LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin

THE VOICE OF LEE COUNTY MEDICINE

VOLUME 19, NO. 9 | Fort Myers, Florida | John W. Snead, M.D., Editor | January, 1996

Happy New Year!!!

JANUARY SOCIETY MEETING

The Lee County Medical Society invites you and your spouse/guest to join us for our first 1996 Meeting.

James S. Todd, MD, EVP for the **AMA** will be speaking on "Challenges in the Future," and inducting the LCMS 1996 Officers.

The meeting will be held on Monday, January 15, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. at the Royal Palm Yacht Club.

Spouse/Guest, $20.00. Please make checks payable to the Lee County Medical Society. Reservations and cancellations must be submitted by noon Friday, January 12, 1996.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY! ◆

MEDICAL SOCIETY WELCOMES JANUARY MEETING SPEAKER

James S. Todd, M.D. is Executive Vice President of the **American Medical Association.** Born in Massachusetts and educated at Harvard, Dr. Todd, after a residency at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, practiced general surgery for 22 years in Ridgewood, New Jersey. He also holds an academic appointment at Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, and is a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery and a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Long active in organized medicine, Dr. Todd served as Chairman of the Board of the Medical Society in New Jersey from 1977 and in 1980 was elected to the AMA Board of Trustees, serving as Chairman of the Finance Committee, a member of the Executive Committee of the Board, and Commissioner to JCAH. ◆

LCMS CALENDAR OF EVENTS...

1996 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

At the May Meeting, members voted to reduce our meetings to six (6) for 1996.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE DATES:

January 25-28th - FMA Leadership Conference in Orlando. For more information please contact the Society Office.

There will be no General Membership Meeting in February.

M[illegible]18th - Speaker on Capitation/Risk Ma[illegible]ent.

March 24-26th - Days at the Capitol. For more information please contact the Society Office.

Dates for General Membership Meetings: May 20th, September 16th, November 18th, December 16th. ◆

AMA LEADER WARNS OF 'INTERNAL SELF-SABOTAGE' IN MEDICINE

AMA Executive Vice President James S. Todd, M.D., called on physicians to maintain collegiality in the face of a rapidly changing environment for medical practice.

Collegiality – trust, mutual respect, shared responsibility and self-restraint – is the hallmark of professionalism, Dr. Todd said. "But we are now succumbing to a sort of internal self-sabotage, where physicians demean other physicians, forgetting that the pluralism of practice is what made medicine great, where physicians resort to legislation to establish their credentials, and where physicians sue their fellow physicians over procedure, patent infringements, and even over practice modes."

The trend could destroy the profession, he warned. "This is the most exacting, the most exciting, the most rewarding profession there is. We should be proud to be a part of it, and we should be willing to sacrifice for it.

Speaking at the opening session of the AMA Interim Meeting, Dr. Todd told two delegates they must reckon with two other key forces – the current battle over Medicare and Medicaid in the federal budget, and the rapidly changing private marketplace.

With 10 years of Medicare thinking in the policy bank, the AMA has already achieved increased choice for patients, loosening of restraints upon physicians and a "new sensibility" in the area of physician reimbursement.

"What it all comes down to is one simple idea, which has been the AMA's focus throughout the debate – increased responsibility for everyone," Dr. Todd said.

He disputed notions that the AMA had "made a deal" with Congress.

"What we did, and all we did, was to demand equity for patients and physicians . . . And when the House leadership agreed, we pledged our support for their efforts. After all, it was AMA policy they were endorsing."

Dr. Todd was far less sanguine about marketplace restructuring taking place in the form of "unbridled, cut-throat competition, where patients and physicians are at a major disadvantage."

He predicted that it might take generations for the system to stabilize. "Changing populations, new technology, new diseases and limited resources all will serve to keep it off balance. But when the losers in this competitive environment outnumber the winners, the system will implode."

"Therefore, I don't see managed care as a destination, but only a way-station in our

Continued on Page Two

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ALAN D. SIEGEL, M.D.

"UNITY"

As I sit down to write my first President's Message, the excellent Holiday Party has just ended. The good will of the holidays is upon us and we look ahead to "the season." Before moving on to the coming year, let's reflect upon the accomplishments of the past year. We had the AMA President give an inspiring message at the January meeting. We hosted the FMA President and leaders at a meeting with local leadership. We sponsored a benefit for the Health Education Center at HealthPark. The County Medical Society computerized their financial and data services and is now on the information highway. We had countless meetings with members, government officials, and the public to promote our profession. We partied (and worked) with the Alliance and raised thousands of dollars for Hope Hospice.

The last year has also seen unprecedented division within our medical community. Hospital-based physicians have become a major part of our society. Independent physicians are organizing increasingly larger groups. These physicians find themselves in competition and it challenges organized medicine to represent them all. Traditional values such as free choice and physician-patient loyalty are being examined; the question of the future will be "what is best for

Continued on Page Two

AS I RECALL...

ROGER D. SCOTT, M.D.

EMERGENCY ROOMS CIRCA 1958

There were two Emergency Rooms in Lee County in 1958. There was only one hospital (Lee Memorial) but two locations, the second being Jones-Walker Hospital which was the colored hospital. Jones-Walker (hereafter J.W.), was located off Anderson Avenue (now MLK Boulevard). Approximately twenty-two physicians (nine G.P.s, two General Surgeons, three Internists, two Urologists, one Ophthalmologist, three OB/GYNs and two Pediatricians) covered the E.R.s on a rotation basis. There wasn't departmentalization and the physician on-call was required to see or dispose of each patient, even for minor problems. Chronically ill indigent patients often appeared in the Emergency Rooms, as well as true emergencies. Nurses were staffing the Emergency Rooms, but you must realize that in 1958 the nurses were not allowed to do anything other than check vital signs, give injections, and apply dressings. These nurses could not start IV's nor could they pass naso-gastric tubes or any of the "specialized" procedures that they currently are allowed to perform.

The J.W. Emergency Room (which also served as the Delivery and Operating Rooms) was a bit different in that it had practically no equipment and only the most minor of suturing instruments, which at times made it difficult. If a trip was made to the J.W. E.R. and the patient was found to require more than the most minor wound repair, it was then necessary to drive back to Lee Memorial to obtain whatever supplies were needed and take them back to J.W. In the event surgery was needed at J.W., it was necessary to take all the needed surgical equipment for that particular procedure, as well as a circulating nurse, scrub nurse and anesthetist. This was somewhat time-consuming, and in addition, if one did not anticipate the need of an instrument it was necessary to utilize whatever was on hand. Fortunately things worked well over the years, and we were able to improvise in any situation. No colored patient

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LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN
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The Editors welcome contributions from the members. Opinions expressed in the BULLETIN are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect policies of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

RESIGNED:
Harry M. Lowell, M.D.
William A. Kyle, M.D.
James M. Thompson, M.D.
MOVED:
J[illegible]R. Pugh, M.D./North Carolina
RETIRED -
REMOVED FROM ROSTERS:
Carey N. Barry, M.D.
Stephen D. Mullins, M.D.

FMA PRESIDENT WELCOMES INPUT FROM MEMBERS

FMA President Alvin Smith, M.D., is available each Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. so that FMA members can visit him personally or contact him via fax or phone to express opinions, offer input, or just talk.

OFFICE: (904) 254-4054
FAX: (904) 254-4212 ◆

DAYS AT THE CAPITOL

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* Visits with Legislators!

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HEALTH MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION CELEBRATES 10th ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Michael Carron of Radiology Regional Center is shown here as a Santa "look alike." Dr. Carron graciously "played Santa" for the annual Health Management Association holiday luncheon. Health Management Association celebrated its 10th anniversary this year. This local group of medical office managers and business professionals serve as a mechanism for increasing awareness through education and development of management information through group effort and concerted group action.

This meeting also included the installation of 1996 officers. Installed by Louise Shelton of Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center were:

Ashlyn Pratt (Internal Medicine Associates) - President
Shari Thompson (Gulfshore Obstetrics & Gynecology) - President-Elect
Jackie Sandvig (Associates in Dermatology) - Treasurer
Dana Lindval (Institute for Orthopedic Surgery & Sports Medicine) - Recording Secretary
Patti Reigle (Digestive Health Specialists, PA) - Corresponding Secretary
Ann Malone (Surgical Associates of SW Florida) - Member-At-Large ◆

President's Message...Continued from Page 1

the patient?"

The more traditional divisions between generalists and specialists have only deepened in the last year. As primary care becomes empowered, specialists turn to their specialty societies to lobby on their behalf in Tallahassee and Washington. As payments tighten up in all fields, we see a proliferation of advertising and "marginal" medical treatments.

So what is our common ground? Where can we find unity in times of division? Well, something brings us together at the Holiday Party and the doctor's lounge. Something fills the hospital parking lots before sunrise and after dark. It's our profession that is our common ground; we are all physicians. It's not the hospital or government or insurance company that will represent us. It's organized medicine. It's your national, state, and county Medical Society that will do your bidding when it needs to be done. Your specialty society may state your position more accurately, but the chances are they are too small to be heard. In a world of competing Titans we need a strong Federation of Medicine that can represent us.

Where can we start? Let's try the Lee County Medical Society Meetings. Turnout for the Holiday Party at least proves that you are getting our mail. The next General Membership Meeting will provide a truly outstanding program. The "Voice of Medicine" will speak in Fort Myers on January 15 – AMA Executive Vice President, James Todd, M.D. For more than a decade he has directed our profession through difficult times. I have heard him speak and he is both impressive and inspiring. If any of you are wondering, "what has the AMA done for me?" - I urge you to attend and find out. If you have any pressing questions or comments for our leadership, I urge you attend.

You will see some changes in the coming year. The membership has decided to reduce the number of meetings. We have invited spouses to any General Membership Meeting they wish to attend. We have computerized the office and hope to form an "interest group" of computer users to benefit our membership and help introduce the FMA's MEDONE. Those on the board know I want to interject a little more "fun" into the Medical Society; it's not a dirty word. And, of course, we face an election year and the prospect of figuring out who to support and how much that support will cost.

Feel free to call or just grab me in the doctor's lounge to express an opinion. It's **our** Medical Society, and it needs to succeed. ◆

As I Recall...Continued from Page 1

was ever treated at Lee.

Another feature that did help us was that patients with minor injuries or illnesses could be sent from the E.R. to be seen at the Dr.'s office. An interesting case began with a nonchalant call from the E.R. nurse that she had a patient who had a fish hook in his neck, and of course my secretary said "send him on over to the office." When the patient arrived at the office the secretary came in looking a bit pale, stating that "the fish hook had arrived." The patient was brought into an examining room and I appeared smiling, until I saw the patient who had what was undoubtedly the largest fish hook I had ever seen in my life impaled deeply through his neck. This hook was capable of pulling in at least a 500 to 1000 pound shark and had a caliber of one-half inch. We had little wire cutters for cutting off fish hooks but a major problem was encountered in that this was no little fish hook. An emergency call was made to the hardware store and they were kind enough to send over a major bolt cutter. With much trepidation, the hook was trimmed and withdrawn from the neck and surprisingly there was no bleeding or any problem. Bandages were applied, the patient was discharged and healed well. Incidentally, I still cut major bolts with the bolt cutter that I had to buy for this "fish hook."

When I visit the new E.R.s and see the facilities available, it is truly amazing. We have excellent E.R. physicians, staff, and facilities. What a difference the years make, but I sure do miss working in the E.R.!!! ◆

AMA Leader Warns of 'Internal Self-Sabotage'...Continued from Page 1

continued evolution of how to deliver health care."

It's already beginning to happen, Dr. Todd said – in the form of physician-sponsored networks and direct contracting, offering physicians the chance to regain control of clinical autonomy.

But success will require "a new sense of restraint and responsibility by us all – allowing technical progress to be translated into human progress. And that is exactly why it is important that we look beyond the present and plan for the future – being willing to change to fit the environment." ◆

Reprint from AMA Newsletter

THE QUESTION MAN

OPINIONS - EDITORIALS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
John W. Snead, M.D.

"WILL ANY PHYSICIAN SPECIALTY GROUPS BE ABLE TO GET REASONABLE CARVE-OUTS IN THE SOUTHWEST FLORIDA HEALTH CARE MARKET?"

Robert Pritt, D.O. (Family Practice)

"What is reasonable to an insurance company may not be considered reasonable by a provider. Hence, the question becomes how much leverage does the specialty group have when negotiating with the insurance company. Unless the specialty group is practicing in an area with little competition, low managed care penetration, or part of a larger group such as PHO or IPA, then most of the time the specialty group will need to accept the insurance company's definition of 'reasonable.' "

"COULD INSURANCE COMPANIES HIRE THEIR OWN PHYSICIANS AND BY-PASS HMO'S?"

David Axline, M.D. (Cardiology)

"Of course. Any reimbursement schedule for physicians is possible as long as the practice of good medicine is kept a priority. In fact, judging by the enormous profits that HMO's are reaping, insurance companies are certainly exploring all of their options, including billing their own doctors in order to improve their bottom line."

Anamika Jain, M.D. (Physical & Medical Rehabilitation)

"Of course they could. But, if physicians were more proactive, we could form a large cooperative group which would bypass insurance companies altogether and offer care directly to the patients."

"Likely, the worst cost efficient health system will survive, no matter what the arrangement."

Thomas Mattras, M.D. (Internal Medicine)

FEBRUARY'S QUESTION

"WHAT PROBLEMS WILL SEX SELECTION TECHNIQUES POSE FOR MEDICINE?"

Send your comments to the Medical Society. Bulletin deadline is the 15th of each month... we want to see you in the print media! ◆

CORRECTION

In the November Bulletin, the quote and picture listed in Question Man were attributed to the incorrect physician. Below is the correct information.

"WHAT CAN DOCTORS DO TO LIMIT THEIR LIABILITY FOR PROBLEMS CAUSED BY MANAGED CARE?"

Ronald Gardner, M.D. (Orthopedics)

"Somehow we must get the public to understand that managed care is "Discount Medicine and ultimately, you get what you pay for." Otherwise...Disclaimers."

When finished with this issue . . .
Pass it on to staff!
TO: INITIALS:

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE/ FOUNDATION NEWS

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Barrow, Corresponding Secretary

ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY

The Lee County Medical Society and Alliance joint Holiday Party held at the Veranda on December 11th proved to be a huge success. Members gathered for an evening of great food and company.

In the spirit of the holiday season, guests brought donations for The American Red Cross - Bonita Springs Flood Relief and the Children's Home Society of Florida. In addition, two baskets were raffled which were from *Creative Baskets* with the proceeds going to the two charities. All donations were well appreciated and we thank all who helped to bring some holiday cheer to those less fortunate. ◆

AMA-ERF HOLIDAY SHARING CARD

The 1995 AMA-ERF Holiday Sharing Cards have been sent for this season! Thanks to all those who contributed to this worthy cause. Donations totalling $5,575 will directly help medical students and medical schools. Special thanks to Nancy Barrow and Susan Glasser for their hard work as chairpersons for Lee County and also special thanks to Betty Rubenstein who is this year's state chairperson for AMA-ERF.

Special recognition to Michael Rubenstein who designed the front cover of the Holiday Card. ◆

MINI-GRANTS

Thirty percent of the Charity Ball proceeds are allocated to the Mini-Grant Program. This year a total of $14,055.85 was awarded to 7 Mini-Grant applicants. The recipients are as follows:

Health Education Center	$1,810.00
La Leche League of Lee County	778.96
Rape Trauma Center	2,665.00
LARC	1,668.74
Allied Health Career Development	2,698.00
Florida Guardian Ad-Litem	3,411.56
Candlelighters of Southwest Florida	1,023.47

◆

SUPPORT THOSE THAT SUPPORT US

LCMS FLAMPAC Committee would like to recognize those physicians who are actively supporting their profession by paying their Political Action Dues:

Antonio, Robert	Fuller, Donn	Migliore, Anthony
Barrow, Howard	Fuller, James	Nicotra, Joseph
Beaulieu, Jack	Gardner, Lawrence	Quigley, Thomas
Beehler, Cecil	Gorovoy, Mark	Reeves, James
Bish[illegible]Charles	Greenberg, Sigmund	Reyes, Purita
Br[illegible]aul R.	Hart, Lowell	Richman, Alan
Brow[illegible], Robin C.	Hedden, Michael	Salko, Edward Sr.
Caangay, Degracias	Heligman, David	Savage, Douglas
Carlino, Michael	Hugill, John	Sayet, Ellen
Carver, Jack	Kagan, John	Schwartz, Stan
Davis, Richard M.	Lane, Richard	Shapiro, David
Delorio, Richard	Liu, William	Shucavage, Benard
Eid, Robert	Lozano, Alexander	Snead, John
Faisal, Mohamed	Manalili, Simeon	Sultan, Shahid
Fell, Dale	Martinez, Robert	Turner, Robert
Fifer, John	Mazza, Joseph	Young, Marilyn ◆

MANAGED CARE INFORMATION

If you have information you would like to share with your colleagues on managed care, use this *Bulletin* space.

DESELECTION

A physician deselected from a managed care contract will be attacked on cost and quality of care issues.

Can you effectively fight this if you do not keep your own data? If you are getting report cards, ask for an in-depth explanation of all the data.

When does deselection usually occur in a plan? A plan collects enough data on your performance during the 2nd and 3rd year.

Example of a Report Card criteria:

1. **Quality of Care & The Art of Caring**
   Patient Satisfaction, Peer & MD Supervisor Evaluations, Chart Review, Health Maintenance Compliance, Quality Improvement Score, Health Center Management Team, Staff Evaluations.

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NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS

Application for Membership

Active members are requested to express to the Committee on Ethical & Judicial Affairs or Board of Governors any information or opinions they may have concerning the eligibility of the applicants.

GEORGE BRIGGS, D.O. - FAMILY PRACTICE

Dr. Briggs was born in Atlanta, GA. **Medical School:** Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Fort Worth, Texas (1981-84). **Internship:** Corpus Christi Osteopathic Hospital, Corpus Christi, Texas (1984-85). **Residency:** Osteopathic Medical Center of Texas, Fort Worth, Texas (1990-91). **Board Certifications:** American Board of Family Practice. Dr. Briggs was with the U.S. Public Health Service from 1985-87. Dr. Briggs is an associate with Family Physicians located at 13685 Doctors Way, Fort Myers. ◆

JACOB GLOCK, M.D.-OB/GYN-REPRODUCTIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY

Dr. Glock was born in Tokyo, Japan. **Medical School:** St. Georges University, St. Georges, Grenada; (1982-86). **Internship:** Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland (1986-87). **Residency:** Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Baltimore, Maryland (1987-89); Orlando Regional Medical Center (OB/GYN); Orlando, Florida (1989-92). **Fellowships:** University of Vermont, College of Medicine (Reproductive Endocrinology-Infertility), Burlington, Vermont (1992-95). **Board Eligible.** Dr. Glock is an associate with Gulf Coast Fertility Institute, located at 13685 Doctor's Way, Suite 190, Fort Myers. ◆

LEAH LYNCH, M.D. - INTERNAL MEDICINE

Dr. Lynch was born in Punta Gorda, Florida. **Medical School:** University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida (1986-90). **Internship:** University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina (1991-92). **Residency:** University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina (1992-94). **Board Certifications:** American Board of Internal Medicine. Dr. Lynch is an associate with Associates in Internal Medicine, located at 1569 Matthew Drive, Fort Myers. ◆

DAVID A MacKOUL, M.D. - PEDIATRICS

Dr. MacKoul was born in Massachusetts. **Medical School:** Tufts University, Boston, Massachusetts (1983-87). **Internship:** New England Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts (1987-88). **Residency:** New England Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts (1988-90). **Post Graduate:** University of Iowa (1981-83). **Board Certifications:** American Board of Pediatrics. Dr. MacKoul is an associate with Pediatric Gulf Associates, located at 2721 Del Prado Boulevard, Cape Coral. ◆

MARGIE MORALES, M.D. - PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGY

Dr. Morales was born in Tacoma, Washington. **Medical School:** University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico (1976-80). **Internship:** University Pediatric Hospital, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico (1980-81). **Residency:** University Pediatric Hospital, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico (1981-83). **Fellowship:** Harbor UCLA Medical Center, Torrance, California (1984-87). **Board Certifications:** American Board of Psychiatry, Neurology & Pediatrics. Dr. Morales is an associate with Nemours Children's Clinic, located at 9800 HealthPark Circle, Suite 110, Fort Myers. ◆

ANTHONY PIETRONIRO, M.D. - PEDIATRICS

Dr. Pietroniro was born in Queens, New York. **Medical School:** Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana (1985-89). **Internship:** Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, Pensacola, Florida (1989-90). **Residency:** Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, Pensacola, Florida (1990-92). **Board Certifications:** American Board of Pediatrics. Dr. Pietroniro is an associate with Associates in Pediatrics, located at 1555 Matthew Drive, Fort Myers. ◆

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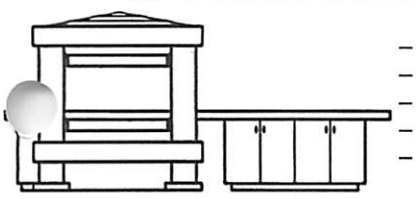

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New Member Applicants...Continued from Page Three

EDUARDO J. RIFF, M.D. - PEDIATRIC PULMONARY

Dr. Riff was born in Seattle, Washington. **Medical School:** University of Washington, School of Medicine, Seattle, Washington (1973-77). **Internship:** Children's Orthopedic Hospital, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (1977-78). **Residency:** Children's Orthopedic Hospital, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (1978-81). **Fellowship:** Children's Orthopedic Hospital, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (1981-82); Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center/University of Washington, Seattle, Washington (1982-83). **Board Certifications:** American Board of Pediatrics & Pulmonary. Dr. Riff is an associate with Nemours Children's Clinic, located at 9800 HealthPark Circle, Suite 110, Fort Myers. ◆

AUGUSTO WHITTWELL, M.D. - TRAUMA SURGERY

Dr. Whittwell was born in Lima, Peru. **Medical School:** Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru (1976-80). **Internship:** Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida (1981-82). **Residency:** Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida (1982-86). **Fellowships:** Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida (1986-88). **Board Certifications:** American Board of General Surgery. Dr. Whittwell is an associate with Lee Memorial Hospital, located at 2776 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers. ◆

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

DISNEY DISCOUNT CARD

The Disney World and Disneyland Discount Card is now available through the Walt Disney Magic Kingdom Club, offered by the Lee County Medical Society. If you would like to receive the discount card, you may do so by contacting our office, 936-1645. ◆

NOTICE:

SENIOR CARE MEDICAL COURTESY CARD PROGRAM

The Senior Care Card Program will no longer be offered to NEW PATIENTS. However, the program will remain in effect for those patients enrolled prior to December 8, 1995. Please remove any application forms you may have in your office. Thank you.

Ann Wilke, Executive Director, Lee County Medical Society

Managed Care Information...Continued from Page Three

2. **Resource Management**
   Productivity, Peer & MD Supervisor Evaluations, Case Management Evaluation
3. **Team Player/Role Model/Mentor**
   Peer & MD Supervisor Evaluations, Health Center Management Team, Staff Evaluations ◆

THE NUMBERS TELL THE STORY

In Florida, the frequency of claims against doctors is much higher than for the average doctor in any other state. The average physician in Florida has a 1 in 6 chance of getting sued in 1995, while the average physician in the United States incurs half that risk, with a 1 in 12 chance of experiencing litigation.

The frequency and severity of claims has increased at an alarming pace within the state since this trend began over a decade ago. Based on cases closed in 1994, $175,227,881 was paid to settle claims against doctors and hospitals in Florida. This represents an 838 percent increase from the $18,676,085 paid out in 1980. The average paid per case in 1994 was $212,397 - a 200% increase from the average of $70,743 paid in 1980.

This upward spiral has also plagued the frequency of claims. In 1980, there were 264 claims closed with indemnity paid in malpractice suits. In 1994, 825 claims closed with indemnity paid - a 212 percent increase. Statistics plotting the last 15 years are significant, but increases within the last couple of years are even more sobering. In 1993, 11 claims were closed with payments of over $1 million in indemnity. This number more than doubled in 1994, when 27 claims were closed with over $1 million in indemnity payments. ◆

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Lee Memorial Home Care Checklist

- ☑ Home Health Services
- ☑ Continuity of Care
- ☑ Home Infusion
- ☑ PICC Line Trained Nurses
- ☑ Coordinators at Both Hospital Locations

Lee Memorial Home Health 332-6440

Lee Memorial Home Infusion 275-2050

JANUARY MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Royal Palm Yacht Club

JANUARY 15, 1996

Social Time: 6:30 p.m.
Dinner Time: 7:00 p.m.

SPEAKER:
JAMES S. TODD, M.D.
EVP, AMA

TOPIC:
"Challenges in the Future"

DINNER BY RESERVATION ONLY

CANCELLATIONS:
By Noon Fridy before meeting
Spouse or Guest - Dinner $20.00
NO MEETING IN FEBRUARY!

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
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