

John W. Snead, M.D., Editor

## JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

**"Other Health Care Systems —  
Is the grass really greener over there?"**

In the medical environment of today, everyone is talking about socialized medicine. With the cost of health care, the public is looking for an answer as to how they will afford insurance or a catastrophic medical problem. Most are turning towards the government to solve the health care crisis. You need to be informed on this issue to speak with your patients and staff.

**Cecil B. Wilson, M.D.**, Vice Speaker of the FMA House of Delegates and an active practicing Internist in Winter Park, will be our speaker. He has done extensive research on other countries' health care systems. He is presently a member of The Florida Task Force on Government Financed Health Care. All members are encouraged to attend.

Installation of 1992 Officers and Board of Governors. ■

## MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Royal Palm  
Yacht Club

Cocktails 6:30  
Dinner 7:00 P.M.

JANUARY 20, 1992

### SPEAKER:

**Cecil B. Wilson, M.D.**

Vice Speaker,  
FMA House of Delegates

### TOPIC:

**"Other Health Care Systems —  
Is the Grass Really  
Greener Over There?"**

DINNER BY  
RESERVATIONS ONLY

### PLEASE!!!

L.C.M.S. Members: All reservations must be made by Friday noon before the Meeting on Monday. Cancellations should be no later than noon on Monday. The Society must pay for all reservations made.

ENJOY THE  
**New  
Year!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**VALARIE C. MOORE, M.D.**

### "The Year of Volunteerism"

Thank you for the opportunity to be the President of the Lee County Medical Society. This is a year that will put my firm beliefs in "Volunteerism" to the test. I hope that at the end of the year I can still say "Thank you" and will still feel it was an opportunity. I say "Thank you" because only with your support could I have been able to be a member of the Board of Governors for four years, including terms as Treasurer, Secretary, and President Elect.

People have asked me why I would want to serve as President this year following my past years of service. Am I a masochist striving for the ultimate year of torture? No, not at all. Despite governmental intrusion, I have a strong belief that remains unshaken in medicine as a profession. I still feel we are privileged to be members of this healing art, this profession that aspires to high principles. "Some will tell you that the profession is underrated, unhonored, underpaid, its members social drudges, the very last profession they would recommend a young man to take up." Sound familiar? This is William Osler in 1905. But he goes on to say, "I would tell you of a profession honored above all others; one which, while calling forth the highest powers of the mind, brings you into warm personal contact with your fellow men..."

I am privileged to be a member of the Lee County Medical Society. I came to this point in my life by a circuitous route. People ask, "Did you always want to be a doctor?" Actually, when I was young, professional women had only two choices, nursing or teaching. Being a physician and having a family was not a realistic possibility according to those persons I knew. I did not start premed until I was 29 years old. I wrote the AMA and asked if I was too old. They wrote me that I was too old and to forget it. I wish I had saved that letter. I graduated from the University of Florida Medical School and got married to Jeff Moore

(continued on page 2)

## MEET OUR 1992 EDITORS OF THE BULLETIN

Each month one of our editors, PHIL, GERALDO, AND SALLY JESSE take time out of their busy schedule to edit and publish our BULLETIN. Please meet them for this year and help them provide you with an educational, informative and provocative outlook on medicine through the Bulletin. WE INVITE YOU TO SEND US LETTERS, ARTICLES, HUMOR PIECES, SPORTS ADVENTURES AND OTHER INTERESTING MATERIALS FOR OUR READERS.



**J.D. DONALDSON, M.D., FRCSC, FAAP**

My interest in assisting with the county society Bulletin stems from my belief that we must function together to maintain and improve our standard of care and conduct of our profession. As an instrument of communication, this Bulletin should serve to inform our members of the "politics" of medicine and provide them with a forum to express opinions and share experiences in medicine, business and community life.

**MARY C. BLUE, M.D.**

Dr. Mary Blue has practiced pathology at Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center for six years. After attending Medical School at Indiana University, she completed a residency in anatomic and clinical pathology at Medical College of Virginia Hospital in Richmond.

"It is vitally important that the voice of organized medicine be heard, especially on matters of public policy that affects people's health. The best way for individual physicians to be heard and to promote good health care is through the county medical society."



**JOHN W. SNEAD, M.D.**

Dr. Snead is a Board Certified Ophthalmologist who has practiced in Fort Myers since 1983. He served his general surgical internship and ophthalmology residency at The University of California in San Francisco and served Fellowships in Eye Plastic Surgery and Ophthalmic Microsurgery at The University of California as well as The Royal Melbourne Hospital in Melbourne, Australia.

Dr. Snead has been co-editor of The Lee County Medical Society Bulletin since 1987, and served as Chairman of the Board of Censors for two years prior to being elected to The Board of Governors. Dr. Snead states, "Health care is an unusual industry, in that demand is increasing and margins decreasing because of government regulation. Doctors are the true providers of care, but because of our high profile, we are the losers in the regulatory process. Our threats do not come from other doctors, but from the industry environment." ■

## ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION

### Grace Period for Use of 1991 Visit Codes

- The new 1992 CPT-4 visit codes are effective January 1, 1992.
- To allow physicians sufficient time to become acquainted with the new codes, the carriers will allow a one-month grace period:
  - Carriers will accept and pay all claims for 1991 visit codes with dates of service between January 1-31 at the 1991 payment amount.
  - Carriers will begin to deny all assigned claims with 1991 visit codes with dates of service on or after February 1. For unassigned claims, carriers will not deny claims, but will contact the physician to obtain the correct visit code.
- HCFA is providing standard remittance notice language and Explanation of Medicare Benefit messages to the carriers for use in informing providers and beneficiaries about use of the new CPT-4 visit codes and the grace period.

### MEDICARE PART B SEMINAR

February 18, 1991 — 8:30 am - 3:30 pm - Cost: \$95  
Payable to: Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Florida/ Acct. #754240  
P.O. Box 45157  
Jacksonville, FL 32231



LEE COUNTY  
MEDICAL SOCIETY  
BULLETIN3805 Fowler Street  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901  
Phone (813)936-1645

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

## CO-EDITORS

Mary C. Blue, M.D.  
John D. Donaldson, M.D.  
John W. Snead, M.D.

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Ann Wilke 936-1645

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

the same week in 1978. Fortunately, I have been able to "have it all" in terms of profession and family. We have two wonderful children, Jason, 11 and Shannon, 9.

The fullness and completeness of my life comes from not just being a physician and a mother, but from participating in both to my fullest ability. Which brings me to the theme that you will hear me repeat over and over during the next year: "Volunteerism." I cannot be happy just being a physician and mother. I need to give back to the profession and the community. I try to put my beliefs into action by this year of volunteering to be the President of the Medical Society. I can tell you right now it will not be a perfect year. But that is what volunteerism is all about; doing the best you can for something you feel is important. In the spirit of volunteerism, physicians have the opportunity to help others as physicians and as community members. You can be the high school football team doctor or you can be the soccer coach. Is one type of volunteerism more important than another? I do not think so. In fact, sometimes I feel it is even more important for our friends and neighbors to see us at the ball field, PTA, or Scouts. Our community needs to know just how much we already do for it, as a profession and as people.

You will be receiving a survey to find out where we stand as volunteers. I want to publicize all the work you already do. Physicians have never been effective in "tooting their own horns" and letting people know that we really are the "good guys."

There will be a primary care committee led by John Naponick, to begin to access the medical needs of our community and to determine how we may help as volunteers. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact Ann Wilke. This should be a busy, exciting year. I hope to be more than just the first woman President of the Lee County Medical Society. I am proud to be a woman, but this fact will not define my role. More than that, I am proud to be a physician. ■

## 1992 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Several opportunities to visit the Legislative Session is beginning to be worked on by your association.

## Doctor of the Day

You can volunteer to be the Doctor of the Day for the Legislative Session which begins February 4, 1992. You can call Sandy Hodgins at the Tallahassee FMA office at (904)224-6496 to schedule a date.

Days In The Capitol  
February 23-26, 1992

You and your spouse are encouraged to attend a legislative meeting by the FMA Auxiliary to learn about the legislative process and to meet with your area legislators about current issues and bills. The Auxiliary is working to put a group of interested folks together to attend. Call Mrs. Lynda (Mark) Gorovoy or the Medical Society office if you are interested.

Medical Society Trips to Tallahassee  
During the Session

We are working on a program to put you in Tallahassee during the session on a Tuesday Night for one day of lobbying on Wednesday with a return on Wednesday night. The purpose of such a visit is to acquaint and educate you with the legislative process and to know your representatives for Lee County. If you are interested please contact our office.

statute was enacted with a two year limit. This legislation has been filed in the House of Representatives as HB 625 Representative James Burke (D-Dade) and has been referred to the Judiciary Committee.

In addition, legislation has been introduced that would remove the wrongful death exemption for medical malpractice claims. If passed, this legislation would have the potential of increasing existing premiums by four to five percent. This is another example of the attempts of trial lawyers to expand and increase the number of lawsuits involving non-economic damages. This is directly contrary to the purpose of the Wrongful Death Act; i.e., to compensate dependent survivors with damages designed to restore them to the financial position they would have occupied but for the wrongful death. The expansion would provide an additional remedy and cause of action, allowing each death to be accompanied by some plaintiff, even a nondependent plaintiff, who could then claim noneconomic damages. This legislation has been filed in the Senate to the Judiciary and Commerce Committees. The companion bill has been filed in the House, HB 269, by Representative Steve Press (D-Palm Beach) and has been referred to the Judiciary and Appropriations Committees.

Finally, another piece of legislation (SB 62) has been introduced by Senator Langley (R-Lake) which allows for pre-judgment interest to be included in the sum of the award in a final judgment. The interest would begin from the date of the cause of action until the final judgment was determined. The amount of interest incurred on the award would be 12% annually. Again, this type of legislation would only aggravate the existing medical malpractice lawsuit crisis by increasing the amount of the awards, and ultimately driving up the cost of health care. The trial bar's actions, by introduction of this type of legislation, only exacerbates all attempts to pass any meaningful health care reform aimed at increasing access and reducing costs. SB 62 has been referred to the Commerce, Judiciary and Appropriations Committees. ■

WHY, YOU SAY,  
SHOULD I  
BE INVOLVED?

## READ THE FOLLOWING:

TRIAL BAR INTRODUCES  
LEGISLATION AFFECTING  
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

Despite growing documentation showing the adverse affects of medical malpractice lawsuits on health care costs, the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers remains determined to introduce legislation allowing for more opportunities to sue. Recent legislation introduced would extend the statute of limitations for medical malpractice lawsuits. The legislation would extend the statute two more years to a total of four years, thus negating the cost reductions that resulted when the

## 1992 OFFICERS &amp; COMMITTEES

Enclosed in this month's BULLETIN is a list of the 1992 Officers and Committee for your use during the year. A thank you to each of you who will be working to make 1992 a success.

Please check to see which committee you are assigned. If you are not involved with a committee and would like to participate, please contact our office. We need each one of you! ■

## LICENSE RENEWAL

If you have not received a notice from the Board of Medicine, call 1-904-488-0595 or write to the Board of Medicine, 1940 North Monroe Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399 with any changes in your address.

They will not seek you out for any changes. It is up to you to notify the Board. Don't put your license in jeopardy. ■

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Robert E. Arnall, M.D. has been appointed to serve as Vice Chairman of the FMA Council on Hospital Medical Staffs.

He also has been appointed to the Health Care Cost Containment Board's Hospital Patient Discharge Data Technical Advisory Panel.

When you need someone to do the job, look for the busiest person. Congratulations Bob, you always represent us well. ■

POLITICAL  
ACTION

CONGRATULATIONS to the following LCMS members who have joined FLAMPAC's 300 CLUB.

Cecil C. Beehler, M.D.  
Richard M. Davis, M.D.  
Mark Gorovoy, M.D.  
Mrs. Elizabeth Kagan  
Steven R. West, M.D.  
Glenn L. Wing, M.D.

For more information on this unique program to elect friends of medicine to the legislature, contact Dr. Cecil Beehler, M.D., LCMS FLAMPAC Chairman. ■

OPINIONS - EDITORIALS  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

John W. Snead, M.D.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT  
IMPROVEMENT A HOSPITAL  
COULD MAKE TO CARE FOR  
YOUR PATIENT?Thomas Teufel, M.D.,  
Oncology-Hematology

"Flexible financing for the patients."

Eileen Schwartz, M.D.,  
Neurology

"More personal contact for patients to make them feel like individuals."

Emilio Mufdi, M.D.,  
Gastroenterology/IM

"More nursing care. Nurses are hard to find."

H. D. Vogtland, M.D.,  
Gastroenterology/IM

"I feel they try to do too much now. Hospitals aim for a degree of perfection that we do not need. Obviously we cannot afford it."

## NEXT MONTH'S QUESTION

Should Hospitals consider physician's economic contributions when renewing privileges?

Send your comments to the Medical Society.

Bulletin deadline is the 15th of each month . . . we want to see you in the print media! ■

## COMING EVENTS

PAINT YOUR HEART OUT LEE  
COUNTY

March 14, 1992

March 21, 1992 - Rain Day

We will be painting a house this year and are looking for volunteers. Lots of fun and fellowship. ■

## VIDEO HEALTH FAIR

March 25, 1992

Watch your mail for the sign-up sheet. ■

## FEBRUARY MEETING

We have asked Rep. Porter Goss to speak to us on the Washington scene and Medicare. At this time, it looks like he will be able to attend. Mark your calendars. ■

## WHAT'S NEW?

Current News & Happenings At Area Hospitals

### CAPE CORAL HOSPITAL

Endometrial ablation is a technique that eliminates the need for hysterectomy in a certain select group of patients, specifically the woman who has an anatomically normal uterus, with abnormal bleeding that is proven not to be of a malignant nature. Endometrial ablation is safer than a hysterectomy, but Dr. Konnie Yankopolus stresses that it is not a substitute for sterilization.

It's a roller ball electrocautery that burns the inner endometrial lining, causing it to scar down. The procedure is not reversible. It is ideal for women who have finished with child-bearing but are having incapacitatingly heavy periods or women who are peri-menopausal and are bleeding irregularly. ■

Cape Coral Hospital is pleased to welcome Barbara Vermilye as the new Director of the Family BirthCentre. Barbara is from Syracuse, New York, and headed the Birth Place at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse. She has 27 years experience in the obstetrics field. Bonnie Sheppard, who has been in charge of the Family BirthCentre for the past 2 and a half years, will remain on staff, but is relinquishing directorial responsibilities in order to pursue studies in midwifery. ■

### GULF COAST HOSPITAL

After a very successful first year, Gulf Coast Hospital will be expanding with the opening of its third floor on January 1, 1992. An extension of the medical/surgical floor, the third floor will provide an additional 20 beds, bringing the number of total available beds up to 80. ■

### LEE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

January 1992 C.M.E. Programs

Every Thursday 12:30 p.m.-1:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 2, 1992 — AIDS & the Surgeon, Steven Moening, M.D.

Thursday, January 9, 1992 — Sleep Apnea, Tejvir Chadha, M.D.

Thursday, January 16, 1992 — Neuroscience Patient Conference.

Thursday, January 30, 1992 — Emergency Medicine Conference

### SOUTHWEST FLORIDA REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Executive Committee Announced

The 1992 Medical Staff Executive Committee for Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center has been elected and will take office on January 1. The new slate of officers includes:

President	Robert Brueck, M.D.
President-elect	Paul Driscoll, M.D.
Secretary	Brian Krivsky, M.D.
Chairman, Department of Surgery	Charles Bisbee, M.D.
Member-at-large, Department of Surgery	Michael Sweeney, M.D.
Chairman, Department of Medicine	William Harwin, M.D.
Chairman of Credentials Committee	Douglas Henricks, M.D.

This by-law will be voted on at the January General membership meeting.

#### BY-LAW CHANGE

Article III - Membership

#### Section 1. ELIGIBILITY

Every doctor of medicine or osteopathy who has satisfactorily completed (an internship and/or residency program approved by either the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA); lives or has his/her principal practice in Lee County; is of good moral character and professional standing, and is held to be medically competent by his peers; and does not support, practice or claim to practice any exclusive system of healing, shall be eligible to apply for membership as provided in the By-laws. All persons who are members when this constitution passes are exempt from the post-graduate training requirements.

Approved: Board of Governors 12/3/91. ■

### MEDICAL LEGAL CODE UPDATE

"We need your ideas & comments."

In the last two or three years the legislature has changed many statutes which directly effect our Medical-Legal Code. A tentative decision has been made to put off revising the Code until the 1992 session adjourns.

Any physician having ideas or comments about the Code should put them in writing and send to the Medical Chairman:

Wallace M. Graves, Jr., M.D.  
70 Danley Drive  
Fort Myers, FL 33907

with a copy to the Legal Chairman:

T. Rankin Terry, Jr.  
2115 Main Street  
Fort Myers, FL 33901

### COPY DEADLINE 15th OF MONTH

#### 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. ■

### MEDIA ADVISORY ABOUT PRO CONTRACT IN FLORIDA

Gail R. Wilensky, Ph. D., Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, announced today that in order to ensure continued quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries in Florida. She intends to terminate the contract of the Florida Peer Review Organization (PRO).

Wilensky, who directs the Medicare Program, said she was taking the action because the PRO's financial condition does not allow it to complete its current three-year, \$41 million contract satisfactorily.

"My action is intended to protect Medicare beneficiaries in Florida and maintain the highest standards of review of the care they get under the Medicare Program," Wilensky said. "We also want to make sure Medicare contractors are fulfilling their obligations."

A just-completed independent audit, commissioned by the Health Care Financing Administration, revealed that the PRO, the Professional Foundation for Health Care (PFHC), based in Tampa does not have sufficient funds to cover its expenses and obligations and would be over \$2 million in debt through the full period of the contract ending March 31, 1992.

PFHC has experienced extreme financial difficulty, Wilensky said. Based on recent reported financial problems, including missed payroll and delayed employee health insurance payments, HCFA commissioned the audit.

A PRO is a group of physicians and other health professionals paid under a federal contract to review the medical care given to Medicare patients by other doctors and hospitals.

HCFA intends to transfer review responsibility, except for review of Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), to Florida Blue Cross/Blue Shield, which already acts as a fiscal intermediary and carrier for Medicare. Florida BC/BS will conduct PRO reviews until a new PRO contract is awarded in the coming year. A contract also will be arranged with another review entity to conduct reviews of HMOs, Wilensky said. ■

### LIBRARY NEWS

Thomas R. Connelly Medical Library  
Lee Memorial Hospital

#### LIBRARY SURVEY

Enclosed is a survey from the Thomas R. Connelly Medical Library. Our Library staff needs to know what you like about our service and what we can do better. Please take a few minutes to complete the survey, and return it to the Medical Library. ■

#### JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

The following journals are under consideration to be dropped in 1993, unless we have comments about them:

- American Family Physician
- American Journal of Sports Medicine
- Anesthesiology
- Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Physician and Sportsmedicine
- Postgraduate Medicine
- Reviews Infectious Diseases
- Southern Medical Journal
- Clinics in Perinatology
- Journal of the Florida Medical Association

If you have any comments about these journals, please contact the Medical Library Staff at 334-5410. ■

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## NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS

## Application For Membership

Active members are requested to express to the Board of Censors or Board of Governors any information or opinions they may have concerning the eligibility of the applicants.

## PAUL A. RASKAUSKAS, M.D.

Dr. Raskauskas, was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He received his medical degree at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He completed his internship at Faulkner Hospital in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts and he completed his residency at Will Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Dr. Raskauskas attended a fellowship at the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute.

Dr. Raskauskas is practicing Retina/Vitreous at 2668 Winkler Avenue in Fort Myers with Drs. Walker and Wing.



## JOEL I. LANS, M.D.

Dr. Joel Lans was born in Beloit, Wisconsin. He received his medical degree at the Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed his internship and residency at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Lans attended fellowships at Wayne State University and at St. Luke's Hospital in Racine, Wisconsin. Dr. Lans will be practicing Gastroenterology/Internal Medicine at 3722 Central Avenue, Suite 6 with Dr. Mukunk Kini.



## REGISTER TO VOTE

The staff of the Lee County Medical Society will be available at the February General Membership Meeting (February 17, 1992) to register you to vote. Please take advantage of this opportunity. Registering to vote has never been so easy.

The following documents/information will be needed: If you or your spouse are citizens of the United States: Driver's License or Passport, (visa's are unacceptable) or Birth Certificate, (if birth certificate is used, a legal document with your signature is also needed (Social Security Card) or Military Identification.

If you (or your spouse) were born outside of the United States and never registered to vote before the following items/information are needed: Naturalization Card or Certificate.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS! THERE IS STRENGTH IN NUMBERS (TALLY OF VOTES)!

## CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified Ads are only for Physician Members of the Society's use.

**FOR SALE:** Office Building on Broadway. 3165 square feet built and, 1440 square feet attached shell. Contact 939-7700.

**FOR RENT:** four to five bedroom, unfurnished house in Fort Myers Country Club area. Please call 936-6550 evenings. ■

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### MEDICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Royal Palm  
Yacht Club

Cocktails 6:30  
Dinner 7:00 P.M.

JANUARY 20, 1992

**SPEAKER:**  
Cecil B. Wilson, M.D.  
Vice Speaker,  
FMA House of Delegates

**TOPIC:**  
"Other Health Care Systems -  
Is The Grass Really  
Greener Over There?"

**DINNER BY  
RESERVATIONS ONLY  
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