



AAFA President, CEO Named by State Insurance Commissioners to Important Patient Advocacy Role

Patient Voice in Health Care to See Increased Emphasis in 2016;

Dr. Sennett to Appear Before FDA Advisory Committee Meeting January 21

Landover, Md. (Jan. 19, 2016) – The [Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America](#) (AAFA), the leading advocate for individuals living with asthma and allergic disease, today announced that Cary Sennett, MD, PhD, FACP, its President and CEO, will serve as a consumer liaison representative to the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC).

The NAIC selected Dr. Sennett as a consumer liaison representative for 2016. In that role, AAFA's CEO will represent the interests of the more than 60 million Americans who live with asthma and/or allergic disease.

Dr. Sennett will work with NAIC's Consumer Liaison Committee, and other NAIC committees, to promote consumer protection for asthma and allergy patients. The NAIC sets standards and regulations for the insurance industry for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

He is the only consumer liaison representative from an asthma and allergy organization. The NAIC chooses representatives based on their dedication to serving the public interest.

This announcement comes as Dr. Sennett prepares to testify Thursday, January 21, 2016, before the [Allergenic Products Advisory Committee of the Food and Drug Administration](#). Dr. Sennett will discuss the critical role of the patient in health care, drug and device development, research and policymaking.

“Ensuring access to innovative treatments coming to market remains a key focus for AAFA in 2016,” said Dr. Sennett. “I am honored by this selection and understand the importance AAFA's influence has to advocate on behalf of Americans living with asthma and allergic disease to receive effective life-enhancing treatments.”

Dr. Sennett, who joined AAFA in 2014, has considerable experience working on issues related to the quality and performance of health insurance plans from his prior roles at the Brookings Institution and at the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA).

The balance between health insurance, affordable medicine and innovative health care remains a delicate one. AAFA offers a unique perspective as an advocate for patients, their caregivers and health care providers, working to ensure that the public has affordable access to the latest life-saving and life-enhancing medications.



Dr. Sennett's [addition to the consumer liaison representative program](#) reflects NAIC's longstanding commitment to assure that patients have a strong and knowledgeable voice in helping state regulators ensure these innovative therapies remain accessible to those who need them most.

A recent PwC [Health Research Institute report](#) noted that in 2016 many families would face higher deductibles, compelling them to manage their health care more proactively as cost-sharing arrangements become more common.

About the NAIC

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) is the U.S. standard-setting and regulatory support organization created and governed by the chief insurance regulators from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories. Through the NAIC, state insurance regulators establish standards and best practices, conduct peer review, and coordinate their regulatory oversight. NAIC staff supports these efforts and represents the collective views of state regulators domestically and internationally. NAIC members, together with the central resources of the NAIC, form the national system of state-based insurance regulation in the U.S. For more information, visit www.naic.org.

About AAFA

Founded in 1953 and celebrating over 60 years of service, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) is the oldest and largest nonprofit patient organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for people with asthma, allergies and related conditions through education, advocacy and research. AAFA provides practical information, community-based services, support and referrals through a national network of chapters and educational support groups. Through its Kids With Food Allergies division, AAFA offers the oldest, most exclusive online support community for families raising children with food allergies at community.kidswithfoodallergies.org. In addition, AAFA sponsors and advocates for research to advance the basic science relevant to treatment and cure. It also champions translational research so that the science that we have is applied more consistently and reliably. For more information, visit <http://www.aafa.org>.

Media Contact:

Allison Inserro, Senior Manager, Community Services

ainserro@aafa.org

215-230-5394



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Foundation of America