

August 2012 Special Meeting Arizona Thoracic Society Notes

On the hottest day of the summer to date (reported high 114° F), a special meeting to allow Rep. David Schweikert (R-AZ 5th) to attend the Arizona Thoracic Society meeting was held on 8/8/2012 at Scottsdale Shea beginning at 6:30 PM. There were 27 in attendance representing the pulmonary, critical care, sleep, infectious disease, radiology, and thoracic surgery communities.

Representative Schweikert arrived slightly before his scheduled time of 7 PM and spoke for about 20 minutes predominantly on the budget process. Major points of his remarks included that:

- Money leads to the disagreements in Congress.
- If unchanged SGR will result in about a 73% reduction in physician payments in 14 ½ years.
- There is considerable concern that baby boomers will lead to increased health care consumption as they age.
- The Independent Payment Advisory Board, or IPAB, will direct medical care to achieve specified savings in Medicare/Medicaid.

This was followed by about a 20 minute question and answer session where questions were asked regarding ACA, healthcare finance and several other issues. Representative Schweikert was presented with handouts from the ATS regarding three issues: [SGR](#), [Clean Air Act](#), and the [exemption of cigars from FDA regulation](#) (click on issue to be directed to ATS handout).

After Rep. Schweikert's question and answer session, 3 cases were presented:

1. Tim Kuberski, an infectious disease specialist from Maricopa Medical Center, presented a young man who presented with left upper quadrant pain and fever which eventually proved to be disseminated coccidioidomycosis.
2. George Parides, a pulmonologist from Phoenix, presented a case of a patient with ulcerative colitis and bronchiectasis. Infliximab therapy is planned for the patient's ulcerative colitis and Dr. Parides raised the question if infliximab would affect the patient's bronchiectasis. The consensus was that the answer was unknown.
3. Andrew Goldstein, a thoracic surgeon, presented a case of young man with multiple bullae and a spontaneous pneumothorax. Multiple etiologies were considered but the cause remains unknown.

At the end of the meeting Dr. Steven Farber gave a brief presentation on docs 4 patient care (<http://www.docs4patientcare.org>). This is an organization of concerned physicians committed to the establishment of a health care system that preserves the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship, promotes quality of care, supports affordable access to all Americans, and protects patients' freedom of choice.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for August 29 at Scottsdale Shea 6:30 PM.

Richard A. Robbins, MD
CCR Representative
Arizona Thoracic Society

9/7/12

Addendum:

Rep. Schweikert sent the following letter to George Parides thanking him for the opportunity to speak at the Arizona Thoracic Society.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

DAVID SCHWEIKERT
5TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

August 9, 2012

Dr. George C. Parides
Central Arizona Medical Associates, P.C.
19841 N. 27th Avenue, #102
Phoenix, AZ 85027

Dear Dr. Parides,

It was a pleasure meeting you at the Local Arizona Thoracic Society meeting earlier this week. I always appreciate learning more about what local professionals are dealing with and I would enjoy repeating this meeting again next year.

Thank you again for the invitation and if I can ever be of service to you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Schweikert', written over a light blue horizontal line.

David Schweikert