

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Bulletin



THE VOICE OF LEE COUNTY MEDICINE

VOLUME 29, NO 6

FORT MYERS, FLORIDA
JOHN SNEAD, M.D.

NOVEMBER 2005

UPCOMING MEETING/ EVENTS

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2005

Speaker

John Armstrong, MD.,
AMA Board of Trustees
Subject: "Pay For Performance
The AMA's View"

Royal Palm Yacht Club
2360 West First Street
Downtown Fort Myers
6:30 p.m. - Social Time
7:00 p.m. - Program
*Hurricane Discussion

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL
SOCIETY & ALLIANCE
ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY
Monday, December 5, 2005
7:00pm - 11:00pm
Veranda Restaurant
2122 Second Street
Downtown Fort Myers

Sponsored by Ironstone Bank

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

Inserts

- 1 NOVEMBER MEETING NOTICE
- 2 DOCTOR OF THE DAY SIGN UP
- 3 LEE WE CARE NEEDS YOUR HELP

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President's Message EMR



Richard Murray, M.D.

I have spent the last three months investigating EMR (electronic medical records). It is estimated that about 40% of physicians have a fully implemented EMR across the country. Even President Bush mentioned EMR in his last two State-of-the-Union addresses. The EMR companies' tout improved quality, reduced risk, cutting costs, affordability, integration, easy to use, return on investment, and the wave of the future. However, when I look at the systems, I see EMR to mean an Expensive Maze of Redundancy. If I send a patient for hypertension to an internist, I do not want a note including seatbelt use, Living Will, and whether or not they have received their tetanus vaccine. Instead, I'd like a note excluding renal disease and current treatment. I do agree with the EMR companies that quality will be improved, particularly if you have more than one office or can access from home. I do believe risks will be reduced. However, did the practitioner actually discuss everything that is mentioned in this four-page note? Moreover, when you ask the patient how long they were seen, it is five minutes; however, I received a four-page note. Cut and paste templates may overlook that the patient is actually a female, not a male.

EMR will cut costs for storage and paper, but the cost of the tablet PCs, palm pilots, and networking are initially overwhelming. Additionally, the maintenance agreements are estimated to be \$1,000 per month. I recently received a quote for \$55,000 for all new hardware, software in the office not including maintenance, which was \$1,000 per month! Medicare and Blue Cross do not reimburse higher if you use EMR.

The other major problem I see is the integration with your practice management software and the various labs we use, such as LabCorp and Quest, plus the different hospitals of Lee and Gulf Coast and Southwest Regional, along with the different radiology practices. Most of us use various labs based on preference, insurance reasons, and including internal labs. It is very difficult to integrate all of these labs, especially when you are required to pay for the integration of the EMR and the various labs. I believe in times of disaster, such as Hurricane Katrina, electronic medical records would be tremendous. However, what good is EMR if most of your patients evacuated and will not return. Right now the costs of EMR are prohibitive.

I believe Jim Penuel, M.D. and Digestive Health Physicians have a better grasp with a document management system which would alleviate any integration with all the various entities. It is hard enough for two physicians to agree on a diagnosis and I see no way that all individual thinking physicians can be integrated with all the labs and hospitals.

I believe prescription writing to pharmacies is an advantage in time and research. How many patients have used this or that medicine? Pharmaceutical companies would be very interested in your data and your prescription pattern writing habits. Currently, I have several friends in the banking industry, as well as attorney's offices, who routinely use electronic document management systems, and the scanner has now replaced the copy machine.

Each physician will weigh and balance their need for an EMR individually. I do feel the pressure from the EMR software companies. Again, I am unsure whether it is an expensive maze of redundancy or is it truly electronic medical records, which are easy to use? I will be touring some practices in town and out of town that use various systems, and I will investigate them further. I would encourage everyone to check out practices that use these if you are looking toward EMR. Plus, I would hope to receive a short one-paragraph note about a patient with hypertension, not a four-page novel.

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY NOMINATIONS FOR 2006 OFFICERS

The following slate of nominations for the 2006 officers of the Lee County Medical Society is presented for your consideration. The membership will vote at the November 17, 2005 General Membership Meeting. If you wish to nominate someone else for an office, please be sure to have that person's approval before nominating them from the floor.

President: Julio Rodriguez, M.D. (Elected in 2004)

President-Elect: M. Erick Burton, M.D.

Secretary: Cherrie Morris, M.D.

Treasurer: Dean Traiger, M.D.

Past President: Richard Murray, M.D.

Members-At-Large: Michael Kim, M.D. (2008)

Shahid Sultan, M.D. (2008)

Michael Novotney, M.D. (2008)

Previously elected Members-at-Large:

Larry Hobbs, M.D. (2006)

Raymond Kordonowy, M.D. (2006)

Craig R. Sweet, M.D. (2006)

Stuart Bobman, M.D. (2007)

Howard Barrow, M.D. (2007)

Kenneth Towe, M.D. (2007)

Howard Barrow, M.D.

Stu Bobman, M.D.

M. Erick Burton, M.D.

James Fuller, M.D.

Ralph Gregg, M.D.

F. L. Howington, M.D.

Otto J. N. Kunst, M.D.

FMA Delegates

Larry Hobbs, M.D.

Cherrie Morris, M.D.

Richard Murray, M.D.

Julio Rodriguez, M.D.

Alternates

Stephen Schroering, M.D.

Kenneth Towe, M.D.

Grievance Committee Chair

R. Thad Goodwin, M.D.

Committee On Ethical & Judicial Affairs

William F. O'Brien, M.D., Chair

Michael Raab, M.D. (2008) 3-Year Appointment

James Butler, D.O. (2008) 3-Year Appointment

Previously elected EJA Members:

Susanna Beshai, M.D. (2006)

John J. Green, D.O. (2006)

Audrey Farahmand, M.D. (2006)

David Gutstein, M.D. (2007)

Lowell Hart, M.D. (2007)

Jeremy Schwartz, M.D. (2007)

James Rubenstein, M.D.

Douglas Stevens, M.D.

Dean Traiger, M.D.

Steven R. West, M.D.

Joel Van Sicker, M.D.

As I Recall...

Roger D. Scott, M.D.
FLORIDA, MY FLORIDA

November has rolled around again and I am celebrating yet another birthday! In keeping with my birthday tradition of trying to give you something regarding my life, this article is about the state of my birth, perhaps more properly stated, my birth state i.e. the state in which I was born, Florida. In the first grade in Live Oak in 1932, we sang the state song, *Florida, My Florida* (adopted in 1913). The 1935 legislature changed it to the *Swanee River (The Old Folks At Home)* considering it a more appropriate state song as the Suwannee River courses through North Florida bounding Suwannee County on three sides: North, West, and South. This song was written by Stephen Collins Foster who never laid eyes on the state but simply used (incorrectly spelled) *Swanee River* for its two syllables to satisfy his need for lyrics for his music. A memorial on the banks of the Suwannee River north of Lake City is dedicated to Foster and the "Way down upon the Suwannee River".

Many of you are Semi-Floridians and may not realize there is so much history involved here. Ponce de Leon in April 1513 landed near what is now St. Augustine and was the first European to discover this land. He named this beautiful land Florida after Pascua Florida, the feast of flowers at Easter time. Many may not realize he also explored the west coast of Florida & sailed into the various bays. He sustained an arrow wound in a battle with the Calusa Indians (supposedly in the vicinity of Punta Rassa, although some claim that it was Charlotte Harbor) & was taken back to his headquarters in Havana, Cuba where he died a few days later of infection from the wound. Other Spanish explorers arrived and founded St. Augustine in 1565 creating the oldest city in the United States (Jamestown 1607 & Plymouth 1620).

Do you realize that you live in the southernmost state with 1,197 miles of coastline, a tidal shoreline of 2,276 miles, and that its land area (north to south is 447 miles & east to west 361 miles) makes it the 22nd state in total land area? It is 792 miles by road from Pensacola to Key West but only 633 miles by boat.

Florida's population in 1930 was 1,468,211, in 1960 9,746,324, in 1990 12,937,924 in 2000 15,982,378 (a 25% increase in 10 years -- What we gonna do with all dese people?) & the 2004 estimate of 17,397,181 make us the fourth largest U.S. state by population. Lee County rose from 14,990 in 1930 to 335,113 in 1990, to 440,885 in 2000 and an estimated 514,295 in 2004 & now ranked 10th. We used to be the greatest producer of citrus in the United States, but now we seem to be the greatest producer of Yankees (I do not mean this as a disparaging comment).

Most of the land in Florida is only a few feet above sea level; however, in western Florida, maybe Walton County, there is an area known as Iron Mountain (elevation 345 feet above sea level), which was the tallest point in Florida in my day, but I'm not sure it still exists today. Florida produced the largest amount of phosphate in the country, but now the phosphate mines have all but disappeared (these created many of today's man made lakes). There are reported to be 7,700 natural lakes greater than 10 acres in size.

Limestone constitutes much of the subsoil and supports many underground streams that surface as 33 major flowing

Continued on Page 2

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MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITY

NEW LOCATION
David MacKoul, M.D.
206 SE 16th Place
Cape Coral, FL 33990

Frank Bryan, M.D.
4207 S. Dale Mabry Blvd
Tampa, FL 33611

MOVED OUT OF AREA
Lois Mastrofrancesco, M.D.

NEW PRACTICE
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NEEDED FOR MUSEUM
CALLING/APPOINTMENT CARDS

Dr. Roger Scott would like to collect your calling card / appointment card for the Medical Museum. It would be appreciated if you could send the Lee County Medical Society your information at P.O. Box 60041, Ft. Myers, FL 33906-0041 and we will keep tract of those coming into the Museum. Please, everyone help us out.

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
ALLIANCE & FOUNDATION NEWS
Tami Traiger, President

AMA Foundation "Holiday Sharing Card"
Share the warmth of the holiday season by participating in the AMA Foundation's "Holiday Sharing Card." For a tax-deductible donation of \$50 or more, your name will be listed with other contributing members on a special greeting card that will be sent, in time for the holidays, to all Alliance families and members of the Lee County Medical Society who make a donation.
You choose the medical school that will receive your generous contribution. All funds go directly to the AMA Education, Research and Science Service Scholarships that support our medical schools and aspiring physicians.
Please see the enclose flyer, or contact Ileana Sosa 437-3248 to find out how to make your donation to the AMA Foundation by November 25th. Help foster the spirit of the season while making an investment in the future of quality healthcare.

Alliance Upcoming Events
November 9- Karma Marino will be giving an informative lecture to make sense of the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Bring food labels and questions! It will be held at 10 am at the home of Sheri Zucker. Stop in, eat a whole grain bagel, drink some OJ and learn something new!
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-Wine Tasting and Medi-Bag Evening at the home of Rich and Mary Macchiaroli. More details coming soon!

SW FLORIDA MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS HOSTS AMA
DISASTER TRAINING

The Boy Scout motto of "be prepared" has never been more important than it is today. Lessons learned from recent events have shown us that the first response to a disaster is a local response and communities may have to initially rely on their own resources until additional help is able to reach them.
The Medical Reserve Corps, created under the Office of the Surgeon General, provides a framework for local volunteer healthcare professionals to assist their own community in times of disasters or public health emergencies. Created after the events of 9/11, there are now over 400 MRC chapters throughout the nation. The Southwest Florida unit, sponsored by the Lee County Health Department, currently has almost 200 members. These numbers grow daily as medical professionals recognize the need and respond to the call for help. Many MRC volunteers requested to be deployed outside their community and play a vital role in response to Katrina and Rita.
The AMA has developed a series of Category 1 CME training programs for disasters and mass casualty events. Core Disaster Life Support (CDLS) is an introductory course, which provides an overview of natural and man-made disasters (including chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives). This all hazard approach is appropriate for physicians, nurses, dentists, emergency response workers and allied healthcare professionals.
A one-day training program which will incorporate CDLS will be sponsored by the Southwest Florida Medical Reserve Corps. The AMA cost for processing CME, if requested, is \$10.00. A certificate suitable for framing is also available from the AMA for an additional \$10.00 charge.
This is a unique opportunity to learn about the MRC, meet fellow volunteers and train in disaster management.

Date of training: Friday, November 18 OR Saturday, November 19
Time: 8:30 am -5:00 pm
Place: Florida Gulf Coast University

For further information and/or to register, please contact:
Marjorie Wallace at the Lee County Health Department
332-9625

DOCTOR OF THE DAY

The 2006 Legislative Session begins Tuesday, March 7, 2006 and the FMA is looking for physicians to participate in the Doctor of the Day program. Physicians who are willing to spend a day in Tallahassee during the Legislative Session perform an invaluable service by providing health care for members of the Legislature and legislative employees. In addition, the program continues to be a vital component in improving and strengthening physician-legislator relations. The FMA will schedule two physicians for each day of the legislative session, one for the House of Representatives and one for the Senate. If you are interested in serving as Doctor of the Day, please contact Michelle Jacquis by email at mjacquis@medone.org or call her at 800-762-0233. The 2006 Legislative Session is scheduled to adjourn Friday, May 5, 2006. Please see insert.

WHAT AMA, FMA, & LCMS DO FOR YOU?

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ODDS & ENDS

LICENSURE RENEWALS
Francie Plendl, FMA

The Board of Medicine will be mailing M.D. licensure renewals notices on October 4th.
Licensure renewals can be done online by going to www.doh.state.fl.us or they can be mailed in. The deadline for renewal is January 31, 2006. One half of the physicians in Florida will be renewing this year, the other half are not due until next year. A doctor should check his or her current license if they are unsure of the expiration date. If you have questions, please let me know.
Keep all documents relating to CME courses for at least four years. The number of audits performed will be increasing so to avoid unnecessary fines it is best to be prepared to prove that the hours were completed.

RETIRED STATUS

In 2005 the Florida legislature added new language to Section 456.036, Florida Statutes, which allows any Florida health care practitioner, including MDs and DOs, to convert their license to "retired" status. This allows a physician to keep his or her Florida license, but not actively practice. Under this status, a physician does not have to meet the requirement of active practice, does not have to pay biennial fees and does not have to take the required continuing medical education. They may not practice (this includes writing prescriptions) but will be able to retain their Florida license. A physician requesting to come off of retired status and return to active practice will have to pay renewal fees and take CME hours and will also have to demonstrate competency to return to practice if they have been retired more than five years. A physician can remain in retired status indefinitely. To learn more about changing your license to retired status, contact the Florida Board of Medicine at 850-245-4131.

COMP OPTIONS DIVIDENDS

In keeping with our membership benefit program of paying dividends back to doctors who get their workers compensation coverage through Comp Options/ Professional Benefits, a total of \$15,565.38 dividends were returned for the 2003-year and \$28,927.94 for the 2004 year!
That is over \$44,492 in premiums that have been returned in two years. We were hoping that this benefit would help our members pay for their dues and it has lived up to our expectations. What are you waiting for? Call Liza Battaglia at 1-800-741-5170 to sign up for your next renewal.

The Lee County Medical Society
has mailed out 2006 Dues.
Check your mail. We will be sending out second requests in November.
Please let us know if you will need to make payment arrangements by calling our office at 936-1645.

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

very cold clear water springs around the state. Near North Port is the only hot spring (very old & deep) containing more minerals than any other spring in the U.S. (third in the world) plus abundant archaeological and paleontological findings.
Returning to more history we find that Florida was occupied by Spain from 1559 to 1763, the British were in possession 1763 to 1783 and the Spanish returned 1783 to 1821. Florida became a territory of the United States in 1821 with General Andrew Jackson (later U.S. President) as the first territorial governor. In 1845, we were the 27th state admitted to the Union. Florida seceded from the Union on January 10, 1861 to join the Confederacy and when the war ceased in 1865, Florida was not allowed to reunite with the United States until it accepted the 14th Amendment to the Constitution in July 1868. Using these figures to calculate, the United States flag will not have flown over Florida as long as the Spanish flag did until the year 2071. I guess part of this is why so many Hispanics have always loved Florida.
In 1920, there were 47 counties, which have since been divided, giving us 67 counties today. I challenge you to name as many counties in the state of Florida as you can and then get a map and see how you did. I run about 50 - 60% if I am lucky. Try to get an old map out and see where the counties extend and you'll be surprised at the changes that we have today.
Oh how I wish you could have joined me back in the 1930s and toured the state and enjoyed this sheer beautiful land of nature and forest. Hopefully some of this will be preserved for future generations. I LOVE FLORIDA. Hope you enjoyed these little facts and thoughts.

LESSONS FROM KATRINA

From Those Who Were There
by Michael Barnaby, Public Relations Officer
Lee County Health Department

Katrina and the floods that drowned New Orleans and surrounding areas dislocated up to six thousand active, patient-care physicians, a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill study reports. The majority, 2,952, were specialists, with 1,292 in primary care and 272 in obstetrics and gynecology. Not only did many practicing physicians lose their practices and incomes, but also practically all of the health records were destroyed in the community health centers within the poorer neighborhoods. "The public health and health care delivery infrastructures have been either completely destroyed or have sustained significant damage across the affected Gulf Coast," AMA Trustee Ardis D. Hoven, MD told Congress soon after Katrina ended.

Lessons learned from Katrina will be ongoing, but what did those who actually traveled to affected areas to assist in rescue and clean-up efforts see? What can the individual physician learn from Lee County's first responders, those who traveled to and worked in the devastated areas?

"One of the most critical things both private practices and corporate hospitals need to think of is 'How do we continue to provide the much needed services? What is our plan?'" This is the observation of Richard Rhodes, Regional Emergency Response Advisor for the Health Department. "Many of the local doctors who lost businesses and patients were brought in under the arm of the local hospital, relieving their need to maintain high cost malpractice insurance. This allowed many to continue their practice while at the same time providing hospitals with the manpower to continue with clean-up efforts." Rhodes notes also "Due to lost income from the loss of a patient base, many doctors were considering relocating to start over. Lost wages prevented many from maintaining the high cost of their insurance."

Lee County Public Safety Director John Wilson said that, "Having an updated business continuity plan for the practice was the lesson learned from what I saw," adding that "Perhaps the Medical Society could sponsor such a seminar on behalf of its members."

Roger Sockman works as Regional Public Information Officer for the Lee County Health Department. Returning from ten days in Mississippi, the state assigned by FEMA to Florida for assistance, he said that "Preparation for the doctor's office should definitely include taking as many patient records as possible with you, because that office or building may not be left standing after the storm. I saw former homes and office buildings reduced to their foundations by the winds and storm surge."

"After seeing first-hand the enormous destruction and devastation that Hurricane Katrina caused on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, I am a firm believer that all those who will be affected by the storm should do three things: be aware of the timing of the approaching storm; prepare your family, colleagues and co-workers for leaving the area; and most importantly, EVACUATE the area." Sockman adds, "I am in awe of the damage Mother Nature can cause."

Richard Rhodes also provided the following valuable bullet points that should be of value to all of Lee County's physicians:

- Identify ways to get fuel for your employees to commute to and from work.
- Coordinate with local law enforcement to provide access for your employees during hours of curfew.
- If possible provide a representative or liaison to your County EOC where these issues can be handled face to face with the appropriate agencies
- A list of dialysis patients should be maintained within the county so that these patients can be checked on prior to arriving at a DMAT in a critical state due to the loss of water and power to run Dialysis Centers. Coordinate for a back-up measure for when these failures occur (And they will).
- Continue to update disaster plans within the hospital, especially on staffing issues.



CLINICAL LABORATORY LICENSE

Don't let your laboratory license lapse

The Agency for Health Care Administration no longer sends clinical laboratory license reminders to the facilities holding Florida clinical laboratory licenses. It is the responsibility of the facility to monitor the status of its clinical laboratory licenses. It is the responsibility of the facility to monitor the status of its clinical laboratory license and ensure that a renewal application reaches the Agency before the license expires. If an application is not received and date stamped by the date the license expires, that license becomes null and void.

Once the license has expired, the laboratory must apply as an initial applicant and must cease all laboratory testing (including waived tests) until a new license is issued. The new license will have an effective date of the date on which an initial application is determined to be complete.

Renewal applications can be obtained from the Agency's website: <http://ahca.myflorida.com> Click on "Site Map" then scroll down and click on "Laboratory Licensure Unit". Alternatively, search for "Laboratory Unit" in the "Search AHCA" section, then click on the resulting "AHCA: Laboratory Unit."

The application forms must be downloaded, completed, signed, notarized and mailed with the required payment at least 60 days prior to the expiration date of the license. Applications received without the required fee will be returned.

If you need of any further information regarding this matter, you may contact the Agency for Health Care Administration Laboratory Unit at 850-487-3109.

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HOSPITALS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR PAYING DOCTOR'S MALPRACTICE AWARDS

Jeffrey Cohen, Esq.

A few years ago, a state court decided that hospitals could be responsible for the malpractice awards entered against their medical staff members. A recent decision overturned the state court and clarified that hospitals are not responsible for medical malpractice awards against their medical staff members.

The issue originated back in 1999 when a neurosurgeon in Miami was found liable for \$1.4 million in a medical malpractice action. The doctor filed for bankruptcy and gave the plaintiff \$20,000.00 towards the \$1.4 million judgment. The plaintiff demanded that the hospital pay the statutory minimum of \$250,000.00 towards the 1.4 million that the doctor owed her. The trial court found that the hospital was responsible for paying the first \$250,000.00 to meet the doctor's minimum financial responsibility requirement under state law for having medical staff privileges. That is, state law requires medical staff members to satisfy the first \$250,000.00 of any medical malpractice judgment in order to maintain Florida licensure. The trial court passed that obligation on from the doctor to the hospital, but the appeal court disagreed.

The trial court decision sent the hospital community in this state into a tailspin, wondering what its reserves should be and what its liability is with respect to medical malpractice judgments entered against all of their medical staff members. It was a huge question and a huge problem. Fortunately, however, the appellate court's recent decision resolved the matter, at least for the time being. In short, the appellate court clarified that doctors are responsible for complying with Florida laws' financial responsibility requirements, and that hospitals are not required to back up the doctor's compliance obligations in any way. Hospitals routinely ensure that doctors agree to comply with the Florida Financial Responsibility law, and then are satisfied with the doctors' assurances. Though the issue will probably arise again in other appellate districts around the state which could kick the issue up to the Florida Supreme Court, there is peace in the air for the time being.

A sub-issue of the case that bears noting, however, is the issue of the conflict between the state law requiring a doctor to satisfy up to \$250,000.00 of a judgment and what happens to the obligation when the doctor files for bankruptcy. This is a huge issue for physicians engaged in asset protection. That issue was not before this court.

Mr. Cohen is a partner with the Delray Beach/Ft. Lauderdale law firm of STRAWN, MONOGHAN & 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. ©2004, STRAWN, MONOGHAN & COHEN, P.A. All rights reserved. Republication with attribution is permitted.



TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO STOP MEDICARE CUTS - TAKE ACTION

We know you're busy, but here are a few quick facts to ponder.

Fact #1: Congress has only a few weeks left in this year's legislative session to stop Medicare from cutting your payments by 4.4% on Jan. 1, 2006.

Fact #2: If this cut occurs, the average Medicare physician payment rate in 2006 will be less than it was in 2001.

Fact #3: If Congress doesn't fix the underlying payment formula, Medicare will slash what it pays physicians who treat America's seniors by 26% over the next six years.

Fact #4: Time is running out. It's critical that Congress hear from you and your colleagues TODAY!

Even if you've already contacted your senators and representative about this issue in the last week or two, your fellow physicians and patients need you to do so again. Join together with them and tell Congress how the Medicare cuts will affect your practice and your patients.

To call, use the AMA's toll-free Grassroots Hotline at (800) 833-6354.

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



John H. Armstrong, M.D. is a trauma/critical care and general surgeon from Miami, FL. He was elected to the AMA Board of Trustees in June 2002. He is the first member of the uniformed services to be elected to the AMA Board in over 80 years. In June 2004 he was elected AMA Secretary by the Board. Currently, he serves as a member of the Executive, Finance, and Organization and Operation of the Board Committees, as well as the Board of Trustees Membership Task Force.

Dr. Armstrong is a Lieutenant Colonel (Promotable) in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He is the Director of the US Army Trauma Training Center (ATTC), which operates through the Army Medical Department Center and School, Fort Sam Houston, TX, in a unique association with Jackson Memorial Hospital and the University of Miami School of Medicine. The ATTC's mission is to train field surgical teams in the care of acutely injured patients-in the process, twenty individuals become a team of one. Every team that has trained at the ATTC has deployed in the Global War on Terrorism. Dr. Armstrong is an attending surgeon at the Ryder Trauma Center, University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center. He is the Chair of the Army (state) Committee on Trauma for the American College of Surgeons and is Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland.

Born in Montana, Dr. Armstrong has lived in twenty-one states and visited all but one. He graduated from Princeton University with an economics degree in 1984 and the University of Virginia School of Medicine in 1988. He completed his surgical residency at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii in 1993 and his fellowship in Trauma/Critical Care at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Medical Center in 1997. He has served as a surgeon at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia; Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas; Heidelberg, Germany; Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC and Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas. In his last assignment, he was the Program Director for the only Surgical Critical Care Fellowship in the Department of Defense. He received the Army Surgeon General's Physician Recognition Award (Lieutenant Colonel) and the A-designator in 2004, and has received four teaching awards.

Dr. Armstrong is certified by the American Board of Surgery with Added Qualifications in Surgical Critical Care and is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American College of Chest Physicians. He is a member of the Florida Medical Association, the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, and the Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons.

AMA OFFERS HURRICANE ASSISTANCE TO PHYSICIANS

The AMA Foundation is offering grants to help physicians rebuild their medical practices in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Grants will be awarded from the AMA Foundation's newly established Health Care Recovery Fund, an ongoing fund that also will be available to physicians affected by future natural or man-made disasters. Physicians whose practices were damaged or destroyed in areas declared disaster zones by the Federal Emergency Management Agency are eligible to apply.

"Rebuilding the health care infrastructure after major disasters like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita is an immense challenge," said AMA char-elect Cecil B. Wilson, M.D. "These grants will begin to help physicians get back on their feet and provide much-needed care to their patients on the Gulf Coast. This effort also will give physicians and others around the country a chance to donate to an ongoing fund designed to assist their colleagues who are rebuilding their practices in disaster areas."

Visit <http://www.ama-assn.org/go/recovery> to learn more about applying for a grant or donating to the fund.

LEGAL/MEDICAL TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The Legal/Medical Tennis Tournament was held Saturday, October 15, 2005 at the Ace Tennis Club. After a strong fight the lawyers took home the trophy again this year. There is always next year!

Prizes

1st Place Team – Mike Reese and Brad Downing
2nd Place Team – Kai Chow and Richard Lane
Best Effort – Sherry Newland and Alejandra Domingo
Sportsmanship Award – Toni Mather
MVP Male – Jonas Kusher
MVP Female – Sandy Levy

We would like to thank the following organizations for their support:

Southwest Florida Symphony for donating two pairs of tickets for our raffle
La Trattoria Café Napoli (12377 S. Cleveland Ave) for donating gift certificates for lunch

We would also like to thank the following country clubs for each donating 2 weeks of free tennis lessons:

Gulf Harbor (Bonita Springs)
The Landings Yacht, Golf & Tennis Club (4420 Flagship Dr)
Vanderbilt Country Club (24850 Old 41)
Beachview Tennis (1101 Par View Drive)
Heritage Palms Golf & Country Club (10420 Washington Palm Way)
Crown Colony Golf & Country Club (8841 Crown Colony Blvd)

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Ritter M9 Autoclave	2,100
WA Oscope/Ophthalmoscope	395
Tycos Sphygmomanometer	50
Stryker Cast Cutter	495
Critikon Dinamap 8100T	1,200
Propac 106EL	3,000
Burdick EK-10 EKG	1,000
Imex Pocket Dop III	495
Frigitronics Colposcope	2,000
Corometrics 150 Fetal Monitor	2,000
Valley Lab Surgistat ESU	1,250
Conmed Excilibur Plus ESU	2,900
Amsco 2080 OR Table	4,000

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Happy Thanksgiving
From
Lee County Medical Society

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GENERAL
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