

February 2013

2013 Meetings & Events

EVERBLADES HOCKEY GAME



GERMAIN ARENA
11000 EVERBLADES PARKWAY
ESTERO, FL 33928

FEBRUARY 9, 2013
7:00 PM

TICKETS \$30 INCLUDES
Pre-Game Tailgate Party
5:30 PM –
7:00 PM Game Time
Food & Beverage Provided

ORIOLES VS REDSOX

JETBLUE PARK
11581 DANIELS PARKWAY
FORT MYERS, FL 33913

MARCH 9, 2013
7:00PM



TICKETS \$25 INCLUDES
PRE-GAME PARTY-TBA

Reserve your tickets by mailing your
order form and payment to:

Lee County Medical Society
13770 Plantation Road, Ste 1
Fort Myers, FL 33912

For ticket information,
please call 936-1645.

INSERTS

Alliance: Doctor's Day Event
Florida Board of Medicine: Take a Pause
Everblades Hockey Game: Feb. 9th
RedSox vs Orioles: March 9th
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Osprey Landing
Photo taken in Bokeelia, FL.
Compliments of
Dr. Edwin Guttery.



LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN

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PRINTERS

Rapid Print of SWFL

Lee County Medical Society Mission Statement & Disclosure Policy

The purpose of the LCMS is to unite the medical profession of Lee County, FL, into one compact organization; extend medical knowledge and advance medical science; elevate the standards of medical education; strive for the enactment, preservation and enforcement of just medical and public health laws; promote friendly relations among doctors of medicine and guard and foster their legitimate interests; enlighten and alert the public, and merit its respect and confidence.

All LCMS Board of Governors and Committee meeting minutes are available for all members to review.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members

Shelly Chvotzkin, DO – OB/GYN

Lee Physician Group

Julia Fashner, MD – Family Medicine

Lee Physician Group

Gary Goforth, MD – Family Medicine

LPG Family Medicine at LMHS

Evgeny Krynetskiy, MD – Orthopedic Surgery

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Allison Yee, MD – Ophthalmology/Oculofacial Plastic Surgery

Eye Centers of Florida

Resigned

Paul Engel, MD

Left Area

Jeffrey Willig, MD



MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership Dues are past due as of January 31, 2013. Please contact us if you will need to make payment arrangements.

Recruit 3 new members and your 2014 dues will be reduced to zero.

LCMS Dues have not increased since 1993.

PHYSICIANS INTERESTED IN JOINING NAS

(NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME, COMMUNITY TASK FORCE)

With facilitation by LMHS, our community is seeking to decrease the incidence of neonatal abstinence syndrome, a secondary consequence of the growing societal problem of opioid dependency. This is an invitation to interested physicians to join in these efforts.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Community Task Force sponsored by Golisano Childrens Hospital of Southwest Florida

Date: February 22, 2013

Time: 11:30 AM- 2 PM

Location: New Cafe, Cape Coral Hospital, Cape Coral, FL

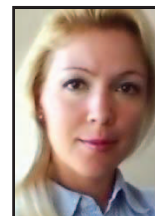
If interested, please contact Stephanie Wardein (239-437-7465) or Sally Jackson (239-466-4455).

Thanks for your support. Bill Liu

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: **WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA'S HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE?**

Audrey Farahmand, M.D.



Obama's re-election, combined with the Supreme Court's decision to uphold ObamaCare, appears to have caused some of the nation's most hardened Republican politicians to now admit that the Affordable Care Act is now the law of the land. However, resistance is still evident with one of the key features of the Act – the Health Insurance Exchanges.

Health insurance exchanges will function as the marketplace for those who lack coverage. The Affordable Care Act requires states to have online health insurance exchanges where people can shop for health insurance. That part of the law takes effect January 2014. So far, 17 states and the District of Columbia are moving to set up their own exchanges. Seven other states have said they want to collaborate with the federal government to set up exchanges (partnership arrangements). A federal exchange will be available for all states that refuse to take any action.

However, twenty-three states, mostly led by Republican governors, including our own Governor Rick Scott, have declared that they will not set up their own health insurance exchange. Instead, they want to offload that task to the federal government. Some speculate Scott's refusal to operate the exchange at the state level was a practical decision because our state was so far behind in setting it up and its implementation would be costly. On the other hand, it appears that the decision is strategic in that Republican governors like Scott anticipate that the federal government will perform poorly in organizing states' exchanges and when they do not quickly take

shape, this would be the first tangible failure of ObamaCare, one that will affect voters personally and leave a lasting negative impression of the new legislation.

No matter what side of the healthcare debate one is on, we must ask what is the price Floridians will pay for a poorly administered health care exchange where we have given up our state's autonomy on how it is run? Florida missed the December deadline to create its own exchange and now faces a February deadline for joining a hybrid state partnership or face the federal exchange if no action is taken.

Interestingly, at the time this article was written, Scott seemed to have softened his position in a recent statement after Romney's defeat where he now is inviting discussion on how to make the exchange work. Scott's more moderate position on this issue might be in preparation for his facing re-election in two years.

With only 17 states squarely on board so far for state run exchanges, it is difficult to say what the future of the health care exchanges will be for our state and others and how their implementation will represent ObamaCare.

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

--Martin Luther King Jr.



LCMS FRIENDS IN MEDICINE

LCMS Friends in Medicine program is open to area businesses that can offer member only benefits and discounts. We encourage our members to patronize these businesses that have been selected by the LCMS for their outstanding services and products.



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SENIOR FRIENDSHIP CENTERS' HEALTH & WELLNESS CLINIC GROWS IN 2012.

Written by Julie Ramirez, Health and Wellness Director, Senior Friendship Centers

In 2012, we were proud to welcome to our clinic, Dr. Andy Oakes-Lottridge who is a practicing physician making house calls here in Lee County and Dr. Tom Logio, a retired colorectal surgeon from New Jersey. With the help of all our volunteer physicians, our clinic has seen a 46% increase in patient visits for 2012.

The Lee County Senior Friendship Centers Health and Wellness Clinic is the perfect place to volunteer if you are a retired nurse or physician. Just a couple hours a month makes a huge difference in the health and lives of our seniors here in Lee County. Our clinic is designed to help seniors ages 50-64 who are without insurance and have limited incomes. Our funding comes from the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program (FBCCSP), Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Goodwill Industries and the United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades County.

Because of the volunteerism of our 5 physicians for 2012, we have diagnosed 5 patients with breast cancer, 1 patient with stage 3 skin cancer, 2 patients with cervical cancer and 3 with Hepatitis C. Through our partnerships with the Salvation Army's We Care program and the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program we were able to get treatment for these patients in order to save their lives.

We would love to have additional physicians join our team and expand the services that we provide to seniors. Every physician is given sovereign immunity from the Lee County Health Department. Our staff is able to assist our retired physicians without a license in applying for a special license from the state. Our hours to see patients

revolve around our physicians and the times that they have available. Our clinic is located at Hatton Rogers Retirement Community in North Fort Myers in partnership with Goodwill and United Way. For more information on how you can join the team, call Julie Ramirez at 239-656-0221 or email at jramirez@friendshipcenters.org.



Senior Friendship Centers Health & Wellness Volunteers and staff for 2012 (from left to right): Dr. Tom Logio, Dr. Hubert Loyke, Conisha Daley, Dr. Andy Oakes-Lottridge, Dr. Marilyn Young, Julie Ramirez, Connie Rush, Suzanna Polgar, R.N., Sharon Weatherhead, R.N. and Dr. Lee Howington.

GET INVOLVED!

Turn to pages 6 & 7 for more information
on how to write your congressman.
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From left: Kate Wagner, O.D.;
E. Trevor Elmquist, D.O.; Nina Burt, O.D.

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richter.garrett.web@flsenate.gov

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 Cape Coral, FL 33990
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*Tallahassee addresses may change, please visit the official Internet site
 of the Florida Legislature at www.myflorida.gov*

HOW TO WRITE YOUR LEGISLATOR

1. Know your legislators' district(s) and the correct spelling of their names. Refer to district maps and directories.
2. Use the following format for addresses:

SENATORS: The Honorable John Doe The Florida State Senate The Capitol, Suite - - - Tallahassee, FL 32399	REPRESENTATIVES: The Honorable John Doe Florida House of Representatives The Capitol, Suite - - - Tallahassee, FL 32399
---	--
3. Write on personal stationary, LCMS letterhead, or on plain paper. A personal letter is best! Your return address should be on the letter, not just the envelope. This will enable your legislator to reply.
4. Do not use postcards or form letters except when advised to do so by the FMA legislative Affairs Office or the CMS Legislative Committee.
5. A good rule to follow is one subject per letter. Try to keep your letter to one page no matter how important the issue. This gives your letter more impact and makes a reply easier. It also takes up less the staff's and legislator's time.
6. Make clear the position of the issue you are on, and ask the legislator to support your position.
7. Refer to exact bill numbers if available and short or popular titles.
8. Don't threaten or write in a belligerent tone.
9. Don't remind them of broken promises.
10. Don't write so often that your letters lose their impact.
11. Illustrate your position with a local example.
12. Sign your name legibly and type your name under your signature.
13. Time your letters to arrive far enough in advance to be effective.

LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS FOR 2013

Fort Myers, FL – January 18, 2013 ---Dr. Audrey Farahmand, M.D. was installed as the 81st President of the Lee County Medical Society at their General Membership Meeting on Friday, January 18, 2013 at the Royal Palm Yacht Club.

Dr. Farahmand graduated from medical school at Indiana University School of Medicine in 1997. She completed her internship / residency at Cabrini Medical Center in 1998.

Dr. Farahmand is board certified in Plastic Surgery and has served Lee County since 2005. She is in private practice with Farahmand Plastic Surgery, 14090 Metropolis Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33912. Tel: 239-332-2388.

Also installed were: Peggy Mouracade, M.D. as President-Elect, M.D. Shari Skinner, MD as Secretary: Andrew Oakes-Lottridge, as Treasurer: Richard Macchiaroli, M.D. as Past President and Members-at-Large: John Burdzy, D.O.: Joanna Carioba, M.D.: Daniel de la Torre, M.D.: Valerie Dyke, M.D.: Kultar Singh, M.D.: Trevor Elmquist, D.O.: Paul Makhoul, M.D.: Viengsouk Phommachanh, M.D. Committee members Larry Hobbs, M.D., LCMS Delegates Chair, Thad Goodwin, M.D., LCMS Grievance Chair and Past-President Shahid Sultan, M.D. were also present.



MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION: THINK LESS

BY Shahid Sultan, M.D.

Now that the elections are over, we know who were the winners and the losers, the fiscal cliff is temporarily avoided and the Mayan calendar was not accurate in predicting the end of the world. For many people it is time to look ahead and make a commitment to one or more personal goals for the coming year. Unfortunately, a study from the University of Bristol (By Richard Wiseman) found that 88% of those who make a New Year's resolution fail to keep it for the whole year. Men achieved their goal 22% more often when they made small incremental goals (like "lose one pound a week" instead of just "lose weight"). Women were 10% more successful when they had support from their friends. The tradition of making New Year's resolutions goes back to Babylonian times when the promises were made to the gods at the start of the year. The Romans made promises to god Janus, for whom the month January is named. There is some religious basis for making New Year's resolutions as well but that is mainly to reflect upon the past year and make sacrifices for self-improvement.

Because of a dismal success rate of New Year's resolutions, I don't wait for the New Year to make a commitment to change or achieve a goal. I believe if one truly wants to change something, one needs to start now. Waiting for the New Year is just an excuse to postpone taking action.

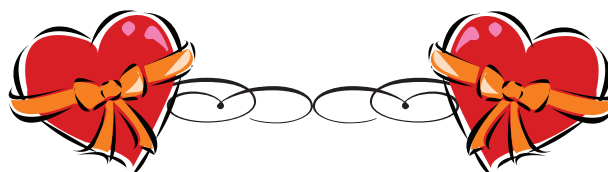
That said, this year I am going to break my own rule and make a resolution at the beginning of the year. My number 1 goal for the coming year is to think less about the dreadful changes happening to the medical profession. Last year, we tried to get rid of the SGR -- it is still here, the Affordable Care Act got passed and survived the courts, despite decreasing reimbursement we have to implement EHR in our offices and, on top of all this, mid-level health care providers and para-medical professionals are on a crusade to set up their own shops increasing the competition in the face of an ever smaller pie of health care dollars.

Often when I think of the last year or the coming changes they take me away from the present. I want to move on (or "beyond"?) from the things that could have been and are not -- especially the ones which are beyond my control. I have a tendency to beat myself when I fail to achieve a goal or am unable to accomplish a task, but this year I am going to try not to do that. I will accept the fact that health care is changing and we are not in control of the change. Lack of control is one reason for depression and I will try to get the control back by letting it go. I believe it is much better for me to look at the circumstances objectively and move on to things where I can make a difference and which are more important in life. Too much worrying about the future has been detrimental to my enjoyment of the present day. I want to live today and not be depressed about the things I cannot control.

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I am not saying that one should stop caring and hide in a corner. I will still worry about the future of our profession but I will do this in isolation and not let it diminish my enjoyment for today. I will develop a healthy balance between planning for the future and my present day life. I will continue to take part in the discussions at the Society, FMA and AMA meetings but I will not take the worries with me.

To achieve a balance in my personal and professional life I plan to develop activities which are not directly related to my work. I intend to spend time on where I am headed in my personal and professional life in this changed environment and where my efforts can make a difference. Moreover, I will limit my thinking about the future to a limited period of time and after that I will move on to things which make my day pleasurable. I also intend to take a media fast on a regular basis may be once a month for a day when I will avoid thinking, reading, looking at email, Facebook or even avoiding NPR and pay more attention to my feelings about life in general and family in particular. I am hoping that this resolution will make me a happier, less cynical and a more fulfilled person in life providing me with an opportunity to better deal with life's uncertainties.



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MED STATS

Florida Board of Medicine Announces New Chair & Vice-Chair and Launches New Interactive Website

Zachariah P. Zachariah, M.D. Chair,
and James Orr, M.D., Vice-Chair

The Florida Board of Medicine announces the launch of a new interactive website to improve communication with those we serve. The new site serves to inform applicants, licensees, and the public about the Board's role and activities in protecting the health of the people of Florida by regulating the practice of medicine.

The website design allows for easier navigation and access to information. Information for the following Board of Medicine-related professions are now included in one website: Medical Doctors, Physician Assistants, Anesthesiologist Assistants, Office Surgery Registration and Inspection Program and the Pain Management Clinic Registration and Inspection Program. Furthermore, the information is grouped into the following helpful categories:

- Licensing
- Renewal
- Resources
- Meetings
- The Board
- Complaints

A search function has been implemented to bring users the information they need faster and more efficiently. Interested parties can now sign up for the new and improved notification system to receive updates from the Board as soon as they are posted to the website. The Mailman System will be disabled on January 18, 2013, so be sure to go and sign up today.

For more information, please visit the new site at www.FLBoardofMedicine.gov. Also find the Board of Medicine on its newly created Twitter account - @FLBoardofMED.

Bulletin Photo Cover

Physicians, We are looking for scenic, or wildlife photos for our Bulletin cover. If you like to take pictures and have photos that you would like to have reviewed by our editors for publication in your LCMS Bulletin, give the office a call at 936-1645 for more information.

Planning to retire soon?

You can stay informed, keep in touch with your peers, and continue using your DocBookMD phone application *that is exclusive to members only*, by remaining a member of your local medical association. Dues are reduced to \$50 for our retired members. This monetary amount covers your monthly Bulletin, cost of mailings, and other forms of communication. Retired members will be required to pay the \$25 fee to attend dinner meetings of their choice. Our social events are open to retired members and you will be notified of such occasions.

Delinquent Overpayments Targeted

By: AAPS news


If CMS overpayments are not returned within 120 days, the Treasury Dept. will take collection action, including liens on the provider's bank accounts and assets, such as his practice and his home. His NPI will be flagged and barred from receiving further CMS payments. A practice that hires a provider who is delinquent in returning overpayments could find itself liable in a False Claims Act case. If you don't have new hires sign a document in which they state they are not aware of any compliance issues, you are complicit in their fraudulent billing (MPCA 10/29/12). To read full article, please visit:

http://www.aapsonline.org/index.php/article/aaps_news_december_2012_-_is_obamacare_here_to_stay/

Medicare cost \$555 billion in 2012, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

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LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY HONORS FOUR PHYSICIANS FOR THEIR DEDICATION TO MEDICINE

The Lee County Medical Society has honored four Lee County Physicians for their outstanding contributions to medicine at the Third Annual Medical Service Awards. The ceremony was held on Friday, January 18, 2013 at the Royal Palm Yacht Club.



K. C. Deva Caanthan, M.D.
was presented with The Award for
Citizenship & Community Service.



James H. Fuller, M.D.
was presented with The Lifetime Achievement Award.



**Kelly Creswell, NBC-2
& Dr. Craig Sweet**



William Liu, M.D.
was presented with The Award for Health Education.



Michelle Waddle, BS, RNC-NIC
was presented with The Non-Physician Award of Appreciation.



Aaron A. Wohl, M.D.
was presented with The Leadership & Professionalism Award.



Robert A. Simpson, CEO, LeeSar
was presented with The Distinguished Layperson's Service Award.



**Sandra Wharton, System Director, Medical
Staff Services, Lee Memorial Health System**
was honored for her 40 years of dedicated service to
physicians and the medical profession of Lee County.



Lee County Medical Society Life Members
with over 35 years of membership are: David Gaar, M.D.,
Marvin Porter, M.D. and Seth Schurman, M.D.

LCMS CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 8-10 FMAPAC & FMA Board of Governors Meeting**
University Hilton Conference Center
Gainesville, FL
- 9 Everblades Hockey Game**
7:00 PM
- 11-13 National Advocacy Conference**
Grand Hyatt Washington
Washington, DC
- 19 LCMS Board of Governors Meeting**



APRIL

- 16 LCMS Board of Governors Meeting**

JUNE

- 15-19 AMA Annual Meeting**
Hyatt Regency Chicago
Chicago, IL
- 18 LCMS Board of Governors Meeting**

MARCH

- 9 Red Sox Ballgame**
7PM
- 19 LCMS Board of Governors Meeting**
- 21 LCMS General Membership Meeting (Cancelled)**

MAY

- 16 LCMS General Membership Meeting**
- 17-19 FMA Spring Board of Governors & Council Days**
Hilton Bonnet Creek
Orlando, FL
- 21 LCMS Board of Governors Meeting**

JULY

- 26-28 FMA Annual Meeting**
Hilton Bonnet Creek
Orlando, FL

Thomas P. Clark Board Certified in Health and Tax Law
Robert S. Forman LL.M. Taxation Concentrates in 401K and ERISA
Erin E. Houck-Toll Board Certified in Tax Law

Bruce M. Stanley Sr. Board Certified Civil Trial Lawyer
Guy E. Whitesman Board Certified in Tax Law

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