President’s Message: “Making Strides”

The end of 2010 is upon us. CRDMS has had an uplifting and productive year. The 2010 challenge was for CRDMS to adopt & address strengthening infrastructure and increasing efficiency allowing CRDMS to become more effective. Six months later: 1) a functional website allows the showcasing of activities, collecting dues and payments, processing online membership and will link to members’ website; 2) our 60th anniversary celebration fun and fellowship were had by all as we surpassed projections on net income generated; 3) CRDMS community visibility has increased by participating in outreach & health fairs and plan to continue; 4) CRDMS members have 2010 National Medical Association leadership roles such as C. Freeman, MD, MBA, Treasurer; Arthur M. Fleming, MD, Trustee Reg. VI; Richard Williams, MD, Chair Reg. VI; Michelle O. Clark, MD, Vice-Chair Reg. VI and is Psychiatry Section Chair; L. Khadijah Lang, MD, is on Council of Concerns for Women Affairs.

Now more than ever, we need your activity, skills, & membership. Our goal is to increase membership 25% to reach 200 strong and to increase life members by 50%. These modest changes will provide organizational stability and revenue. Meet this challenge head on by pledging life membership and being responsible for at least one new or returning member. I thank you for your support this year.

“In closing, I challenge the members of CRDMS to keep on the agenda maintaining excellence in the practice of medicine by conducting educational activities, scholarship and retreats for new leaders.”

TAKING THE LEAD
Electronic Medical Records: Making an Informed Choice

By Diane Moseberry, MD.

Health Information Technology is being used to reform the healthcare system and improve healthcare quantity, efficiency and patient safety. Yet, most physicians do not use electronic medical records (EMRs) or electronic health records (EHRs). In 2011, Medicare and Medicaid are giving incentive payments to physicians and hospitals that use EMRs and EHRs. The statute requires use of certified EHR technology in a “meaning manner”. Eligible hospitals and providers (EPs) that are meaningful users can receive payments in 2011 and would receive payments for 5 years. Medicare and Medicaid require “meaningful use” to be demonstrated in order for recipients to receive payments. The meaningful use requirements differ for Medicare and Medicaid. EPs that do not show meaningful use will have negative adjustments made to their payments in later years. Many of the requirements are straightforward. Many of the requirements are not.

To help individual and small group practices navigate the complicated world of EMR, the federal government set up 60 Regional Extension Centers (RECs) across the United States. HITEC-LA is the REC that serves the Los Angeles area. Contact HITEC-LA at www.lacare/aboutlacare/hitec-la. To read the full article go to CRDM. To learn more go to the CMS or Cal eConnect website.
At the October General Meeting held at Lucy Florence Cultural Center, Geraldine Burton Branch, MD, MPH was recognized as an Honorary Member. Dr. Branch, who turned 102 this October, is an Ob-Gyn who received her MD from NY Medical College, trained at NY Harlem Hospital, and then began practicing Family Planning long before accepted by the larger society.

Continuing this practice, in 1947 she moved to LA with her husband and 2 children. She worked as a Family Planning Clinician, a LA County District Health Officer, and a Chief Health Administrator for the Charles R. Drew Post Graduate School of Medicine, is a Founder of the Watts Health Center, and also earned an MPH from UCLA in 1962.

She maintains her youth with a vegetarian diet and walking a mile every day. In an interview, she spoke of her experiences, “I can recall a time I was able to facilitate the availability of medical services in the Watts--Willowbrook area by partnering with Kenneth Hahn and distinguished community members such as Lillian Mobley.”

When asked how she dealt with challenges she said, “I am a person with a one tracked mind that has helped me remain focused and follow through until I see it”. CRDMS delights in having Dr. Burton Branch as an Honorary Member.