

forcement of HIPAA-related complaints. "Having the law there is one thing—having confidence that it will be enforced is another," he said.

But Dr. Sullivan also called on health care providers to calm consumer fears about privacy. Patient privacy protection, he said, should be built into the medical profession's code of conduct and presented to patients that way. "I don't think [privacy fears are] going to be solved by passing more legislation," he said.

Janlori Goldman, director of the Health Privacy Project, also called for better HIPAA enforcement. It is especially troubling, she said, that people worry about

employment-related consequences connected with health care information and that they are not aware of their rights under HIPAA.

Part of the blame lies with the way HIPAA forms found at health care providers' offices are worded, she said. They start with what providers can do with personal health information, not what individual rights are. "They are not written with consumers in mind," she said.





Ms. Goldman said HIPAA needs to be expanded to include employers and that privacy constraints should be built into both electronic health records technology and in disaster preparedness plans. ■

UPCOMING MEETING COVERAGE

- International Society for Clinical Densitometry
- Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections
- American Diabetes Association Postgraduate Course
- American Heart Association: International Stroke Conference
- American Academy of Pain Medicine
- American Academy of Dermatology
- American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology



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<p>THE ECS IMPACTS THE METABOLISM OF LIPIDS AND GLUCOSE¹⁻³</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECS overactivity may be associated with the development of cardiometabolic risk factors including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Low HDL cholesterol — High triglycerides — High waist circumference — Elevated fasting glucose — Insulin resistance
<p>THE ECS HELPS REGULATE PHYSIOLOGIC PROCESSES¹⁻⁴</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ECS consists of signaling molecules and their receptors, including the cannabinoid receptor CB₁² • Endocannabinoids bind to CB₁ receptors and trigger events that may have a negative impact on lipid levels and insulin sensitivity¹ • CB₁ receptors are located in sites such as muscle, the liver, the brain, and adipose tissue^{1,2,4-6}
<p>RESEARCH CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE THE ROLE OF CB₁ RECEPTORS IN MUSCLE*</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced glucose uptake has been observed in isolated skeletal muscle of genetically obese, insulin-resistant animals
<p>ENDOCANNABINOIDS TARGET FATTY ACID PRODUCTION IN THE LIVER³</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May contribute to dyslipidemia and insulin resistance^{3,7}
<p>PRESENT IN MULTIPLE AREAS OF THE BRAIN²</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypothalamus integrates signals from adipose tissue and other peripheral tissues^{8,9}
<p>ADIPOSE TISSUE—MORE THAN SIMPLY A FAT STORAGE DEPOT</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produces factors active in the metabolism of lipids and glucose¹⁰ • Low levels of adiponectin negatively affect glucose and free fatty acids^{1,10}
<p>EXPLORING THE EFFECTS OF THE ECS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This newly discovered physiologic system provides new opportunities for understanding cardiometabolic risk

*Data from animal model only.

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