrorism.uab.edu/index.htm>

Who are the Members of the Board?

The Board is comprised of seven members, all appointed by the Governor from lists of names submitted by the Louisiana State Medical Society ("LSMS"), the Louisiana Medical Association ("LMA") and the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians ("LAFP"). One of the LSMS's four nominations must be a physician practicing in a parish or municipality with a population of less than 20,000 people; two members must be appointed from nominations submitted by the LMA and one from nominations of the LAFP. The current members of the Board are noted in the masthead of the *Newsletter*. For those not familiar with them, Dr. Laborde is a general surgeon, Dr. LeBlanc a sports medicine physician, Dr. Amusa an emergency medicine physician, Dr. Ferdinand a cardiologist, Dr. James a family practitioner, Dr. Bourgeois practices occupational medicine and Dr. Gage-White an otolaryngologist. Each member of the Board serves a term of four years and is eligible for reappointment for three consecutive terms. In an effort to better acquaint licensees with its members, this and future editions of the *Newsletter* will feature a different member of the Board. The last edition featured Keith C. Ferdinand, M.D., a cardiologist from New Orleans. This edition features Trenton L. James, II, M.D., a family practitioner in Baton Rouge.



Trenton L. James, II, M.D.

Trenton L. James, II, M.D.-Dr. James received his medical degree from Louisiana State Medical Center in New Orleans ("LSUMC-NO") in 1966 where he was a member of the Phi Chi Medical Fraternity and Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. His post-graduate training included internship and general practice residency training at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and Lafayette, followed by completion of family practice residency training at the University of Rochester's Highland Hospital, Rochester, New York. Dr. James served two years in United States Public Health Service, Indian Health Service, assigned to the Alsaka Native Health Service.

In addition to practicing as a family practitioner at Baton Rouge Family Medical Center, Dr. James is an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Family Medicine at LSUMC-NO. He also participated in the training of residents at Earl K. Long Memorial Hospital. Dr. James has held a number of positions in the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians, including those of Sixth District Director, Chairman of the Education Committee, Member of the Board of Directors and Secretary. He has filled various posts within the East Baton Rouge Parish Medical Society, including Chairman of the Public Information and Education Committee, the Public Relations Committee and the Medicine and Religion Committee. He has also served in various capacities in the Louisiana State Medical Society, including Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations, as a member of the Task Force on Management of Health Care Delivery and a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Charity Hospital System in

Louisiana. Dr. James has also served as a member of the National Board of Medical Examiners' Standard Setting Committee and since 1999 has been a member of the test-writing team for Step 3 of the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).

Dr. James' medical community work experience includes membership on the Board of Directors of the Central Louisiana Area Health Education Center, service for the Baton Rouge community clinic, providing unreimbursed care to the uninsured patients, lecturing for General Health System's Community Wellness Education Programs, serving as a member of the Medical Liaison Committee of the St. Vincent DePaul Community Pharmacy and as Medical Advisor to Group Homes for the Volunteers of America.

Dr. James was board certified in family medicine by the American Board of Family Practice in 1972, recertified in 1978, 1984, 1991 and 1997. He served as a test writer for the Board from 1984-1988. Dr. James received the Mead-Johnson Award for Graduate Training in General Practice presented by the American Academy of General Practice for 1967-68, was the recipient of the Patient Care Award for Excellence in Patient Education in the Primary Care Setting in 1984, was named as the Louisiana Academy of Family Physicians' Family Doctor of the Year in 1988 and received the Wyeth-Ayerst Community Service Award presented by the LSMS for 1994-95.

A current member Dr. James has, during his tenure, served as Secretary, Vice-President and immediate past President of the Board. He has also served as Vice-Chair and Chairman of the Joint Administration Committee between the Board and the Louisiana Board of Nursing respecting prescriptive authority for advanced practice registered nurses and was the Board's representative on the Advisory Committee on the Management Chronic Pain and its Joint Committee for Collaborative Practice with the Louisiana State Board of Pharmacy. Dr. James' advice, wisdom, experience and service have been an invaluable asset to the Board and, in turn, the citizens of Louisiana.

Nominations Solicited

Integrative and Complementary Medicine- Advisory Committee

The integrative and complementary medicine rules that were recently adopted provide for an advisory committee to be appointed by the Board to provide it with advice and recommendations concerning the Board's rules, the standards of care and policies and procedures respecting integrative or complementary medicine and to assist and provide the board with such information and expertise as it may request and upon which it may rely with respect to investigative and/or disciplinary proceedings affecting physicians utilizing integrative or complementary medicine. To qualify for consideration for appointment to the committee, a physician must be in good standing with the board, have practiced and resided within the state of Louisiana for not less than one year and possess experience and have specialized in integrative or complementary medicine for not less than three years. Physicians desiring to serve on the committee should send their curriculum vitae to the Board, attention: Rita Arceneaux, Executive Assistant.