

2010 Meetings and Events

Thursday, March 18, 2010
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Tours

General Membership Meeting & Tour of Edison State College
8099 College Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Speaker: Dr. Kenneth Walker
“Edison State’s Future For Our Community”

RSVP Medical Society Office
LCMS, PO Box 60041, Ft Myers 33906
Tel: 936-1645 Fax: 936-0533

2010 General Membership Meeting Schedule
Locations to be announced

Thursday, May 20, 2010

Thursday, September 16, 2010

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Inserts

- Florida Gulf Coast University Sign up
- Where We Stand Flyer
- Legislative Agenda Brochure
- Estero Professional Center Ad

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President’s Message

My First Goal is to be a Touch More Alive

Craig R. Sweet, MD



I have a number of goals over the next year which, with your help, we can certainly achieve. I outlined my proposals at the 1/21/2010 General Membership Meeting and will expand on each of them through the Bulletin in the months to come.

To start things off, I would like to increase our interactions with students attending higher education within the community. I have broken this particular goal into three preliminary proposals as follow:

First, my practice has been working with third and fourth-year Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) students. Since 2005, we have had seven students performing animal and human laboratory research in the areas of andrology, embryology and cryobiology. Their research projects were presented at FGCU with numerous prizes awarded. There were an additional nine student interns who shadowed the laboratory staff. Many of these FGCU students went on to medical school and Ph.D. programs, and I would like to expand this interaction to other interested practices. If you would like to open your practice to research students or those interested in internships, please contact Jo Ann Wilson, Ph.D., at jwilson@fgcu.edu.

Second, we have been working with FGCU’s Office of Pre-Medical Professions Advising, to create a new experience for FGCU pre-med students and Lee County physicians. It is proposed that students will be shadowing Physician Mentors in their practices and the hospital for a minimum of 15 hours per semester. This will allow the students to gain a better understanding of what it is to be a practicing physician. Responsibility for student selection, physician-student matching, immunizations, oversight and HIPPA training will rest with the FGCU faculty. LMHS drafted a **Student Observation Agreement** to cover confidentiality issues although individual physician practices are free to have the students sign their own agreement as well. My personal expectation is that the students will far exceed the required hours. It will also be a wonderful

opportunity for all of us to polish up our teaching skills and relearn the wonder of what we do through the mind of a young student. We are seeking primary care, specialty and sub-specialty physicians for the program. Interested physicians should contact Cliff Renk, Ph.D., at crenk@fgcu.edu.

The third part of our growing interaction with FGCU will involve a Physician Speaker’s Bureau. In conjunction with the LCMS, we would like to gather a list of physicians willing to speak to the FGCU students in unpaid guest lectureships. What makes this different from other lectures is that the physician truly chooses the topic that he/she is passionate about. Science, the arts, history, business and economics are only a few of the areas we should consider. We have such a wealth of talent in our society, not just in the medical field, and this will be an opportunity to explore these topics with a willing audience. It will be a wonderful opportunity to get away from the boring PowerPoint presentation and challenge these young minds. Those interested should contact Ann Wilke at awilke@lcmsfl.org who will then contact FGCU.

These new plans will certainly not leave Edison Community College behind. I will be working closely with them to see what alliances we can forge between this growing college and the physicians of Lee County. This is already underway.

As always, if you have some other ideas beyond what I have suggested here, do share them with me. Call me any time at 887-0019 or e-mail me at DrSweet@DreamABaby.com.

I’ll be the first to admit that there isn’t enough time to do the things we want and need to do. Yet, here I call upon each and every one of you to consider engaging these students in the proposals above. I am also asking that you stay involved, pass the word, write editorials, speak your mind, educate your patients, join the MD1000 Club and support politicians who support organized medicine and the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. I ask that each of you find at least one item you feel passionate about, listed here or otherwise, and dedicate some of your very precious time to it. It will all make us feel just a touch more alive.

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN
P.O. Box 60041
Fort Myers, Florida 33906-0041
Phone: (239) 936-1645
Fax: (239) 936-0533
E-Mail: awilke@lcmsfl.org
www.lee-county-medical-society.org

The Lee County Medical Society Bulletin is published monthly with the June and August editions omitted.

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Lee County Medical Society Mission Statement & Disclosure Policy

The purpose of the LCMS is to unite the medical profession of Lee County, FL, into one compact organization; extend medical knowledge and advance medical science; elevate the standards of medical education; strive for the enactment, preservation and enforcement of just medical and public health laws; promote friendly relations among doctors of medicine and guard and foster their legitimate interests; enlighten and alert the public, and merit its respect and confidence.

All LCMS Board of Governors and Committee meeting minutes are available for all members to review.

Membership News

New Members

Nora David, DO – Internal Medicine
Jelin Israel-Cvik, MD – Internal Medicine
Shalin Mehta, MD – Cardiology
Richard P. Perkins, MD – Maternal Fetal Medicine

Reactivated

Leah Lynch, MD – Internal Medicine
George Mestas, MD – Pulmonary Disease
Scott Fields, MD – Internal Medicine

Relocated

Hollace Leppert DO
Emie Kuyumjian MD
Internal Medicine Associates
3571 Del Prado Blvd N, Ste 2
Cape Coral, FL 33909
Phone: 239-656-6300

Janet Cheng MD
Advanced Dermatology Specialties
326 Del Prado Blvd N, Ste 301
Cape Coral, FL 33909
Phone: 239-458-1131

Wallace M. Graves Jr, MD **June 20, 1930 - January 12, 2010**

Wallace M. Graves Jr, MD passed away Tuesday, January 12th at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Edgewood, KY. Dr. Graves practiced clinical pathology and served as Chief Medical Examiner for Florida Judicial District 21. He served Lee County from 1965 until his retirement in 1996 and also served on the LCMS Board from 1968-69. Services will be held at Linnemann Funeral Home in Erlanger, KY. Online condolences may be made to: www.linnemannfuneralhomes.com.

New Member Applicants

Gregg Guffrey, MD — Dr. Guffrey completed his MD degree at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI in 1971. He completed his internship at Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield, MA (1971-72). Dr. Guffrey is certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. He is in group practice with Southwest Florida Emergency Physicians, 13681 Doctors Way, Fort Myers, FL 33912 - Tel: 343-0086



Jesus Mendiolaza, MD — Dr. Mendiolaza completed his MD degree at Villareal University, Lima, Peru in 1994. He completed his internship at Advocate Illinois Medical Center, Chicago, IL (2001-2), and residency/fellowship at University of Medicine and Dentistry, Newark, NJ (2002-2007). Dr. Mendiolaza is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and Nuclear Cardiology. He is in group practice with Associates in Cardiac Care, 8960 Colonial Center Drive Ste 302, Fort Myers, FL 33905 - Tel: 343-9700.



Xiomara Morillo-Azcuy, MD — Dr. Morillo-Azcuy completed her MD degree at University of Zulia, Maracaibo, Venezuela in 1982. She completed her internship/residency at Medical Reese Hospital Medical Center, Chicago, IL (1991-94). Dr. Morillo-Azcuy is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. She is in group practice with Internal Medicine Associates at 16251 North Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33903. - Tel: 656-6300.



Anna Shuster, DO — Dr. Shuster completed her DO degree at Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2004. She completed her internship/residency at Providence Hospital and Medical Centers, Southfield, MI (2004-7). Dr. Shuster is certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Medicine. She is in group practice with Physicians Primary Care of SWFL, 1255 Viscaya Parkway Ste 200, Cape Coral, FL 33990-3290. - Tel: 574-1988.



Brice Tompkins, MD — Dr. Tompkins completed his MD degree at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY in 1998. He completed his internship/residency at Sparrow Hospital/Michigan State University, Lansing, MI (1998-2001). Dr. Tompkins is certified by the American Board of Family Medicine. He is in group practice with Internal Medicine Associates, 24600 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs, FL 34134. - Tel: 948-3761.



Silvia Velasquez, MD — Dr. Velasquez completed her MD degree at the Universidad Reruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru in 1995. She completed her internship/residency at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI (1996-1999) and a fellowship at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI (1999-2001). Dr. Velasquez is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and Infectious Disease. She is in group practice with Internal Medicine Associates, 13813 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers, FL 33912. - Tel: 936-1343.



As I Recall...

Roger D. Scott, M.D.

More Pioneers

Dr. John A. Simmons arrived in Arcadia in 1907 to become an early medical **Pioneer** seven years after Dr. D. L. McSwain's arrival there. Dr. Simmons graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1903 and practiced somewhere unknown for four years before coming to Arcadia. In 1912 he built in Arcadia the 12-bed "Simmons Sanitarium" at a cost of \$12,000. He boasted that this was the only hospital between Tampa and Miami. (The first Lee Memorial was built in 1916.) The sanitarium was enlarged in 1929, 1951 and 1958 and its name was changed to the Arcadia General Hospital. It was probably in the early 1970s that it was replaced by a new masonry DeSoto Memorial Hospital. He recalled during his almost 50 years of practice many house calls and also delivering babies with the mother on a pallet on the floor. (Home deliveries and housecalls.) He also stated that during the 1918-1919 flu epidemic he went with very little sleep for 11 days and nights. Little else is known about Dr. Simmons except that his residence was at his farm and citrus grove near Arcadia.

"The first x-ray machine was donated to the Arcadia hospital by John Roebling, the son of the builder of the Brooklyn bridge in New York." All of the above information has come from an undated newspaper supplied by Dr. and Mrs. Calvin Martin of Arcadia.

Curiously I began to wonder why in the world John Roebling from New York donated an x-ray machine to a small hospital in DeSoto County Florida. Did the Roeblings have a winter home in Arcadia or had simply been visiting Arcadia and found the hospital needed an x-ray machine. And so I searched the Internet and came up with a wonderful, very interesting and informative website on the Brooklyn Bridge and the Roeblings, and this A. I. R. article now shares some of this information with you.

John A. Roebling, (a Berliner and civil engineer) emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1831 to farm, but returned to engineering and **Pioneer** the fabrication of America's first wire rope in 1840. His stronger and more manageable 11/4-inch wire rope (cable) replaced 9-inch rope hawsers. He moved his factory to Trenton, New Jersey in 1849 and became well known for building suspension bridges using cable. He was commissioned to design and build a bridge from Brooklyn (1870 population 396,000 people, the fastest-growing city in the US) to Manhattan on May 23, 1867 with a salary of \$8,000 per year. On July 6, 1869 Roebling's foot was crushed between a ferry boat and a piling that resulted in an amputation without anesthesia followed by gangrene and subsequent "lockjaw" (tetanus) leading to his death on July 22, 1869 at the age of 63 before actual construction began on January 2, 1870.

His eldest son, Washington Augustus, took over in the early stages of the construction to ultimately complete the bridge. Washington often worked in the pressurized caissons that extended 49-feet under the river and developed Caissons Disease (also known as the "Bends") with significant nerve damage and some paralysis. (No decompression chambers in those days!) He lived as an invalid in a town house on the Brooklyn side of the construction and from his bed using a telescope directed the construction with his wife carrying Washington's messages to the construction supervisor. Washington with his two younger brothers, Ferdinand (died 1918) and Charles (died 1917), formed the John A. Roebling

Sons Company in 1871.

The bridge opened on May 24, 1883 and its spectacular structure remains a special feat of design and engineering. It is hard to imagine such a structure being built by manual labor and the antique equipment of the 1800's. It was the world's longest suspension bridge. The four 15 3/4" suspension wire ropes contain approximately 3,600 miles of wire and the total wire involved in the entire bridge structure measures 14,060 miles. The total overall length of the bridge is 1.13 miles or 5,989 feet.

In 1904, the John A. Roebling Sons Company had grown so much that it relocated to a spot 12 miles south of Trenton, New Jersey thus creating Roebling, New Jersey purely as a company town. The Roebling Company was continually developing new machines and ideas for wire. It expanded into the development of electrical wire, flat wires and woven wire fabrics, and multiple other forms of wire. One of the inventions was a wire mesh machine for harvesting wheat; however, the fine mesh was very fragile and fine particles of the mesh (metal) contaminated the flour that was used to make bread. Unfortunately some deaths occurred from the ingestion of the contaminated bread. Upon the death of his brothers Washington was called out of retirement to again manage company affairs. Washington A. Roebling died in 1926 at age 88. Washington's son, John A. Roebling II, followed in his father's footsteps. And this brings us to exactly why I've written all this about the Roeblings because the newspaper information that appears earlier in this article states that the x-ray machine at the old Arcadia hospital was given by "John Roebling, the son of the builder of the Brooklyn Bridge in NY". The material herein presented reveals that it was John Roebling II, the grandson of John A. Roebling and the son of Washington. John Roebling, a true pioneer of industry, was deceased years before the hospital was built in Arcadia; however, John Roebling II did not die until 1962. I'll bet nobody else knows what you know now. No mention is made elsewhere that I can find of the Roeblings roaming to DeSoto County. Charles Roebling's only son, Washington A. Roebling, II died at age 31 on the sinking of the Titanic on April 15, 1912. Perhaps his death may have in some way been involved in the donation of the x-ray machine.

The John A. Roebling Sons Company was operated by the descendants of John A. Roebling, and it occupied 417 acres of Roebling, New Jersey with 258 buildings comprising 4,500,000 ft.² of plant with numerous employees. The company was sold to the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in 1952; however, they continued to operate as the Roebling Division of that company. The Roebling Division was closed and disassembled in 1974.

The company was involved in production of various wires and cables and other forms of metal continuously since its founding. It participated in supplying various equipment to the military in all of our wars beginning with the Civil War (Washington was also a colonel in the US Army Engineers.), Spanish American War, and World Wars I & II. This included such a variety of cable forms that it's almost unbelievable.

The Roebling Company supplied cables for many of our bridges especially noted is San Francisco's Golden Gate bridge.

We are saddened by the loss on November 15, 2009 of Robert R. Tate, M.D. another Pioneer Physician of Fort Myers and Cape Coral.

Relay for Life-Downtown Fort Myers-May 2010

The American Cancer Society is holding the annual Relay For Life event in Centennial Park May 7 & 8, 2010. The event will raise money for cancer advocacy, research, and education. It is an 18 hour walk with music, games, food, friends, and FUN!

Levels of involvement can include forming a team, donating money or your time, becoming a sponsor, honoring a loved one at the Luminaria ceremony, celebrating survivors, or just attending the event to support those who are walking!

Anyone who has survived cancer, is a caregiver for someone who has cancer, or who just wants to get involved can contact Nickole Hendra at 239.936.1113 ext. 3904 or via email at nickole.hendra@cancer.org. You may also contact Jessi Braun at ecophrend@aol.com to learn more about forming a team! We would love to see you there!




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Nickole Hendra | Community Representative | American Cancer Society – Lee Unit
 4575 Via Royale Suite 110 | Fort Myers, FL 33919
 phone: 239.936.1113 ext. 3904 | fax: 239.936.3763

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Fort Myers Office | 12670 New Brittany Blvd., Suite 102 | Fort Myers | MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 8 A.M. TO 5 P.M.



Mandatory Reporting - Medicare Secondary Payer Act

Effective January 1, 2010, the Medicare Secondary Payer Act [42 U.S.C. 1395y(b)(7) & (8)] requires that all liability carriers report payments made to any Medicare plaintiff/claimant to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”). This reporting requirement may also apply to payments made directly by a physician and by “self-insured” physicians.

FPIC/APAC will report payments made on behalf of its policyholders to CMS. For payments made by a physician directly to a claimant, the physician may be responsible for reporting to CMS. See reporting information below.

Reports must be submitted to CMS in electronic format only, on CMS website at <http://www.com.hhs.gov/MandatoryInsRep>. However, the electronic reporting may be waived when there is no method available for the submission of claims (a) in an electronic format; (b) for a provider of services with fewer than 25 full-time equivalent employees; or (c) for a physician, practitioner, facility, or supplier (other than provider of services) with fewer than 10 full-time equivalent employees.

Reporting thresholds by payment year and amount are:

2010 - over \$5000.00	2012 - over \$2000.00
2011 - over \$5000.00	2013 - over \$ 600.00

CMS will assign each registered liability carrier a specific date for reporting every quarter. If a physician makes a payment directly to a plaintiff/claimant which meets the reportable threshold, CMS should be contacted as soon as possible regarding how and what to report. Generally, the report date is determined by the date of settlement, date of verdict, or date of appeal result, not the date that payment is made.

Factors to consider in determining whether you must report a payment:

- Is the plaintiff/claimant a Medicare recipient?
Look at the entitlement at the “time of incident”:
- Persons who have reached age 65 and are entitled to receive either Social Security, widows or Railroad Retirement Benefits;
 - Disabled persons (totally disabled) receiving SSDI;
 - Persons of any age who have received Social Security, widows or Railroad Disability Benefits for 25 months; (this may apply to disabled minors/adults);
 - Persons with end-stage renal disease who require dialysis treatment or kidney transplant; and
 - Working persons over age 65 that are not eligible for either Social Security or Railroad Retirement Benefits who purchase Medicare coverage by monthly payment or as active employees for an employer of 20 or more employees.
- Is the payment over the threshold noted above?

If you must report, how and what do you report?

Generally, unless a waiver is received for electronic reporting, every report must contain the following information for each claimant:

- Name of claimant (with middle initial);
- Social Security number (HICN when available);
- Complete address;
- Telephone number;
- Gender;
- Date of birth;
- Date of death, if applicable;
- Full contact information on any estates, siblings or other representative claimants, if applicable;
- Full contact information for claimant’s attorney including tax ID numbers, if applicable;
- Dates and the nature of any injuries, including whether the injury involved an allegedly defective product, if applicable;
- Information detailing any resolution or settlement of a claim, with a focus on explaining whether the claim was contested or not, and whether the primary payer has assumed ongoing responsibility for medical costs associated with the claim.

There are very steep **fin**es (\$1000 per day, per claimant) for failure to report pursuant to these requirements.

The reporting requirement does **not apply to Medicaid** recipients.

Contact CMS at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MandatoryInsRep> or by phone at 800-999-1118. Additional information may be also be obtained by contacting the FPIC/APAC Risk Management Department at 800-741-3742 ext. 3016 or e-mail at: rm@fpic.com.

Your 2010 Lee County Legislators & Representatives

Florida Legislative session begins Tuesday, March 2, 2010 until Friday, April 30, 2010.

STATE OF FLORIDA GOVERNOR

GOVERNOR CHARLIE CRIST (R)

The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Tel: 850-488-4441 Fax: 850-922-4292
charlie.crist@myflorida.com

LT. GOVERNOR

JEFF KOTTKAMP (R)

The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Tel: 850-488-4711 Fax: 850-921-6114
jeff.kottkamp@myflorida.com

U.S. SENATE

SEN GEORGE S. LEMIEUX (R)

Regional Director: John Newstreet

SEN BILL NELSON (D)

Chief of Staff: Pete Mitchell

WASHINGTON ADDRESS

356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-3041 Fax: 202-228-5171
info@lemieux.senate.gov

716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-5274 Fax: 202-228-2183
(888) 671-4091 – Toll Free
<http://billnelson.senate.gov>

LOCAL ADDRESS

2120 Main Street Ste 200
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-332-3898 Fax: 239-332-3447
Toll Free: 866-630-7106

2000 Main Street, Suite 801
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Tel: 239-334-7760 Fax: 239-334-7710

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REP CONNIE MACK (R-14)

Legislative Aide: Tricia Molzow

WASHINGTON ADDRESS

115 Cannon House
Washington, DC 20515
Tel: 202-225-2536 Fax: 202-226-0439
<http://www.house.gov/mack>

LOCAL ADDRESS

804 Nicholas Pkwy E Ste 1
Cape Coral, FL 33990
Tel: 239-573-5837 Fax: 239-573-9125

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REP KEN ROBERSON, R-71

District Secretary: Theresa Rogers

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District Secretary: Amanda Fortuna

TALLAHASSEE ADDRESS

308 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Tel: 850-488-0060
ken.roberson@myfloridahouse.gov

1301 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Tel: 850-488-9175 Fax: 850-414-7385
paige.kreegel@myfloridahouse.gov

1301 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Phone: 850-488-1541
nick.thompson@myfloridahouse.gov

218 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Tel: 850-488-7433
gary.aubuchon@myfloridahouse.gov

303 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300
Tel: 850-488-2047 Fax: 850-921-9780
trudi.williams@myfloridahouse.gov

LOCAL ADDRESS

992 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33953-3868
Tel: 941-613-0914 Fax: 941-613-0916

410 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Tel: 941-575-5820 Fax: 941-613-0916

2120 Main Street Suite 208
Fort Myers, FL 33901-3010
Tel: 239-533-2411 Fax: 239-338-2486

3501 Del Prado Blvd Suite 305
Cape Coral, FL 33904-7223
Tel: 239-344-4900 Fax: 239-344-4901

12811 Kenwood Lane #212
Fort Myers, FL 33907
Tel: 239-433-6775 Fax: 239-278-7573

FLORIDA SENATE

TALLAHASSEE ADDRESS

LOCAL ADDRESS

SEN MIKE BENNETT, R-21

322 Senate Office Building
 404 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 Tel: 850-487-5078 Fax: 850-487-5486
bennett.mike.web@flsenate.gov

3653 Cortez Roud W #90
 Bradenton, FL 34210
 Tel: 941-727-6349 Fax: 941-727-6352
 State Wide: 800-500-1239

Legislative Aides: Cheryl Ennis,
 Crystal Fitzgerald

SEN DAVE ARONBERG, D-27

405 Senate Office Building
 404 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 Tel: 850-487-5356 Fax: 850-487-5496
aronberg.dave.web@flsenate.gov

2120 Main Street Ste 206
 Fort Myers, FL 33901
 Tel: 239-338-2646 Fax: 239-338-2648
 Districtwide: 877-435-7351

Legislative Assistant: Abby Ross

SEN GARRETT RICHTER, R-37

310 Senate Office Building
 404 South Monroe Street
 Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100
 Tel: 850-487-5124
richter.garrett.web@flsenate.gov

1039 SE 9th Place #310
 Cape Coral, FL 33990
 Tel: 239-338-2777 Fax: 338-2779

Legislative Assistant: Becky Kokkinos

Tallahassee addresses may change, please visit the official Internet site of the Florida Legislature at www.leg.state.fl.us.

HOW TO WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR

1. Know your legislators' district(s) and the correct spelling of their names. Refer to district maps and directories.
2. Use the following format for addresses:

SENATORS:

The Honorable John Doe
 The Florida State Senate
 The Capitol, Suite - - -
 Tallahassee, FL 32399

REPRESENTATIVES:

The Honorable John Doe
 Florida House of Representatives
 The Capitol, Suite - - -
 Tallahassee, FL 32399

3. Write on personal stationery, LCMS letterhead, or on plain paper. A personal letter is best! Your return address should be on the letter, not just the envelope. This will enable your legislator to reply.
4. Do not use postcards or form letters except when advised to do so by the FMA legislative Affairs Office or the CMS Legislative Committee
5. A good rule to follow is one subject per letter. Try to keep your letter to one page no matter how important the issue. This gives your letter more impact and makes a reply easier. It also takes up less of the staff's and legislator's time.
6. Make clear the position of the issue you are on, and ask the legislator to support your position.
7. Refer to exact bill numbers if available and short or popular titles.
8. Don't threaten or write in a belligerent tone.
9. Don't remind them of broken promises
10. Don't write so often that your letters lose their impact.
11. Illustrate your position with a local example.
12. Sign your name legibly and type your name under your signature.
13. Time your letters to arrive far enough in advance to be effective.

2010 Dues have been mailed to your office

Please contact us if you will need to make payment arrangements. LCMS dues have not increased since 1993.

News from the Florida Board of Medicine

Using Technology to Your Advantage: Navigating Medical Quality Assurance Web Pages and Medicine's Interested Parties List

Every day physicians are faced with more technological advances than any one person can possibly remember, right? So, the last thing you want to hear is 'go to the Board of Medicine web site' but, after you are done reading this article, you will be able to navigate the web pages like a pro and stay abreast of changes in laws or rules, renewal information, profession updates, CME requirements, 'how to information', FDA alerts, DEA alerts, and much more.

Overview

Before we sit down in front of the computer together, let's review a couple of things. The Department of Health (DOH) is the umbrella agency for the Division of Medical Quality Assurance (MQA) under which is several health care professions including the Board of Medicine. The Medical Practice Act, s. 458, Florida Statutes, outlines the regulation of Allopathic Physicians, Physician Assistants, Anesthesiologist Assistants and Medical Assistants. The Board of Medicine also has oversight for the discipline of Dietetic-Nutritionists and Electrologists.

MQA Web Page

Now, sit down in front of your computer or laptop with this article and type in www.FLHealthSource.com. This is the MQA web page. Before we go to the Board of Medicine web page, let's get familiar with MQA's first. If you are a licensee, notice this is where you would go to renew your license during open online renewal. How simple is that?

Click your browser's back button. Once there, click on the 'License Verification' button. This is where you would go if you wanted to look up a health care practitioner to verify he/she holds a valid license. Click the back button again.

This time, click on 'Citizen Consumer'. You can see all the services available here, but I want to also point out a couple of the smaller buttons. Right across the top is links to 'Contact MQA', 'Hot Topics' and 'FAQs'. Be sure to take a few moments and scan those pages to become familiar with the types of information contained there. Always remember to hit the back button to return to the main MQA web page. One last thing; notice the drop down box in the upper right hand corner of the page. You can easily access the Board of Medicine web page from this link. Before you do that though, read on.

Make sure you are at the main MQA web page. This time click on 'Licensee/Provider'. Again, there are several important links here:

- renew license (Time Saver! – renew your license online during your open online renewal period)
- change address (you can do this online with your user id and password)
- view profile
- update profile (remember, changes are required within 15 days of the change)
- print confirmation of license (if needed to verify your license until you receive a duplicate)
- request duplicate license (in the event you lost your wallet card)
- and more

Also notice at the bottom, there is a link to 'Request License

Verification'. This is where you would go to have your license verified to another entity such as a hospital or another state. You can pay online and your verification is sent to where you tell us. Again, take a few moments and look at the various links on this page and check them out. Remember you can always hit the back button to return to the 'Licensee/Provider' page.

Board of Medicine Web Page

From the main 'Licensee/Provider' page, let's actually click on the drop down box in the upper right hand corner of the web page. Notice all of the different health care profession web pages. Click on 'Medicine' and then click 'Go'. This is the Board of Medicine overview page. From here, you can see the main links at the top which include: Profession Updates, Current Licensees, Applicant Information, and well, you get the picture. Go ahead and scroll down the page. You'll notice the following:

For a no-cost, automatic e-mail of every new item put on the Board website, you can subscribe and unsubscribe by going to this web site: <http://flems.doh.state.fl.us/mailman/listinfo/boardofmedicine>

Click on this to join right now. It only takes a minute and it links you to the Board of Medicine. You're busy and you will probably forget to come back to this web page and that's okay if you join the Mailman. Why? By joining Mailman you will receive emails with pertinent information to your medical license. So even if you forget to go to the web page, we come to you. Remember earlier in this article I outlined the structure of the Board? The reason is because our Mailman serves all of the professions listed. Therefore, you will periodically receive emails concerning these professions. That is good because if you employ one of these health care professions, you can stay up on their laws and rules as well.

Further down on this page is a link to our Customer Concerns and Suggestions Survey. Any time you would like to share a thought, send us an email. You can also email the Board directly at MQA_Medicine@doh.state.fl.us.

By now you know at renewal you are required to complete the physician workforce survey. If for some reason you do not do it during renewal, which is highly recommended, you can print the survey from this page, complete it and mail it in. Remember, this is a requirement.

So let's start by clicking on the 'Professions Update' link. The first thing to notice is that the same links at the top of the Overview Page, are also on this page. This allows you to easily move through the pages. The 'Professions Update' web page is divided into categories: Board of Medicine Alerts and Updates, Department of Health Alerts and Updates, FDA Alerts and DEA Alerts. The most current information is placed here. For instance, in July, the *2009 Legislative Session Highlights* article was posted and it outlined the bills that affect your license.

The 'Current Licensee' link takes you to a page that really does not change very often. It primarily contains frequently requested forms and a guide to help you understand and complete the Practitioner Profile. Under the link to 'Current Licensee' are other helpful links regarding renewal, CME requirements and another link to update your profile.

Continued on next page

If you perform surgery in your office, click on the 'Office Surgery Registration and Inspection' link for information regarding registration, the applicable laws and rules and much more. The Physician Office Adverse Incident Reporting form can be found here as well.

The [Pain Clinic Registration and Inspection Program](#) is new. At this time, the link takes you to the law and updates on Rule Workshops. As the program is being implemented, additional information will be posted.

The 'Applicant Information' link takes you to all the information an applicant needs to know to become licensed in Florida. Start by reading the letter from the Chair of the Credentials Committee and continue down the page as it guides you through the licensure process.

Next, click on 'Declaratory Statements'. This is a downloadable list of all available Declaratory Statements issued by the Board of Medicine. This is where a physician has requested a statute or rule be clarified as it pertains to that physician's particular circumstances.

On the other side of the web page, you will see Meeting Information including links for 'Agendas and Locations' and 'Minutes'. All our meetings are listed here along with the location. At least seven days before every meeting, the agenda, public agenda book(s), and the meeting notice, are all posted on this page. You can also listen to the actual audio of a meeting approximately three days after the meeting.

The 'Laws and Rules' web page has links to our laws and rules. This is a good place to start any research regarding your medical

license. If you want to know about physician assistant performance and protocols, you can find that information and much more here.

'Related and Contact Information' has the Board's contact information, biographical data about each of our board members and information about the committees of the Board. Go here to learn more about the people who volunteer their time to ensure the mission of the Board of Medicine has been met.

I skipped over a couple of links and want to go back now and explore those links now. The "Final Order and Emergency Action Search Screen" can be used to search and view discipline on health care practitioners. The 'Compliance Management Unit' links you with our Medical Compliance Officer. This unit is responsible for ensuring that health care practitioners who have been disciplined comply with the requirements of their Final Order.

There is one last thing to point out. Take a look at all the links along the left hand side of the page. Did you know there was a *Patient Bill of Rights*? If not, click on that link to read it. Are you familiar with HIPAA requirements? If not, click on the link to learn more.

There is so much information available to you by using our web pages and our Mailman. We look forward to continuing to share information utilizing the technology available to us.

P.S. Don't stop reading the web page just because the article is over

Letter from the New Chair of the Florida Board of Medicine

Dear Colleagues and Interested Citizens,

As your new chair for the Florida Board of Medicine, I would like to extend my best wishes for a happy and healthy 2010.

In the tradition of the chairs that preceded me I intend to continue to reach out via these quarterly newsletters. In so doing, we can enhance communication between physicians, citizens, and the Board of Medicine/Department of Health to fulfill our mission of improving patient safety and the quality of care throughout our state.

I am honored to have been entrusted with this new opportunity to continue to serve the people of Florida, and I would like to thank Dr. Fred Bearison, our immediate past chair for his excellent work, leadership and commitment to the Board and its mission. I would also like to thank my fellow board members, counsel, and staff for their diligence and dedication.

For those who don't know me, I am a pediatrician, fellowship-trained and board certified in adolescent medicine. I have been practicing and teaching since 1992 at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine.

This year, I intend to continue to build on the work of past chairs and Department initiatives. In addition, the Board will be active in developing rules for the regulation of pain clinics as dictated by the Florida legislature. Maintaining professional and ethical standards and ensuring patient safety and the quality of care that our citizens deserve in the state of Florida continues to be our top priority. In particular, I would like to start a new initiative that invites medical student leaders from each of our medical schools to be recognized by the board of medicine. They are the future of our profession!

It would be helpful to hear your constructive comments and concerns. Our board staff works diligently under the leadership of Mr. Larry McPherson, Executive Director, and our board counsel Mr. Ed Tellechea and staff, and we are all available to answer your questions and to help in whatever way we can.

If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached through Crystal Sanford at (Crystal_Sanford@doh.state.fl.us).

The greatest mistake in the treatment of diseases is that there are physicians for the body and physicians for the soul, although the two cannot be separated. ~Plato

Thanks for all that you do!

Best,

Onelia G. Lage, MD, Chair, Florida Board of Medicine

Where We Stand on Health Care Reform

The Lee County Medical Society supports the Florida Medical Association's stand on Health Care Reform:

The Florida Medical Association, which represents over 20,000 Florida physicians and medical students, believes national health care reform is too important to be implemented poorly. That's why we're urging the U.S. Senate to put the brakes on HR 3590, which is full of alarming provisions that compromise the bedrock patient/physician relationship, while failing to address the real issues behind rising health care costs.

Overall, HR 3590 is bad policy that fails in the following critical areas:

- **It creates new layers of bureaucracy and allows the federal government to arbitrarily reduce payments for specialty care that could save patients' lives.**
- **Inappropriately, it expands the government's role in determining the quality of medical care. It would require physicians to participate in flawed "efficiency" programs that essentially penalize some doctors for pursuing the best course of care for their patients.**
- **It doesn't fix the broken Medicare physician payment system and envisions deep reimbursement cuts that will force many doctors to reduce the number of Medicare patients they treat. In Florida, with its large population of senior citizen, this could lead to a health care access crisis.**
- **It doesn't address medical liability reform, an essential cost containment element that has been shown to significantly lower health care costs. Effective liability reform discourages the practice of defensive medicine, which is expensive, and eliminates unnecessary litigation from the system.**
- **At a time when states are in economic distress, it *expands* the failed Medicaid program, adding 1.4 million to 1.7 million more people to Florida's rolls alone. In addition to being financially irresponsible, it exacerbates the problem Florida's Medicaid patients already face with lack of access to care.**
- **It will cause millions of Americans to lose their existing private coverage, and the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that 24 million people will still lack health insurance coverage.**

The FMA supports meaningful, financially responsible health care reform — and HR 3590 is anything but. Our message to the U.S. Senate is simple: Don't rush reform. Do it right.

Tell Your Senators Not to Rush Reform:

Senator Bill Nelson

United States Senate
716 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-5274 **Fax:** 202-228-2183
<http://billnelson.senate.gov>

Senator George LeMieux

United States Senate
356 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Tel: 202-224-3041 **Fax:** 202-228-5171
info@lemieux.senate.gov

For More Information visit the FMA Website:

dontrushreform.com

This website offers sample letters for your patients, you may also contact your senators through their website and download sample letters, and posters and flyers for your waiting rooms.

We have enclosed a flyer for you to post in your office.

What The LCMS Is Doing For You...

Local Advocacy:

LCMS President and Board addressed issues for patient advocacy in the community with LMHS. As a result the hospital began the process of standardizing patient care. The medical executive committees at each hospital are also working to improve hospitalist care and a form a definition of a hospitalist.

Legislative:

Lee County Medical Society leadership regularly meet with legislators to address issues that affect health care. We have also sent out a survey to Medical Society doctors, which provided a brief overview of the concepts under consideration for national Health Care Reform and asked for doctor's feedback. We will work with the FMA to address 2010 issues.

Bulletin in PDF Format:

Ten issues of the **Bulletin**, one of the most popular facets of the LCMS, are mailed to all members to keep them up-to-date on issues affecting the practice of medicine. The Bulletin is now available in pdf format and will also be archived on the LCMS website - www.lcmsfl.org.

Pictorial Directory:

The 2009-2010 Membership Directory contains information for all active members of the LCMS and is a wonderful resource for patients seeking a physician. Copies are flying out our door after placing an announcement in Florida Weekly. We will also distribute through health fairs and other organizations. They are available for your waiting rooms.

Updated Web Site:

The new Web site is up and running. If you haven't already visited, please do so (<http://www.lcmsfl.org>). Patients in the community are now able to find our physician members more easily than ever!

Physician Referrals:

The LCMS office offers free referrals and background checks for patients.

Practice Information:

The LCMS offers free informational packets for physicians who are starting a practice. We also offer packets for physicians who are relocating or retiring. We provide information on how Florida laws/statutes influence physicians' practices. Our interest with helping your medical staff is very important to both of us.

Public Relations:

Each month, the New Member News Releases are sent out to the various media outlets listing the names of our new members. Many of these releases have resulted in publication of the physician's names, practices and specialties.

In order to increase the awareness of numerous health issues, each month we identify approximately four Awareness Days/Weeks or Month topics that we think will be important to our patients. Member physicians are contacted asking them to work with the media to increase the public's awareness of these medical issues. This type of promotional activity would be difficult and expensive for many of our members to prepare individually. We hope that this type of public relations will benefit the community and the physicians involved. Please send us all your great news for publication in our newsletter.

Physician Volunteerism:

The McCourt Scholarship fund provides funds for children with diabetes to attend Florida Camp for Children and Youth with Diabetes. We are also supporting the Lee County Volunteer Healthcare Connection program. This program will be administrated by United Way of Lee and proposes to help physicians provide 'pro bono' services to eligible low-income, uninsured adults needing specialty care.

Meetings and Events:

Five membership meetings a year bring members the opportunity to network and gain mandatory CME. LCMS offers programs to help with the running of your practice, such as Red Flag Rules Workshop and Media-Training Workshop. We also hold social events in conjunction with the LCMS Alliance. These include meet & greets, new members welcome event, a potluck in paradise dinner, and Doctor's Day events. The women physicians group also meets for special events.

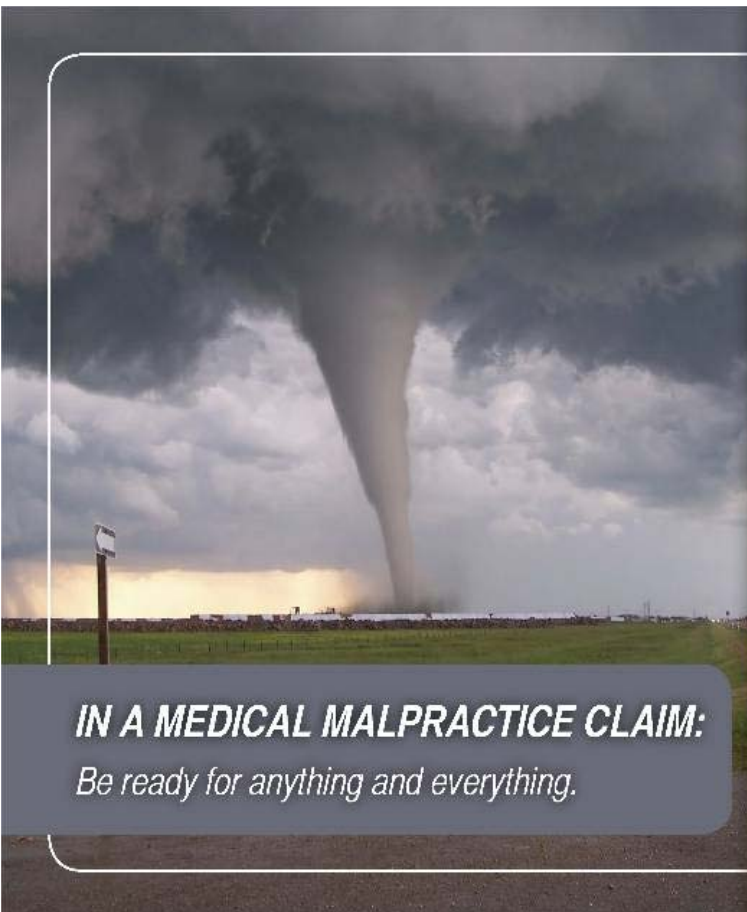
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