# LEE COUNTY **MEDICAL** CIETY





THE VOICE OF LEE COUNTY MEDICINE

VOLUME 29, NO 7

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

**DECEMBER 2005** 

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY & ALLIANCE cordially invite you to attend Our Annual Holiday Party Monday, December 5, 2005 7:00pm - 11:00pm Veranda Restaurant 2122 Second Street Downtown Fort Myers Sponsored by Ironstone Bank Alliance Holiday Basket Raffle with Proceeds to benefit a local charity

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING/ INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS January 19, 2006

> Royal Palm Yacht Club 2360 West First Street Downtown Fort Myers 6:30 p.m. - Social Time 7:00 p.m. - Dinner/Program

Speaker: Robert Pascotto, M.D. "Establishment of Cardiac Surgical Program in a Developing Country, Santiago, Dominican Republic, Initial Outcomes of 100 patients"

Reservations LCMS, P.O. Box 60041 Fort Myers, FL 33906-0041 Tel - 936-1645 Fax - 936-0533

#### 2006 MEETINGS

Board of Governors General Meetings January 10, 2006 January 19, 2006 February 14, 2006 March 14, 2006 March 16, 2006 April 11, 2006 May 9, 2006 May 18, 2006 June 13, 2006 July 11, 2006 August 8, 2006 September 12, 2006 September 21, 2006 October 10, 2006 November 14, 2006 November 16, 2006

December 12, 2006 Dec (HOLIDAY PARTY)

### Inserts

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING COVER YOUR COUGH FLYER **O** LICENSE RENEWAL INFORMATION

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#### President's Message TAKE BACK CONTROL OF MEDICINE Richard Murray, M.D.

Richard Murray, M.D.

I was going to write about back-up generators for your office however at the last moment something happened. This past weekend a friend called me whose pregnant sister is currently in Venezuela. Her sister needs an obstetrician in the United States because the Venezuelan physicians are going on strike to protest their president's reform. President Chavez has requested and received an estimated 10,000 Cuban physicians on loan from Fidel Castro. Cuba reportedly has more physicians per capita than most civilized countries; however, the standard of care is questionable. These physicians are supposedly helping the underserved and poor of the country due to ongoing shortage of physicians in Venezuela. Medicine is not supposed to be political is it? It is unclear whether these are truly physicians, physician care extenders, or communist propagandists. Cuba just happens to be the number one oil customer of Venezuela. The U.S. State Department has assured U.S. citizens, who are pregnant and in need of medical attention that they would be air evacuated out if physicians strike. The patient has a wonderful physician and she agrees with his stance on the strike. Imagine physicians going on strike because they do not agree with their president. Recently, Castro also offered 1,400 physicians to the Gulf Coast to help with Hurricane Katrina relief. Needless to say, his offer was not accepted by the United States. Our shortage of physicians Castro also offered 1,400 physicians to the Guil Coast to help with Hurricane Katrina relief.

Needless to say, his offer was not accepted by the United States. Our shortage of physicians here in Southwest Florida to cover Emergency Rooms and treat high-risk patients is not just local, but global. The Lee County School Board also this weekend indicated its desire to visit Puerto Rico to recruit teachers. I do not know where they will find affordable housing. Now, more than ever, physicians need a voice: your local, state, and federal medical societies. Physicians are losing control of medicine. If physicians do not take back control soon, insurance companies, hospitals, and bureaucrats will control our destiny. For example, in our November medicine of the Brether Liberts.

soon, insurance companies, hospitals, and bureaucrats will control our destiny. For example, in our November meeting, pay for performance is an ominous sign of Big Brother. Likewise, certain insurance drug formularies and out-of-network benefits control physicians. I am not suggesting a strike or upheaval; however, if we wait for crisis, then inappropriate parties will solve the problems for other physicians. Remember what happened to Humana and soon United. They were squeezed out of town because of poor re-imbursements. Our local hospitals are currently responding to a crisis by hiring physicians to cover Emergency Rooms. I feel local physicians, those who have roots in the community, are the best to solve coverage issues. Stand up. Let physicians take back control of medicine. No one else is qualified. Otherwise, the results could be devastating.

Thank you for a wonderful year of leading the Medical Society. Everybody should be proud of the leadership and membership that your local Society has, both at the state and federal level. As I mentioned earlier in the year, this was an easy job, just like someone asking you to be the head coach of the Patriots after Bill Belichick resigns and you just keep winning games somehow, someway. Additionally, I would like to thank the backbone of the society, Ann Wilke, for all of her dedication to our members. It has been a wonderful year.

Thank you.

## MEDICARE OUTLINES STEPS TO HELP "DUAL ELIGIBLES" MOVE TO COMPREHENSIVE MEDICARE DRUG COVERAGE

Medicare's prescription drug coverage is available to everyone in Medicare, regardless of their income or how they get their Medicare. For those with limited incomes, there is extra help that will provide

or now they get their Medicare. For those with limited incomes, there is extra help that will provide comprehensive coverage for no premium and no deductible.

Medicare beneficiaries who also get Medicaid, the state-federal assistance program for those with low incomes, automatically qualify for this extra help. These "full-benefit dual eligibles" are being automatically and randomly enrolled in a prescription drug plan to make sure that they do not lose a day of prescription coverage.

This week, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services began mailing letters to these 5.5 million Medicare beneficiaries. The letters let the beneficiary know which Medicare prescription drug plan they will be enrolled in if they take no action prior to January 1. A copy of the letter is attached and also available online at www.cms.hhs.gov

These letters are being mailed first class, so all "undeliverables" will be returned to CMS. CMS will follow up on each undeliverable notice in order to send to the correct address.

The letters are just one in a series of actions CMS is taking to make sure people who get Medicare and Medicaid are aware of the coming changes in their prescription drug coverage. Direct mail is one component:

- In May, full-benefit dual eligibles received a letter from CMS informing them that they automatically qualify for the low-income subsidy and do not need to apply.

  In October, all Medicare beneficiaries received the "Medicare & You" 2006 handbook.
- Also, Medicare prescription drug plans will mail enrollment materials to the full-benefit dual eligible beneficiaries assigned to their plan. Those materials include a list of covered drugs and the pharmacy network.

Also, if a full-benefit dual eligible beneficiary goes to a pharmacy after January 1 unaware that prescription drug coverage is now through Medicare, the pharmacist can determine the beneficiary's enrollment information by submitting an on-line query through its billing system. If the pharmacy is in network, the pharmacist can then fill the prescription with no further information required from the beneficiary for billing. If the pharmacy is not in network, the pharmacist can help the beneficiary call their plan's help desk or 1-800-MEDICARE to determine a participating pharmacy.

Continued on Page 3

As I Recall...

Roger D. Scott, M.D.

### LETTER TO GILLIAM

I'm terribly sorry not to be able to attend your OCTOGENERIAN(!) birthday celebration. Travel is very difficult for me, but my mind is still strong and remembers so celebration. Travel is very difficult for me, but my mind is still strong and remembers so many events of the past years that we shared together. When we first met, you were upset because my tricycle was so much larger than yours (I was much bigger than you & very tall for my age). We lived across the street from each other in Live Oak and immediately became best friends & like brothers as you had no siblings and my brothers were so much older than I. We so closely shared the next 10 years of our lives together that many people thought we were indeed brothers. We spent so many nights and ate so many meals together at each other's house that our families weren't sure which house was going to be chosen for that particular evening. We shared so many new experiences of travel and learning together and about girls. How fortunate we were to have this close relationship while growing up carefree in the small North Florida town with all the freedoms children should have. Remember all of the "caves" we dug in the north Florida sand and then covered the trenches with boards and dirt to make hideouts, the tree houses, and hidden spots

Remember all of the "caves" we dug in the north Florida sand and then covered the trenches with boards and dirt to make hideouts, the tree houses, and hidden spots in the shrubs & plants. How about all the times that we played Superman, Batman, the Shadow, Cowboys & Indians, and all of our weapons: homemade rubber band guns, bows & arrows made with bamboo & string, play guns using caps both revolvers and automatics, bamboo spears, slingshots, BB guns, .22 caliber rifles, and ultimately shotguns. Remember the many days and nights we camped on the banks of the Suwannee River near Suwannee Springs when our diet consisted of cold (right out of the can) pork and beans, Vienna sausage, and Spam. We both got our Boy Scout camping badges for the 50 days and nights (not consecutive) that we'd camped out. It's truly a wonder that we didn't get snake bit or drown. Remember all of the fishing we did in the lakes and rivers? How about all the miles we rode on our bikes to Suwannee Springs and home the same day (16 miles) after swimming in that freezing crystal water all day. We had some dangerous times riding our bicycles on U. S. Highways 90 & 129 as the cars and trucks whizzed by us on the narrow two-lane roads (no Interstates or bike trails in those days). We also just had some pure dangerous days doing some of the foolish things we did.

You always seemed to be the one to

trails in those days). We also just had some pure dangerous days doing some of the foolish things we did.

You always seemed to be the one to get me in trouble with your wild ideas. Remember when we were about ten and were playing in the attic of your house, and you set the house on fire by over filling a Zippo cigarette lighter with flammable fluid? You wiped the excess fluid off with Kleenex, struck the lighter, and a magnificent flame crupted with all of the Kleenex and part of the house! I could go on and on with such stories.

We double dated for our first dates at about age12-13 (Yes, we were driving at that age and even younger.), and many other times went together on dates to "juke joints" for dancing on Saturday nights and sometimes "Lover's Lane". There is much more to be told, but I think I'd better stop at this point except to remember that you served in the U.S. Navy on Guam during World War II as a medical corpsman. (You Continued on Page 2

#### LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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### MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

RETIRED Charles Shook, M.D.

RESIGNED Robert Mirsky, M.D.

NEW ADDRESS Susanna Beshai, M.D. 13685 Doctor's Way Ste 310 Fort Myers FL 33912

NEW MEMBERS NEW MEMBERS Michelle Blair, D.O. - Radiology Janette Gaw, M.D. - Colorectal Surgery Barett Ginsberg, M.D. - Ophthalmology Milena Loukanova, M.D. - Internal Medicine Brian Taschner, M.D. - Cardiology

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### LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY **ALLIANCE & FOUNDATION NEWS**

Tami Traiger, President

Stride Right: A Fitness for Life Program -by Karma Marino & Ann Shah
The LCMSA&F's third year of bringing the "Stride Right" program to Lee County
schools has proven to be the most successful so far. This program, created by the
Alliance, is specifically designed for the promotion of health, wellness and good
nutrition practices for elementary school-aged children.

Alliance, is specifically designed for the promotion of health, wellness and good nutrition practices for elementary school-aged children.

Our program began this year at Villas Elementary School on September 12th, with a personalized workout for the students by Mr. Deke, a local fitness expert. This is Villas' second year to participate in the program after overwhelming positive response to "Stride Right" last year. The program concluded October 25th with 413 students participating in the entire six-week program. This number is almost double the number of students who completed the program last year. There were also 38 staff members from Villas who completed the program. This is a tremendous accomplishment considering a week of the program was postponed due to hurricane Wilma. The "Stride Right" finale featured the students performing their original songs and dances highlighting a healthy lifestyle. Once again, Sweetbay Supermarket sponsored the healthy snacks for the entire program, and Coca-Cola, Zephyrhills and Velda Farms provided drinks. Prizes included "Stride Right" t-shirts for those who participated all six weeks and shoe tags to the classes with the most overall participation.

Diplomat Elementary School began its' third year of "Stride Right" on November 4th with a kickoff that also included a workout by Mr. Deke. Diplomat's program will run through December 13th, concluding with an awards ceremony. Students completing the program will receive a "Stride Right" t-shirt and each class with the most participation weekly will get to have a party. Sponsors this year include Coca-Cola, Velda Farms, Wolfers produce, and Publix Supermarkets. "Stride Right" has won a first place Award of Excellence for "Youth Oriented Programs" from the Florida Medical Association Alliance (FMAA) for the past two years. We are extremely proud of the success this program has had and are working on continuing "Stride Right" in other Lee County elementary schools in the upcoming years.

The LCMSA&Fi's plans include developing a

years.

The LCMSA&F's plans include developing a "how-to" booklet for each elementary school and possibly providing training sessions for those schools interested in bringing "Stride Right" to their students. We are also currently working on reviewing survey data from those students who participated last year at both Diplomat and Villas elementary schools. This information will help us to continue to improve the "Stride Right" program. If you have any questions or know of any schools interested in participating, please contact either Karma Marino at kjarma@comcast.net or Ann Shah at ann\_shah@alumni.brown.edu.

Alliance Upcoming Events

January 11-General Meeting and "New Year, New You" lecture to be held at 10:30 am at the home of Betty Rubenstein. What a better way to start the New Year than to look at your own "life goals". We are bringing in Christine Gilmore, CPCC who is a certified professional life coach, physician spouse, and Alliance member who will be providing us with an interactive session that will get your life on target for 2006!

January 21-7pm Wine Tasting and Medi-Bags. Join us for a wine tasting at the home of Rich and Mary Macchiaroli. We will be collecting personal hygiene and basic first aid products from hotels, dentist offices, medical practices, and members. Please bag up your items and call Mary Macchiaroli (703) 346-1610 or (mmacchiaroli@mindspring.com) for pick up or bring them on the 21st and help bag them up for our designated charity!



## BOARD OF MEDICINE GIVES BAD NEWS TO LARGE PRACTICES by Jeff Cohen, Esq.

The Board of Medicine's interpretation of a professional liability insurance policy may wreak havoc in Florida with large physician groups.

In a June 2005 Petition for Declaratory Statement, a 57 person radiology practice asked the Board of Medicine if it complies with Florida law under the following facts:

1.Each of the doctors carries \$250K/\$750 of coverage; and 2. Their large medical practice has \$10 Million in coverage.

So, where's the rub? The Board said that the doctors do not comply because the \$10 Million limit would not equal the \$250K/\$750K per person limits. Let's try that again. If ten of the 57 doctors suffer judgments for full policy limits (\$250K each), the plaintiff would receive \$2.5 Million. If 40 of the 57 doctors suffer judgments for full policy limits, the full \$10 Million limit is reached. So, the Board decision implies, that means that the remaining 17 doctors are not covered because the \$10 Million will only cover 40 of the 57 doctors in that one year period where all 40 of them got clammed with \$250K settlements EACH. The Board admitted that the scenario is unlikely. So

we can all breathe a sigh of relief...Nope.

The Board's curious decision puts all large physician groups in a black hole. Does the decision mean that all large physician groups should simply go bare? Is the Board essentially requiring that large groups take the number of physician employees and multiply that time \$250K? It seems pretty clear that they are.

It is a very strange interpretation of the state Financial Responsibility law and is dangerous because it may push more doctors out of insurance coverage or, even worse, out of the state. Moreover, Florida law is clear that doctors do not have to carry professional liability insurance. Why then would the Board think that a \$10 Million annual aggregate for a 57-doctor company does not satisfy state law? That aside, employers obviously do not have the ability to require insurers to raise their annual limits by any amount. That is a business decision within the purview of the insurers.

Go figure. In any event, state medical leadership must take the reins on the matter and seek clarification beyond the Board. And fast....

Mr. Cohen is a partner with the law firm of STRAWN, MONAGHAN & COHEN, P.A. He is Board Certified by the Florida Bar as a Specialist in Health Law. He may be reached at (561) 278-9400.

### FMA BOARD OF MEDICINE AMENDED PRACTICE ALERT

Rule for Standard of Care For Office Surgery From the Florida Department of Health

Effective October 23, 2005, all physicians who perform Level II and Level III office based surgery, must be currently certified in Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) and one assistant must be currently certified in Basic Life Support.

64B8-9.009 Standard of Care Rule Changes.
64B8-9.009 (4) (b) (2) Training required.....
One assistant must be currently certified in Basic Life
Support and the <u>surgeon</u> must be currently certified in
Advanced Cardiac Life Support.
64B8-9.009 (6) (b) (1) (b) Training required....
One assistant must be currently certified in Basic Life
Support and the <u>surgeon</u> must be currently certified in
Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

Please submit a copy of your current ACLS accreditation to the attention of the Office Surgery Registration Program at the:

Department of Health 4052 Bald Cypress Way Bin C-03 Tallahassee, FL 32399-3253

If you have any questions, please call Gwyn Willis at: (850) 245-4131.

### 2006 BOARD OF MEDICINE MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS

February 3-4, Fort Lauderdale April 7-8, Tampa June 2-3, Orlando July 11-12, Jacksonville August 11-12, Tallahassee October 6-7, Tampa December 1-2, Orlando



### As I Recall... Cont. from page 1.

always wanted to be a doctor, and I had no idea what I wanted to be when I grew up.) I honor your service to our country and for being one of the last of the veterans of World War II to have a birthday as so

I didn't mean for this to be such an epistle, but I did want you, Gilroy Gilliam Walton, Jr., to know that you have been my closest oldest friend for the past 74 years although we have been separated for many

years although we have been separated for many years.

Oh yes, I shouldn't forget that through all the years there were girls, girls, girls, and then more girls. As perhaps you remember, I am a packrat and in my pack was a 1949 SUWANNEAN (the Suwannee High School yearbook) and although you graduated in 1943, I think you'll recognize many names and faces from this "pages of the past" book. Note that the photos of the "most likely to succeed, best liked etc." were taken at my family's home on the hill. This book is your birthday present from me. HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY and Merry Christmas! REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!

I remain fondly your friend & "brother", Roger

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#### BIRD FLU: IS LEE READY?

by Judith Hartner, M.D., M.P.H., Director

Pby Judith Hartner, M.D., M.P.H., Director

Lee County Health Department

Recently a customs agent at Southwest Regional Airport contacted me. He was processing passengers who had just arrived on a flight from Germany, and among the passengers was a young woman who had also spent time in rural China; she had a cold and cough. The agent's question to me: "Is this bird flu and what should I do?" After a brief interview, I felt confident that she didn't have Avian (H5N1) influenza, and assured the agent he could let her proceed to her Naples destination. We checked in with her the next day, just to be sure.

This brief scenario is just one example of how a novel influenza virus or other emerging infectious disease and service in Lee County. Should this occur, three central questions must

infectious disease could arrive in Lee County. Should this occur, three central questions must

be asked and answered.

Will we quickly detect the first case? In the case of airplane travel, the airport and the CDC Quarantine station in Miami have clear protocols and procedures for reporting and responding to an airline passenger with suspicious symptoms. For the patient arriving by other means, or who doesn't get sick en route, detection will depend upon astute clinicians and careful screening in emergency departments, urgent care centers, and private offices. A brief travel history should become routine for patients presenting with acute febrile illnesses. Please be alert to unusual symptoms or usual symptoms presenting in the wrong season - influenza-

like illness in July, for example.

Will we be able to contain the spread of the infection? After identifying that first case of will we be able to contain the spread of the infection? After identifying that his case of movel influenza, isolating the patient, and reporting your suspicions are the next critical steps. The Lee County Health Department is on-call 24/7 (239-332-9657 or after hours 239-872-0349). We can assist you with obtaining necessary laboratory tests through the state lab or CDC. We will also do contact tracing and notification. If necessary, we can arrange for voluntary or involuntary quarantine of contacts. If available, we will provide prophylactic immunization or antibiotics to the contacts. The basic public health measures of isolation and quarantine were the critical steps in controlling the SARS outbreak in Toronto last year.

What if containment doesn't work? If there is a worldwide influenza pandemic, it will

impact Lee County. A sudden increase in patients presenting to hospitals and emergency departments – for any reason – is a potential disaster. Pandemic influenza could stress our health care system, our public safety providers, and our economic infrastructure. Lee County will respond much as we do for hurricanes or other natural disasters. Hospitals probably will curtail elective admissions and surgeries. There may be a need to cohort infectious patients in sections of the hospital. EMS will need to review protocols on triage and transport of patients. You need to make some plans for your practice: will you triage patients presenting for routine nou need to make some plans for your practice: will you triage patients presenting for routine visits? Will you see patients with influenza-like symptoms in your office? If so, how will you separate them from other patients – masks, separate waiting room, separate time? In the worst-case scenario, 30% of your staff will become ill over the course of the epidemic. Do you need plans for back up staff?

plans for back up staft?

The influenza experts of the world agree that there will be another pandemic. They can't tell us when or what. WHO is carefully watching the current H5N1 strain that is infecting poultry and wild birds in Asia and Europe. Though our federal government has plans for increasing stockpiles of anti-viral drugs and vaccine against H5N1, neither will be in sufficient supply in the near future. We must plan for an influenza pandemic assuming that antiviral drugs will be in limited supply, and that vaccine will not be available for at least 6 months after

the first cases appear

## **NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS Application for Membership**



Medical School: : Universidad Autonoma de Mexico (1987-93) Internship: : University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (1998-2001) Residency: University of South Florida, Tampa, FL (2001-04) Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine Dr. Cruz is with Digestive Specialists at

8380 Riverwalk Park Boulevard, Suite 200, Fort Myers, FL 33919



MICHAEL LAUFER, M.D. – INTERNAL MEDICINE Medical School: : NYU School of Medicine, New York, NY (1996-2000) Internship: Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY (2000-01) Residency: Beth Israel Medical Center, New York, NY (2001-03) Board Certification: American Board of Internal Medicine Dr. Laufer is with Internal Medicine Associates at 2675 Winkler Avenue, Suite 300, Fort Myers, FL 33901

### LICENSURE RENEWAL REMINDER

Approximately half of Florida M.D.s are set to have their licenses to practice medicine expire on January 31. But only 5,633 of the 27,835 physicians (20%) who are supposed to renew have done so. Renewing after the deadline is costly and time consuming, so renewing early is important. The Board of Medicine has made this easy by putting the renewal process online. To renew online, go to www.doh-mqaservices.com and click on "Licensees" and then "Renew License." You will need an account/user ID number and password, which was included in your license renewal notice, sent in October. If you do not have your notice, you may email licensure services@doh.state.fl.us or call 850-488-0595, and press menu option 3. If you are not sure if you are up for renewal this year, check your license or your profile - both list your expiration date. If you are an FMA member, you can contact the FMA for more information at fplendl@medone.org.



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Medicare Outlines Steps... Cont. from page 1.

### Helping Dual Eligible Beneficiaries Make an Informed Choice

All of the plans that qualify for the automatic enrollment must meet Medicare's standards for access to medically necessary drugs at a convenient local pharmacy. Beneficiaries who prefer different plan can change at any time.

The letters will also help ensure that full-benefit dual eligible beneficiaries are aware that they can choose a different zero-premium plan in their area, and that they can call 1-800-MEDICARE to find out more about these plans.

CMS is taking this and many other steps to make sure beneficiaries are able to enroll in a zero-premium plan option if that is what they prefer. While there are many sources of information and help in choosing such a plan, the "Medicare & You" 2006 handbook included a table on page 97A that erroneously said that all plans in every area would charge no premium for those who qualify for the low-income subsidy.

Before they choose another plan, beneficiaries have many sources of accurate, personalized information on their coverage options:

Even before enrollment begins on November 15, beneficiaries can get personalized information by calling 1-800-MEDICARE. They, a counselor or caregiver can also get the same material at www.medicare.gov.

Medicare's thousands of outreach and enrollment partners nationwide have complete information on plans in their area. They have received training on using this information

Many states are also providing assistance, and have access to the same personalized information to help beneficiaries choose.

Nursing facilities caring for Medicare beneficiaries can also get information on whether the beneficiary is eligible for extra help, and the plan to which the beneficiary has been assigned, enabling them to help make sure prescription drug needs will be met as effectively as possible.

When the beneficiary chooses a prescription drug plan, there are several steps to make sure that the beneficiary knows if they are joining a plan with a premium:

If they call 1-800-MEDICARE or they or a caregiver uses www.medicare.gov, they will be informed if they have chosen a plan with a non-zero premium and given assistance if they wish to choose a plan with no premium.

If they contact a health plan, the plan is required to notify them that they would pay some premium for their current choice of coverage and that zero-premium options are available - either from that plan (if such an option is offered) or by contacting Medicare.

For all of these reasons, and because all zero-premium plans provide comprehensive coverage with convenient access to all medically necessary treatments, Medicare expects very few dualeligible beneficiaries will enroll in a drug plan with a premium unless they wish to do so.

To make sure that any low-income beneficiary who actually does enroll in a plan with a premium was fully informed and intended to do so, Medicare will:

- · Track beneficiary enrollments to identify beneficiaries who enroll in a plan that has a premium even though they are eligible for a zero-premium plan, and send a letter making sure they know about the zero-premium options.
- · Allow beneficiaries who mistakenly enroll in a plan for which they will have a liability to change to a plan where they would not have to pay any
- premium. · Require Medicare prescription drug plans to include information about plan premiums

in their pre-enrollment materials.

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### 2006 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF THE LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

At the November 17, 2005 General Membership Meeting the following physicians were elected as your 2006 Board of Governors:

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**



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Julio Rodriguez, M.D.
Family Practice
4881 Palm Peach Blvd Ste 100
Ft. Myers, FL 33905
693-9191



President-Elect M. Erick Burton, M.D. Cardiology 8540 College Pkwy Ft. Myers, FL 33919 433-8888



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