

March 2015

2015 Meetings & Events

AN EVENING WITH ANN MARCH 19, 2015

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Please Join us in Wishing
Ann a Happy Retirement

Gulf Harbour Yacht & Country Club
14500 Vista River Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33908
RSVP Required

RSVP to: Lee County Medical Society
13770 Plantation Road, Ste 1
Fort Myers, FL 33912
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Email: Valerie@lcmsfl.org

Inserts:

Ann's Retirement Party
Florida Health - Measles Outbreak
c.a.r.e. 7th Annual Golf -
Swings Against Cancer
Doctor's Day Invitation

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Photo by: Ed Guttery, M.D.

Whitewater Falls is the highest waterfall east of the Rockies, falling 811 feet! The Upper Falls plummets 411 feet and is 60 miles from downtown Asheville in the Nantahala National Forest. It's on the Whitewater River in the Jocassee Gorge area of North Carolina. The 400-foot Lower Falls can be accessed from a different location in South Carolina.



LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
BULLETIN

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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

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RESIGNED

Robert Antonio, MD

NEW APPLICANTS



Scott R. Caesar, MD – Dr. Caesar received his MD degree from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA in 2009. He completed an internship from 2009-2010 and residency from 2010-2014 at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA. Dr. Caesar is in group practice with Gulfstream Urology, 8931 Colonial Center Drive, Ste 100, Fort Myers, FL 33905
Tel: 239-277-5770.



Douglas S. Lee, MD – Dr. Lee received his MD degree from UMDNJ, New Jersey Medical School, Newark, NJ in 1999. He completed his training at Mount Sinai Medical Center, New York, NY and North Shore University Hospital, Manhasset, NY from 1999-2003. He is board certified in Emergency Medicine by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Lee is in group practice with Lee Memorial Emergency Physicians, 2776 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901 Tel: 239-343-2606.



Jeremy D. Ingram, DO – Dr. Ingram received his DO degree from Nova Southeastern University College of Medicine, Fort Lauderdale, FL in 2007. He completed his training at the University of Florida, Jacksonville, FL from 2007-2010. He is board certified in Emergency Medicine by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Ingram is in group practice with Lee Memorial Emergency Physicians, 2776 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33901 Tel: 239-343-2606.

SUMMARY OF VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES IN LEE COUNTY, 2015

*Jennifer Roth, MSPH, Biological Administrator, Department of Epidemiology,
Florida Department of Health – Lee County*

1 case of pertussis reported in Lee County in a fully immunized 15 year old.

3 chickenpox cases reported in Lee County, all in children under 12 years old with at least 1 dose of varicella vaccine.

Influenza has been decreasing in Lee County in 2015. It appears as if flu season began earlier in autumn 2014 and peaked in December. Current estimates show that the seasonal flu vaccine is approximately 23% efficacious this year. 3 pediatric deaths from influenza have been reported in Florida this season, none were in Lee County.

5 cases of measles have been identified in travelers to Florida, but no cases have been confirmed in Florida residents. Contact tracing investigations have taken place to alert anyone who may have been exposed. So far in 2015, 102 cases of measles have currently been diagnosed in the United States, most of which are linked to an outbreak involving Disneyland in California.

Summary of Ebola in West Africa

22,487 total cases since outbreak started in early 2014, with 8,979 deaths. The current countries affected are Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. No cases in Florida. Any person traveling from those areas to Florida is screened and temperature checks are conducted twice daily through active, direct monitoring.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Andrew Oakes-Lottridge, M.D.

Expansion of Scope-of-Practice Doesn't Have to be a Four-Letter Word

By the time this goes to press, the Florida's Teaching Hospitals will have already announced the findings from a study highlighting the physician specialist shortages in Florida, and I must admit that as I write this I have not yet seen the study, yet there are some basic facts that will surely be in it... and certainly this won't be news to any of us. More than 85% of physicians currently in the state of Florida are over 40, including me. Florida ranks 42nd of the 50 states in the number of general medical education positions per 100,000 people and only 19 resident physicians per 100,000 people. Florida needs an additional 3,352 residency positions to meet the national average ratio of residents per population. This is all according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

As I wait with everyone else to see the results of this new study, I guess I want to share some thoughts. One is that this isn't news to any of us, as we've seen lots of information in the literature over the last several years about the increasing shortage of physicians. It takes money to train doctors, money that's even harder to come by in the recent economic environment. Two, more specifically as a primary care physician; we certainly have seen this shortage coming a long way out. However, we should read this study the same way we read any other study, with a critical eye to who commissioned it, any potential bias in its findings, and how applicable it really is to each of us.

No doubt the study will highlight the very real looming shortage of physicians in the state, both primary care and subspecialty. We have taken very real steps in our own County in our strong support for Lee Memorial Health System's collaboration with FSU (go Noles!) in their development of the FSU family medicine residency program, knowing that graduating residents are more likely to remain in the same area for their careers. However we can't ignore and simply continue to fight our battles against any and all expansions of scope-of-practice. Non-physician health practitioners already play a vital role and are potentially underutilized in many areas.

I fear that the Florida Medical Association, including our own medical society, is already losing the fight against the expansion of scope of practice. Even more importantly, rather than viewing it as a fight, we should be viewing it as an opportunity. Anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists figured things out years ago. In primary care we have long worked side-by-side with physician assistants and nurse practitioners to our mutual benefit and the benefit of our patients. Many states already allow physician extenders to prescribe schedule II and III medications (not Florida). I certainly would not suggest that an optometrist should be doing retinal surgery, but there is certainly a very large gray area within which non-physician healthcare providers can play an important role...in ALL SPECIALTIES.

One huge point in expanding scope-of-practice is that non-physician providers cost a lot less to train and hire. It would be nice if we could train as many doctors as we need, but as our healthcare dollars become increasingly tight, we have to be open to alternatives. We can't let perfect be the enemy of good. I have worked alongside nurse practitioners and physician assistants, both in the civilian and military worlds, in whom I would place my life.

We need to realize that if we don't get involved in the discussion in a more collaborative way then we will simply be left at the wayside and lose our position at the table. Likewise, if we come to the table too late, we may find no one wants to listen to us either way. To ignore expansion of scope-of-practice in addressing the looming physician shortage in our state would be not only foolhardy but also unconscionable.



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.



DONATIONS NEEDED TO SEND CHILDREN TO DIABETES CAMP THIS YEAR!

November 4, 1982, Jerome P. McCourt, M. D., his wife, Donna and their four children were returning from a visit to Orlando when their plane crashed near Arcadia, FL. Dr. McCourt was the first endocrinologist in Lee County. A scholarship was set-up in his family's name by the Lee County Medical Society Members to send children and youth with diabetes to camp to learn how to live a normal life with this disease.

This camp helps these young people to adjust to this disease by providing a fun camping experience in a medically supervised environment. They learn diabetes management and receive important psychological support from professionals and especially from their peers. They come away from camp having established a large support system; they learn along with others with the same disease and they now have confidence that they can accomplish any goal to which they set their minds to.

The McCourt Scholarship Fund, in honor of the McCourt Family, is pleased to be a part of this life changing experience for our youth.

Donations are down for this year and we would like to encourage you as physician members to take a moment and contribute to a child's opportunity to attend a camp to help them cope with their life long journey of Diabetes.

Contributions can be made by check or credit card: Fax: 239-936-0533, E-mail: valerie@lcmsfl.org or by mail to: Lee County Medical Society, 13770 Plantation Road, Suite 1, Fort Myers, FL 33912.

THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ON TRIAL AGAIN IN KING V. BURWELL

By: Jackie Bain Florida Healthcare Law Firm

The Affordable Care Act is heading back to the Supreme Court this Spring. The issue presented to the Supreme Court on this occasion is whether the IRS is authorized promulgate regulations to extend tax credit subsidies for coverage purchased through Federal Government's Health Care Exchange.

The Affordable Care Act allows individuals who purchased health coverage through State-established Health Care Exchanges to subsidize a portion of that coverage through the form of refundable tax credits. The United States treasury directly pays each eligible taxpayer to offset the cost of the taxpayer's insurance premium. However, a majority of States (including Florida) have elected not to establish their own Health Care Exchanges. In order to provide coverage to persons in these States, the Federal Government set up its own Health Care Exchange marketplace.

The petitioners argue that, although the plain language of the statute limits the subsidies to only those persons who are able to purchase coverage through a State Exchange, the IRS enacted regulations that grant these subsidies to all Exchanges, including the Federal marketplace used by consumers in States that chose not to create their own Exchanges. The IRS reasoned that the Affordable Care Act was not intended to limit the subsidies to only those consumers in States that chose to establish their own Exchanges. Moreover, the Federal Government argues that the Federal Exchange is actually individual State Exchanges operated by HHS. The Government argues that each one is a state-specific marketplace—plans offering coverage on the Exchange in a particular State must be licensed by that State, and premiums for plans offered on the Exchange are based on rating areas and risk pools unique to the State. However, the petitioners argue that the IRS was not empowered to enact this regulation, and that there should be no subsidies in States that chose not to establish their own Exchanges.

The petitioners argue that employers are also affected by the IRS' decision to extend the subsidies to States that chose not to establish their own Exchanges. The Affordable Care Act assesses financial penalties on

large employers that do not sponsor health insurance coverage to full-time employees. However, the payment is only triggered if at one or more employees enroll in Government-subsidized individual coverage. In a State that chose not to establish an Exchange, the petitioners argue that the plain language of the Act would not allow for an individual to enroll in Government-subsidized individual coverage. Thus, an employer who did not sponsor health insurance would not be subject to a penalty.

In their Petition for a Writ of Certiorari, the individuals challenging the Affordable Care Act assert that the petitioners assert that more clarity is required, because at present "millions of people have no idea if they may rely on the IRS's promise to subsidize their health coverage, or if that money will be clawed back. Employers in 36 States have no idea if they will be penalized under the ACA's employer mandate, or are effectively exempt from it. Insurers have no idea if their customers will pay for health coverage in which they enrolled, or if large numbers will default."

Oral arguments are set before the Supreme Court on March 4, 2015, and a decision will likely be published in June.

Ms. Bain is a healthcare attorney with the Florida Healthcare Law Firm. She is licensed exclusively in New York and has specific experience with compliance and negotiating and analyzing healthcare contracts. She can be reached via email at Jackie@FloridaHealthcareLawFirm.com or by calling 888-455-7702.

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THE RAMIREZ REPORT, FEBRUARY 2015

By: Julie Ramirez, LCMS Executive Director

As the new Executive Director, I had the pleasure of accompanying Ann Wilke to the Florida Medical Association's Board of Governor Meeting in Palm Beach Gardens, FL. This meeting was held at the PGA National Resort and Spa February 6-8. This conference gave me the opportunity to learn more about the FMA and the people that are in the State of Florida working hard for the good of our physicians.

The first meeting on the agenda was with the Council of Florida Medical Society Executives. This meeting was geared to gathering all of the county medical society execs, like myself, to come up with ideas to better serve our physicians. The State of Florida has 54 members and 10 of us attended the meeting. At the end of this meeting, Ann was presented with a cake and some mementos of her years of service with the CFMSE. Later that night we were privileged to be able to attend dinner at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Alan Pillersdorf, the 2015 FMA President. We are very thankful to Dr. Pillersdorf and his lovely wife for the delicious food and good company.

Having come from a clinical background, the issues presented at the Saturday and Sunday Board of Governor's meetings greatly intrigued me. There were many topics touched on, but I will only mention a few here. It is helpful to be reminded that people, including physicians and medical personnel, thrive on affirmation and praise. To have a good team, everyone needs to be respectful and happy. Happiness as a physician is being threatened by physician burnout. The issues addressed in regards to physician burnout were that there were too many bureaucratic tasks, too many hours, too little income and too much computerization. One final topic that was interesting to me was the law in 2009 that cracked down on pill mills. Before this law was enacted, Florida was known as the home

of the oxycodone express. The law has cut out the pill mills and deaths from overdoses have plummeted. But this change has brought on a new problem. Patients who are legitimately in need of narcotics are having their prescriptions declined to be filled by local pharmacies. This is mostly due two reasons: pharmacies only have a certain allotment to hand out per month and the fear of being so heavily fined keeps them leery of filling prescriptions of such a heavy dosage. A few deaths have occurred with patients that could not handle the severe withdrawal symptoms. It was mentioned that should you have a patient or a physician on a patient's behalf, has problems with not having a legitimate prescription filled, they should contact the Florida Board of Pharmacy with the Department of Health. Their contact info is : Phone 850-245-4339 Fax 850-488-0796 Email: MQA.ConsumerServices@flhealth.gov Mailing Address: Department of Health, 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin C75, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3260



Ann Wilke, Retired LCMS Executive Director and Jeanne Torbett, CMP.

To complete the conference, a surprise award and standing ovation was given to Ann Wilke by Dr. Alan Pillersdorf, FMA President on behalf of the FMA and their appreciation of her 40 years of service.



Alan Pillersdorf, M.D., Florida Medical Association President and Julie Ramirez, LCMS Executive Director

FLORIDA ABOVE AVERAGE ON VACCINATIONS

The News-Press, February 8, 2015

While presidential candidates bicker over whether vaccines should be mandatory, Floridians have done a good job immunizing their kids.

About 93.4 percent of pre-school children in the Sunshine State have received the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine, according to an analysis released this week by the Trust for America's Health. That places Florida 14th nationally. New Hampshire leads the nation at 96.3 percent while West Virginia comes in last at 86 percent.

The debate has been fueled by recent statements from two likely GOP presidential nominees – New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul – who said parents should have discretion over whether to have their kids inoculated.

HAPP STORIES ABOUT OUR MEDICAL COMMUNITY

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HAPP Story: (Circle one)

Doctor

Nurse

Staff

Office

Other

Lee County Medical Society HAPP Program: 13770 Plantation Road, Suite 1 Fort Myers, FL 33912 - Tel: 239-936-1645 www.happstories.org

Your 2015 Lee County Legislators & Representatives

Florida Legislative session begins March 3, 2015 and ends May 1, 2015

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LT. GOVERNOR

LT. GOV. CARLOS LOPEZ-CANTERA
The Capitol
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 JAMES RUBENSTEIN, MD 949-3130 949-8580

HOW TO BECOME A KEY CONTACT

A Key Contact is a physician or an Alliance member who agrees to represent physicians and patients to our local representatives. They are encouraged to get to know our representatives and to keep them and their staff informed of issues that are affecting medicine.

As a Key Contact you are also a member of the Lee County Medical Society Legislative Committee. Key Contacts are invited to all Legislative Committee meetings and to meet with Senators and Representatives to discuss important issues to our Medical Community. They also are involved in campaign fundraising to support candidates friendly to medicine. The Lee County Medical Society feels that this is a very important way for the Medical Society to influence legislative decisions that affect physicians and their practices.

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:
- 3.

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 stationery, 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
6. 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.



SARPA - (SENIOR AND RETIRED PHYSICIANS ASSOCIATION)

By: Ronald Clearfield, M.D.

The Senior and Retired Physicians Association of Lee County came into being in 1997 with eighteen charter members. It has since expanded by word of mouth recruiting to about seventy five. Originally intended as an unofficial arm of the Lee County Medical Society, SARPA's membership voted to be independent in order to keep the costs down. Nevertheless, we have retained close ties to the Society with a presence at times on its Legislative Committee and an open invitation for SARPA members to attend all regular LCMS meetings for the cost of the meal.

SARPA is fundamentally a social organization. Physician, dentist, and medical scientist members and their spouses gather monthly (November-April) to meet new friends and get reacquainted with old ones. Meetings are primarily held at the Forest Country Club and feature excellent meals and programs of general interest. As a rule, technical medical subjects are not included in our programs. Past subjects have included medical updates by James Nathan, CEO of Lee Memorial Health System and an Honorary Member of our organization; an address by the President of Florida Gulf Coast University; talks by local authors, such as Robert Macomber; talks by the former head of Desilu Studios, a maritime historian, a local archeologist; tours of Children's Hospital; and evenings on the dinner theatre train and at the Royal Palm Dinner theatre. Our Program Committee is currently planning interesting programs for next season. Members are notified as these are confirmed. Our average meeting attendance ranges from approximately fifty to eighty persons.

While our mission is predominately social, over the years we have had Public Affairs and Outreach Committees which have been active in the community. We have co-sponsored a health fair in Bonita Springs and established a program for volunteer members to provide assistance to case managers and administrators at LMHS hospitals. SARPA has also been active in working to allow physicians with active out-of-state licenses to volunteer their services pro-bono for the medically disadvantaged in Lee County. Several members' spouses volunteer regularly at Health Park, and all of us are emissaries for Lee Memorial Health Systems, which has generously sponsored SARPA from its beginning.

Membership dues are \$40.00 per year. Doctors and their spouses are both considered full members with payment of single dues per household. We "pay as we go" for our meal functions and meetings. A spouse who becomes widowed remains a full member without paying dues.

We Appreciate Your Referrals!



From left: Kate Wagner, O.D.;
E. Trevor Elmquist, D.O.; Nina Burt, O.D.

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VERITY PROVIDES FREE HEALTH SERVICES FOR WOMEN

By: Becky Anderson, Verity Executive Director

Verity Pregnancy and Medical Resource Center is a Lee County non-profit (501(c)(3) medical clinic providing free services to those facing an unplanned pregnancy. Services include pregnancy testing, limited early ultrasound, options counseling and education on pregnancy and sexual health. Childbirth, parenting and life skills classes are also offered free of charge. These services remove some of the financial and tax burden that government programs require of its citizens.

Under the direction of our medical director, Dr. A. Richard Pescitelli, our Nurse Manager, Yvette Vargas oversees the care provided to our clients. Yvette received extensive training in limited OB ultrasound and has obstetric experience. Other medical advisors include a board member who is a retired OB/GYN and the Executive Director who is a registered nurse with obstetric and NICU clinical experience.

All care provided is in compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Policies are in place to protect the client and assure that care delivered is within acceptable standards of care. Verity operates under HIPAA to protect privacy and assure accurate, adequate keeping of medical records. We work with local clinics and providers to share records when the client has provided written permission to do so.

Verity is located centrally in Lee County off Daniels Parkway, on a bus route, making access feasible for those with transportation challenges. Our address is 8890 Salrose Lane, Suite 104, Fort Myers, 33912.

Verity receives most of its support from donations made by individuals, churches and businesses. Program sponsorships are also available. Donations made to Verity are tax deductible. If you are or know of someone who may be interested in learning more about supporting Verity, contact our Executive Director, Becky Anderson for more information. She can be reached by telephone at (239) 433-1929 or email at becky@veritypmc.com.

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CURRENT RESIDENT PHYSICIANS INVOLVED IN RECRUITING NEXT ROUND OF RESIDENT PHYSICIANS

By: Elizabeth Midney-Martinez, M.D., Resident Physician, LMHS Medical Residency Program

It's that exciting time of year again for all 4th year medical students and residency programs around the country. They are anxiously awaiting phone calls for residency interviews, scheduling flights around the country, submitting USMLE test scores, writing heart felt personal statements and ultimately, attending interviews for highly desired residency positions in various different specialties.

Last year I went through these exact things, and the emotional rollercoaster that accompanies it. I attended Ross University, and I did all of my medical rotations at St. Joseph Mercy Oakland Hospital in Pontiac, Michigan. This year I wasn't the applicant, but I worked with all of the other Lee Memorial FSU residents to assist with recruitment of our next new class. As interns this year, we were very involved in the recruitment process from reviewing applications to taking candidates out to dinner, giving tours of the different hospitals, and keeping in contact with them throughout the whole match process. It was an extremely busy time for everyone, but it was also quite fulfilling. It's only been a year since I was in their shoes, but it feels like it was just yesterday.

I grew up in Immokalee, FL which definitely has its strong points. However, it also has its weaknesses. I was the first one trying to pave the road in doing something that no one had done before me. None of my friends or family had ever gone to medical school, much less residency, so it was hard to know where and how to submit applications, write personal statements, etc. I've only been an intern with Lee Memorial for approximately 6 months, so the whole "match process" is still fresh for me.

From October through January our FSU clinic upstairs is buzzing with new faces, hospital tours, and friendly conversation during lunch and

dinner interviews with candidates. Once January and February roll around, things start to settle down a bit as the residency trail comes to an end. Our program had over 1,500 applications for only 6 residency positions, but after lots of diligence and hard work we were able to pick 12 of the very best applicants to come back for a second look.

This past weekend, we had something called Welcome Back Weekend, which is where we invited our top candidates to come back for a fun weekend of getting to do fun and educational activities. We set up educational stations in our Family Medicine Clinic where candidates could rotate through and learn how to place IUD's, insert central lines on a simulator, learn some osteopathic manipulation techniques, and work with our psychologist on relaxation techniques. We also had a day of outdoor activities which included canoeing up the Estero River. It really helped everyone get acquainted, and paints a better picture of each candidate as a person and how well they get along with the other residents.

This weekend was fun, but it happens only once every year. I'm glad to say that the whole process is almost over. For now, the hard work is done. Now we are tweaking our rank order list, which is where we list our most desirable candidates in the order in which we wish to match them. The countdown has started for March 20th, which is the celebrated and notorious "Match Day". We are all extremely excited about our future intern class and are thrilled about the wonderful candidates that we have to choose from. FSU and Lee Memorial are really changing the scene and taking our hospital to a higher level of care, and I am proud to be a part of it! I look forward to being a leader for our new intern class, and hope that they will be proud as I am to work for Lee Memorial Hospital.



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BCHC is Seeking a Florida Licensed Physician

Bonita Community Health Center is seeking a Florida licensed physician with emergency room and/or primary care, and pediatric experience for its Urgent Care Clinic. The position is classified as full time, 32 hours per week, with full benefits including medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401k with employer match, and a generous paid time off plan. Schedule can be flexible, with day shifts and no on-call requirements. The clinic is open Monday through Friday from 7a-7p and Sat/Sun 8a-4p. Bonita Community Health Center is owned in partnership with Lee Memorial Health System and Naples Community Hospital.

Interested physicians may forward CV to Larisa Zadorecky, Director of Physician and Employee Relations at lz@bchcfl.com. For general information, see the website at www.BCHCFL.com.

THE FLORIDA HOUSE HAS PROPOSED A MASSIVE SCOPE OF PRACTICE EXPANSION BILL AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Oppose Scope of Practice Expansion – CS/CS/HB 7113

- CS/CS/HB 7113 rolls several harmful provisions into one bill.
- **ARNP Independent Practice.** This legislation would expand the scope of practice for advanced practice nurses by allowing them to diagnose and treat virtually any medical condition, without any physician oversight. ARNPs are an important part of the medical team, but allowing them to practice without any physician supervision is unjustified and would pose serious dangers for Floridians seeking health care.

- **Controlled Substance Prescribing.** This legislation will allow ARNPs to administer, dispense, and prescribe medicinal drugs INCLUDING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES & NARCOTICS. Since 2011, the Legislature has made great strides in combating the pill mill epidemic related to abuse and over-dispensing of narcotics. The proposed legislation would allow approximately 10,000 additional people statewide the authority to prescribe narcotics. This vast expanse in access to narcotics would potentially undo the progress the Legislature has made in fixing the narcotic abuse epidemic.

- **Telemedicine.** This legislation would allow physicians and numerous other health care practitioners to practice telemedicine/telehealth in Florida without having to obtain a Florida license. Telemedicine can be employed effectively in Florida, but there is no reason to remove the protection for Florida patients that licensure brings.

Please contact your legislators via phone and e-mail by clicking on

the links below and let them know that this bill is dangerous for their constituents; your patients.

Tell them there is no evidence that such a broad based expansion will reduce costs to the healthcare system. Let them know that nurses play an important role in your practice; however allowing them to practice independently is unnecessary and unsafe.

Representative Heather Fitzenhagen – State House District 78

District Office: 2120 Main Street, Suite 208, Fort Myers, FL 33901 239-533-2440

Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto – State Senate District 30

1926 Victoria Avenue, 2nd Floor, Fort Myers, FL 33901 239-338-2570

Representative Dane Eagle – Florida House of Representatives District 77

1039 Southeast 9th Place, Ste 310, Cape Coral, FL 33990 239-772-1291

Representative Matt Caldwell – Florida House of Representatives District 79

15191 Homestead Road, Bldg A, Lehigh Acres, FL 33971 239-694-0161

Representative Ray Rodrigues – Florida House of Representatives District 76

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For more information please visit the Florida Medical Association website below:

http://www.flmedical.org/Stop_7113.aspx



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Roy Spencer Giles, M.D.

12/11/1928 – 2/19/2015

Roy Spencer Giles, M.D. of Fort Myers, Florida passed away peacefully on Thursday, February 19, 2015 following a recent illness. He was 86 years old.

Dr. Giles was born on December 11, 1928 in Fort Myers, Florida, the proud son of Maud Ann (Spencer) and Robert W. Giles Sr.

A Memorial Gathering for Dr. Giles will be held from 10:00 - 11:00 AM on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 in the chapel at Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home, 1589 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, Florida 33907, (239) 936-0555. A Memorial Service will immediately follow at 11:00 AM also in the funeral home chapel.

In a private ceremony, Dr. Giles will be laid to rest with his beloved late wife, Judy, in the Sylvan Terrace Section of Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Those who wish to offer a tribute, leave condolences or share a story should visit his memorial webpage at www.fortmyersmemorial.com and sign the guestbook.

To send flowers or a memorial gift to the family of Roy Spencer Giles M.D. Please visit www.fortmyersmemorial.com.

The Lee County Medical Society expresses our deepest sympathy to his family and friends. Dr. Giles was a member of the Medical Society since 1960

February 19, 2015

Lee County Medical Society

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