

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS NEWSLETTER



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News & Notes

Emergency Preparedness-Contact Information

In an effort to better coordinate the dissemination of emergency information that may be vital to the health and welfare of our citizens in times of a true emergency, the Board is revising its applications to specifically request emergency contact information on all of its licensees, *i.e.*, emergency only telephone number(s), e-mail addresses, fax number(s), etc. When completing your next application we would ask that each of you take an extra moment to review and correct the accuracy of the contact information that we have on file and provide us with emergency contact information so that in the event of an emergency critical, time-sensitive information may be broadcast as expeditiously as possible to the medical community.

Medical Job Fair Of Louisiana

The eighth annual Medical Job Fair of Louisiana (the "Medical Job Fair") will be held on Friday and Saturday, August 23-24, 2002, at the Hotel Inter-Continental in New Orleans. The Medical Job Fair is a cost-effective recruitment event that facilitates the placement of physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners and dentists in rural and under-served communities. Principal sponsors of the Medical Job Fair are the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Rural Health and the Louisiana Area Health Education Centers, in partnership with the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. For registration or additional information concerning the Medical Job Fair call 1-800-435-2432, e-mail medfair@swlahec.com or visit www.medicaljobfair.org.

Announcements From The Physicians' Health Program-New Personnel/Facilities

New Personnel-The Physicians' Health Foundation of Louisiana (the "PHFL") which operates the Physicians' Health Program (the "PHP") has hired a full-time Medical Director and Case Manager. Gary D. Olbrich, M.D., came aboard in August of last year after serving as the Associate Medical Director and

Medical Director of the PHP operated by the Tennessee Medical Foundation and also as the Medical Director of the Oregon PHP. Dr. Olbrich is a graduate of Stanford Medical School, completed his residency in internal medicine and is board certified. He subsequently completed a fellowship in addiction medicine and later became a fellow of the American Society of Addiction Medicine. Dr. Olbrich is a member of the Federation of State Physicians Health Programs, served on the Federation Board of Directors and as Chair of the Public Policy Committee. Dr. Olbrich has worked in this field for the past eleven years and has already proved to be an invaluable asset to the PHP.

Julie M. Alleman, M.Ed., joined the PHFL PHP in October of last year. She obtained her bachelor of science in psychology/sociology at Louisiana State University and her master's in community counseling at Southeastern Louisiana University. Mrs. Alleman previously served as the Continuing Medical Education Coordinator for the Louisiana State Medical Society and as the Program Coordinator for the Access and Visitation Program for the State of Louisiana. She is currently working towards board certification for substance abuse counselors and intends to obtain licensure as a professional counselor. Mrs. Alleman has also proven to be a valuable addition to the PHP.

Michael R. DeCaire, MPA, remains as the Administrative Director and will begin his fifth year with the PHFL in August of this year.

New Facilities-On May 1, 2002, the PHFL moved its offices to a new location. The new contact information is as follows:

Physicians' Health Foundation of Louisiana
8032 Summa Avenue, Suite C
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
Local: (504) 766-0421
Toll-free: (888) 743-5747 (888-PHFLPHP)
Fax: (225) 819-0833

*The PHFL intends to establish a web site in the near future with e-mail capability.

As always, if you are suffering from substance abuse/chemical dependency, psychiatric illness, physical limitation and/or disruptive behavior, or know a physician who is, please contact the PHP. The PHP may be able to help you or your colleague without any obligation to report the information to the licensing board.

Announcements From The DEA-Forms/ Forged Prescription Reporting

The local office of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (the "DEA") has asked that the Board notify its licensees of the following information:

Forms-The DEA is now offering those forms and registration requests identified below interactively on its Diversion Control Web Site www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov

- New Applications (DEA 224)
- Name Changes
- Address Changes
- Schedule Changes
- Drug Code Changes
- Duplicate Certificates
- Order Forms (DEA For 222)
- Theft or Loss Report (DEA 106)

Forged Prescription Reporting-The DEA's New Orleans Division Office has implemented a new program designed to aid in the reduction of forged prescriptions being inadvertently filled by unsuspecting pharmacists. The program, which relies on voluntary reporting of information concerning forged prescription from practitioners and pharmacists, calls for the DEA to alert all participating pharmacies of the reported information by e-mail.

If someone has been using your name and DEA registration to forge prescriptions, please report the information to the DEA at (504) 840-1100. The DEA will, in turn, e-mail a report to all participating pharmacies in an attempt to place them on alert. In addition to contacting the DEA you should also contact your local law enforcement authorities so that appropriate investigation and action may be undertaken.

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 on the masthead of the *Newsletter*. For those not familiar with them, Dr. Laborde is a general surgeon, Dr. LeBlanc a family practitioner and 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 is 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. This edition's featured member is Keith C. Ferdinand, M.D.

DR. FERDINAND was a Telluride Scholar at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, prior to receiving a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of New Orleans. He received his medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine, Washington, D.C., in 1976 where he was a member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. His post-graduate training included an internship at the New Orleans' U.S. Public Health Hospital, an internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship at Louisiana State University Medical Center-New Orleans, and completion of cardiology training at Howard University Hospital.

In addition to practicing as a clinical cardiologist and director of Heartbeats Life Center, a cardiovascular center, Dr. Ferdinand is a professor of clinical pharmacology at Xavier University College of Pharmacy. He is past President and Chairman of the Physician's Association of Louisiana, Inc., an independent physician's association, past President of the Orleans Division of the American Heart Association and past Chairman of the Board of Association of Black Cardiologist, Inc. Dr. Ferdinand is also a member of the Anti-Hypertensive and Lipid Lowering Treatment Data and Safety Monitoring Board, a member of the Ad Hoc Community on Minority Populations for the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI), Chairman, Chapter Four, of the Joint National Committee Sixth Report, and a member of the National High Blood Pressure Education Program Coordinating Committee. He is a national consultant to NHLBI Physician's Health Network, a program for the education of physicians and the lay population on cardiovascular risk reduction.

Dr. Ferdinand's community work experience includes serving as principle investigator for the Healthy Heart Community Project, a cardiovascular risk program targeting African-American and other high-risk populations. Healthy Heart is a nationally recognized model for community-based health screening and intervention. Since 1995 he has hosted and produced *Health Issues 2000*, a community cable talk show and he previously produced *You and Your Health*, a local radio talk show broadcast from New Orleans.

Dr. Ferdinand is board certified in internal medicine and cardiovascular disease and a fellow of the American College of Cardiology. He is also a diplomat certified in the subspecialty of nuclear cardiology and a certified specialist in clinical hypertension by the American Society of Hypertension. Dr. Ferdinand is the author of the chapter "New Approaches to Pharmacologic Treatment of Hypertension," *Cardiology Clinics, Annuals of Drug Therapy*, Volume 3 (1999), and the chapter "Medical Management of Coronary Heart Disease in Blacks," in the textbook *Cardiovascular Diseases in Blacks*, which he co-authored with L. Julian Haywood, M.D.

A current member Dr. Ferdinand has, during his tenure, served as Secretary, Vice-President and President of the Board.



Dr. Ferdinand

What Is A Dispensing Physician?

From time-to-time the Board is asked to distinguish a registered "dispensing physician" from one who does not enjoy this designation. Here is the difference:

1. Every physician who holds a license to practice medicine in the state of Louisiana may issue (but not dispense) prescriptions for non-controlled substances. He may also dispense¹ *bona fide*² (non-controlled) medication³ samples.

2. A Louisiana licensed physician whose controlled substance authority has not been restricted by the Board *and* who possesses a controlled substance certificate and registration issued by the Louisiana Department of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs (DNDD) and the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) may, in addition to the items described in paragraph 1 above, prescribe or administer (but not dispense) controlled substances in the ordinary course of his

or her medical practice for a legitimate medical purpose.

3. Only a physician who possesses the above qualifications (Louisiana medical license without controlled substance restriction, DNDD certificate and DEA registration) *and* who is, in addition, registered with the Board as a dispensing physician may lawfully sell or dispense medication (*i.e.*, non-controlled substances, controlled substances and non-controlled substance samples) to his or her patients.

Dispensing physicians are required to adhere to all record-keeping, audit, security and other requirements imposed by state and federal law and the Board's rules. The Board's dispensing rules are set forth in their entirety in the Louisiana Administrative Code, LAC 46:XLV, Subpart 3, Chapter 65, and may be accessed through the Board's web site, www.lsbme.org

Footnotes

1-*Dispense* means-to give, provide, or supply for later oral ingestion, insertion, application, injection, or other use.

2-A *bona fide* medication sample means-medication, *other than a controlled substance*, packaged by the original manufacturer thereof in such quantity as does not exceed a reasonable therapeutic dosage for a period in excess of one week and provided at no cost to the physician for administration or dispensation to a patient at no cost to the patient. Emphasis supplied.

3-*Medication* - means any chemical, potion, compound, mixture, suspension, solution, or other substance or material, natural or synthetic, recognized and listed in the official United States Pharmacopoeia, which is lawfully produced, manufactured, sold, or provided and intended and approved for medical, diagnostic, therapeutic, or preventative use in and by humans.