

Program Directors: Attend Free Training on Teaching Evidence-based Medicine to Residents

The AAN is offering a free, comprehensive training seminar for program directors which will enable them to establish evidence-based medicine education programs for residents at their institutions.

The training begins with a two-day course held September 19 and 20 in Salt Lake City prior to the American Neurological Association meeting in that city. Two additional training sessions will be held January 9 and 10 and May 15 and 16, 2009. Participants will then implement the program at their institutions throughout the year. Participants in the training should be program directors or their designees (not program coordinators).

Participants will receive the AAN Evidence-based Medicine Toolkit, a coordinated set of resources designed to teach residents to understand and use the techniques of evidence-based medicine as a strategy for increasing quality of neurologic care. The program will include 20 modules, each with a slide presentation, illustrative articles with critical analysis, and detailed teacher's notes.

"Our goals are to instill the habit of critical appraisal into our residents and to integrate the principles of evidence-based medicine and the application of AAN guidelines into resident education," said Michael Glantz, MD, FAAN, Chair of the Evidence-based Medicine Toolkit program and member of the Practice Improvement Subcommittee. "Ultimately, we hope to fundamentally alter neurology practice and create a culture change in our discipline characterized by the adoption of evidence-based medicine principles and their translation into daily clinical practice."

The program will also include a web-based interactive component that can be used by directors and residents, with tools such as neurology-related clinical scenarios, articles that can be critically reviewed according to evidence-based principles, checklists and assessment sheets, and statistical tools. The program may also serve as a resource to help meet the Practice-Based Learning and Improvement core competency requirement of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). Program directors are asked to check with the ACGME about requirements and if this program will meet those requirements.

Travel costs and lodging will be paid by the AAN if the participant is not attending other programs for educational credit. Some costs can be paid if the attendee is extending his or her stay for another program.

The Evidence-based Medicine Toolkit program is sponsored by the AAN and is endorsed by the Association of University Professors of Neurology (AUPN) and the American Neurological Association (ANA).

The program is supported in part by an unrestricted educational grant from Pfizer, Inc.

Enrollment for the program is limited. Contact Amy Wallace at awallace@aan.com to enroll or obtain additional information.



Michael Glantz, MD, FAAN

New Podcast Series Offers P4P and Quality Initiative Information on Demand

The AAN is offering its members podcasts focusing on pay-for-performance (P4P) issues and quality initiatives. The biweekly podcasts will be available beginning in mid-August.

"This is a great educational opportunity for our members," said James Stevens, MD, FAAN, chair of the Practice Committee and P4P Workgroup. "They will be able to get the information they need on pay-for-performance at their convenience."

The series will launch with a basic overview of the Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Subsequent podcasts will address how physicians can collect data for the PQRI, how performance measures are developed, and program results for 2007.

Members can download the podcasts to their MP3 players by visiting www.aan.com/p4p.

For more information, contact Gina Gjorvad at ggjorvad@aan.com or (651) 695-2715.



James Stevens, MD, FAAN