

## Ring in 2008 with Collaboration and Leadership

*Greetings and happy new year to you all!*

**by Russell Bodoff**

NHIA Executive Director

Recent "As We See It" columns have focused on our critical challenges around driving a successful legislative fix for the Medicare home infusion reimbursement problem—and on the major membership organizational changes taking place within NHIA. Now, as we now embark upon a promising 2008, I would like to highlight one of the most positive developments taking place within the NHIA community.

For many years NHIA has received strong support from manufactures, suppliers and service companies through business affiliate memberships, sponsorships, advertising and exhibit booths at the NHIA Annual Conference. Starting in 2008, a group of outstanding leadership companies within our field have come together as part of a major new NHIA initiative—**The Future of Infusion Advisory Council (FIAC)**, which initially consists of the following companies (listed alphabetically):



- **Baxter Healthcare Corporation**
- **B. Braun Medical**
- **Cubist Pharmaceuticals**
- **Hospira Inc.**
- **Innovatix, LLC**
- **Managed Health Care Associates (MHA)**
- **Smiths Medical**

Beyond the various commitments that the above companies make to NHIA on a regular basis, they now have pledged substantial additional dollars to further strengthen NHIA's legislative, educational, media and member communications efforts. Senior representatives of these companies will participate on the FIAC to provide innovative input on the primary issues that are most critical to the alternate-site infusion field. Additionally, the Council will meet with the NHIA Board to share ideas, brainstorm and contribute to strategy development to help improve the success of infusion providers—while making certain that all the field's key entities are working together to ensure that patients are always obtaining the highest quality care, in the place where they want to receive it.

As the trade association for this vital field, our strength lies in bringing together all the crucial stakeholders within alternate-site infusion. The NHIA Board of Directors, made up of infusion providers, looks forward to this valuable opportunity to engage with the FIAC members to gain significant insights from the major business firms serving our field—and to receive the support of these firms around the matters identified as most essential for the alternate-site infusion provider community.

In closing, let me thank these seven companies on behalf of the NHIA Board of Directors and staff for their exceptional leadership, financial support and commitment to helping NHIA increase our services to our members.

***Together, we will productively transform our future!***

Regards,

