



Vascular Society of New Jersey
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MONTHLY REPORT February 2007

From the President

Steven M. Hertz, M.D.

Personally I'm always ready to learn, although I do not always like being taught."

- [Sir Winston Churchill](#)

Winter has arrived in New Jersey. This is good news to those, like me, who like to steal a day here and there to hit the slopes. Soon, spring will be upon us and the final preparations for our Annual Meeting are falling into place nicely. Please plan to join us for this event—bring along a colleague who is not familiar with the society—we have a small membership but would like to represent a broader consensus of practicing vascular surgeons in NJ. Bring along your favorite vascular technologist—the local chapter of the Society for Vascular Ultrasound will be sending an invitation out to their membership. Bring along a surgical resident, medical student or interested undergraduate—it adds to the learning environment to have interested young students with open ears and minds. Please note that we try to stick to a tight budget to save your money, and we defray some of our costs by allowing industry exhibitors to display their wares at the meeting, both to keep the membership updated on new innovations and to help the bottom line. Please suggest to any industry representative that you encounter to consider exhibiting at the meeting—ask them to contact Jennifer Baglino (jbaglino@blynchassociates.com)

On a political level, I am gratified with the effort mounted by NJ physicians against the DOBI proposed regulation limiting out-of-network payments. Thank you to all of those who have given their time and energy for this important cause. Apparently, the outcry has been strong and well-organized. (Maybe something positive actually came out of the Malpractice fiasco) I have been told that consumer groups have also voiced their opposition, fearful of the financial impact to the patient. Please keep generating letters to DOBI and encourage your patients to do the same—maybe this time someone is listening!

After twelve years of therapy my psychiatrist said something that brought tears to my eyes. He said, 'No hablo ingles.'

- [Ronnie Shakes](#)

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Despite a strong and cohesive lobbying effort and support from nearly all state legislators, Governor Corzine, at the final hour, **vetoed the repeal of the cosmetic medical procedures tax**. Discussions are underway to explore possible budget language, but unfortunately, we are faced with an Administration who, despite agreeing with data that proved the State has lost more money on this tax than it has brought in, refused to repeal this tax for fear of opening the door to other repeal efforts (gym, fur, tattooing, etc.).

So what? " I don't do cosmetic surgery, why should I care?" Well this veto does not bode well in any efforts to address the tax on ambulatory surgery centers - which brings in far more revenue and has not driven business over state borders.

Legislation that would counter the DOBI **PIP** regulatory proposal comes to a hearing on February 8 before the Assembly Financial Institutions Committee. A slate of physicians and trial lawyers will address the committee in support of A-3703, which requires DOBI to produce a PIP fee schedule that mirrors 75% of "reasonable and prevailing fees" - the original charge to DOBI when the PIP law was first written.

Physicians and their lobbyists across New Jersey have been energized and active in their opposition to the **DOBI out-of-network regulation**. Several "calls to action" have been distributed, and communication with legislative leadership and Administration officials has been ongoing. Keep your comments flowing to DOBI and your state legislators.

Discussions have begun with Senator Loretta Weinberg (D-Teaneck) on her legislation (S-2394) that would seek to **license single-room surgical facilities**. We have provided her with existing State Board of Medical Examiners regulations and will continue to dialogue with her on this measure.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Watch your mail for your promotion soon!

March 14, 2007
11:00 am

VSNJ Spring Meeting
St. Barnabas Islami Auditorium

Spring Meeting Schedule includes....

PRESENTATIONS by

Dr Randy Shafritz - *Radiofrequency Ablation of Incompetent Perforating Veins*

Dr Bruce Mintz - *The Medical Management of the Surgical Patient*

Dr. Kenneth Goldman - *Exposure for Anterior Spine Surgery*

And Fellows Debate: *Carotid Endarterectomy vs Carotid Stenting*

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