

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin



THE VOICE OF LEE COUNTY MEDICINE

VOLUME 26, NO. 6

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA
Daniel Schwartz, M.D., EDITOR

OCTOBER 2002

NOMEETING IN OCTOBER

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2002

"ARE YOU READY FOR HIPAA?"

Bruce Rappaport M.D.
Royal Palm Yacht Club
2360 West First Street

6:30 p.m. - Social Time & 7 p.m. - Program

ELECTION OF 2003 OFFICERS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2002

Annual Holiday Party

7:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.
held at

The Veranda Restaurant
2122 Second Street

RSVP - LCMS, PO Box 60041,
Ft Myers, FL 33906

Tel: 239-936-1645 Fax: 239-936-0533

Inserts

- 1 ARE YOU READY FOR HIPAA?
NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE
- 2 MEDICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
- 3 LCMS TORT REFORM LIST AND
SIGN UP FORMS FOR FLAMPAC,
1000 CLUB, CITIZENS FOR TORT
REFORM

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President's Message

"GOTV"

Eliot Hoffman, M.D.



In last month's message, I discussed many of the available powers physicians have in addition to those of healing in order to promote our agenda. One of the most powerful of course not mentioned, but of utmost importance for this next month is the power of the vote. The FMA and FLAMPAC endorsed candidates and issues obviously require our support, and I would hope that our spouses, friends, each and every one of us and, if possible, our patients recognize this importance and vote accordingly.

The physicians of Florida could not have a stronger ally in Tallahassee than that of Governor Jeb Bush and Lt. Governor Frank Brogan. Governor Bush almost single-handedly canvassed the Florida legislature in special session and the result was the passage of the Prompt Pay Bill requiring the insurance industry to deal with physicians in an appropriate and fair fashion or face substantial penalty. Governor Bush has also made tort reform the highest of priority for the upcoming session and deserves every bit of political and financial support from the medical family.

Locally, Bruce Kyle, running for Representative in District 73, has also been a career-long supporter of medical issues and is well known and supported by many of us.

Jeff Kottkamp in District 74 also is an ally, which we need to support and help elect to the state House.

Michael Bennett in District 21 likewise is

supported by FLAMPAC as a medicine-friendly candidate.

District 27 has our own Frank Mann against David Aronberg, Democrat from the east coast. Many of us know and support Frank Mann in this race in spite of FLAMPAC's endorsement of Aronberg. Vote your conscience.

Charlie Crist is recommended by the representatives of the FLAMPAC Board in the Attorney General's race and also warrants our widespread support.

It goes without saying that the medical community hopefully can overwhelmingly endorse the half cent sales tax initiative to fund emergency and trauma services and I believe most, if not all of us, will have heard more than we ever cared to on this matter, so enough said.

We should not forget past history in that the Florida Supreme Court has on two occasions disallowed significant tort reform on the basis of it being "unconstitutional". There are two Supreme Court justices on the ballot for re-election. It would be a significant benefit in the ultimate battle for tort reform if these Supreme Court justices were not re-elected to allow the Governor to fill these positions with new appointees.

I would urge everyone to discuss these recommendations with any and all interested voters, as without the necessary support in the state legislature and ultimately the Supreme Court, it is questionable whether we can be successful with meaningful tort reform.

GET OUT THE VOTE.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION CAN PREVENT CLAIMS

By Cliff Rapp, LHRM

Vice President Risk Management FPIC

Effective communication and rapport with patients are developed skills that require the same professional approach, degree of learning, and practice as the technical aspects of medicine. Below are suggested behavioral skills that can lead to improved rapport and communication with patients.

It is important to begin the relationship correctly from the initial contact with the patient. When first meeting a patient introduce yourself by name, make eye contact, and shake hands. Also ask the patient how they would like to be addressed. It is extremely important to explain what you will be doing instead of charging in and performing the task on the patient. Allow the patient to ask questions if they do not understand or are unclear about the procedure. One of the most necessary communications skills involves listening. When the patient speaks, listen and look at them. Another technique to create good rapport is to not turn your back to the patient while speaking with them.

Questioning is also important to establish open lines of communication with patients. Remember to use open-ended questions whenever possible unless the patient is unable to speak. Ask questions one at a time and allow the patient to respond in their own terms.

The facilitation of effective communication is vital to the physician/patient relationship. The physician should encourage the patient with verbal facilitation, such as "Go on." Nonverbal facilitation such as nodding your head should also be practiced. If necessary, paraphrase or restate what the patient has said for clarification. Allow the patient to speak uninterrupted and identify with and reflect the feelings of the patient in your statement. Avoid paternalistic or authoritarian statements (e.g. "Don't worry, you don't understand what this is all about" or "I know what is best for you"). To aid in understanding reword technical medical terms into lay language but avoid being too simplistic for educated patients.

Additional rapport and patient techniques for effective communication are:

- Project a caring attitude.
- Relate to the patient as a person, not just a clinical condition.
- Adjust your level of explanation to match each patient's understanding of medical terminology.
- Encourage the patient to ask questions and be willing to explain procedures and answer questions.
- Be courteous to relatives and be willing to answer general questions about the patient's condition without compromising confidentiality.
- Return phone calls promptly.
- Give the patient in front of you your full attention. Patients resent interruptions.

See CLAIMS, page 2

As I Recall...

WILLIAM HANSON, M.D.

1842 - 1911

Roger D. Scott, M.D.

As best I am able to find out, Dr. Hanson had no middle name and was born in Essex County, England October 6, 1842, the son of an English minister. He attended the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He then went to work for the Bank of North America eventually winding up in Quebec, Canada. He traveled both in Canada and the western U.S. for the bank and in the mid 1860's was sent to Mexico to buy silver bullion. During his stay in Mexico, he was honored by Emperor Maximilian (the French nobleman appointed by the King of France). Dr. Hanson was made a marquis and given a large tract of land for "services rendered to the Emperor". After the fall of Maximilian, Dr. Hanson was captured by Benito Juarez (the Mexican revolutionary) and charged with being a "gringo spy". Dr. Hanson had a British passport but was not able to convince the rebels of his innocence so in desperation Dr. Hanson told them that he had a warship coming to rescue him. Actually, it was a prearranged warship sent to pick up the bullion he was buying. Dr. Hanson was released, but I do not know what happened to his title, land, or the bullion!

He returned from his North American adventures in 1865 to England where he graduated from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons at Edinburgh in 1870. He married Julia Allen that same year and practiced medicine for about 10 years in Radnor County, Wales. Dr. Hanson and his family apparently developed asthma and/or other health problems so they immigrated to the U.S. in 1880 settling in Paris, Texas. The Texas climate proved no better so they moved to Key West, Florida in 1883. He developed a flourishing practice and was considered a "notable surgeon" (after all, he had been a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh). He moved to Ft. Myers in May 1884 but continued to return by ship to Key West on occasions in the early days, to perform surgery. He purchased 640 acres of land 1.25 miles from the city of Ft. Myers and developed a subdivision. He served as President of the Medical Society for six years. The Press newspaper published an article on 11/15/1906: "Lee County Medical Society Passes some Resolutions" stating that, "Lee physicians should not consult with any physicians who are not legally qualified to practice in Florida. W. Hanson, M.D., President W.B. Winkler, M.D., Secretary"

Dr. Hanson had always profoundly practiced the art of medicine and surgery; in fact despite the fact that he was not feeling well earlier in the day of his death, he assisted Dr. Ernst Brecht with "a very delicate surgical operation". Dr. & Mrs. Hanson had been very diligent in trying to arouse the citizens' interest to the need for a hospital in Ft. Myers. As Dr. Hanson was sitting at his desk (in his home at 1133 Monroe Street) writing material for this crusade, he quietly expired on December 15, 1911. After his death, Mrs. Hanson intensely pursued and was instrumental in the establishment of the Lee County Hospital (later Lee Memorial). Drs Hanson and Washburn arrived in 1884 but I believe Dr. Hanson arrived first making him the second, third, or fourth physician to practice in Ft. Myers.

Stanley (grandson) and Mary Ellen Hanson have been very kind to make it possible to obtain information for this article along with a signed photograph of the doctor and information regarding many of our old physicians.

Our Museum workshop is progressing nicely. We are located at 3601 Fowler Street. Come join us on Saturday mornings from 9 AM to 1 PM, it's fun! Call before coming - 277-5411.

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The editors welcome contributions from members. Opinions expressed in the Bulletin are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect policies of the Society.

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Distinct Impressions 482-6262

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

NEW PRACTICE
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(239) 334-7077 (F)

Patrick Flaherty, M.D.
12640 Creekside Lane
Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239) 482-7676 (O)
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RETIRED
Lawrence Schoenfeld, M.D.

MOVED OUT OF AREA
S. K. Henry Seto, M.D.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Stanley Alexander, M.D., Radiology
Gerald Edelstein, D.O., Radiology
Joseph Sams, M.D., Radiology
Paul Engel, M.D., Family Practice
Wesley Faunce III, M.D., Neurosurgery
Scott Fields, M.D., Internal Medicine
David Martin, M.D., Internal Medicine

LCMS STATS

AUGUST 9, 2002 - SEPT 15, 2002

	Current	YTD
PHONE CALLS RECEIVED	479	4656
From Physicians and Office Staff	145	1008
FOR REFERRALS	112	1573
For Background Checks	14	222
Filing Complaints	6	46
Regarding Non-Members	19	138
Regarding Alliance	4	61
Regarding CMS, FMA, and AMA	14	210
Miscellaneous Calls	165	1401
Applications sent to physicians	15	222
Meetings	32	84
Attended on behalf of LCMS	25	57
Society Meetings	4	24
DIRECTORIES DISTRIBUTED	32	650

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH ORGANIZED MEDICINE
"HOW IT HELPS THE PRACTICING PHYSICIAN"

Ronald D. Castellanos, M.D.

The questions that are always asked, either on the county medical society level, the state medical society level and on national levels is, "WHAT DOES ORGANIZED MEDICINE DO FOR ME?" The real question should be, "What can I do to help organized medicine?" Unfortunately, in medicine, there is so much complacency. I can tell you from personal experience that organized medicine does help the practicing physicians. Thanks to my local medical society, the state medical society and my specialty organizations I have been appointed to Practicing Physicians Advisory Council. We meet four times a year as an advisory committee to Medicare. There are a number of issues that we discuss, but one issue that I can specifically state that organized medicine was able to modify for the practicing physician was EMTALA (emergency medical treatment and active labor act) law. Medicare regional offices had interpreted that a doctor could only be on call at one hospital at a time and when he was on call, he could not do elective surgery or elective procedures. If the physician was on call and was called to the hospital to provide emergency treatment and was not available, he and the hospital would be in violation of EMTALA.

Obviously in the real world this would never work out. There would be a significant problem in providing coverage to all emergency rooms. The Medicare beneficiary, (i.e. patient), would not have access to care. The AMA, together with about 30 other specialty groups, together with the Medicare's Practicing Physicians Advisory Council recommendation, and specifically myself speaking to this issue we were able to convince Medicare that local flexibility in determining how best to maximize the available physicians resources. Medicare listened! This is what organized medicine does for you. Behind the scenes, in front of the government, we are able to help the individual practicing physicians throughout the United States. This is just one example of how it works.

UROLOGIST APPOINTED TO HIGH-LEVEL MEDICARE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Ronald D. Castellanos, M.D., a urologist from Cape Coral, Florida, was officially sworn into the Medicare's Practicing Physicians Advisory Council (PPAC) at the March 25-26 Council meeting. The PPAC has been in existence since 1992 and advises the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on certain proposed changes in the Medicare carriers' manual and in Medicare and Medicaid regulations.

Dr. Castellanos currently works at Southwest Florida Urologic Associates. He has also served on the Board for the AUA's Southeastern Section and held numerous leadership positions within the Florida Urology Society.

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE NEWS
Respectfully submitted by Ann Shah, PhD, Corresponding Secretary

Lee County Awarded at FMAA Annual Meeting

The FMAA Annual Meeting was held August 28 to September 1 at the Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa in Orlando, FL. LCMSA delegates included Nancy Barrow, Ana Gregg, Connie Howington, Cheri O'Mallia, Barbara Rodriguez and Tami Traiger. Liz Kagan, LCMSA member and AMAA Immediate Past President, was also in attendance.

Lee County was honored as having the largest membership in the state, and won a total of seven first place plaques:

1) Membership Awards, Membership over 150;
2) Awards of Excellence, Adult Oriented Program for Medi-Bags for the Homeless;
3) Awards of Excellence, Community Education Program for Buckle Bear;
4) Awards of Excellence, Youth Oriented Program for SAVE: "Bullies & Victims";
5) Awards of Excellence, Health Information Program for Mini-Grants;
6) FC/PRN Awards, Membership 101-300; and
7) FC/PRN Awards, Overall Highest Sales (\$15,324.65 - Gift Fruit).

The LCMSA also received the following certificates:

1) Awards of Excellence, Membership Development - Second Place;
2) Newsletter Awards, Most Improved - Second Place; and
3) Newsletter Awards, Membership over 100 - Honorable Mention.

Additionally, Ana Gregg and Nancy Barrow were installed as Member-at-Large District Vice-Presidents, and Barbara Rodriguez was elected to the State Nominating Committee.

Please join us in congratulating all of our members for the boundless effort and dedication that made possible this state recognition of the important work our Alliance does for the community.

Potluck in Paradise

Potluck in Paradise is on the menu again - only this year, *no laboring to make hot entrées and side dishes!* A caterer will do that! We invite you to an evening of stress-free eating, drinking and socializing on Saturday, Oct 19 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the lovely historic home of Dan and Janet Robertson (3913 McGregor Boulevard; 2 blocks south of Brixx Restaurant at the Fort Myers Country Club). Please send your \$20 check payable to LCMSA to 13300-56 S. Cleveland Ave., #12, Fort Myers, FL 33907, or call Suzanne Kotula at 454-1069 or Yvette Allen at 415-7976 to find out what cold dish you can bring. Join us for a relaxing evening under the tropical royal palms.

MEDI-BAGS
The gift that keeps on giving

The season of giving has just begun!!! The Lee County Medical Society Alliance is looking for donations to help the homeless in Lee County. We need your help and support of this project. Items needed:

Alcohol/antiseptic wipes
Deodorant
Mouthwash
Baby wipes
Disposable diapers
Shampoo
Band aids
First aid products
Shaving cream
Body/hand lotion
Disposable razors
Soap
Combs/brushes
Insect repellent
Toothbrushes
Dental floss
Kleenex
Toothpaste

Please consider giving these items from your home or office. Take the time to ask your friends to contribute to this worthy cause (don't forget to ask your hair salon). When you are on vacation please remember to bring home the complimentary toiletries from hotel room.

We are also asking for charitable contributions (no donation is too little). The money will be used to purchase necessary toiletry items which have not been donated. All of the supplies and the funds generated will be dispersed to the needy in Lee County. We thank you for your support and concern.

Please contact Lisa Roland (267-9989) for further information.

Save the date: Stuffing of the bags will be on December 7th.

MUSEUM OF MEDICAL HISTORY PUZZLER

As we begin sorting and identifying our donated items at the Medical Museum workshop, we would like to share some interesting artifacts with "The Bulletin" reader.

The object: Late 19th century 6-inch metal and bakelite with a reservoir stuffed with cotton. There are two 1/8-inch holes at the metal end and a single 1/8 inch hole at the bakelite end.



What is it? Answer to Puzzler on Page 4 of the Bulletin.

INTERNET RESOURCES
SENIOR PATIENTS AND
PRESCRIPTION COSTS

New Plans Help Ease the Pain

by Michael Barnaby, Public Information Officer, Lee County Health Department

Visit us online at <http://www.lee-county.com/healthdept>

Your older patients are more and more feeling the pharmaceutical pinch. Prescription drugs have become the fastest growing cost in health care, and these expenses have been largely passed on to seniors, those more likely to have the most need for these products. Seniors account for 13 per cent of the nation's population yet represent more than one third of the nation's total drug expenditures. In Florida, nearly three million seniors receive Medicare, their median income is \$13,982, and 770,000 have incomes below 150 percent of the poverty level.

A proliferation of drug assistance programs have sprung up as a result, some national in scope, some public and some private. In general, these plans are income-based, and available to senior citizens who have Medicare but do not qualify for Medicaid. Following is a brief description of the major plans:

- A number of leading pharmaceutical companies, including Abbott Laboratories, AstraZeneca, Aventis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Bristol-Myers Squibb Company, GlaxoSmithKline, Janssen Pharmaceutical Products, L.P., Novartis, and Ortho-McNeil Pharmaceutical, have formed Together Rx, a prescription program with free membership that provides savings on over 150 prescription medicines. Together Rx has the advantages of a wider pool of available prescriptions than many other plans, plus more relaxed qualifications. Applications can be obtained at the Together Rx web site at www.Together-Rx.com, or by calling 1-800-865-7211.
- GlaxoSmithKline offers the "Orange Card," entitling seniors to savings averaging 35 percent on outpatient GlaxoSmithKline prescription drugs. According to their literature, eligible seniors can obtain an Orange Card form from their doctor, or by calling 1-888-Orange-6.
- Pfizer offers the Pfizer For Living Card. For those who qualify, Pfizer medications cost \$15 for each 30-day supply. Have your patient call 1-800-717-6005 or go to www.pfizerforliving.com for more information and an application.
- Specific to Florida, there's the new Silver Saver program. This is for low income Floridians on Medicaid (not everyone on Medicaid receives full prescription benefits). Patients may be eligible for \$160 a month in prescription benefits. There are no premiums or deductibles, and a minimal co-pay for each prescription. Those with Medicaid cards are automatically enrolled by their pharmacy. The program is named after State Senator Ron Silver from North Miami.

CLAIMS from page 1

- Respect patient confidentiality even in social situations. Instruct staff on the importance of confidentiality in all settings.
- Accept without judgment a patient's refusal to follow recommendations (document, but don't criticize).
- Reprimand staff away from patient's presence.
- Avoid criticism of another physician's care to the patient.
- Resolve complaints and misunderstandings about care, the bill, or other matters yourself before resentment builds.

Effective communication between physicians and patients is not a difficult process, if the skills detailed above can be learned and implemented. Summarize what has occurred during the visit when speaking with patients. It is vital to communicate to the patient when the attending physician will have test results to prevent anxiousness. Remember to ask the patient if he/she understands the impact of the diagnosis and the treatment, and be certain that the patient does not have any additional questions. When communicating with patients develop a plan with the patient for future care, if appropriate. Effective communication with patients is an easy way to prevent claims. If patients fully understand all procedures, diagnosis, and treatment options, they are less likely to result in claims. The patient should be made to feel that the physician truly cares about their well-being. *

CLASSIFIED AD

Classified ads are only for use by physician members of the LCMS.

OPHTHALMOLOGIST
SEEKING OFFICE SPACE

Ophthalmologist seeking equipped office space in Lee and Collier Counties.

Call 482-4598

2002 FMA ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

WYNDHAM PALACE ORLANDO, FL

AUGUST 29TH - SEPTEMBER 1ST

HAPPY TO SERVE!

THE LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY DELEGATION TO THE FMA ANNUAL MEETING

"Thank you" to all of our Delegates and members who attended the FMA Annual Meeting on August 29th - September 1st in Orlando. We had a very successful meeting with the passage of our resolutions and discussions on Tort Reform, Medical Malpractice, Medicare, as well as many other issues.

Dr. David Reardon, Chairman of our Delegates also served on Reference Committee III, Legislation, and heard testimony on many issues. That Committee then made recommendations back to the full House of Delegates. Thanks Dr. Reardon.

If you see any of our delegates in the next week or so please thank them for representing you and taking time out of their busy practices.



Lee County Medical Society Delegation to the FMA Annual Meeting

BACK ROW: James Rubenstein, M.D.; Steven West, M.D.; Michael Fletcher, M.D.; Richard Murray, M.D.; James Fuller, M.D.; Alan Siegel, M.D.; Howard Barrow, M.D.; David Reardon, M.D., Delegation Chair

FRONT ROW: Eliot Hoffman, M.D.; Dean Traiger, M.D.; Valerie Crandall, M.D.; Cherrie Morris, M.D.

2002 FMA ANNUAL MEETING

David Reardon, M.D. Chair
LCMS Delegation to the FMA

The FMA Annual Meeting was held in Orlando over the Labor Day weekend this year. The Lee County Delegation was present in its entirety. Thirteen of your fellow physicians took time away from their practices and gave up family time on a holiday weekend to represent all of you at a time when medicine is in crisis in Florida. The resolutions submitted covered a wide spectrum of problems facing medicine today. Garnering the most discussion were multiple resolutions addressing the medical liability crisis that confronts all of us. All of these resolutions were overwhelmingly adopted and were forwarded to the FMA Board and its Committee for Tort Reform for immediate action and ongoing evaluation. Your House of Delegates felt this maneuver offered maximum responsiveness and flexibility on a playing field where political forces are constantly shifting. An immediate result of this ground swell from FMA physician was the governor appointing a Task Force to address tort reform.

Other significant subjects discussed included FMA membership, NICA reform and specialty board recognition by the Board of Medicine.

The FMA now offers flexibility in membership. You may join your County Society or the FMA independently of one another, resulting in direct access to either group.

The FMA will seek to provide stricter guidelines for the Board of Medicine (BOM) when non-ABMS "specialty boards" seek equivalence" granted by the BOM. Recently the BOM deemed the AAPS (American Association of Physician Specialists) equivalent to ABMS boards for the purposes of advertising one's self as "Board Certified". Your House of Delegates felt the evaluation mechanism by the BOM was short-circuited and that AAPS is not truly equivalent to ABMS in its requirements for board certification.

Resolutions offered by local Lee County physicians included provisions to eliminate HIV/AIDS and Domestic Violence CME, a provision to require same specialty board certified physicians to review appeals in disputes with HMOs and PPOs and a resolution that would seek legislation to provide tax incentives for small businesses to form self insurance health cooperatives. All of these resolutions were adopted by your House of Delegates.

I would like to personally thank all of the Lee County Delegates for their hard work and dedication in representing you at our Annual Meeting. I ask each of you to consider stepping up to offer your support (time, resolutions and/or money) in the upcoming year so that organized medicine can best defend our patients and practices.

SENATOR BURT SAUNDERS HONORED BY FLORIDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AS 2002 LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR

Senator Burt L. Saunders has been selected to receive the Florida Medical Association's 2002 Legislator of the Year Award for the Florida Senate. The award will be presented to him at the FMA Annual Meeting at the Wyndham Palace Resort in Lake Buena Vista on August 31, 2002. Senator Saunders is pleased to receive this prestigious award for the second time in three years.

In addition to the Florida Medical Association award, Senator Saunders has been nominated for an award presented by the American Medical Association. Florida Department of Health Secretary Dr. John Agwunobi has nominated Senator Saunders for the 20-03 Dr. Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Government Service. The criteria observed in the selection of the individuals include high personal integrity, outstanding leader in his/her field and one who has contributed greatly to the public health through elected and career government service. Recipients of the 2002 Dr. Nathan Davis Award include the Honorable Diane Feinstein, California and Lieutenant General Paul K. Carlton, Jr., Surgeon General, United States Air Force.

Each year, Senator Saunders files legislation addressing the needs and deficiencies in the delivery of healthcare services to Florida's citizens. His legislative agenda encompasses a broad range of issues from prenatal care through the end of life care. In 2002, he filed legislation addressing healthcare service delivery, health quality assurance, healthcare provider recruitment and retention, and health insurance affordability and reimbursement to providers.

Senator Saunders is mindful of the need for adequate funding for these services and worked closely with the leadership in both the Florida Senate and the House of Representatives to ensure that his initiatives were successful. He will continue to advocate for the citizens of Florida and their healthcare providers.



Senator Burt Saunders with
Steven West, M.D.

REPORT OF THE 2002 FMA ANNUAL MEETING

Steven R. West, M.D.
District E Representative of the FMA Board of Governors

The trifecta is complete. During the FMA Annual meeting a reception was held honoring the Florida Senate President-designate Senator Jim King. At the FLAMPAC Good Government Luncheon, Senator King made it clear that his previous reluctance to address tort reform in the upcoming legislative session is changing. He realizes that the crisis is worsening and that the legislature is going to have to act. He pointed out that there are many challenges (opportunities) that are facing Florida including the budget, education, affordable health care and workmen's compensation. FLAMPAC sponsored fundraiser for Senator King's Senate Majority effort raising over \$200,000 dollars. This completed FLAMPAC's efforts to support the three key people in government that have major role to play in solving the medical malpractice crisis (the civil justice crisis). Earlier this year FLAMPAC sponsored successful events for Governor Jeb Bush and House Speaker - designate Johnnie Byrd.

Immediately following the FMA House of Delegates meeting the Board of Governors met. Governor Jeb Bush called in to reaffirm his commitment to Tort Reform. He stated that he supports a cap on non-economic damages. He discussed the appointments of the members of the Tort Reform Task force. Most are well respected University Presidents. They are to complete the report and recommendations by January 1, 2003. The Governor intends to file a legislative package using the recommendations of the Task Force. We need to be sure Governor Bush is re-elected. None of this can happen if McBride a trial Lawyer and senior operating partner of one of the state's largest law firms Holland & Knight is governor. I hope that LCMS members will make a contribution to the Governor's campaign, put a Jeb yard sign out in front of your practice and or home, talk to your patients and staff letting them know the importance of voting for Governor Bush. Please contact me if you wish to support the Governor at 433-8888.

The highlight of the first House of Delegates meeting was the speech of the keynote speaker Dr. Ed Annis. Dr. Annis is a general surgeon from Miami. He practiced for a time in Chattahoochee and then Tallahassee. Due to his efforts of lobbying during the 1940's, he was able to require all dairies in Florida to Pasteurize milk ending an epidemic. While practicing in Miami, he became an outspoken defender of American Medicine. He was elected President of the AMA without ever attending an AMA meeting. He debated union labor leader Walter Reuther. He met several times with President Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. His nationally televised speech before an empty Madison Square Garden the night following President Kennedy's speech to a packed Madison Square Garden is credited with changing President Kennedy's support of Medicare. Dr. Annis predicted correctly the problems we currently face with Medicare. His book *Code Blue* should be required reading for all physicians to understand the forces unleashed to make the practice of medicine difficult. Before the House of Delegates, Dr. Annis once again declared war on the Fabian Society of England with their plans of incremental socialism for Britain and the United States. He explained how the labor movement in this country was infiltrated and taken over. Dr. Annis is a true treasure of American Medicine. Many years ago when I was inducted Lee County Medical Society President you may remember that Dr. Annis gave a wonderful speech to those attending the meeting. Dr. Annis is right, the practice of medicine is at war and is under attack.

During the Second House of Delegates meeting I presented the report of the Council on Legislation, I reported on the successful passage of the Prompt Pay Bill, preserving Medipass, preserving the Medicaid increases for services for those ages 0-21 and defeating a variety of bills to expand scope of practice of allied health professionals. The FMA defeated bills making it easier to sue doctors for medical malpractice. The FMA was able to prevent a substantial increase in licensure fees. Most of the presentations were regarding the FMA's work to pass meaningful tort reform. We heard from the Executive Vice President Sandy Mortham, FMA Council Jeff Scott and FMA Secretary Dennis Agliano regarding the FMA Tort reform task force and the plan to achieve tort reform. The county that has raised the most for the Tort Reform is Lee County (greater than 100,000 dollars). Unfortunately, to pass a constitutional amendment capping non-economic damages will require 15 to 20 million dollars. Yank Coble, Florida's own, President of the AMA pointed out that there is not a medical malpractice crisis but a civil justice crisis. This change in emphasis or nuance is important in shifting the debate from "bad doctors" to a tort system running wild.

One of the major issues discussed was and is membership. Despite being at war, we do not have the support of the majority of doctors in Florida. It goes without saying that all of us must do what we can to convince our colleagues that they must participate in this war effort. We need to ask and cajole the non-members among us to join. The FMA has studied the issue of declining membership for many years. The house after much debate passed direct membership in the FMA. One can join the FMA without joining the County Medical Society. One can join the County without joining the FMA. In states that allow for direct membership, the total membership at both the state and county level increases. I hope direct membership is successful. We need more members and more participation.

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NOVEMBER
5TH**

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AMA WORKING FOR YOU...

Mike Maves, EVP/CEO
American Medical Association

Labor Day is behind us, Congress is back in session, and official Washington is back at the office and hard at work. That includes the AMA.

Medicare Ratchets Up Pressure for Senate Action on Medicare Update The AMA continues to work with the Federation to press the Senate to pass legislation within the next few weeks to address the Medicare payment problem. Cuts in Medicare payments went into effect Jan. 1, and further cuts will take place in upcoming years unless Congress acts. Last week, the AMA released a survey of physicians indicating that 24 percent of them have either placed limits — or plan to — on the number of Medicare patients they treat.

In the face of this loss of access to care, we're optimistic Congress will act soon on the payment issue.

The New York Times reported Sunday that the Senate is "poised to increase Medicare payments to doctors, hospitals, nursing homes and health maintenance organizations." Majority leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.); Sen. Max Baucus (D-Mont.), the chairman of the Finance Committee; and Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa), the panel's ranking member, all said they expected Congress to pass a bill increasing Medicare payments to health care providers this year.

The AMA has been out front in getting across physicians' message on the issue. As The New York Times' story states: "Many lawmakers said that doctors had the strongest claim to new money because their Medicare payments were cut 5.4 percent in January, and they face similar cuts in each of the next two years. Significant numbers of doctors are refusing to take new Medicare patients, saying the government pays them too little to cover the costs of caring for the elderly."

It's important that organized medicine keep up the pressure. Remember that the AMA Grassroots Action Center — www.ama-assn.org/go/grassroots — is a helpful tool for contacting members of the Senate to urge them to address the Medicare payment problem.

House Judiciary Committee takes up the HEALTH Act The AMA has also been educating members of Congress on the medical liability crisis as the House Judiciary Committee, after two postponements, took up HR 4600 and passed it with a 217 favor - 203 opposed.

The HEALTH Act would limit the number of years a plaintiff can file a suit; allow injured patients to recover for economic damages but cap non-economic damages; and ensure that patients get a fair portion of their awards. The bill is based on MICRA, the California liability reform law that since 1975 has proven effective in keeping medical liability premiums at a reasonable level.

It's now time to remind your senators in Congress to support SB 2793. Call them, or send them an e-mail through the AMA Grassroots Actions Center at www.ama-assn.org/go/grassroots.

CITIZENS FOR TORT REFORM

FMA Goal 0 \$15 Million

\$451,000		GOAL for Lee County
\$112,600		August 23, 2002
\$90,100		August 13, 2002
\$66,400		July 12, 2002

Paid Political Advertisement by Citizens for Tort Reform – Contributions to Citizens for Tort Reform are not tax deductible for Federal income tax purposes. If the funds necessary to put this issue on the ballot are not raised, you will receive a prorated refund.

Answer to Puzzler from Page 2










Late 19th century chloroform inhalant for (self administered?) inhalation anesthesia.

This object can be viewed in the Museum workshop at 3601 Fowler Street. You are also welcome to participate in exploring our medical collection with us. Call: 277-5422

NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS

Application for Membership

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



SUSANNA BESHAI, M.D. – GENERAL SURGERY
Medical School: Medical College of Ohio, Toledo, OH (1992-96)
Internship: Medical College of Ohio, Toledo, OH (1996-97)
Residency: Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, NJ (1997-2002)
Dr. Beshai is in group practice with Surgical Associates of Southwest Florida, 2675 Winkler Avenue, #490, Fort Myers.

JACK W. CLARK, D.O. – RHEUMATOLOGY
Medical School: University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth, TX (1988-1992)
Internship: Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hill, MI (1992-1995)
Residency: Botsford General Hospital, Farmington Hill, MI (1992-1995)
Fellowship: Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University, Detroit, MI (1995-1998)
Dr. Clark is in practice with Internal Medicine Associates, 2675 Winkler Ave. Suite #300, Fort Myers.

MICHAEL A. CORBELLINI, D.O. – CARDIOLOGY
Medical School: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Philadelphia, PA (1995)
Internship: Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY (1995-1996)
Residency: Allegheny University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA (1996-1999)
Fellowship: Hahnemann Medical College of PA, Philadelphia, PA (1999-2002)
Dr. Corbellini is in group practice at Southwest Florida Heart Group, 8540 College Parkway Fort Myers.

MICHAEL GRODIN, D.O. – OPHTHALMOLOGY
Medical School: Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL (1994-98)
Internship: Michigan State University, Pontiac Medical Center, Pontiac, MI (1998-99)
Residency: Michigan State University, Flint, MI (1999-2002)
Dr. Grodin is in group practice with Eye Health, Inc, 6091 South Pointe Blvd, Fort Myers.

BRIAN HANLON, M.D. – CARDIOLOGY
Medical School: SUNY at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (1996)
Internship: Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, RI (1996-97)
Residency: Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, RI (1997-1999)
Fellowship: Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, RI (1999-2002)
Dr. Hanlon is in group practice at Southwest Florida Heart Group, 8540 College Parkway, Fort Myers.

STEVEN T. LEE, M.D. – CARDIOLOGY
Medical School: Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, RI (1993-1995)
Internship: Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, RI (1995-1996)
Residency: Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, RI (1996-1998)
Fellowship: Brown University School of Medicine, Providence, RI (1998-2002)
Dr. Lee is in group practice at Southwest Florida Heart Group, 8540 College Parkway, Fort Myers.

DAVID R. PRIEST, M.D. – RADIOLOGY
Medical School: University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN (1991-95)
Internship: Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, MN (1995-1996)
Residency: Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, MA (1996-2000)
Fellowship: University of California, San Francisco, CA (2000-02)
Dr. Priest is in group practice at Radiology Regional Center, 3680 Broadway, Fort Myers.

GANESH G. SHENOY, M.D. – NEPHROLOGY
Medical School: Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College, Mumbai, India (1987-1992)
Internship: Lokmanya Tilak Medical College, Mumbai, India (1992-1993)
Residency: Greater Baltimore Medical Center, Baltimore, MD (1995-1998)
Fellowship: Temple University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA (2000-2002)
Dr. Shenoy is in group practice at Associates in Nephrology, 1380 Royal Palm Square Blvd., Fort Myers.

KEITH S. SUSKO, M.D. – PAIN MANAGEMENT & REHAB
Medical School: Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA (1994-1998)
Internship: Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA (1998-1999)
Residency: Eastern Virginia Medical School, Norfolk, VA (1999-2002)
Dr. Susko is in group practice at The Sybert Institute, 413 Del Prado Blvd., Suite 201, Cape Coral.

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