

Bulletin

Editor: John W. Snead, M.D.

September 2019 • Volume 43 Issue 7



LEE COUNTY
**MEDICAL
SOCIETY** INC.

Physicians Caring for our Community

BILODEAU



Bulletin

13370 Plantation Road, Ste. 1
Fort Myers FL 33912

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

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Lee County Medical Society Mission Statement

The mission of Lee County Medical Society is to advocate for physicians and their relationships with patients; promote public health and uphold the professionalism of the practice of medicine.

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Inserts: **Miromar Development Leasing**
Royal Shell, Patti Testa, Realtor



Correction: **July Cover photo** - Dr. Guttery learned from Falconer Jerry Higby that last month's cover was miss identified by me as a Coopers Hawk but is actually a juvenile Red Shouldered Hawk.

Umbrella Alley, Quebec
City, Canada was taken
by Jon Burdzy, D.O.



Events RSVP online at www.lcmsfl.org



Friday, September 13, 2019

LCMS Cocktail Hour

6 pm - 7:30 pm

Bahama Breeze



Friday, September 20, 2019

Annual Medical Service and We Care Awards

Silent Auction - Cocktails 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Awards & Dinner 7:45 pm - 9 pm

Dessert Bar to Follow

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa



Friday, October 11, 2019

LCMS Cocktail Hour

6 pm - 7:30 pm

Cape Coral Ford's Garage



October, 24 2019

LCMS Men's Physician Event

Millennial Brewery 6:30 pm

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

NEW APPLICANTS

ERIN BARTH, DO

Gastroenterology
Associates in Digestive Health
13051 University Dr. Ste 101, Fort Myers, FL 33907
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708 Del Prado Blvd., Ste 6
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4513 Executive Dr., Naples, FL 34119
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Cape Coral, FL 33991
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SOURAB DHUNGEL, MD

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Associates in Nephrology
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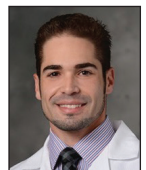
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Board Certified: Ophthalmology



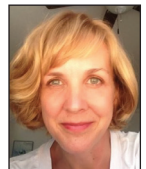
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Cont'd on page 4

Membership Activity

Cont'd from page 3

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Board Certified: Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine



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Board Certified: Emergency Medicine



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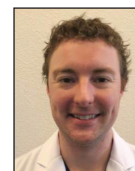
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Cont'd from page 4

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Board Eligible



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Board Certified: Obstetrics and Gynecology



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8710 College Parkway
Fort Myers, FL 33919
Tel: 239-482-8788 Fax: 239-482-6019
Board Eligible



LAURA VERSA MENA, MD

LPG Allergy & Immunology
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Bonita Springs, FL 34135
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Board Certified: Emergency Medicine



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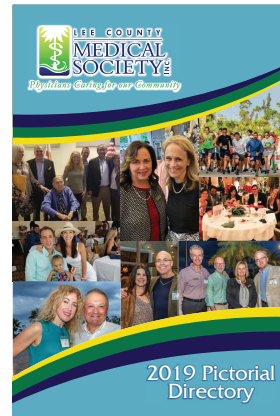
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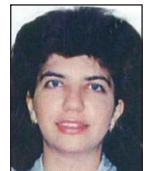
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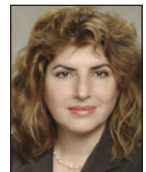
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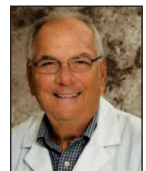


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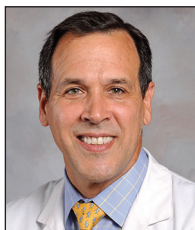


STEPHEN R. ZELLNER MD (RETIRED)



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BY DANIEL DE LA TORRE M.D.



Be Heard

I had the privilege of spending my day off last Saturday in a room full of doctors arguing policy. No, really. Last Saturday was the annual lower west coast caucus, a meeting of the Southwest Florida County medical

Societies to debate policy positions ahead of the annual Florida Medical Association (FMA) meeting in Orlando. Every year, each of Florida's 67 medical societies, as well as a number of specialty societies and doctors in training, send delegations of their members to the annual FMA meeting to hash out their priorities for the FMA to pursue. Any county medical society member may submit a resolution for consideration.

The medical societies are further organized into regional groups, or "caucuses". Each caucus has its own regional flavor (spoiler alert: southwest Florida leans decidedly conservative). The caucus meets prior to the general delegates meeting to review all proposed resolutions, and to decide if the caucus will support that resolution. The resolutions are often seemingly straightforward, but on further discussion prove to be technically complex, legally unfeasible, or even potentially harmful. Some

examples of what was discussed:

Should there be statutory limits on restrictive covenants?

Should maintenance of certification be a prerequisite for employment or medical staff privileges?

Should youth sports trainers be required to have training in traumatic head injury and heat stroke?

Should high school curriculums be required to include BLS training?

Should the "doctors portion" of vehicle collision insurance be preserved in future state insurance requirements (currently, \$5000 of vehicle collision insurance is restricted to payment of physicians)?

Should medical staff executive committees be required to include at least 50% "independent" physicians?

There are always a handful of highly controversial and political resolutions presented for discussion; usually regarding social issues of the day. For example:

Should the FMA support Medicare for all?

Should we push for a Florida ban on "assault weapons"?

Should the FMA support legislative and educational initiatives in regards to "climate change"?

Should doctors be allowed discretion in how to address gender preference with their patients?

As would be expected, this makes for a raucous and wide ranging discussion at the annual delegate's meeting. Regardless of my opinion, I always enjoy debating the many facets of these issues, and invariably come away with a new understanding of what goes into the decision-making process.

The most significant issue to be addressed this year involves the never-ending battle against scope of practice expansion. Senate bill 972 (SB 972) was introduced in the Florida Senate 2/13/19. This would allow "...qualified advanced practice registered nurses to admit, manage care for, and discharge certain patients..."; providing services "otherwise required to be provided by a physician". This measure, ostensibly to reduce healthcare costs, is financially supported by numerous nursing, insurance, and hospital organizations. It presents the most serious challenge to physician-lead healthcare in many years and would affect almost every physician. Even specialists should think twice: this is a slippery slope. It currently has the support of the Florida Senate leadership and is square in the crosshairs of FMA's legislative agenda this year.

Although we can (and should) debate the merits of these many and varied resolutions, the point is not to remain on the sidelines. Regardless of your position and the many intricacies of healthcare, I would urge you to get involved. If not with your time, consider supporting the Florida medical Association financially. While you may not agree with every policy they espouse, supporting the best care for our patients is what we are here for.

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RAMIREZ REPORT

By JULIE RAMIREZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Lower West Coast Caucus Attendees.



Dr. Dan de la Torre, Reference Committee



Dr. Jon Burdzy, Reference Committee #1

August 10-11, 2019 the Florida Medical Association (FMA) held its annual conference in Orlando. Lee County Medical Society had the privilege to take 14 of our members as delegates to this conference as representatives of Lee County. The following were the LCMS delegates who represented Lee County: Dr. Rebekah Bernard, Dr. Jon Burdzy, Dr. Scott Caesar, Dr. Stefanie Colavito, Dr. Elizabeth Cosmai, Dr. Dan de la Torre, Dr. Michael Katin, Dr. Ray Kordonowy, Dr. Andres Laufer, Dr. Rich Macchiaroli, Dr. Rick Palmon, Dr. Jim Rubenstein, Dr. Tracy Vo and Dr. Jaime Hall representing as part of the Residency Section.



2019 FMA President's Dinner: Gisela & Dr. Dan de la Torre, Betty & Dr. Jim Rubenstein, Dr. Rich Macchiaroli, Dr. Tracy Vo & Tim Lytton, Dr. Rick Palmon, Dr. Jon & Gwen Burdzy & Julie Ramirez.



Yay's vs No's for Resolution on non-compete.



Dr. Dan & Gisela de la Torre school colors, University of Illinois



Dr. Rick Palmon, Chair of Reference Committee #2



Lee County Section at House of Delegates.

MEDICINE CLAIMS THE LIFE OF A PHYSICIAN HEROINE

By Cory Michael, M.D.

JULY 28, 2019

Peg began internal medicine residency with altruistic goals. She didn't want to become a specialist or seek personal financial wealth. She just wanted to help people. With a prior career related to her degrees in art history and sculpture, she had a unique way of truly embracing medicine as an art. Rarely spotted without a smile on her face despite long training hours in the hospital, she eagerly embraced taking care of the most underprivileged patients in the hospital who were grateful for her kindness. A model of physical health, her dedication to proper personal nutrition was the sort of thing that most other physicians talk to their patients about but rarely practice at her level.

About half-way through her first year as an intern, members of her medical team recall how she would brighten the mood during rounds. A certain intern on her team slated to pursue training as a radiologist the following year joked with her that she was going to one day save the world one patient at a time through primary care. Always a fun-loving colleague, she liked to banter back about his obsessive-compulsive tendencies that included the quirky way he would match his tie color to that of his argyle socks.

Many years have since passed, and it occurs to me that Peg really did become a modern heroine poised to

save the world one patient at a time. In looking to the dictionary to examine the meaning of that term, I read "a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities." There are at least four reasons that Peg fit this description. First, she chose to practice primary care in an under-served area after finishing residency. Second, she bought into a private practice, thereby preserving physician ownership in an era when most doctors are forced to sell their labor to large companies or institutions. Third, she treated her own clinic patients in the hospital, thus becoming one of the last doctors to favor continuity of care over efficiency. Fourth, her practice included many Medicare patients, all of whom yielded lower reimbursement rates for her services.

As it turned out, the very things that made her a heroine coalesced to work against her. Forced with managing a practice with lesser financial resources, she wound up routinely working 16 to 20 hours each day seven days a week until she eventually had to close her practice. She was heartbroken.

Shortly thereafter, Peg took her own life. She had been in practice for less than six years. I guess some heroines just aren't meant to walk the earth.

As much as this is a great loss to her family, her patients, and the medical system, losing Peg is a loss to the world, a world that really could use a few more heroines out there. What makes this story particularly sad is that Peg did everything that our medical schools teach us to do, but modern American medicine simply no longer allows a doctor to build a practice based on altruism alone. Peg's heart was just too big to deal with this economic reality.

Doctors are being pushed harder and harder for similar or less pay. Many of us find ourselves negotiating for more time with our families rather than asking for more financial compensation to fight burnout and prolong our careers. We can't keep redefining our tolerable stress levels every year like this or else we will continue to experience losses like we did with Peg.

For those physicians who may have fallen desperate times, please talk to a friend, colleague, or medical professional. We can help you.

As I reached into my closet this morning, I picked out a green-striped tie and a pair of green argyle socks like I used to wear when I was an intern. For a moment, I was reminded of the warm smile of a true heroine who will live on in the memories of those who knew her. We will miss you, Peg.

Cory Michael is a radiologist and contributor for Kevinmd.com



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In Loving Memory



Mario A. Petrini
 Detroit - Mario A. Petrini M.D.
 March 27, 1927 to August 1, 2019

Highly esteemed physician and educator; cherished husband, father, and friend. Born in Detroit, Michigan; son of immigrants Olga Valiani and Enrico Petrini. Brother of Alma Petrini of Detroit and Rudolph Petrini (deceased). WWII Navy veteran.

Graduate of Detroit's Wayne State School of Medicine (1952). Trained in Obstetrics/Gynecology at Columbia University-New York Presbyterian Medical Center (NYC). Professor of OB/GYN and Psychiatry at Wayne State University and Professor of OB/GYN at University of Minnesota Medical School. Chief of Medical Staff, Board of Trustees, Methodist Hospital (MN); Associate Board Member Park Nicollet Clinic (MN); Best Teacher awards at both Wayne State and University of Minnesota. Physician of the Year, Earl Young, and Edward Lange awards (MN).

To him, most importantly: beloved husband of Sandra L. Nohre, PhD; adored father of V. Elisa, Mark (Deborah Jones), Odette, Matthew, John (Sarah Curtis) and Andrea Petrini and Liva Nohre (Kevin Kern) and Karl Nohre (Deborah Mitchell Nohre). Loving grandfather of Matthew David, Heaven, Henry, Lucas, Joseph and Ramona Petrini; Iris Zhong Tao McNally; Nicole Nohre; and Ashley Krinke.

Donations may be made in his name to Doctors Without Borders.

"Sandra when we meet again, I will sit you in the shade of a flowering plum tree; and as my father before me, I will serenade you with Italian songs, and tell you how beautiful you are and that I will Love you Forever!!"

Dr. Petrini was a member of the Lee County Medical Society since March 2005.

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