Speaker Biographies

A Disease That Can Be Fought: Effective Approaches to Combating Obesity and What the AMA Classification Decision Means

Tuesday, December 10, 2013

Mary R. Grealy
President
Healthcare Leadership Council

Mary R. Grealy is president of the Healthcare Leadership Council, a coalition of chief executives of the nation’s leading healthcare companies and organizations. HLC advocates consumer-centered healthcare reform, emphasizing the value of private sector innovation. It is the only health policy advocacy group that represents all sectors of the healthcare industry. She was appointed to the position in August 1999. Ms. Grealy has an extensive background in healthcare policy. She has led important initiatives on the uninsured, improving patient safety and quality, protecting the privacy of patient medical information, and reforming the medical liability laws. She testifies regularly before Congress and federal regulatory agencies. She is a frequent public speaker on health issues and has been ranked many times by Modern Healthcare as one of the 100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare and has been named to Modern Healthcare’s list of the Top 25 Women in Healthcare for 2009.

Barry Dickinson, PhD
Director, Unit on Science & Biotechnology
Secretary, Council on Science & Public Health
American Medical Association

Barry D. Dickinson, Ph.D. received his doctorate in pharmacology from the University of Illinois at the Medical Center in Chicago and is currently Director of the American Medical Association’s (AMA) Division on Science and Biotechnology in Chicago, and also serves as Secretary of the Council on Science and Public Health. The Science and Biotechnology Division incorporates the AMA’s core activities in drug policy and genetics/personalized medicine. The Council develops reports for the AMA House of Delegates which serve as the basis for official AMA policies and directives on a variety of science and public health-related issues. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Coalition for Patient Information and Education, serves as the AMA Delegate to the United States Pharmacopeia, is a member of USP’s Council of the Convention, and also represents the AMA on the National Coordinating Council for Medication Error Reporting and Prevention. Additionally, he has an adjunct faculty appointment in pharmacology at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in North Chicago, IL. Previously, he served as staff author and Scientific Editor for AMA’s Drug Evaluations compendium and as managing editor of the University HealthSystem Consortium’s Drug Monograph series.
Paul Coppola  
**Head of Wellness Program Strategy and Innovation**  
Aetna  

Paul Coppola is the Head of Wellness Program Strategy and Innovation at Aetna. In this role, he has been charged with supporting Aetna’s enterprise wellness strategy, suite of programs and services, in addition to, supporting key initiatives within the National Care Management organization. Mr. Coppola has been responsible for setting and implementing the Healthcare reform on and off exchange wellness strategy and leading the Coventry wellness integration team. Since joining Aetna in 2006, Mr. Coppola has also worked within the National Customer Operations organization, managing the Plan Sponsor Process Efficiency Team, focusing on automated case installation initiatives, case setup process and overseeing productivity improvement system enhancement projects. Mr. Coppola is also a Six Sigma Black Belt.

Charles Baum, M.D., M.S., FACG, FTOS  
**Vice President and Head US Medical Affairs**  
Takeda Pharmaceuticals International  

Charles Baum, MD, MS, FACG, FTOS, is Vice President and Head of U.S. Medical Affairs at Takeda Pharmaceuticals International. Dr. Baum boasts nearly 25 years of experience in obesity medicine and is a member of several medical professional societies, including the American Medical Association, the American Gastroenterology Association, and the American College of Gastroenterology. He also served as an Associate Professor of Medicine, Gastroenterology, and Nutrition at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Baum is widely published and is a national speaker. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago and received a M.D. from the University of Chicago, Pritzker School of Medicine and a M.S. from the University of Chicago Committee on Human Nutrition and Nutritional Biology.

Stephanie Rost, M.S., R.D.  
**Corporate Program Development Director**  
Weight Watchers International, Inc.  

Ms. Rost is a Registered Dietitian with a Master of Science degree in Human Nutrition from Michigan State University. She graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree from Central Michigan University with majors in both Nutrition and Psychology. She completed her dietetic internship at Michigan State University where she did her rotations at Sparrow Hospital, and also worked as a clinical dietitian. Ms. Rost is currently the Director of Corporate Program Development for Weight Watchers International where she serves as an internal resource for upholding the technical integrity of the Weight Watchers program. In addition, Ms. Rost creates educational information on a variety of weight-related topics and helps coordinate all clinical research initiatives sponsored by Weight Watchers International. She has contributed articles to leading medical journals. Ms. Rost also serves as a corporate spokesperson on scientific matters and has been a source for nutrition information for magazine and website articles around the country.