



# THE PATIENT'S VOICE

## NEW 'ACCESS-TO-CARE' PROGRAM

Californians for Patient Care (CPC) is pleased to announce the launch of its new signature 'Access-to-Care' program.

Because access to health care has become a complex issue for many in California, and because we believe all people have the right to safe, quality and appropriate health care services (including preventive care), CPC created the 'Access-to-Care' program.

Located on the Californians for Patient Care web site at [www.calpatientcare.org](http://www.calpatientcare.org), this program will help individuals who do not have private insurance find health care resources. In as few as 3 steps/

clicks, residents will be able to locate the many types of health care programs available in each community – in all 58 counties throughout the State.

'Access-to-Care' was created in a user-friendly, concise format that provides information based on funding sources, including programs that receive revenue from federal, state, county, and local services, along with other non-profit services.

The program will be coming soon in select counties for a 6-month trial testing. During this time, suggestions for improvement and changes will be made to better meet the needs of the community. We welcome all suggestions.

## QUARTERLY EVENT

On June 7, 2007 Californians for Patient Care participated in its first Quarterly Community Event partnering with Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA) at the 2007 premier Gala Dinner held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. PSR-LA, a respected and powerful voice for change, couples medical concerns with activist resolve wielding a unique influence on public policy.

The event was well-attended with nearly 400 people representing community leaders, policy-makers, community-based organizations, and health care stakeholders and their guests to recognize and honor those who have made a difference in working for peace, health, and the environment.



Shelly Sullivan, Mariska Hargitay, Maria Robles at the PSR-LA Gala Dinner

## PATIENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Tim Tift,

Chair of the Californians for Patient Care Board of Directors and Faculty



Advisor to the Undergraduate Minor in Educational Studies at the University of California, Irvine, and a lecturer in the Department of Education, has undergone several surgeries (eye, knee replacement, foot, rotator cuff on both shoulders, colon, back) over the last 10 years. With Tim's lengthy patient credentials, it seemed appropriate to get his view on current healthcare issues in the newsletter's first edition of the 'Patient's Perspective' column.

**CPC: What do you think of the current healthcare**

**system?**

**Tim:** I truly believe health care in the U.S. is the world's best. However, there are challenges - costs are rising, the number of uninsured continues to increase, workforce shortages are becoming more problematic, federal and state government shortfalls to health care providers cause a hidden tax on privately insured Californians. The major providers and payers should have incentives to make them more efficient and coordinated. Even with its flaws, life expectancy keeps improving, thanks to the health care system.

**CPC: How do you feel about universal healthcare?**

**Tim:** I have a son who has lived in four different countries. I was well aware of the health care issues he and his family faced

while living outside the U.S. The expectations, values and lifestyles are different among nations. All nations in the world wrestle with rising costs, an aging population, drug costs, research, education, emergency services, access to care and financing challenges. No universal system in the world is perfect. Nevertheless, we have an obligation to create the best system possible for Californians and the residents in all states.

**CPC: What parts of the current healthcare system do you believe help in the control of chronic illness? Hinder?**

**Tim:** Chronic illness in California is growing because of the benefits of our health care system (better care and technology), aging of the population, and more attention to

## Tim Tift Continued:

preventive health. The older people get, the more health problems they face. We must adopt the policies and incentives for the public to properly manage their chronic illnesses and for providers and payers to coordinate effective and efficient ways of treating people with chronic conditions. Chronic health problems may not receive the attention that other health conditions demand, but they can be more costly over the long term as the number of aged Californians increases. Having taught the state mandated health course for pre-service teachers for over ten years in the University setting, I believe that preventive health is vital to preventing or delaying chronic illness. Finally, chronic illness must be addressed in the context of comprehensive reform, with emphasis on non-institutional care and optimum independence of people who have one or more chronic illnesses.

As a final thought, the Governor, Legislature, hospitals and others who stepped up to the plate should be commended for their leadership and courage. Regardless of whether legislation is enacted in the next few months, their vision has started a movement that will likely result in statewide reforms and possibly national action. It is an exciting time and we should take advantage of the opportunities before us.

*If you would like to share your Perspective, e-mail Sharon Phantha at [spantha@calpatientcare.org](mailto:spantha@calpatientcare.org).*

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Community Health Improvement Partners:

*A Healthy Approach to Meeting Community Health Needs*

Competition, cooperation, and collaboration can co-exist in the San Diego County healthcare arena. The proof? The success of Community Health Improvement Partners, or CHIP.

CHIP is a collaboration of hospitals, health plans, clinics, physicians, community-based organizations, education, and the County Health & Human Services Agency that work collectively to achieve optimal health for all San Diegans. Founded in 1995 to assess the unmet health needs of the community due to the passage of Senate Bill 697 (Torres), CHIP is now working on its fifth countywide, community-based health needs assessment.

CHIP continues to evolve while addressing its core objectives - assessment, outreach, advocacy and education, program development, and collaboration. CHIP's unique model is successful because competing organizations have been able to check their self-interests at the door and work side-by-side on community benefit projects.

"The most important component of CHIP's success over the past 12 years is the trust that has been established among these organizations," said Kristin Garrett, Executive Director of CHIP. "The CHIP membership currently works in six issue areas including access to health care, childhood obesity, diabetes, violence and injury prevention, behavioral health and adult immunization. CHIP is successfully bringing new meaning to public-private partnerships organized to improve the health of the community," she added.



For more information, visit [www.sdchip.org](http://www.sdchip.org) or contact Community Health Improvement Partners, 5575 Ruffin Road, Suite 225, San Diego, CA 92123, Tel: 858-614-1554 or Fax: 858-614-0230.

## CHANGES FROM WITHIN

Californians for Patient Care would like to graciously thank Ms. Shelly Sullivan for the past 8 months of service as Vice President to the organization. We wish her all the best as she moves forward in her new career endeavors.

As we look forward, CPC would like to welcome Ms. Patrician Price as the new Vice President. Patrician, previously with the Public Affairs division of the South Coast Air Quality



Management District, brings her extensive knowledge and expertise in Public Affairs, Governmental Affairs and Public Relations. She also brings her diverse background in producing high-profile events in both the entertainment and political arenas, with the most recent being the international asthma conference held at the Disneyland Hotel. Ms. Price holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Radio/Television Broadcasting from California State University, Northridge.

**Maria Robles, R.N.,** President  
**Patrician Price,** Vice President

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*Californians for Patient Care's mission is to ensure that the patient's voice is heard in reforming the healthcare system ... to provide better care and easier access for all. CPC represents patients—past, present and future—and advocates for quality medical care that is within reach for everyone. For more information, visit [www.calpatientcare.org](http://www.calpatientcare.org).*

