



# ALLERGY & ASTHMA

CERTIFIED ALLERGY & ASTHMA CONSULTANTS

President Elect Barack Obama  
713 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington DC 20510

11 November 2008

Dear President Elect Obama,

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations regarding your recent victory in the Presidential election. I particularly wish you strength and wisdom in dealing with our current economic crisis. As part of the domestic agenda, I also wish you well as you begin to deal with the United States health care system.

I am a practicing allergist in Albany, New York and have enjoyed this vocation for the past two decades. I am particularly involved in pediatric allergy care and most especially in treating the epidemic of asthma and food allergies in these children. The need for affordable and available quality health care for the entire United States population is both morally and economically necessary. The current system is both wasteful in its use of resources and inequitable in its delivery of services.

I implore you to seek counsel from all quarters of the health care field. Although academic physicians, health care bureaucrats, and economists are all essential to the solution. It is critical to also listen to the consumer and the practicing physicians. As a specialist who devotes all of my time to direct patient care, I would like to share with you a few of my basic concerns about current trends in health care delivery.

Firstly, electronic medical record (EMR) adoption is not by itself going to solve the health care problem. We have adopted EMR about 6 months ago in our single specialty medical group at considerable expense. Although we remain optimistic, thus far productivity has not been increased nor have I seen a notable improvement in the quality of care rendered. As a matter of fact, I find that in many cases I find myself bogged down in the time-consuming acquisition of medical data to complete computer generated menus that is peripheral to the medical issue that specifically confronts me. Furthermore, computerizing the practice of medicine inherently has the risk that many data points may be entered by a mere keystroke without the data actually being truly ascertained by a physician-patient interaction.

Secondly, as competition for health insurer medical dollars by physicians becomes more pronounced, I see many physicians offering services to the healthcare public without the expertise to deliver quality care. Health insurers have been reticent to police these practices since they are befuddled by 'certification' issues and legal threats to allow such practices to continue. In my own area, I have, for example, seen ENT surgeons providing allergy diagnosis and treatment that is both wasteful and of poor quality.

Practice limited to allergy, asthma and clinical immunology

David J. Shulan, MD • Scott L. Osur, MD • Janet L. Claassen, MD • Thomas N. Flaim, MD  
Michael G. Katlan, MD • Kris K. Saririan, MD • Michael A. Lapuente, DO

[www.certifiedallergy.com](http://www.certifiedallergy.com)

8 Southwoods Boulevard  
Albany, NY 12211  
phone: 518-434-1446  
fax: 518-434-0806

963 Route 146  
Clifton Park, NY 12065  
phone: 518-383-0001  
fax: 518-383-5035

624 McClellan Street  
Schenectady, NY 12304  
phone: 518-374-2266  
fax: 518-374-0500

2231 Burdett Avenue  
Troy, NY 12180  
phone: 518-272-1515  
fax: 518-272-0035



Finally, there is a pervasive mentality in the United States that a comprehensive medical work-up is required for every presenting malady.. It seems to me that quality and affordable medical care absolutely dictates that evidence-based medicine is put into practice and that physicians be immune to lawsuits if they follow such algorithms.

Thank you for your time in reading my comments, and once again I wish you nothing but success in tackling the very tough issues ahead of you in the coming months and years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Osur", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Scott Osur MD