

# DEAPA News

*Official Publication of the Downeast Association of Physician Assistants*

March/April 2010

## DEAPA Representatives Attend AAPA's Capitol Connections Moving PA issues Forward

DEAPA members Gregg Christensen, PA-C, Paul Spencer, PA-C and Alan Hull, PA-C along with 150 other PAs and PA students attended the AAPA's Capitol Connections. DEAPA representatives spent a day on Capitol Hill, meeting with Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, Senator Susan Collins as well as staff for all 4 members of Congress and discussed issues of importance to PAs and patients.

### The Issues lobbied:

#1—The Federal Employees Benefit Act—If there is a Federal employee with a work related injury, a PA who treats them cannot be reimbursed. A bill has been initiated by Senator Collins and Rep. Michaud to amend this.

#2—Allowing PAs to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid addiction to increase access to this potentially life-saving treatment.

#3—To ensure that Health Care Reform includes provisions for PAs, i.e., education, allowing PAs to order skilled nursing facility care and provide hospice care for Medicare beneficiaries, as well as integrating PAs into medical home models of care.



(Photo from left to right: Alan Hull, PA-C, First Vice Speaker, AAPA House of Delegates, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, Paul Spencer, PA-C, Bangor and Gregg Christensen, PA-C, DEAPA, President-Elect)



**If you want to become more involved in helping the AAPA improve health care for our patients and ourselves, go to:**  
**<http://capwiz.com/aapa/home>.**

(Photo, from left to right: Alan Hull, PA-C First Vice Speaker, AAPA House of Delegates, Paul Spencer, PA-C, Bangor, Senator Susan Collins and Gregg Christensen, PA-C, DEAPA President-Elect)

## Special Announcement for the DEAPA 2010 Annual Membership Meeting!

**Saturday, April 10th, 9:00 am—10:30 am**

**Maine Medical Association Headquarters, 30 Association Drive, Manchester, Maine**

**RSVP by April 2nd to [kmiller@deapa.com](mailto:kmiller@deapa.com) or 207-620-7577**

Please join us as we gather at our yearly Annual Membership Meeting to acknowledge and congratulate the recipients of our 2010 Annual Awards for their work, commitment and dedication to patient care, as well as network with your elected members of DEAPA's board of directors, discuss issues with the PA's who represent you in various health care organizations, as well as receive updates on the Association's accomplishments and current issues. For more information on the awards and past recipients, go to our website at [www.deapa.com/award\\_schol.html](http://www.deapa.com/award_schol.html).

## 2009-10 Board of

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#### **Susan Kepes, PA-C** **Suzanne Luebke, PA-C** **Shawn McGlew, PA-C**

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#### **Laura Corbett, PA-C**

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#### **Christopher Ross, PA-C**

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Email: crosspac@hotmail.com

### **Student Directors:**

Emily Battson, PA-S (2011)  
Angela Chase, PA-S (2011)  
Sarah Dooley, PA-S (2010)

# “Splinters from the Board”

Submitted by Noel Genova, PA-C, Board Secretary.

*The following issues, which may be of interest to the general membership of DEAPA, were discussed at the January 10, 2010, meeting of the Board of Directors. Contact information for all Board members is available on the website at [www.deapa.com](http://www.deapa.com) or under the 2009-10 Board of Directors Column on your left.*

- Gordon Smith, Esq., Executive Vice President, Maine Medical Association was present and is very interested in working with DEAPA staff to develop a joint marketing endeavor for membership, outlining why Maine PAs should join DEAPA and offer additional resources that MMA provides, as they recruit physician members.
- Board discussed why employers see PAs as less employable than NPs and the board is interested in hearing from the membership on this issue.
- UNE PA Program reported that they have established 8 new rotations in Florida.
- The DEAPA Board discussed the number of Directors-at-Large on the board. The unlimited number of Directors was intended to allow input from as many people as were interested, but many Directors have accepted the position without attending meetings leaving the board without a quorum which is necessary to conduct business. This discussion will continue at the April 10th Annual Membership Meeting and Board of Directors meeting.

## “Ask” DEAPA

*An Example of one of your Membership Benefits!*

**Q—** Palliative care assists increasing numbers of people with chronic, debilitating and life-limiting illnesses. A growing number of programs provide this care in a variety of settings and I would like to learn more. **Where can I find the recently released Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care?**

**A—** The second edition (2009) of the **Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care** can be found at:

**<http://www.nationalconsensusproject.org/guideline.pdf>**

*To send in a question, email the DEAPA Newsletter Editor, Noel Genova, PA-C at [noelpac@aol.com](mailto:noelpac@aol.com) or the DEAPA office at [info@deapa.com](mailto:info@deapa.com). All questions will be handled confidentially. The editor has the right to post questions in future issues of the DEAPA newsletter. If you have a question/concern that you would like to have addressed, email DEAPA staff at [kmiller@deapa.com](mailto:kmiller@deapa.com). Selected Q&A's will be published in DEAPA's newsletter.*

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# House Passes Health Care Reform Measure by 219-212 Tally



*President Barack Obama discusses a point with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) during the health insurance reform legislation meeting at the Blair House in Washington, D.C., on February 25, 2010. (Official White House Photo by Lawrence Jackson)*

## ***The President's Proposal puts American families and small business owners in control of their own health care.***

The House, early morning on March 22nd, passed the Senate-approved health care reform measure by 219-212, to enact the Senate version of the health reform legislation, and then moments later, the House proceeded to approve "key changes" to it, (the reconciliation bill) part of a prearranged agreement to guarantee passage of the historic legislation. The changes passed by a 220-211 vote. That bill now goes to the Senate for final approval, where it only requires a simple majority to pass." Senate Majority Leaders Harry Reid (D, NV), presented to the House Democrats the commitment of 52 Democratic Senators to accept the changes to the bill passed in the House. As the Senate consideration of the changes will be done through the process of reconciliation, only 50 votes will be required to pass it. It looks as if, after more than a year of work, comprehensive health reform legislation will soon become law.

**For details of the provisions, go to: [www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov).** However, in summary, the bill eventually provides health insurance coverage to 32 million people now uninsured, bars insurance companies from denying coverage to those persons in poor health and sets up health insurance exchanges where self-employed persons and small businesses can pool together to buy coverage.

## **2010 Update Psychiatry: On the Street & In Your Genes**

**The Maine Association of Psychiatric Physicians invites you to Register for the Psychiatry Update 2010, Spring Educational Session on April 30, 2010 at the Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine.**

The educational sessions are designed to be of interest to clinicians at the interface of psychiatry and primary care, and will focus on new research on management of pain and addictions, the intricacies of Maine's Medical Marijuana Laws, prevention and treatment of psychotic disorders (including schizophrenia) in youth and adults and the risks of prescribing anti-psychotic medication in dementia. Clinicians, therapists, educators, physician assistants, social workers and nurses will benefit from attending. For more information contact: Warene Eldridge at 207-622-7743 or [weldridge@mainemed.com](mailto:weldridge@mainemed.com).

## **NCCPA Call for Comments on Proposed Changes to Certification Maintenance Requirements**

The NCCPA is soliciting comments on its proposal to change certification maintenance requirements. The amendment would require certified PAs to complete one self-assessment and one clinical quality improvement activity in addition to completing current CME requirements in each two-year recertification cycle. Recertification examination would be moved to ten year intervals, with no self-assessment or quality improvement activity being required in the two year cycle in which examination is included. The AAPA is drafting its response to the proposal that will be available by mid-March. PAs and state regulatory boards will be asked by the Federation of State Medical Boards to submit comments. The Commission has posted the proposal on its Web site at [www.nccpa.net](http://www.nccpa.net). NCCPA is accepting comments through an [online survey](#) on the proposed changes until March 31, 2010. For further information, please contact Ann Davis, PA-C, AAPA's Director of State Advocacy and Outreach, at [ann@aapa.org](mailto:ann@aapa.org).



**George S. Bottomley, DVM, PA-C**  
Program Director, Physician Assistant Program  
Westbrook College of Health Professions  
University of New England  
207/221-4527; [gbottomley@une.edu](mailto:gbottomley@une.edu)

Since the October 2009 update, much has happened. I had the honor of meeting and addressing many UNE alumni and attendees at the recent Downeast Association of Physician Assistants 20th Annual Winter CME Conference in Sunday River. I shared with them the most recent UNE PA Program admissions data. Our applicant pool continues to grow. We had 1293 applicants and interviewed 140 for 47 seats. The accepted pool's average GPA is 3.49, science GPA is 3.42 and average age is 30.7. All of these "numbers" are up from last year.

At our October White Coat Ceremony, the Sandy Christman Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Anita Ancic, PA-S. In the spirit of the namesake of this scholarship, Anita has overcome a significant obstacle in her life to achieve academic and clinical excellence. The 2009 Drew Travers Award was presented to Gregg Christensen, PA-C, the incoming president of DEAPA. This award is presented to the individual who demonstrates the highest clinical and ethical standards and consistently performs in a manner that improves the health and welfare of the citizens in the State of Maine. We have become a chapter of PAEA's National Honor Society for Physician Assistants, Pi Alpha. Carl Toney, PA was inducted as the first UNE member in honor of his 30 years as a PA.

As part of a College initiative to encourage faculty research and scholarly activity, in October, Patrick Enking, Brenda Beckett and I attended the 30th Annual PAEA Education Forum in Portland, OR. Carl Toney and Joe Wolfberg were part of the Interdisciplinary Geriatric Education Practicum (IGEP) team who presented a workshop, "Turf, Team & Town: A Geriatric IPE Team Model" at the recent Jefferson Interprofessional Care for the 21st Century: Redefining Education and Practice Conference in Philadelphia.

## Maine Launches Effort to Improve Health Care



The Maine Independent Clinical Information Service (MICIS) is an innovative pilot academic detailing program designed to provide physicians and other healthcare providers with an evidenced-based, non-commercial source of the latest findings about the drugs they prescribe. Data is focused on improving clinical outcomes. MICIS is an effort administered by the Maine Medical Association under the direction of a physician-led Academic Detailing Advisory Committee. It is funded by the State of Maine and paid for through small fees on pharmaceutical companies doing business in Maine. The clinical content is created by an independent group of physician researchers at the Independent Drug Information Service, a non-profit affiliated with Harvard Medical School and Brigham and Women's Hospital.

### Academic Detailing Overview

Academic detailing, also known as prescriber education, is the service of sending trained clinicians, upon invitation, to physicians' offices in order to present the best available, objective scientific evidence in a given therapeutic area. A literature review is conducted on the topic in question and is kept up to date. The findings from the literature review are distilled into key messages, which are reflected in training and educational materials.

Academic detailers then visit prescribers to discuss this evidence in light of real-world patient care. Such encounters enable the most appropriate, clinically judicious use of prescription drugs as well as positive overall patient care practices. It is a free, voluntary service, at the convenience of the physician/prescriber.

### Where does this Program Stand in Maine?

- In the first four months of operation, program detailers have been invited to conduct visits at 24 sites with 84 prescribers to present the initial module on Adult Type 2 Diabetes.
- The detailing visits are tailored to present to a larger group of prescribers using a Powerpoint presentation, along with printed clinical module materials or can be provided on a one to one basis. The visits are tailored to meet the needs of the prescribers' office and/or hospital/FQHC needs.
- A new module on Antiplatelet Therapy is also now available which addresses questions such as: Aspirin or clopidogrel (Plavix)? Or both? Or neither? And what about dipyridamole-aspirin (Aggrenox?) and the new prasugrel (Effient)? Which is right for which patients.

For more in-depth information and to request a visit, go to:

[www.mainemed.com/academic/index.php](http://www.mainemed.com/academic/index.php)

# What's DEAPA Doing for YOU?

## Legislative & Public Health Policy News

*DEAPA staff works alongside the Maine Medical Association (MMA) lobbying staff and monitors specific legislation that the Physician Assistant profession may be interested in following. If there is legislation that you are interested in, please let us know and we can provide you with a status report. A summary of the 124th Legislative Session will be posted to the DEAPA website later this Spring for member information.*

**LD 1574, An Act to Amend the Rights and Liabilities of the Supervising Physician of a Physician Assistant.** (Sponsored by Michael Carey) The amendment replaced the bill, but retained the intent to immunize and provide for the defense of the physician who supervises a physician assistant who is on active state service (i.e. guard duty) in the performance of the physician assistant's duties. Current law applies to the supervising physician only if the supervising physician is on active state service. This amendment provides the same protection when the supervising physician is not on active state service, but the physician assistant is on active state service in the performance of the physician assistant's duty. This amendment applies to osteopathic and allopathic physicians who are the supervising physicians of PAs.

**LD 1796, Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 881: Fees; Chemical Use in Children's Products, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection.** (Authorizes the collection of minor fees to support the Kid Safe Products Act) was unanimously approved as Ought to Pass as amended by the Natural Resources Committee. The committee approved the rule as written (including the assessment of fees in whatever amounts are necessary to cover the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) costs) but also sunset the rule in a few years. The committee agreed to give DEP the uncapped fee authority it requested, but want to revisit the fees after the first round of Priority Chemical reporting and alternatives assessments when more data will be available on exactly what the costs (and fees) are. Once approved by the full House and Senate, the rule will go into effect immediately. The fee authority expires in a few years, and will have to be reapproved by DEP and the Legislature. For more information on this issue, contact DEAPA staff.

**LD 1671 Supplementary Budget**—the Legislature's Appropriations Committee took all but the final vote on a \$310 million package to fill a gap in the state's \$5.7 billion two-year budget, early Monday morning, March 22nd. The budget cuts human services by an estimated \$23 million, education by \$48 million, and cities and towns by \$16 million. The rest of the budget includes a combination of smaller cuts in a variety of areas, a tax on hospitals and the addition of a new lottery game to bring in more revenue.

**LD 1408, An Act to Establish the Universal Childhood Immunization Program,** establishes the universal childhood immunization program to provide all children from birth through age 18 with access to a uniform set of vaccines as determined and periodically updated by the Maine Vaccine Board. The program is administered by the Department of DHHS for the purposes of expanding access to immunizations against all diseases as recommended by the federal Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), optimizing public and private resources and lowering the cost of providing immunizations to children. (passed out of the Health and Human Services committee and waiting for a full House and Senate Vote as of 3-19-10)

**LD 1798, An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issues to Create Access to Dental Care Throughout the State,** passed unanimously out of Health and Human Services Committee and awaiting final vote in the House and Senate. The funds provided by the bond issue in the amount of \$7 million will be awarded on a competitive basis, \$5 million to be used for a community-based teaching clinic affiliated with or operated by a college of dental medicine and \$2 million to be used to upgrade community-base health care clinics across the State to increase their capacity.

*Current members of DEAPA's Legislative Committee are: Chair; Gordon Murphy, PA-C and members; Gregg Christensen, PA-C, Noel Genova, PA-C and Erika Pierce, PA-C.*

*If you have an interest in serving on the legislative Committee, testifying or submitting letters, contact DEAPA staff, Kellie Miller at 207-620-7577 or kmiller@deapa.com.*



# DEAPA NEEDS YOU!!!!

The annual AAPA Conference is approaching, including the meeting of the House of Delegates (HOD), the Academy's policy making body. It looks to be an interesting session as the HOD will be considering broad reorganization of the Academy. Among the recommendations under consideration are:

- *changing the composition of the Academy Board of Directors;*
- *establishing term limits for board positions;*
- *granting the Board of Directors responsibility for setting dues (currently the responsibility of the HOD);*
- *changing the names of the AAPA volunteer groups from committees and councils to Commissions, Work groups and Task Forces, changing the size of these volunteer groups, and establishing term limits on service in these groups.*

To read about these and other proposed changes, go to [AAPA.org](http://AAPA.org) and click on "About AAPA- Leadership and Governance-Board of Directors." The HOD will also perform 5 year review on existing policies, and consider new policy suggested by the committees, councils and constituent organizations. One major topic will be changes to maintenance of certification.

The HOD speaks for the Academy and for our profession. "We, the DEAPA Delegates welcome your comments and concerns as we prepare to represent the PAs of Maine. If you are interested in serving as an Alternate delegate, you can personally participate in the HOD proceedings as much, or as little, as desired," **This year we also have an open Delegate Position for DEAPA. This is a funded position, but it requires a strong commitment for participation. If you are interested to serve as a delegate for DEAPA, please contact either Susan Kepes, PA-C, Chief Delegate at [grisen@aol.com](mailto:grisen@aol.com) or Shawn McGlew, PA-C, Delegate at [shawnrpa@urgentcareofmaine.com](mailto:shawnrpa@urgentcareofmaine.com), before April 10th.**

*University of* **NEW ENGLAND**

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### Physician Assistant Program Educators

The University of New England Physician Assistant Program is seeking two experienced and collaborative physician assistant educators to fill two available positions.

- **Academic Coordinator**  
Work with the Program Director to oversee and facilitate the didactic experience.
- **Clinical Coordinator**  
Along with our current Clinical Coordinator, will work with the Program Director to recruit, develop and manage clinical rotation sites.

Both positions are core faculty members and as such will also participate in admissions, student teaching/evaluation/remediation, program evaluation/accreditation, and other activities. Minimal required qualifications for these twelve-month, full-time, tenure or non-tenure track positions include: graduation from an accredited PA program, current NCCPA certification with current licensure (or eligibility) in Maine, a minimum of three years of full-time clinical PA practice experience and excellent interpersonal, written, and computer skills. Prior PA program teaching experience and a Master's degree are preferred.

The UNE PA program's state-of-the-art academic, research and student facilities are located on our campus in coastal Portland, Maine, one of the nation's most livable small cities with an incredible natural environment, friendly people, arts and entertainment.

**To learn more about the positions please see our website at:**  
<http://www.une.edu/hr/jobs/index.cfm>.

**Interested persons should submit a cover letter, CV and names and contact information for 3 professional references to: [Careers@une.edu](mailto:Careers@une.edu)**

Review of applications will begin immediately and will continue until the positions are filled.

**[www.UNE.edu](http://www.UNE.edu)**

*UNE is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer  
and strongly encourages candidates from diverse backgrounds.*

# Maine Independent Clinical Information Service (MICIS)

## Anti-platelet Therapy Module NOW Available!!!

**Anti-platelet therapy: aspirin or clopidogrel (Plavix)...or both?...or neither?... And what about dipyridamole-aspirin (Aggrenox) and the new prasugrel (Effient)? Which is right for which patients?**

Since the discovery that low-dose aspirin can reduce the risk of heart attack, anti-platelet agents have become an increasingly important tool for preventing cardiovascular events. While aspirin is the most widely used and best studied anti-platelet agent, the use of clopidogrel (Plavix) and combination dipyridamole-aspirin (Aggrenox) have increased substantially in recent years, and a 2007 study introduced a new agent, prasugrel (Effient). Heavy marketing to physicians and direct-to-consumer advertising have made Plavix the second best-selling drug in the world. But how do the efficacy and safety of these newer drugs compare to aspirin? At much higher cost (\$160 per month for clopidogrel and \$180 per month for dipyridamole-aspirin), when should these drugs routinely be used to replace aspirin at \$1.30 per month?

A number of large randomized controlled trials have evaluated various anti-platelet regimens, and have produced widely varying results for different clinical conditions. The major studies are reviewed on <http://www.rxfacts.org/professionals/antiplatelet.php>, along with their implications for practice. *\* This material was produced by Niteesh K. Choudhry, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, with consultative input from Michael A. Fischer, MD, MS, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School; Leslie Jackowski, B.Sc. (Hon), MBBS, Research Fellow, Harvard University; William H. Shrank, MD, MSHS, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Series editor: Jerry Avorn, MD, Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Drs. Avorn, Choudhry, Fischer, and Shrank are all physicians at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. None of the authors receives any personal compensation from any drug company. These are general recommendations only; specific clinical decisions should be made by the treating physician based on assessment of the individual patient.*

To learn more and request an Academic Detailer to visit your practice to discuss Anti-platelet Therapy, contact Maine Medical Association staff listed below.

### Antiplatelet therapy: a summary of the evidence

Condition	Recommended Treatment	Evidence
Acute Coronary Syndromes [Unstable angina, non-ST-segment elevation MI (NSTEMI), and ST-segment elevation MI (STEMI)]	CLOPIDOGREL + ASPIRIN for at least 1 year. PRASUGREL + ASPIRIN for 15 months may be a superior alternative for some non-elderly ACS patients who have undergone PCI.	CURE, COMMIT, CLARITY, CHARISMA, CAPRIE, TRITON
Past MI	CLOPIDOGREL for high-risk patients*, ASPIRIN for all others	CHARISMA, CAPRIE
Stable angina	ASPIRIN	Antiplatelet Trialists Collaboration, CHARISMA
Elective PCI	CLOPIDOGREL + ASPIRIN for at least a year	CREDO
Stroke	CLOPIDOGREL or ASPIRIN + DIPYRIDAMOLE	MATCH, CHARISMA, ESPS2, ESPRIT, PROFESS
PAD	CLOPIDOGREL	CHARISMA, CAPRIE
PRIMARY PREVENTION	ASPIRIN only for patients in whom benefits outweigh risks	POPADAD, JPAD, USPSTF

\*High risk patients: history of coronary artery disease, stroke, or TIA, and any of the following: bypass surgery, events involving multiple vascular beds, two or more ischemic events, diabetes, or high cholesterol.

*For More Information, or to Request an Educational Session at no cost to your practice contact: Kellie Slate Miller at the Maine Medical Association at: 207.622.3374, ext 229 or [kmiller@mainemed.com](mailto:kmiller@mainemed.com) [www.mainemed.com](http://www.mainemed.com)*



***Downeast Association of  
Physician Assistants***

30 Association Drive  
PO Box 190  
Manchester, ME 04351



*Timothy Davis, PA-C*

**2009-2010 New and Renewing Members! ~ Thank You For Your Membership!**

*(As of December 15th, 2009)*

<i>Alexandra Ainsworth, PA-S *</i>	<i>Portland</i>
Julia Barrett, PA-C	W. Gardiner
<i>Tracy Bennett, PA-C *</i>	<i>Bangor</i>
<i>George Bottomley, PA-C *</i>	<i>Portland</i>
Ann Boudreau, PA-C	Penobscot
<i>Kathy Bouton-Semmel, PA-C *</i>	<i>Dedham</i>
John Cassidy, PA-C	Bangor
Owen Howell, PA-C	Islesboro
Molly Jennings, PA-C	Windsor
<i>Lindsay Jones, PA-S *</i>	<i>Lincoln</i>

Robert Lapham, PA-C	Nottingham
<i>Dennis Kim, PA-S *</i>	<i>Portland</i>
Robert Klotz, Jr., PA-C	New Gloucester
Elizabeth Mueller, PA-C	Portland
<i>Melinda Pearson, PA-C *</i>	<i>Portland</i>
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Andrew Susen, PA-C	Portland
<i>Amy Taisey, PA-S *</i>	<i>Freeport</i>
<i>Michael Wood, PA-C *</i>	<i>Scarborough</i>

**Membership Dues for  
2010-2011 will be sent  
out in the month of  
May!**

**If you have had an  
address change or  
email address change,  
please send it to  
DEAPA at:  
info@deapa.com  
Thank you!**

\* Indicates *New Member* \*\* Indicates *Donor to the Susan Vincent Memorial Scholarship*

**Mark your Calendar for DEAPA's 21st Annual Winter  
CME Conference  
February 2-5, 2011!**

*Exceptional CME At Sunday River! Look for information Fall of 2010 at:  
[www.deapa.com/conference](http://www.deapa.com/conference)*