

## 2012 Meetings and Events

### LCMS General Meeting

**Friday, January 20, 2012**  
**Edison State College**  
 8099 College Parkway  
 Fort Myers, FL 33919  
 Community Room AA-177

### Installation of 2012 Officers

### Annual Medical Service Awards

### 2011 LCMS Life Members

**Note: Meeting is on Friday**

RSVP Medical Society Office  
 LCMS, 13770 Plantation Rd, Ste 1  
 Fort Myers, FL 33912  
 Tel: 936-1645 Fax: 936-0533

### Inserts

*January Meeting Notice*  
*U First Surgery Center*  
*EMR Member Survey*  
*AHIT EHR Flyer*



Inside this issue:	
President's Message	1
Membership News	2
As I Recall	3
New Applicants	4
2012 LCMS Board of Governors	5
Holiday Party	6-7
Meaningful Use Proposed Delay	8
Alliance News Kiwans Club Science & Engineering Fair	9
FL Board of Medicine Message	10
Visually Impaired Persons of SWFL	11

## President's Message

Shahid Sultan, MD



This will be my last message for the bulletin as my term expires on 20th of January with the installation of the new Society Officers. I want to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Richard Macchiaroli, our incoming president, and the Board of Governors and wish them a successful term.

Before I started my term I was concerned if I was ready for the job but both Ann Wilke and Craig Sweet assured me that there are plenty of people who were willing to help me fulfill the job requirements and that was precisely the case. Ann and her staff were of immense help, whether it was to make arrangements for the local or national meetings, to arrange meetings with the local newspaper journalists, or to take care of the agenda items for the board meetings. Considering the demands placed on our time, I don't think any LCMS President would be able to perform his/her duties successfully without the help of Ann and her staff. I want to thank Ann, Valerie and Marian for their help throughout last year.

I also want to thank all the board members who gave me valuable suggestions and took care of the tasks for which they were responsible. Particularly, Audrey Farahmand, Valerie Dyke and Rick Palmon. Steve Zellner has been in the area for a long time and knows a lot about the local medical politics. He was a wonderful sounding board on a number of occasions and I thank him for all his insight. Audrey worked diligently with different vendors to give discounts to physician practices for office supplies, equipment and other services like discounted cell phone contracts and is currently working on credit card processing fees. She has done a lot of work on it and will continue to head this area next year. Rick kept us abreast of all the legislative happenings in Tallahassee and Washington DC. He did a nice job of giving us pertinent and concise overview of events. Valerie is a trooper—she helped us move in the new office building, and put our feet to the fire about our process of selecting new members and revising the membership application. As a result, we now have a new streamlined application. It is only one page long and the interview process for the membership will be more detailed. It will include an explanation of what the Society

## Thank You

provides to the members and why it is important to be a Society member.

Craig Sweet continued his work on Annual Medical Service Awards and I congratulate him for initiating and making this worthwhile endeavor a success. Richard Macchiaroli was not able to arrange a meeting on a Sunset Cruise boat but his successful hosting of the wine tasting event lets him off the hook. In addition, he did a fine job of arranging the speakers for the meetings.

One of the major hurdles most county societies are facing is the declining membership and some are at the brink of closing their doors. Fortunately, this is not the case with LCMS. Our membership after taking account of retiring and relocating physicians has actually increased over the last year. The credit goes to continued involvement of our membership in asking the new members of their practices to join as well as asking other new arrivals to come to the meetings and other functions. As a board, we did make some efforts to increase the membership further but we need to do more in this area. As immediate past president now, I will have more time to devote to this effort.

Financially we are secure. Despite the downturn in the economy we have weathered the storm very well. Even with increased expenses due to moving into a large office space (which was badly needed) our bottom line is still black and it should get even better with increasing membership.

I appreciate my partners' patience and their willingness to alter our practice schedule to accommodate my absence for meetings and other society related functions.

Lastly and most importantly I owe tremendous gratitude to my wife Kelli, who despite her own busy schedule tolerated my involvement with the society without a single complaint. It would have been very difficult to take care of Society affairs without her help. Thank You!

Overall, it was a busy but enjoyable and productive year. I learned a lot and it was a highlight of my fifteen years of involvement in the Society. I thank you all for putting your confidence in me and giving me this chance to lead the Society.

**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.

# Physicians in the News

Dr. Aurora Badia of Florida Skin Center was presented the Business of the Year Award by Robert Forrest at the 12th annual Hispanic Achievement Awards and Hall of Fame Banquet recently. The LCMS extends our congratulations to Dr. Badia for her contributions to her community, which includes time as a helping teacher at an area high school.



Dr. Carolyn Langford of Specialists in Urology helped provide sponsorship of The Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce and its Women in Business Committee. They honor a Lee County woman for her professional achievement, community service and business leadership.



Congratulations to Drs. Alexander Eaton and Hussein Wafapoor of Retina Health Center who recently presented new research being used to help identify new treatment options for retinal disorders with 25,000 attendees of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The annual meeting was held in Orlando, Florida.



Congratulations to Drs. Laertes Manuelidis and Anthony Fransway for being nominated for 2012 Dermatology Foundation as Vice-Chairmen.



## Membership News

**Resigned**  
**James Kurch, M.D.**  
**Javier Sosa, M.D.**

**MEMORIAM**

**HENRY F. FANCY**

**DECEMBER 1, 1920 — DECEMBER 7, 2011**

*Henry Fancy, M.D., 91, died December 7, 2011. Dr. Fancy enjoyed three careers in medicine. He served proudly as a Colonel in the United States Army, including service throughout the United States, Europe, Panama, Korea and Japan. After his retirement from the U.S. Army in 1970, Dr. Fancy moved to Fort Myers, where he began his second career as a physician for the Lee County Health Department providing outpatient adult care and covering sick call at the Lee County jail.*

*Staff and patients of the health department remember Dr. Fancy for his calm, caring demeanor and for his dry sense of humor. Following his retirement from his second career in 1992, he continued to volunteer as a physician for the Senior Friendship Center. Dr. Fancy's career in Lee County is a testament to his compassion for people who are under served and uninsured.*

*Judith Hartner, M.D.*

**MEMORIAM**

**GREGG J. GUFFREY**

**DECEMBER 8, 1945 — DECEMBER 2, 2011**

*I have had the privilege of working alongside Gregg Guffrey, M.D. for a few years. He worked at Gulf Coast Hospital Emergency Department for three years and the new ED at Gulf Coast Medical Center for two years. He personified the consummate professional, treating everyone with the same commitment to clinical and humanistic excellence that has benefited thousands of patients.*

*Gregg cared passionately for his family, staff and colleagues. He desired to know others on a personal level and always enjoyed sharing stories about his wife, children and grandchildren.*

*Keith Lafferty, M.D., a colleague and friend, shared the following, "He was a throwback to the old time country doctor; thoughtful, kind and unselfish. I will miss his pleasant disposition, warmth and honesty. There is no doubt; Heaven has a special place for such a special person." He will be missed by all that knew him.*

*Larry Hobbs, M.D.*

## As I Recall...

Roger D. Scott, M.D.

### Augustus Eugene Conter, M.D.

HAPPY NEW YEAR—once again time goes by so fast and the new year arrives despite Abraham Lincoln saying that “Best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time”.

Hopefully most of you by now know that I grew up in Live Oak Florida, East of West Florida, and just north of Peninsula Florida. I find frequently in my explorations that on many occasions my path crossed that of someone else I know of later. Many of us have always considered anything west of Tallahassee as being West Florida almost another state, and it was in that territory where nurse Monica Conter (featured in the last month’s article) was born in Chattahoochee (1914) which is barely in Florida adjoining the Georgia border. She then grew up in beautiful small-town Apalachicola which is about 80 miles southwest of Tallahassee on the Gulf. About the time she was graduating from nursing school in Mobile, I was having about the worst two weeks of my childhood on Beacon Beach only 50 miles west of Apalachicola! One of my friends from Live Oak convinced me to go to an Episcopal Church beach camp there with him. I was 10 years old, and it was the first time I was ever away from my family. The camp consisted of some fun but also much education to be an altar boy or such in the Episcopal Church, but I am a Methodist. I was so unhappy and homesick that my brother drove all the way from Jacksonville to the camp which was near Panama City- a very long hot (no AC cars) trip on the two-lane US 90 Highway. He brought food from home and a whole stalk of bananas (my favorite food) and stayed one night. He did get me settled down. The crowning blow was that after I learned to be an altar boy I helped with the sacraments but was not allowed to take communion as I was not Episcopalian. That was my only experience with West Florida.

**Augustus Eugene Conter**, (Monica’s father) was born in Germany on April 21, 1871 and came to the United States in 1889 to settle in River Junction, Florida where the rail and shipping lines joined very near Chattahoochee, Florida. He did a wide variety of jobs (I have personally never encountered a lazy German.) including working in a Kentucky coal mine, Indian Mission in Santa Fe, New Mexico and then enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1898 as a musician during the Spanish-American War. He was also an attendant and handyman at the Florida State Hospital in Chattahoochee. His granddaughter-in-law told me the story that he was working as a roofer when someone yelled to him that he had inherited a sum of money from some relatives back in Germany. Augustus immediately threw the hammer down and matriculated to the Atlanta College of Physicians and Surgeons (later integrated into the Emory University) from which he graduated in 1902 as an M.D. (The museum has a picture of the 1910 graduating class from this college.) He served an internship at St. Luke’s Hospital in Jacksonville and began practicing medicine about 24 miles west of Live Oak in Madison, Florida in 1903. My father and family (before my time) moved from Georgia to Madison in 1910. About that time (1910) Conter moved his medical practice to Apalachicola, the Franklin County seat, and a small beautiful Gulf Coast town. From 1909 to 1912 he served as a first lieutenant in the Florida National Guard during which time he became a naturalized American citizen in 1911. He continued service as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Reserve Corps until 1916. Conter was very civic minded and a charter member of the Apalachicola Rotary Club, member of Apalachicola Chamber of Commerce, Florida State Medical Association, Knights of Columbus

and many other organizations including those related to art, languages, music, a member of the District Executive Board of the Suwannee Council of the Boy Scouts of America when I became an Eagle Scout in that same district in 1940. (It is my understanding that his eldest son is also an Eagle Scout.) In 1913 Augustus returned to Chattahoochee to serve as Chief Physician at Florida State Hospital. On January 14, 1914 he married Mary Ann Lichtenfelt and Monica Euphemia was born on November 14, 1914. (These Germans were fast workers!) He established the first tuberculosis hospital there and organized the State Hospital Band. In 1918 he returned to his practice in Apalachicola and continued servicing the citizens and industry in the area. He helped establish the Franklin County Health Clinic in 1936 and from 1940 was medical officer at the Outpatient Clinic on the U. S. Public Health Service in Apalachicola until his death on April 12, 1948. And so passed a wonderful emigrant American citizen. I can now understand Monica’s desire to become a nurse and her strength from her “stock” to be of service to the United States of America as a military nurse.

I stated we didn’t know much about West Florida as a child but we did know that there was a hospital for “crazy people” at Chattahoochee i.e. The **Florida State Hospital** (“FSH”). So long was I unaware about this hospital all of my life until now, and now I share this new knowledge with you. The Florida State Hospital’s administration building and property were first constructed for officers’ quarters at the U. S. Army Arsenal during the Seminole Indian Wars and subsequently on January 6, 1861 was the first battle in Florida in the Civil War (The war between the states as we Southerners remember.) when the Quincy (Rebels) Home Guard captured it. After the war in 1868 it became Florida’s first state prison and gained a reputation for corruption and cruelty. In 1876 the prisoners were shipped to Raiford which now continues to be our major penitentiary (We visited this on a Boy Scout trip to see prisoners making license plates and also “old Sparky”, the electric chair.). The old buildings gave birth in 1876 to The **Florida State Hospital for the Insane** (the first and only one) for the mentally ill in the state. The original Administration Building is recorded in the National Registry of Historic Places.

Gradually over the years a number of separate mental institutions were opened around the state until the **Florida State Hospital** became subject to a suit, *O’Connor v. Donaldson*, reached the United States Supreme Court in 1975 with the decision of the court and the “ACLU” that it is unconstitutional to commit a person for treatment who is not imminently a danger to himself or others and capable, to a minimal degree, of surviving on his own.” This decision began the deinstitutionalization of mental hospitals in the state of Florida and possibly the nation. The large hospital in Arcadia and the Gulf Coast Center in Fort Myers were closed. This decision or other decisions have made restraints of patients in the regular hospitals practically impossible. Despite the ruling the current **Florida State Hospital** treats two categories: a small group civilly committed, and a forensic wing for patients pleading not guilty of crimes by reason of insanity. There is much to this story if you are interested. I’m certainly glad they didn’t catch me in 1951 on some of my “restrained” drunk patients in the emergency room!

(Foot note)

Arthur Fleming, M.D. was certified in gynecology and psychiatry and practiced for some years in Fort Myers then moved to work at the Florida State Hospital and not too many years later died of a stroke.

# New Applicants

**Tamim Ghith, MD**— Dr. Ghith received his MD degree from University of Damascus, FAC of Medicine, Damascus, Syria in 1999. He completed his internship / residency with Lincoln Hospital, Bronx, NY(2003-2006). Dr. Ghith specializes in Nephrology and is in group practice with Associates in Nephrology, 7981 Gladiolus Dr., Fort Myers, FL 33908— Tel: 239-939-0999. He is board eligible by the American Board of Internal Medicine.



**Moses K. Shieh, DO** — Dr. Shieh received his DO degree from Des Moines University College of Osteo Medicine & Surgery, Des Moines, IA in 1999. He completed his internship / residency with Mt. Clemens General Hospital, Mt. Clemens, MI (1999-2004). Dr. Shieh specializes in bariatric and general surgery and is in solo practice with Surgical Healing Arts, 5238 Mason Corbin St. #102, Fort Myers, FL 33907—Tel: 239-344-9786. He is board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Surgery.



**Roshan K. Vatthyam, MD** — Dr. Vatthyam received his MD degree from Chicago Medical School at Rosalin Franklin University of Medicine & Science, North Chicago, IL in 2004. He completed his residency with Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, Florida (2004-2007). He completed a fellowship with St. Vincent Hospital and Health Center in Indianapolis, Indiana (2007-2010). Dr. Vatthyam specializes in cardiology and is in group practice with The Heart Group, 9800 S. HealthPark Drive, #320 Fort Myers, FL 33908—Tel: 239-433-8888. He is board eligible by the American Board of Cardiovascular Medicine.



**Fadi Abu Shahin, MD**— Dr. Abu Shahin received his MD degree from University of Damascus, Damascus, Syria in 1999. He completed his residency / fellowship with Northwestern University, Chicago, IL (2002-2009). Dr. Abu Shahin is in group practice with Florida Gynecologic Oncology, 8931 Colonial Center Drive, Ste 400, fort Myers, FL 33905– Tel: 239-334-6626. He is certified by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.



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

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## LCMS Board of Governors

The Lee County Medical Society elected a new Board of Governors at the November 17, 2011 Annual Meeting. Meet your 2012 Board of Governors who will be working on your behalf. Contact them if you have an issue to discuss.



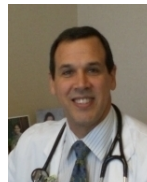
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 Emergency Medicine  
 Lee Memorial Emergency Physicians  
 343-2606



**Carlos Chavez, M.D.**  
 Anesthesiology  
 Med Anesthesia & Pain Mgmt Consultants  
 332-5344



**President-Elect**  
**Audrey Farahmand, M.D.**  
 Plastic Surgeon  
 Farahmand Plastic Surgery  
 332-2388



**Daniel de la Torre, M.D.**  
 Hospitalist  
 Cogent Healthcare of Fort Myers  
 343-2837



**Secretary**  
**Andrew Oakes-Lottridge**  
 Family Medicine  
 Personalized Health Care, Inc.  
 694-6246



**Valerie Dyke, M.D.**  
 Colon/Rectal Surgery  
 The Colorectal Institute  
 275-0728



**Treasurer**  
**Mary Magno Mouracade, M.D.**  
 Nephrology  
 Associates in Nephrology  
 939-0999



**Kultar Singh, M.D.**  
 Neonatology  
 Pediatrix Medical Group of Florida  
 343-6906



**Past President**  
**Shahid Sultan, M.D.**  
 Neonatology  
 Pediatrix Medical Group of Florida  
 343-6906



**Shari Skinner, M.D.**  
 Dermatology  
 Associates in Dermatology  
 936-5425

### Members-at-Large



**Jon Burdzy, D.O.**  
 Family Medicine  
 Physicians Primary Care of SWFL  
 275-6778



**Joanna Carioba, M.D.**  
 Family Medicine  
 Physicians Primary Care of SWFL  
 574-1988

### Ex-Officio Members

**Delegates Chair, To be announced**

**F. Rick Palmon, M.D., Legislative Chair, M.D., FMA**  
**Stephen Zellner, M.D., Representative IPALC**



**Representative IPALC**  
**Stephen Zellner, M.D.**  
 Infectious Disease  
 Internal Medicine Associates  
 936-1343



**Legislative Chair**  
**F. Rick Palmon, M.D. Chair**  
 Ophthalmology  
 Southwest Florida Eye Care  
 768-0006

## 2011 LCMS & Alliance Holiday Party



*The Lee County Medical Society and Alliance held our Annual Holiday Party on Monday, December 5, 2011 at the Gulf Harbour Golf and Country Club. It was a beautiful evening sponsored by FineMark National Bank and Trust and The Doctors Company (FPIC).*

*We would like to thank Tami Traiger and Lynne Govoroy for their contributions to the holiday baskets. Valerie Hoffman raised \$193 from the Holiday Portraits and \$1,480 was raised from the holiday basket raffle.*





### DELAY OF STAGE 2 MEANINGFUL USE REQUIREMENTS

#### FOR THOSE WHO START STAGE 1 IN 2011

#### AMA STATEMENT ON PROPOSED DELAY

Steven J. Stack, M.D.  
American Medical Association Board Chair-elect

“We support flexible criteria for the Medicare and Medicaid EHR meaningful use incentive program and applaud HHS for delaying Stage 2 requirements until 2014 for those who start Stage 1 in 2011. We continue to urge HHS to fully evaluate Stage 1 and develop solutions to increase physician participation rates prior to finalizing requirements for Stage 2.

We are pleased that recent data shows there is a high interest among physicians to take advantage of the available incentive payments through the government’s EHR Incentive Program, but we remain concerned that this increase in EHR adoption will not occur unless the program maintains sufficient flexibility in later stages. We look forward to reviewing the proposed rule as soon as it is published to ensure that the Stage 2 measures are both meaningful and achievable for physicians.”

### LEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY INSTALLATION OF LCMS 2012 OFFICERS ANNUAL MEDICAL SERVICE AWARDS

**Friday, January 20, 2012**

**6:00 PM**

**General Membership  
Annual Medical Service Awards  
Installation of 2012 Officers  
2011 Life Members**

**Please plan on joining us!**

*Special Guests:  
Southwest Florida Osteopathic Association*

**Edison State College  
8099 College Parkway  
Fort Myers, FL 33919  
Community room AA-177**



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

### Legal Care for Health Care Professionals

- Health Care Reform
- Retirement Plans and ERISA
- Mergers and acquisitions
- Administrative hearings and licensing
- Medical malpractice defense



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## Anti Bullying Update and Holiday Charity Baskets

By Mariquita Anderson, LCMS Alliance President

The Holiday Charity Basket Raffle raised \$1,480 for our Anti Bullying Program. Thank you to all those who bought raffle tickets! We'd also like to thank Tami Traiger for making the baskets and Lynne Gorovoy who donated a bottle of wine for each basket!

In addition to the Holiday Charity Basket Raffle, we also raised \$193 from Valarie Hoffman's Holiday Portraits for a grand total of \$1,673 for our Anti Bullying Program. Thank you, Valarie, for providing this much needed fundraiser! Thank you to all those who donated towards Holiday Portraits!

View more of the 82 photos of the Holiday Party at the Alliance's Flickr photostream at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/lcmsa/sets/72157628339764789/show/>.

Did you know that it costs the Alliance **\$6331.50** to sponsor the Anti Bullying program in Lee County schools? All schools - public, private, and charter - are invited to attend. If you would like to donate to this program, please send your check made payable to LCMS Alliance Foundation and mail it to the following address:

Mariquita Anderson  
LCMS Alliance Foundation  
17920 Grey Heron Ct  
Fort Myers Beach FL 33931-3031

Thank you for your support. For more information about the Alliance's BullySafeUSA program, please contact Mariquita Anderson at [lcmsa@lcmsalliance.org](mailto:lcmsa@lcmsalliance.org). You may also visit our website at [www.lcmsalliance.org](http://www.lcmsalliance.org).

## Kiwanis Club of Fort Myers Sponsoring the Thomas Alva Edison Kiwanis Science and Engineering Fair

**DATE:** Saturday, January 14, 2012

**LOCATION:** Alico Arena, Florida Gulf Coast University Campus

**PARKING:** Arena parking lot

**KIWANIS CONTACT FOR JUDGES:** Tim Jones

**Cobra64@comcast.net**  
**239-940-5903**

**JUDGES SCHEDULE:** 7:00 am—Coffee & Snacks.

7:15 am—Judges Meeting Begins.

Most Judges should finish by 12 noon.

Please arrive in time to attend the Judges Meeting!



### Intel ISEF Category 2012:

AniSci - Animal Science  
B&SS - Behavioral and Social Sciences  
BioChem - Biochemistry  
C&mbio - Cellular and Molecular Biology  
Chem - Chemistry  
CompSci - Computer Science  
EarthSci - Earth and Planetary Science  
En: M&B - Engineering  
En-E&M - Engineering

E&Tran - Energy & Transportation  
EnvSci - Environmental Sciences  
EnvMan - Environmental management  
Math - Mathematical Sciences  
Med &HS - Medicine & Health Sciences  
Microbio - Microbiology  
Phy&Ast - Physics and Astronomy  
PlantSci - Plant Sciences

## Florida Board of Medicine — Message from the Chair

By George Thomas, MD, FACC

Dear Colleagues and Fellow Citizens,

It is my great pleasure to bring you warm holiday greetings from the Board of Medicine, and give you another update on what every practicing physician needs to know. It appears to me that there is some apprehension in many physicians about the Board's work and changes in Florida Statutes. As mentioned before, our website is an excellent source of information, and below, I will summarize the key areas each physician should be familiar with.

### 1. You must update your practitioner profile within 15 days of any change.

You can do this by going online to <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/> and clicking on Practitioner Profile.

### 2. Do not pre-sign prescriptions. – This is a violation of the law.

### 3. You must keep charts on the family, friends, and employees that you treat.

Prescribing to your family members, friends and employees is not against the law. However, you are required to maintain medical records just like you would any other patient. You are not permitted to prescribe controlled substances to yourself under any circumstance.

### 4. Internet prescribing

Florida has a rule – [Rule 64B8-9.014, Florida Administrative Code](#) – that outlines acceptable telemedicine practice in Florida.

### 5. Patient Boundaries

The patient-physician relationship is built on mutual trust. Sexual misconduct in the practice of medicine is prohibited by law. The Board of Medicine has zero tolerance for sexual misconduct.

### 6. Relocate practice

There are steps you must follow when closing or relocating your office practice. You can find these steps in [Rule 64B8-10.002, Florida Administrative Code](#).

### 7. Help for Impaired practitioners

The [Professionals Resource Network \(PRN\)](#) is available to help physicians as well as applicants for licensure and medical students. PRN can be contacted at (800) 888-8776.

### 8. Pain-Management and Controlled Substances

There have been a lot of changes to pain-management in Florida.

[Prescription Drug Monitoring Program \(E-Forcse\)](#) – in effect now

If you dispense controlled substances, you must register

May use to look up patient before prescribing

Register online at [www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa)

[Register by January 1, 2012 on your profile as a controlled substance prescriber](#) if you prescribe controlled substances for chronic nonmalignant pain [s. 456.44, FS]

Must use [counterfeit proof prescriptions pads](#) from approved vendors for all controlled substance prescriptions

No dispensing of Schedule II and III controlled substances

New laws for pain-management clinics [[s. 458.3265, FS](#)]

### 9. At license renewal

Florida physicians must renew their license every two years and can do it ONLINE at [www.doh.state.fl.us/mqaservices](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqaservices)

To renew a Florida license, physicians are required to obtain the required CME, attest to financial responsibility coverage, and complete the [Physician Workforce Survey](#)

Recent reduction of renewal fee to \$391 (includes background check fee and unlicensed activity fee)

### 10. CME requirements

You are required to complete 40 hours CME every two years. Of the 40 hours, two hours must be in the prevention of medical errors. Every six years, the 40 hours will include the two hours in the prevention of medical errors as well as a 2-hour course in domestic violence. Maintain your CME certificates for two licensing bienniums in case you are audited.

### STAY IN TOUCH

Join our **Mailman System (Interested Parties List)**. It's a simple way to stay informed on changes in the laws and rules and updates from the Board. You will receive up to the minute information. To subscribe, log on to [www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medical](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/mqa/medical). Once there, follow these quick and easy steps:

- Click on *Interested Parties (Mailman)* in the blue box in the upper left-hand corner
- Enter your email address

Click on *Subscribe*

I would like to congratulate Dr. Jason Rosenberg, Chair, Dr. Zach Zachariah, Vice-Chair and Dr. Nabil El Sanadi, First Vice-Chair for 2012. We are honored to have these talented individuals to the serve as Board's leadership.

Medicine is a profession that demands the best in us. There are close to 60,000 physicians holding active licenses from the State of Florida. Millions of Floridians depend, everyday, on your labor and commitment for their wellbeing. I would just like to remind each of you to be familiar with the laws and rules affecting your practice of medicine in Florida. The citizens of the Sunshine State need you, and on behalf of the Board, we truly appreciate your good work and dedication.

## Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida

By: Stephen Smith, MD

Vision rehabilitation is a service that is not a topic of discussion in most health care and even eye care circles. Here in Southwest Florida, there is a non-profit agency whose total focus is vision rehabilitation. I serve on the Board of Directors of the Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida, commonly called the VIP Center. The VIP Center is a fascinating place that helps nearly 400 residents of southwest Florida a year adjust to living with major low vision and total blindness.

The VIP Center provides services at no cost to the client and no charge to insurance or third party payors. They provide services funded by a combination of sources of the State of Florida Department of Blind Services, United Way of Lee, Hendry, & Glades, Lee County Human Services, and the generous donations of people who see the benefit of vision rehabilitation in the lives of many local residents.

It is amazing to tour the VIP Center and observe how their talented, educated, nationally certified staff, teach each person how to develop new skills so that each person can live independently, work, and experience a full life. Many of the clients will share they regained 'hope' for living once they learned how to live with this most feared disability. Daily, people learn how to do the most basic living skills of cooking, cleaning, matching of clothing, laundry, dealing with minor household emergencies, navigating their home, and all aspects of self-care. Quickly, each individual learns how to navigate in their community, places of shopping, worship, and places of business and employment. There's more. If an individual chooses, there is a wide variety of technology that is available to be used. The highly trained staff teach the use of simple & complex magnification devices, cell phones, computers, internet utilization, smart and iphones, along with iPads, GPS devices, along with softwares that magnify and speak to the user.



Transition Students visit Alpaca Ranch.



VIP's Judy Bezdek and Sandy Martin.

Along the way, each person they serve, from babies to the oldest of our area, begins the process of smiling again. There is an art studio that many people learn to create art when they were not able to when they were sighted. Music fills the air as weekly guitar lessons are given to those who want to learn. Laughter is heard many times throughout the building as 'hope' is restored. A new way of experiencing a full and productive life is the outcome of hundreds who experience vision rehabilitation at the VIP Center.

I would encourage you to take some time out of your busy schedule to tour the VIP Center. Your experience will be incredible and you will see lives of people struck with blindness changing.

The Visually Impaired Persons of Southwest Florida is located at:

35 West Marianna Avenue  
North Fort Myers, Florida 33903  
(239) 997-7797  
www.vipcenter.org



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