

Lee County Medical Society

Bulletin

Physicians Caring for Our Community





BULLETIN

Lee County Medical Society is a Virtual Operation
Mailbox address: 5781 Lee Boulevard, Suite 208-104
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
239.936.1645 • www.lcmsfl.org

The Lee County Medical Society *Bulletin*
is published quarterly.

2Q 2022 EDITOR

John W. Snead, MD

MANAGING EDITOR

Julie Ramirez, Executive Director
239.936.1645
jramirez@lcmsfl.org

BULLETIN STAFF

Valerie Yackulich, Executive Assistant
valerie@lcmsfl.org

PUBLICATION SPECIALIST

Mollie Page
mollie@printpageusa.com

LCMS DISCLOSURE POLICY

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. Advertisements do not represent sponsorship or endorsement by the Lee County Medical Society nor necessarily imply the accuracy or reliability of any advertisement displayed in this publication. ©2021 LCMS.

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Tracy Vo, DO

PRESIDENT ELECT

Ryan Lundquist, MD

TREASURER

Scott Caesar, MD

SECRETARY

Gamini Soori, MD, MBA

PAST PRESIDENT

Elizabeth Cosmai, MD

DIRECTORS & MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Arie Dosoretz, MD	Danielle Matta, MD
Janet Gaw, MD	Ramon Pabalan, MD
Harmandar Gill, MD	

Lee County Medical Society Mission Statement

The mission of Lee County Medical Society is to advocate for physicians and their relationships with patients; promote public health and uphold the professionalism of the practice of medicine.

CONTENTS

Calendar of Events	2
Member News	3
President's Message.....	4
Ramirez Report: New LCMS Strategic Plan	5
Analysis of Cerebrovascular Accidents and Malpractice Claims..	6
2 nd Adult Mental Health First Aid Training Class Announced	7
LCMS Foundation 5K Run Race Results	9
Highlights from the 10 th Annual Medical Service Awards..	10-11

IN MEMORIAM

It is with profound sorrow that we announce the death of this beloved Lee County Medical Society member:

George Allen Ball, MD

December 30, 1949 - April 9, 2022

Please alert the Society of any member deaths so we can honor their lives and contributions to the medical community properly.

The cover photo was taken by: **Peter Sidell, MD.**

Members are encouraged to submit photos to be considered for the Bulletin cover. Must be large format/300dpi. Email photos to valerie@lcmsfl.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 24th
11:30am

Practice Administrator Luncheon
Crown Plaza Hotel
13051 Bell Tower Drive, Fort Myers, FL

JULY 6th
6:00pm - 7:30pm

Residency Reception
FineMark Bank
8695 College Pkwy Suite 100, Fort Myers, FL

SAVE THE DATES

AUG 26th

Family Fun Night
Pop Stroke
5531 Six Mile Commercial Ct, Fort Myers, FL

FRIDAY, DEC 9th

LCMS Holiday Party
Forest Country Club
6100 Club Blvd., SW, Fort Myers, FL

RVSP to LCMS events at www.lcmsfl.org

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS AS OF MAY 19, 2022

Nabil Benhayoun, MD
Internal Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Alvaro Boniche, MD
Hospitalist
Lee Physician Group

Rahul Challapalli, MD
Critical Care Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Renato Concepcion, MD
Endocrinology
Lee Physician Group

Vijay Das, MD
Critical Care Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Curt Dedrick, DO
Internal Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Matthew Dorman, DO
Internal Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Razak Dosani, MD
Critical Care Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Rodney Ellis, MD
Radiation Oncology
GenesisCare

Jeffrey Engorn, DO
Orthopedic Surgery
Orthopedic Specialist of SW Florida

Abusayeed Feroz, MD
Critical Care
Lee Physician Group

Matthew Fishman, MD
Orthopedic Surgeon
Lee Physician Group

Jeffrey Halsell, DO
PM&R
The Neuropathy Clinic

Janine Harewood, MD
Oncology/Hematology
Lee Physician Group

Rhona Holganza, MD
Pediatrics
Lee Physician Group

Tom Hong, MD
Orthopedics
Orthopedic Specialists of SW Florida

Robert Hubbard, MD
Family Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Saiful Islam, MD
Urgent Care
Lee Convenient Care Metro Pkwy

Shyam Kapadia, MD
Critical Care Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Blane Kelly, MD
Orthopedic Surgery
Institute For Orthopaedic Surgery
& Sports Medicine

Diana Khalil, MD
Palliative Care
Lee Physician Group

Banafsheh Kiankhooy, MD
Pediatric Primary Care
Lee Physician Group

Benjamin Lehmkuhl, DO
Family Medicine
Florida Gulf Coast ENT

Pierre Lored, MD
Pediatrics
Lee Physician Group

Christopher Loutzenhiser, DO
Family Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Emad Mansour, MD
Pediatric Intensive Care
Lee Physician Group

Nicole Mirjafari, MD
Pediatrics
Lee Physician Group

Ara Montalvo, MD
Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Manoel Moraes, Jr., MD
Oncology
Lee Physician Group

Phillip Mote, MD
Pediatrics
Lee Physician Group

Freddie Rodriguez, MD
Hospitalist
Lee Physician Group

Steven Shaw, MD
Child Psychiatry
Steven Shaw

Kamaldeep Singh, DO
Cardiology
Lee Physician Group

Mary Sokoloski, MD
Pediatric Cardiology
Lee Physician Group

Sandaliz Solano, MD
Family Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Preeth Sundaran, MD
Cardiology
Lee Physician Group

Gerry Tolbert, MD
Family Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Ashley Warmoth, DO
Family Medicine
Millennium Physician Group

Hailon Wong, MD
Family Medicine
Lee Physician Group

Alla Zhukova, MD
Family Medicine
Lee Physician Group

LEE COUNTY 911 EXPANSION

Lee County Emergency Medical Services, which responds to more than **90,000 incidents** annually, will now have additional response options for non-emergency calls, including connecting patients virtually to licensed physicians for personalized and comprehensive care, thanks to a new partnership with **public safety telehealth company, MD Ally**.

This will not only save substantial costs for both Lee

County and its residents, but also improve the patient experience by reducing the time to see a physician and providing access to a broader scope of resources through EMS.

This solution utilizes Lee County's existing technical infrastructure, Emergency Medical Dispatch protocols, and workflows to proactively minimize system disruption, training times, and any foreseen adoption challenges.

PROTECTING THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Tracy Vo, DO



This year's legislative session concluded on Monday, March 14th. The FMA team of lobbyists worked on issues that indirectly or directly affect the practice of medicine in Florida. I would like to summarize six key legislations that passed this year.

1. Stopped ALL scope-of-practice bills.

The FMA defeated legislation would have:

- Allowed CRNA's to reframe independent practice as a "collaborative" practice by eliminating the protocol requirement with a supervising physician,
- Granted prescriptive authority to psychologists, including controlled substances, and
- Removed the requirement that certified nurse midwives maintain a patient transfer agreement with a hospital and a referral agreement with a physician.

This Scope-of-Practice Legislation also prevented the filing of other scope initiatives that would have allowed unqualified optometrists to perform laser surgery and promote deceptive name changes such as physician assistance to "physician associate" and nurse anesthetist to "nurse anesthesiologist." The FMA will continue to work to defend against scope of practice expansion for non-physicians.

2. Secured \$6 million in annual funding for medical education loan forgiveness for primary care physicians practicing in underserved areas.

Physicians practicing primary care in rural or underserved areas, as determined by the Department of Health, will be eligible for payments up to **\$20,000 per year** for medical education student loan reimbursement. This type of incentive program will alleviate primary care physician shortages in rural communities. It will also encourage more physicians to practice family and general medicine in underserved areas.

3. Extended the Covid malpractice reform protections another year.

This legislation provided liability protection for COVID-19 related healthcare claims. The FMA was able to secure a one-year extension through June 1, 2023.

4. Halted wrongful death legislation that would have increased malpractice premiums in Florida.

This legislation would have permitted the recovery of noneconomic damages in a medical malpractice wrongful death claim. This type of policy initiative is based on the offensive and erroneous premise that certain patients would receive a lower standard of care. The FMA will continue to fight this legislation.

5. Protected physicians performing emergency care for children at the scene of accident.

Effective July 1, 2022, physicians will be able to provide emergency medical treatment to minors, without written parental consent, anywhere – not just in hospitals and college health services. It is imperative that physicians feel protected in order to keep Florida's minors safe.

6. Given physicians the ability to prescribe schedules III, IV and V controlled substances via telehealth.

This provides an essential tool for access to healthcare for medically vulnerable patients. Effective July 1, 2022, authorized prescribers will be able to prescribe controlled medications via telehealth. The FMA will also continue to work toward payment parity for telehealth services.

These legislative actions are big wins for practicing physicians in Florida.

The annual FMA meeting will be in Orlando this year from August 5th to August 7th.

I would encourage our members to attend this conference to represent Lee County Medical Society. It is very interesting and informative to learn the legislative process that occurs at this meeting. The conference also offers free CME credits on various medical topics. This is important to help meet requirements for licensing.

BOARD RELEASES NEW THREE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

THE RAMIREZ REPORT: Julie Ramirez, CAE, LCMS Executive Director



This past January, the Board of Governors meet for a strategic planning session with trainer, Robert Harris, CAE. From that meeting came the following goals for the next three years.

LCMS STRATEGIC PLAN

Our Mission: The Lee County Medical Society advocates for physicians and their relationships with patients; promotes public health; and upholds the professionalism of the practice of medicine.

MEMBER SUPPORT

Support career and practice success with valued benefits and services for members.

Membership: Grow our connections with physicians in our county thereby increasing membership and the impact of LCMS.

Deliver Value: Promote and improve understanding of LCMS benefits and the value that the LCMS brings to physicians.

Physician Wellness: Provide avenues and resources for physicians to improve their wellness with increasing practice stressors.

CONNECTIONS

Provide opportunities to connect members through relevant events and networking.

Events: Plan events that position LCMS in the community.

Networking: Provide opportunities allowing members to benefit from peer-to-peer and social interaction.

Connections: Facilitate connections among members and organizations through LCMS.

COMMUNITY

Represent the interests of physicians in our communities and Florida.

Advocacy: Represent the interests of the LCMS members within the community we serve and at the state government level.

Public Health: Collaborate with officials and organizations to promote public health and safety.

Education: Continue to provide opportunities for education that supports excellence for our physicians.

LEADERSHIP

Maintain a dynamic CMS to support organized medicine, since 1927.

Governance: Maintain a pipeline of dedicated members willing to governing the Society on the board and committees.

Professional Staff: Provide for Society administration and management with professional development and positive work culture.

Standard Operating Procedures: Maintain policies and procedures for smooth transitions between leaders.

ANALYSIS OF CEREBROVASCULAR ACCIDENTS AND MALPRACTICE CLAIMS

BY: Shelley Rizzo, MSN, CPHRM, Senior Patient Safety Risk Manager, The Doctors Company

Because a cerebrovascular accident (CVA) can happen in any healthcare setting, it is imperative that all healthcare providers and staff have the ability to spot the signs and symptoms promptly. Timely diagnosis and treatment can minimize injury severity and improve patient outcomes.

In a review of claims closed by The Doctors Company from 2009 through 2020, we identified 395 CVA claims. Diagnostic error (failure, delay, or wrong) was the most common allegation in claims arising from CVAs. Factors related to diagnosis of CVA that contributed to patient injuries included inadequate patient assessments (70 percent), failure or delay in obtaining a consult or referral (28 percent), and lack of communication among providers (23 percent).

Patient assessment issues included a failure to appreciate and reconcile relevant signs, symptoms, and test results, and a failure or delay in ordering diagnostic tests.

Failure or delay in obtaining a consult or referral sometimes occurred if the patient was not referred to a neurologist because the diagnosing clinician did not feel that the symptoms justified additional evaluation.

Communication among clinicians regarding patients' conditions was a factor in 23 percent of diagnosis-related claims. In some cases, important information was not given to the clinicians providing care to the patient. In other cases, information was lost during transitions of patient care.

Risk Mitigation Strategies

Consider the following patient safety strategies:

- Ensure that, regardless of the setting, all members of the healthcare team are able to recognize and respond to symptoms of a CVA. This is important because CVAs can occur at any time and in any location.
- Conduct thorough assessments, including a comprehensive history and physical exam, and consider all differential diagnoses.

- Obtain timely consultations and referrals to specialists for concerning symptoms or challenges in diagnosis.
- Consider and order the most appropriate medication promptly, and document the rationale.
- Document the patient record clearly and concisely to verify the progression of symptoms and corroborate a timeline of the care and interventions provided.
- Offer education programs to all patient care staff to enhance their assessment, communication, and decision-making skills as part of the patient care team.
- Encourage excellent handoff communication to ensure that critical patient information is accurately passed to team members in support of continuity of care, especially during transitions in care.
- Follow state laws for the type and extent of physician supervision or collaboration required for all team members.
- Promote team building activities and a culture of respect among all staff and clinicians. Implement the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's [TeamSTEPPS® program](#).
- Encourage patients and family members to learn about and share information on the warning signs of a stroke. See the [American Stroke Association's F.A.S.T. Warning Signs](#).



FDOH ADDS ANOTHER ADULT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING CLASS

The Florida Department of Health in Lee County (FDOH Lee) is pleased to announce that due to the high volume of participants, a second date for our Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training has been added.

FDOH Lee will provide Adult Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) training at no cost. This training is open to the public, non-profits, and faith-based organizations in Lee County. FDOH Lee will provide training manuals to each participant for this full-day training course.

WHEN: Thursday, June 16, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Pondella Clinic, 83 Pondella Rd, North Fort Myers, FL 33903

Space for this training is limited, and registration is required. There will be small breaks and a lunch break during the day. However, lunch will not be provided.

Mental Health First Aid for Adults teaches participants how to recognize signs of mental health or substance use challenges in adults ages 18 and older, offer and provide

REGISTER HERE

initial help, and guide a person toward appropriate care if necessary. Attendees should expect to learn how to respond to both crisis and non-crisis situations with the MHFA Action Plan (ALGEE):

- **Assess for risk of suicide or harm.**
- **Listen non-judgmentally.**
- **Give reassurance and information.**
- **Encourage appropriate professional help.**
- **Encourage self-help and other support strategies.**

Upon completion, attendees will receive a certificate. Participating professionals can use this certificate for continuing education credits.

For more information on the upcoming MFHA training, please contact Amanda Evans, MPH, Health Education Program Consultant, at Amanda.Evans@flhealth.gov or call (239) 332-9501.

Register link: <https://forms.gle/oNvPKgw4UZVRHKWg8>

INTRODUCING THE NEW

Heart Valve Center

A comprehensive heart care partnership between Shipley Cardiothoracic Center and HealthPark Medical Center in Fort Myers



WHY CHOOSE US?

The staff at the Heart Valve Center combine talents, skills, and resources to help our patients.

Cardiologists, anesthesiologists, and cardiothoracic surgeons bring a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to valve disease. Working together, we carefully review each patient's case and come up with a care plan that is unique to each patient.

Expert Cardiologist
Expert Anesthesiologist
Expert Surgeons
Expert Team!

Shipley Cardiothoracic Center

The most experienced team in the region!

Shipley has performed more than 1,600 transcatheter procedures over the last 10 years, we perform more than 1,500 surgical cases each year.



9981 S. HealthPark Dr., Suite 156, Fort Myers, FL

Paul DiGiorgi, MD, FACS Dave Cervantes, MD, PHD Randall Buss, MD, FACS Michael DeFrain, MD, FACS

239-343-6341



Discover

the Leading Independent Physician Group

You work hard managing your practice; we can help. Learn about our collaborative practice-integration model. Continue to enjoy the autonomy of private practice with none of the risk.



MillenniumPhysician.com/JoinUs



RACE RESULTS

CONGRATULATIONS to the following Lee County Medical Society Foundation's annual charity 5K Run race winners:

MALE (1-10): **F. Dempsey**

MALE (15-19): **Joel Reboton**

FEMALE (15-19): **Jenna Rosado**

FEMALE (25-29): **Frida Perillo**

FEMALE (35-39): **Danielle Kachor**

MALE (40-44): **Ryan Lundquist**

FEMALE (40-44): **Renee Everett**

MALE (45-49): **Gerard Kachor**

FEMALE (45-49): **Alicia Chiappetta**

MALE (50-59): **Jeff Lemmer**

FEMALE (50-54): **Lara Forsman**

FEMALE (55-59): **Michelle Barrick**

MALE (60-69): **Joseph Byer**

FEMALE (60-64): **Laurie Smith**

FEMALE (65-69): **Robin Thomas**

MALE (70-74): **Thornton Walton**



Dr. Ryan Lundquist and fan *



Sandy Nearingard & Michelle Barrick *



Melissa Zsebe & Dylan Zsebe



Jenna Rosado & Rachael Phillips *

* Also pictured is LCMS President Dr. Tracy Vo

You Can Count On Us!

We are accountants with heart!

A successful practice takes commitment, hard work, long hours, and making sure you surround yourself with the right people. People who share your passion for success!

We have the experience and dedication necessary to make your practice a success.

- Acquisitions and Mergers
- Group Practice Formation
- Accounting and Tax Services
- Fraud Risk Management
- Operational/Financial Issues Consulting
- Human Resources Consulting
- Practitioner Employment Matters
- Strategic Planning

Contact Us Today!

8961 Conference Drive, Fort Myers, FL 33919
(239) 433-5554 / www.Markham-Norton.com



Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, P.A.
Certified Public Accountants / Consultants

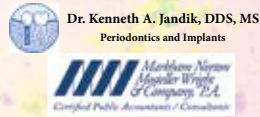
PHYSICIAN
MEDICAL SERVICE

AWARDS

Thanks to our Platinum Sponsor:



and Gold & Silver Sponsors:



The **Lee County Medical Society Foundation** presented six awards during its 10th Annual Medical Service Awards on April 2nd. The recipients were:

- **Award for Citizenship & Community Service:**

DR. AMBER JANDIK

- **Award for Health Education:**

DR. MARGARET TAHA

- **Award for Leadership & Professionalism:**

DR. MARILYN KOLE

- **In Memory of an Outstanding Physician Award:**

DR. SANDY COHEN

- **Non-Physician Award of Appreciation:**

LEE HEALTH SYSTEM RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

- **Distinguished Layperson's Service Award:**

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN LEE COUNTY



(l) Dr. Amber Jandik was awarded the Citizenship & Community Service Award for providing public service leadership above and beyond the call of duty as a practicing physician. Pictured at her right is Master of Ceremonies Patrick Nolan



Dr. Sanford Cohen was posthumously awarded the Outstanding Physician Award for his substantial contributions to our medical community and for being a lifelong role model in the field of medicine. Accepted by his wife, Sandy and grandson, Zack



Dr. Marilyn Kole was awarded the Leadership & Professionalism Award for being a leader in medicine within the community



Dr. Margaret Taha was awarded the Health Education Award in recognition of her professional and public health education activities

THIS EVENT RAISED: \$13,500! for LCMS Foundation, and will be used to replenish funds in the LCMS Physician Wellness Program.



Shay Smith (l) and Marie George (r) accept the Distinguished Layperson's Service Award on behalf of Florida Department of Health in Lee County



The Non-Physician Award of Appreciation was presented to Lee Health System's Respiratory Therapists



Drs. Asif & Samina Azam



Tom Lytton (c) with AMSA Sponsor FineMark Bank presents a WeCare Award to Dr. Fadi Abu Shahin (l) and Dr. Edward Grendys (r) of Florida Gynecological Oncology



Dr. Shane Geffe and wife Tatianna



Dr. Jeffrey Williams and wife Debra



Tom Lytton (r) with AMSA Sponsor FineMark Bank presents a WeCare Award to Karen Mancilla (l) of Advocate Radiation Oncology



Dr. Kristina Mirabeau-Beale (l) and Dr. Laura Isley (r)



Dr. Jon Burdzy and wife Gwen



Dr. Ramon Pabalan and wife Gina



LCMS President Dr. Tracy Vo

"These medical and community healthcare providers showed a level of devotion to improving the health of the community during a very challenging time!" – LCMS President Dr. Tracy Vo



5781 Lee Boulevard, Suite 208-104
Lehigh Acres, FL 33971

PRSRT STD
US POSTAGE
PAID
FT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO 534

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

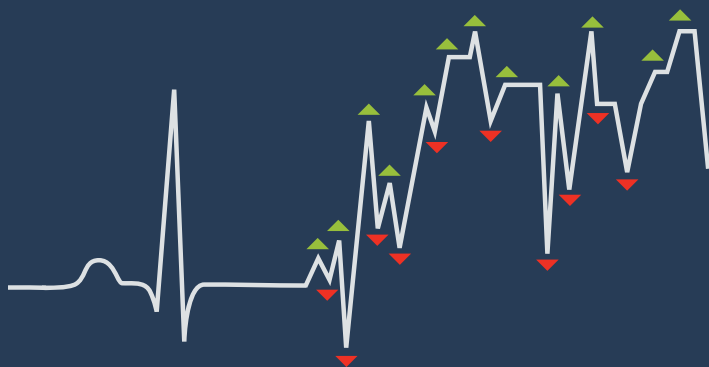
PHYSICIAN WELLNESS PROGRAM

The **Physician Wellness Program (PWP)** provides a safe harbor for active LCMS physicians to address normal life difficulties in a confidential and professional environment. Our program works with two independent, local psychology groups that provide member-physicians with up to three visits per calendar year.

This is a confidential and free member benefit. No insurance will be billed and LCMS will not be given any personal information about those who use the program. LCMS pays a monthly bill based on the number of sessions provided. Full details on how to enroll or donate to this program can be found at www.lcmsfl.org/our-programs.

WHOSE INTERESTS

does your malpractice insurer have at heart?



Yet another of Florida's medical liability insurers has transitioned from focusing on doctors to focusing on Wall Street. This leaves you with an important question to ask: Do you want an insurer that's driven by investors? Or do you want an insurer that's driven to serve you—one that's already paid \$120 million in awards to its members when they retire from the practice of medicine?

Join us and discover why delivering the best imaginable service and unrivaled rewards is at the core of who we are.

Exclusively endorsed by



The Doctors Company
TDCGROUP