

COMPUTERS, LAW AND MEDICINE CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

The American Society of Law and Medicine, in conjunction with Blue Shield of Massachusetts, announces sponsorship of a NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMPUTERS, LAW AND MEDICINE emphasizing THE LEGAL ASPECTS OF COMPUTER USE IN HEALTH-CARE DELIVERY.

The two-day National Computer - Law - Medicine Conference will be held at the Boston Sheraton Hotel on November 7 and 8, 1974 and will examine the wide variety of present and potential uses of computers in health-care delivery from a legal perspective. Consideration will be given not only to legal risks in such uses of computers, but also to the many important legal benefits flowing from their adoption. Conference speakers, all of whom will be leaders drawn from the medical and legal professions, will examine the legal implications of both use and non-use of automated health delivery systems.

Specific topics to be explored during the Conference will include privacy requirements, the evolving duty to use computerized therapy systems, legality of computerizing medical and hospital records, contracting techniques for effective implementation of automated systems and the legal ramifications of using automated diagnostic assistance systems. More precisely, the program will examine the variety of medicolegal risks involved in the use of computer-communications

technology in such diverse ways as maintaining patient charts, performing laboratory analyses, providing diagnostic assistance or consultation, reading electrocardiograms, maintaining intensive care units and controlling teaching mannequins.

In addition, the program will explore the ways in which computerization of health delivery systems shifts legal responsibilities, not only among medical professionals, but also to third parties such as suppliers of computer services, equipment, and programs. This program should appeal not only to physicians and lawyers concerned with forensic medicine, health law or health care delivery, but also to teachers, hospital administrators, computer specialists, suppliers, third-party payers, government regulatory agencies, and professional liability insurers.

National Chairperson of the Conference is Roy N. Freed, Esquire, a Boston attorney who has written extensively in the field. National Vice-Chairperson is John A. Norris, Esquire, Editor-in-Chief of *The American Journal of Law & Medicine*. Both are members of the ASLM Council.

Enrollment will be limited and early registration is recommended by use of the coupon on page 11.

This program is acceptable for the AMA Physician's Recognition Award under Category Two, and application is in process for accreditation by the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Annual Disability Symposium to Focus on Lung Diseases and Disorders

The ASLM's Third Annual Symposium on the Medicolegal Evaluation of Disability will focus its attention this year on the mounting problem of impairment from lung diseases and disorders. (The previous two programs explored the problems of disability evaluation in heart diseases and in orthopedic disorders.)

This year's symposium will be chaired by Dr. Howard A. Frank, Thoracic Surgeon and Clinical Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, with the assistance of Dr. Edward A. Gaensler, Professor of Surgery, Boston University School of Medicine, and world-recognized authority on asbestosis and occupational pulmonary diseases.

The morning session will be devoted to presentations of the medical, legal and insurer evaluation of pulmonary impairment, particularly emphasizing the limitations of present day methods of study. Dr. Elliot L. Sagall, Clinical Instructor in Medicine, Harvard Medical School, will describe the clinical examination of the lung patient; Dr. Morris Simon, radiologist at Beth Israel Hospital, Boston, will consider the role of the X-ray; and Dr. Edward A. Gaensler will explain and discuss the practical usefulness of pulmonary function tests. The legal and insurance viewpoints will be presented by John Antonakis, Manager of Workmen's Compensation Claims, Home Office, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, the Honorable Seymour Fier, Senior Administrative Law Judge of the Bureau of Social Security Disability Insurance, Washington, D.C., and a leading trial attorney yet to be selected.

The afternoon session will consist of a panel discussion with questions from the floor. Chaired by Dr. Thomas L. Delbanco, Consultant in Thoracic Medicine and Director of Ambulatory Medical Care at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital, the panel will be made up of the morning speakers plus other leading authorities in the field.

This program has been accredited for seven hours elective credit by the American Academy of Family Physicians and is acceptable for the AMA Physician's Recognition Award under Category Two.

ASLM Announces New Appointments

At the May 22, 1974, annual business meeting of the Society, the slate of Council Members submitted to the membership by the Nominating Committee (see page 2 this issue **Medicolegal News**) was unanimously elected by the general membership.

At the meeting of the newly elected Council on May 22, 1974, the slate of Society Officers submitted by the Nominating Committee (see page 2 this issue **Medicolegal News**) was unanimously elected.

At a special meeting of the Steering Committee held May 22, 1974, the following Society

appointments for the year 1974-1975 were announced:

George J. Annas, J.D., M.P.H.
Editor-in-Chief, **Medicolegal News**

Douglas Danner, LL.B. - General Counsel

James F. Holzer, J.D. - Director of Public Information and Director of Programs

Chester J. Lusciniski, C.P.A. - Auditor

John A. Norris, J.D., M.B.A. - Editor-in-Chief, **American Journal of Law & Medicine**

Deanna E. Sagall - Director of Administrative Offices