

"There is more to life than increasing it's speed"

-Gandhi

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin



THE VOICE OF LEE COUNTY MEDICINE

VOLUME 27, NO. 09

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA
MARY C. BLUE, M.D.

JANUARY 2004

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 15, 2004

Royal Palm Yacht Club

2360 West First Street

Downtown Fort Myers

6:30 p.m. - Social Time

7:00 p.m. - Dinner/Program

Installation of Officers

Speaker: Rick Lentz, M.D., FMA President

Sponsored by :

BlueCross BlueShield of FL

Health Options

Reservations:

LCMS, P.O. Box 60041

Fort Myers, FL 33906-0041

Tel - 936-1645 Fax - 936-0533

2004 MEETINGS

Board of Governors	General Membership
January 13, 2004	January 15, 2004
February 10, 2004	
March 9, 2004	March 18, 2004
April 13, 2004	
May 11, 2004	May 20, 2004
June 8, 2004	
July 13, 2004	
August 10, 2004	
September 14, 2004	September 23, 2000
October 12, 2004	
November 9, 2004	November 18, 2004
December 14, 2004	December
	(HOLIDAY PARTY)

Inserts

- 1 JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING FLYER
- 2 2004 OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES
- 3 2004 LEGISLATORS AND AGENDA
- 4 ADVERTISEMENT/JETSCAPE
- 5 ABUSE, COUNSELING & TREATMENT ORDER FORM

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President's Message

"CHALLENGES FOR 2004"

Douglas Stevens, M.D.



Happy New Year! I would like to thank Dr. Gregg for the fine job he did as last year's President. Ann Wilke and all the staff at the Medical Society work so hard for all of us - they deserve our thanks and gratitude as well. Don't forget to thank them when you speak to them throughout the year.

The past year was a big one for medicine with Medicare reform and our own state legislators finally realizing the crisis that is medical malpractice in the state of Florida. Although none of us feel that the current legislation is going to make too much difference in the rates we pay, I can assure you that the Trial Lawyers see this as the first chink in their armor. They are beefing up for a major fight this year so be ready. Our own constitutional amendment is a great threat to their money machine - you can rest assured that they will not go down without a fight.

We will need to be vigilant in the face of such a tenacious enemy - but it does feel good to finally be proactive rather than defensive. The federal government has not been able to achieve reform but they will not be able to skirt the issue much longer. Those whopping 1.5% increases in Medicare rates are unlikely to match the nationwide increases in malpractice and other expenses required to run a medical practice. So the showdown remains.

Please, remember to support your local, state and federal medical organizations because they are the only ones out there fighting for you and your patients. We need everyone to collect signatures to get the amendment on the ballot! We need everyone to send their financial contribution to this campaign - without sufficient funding it will not succeed. And we need to succeed in this endeavor.

I will enjoy this year as your president. While there are many substantial issues to address, for now I wish for each of you to have a year full of happiness and joy.

PETITIONS PETITIONS PETITIONS PETITIONS THE MEDICAL LIABILITY CLAIMANT'S COMPENSATION AMENDMENT

The Medical Liability Claimant's Compensation Amendment is a constitutional amendment to limit lawyer contingency fees. This amendment in no way reduces the amount a lawyer receives for his work. It only limits the amount he receives from the award. The vast majority of the award will go where it belongs - to the patient in a medical liability case. So, thanks to this proposed amendment, the lawyer gets paid for his work not for the patient's suffering.

Citizens for a Fair Share, Inc. is a statewide organization that is working with the Florida Medical Association and the state medical societies to put this initiative before the Florida voters on November 2004's ballot. It is very expensive to pass an amendment and to ensure their success they are accepting donations. The physicians of the Lee County Medical Society have stepped up to the plate and made over \$41,000 in contributions.

Florida law requires that over 450,000 signatures from registered voters be obtained and verified in order for this proposal to be placed on the ballot. Lee County has been asked to obtain 50,000 petitions. As of December 15, 2003 only 4,577 petitions have been sent in to the Lee County Medical Society office. Please keep in mind that not all petitions that are sent in to the Supervisor of Elections are valid. The majority of discounted petitions were because the signer was not registered to vote in Lee County. Therefore it is very important that a person be a registered voter in order for the petition to be counted. One physician office has voter registration forms right in their office. Physicians and their offices should keep collecting petitions until we reach our goal. Five hundred members times 100 good petitions equals 50,000. Please protect your profession by participating.

If you need a copy of a petition please stop by the Medical Society Office at 3805 Fowler Street, Fort Myers or visit our website at www.lee-county-medical-society.org. You may make as many copies of the petition.

Contributions:

Checks should be written to
CITIZENS FOR A FAIR SHARE, INC.

Citizens For A Fair Share, Inc.,
P.O. Box 10269, Tallahassee, FL 32302

As I Recall...

Roger D. Scott, M.D.

LEE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL 1943-1968 PART I

The old Lee Memorial Hospital (the two-story brick one on Cleveland) was opened in 1943 with 30 beds and served as the "new" Lee Memorial (with many modifications to reach a 160 bed count) until the present eight-story Lee Memorial opened in 1968. During 2004 this historic structure is destined for demolition, and I feel a great personal loss that much history of medicine in Lee County and Southwest Florida is departing. This is the first of several articles to commemorate the old worn out structure. It was my pleasure to begin practicing surgery at this fifteen-year-old hospital in August 1958, and I learned much about not only medicine but also life in general. Incidentally, I was the last surgeon to operate at this old hospital so now a memory begins. We were slated to move to the new LMH between cases in 1968 (no one recalls the exact date), and I was to perform the first operation in the big new Lee Memorial Hospital, but fate was against me as my case was longer than expected. When we came out of the last remaining operating room, it was like a scene from the "Twilight Zone". The operating suite was completely stripped and moved to the new one leaving us totally alone!

Warren Hagen did the first operation in the new big hospital. (I do, however, have the record for treating the first patient at the new LMH. During the construction, a workman fell two floors through the steel beams and was injured. I was called to climb the ladders to see him as he lay upon a beam with a back injury.) How could I get off the track so soon... but now back to the original story.

I must rely on other sources for information before 1958. The first Lee Memorial (1916) at Victoria and Grand had expanded as much as possible to accommodate 22 patients so in 1939 Bail and Associates (a Ft. Myers firm) drew plans for the new 30 room Lee Memorial Hospital to be located on Cleveland Avenue facing west. It has always been a puzzle to me exactly why the non-air conditioned hospital would face west (the hot afternoon sun). The plan did face it away from the busy, noisy Cleveland Avenue (the only road completely through Fort Myers). In the years before A/C there were open windows and always road signs stating "QUIET HOSPITAL ZONE". Patient rooms faced west and this would get more warmth in the cooler evenings. The morning sun would shine from the east onto a hallway along the back of the rooms allowing the patients to bask in the cooler morning sun and perhaps patients enjoyed the cooler East porch in the heat of the day. Well, these are my theories, and it is doubtful that one will ever know the right answers.

The construction was begun in about 1939(?) by the Works Progressive Administration (W.P.A. was a federal agency in the Great Depression to create jobs for the unemployed). It was a standing joke that if a WPA laborer laid more than one brick or moved a shovelful of dirt that was a days work. Not much progress was made until the U.S. Army took command to have a completed hospital to support the World War II troops stationed in Fort Myers. The "new" 30-room Lee Memorial Hospital opened its doors on April 18, 1943.

One thing good to come from the WPA office was Sara Nell Gran's introduction of Lil Tooke and Abbott Kagan; their subsequent marriage, and the production of Abbott II and John. **PLEASE SAVE THIS ARTICLE FOR REFERENCE in subsequent articles on this old building.**

Thank you Ralph Gregg for your skillful executive direction this past year. Welcome to the smiling face of Doug Stevens across the page and may you have a great presidential year.

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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AMA: www.ama-assn.org

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

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Daniel R. Schwartz, M.D.

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Ann Wilke, 936-1645

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.

PRINTERS

Distinct Impressions 482-6262

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

NEW PRACTICE

F. Brett Shannon, D.O.
John Churchill, M.D.

Pediatric Orthopedics of Southwest Florida
9800 Health Park Circle, Ste 110
Fort Myers, Florida 33908
(239) 432-5100 (O)
(239) 432-0629 (F)

Steven Harrison, M.D.

Steven A. Harrison, MD and Associates, Inc.
1425 Viscaya Parkway, Ste 202
Cape Coral, FL 33990
(239) 574-7727 (O)
(239) 574-7880 (F)

REJOINED

Richard Liu, M.D.

Ear, Nose & Throat Associates
3487 Broadway
Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 939-2621 (O)
(239) 939-3875 (F)

Pictorial Directories are available through the LCMS Office at 936-1645, available to the public.

LCMS STATS

November 17 - December 15, 2003

Current YTD

PHONE CALLS RECEIVED	517	5987
From Physicians and Office Staff	131	1151
For Referrals	177	2024
For Background Checks	24	292
Filing Complaints	6	44
Regarding Non-Members	21	216
Regarding Alliance	18	130
Regarding CMS, FMA, and AMA	23	272
Miscellaneous Calls	117	1727
APPLICATIONS SENT TO PHYSICIANS	3	85
MEETINGS	3	56
Attended on behalf of LCMS	0	21
Society Meetings	3	40
DIRECTORIES DISTRIBUTED	92	1044

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
ALLIANCE AND FOUNDATION

Respectfully submitted by Linda Chazal, Co-President

Our 2003 calendar of events ended on a high note with a wonderful evening of camaraderie held at the Veranda restaurant on Monday, December 8th. The Alliance Board sends a huge THANK YOU to everyone who supported the Annual Holiday Party. Joining your fellow Medical Society and Alliance members on this occasion of feasting (yes, the food was fabulous) and festivity, you not only helped set an all-time-high attendance record for the event but also donated over a thousand dollars to two worthy causes through your generous participation in our special basket raffles. Proceeds from the LCMSA Foundation basket will benefit the Medical Museum, while those from the Alliance basket are earmarked for Citizens for a Fair Share.

The medical community's continuing commitment to our activities is reflected in the response to our Holiday Sharing Card this year. We are very pleased to announce that nearly \$4,000 has been raised for this AMA Foundation project. All funds go directly to AMA Education, Research, and Service scholarships that benefit our medical schools and aspiring physicians.

We are determined to keep our momentum going right into 2004, especially with regard to the petition drive. The goal is in sight. WE CAN DO THIS! With the cooperation of the Lee Memorial Hospital system, Alliance members have been gathering signatures at Health Park, and volunteers are available should the Medical Society need our help elsewhere in the community.

The success of our Bullies and Victims Workshops within the educational community has prompted the School District of Lee County to seek yet another partnership with the Alliance to address the burgeoning problem of obesity amongst our school-age children. Various models are being explored, including *Lighten Up America*, a challenge program of the AMA and AMA Alliance focusing on improved fitness through walking. Enthusiasm is high as we embark upon this timely and significant cooperative effort, and Alliance members will surely benefit on many levels through their commitment to this exciting new venture.

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Steve West, M.D.

FLAMPAC Board President

As President of FLAMPAC, it is once again my pleasure to submit my activities report for the month of November. The past month proved to be a very busy month in the world of Florida politics. On Thursday, November 13, 2003, I had the honor of serving on the Host Committee for a fundraiser at the home of Al Hoffman for the Bush-Cheney re-election campaign. Over \$1.9 million was raised at this event for President Bush's campaign. Several physicians attended this event, including FLAMPAC Past President Karl Altenburger, M.D. and FLAMPAC Board Members Corey Howard, M.D. and Jim Rubenstein, M.D. In fact, the Fort Myers newspaper mentioned the large number of physicians that were in attendance at the event.

On Friday, November 14, 2003, FLAMPAC Board Member Alan Routman, M.D. hosted a fundraiser at his home for State Senator Jeff Atwater. As you know, Senator Atwater is one of medicine's biggest advocates in the Florida Senate and we greatly appreciate Dr. Routman's efforts on behalf of Senator Atwater's re-election campaign. FLAMPAC Executive Director Tim Stapleton attended this event along with Dr. Altenburger. Physicians for Senator Atwater's re-election campaign raised over \$12,000.

On Friday, November 21, 2003, I attended a fundraiser for Florida House Speaker Johnnie Byrd at the home of FMA President Rick Lentz, M.D. This was a wonderful event that was attended by many of the leaders of the Florida Medical Association as well as a number of physicians from Volusia County. Over \$18,000 was raised for Speaker Byrd's campaign for the U.S. Senate. This brings the amount of money raised by physicians for Johnnie Byrd's campaign to over \$50,000.

Last evening (Monday, December 1, 2003) FLAMPAC Board Members John Katopodis, M.D. and Tom Hicks, M.D. as well as Tim Stapleton participated in a fundraising event for Congressman Allen Boyd. I am very pleased to report that Congressman Boyd cast one of the deciding votes in favor of the Medicare bill. He was the only Democrat in the Florida Congressional Delegation who supported the physicians of the State of Florida by voting in favor of this legislation. All of us owe a great deal of thanks to Congressman Boyd for his strong support of the medical community!

If you have any questions, please feel free to e-mail me at stewest@comcast.net or call me at (239) 433-8888.

Each physician in Florida should belong to FLAMPAC. If you have not joined please send \$250 (family) \$150 (single) to FLAMPAC, PO Box 10269, Tallahassee, FL 32302.

This coming election we need to elect people with an understanding of the future of medicine, who will help us make the right changes. We cannot support these candidates unless every physician joins MD 1000 Club. This money is used to get involved in a difficult race where media money is needed to elect the candidates. Send \$500 to MD 1000 Club and they will request the next \$500 written to the candidates campaign. We can make a difference - WE HAVE TO BE INVOLVED.

FMA 2004 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

TORT REFORM

Protect any of the recommendations set forth in the report of the Governor's Task Force on Health Care Professional Liability Insurance that were enacted into law in 2003 and continue to pursue in 2004 any necessary provisions that were not enacted into law.

OPPOSE LEGISLATION ON ANY SCOPE OF PRACTICE EXPANSIONS

Continued opposition to all scope of practice expansions for non-M.D.s and non-D.O.'s including:

- 1 Defeat controlled substance prescribing for ARNPs
- 2 Defeat increased prescribing by optometrists
- 3 Defeat prescribing by psychologists
- 4 Defeat licensure of naturopaths
- 5 Defeat all other bills that increase a scope of practice

ANESTHESIOLOGY ASSISTANTS

Continue to support legislation creating a licensure category entitled "Anesthesiology Assistants".

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LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
AND ALLIANCE ANNUAL
HOLIDAY PARTY

The Lee County Medical Society and Alliance held the Annual Holiday Party on December 8, 2003 at the Veranda Restaurant.

Two beautiful baskets were raffled and \$1050 was raised for the Museum of Medical History and Citizens For a Fair Share, Inc. Mrs. Barbara Rodriguez and Mr. Gary Howington were the big winners.

Atlantic States Bank was our gracious sponsor for the Holiday Party and we would like to thank Brenda Dolan, Vice President of Relationship Banking and her associates Donald Crosby, Thomas Lytton and David Tucker.

All those who attended had a good time and we invite our members to mark your calendar to attend in 2004.



Brenda Dolan, Atlantic States Bank and basket winner Barbara Rodriguez, proceeds went to the Museum of Medical History.



Dr. Roger Scott represented the Museum of Medical History.



Gary and Lonni Howington, son and daughter-in-law of Dr. F.L. Howington, winners of the Citizens For a Fair Share Patriotic Basket.



Thank you to the Lee County Medical Society Alliance Committee for your contributions to a successful Holiday Party. Pictured: Tammy Sadighi, Ana Gregg, Juli Bobman, Brenda Dolan, Betty Rubenstein, and Michelle Tyson.



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LICENSURE RENEWALS

Licensure renewal packets for half of all Florida MDs were sent out on October 6. The licenses of these approximately 25,000 MDs will expire on January 31, 2004, so it is important to respond accordingly. The remaining Florida MDs were issued 3-year licenses in January 2002 (in order to stagger the renewal years), and will not receive renewal notices until October 2004, with their licenses expiring in January 2005. The physicians renewing next year DO NOT need more than the required 40 hours of CMEs.

If you have NOT yet received a licensure renewal packet, do the following:

1. Check your license for the expiration date. If it says January 31, 2004, you should have received a packet.
2. You may obtain the necessary forms and information by visiting: www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medicalme_renewal.html
3. Print out both a renewal form and a financial responsibility form (they are listed separately).
4. Follow the directions for sending the two forms and your check to the Department.
5. If you have questions that aren't being answered at the Web site (www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa) call 850-488-0595.

If you did not receive your renewal packet and should have, it may be that the Department does not have your current mailing address. You can check this by calling 850-488-0595. If you need to update your address, you may go to <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa>, and click on How Do I Change My Address.

PUTTING YOUR LICENSE ON INACTIVE STATUS

Florida Board of Medicine

If you are thinking about putting your license on inactive status, consider the following:

- * The initial inactive fee is the same as the renewal fee; thereafter the rate is reduced.
- * An inactive license still requires payment of the NICA assessment and completion of your Florida CME requirements, including the statutory mandated courses of HIV/AIDS, Domestic Violence and Medical Errors.
- * The inactive license must be renewed every biennium.

To reactivate an inactive license requires the following:

- * The reactivation fee
- * Proof of completion of 20 hours of continuing medical education (CME) for each year on inactive status, including the statutory mandated courses of HIV/AIDS, Domestic Violence and Medical Errors. All CME's must be category I and approved by the American Medical Association (AMA).
- * If your license has been inactive for more than two consecutive biennial licensure cycles and you have not practiced at least 2 years of the immediately preceding 4 years in another jurisdiction you shall be required to appear before the Credentials Committee of the Board and establish your ability to practice with the care and skill sufficient to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public, and
- * Demonstrate successful completion of the Special Purpose Examination (SPEX) with a score of at least 75 achieved within the year immediately preceding the appearance before the Credentials Committee;
- * Account for any medical activities related to the practice of medicine in this or any other jurisdiction during the period that the license was inactive and establish an absence of medical malpractice judgments, settlements or disciplinary actions pending in any jurisdiction;
- * Prove compliance with the financial responsibility law;
- * Additionally, you may need to:
 - * Update your fingerprint card including the processing fee.
 - * Update the mandatory practitioner profile questionnaire packet.
 - * Provide verification of compliance with the Florida Birth-Related Neurological Injury Compensation Association (NICA).
 - * Provide certification from each Medical Board of every state in which you are now or have ever been licensed to practice medicine.

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.

MIGUEL PRO-LANZURI, M.D. - OPHTHALMOLOGY

Medical School: Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru (1964-71)
Internship: Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia Lima, Peru (1971-72)
Residency: Harlem Hospital Center, New York, NY (1973 - 76)
Fellowship: Columbia University Harkness Eye Institute, New York, NY (1976-77)
Board Certification: American Board of Ophthalmology.
 Dr. Pro is in a group practice with Eye Centers of Florida,
 4101 Evans Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901.

PATRICK P. DAILY, M.D. - UROLOGY

Medical School: University of Mississippi, Jackson, MS (1994-98)
Internship: Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC (1998-99)
Residency: Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC (1999-03)
 Dr. Daily is in group practice with Southwest Florida Urologic Associates,
 507 Del Prado Blvd., Cape Coral, FL 33990

Oops... We made a mistake in the December 2003 BULLETIN. John Debarros, M.D. and Michael Novotney, M.D. are employed by Surgical Associates of SWFL at 2675 Winkler Avenue, Ste 490, Fort Myers, FL 33901

MEDICAL INTERVENTION AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Colleen Henderson

Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc.

Many victims of domestic violence never call the police, go to court, or flee to a shelter. A great number, however, do visit doctors and hospitals for treatment of injuries and stress related illnesses.

Statistics show that 1 in 4 female patients are experiencing abuse. While it is agreed that women experience more threatening forms of assault, it is important to keep in mind that men can experience abuse as well. Pregnant women, children, persons with disabilities and elders are at high risk to be abused.

The physician's recognition and validation of a victim's situation is important. Silence, disregard, or disinterest convey acceptance of the violence in their lives. *In contrast, recognition, acknowledgement, and concern confirm the seriousness of the problem and the need to address it. However, victims (18-65 years of age) have the right to report to authorities or not to report in cases where the injuries are not life threatening. Reporting without the victim's permission may put the victim in greater danger.*

The AMA has developed a listing of indicators that health care providers can look for as keys to diagnosing abuse. Educational programs, including screening techniques, may be provided for your staff free of charge from Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. at 239-939-2553. You may also call to order brochures and/or cards free of charge for your waiting rooms, restrooms and common areas.

As medical professionals you have the power to greatly impact the life of victims of domestic violence and their children. Confidentiality, screening, support, documentation, and respect for the patient's decisions can be a lifeline for victims of abuse.

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2004 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF THE LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

At the November 20, 2003 General Membership Meeting the following Physicians were elected as your - 2004 BOARD OF GOVERNORS.
WE WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE YOU TO YOUR BOARD OF GOVERNORS.....

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



PRESIDENT
DOUGLAS STEVENS, M.D.
Otolaryngology/Facial Plastic Surgery
8380 Riverwalk Park Blvd, Ste 200, Fort
Myers
481-4911



PRESIDENT-ELECT
RICHARD MURRAY, M.D.
Obstetrics/Gynecology
15641 New Hampshire Court
Fort Myers, FL
275-4300



SECRETARY
M. ERICK BURTON, M.D.
Cardiology
SWFL Heart Group
8450 College Parkway, Fort Myers
433-8888



TREASURER
JULIO RODRIGUEZ, M.D.
Family Practice
Doctor's Family Clinic
4901 Palm Beach Blvd, Ste 13, Fort Myers
693-9191



PAST PRESIDENT
RALPH GREGG, M.D.
Anesthesiology
Medical Anesthesia & Pain Management
2472 Congress Street, Fort Myers
332-5344



MEMBERS-AT-LARGE
RONICA KLUGE, M.D.
Infectious Disease
Internal Medicine Associates
24600 S. Tamiami Trail, Ste 400 Bonita
Springs
948-3761



CHERRIE MORIS, M.D.
Obstetrics/Gynecology
Lee Physician's Group
9981 Health Park Circle, Ste 465,
Fort Myers, FL 33908
432-3500



DEAN TRAIGER, M.D.
Family Practice
Physician's Primary Care
1304 SE 8th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33990
574-7344



E. TREVORELMQUIST, D.O.
Ophthalmology
Associates in Eye Care
12670 New Brittany Blvd, #102,
Fort Myers 33907
936-2020



PAUL B. ENGEL, M.D.
Family Practice
Physician's Primary Care
1501 Viscaya Parkway, Cape Coral 33990
574-1988



LARRY HOBBS, M.D.
Emergency Medicine
Southwest Florida Regional Medical Center
2727 Winkler Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901
939-8299 (Hospital)



RAYMOND KORDONOWY, M.D.
Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine of Southwest Florida
6311 South Pointe Blvd, Ste 200,
Fort Myers, FL 33919
275-0040

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OFFICIALS ENCOURAGE ONLINE LICENSE RENEWAL

Officials from the Florida Department of Health (DOH) are encouraging Florida's health professionals to "Save Time, Renew Online" at www.doh-mqaservices.com. Earlier this month, DOH Deputy State Health Officer Bonnie Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A., joined the ranks of doctors, dentists and other health professionals utilizing the e-renewal system.

Licenses eligible for online renewal will receive an online account ID and password with their renewal notice. They can renew online by simply going to www.doh-mqaservices.com and clicking on "Renew My License." Licensees can also utilize the site to change their address and update their licensure profile.

The system allows practitioners to update their mailing and practice location addresses and to confirm licensee information maintained by DOH. Online renewals are processed immediately, with license status being updated online within seven business days. Additionally, practitioners renewing online will receive a temporary licensee before logging out of the system.

The system will be available for this biennium's medical doctor renewals until midnight EST on January 31, 2004.

DAYS AT THE CAPITOL – MARCH 24-25, 2004

Plan on visiting Tallahassee and participating in the FMA/FMAA Days at the Capitol Program March 24 and 25. Because the Wednesday dinner and speaker program was a great success last year, we will be holding the event again on March 24, 2004. Thursday's keynote speaker will be Dr. Donald Palmisano, AMA President. This year we will offer a "Crash Course in Lobbying" from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. for those who want help with the legislative process. We will have a Legislative Reception Thursday night at the FMA Adams Street Building instead of lunch at the top of the Capitol.

Be sure to reserve your hotel room today by calling the Doubletree at 1-800-222-8733 by February 24, 2004. Ask for the "FMA Days at the Capitol" reserved rooms to receive the discounted price of \$149. In addition to Days at the Capitol activities, some councils will be meeting, as well as the FMA Executive Committee and Board of Governors on Friday, March 26, and Saturday March 27.

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Installation of Officers
Royal Palm Yacht Club
January 15, 2004