



THE FORUM

January/February 2018 • Volume 17, No. 1 • The Official Magazine of Collier County Medical Society

Florida State Legislative Update



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Unless otherwise noted,
register at www.ccmsonline.org
or call (239) 435-7727

Monday, January 15, 6:00pm
**CCMS Seminar: Emerging Technologies at
NCH Healthcare Systems**
NCH Downtown, Telford Building

Saturday, February 3, 8:30am
10th Anniversary CCMS Women's Health Forum
NEW LOCATION:
Naples United Church of Christ
Open to the public

Thursday, February 15, 6:00pm
**CCMS Seminar: Emerging Technologies at
Physicians Regional Healthcare Systems**
PRHS Pine Ridge

Friday, February 16, 11:00am
CCMS Alliance Fashion Show Fundraiser
Talis Park
<http://ccmsalliance.info>

Thursday, February 22, 5:30pm
CCMS After 5 Social
TD Bank Downtown Naples

Wednesday, March 28, 6:00pm
**CCMS Spring General Membership Meeting –
Legal Updates**
Location TBA

Thursday, April 26, 6:00pm
CCMS After 5 Social
Radiology Regional Center

Saturday, May 19, 6:30pm
2018 CCMS Annual Meeting
Wyndemere Country Club
*Support opportunities at ccmsonline.org
Stay tuned for registration details*

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Karen Mosteller
239-261-5554
markham-norton.com

CCMS Member Dues

Don't lose your CCMS member benefits! The 2018 CCMS member dues deadline was December 31, 2017. Members (or their groups) can pay online today at ccmsonline.org/membership. Printed dues invoices will also be mailed directly to members who pay individually, or to practice administrators for group payment. To pay your FMA dues, go to fmedical.org, and to pay your AMA dues go to ama-assn.org.

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MEMBER NEWS

New Members:



Sarah deLeon Mansson, D.O.
Physicians Regional Medical Group
8340 Collier Blvd Ste 305
Naples, FL 34114
Phone: (239) 348-4221 Fax: (239) 348-4337
Board Certified: Cardiology, Internal Medicine
Specialty: Cardiology



Roger F. Eduardo, M.D.
Surgical Healing Arts Center
6150 Diamond Centre Ct #1300
Ft. Myers, FL 33912
Phone: (239) 344-9786 Fax: (239) 344-9215
Board Certified: General Surgery
Specialty: Bariatric Surgery



Brandon A. Madia, D.O.
David Lawrence Mental Health Center
6075 Bathey Ln
Naples, FL 34116
Phone: (239) 455-8500 Fax: (239) 455-6561
Board Certified: Psychiatry



Adam N. Phillips, D.O.
Surgical Healing Arts Center
6150 Diamond Centre Ct #1300
Ft. Myers, FL 33912
Phone: (239) 344-9786 Fax: (239) 344-9215
Board Certified: General Surgery
Specialty: Minimally Invasive Surgery



Chaturani T. Ranasinghe, M.D.
Integrative Pain Management
800 Terrene Ct #102
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
Phone: (239) 529-4303 Fax: (239) 351-2578
Board Certified: Anesthesiology, Pain Medicine



Dinesh Sharma, M.D.
NCH Heart Institute
399 9th St N #300
Naples, FL 34102
Phone: (239) 624-4200 Fax: (239) 624-4201
Board Certified: Electrophysiology,
Cardiovascular Disease, Internal Medicine
Specialty: Cardiology

Relocation:

Paul E Beebe, M.D.
Joint Replacement Institute
1250 Pine Ridge Rd Ste 203
Naples, FL 34108
Phone: (239) 261-2663 Fax: (239) 261-6103
Board Certified: Anesthesiology, Pain Medicine

Relocation (continued):

Josephine V. Jasper M.D.
40 S. Heathwood Dr Ste E
Marco Island, FL 34145
704 Goodlette Rd N Ste 108
Naples, FL 34102
Phone: (239) 315-8271 Fax: (239) 970-0446
Board Certified: Internal Medicine, Endocrinology,
Diabetes and Metabolism

Karysse J. Trandem, D.O.
A Woman's Place
1660 Medical Blvd Suites 100 & 300
Naples, FL 34110
Phone: (239) 513-0053 Fax: (239) 596-0900
Board Certified: Obstetrics and Gynecology

CCMS Physician of the Year Nominations

Collier County Medical Society is pleased to announce its search for the 4th Annual CCMS Physician of the Year. The award honors a CCMS member who deserves special recognition for exemplary contributions to the practice of medicine and/or outstanding service to our community. The Board of Directors invites CCMS members to submit nominees for this prestigious award.

Nominees must be current members of CCMS and have demonstrated exceptional activities over the past year that reflect well on the medical profession. For instance, a candidate might be a physician who has made significant innovations in medicine, helps improve access to care for the underserved, or is a leading volunteer for worthwhile causes in our community.

The award will be presented at the 61st Annual CCMS Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers, May 19, 2018 at Wyndemere Country Club. For more information visit ccmsonline.org.

Please download and complete the nomination form at <http://bit.ly/2CDZPSL>, noting explicitly why the nominee is deserving of the award. We strongly encourage you to submit additional documentation such as supporting letters, CV, or news articles.

Mail, fax, or email the nomination form and any supporting information **by February 28th** to:

Collier County Medical Society
ATTN: Physician of the Year Award
1148 Goodlette Road N., Naples FL 34102
Tel (239) 435-7727 Fax (239) 435-7790
info@ccmsonline.org

A Message from the President

Catherine Kowal, M.D., President, Collier County Medical Society



It's the New Year, 2018. A time for new starts. Some of us start with New Year's resolutions, which often do not last. I would like to challenge all of you to a resolution you can do that can last. I urge you to resolve to get more involved with your Medical Society. We need your help, and in this issue of The Forum, we provide some information to help you further understand what we can accomplish together.

In this issue is the preview for the new state legislative session which starts early this year, in January, due to the 2018 elections. Please read through the preview to see what we are trying to accomplish to help physicians and our patients, and what we are up against.

To help pass healthcare-friendly legislation, we need legislators in Tallahassee that listen to us and are favorable to our causes. We can improve the outcome of our legislative sessions with help in contributions to the CCMS Political Action Committee (PAC). That comes from you.

If you have not already contributed to the PAC for 2018, we encourage you to send your check to the CCMS PAC today, or pay online at ccmsonline.org/membership. We suggest \$100 per member, but of course any amount is appreciated.

The new year also brings more emphasis on MIPS and MACRA. Are you ready? We have offered educational materials and webinars this past year to help you learn what you need to do. I hope all of you are a step ahead and will not lose Medicare payments. For more information, visit our healthcare resources page at ccmsonline.org for a link to the AMA's MACRA toolkit.

CCMS has numerous committees that could use help as well. Let us know if you are interested and we will get you involved on one of these committees. You can help the membership, programming, legislative, PAC, physician wellness, or women physicians' group. It does not take a lot of time since phone conferencing is the majority of our get-togethers. Your input is very helpful. We listen to your comments and ideas.

We also look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events including an evening of updates at NCH on January 15th, and also an evening at Physicians Regional in February. Both seminars will focus on the "Emerging Technologies" in place at their respective facilities. And stay tuned for details on the CCMS Spring Membership Meeting, March 28th, which will provide education on legal aspects of our profession.

As always, we encourage and welcome your comments, questions, and suggestions. Call the CCMS office at 435-7727 or reach out to any of our board members. Whether you have a practice-related issue, legislative question, or any concern, we will do our best to address it.

I predict that 2018 will be a year of changes in the world both positive and negative. Here at home we can help each other and make our own changes to better the community of medicine.





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Peter Boyd MD

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Thank you for supporting our mission: "Provide support and leadership to programs that address access to healthcare, promote health education and serve the community's public health needs."

The Foundation of Collier County Medical Society, Inc.

1148 Goodlette Rd N, Naples FL 34102 (239) 435-7727 fax (239) 435-7790 info@ccmsonline.org ccmsfoundation.org fb.com/ccmsfoundation

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2018 FMA Legislative Issues

Florida Medical Association Legislative Team

Editor's Note: each year the Florida Medical Association publishes a legislative agenda detailing the legislative goals for the state legislative session. Here are some of the major issues in health care that the FMA will be pursuing this year on our behalf. These highlights can be a helpful tool for CCMS members when you are speaking with your local legislators.

During each legislative session the FMA tracks more than 200 bills. For 2018 we expect there will be a similar number of issues that the FMA will be involved with, and there are already over 160 bills that are on our tracking chart. The list of bills below are those that the FMA believes will occupy the majority of our lobbying effort. The legislative session, however, is a fluid process, and events may develop and issues may arise that require us to refocus our resources. The FMA is constantly in touch with legislative leadership throughout session to ensure that only those bills that positively affect physicians, patients and the practice of medicine make it across the finish line.

Prior Authorization/Fail First: This bill would create an expedited, standard process for the approval or denial of (1) prior authorizations and (2) step therapy ("fail-first") protocol exceptions. A prior authorization process requires a health care provider to seek and wait for approval from an insurer before a patient may receive a specified treatment or prescription drugs under an insurance plan. Some health insurers require an insured to use a step therapy or "fail-first" protocol for drugs or a medical treatment, requiring the insured to try a less expensive drug or medical procedure first before the insurer will cover a more expensive drug or procedure. This bill would require health insurers to adhere to an established process/timeframe regarding prior authorization and fail first protocols. (Sen. Greg Steube, SB 98 and Rep. Shawn Harrison, HB 199)

Retroactive Denial: This bill would prohibit health insurers and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) from retroactively denying a claim at any time if the insurer or HMO verified the eligibility of an insured or subscriber at the time of treatment and provided an authorization number. (Sen. Greg Steube, SB 162 and Rep. Bill Hager, HB 217)

Direct Primary Care: This bill would allow a primary care medical practice model that eliminates third party payers from the primary care provider-patient relationship. Through a contractual agreement, a patient pays a monthly fee to the primary care provider for defined primary care services. The bill also defines DPC agreements and requires them to meet statutory requirements, including consumer disclosures. (Sen. Tom Lee, SB 80 and Rep. Danny Burgess, HB 37)

Maintenance of Certification: This bill would prohibit state licensing boards, hospitals and health insurers from requiring physicians to maintain certification or obtain recertification as a condition of licensure, hospital staff privileges, or panel participation. (Sen. Denise Grimsley, SB 628 and Rep. Julio Gonzalez, HB 81)

Telehealth: The FMA wants to make sure that any telemedicine legislation requires anyone who provides medical care to a Florida patient has a Florida license. The FMA also wants to make sure that the insurance companies cannot use telemedicine providers as gatekeepers or allow them to count telemedicine providers towards their network adequacy requirement. (Sen. Aaron Bean, SB 280 and Rep. Ralph Masullo, HB 793)

Controlled Substance Prescribing: This bill would require practitioners to complete a specific board-approved continuing education course to authorize them to prescribe controlled substances. It also restricts the number of opioids that a physician is allowed to prescribe, and would require physicians to check the PDMP before prescribing a controlled substance. The FMA is working to ensure that this legislation addresses the opioid crisis in a manner that effectively addresses the problem while not adversely affecting physicians or their patients. (Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto, SB 8 and Rep. Jim Boyd, HB 21)

Pharmacists Diagnosing and Treating the Flu/Strep: This bill would allow Pharmacists to test and treat Influenza and Streptococcus. The FMA is working to defeat this bill. (Sen. Jeff Brandes, SB 524 and Rep. Rene Plasencia, HB 431)

PA/ARNP Signing Authority: This bill would allow a Physician Assistant and an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner to sign, certify, stamp, verify, or endorse any document that typically requires a Physician's signature. The FMA is working to defeat this bill. (Sen. Jeff Brandes, SB 708 and Rep. Kimberly Daniels, HB 973)



continued from page 6

Florida Legislators, Collier County

State Senator District 28

Kathleen Passidomo (REP)

Appropriations Subcommittee on Pre-K - 12 Education, Chair
Health Policy, Vice Chair

Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services

Local: (239) 417-6205 Tallahassee: (850) 487-5028

www.flsenate.gov/Senators/s28

State Representative District 90

Byron Donalds (REP)

PreK-12 Appropriations Subcommittee, Vice Chair

Health Quality Subcommittee

Local: (239) 417-6270 Tallahassee: (850) 717-5080

<http://bit.ly/2kSEcd9>

State Representative District 106

Bob Rommel (REP)

Oversight, Transparency & Administration Subcommittee, Vice Chair

Health Innovation Subcommittee

Local: (239) 417-6200 Tallahassee: (850) 717-5106

<http://bit.ly/2lBlkMz>

State Representative District 105

Carlos Trujillo (REP)

Appropriations Committee, Chair

Joint Legislative Budget Commission, Alternating Chairman

Local: (239) 434-5094 Tallahassee: (850) 717-5105

<http://bit.ly/1GoXveP>

Senate Leadership Offices & Key Committees

Joe Negron, Senate President

Wilton Simpson, Majority (Republican) Leader

Oscar Braynon II, Minority Leader

Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services:

Anitere Flores, Chair

Committee on Health Policy: Dana Young, Chair

House Leadership Offices & Key Committees

Richard Corcoran, Speaker

Jeanette Nuñez, Speaker pro tempore

Ray Rodrigues, Majority Leader

Janet Cruz, Democratic Leader

Bobby B. DuBose, Democratic Leader pro tempore

Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee: Jason Brodeur, Chair

Health & Human Services Committee: Travis Cummings, Chair

Children, Families & Seniors Subcommittee: Gayle Harrell, Chair

Health Innovation Subcommittee: MaryLynn "ML" Magar, Chair

Health Quality Subcommittee: James "J.W." Grant, Chair

Governor's Office

Governor Rick Scott

400 S Monroe St

Tallahassee, FL 32399

(850) 488-7146

www.flgov.com/meet-governor-scott

Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) – Notable Provisions

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed by the President on December 22nd. The legislation includes significant healthcare and tax considerations. Some of the more notable provisions are listed below.

- Repeals tax penalty for those who do not enroll in health insurance (eliminates individual mandate)
- Keeps the medical expense deduction and lowers the threshold from 10% to 7.5% of income for tax years 2017 and 2018
- Limits the tax credit amount for pharmaceutical companies that develop drugs to treat rare diseases
- Reduces the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, the largest corporate tax reduction in U.S. history
- Changes pass through deductions for business owners to 20% deduction of their business income, subject to limits that would begin at \$315,000 for married couples (or half for single taxpayers)
- Caps state, local, property, and sales tax ("SALT") deduction at \$10,000
- Provides individual rate cuts beginning in 2018 (expiring after 2025): 7 rates, from 10% up to 37% for incomes above \$500,000 for singles and \$600,000 for married, joint filers
- Increases standard deduction to \$12,000 for single taxpayers and \$24,000 for married couples, filing jointly, and repeals personal exemptions
- Caps deductible mortgage interest for new purchases of first or second homes at loans of \$750,000 starting on Jan. 1, 2018

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates 13 million fewer individuals will have health insurance over 10 years and ACA Marketplace health insurance premiums will increase an additional 10% per year. The CBO also estimates this legislation would add over \$1.4 trillion to the deficit over the next 10 years, triggering cuts to mandatory spending programs including Medicare (a \$25 billion cut in fiscal year 2018).

Foundation of Collier County Medical Society's Fall Activities a Success

The Foundation of CCMS, the Medical Society's 501c3 charitable arm, had a busy Fall 2017, with fundraiser activities, new funding plans, and more.

The Foundation's 4th annual charity golf tournament, "Docs & Duffers" was rescheduled from September due to Hurricane Irma. The event took place November 12th at Bonita Bay Club Naples and raised nearly \$20,000 in net proceeds with participation from 17 sponsors, more than 90 golfers, and numerous prize donors. Money raised from the tournament will provide scholarships for future medical professionals and funds for local healthcare programs in need.

"We are very thankful for the overwhelming support we received at this year's tournament," said Dr. Rolando Rivera, Foundation board chair. "Despite rescheduling due to Hurricane Irma, our participants were able to enjoy a wonderful day of golf while raising funds for healthcare needs in our community."

The tournament was sponsored in part by Gulfshore Urology, FineMark National Bank & Trust, Naples Heart Rhythm Specialists, Slepceovich Financial Group, and VITAS Healthcare. Photos from the event and a full list of sponsors are available at ccmsfoundation.org. The Foundation will host its 5th Annual Docs & Duffers in the fall of 2018.

CCMS members and guests, and Docs & Duffers tournament participants, were also treated to a special Foundation social featuring PGA Pro Henrik Stenson on December 7th at the PGA Tour Superstore in Naples. Hosted by Mutual of Omaha Bank & Insurance Co., this fundraiser brought in approximately \$7,000 for the Foundation, including \$5,000 from Mutual of Omaha for the new Foundation endowment fund.

The Foundation opened their new endowment fund with the Community Foundation of Collier County in November of 2017. This investment will help the Foundation create a reliable source of income in perpetuity, which will in turn help the organization grow its scholarship program and other funding needs. Stay tuned for more information on this new development.

In December, the Foundation released its 2018 healthcare scholarship applications, which are available at ccmsfoundation.org. The Foundation provided \$32,500 in scholarships in 2017, including the Dr. William Lascheid Memorial Scholarship for Medical Students and 4 additional healthcare scholarships. The deadline to submit applications, which are open to Florida residents enrolled in or accepted into healthcare degree programs, is March 31, 2018.

For more information about the Foundation, and for details on making donations, visit ccmsfoundation.org or call CCMS at 239-435-7727.

Spotlight on our Docs & Duffers Sponsors:

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Please join us in thanking all our supporters – for a complete list visit ccmsfoundation.org



Media Sponsor

Life in Naples

Docs & Duffers and Foundation Social Event



Todd Wangler, Dr. Glenn Groat, Dr. Rob Eilers, Tate Haire



Dr. Dennis Hidlebaugh, Dr. Michael Gloth, Dr. Jon Banas



Chip Mosteller, Dr. Monica Woodward, William Wade



Dr. Kenneth Plunkitt, Dr. Louis Wasserman, Dr. Daniel Masvidal, Jeffrey Darwish



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Dr. Kurt Biggs, Dr. Brian Wallace, Jim Malone, Dr. Paul Beebe



Dr. Aaron Howell, Dr. David Eichen, Dr. Patrick Nero, Dr. Eric Hochman



Dr. Rolando Rivera

To Prevent Burnout Physicians Need Less Resilience, Not More

Rebekah Bernard, MD – Associate Editor, *The Forum*



With the latest data calculating physician burnout at greater than 50%, American medicine is at a tipping point. How to fix this crisis? Some say: Why, make physicians more resilient, of course!

Except physician resiliency is exactly what got us into this problem.

Let me explain. Doctors are notorious people pleasers. We spend years of our life at study, sacrificing the fun and freedom of youth, deferring childbearing, and delaying income. We abuse our bodies, ignoring pain and physical necessities to hunch over operating tables and round endlessly on hospital floors. And after spending our entire work shift immersed in the emotional trauma of human suffering, we show up the next day to do it all over again.

The bottom line is that doctors just don't get through medical school and residency without an extreme degree of resiliency. But there is a payoff for all that resiliency. We get to take care of our patients.

It might sound funny to administrators and politicians, but doctors really and truly want to take care of patients. In fact, most of us want to take care of our patients so much that we have turned our back on anything that doesn't directly relate to patient care, trusting others to manage the day-to-day realities of running a practice. And as we immersed ourselves deeper into our clinical duties, we relinquished financial management to the MBAs and government agencies, and politics to the politicians and lobbyists.

So when those practice managers have asked us to just do a little extra, maybe click a few more boxes, or be a bit more flexible with a new electronic medical record, perhaps adapt our systems and practices to improve reimbursement, we've just nodded our heads and rolled with the program. We're resilient like that.

But before we knew it, doctors were working for practice managers, not for patients. All of a sudden, we found ourselves spending more time on paperwork and computers than face-to-face with patients. And that's where our resilience is starting to reach its limit, and we are becoming burned out.

It's time to end our resilience to the intrusions that add zero value to patient care and negatively impact our workflow.

It's time to say 'no' to demands of third parties who are less interested in patient wellbeing than in their financial bottom line. We must no longer roll over when asked to do more for less pay, less resources, less time.

And the only way that this is going to happen is for doctors to unbury ourselves from our clinical responsibilities and take a more active role in creating our own future.

Taking an active role starts by educating ourselves about the issues facing physicians, and is often as simple as just talking with our colleagues. But as the doctors lounge disappears and we become more isolated into our private offices, it has become increasingly difficult to interact with each other.

It is critical that we make an effort to gather together to discuss the issues that we all face, whether in person at medical society or virtually through online physician groups like Sermo or Facebook. What's more, studies from the Mayo Clinic show that when physicians spend time together, even just having coffee or a meal, they show a reduced level of burnout.

Secondly, we need to speak up and participate in the groups that represent our interests as physicians. Start by attending your local medical society meetings, and consider getting involved in committees or even taking a leadership role. Participate in larger groups like your specialty societies, the Florida Medical Association, and the American Medical Association. Or if you don't feel that mainstream physician societies represent you, consider joining an alternate group – there are many grassroots organizations such as the American Association of Physicians and Surgeons and the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons that are providing alternatives for physicians who are disgruntled with the status quo. Regardless of which path you choose, get involved.

And if you don't feel that your voice is being heard, or if your extreme resilience is leading you towards burnout, consider making a more drastic change: saying 'no' to the system entirely. It is your choice to participate in insurance panels, Medicare with its MIPS and MACRA, and maintenance of board certification. You can always consider "opting out" and practicing medicine in a non-traditional (or perhaps, a more traditional – think 1950's-style medicine) way.

With 49% of physicians planning their exodus from the clinical practice of medicine, it's time to make some changes. We just can't afford to be resilient anymore.



Physician Wellness Program

Helping You Take Care of You

How it Works

As an exclusive benefit to all CCMS members, CCMS provides up to 6 sessions per year for free with independent, doctorate-level clinical psychologists.

- View participating psychologists at ccmsonline.org/physician-wellness.
- Call the psychologists' private hotline for an appointment and identify yourself as a CCMS member. Receive a same-day response during business hours or next-morning response after hours.
- See the psychologist within 72 hours to 1 week, possibly sooner for urgent needs, with evening and early morning hours potentially available.
- Use the sessions to help you overcome difficulties, tap into your natural resilience, answer questions, or simply talk.
- Participating physicians have no financial responsibility - psychologists bill CCMS directly with de-identified data.

Featuring confidential, convenient, cost-free access to professional psychological services for CCMS members.

Collier County Medical Society presents the
10th Anniversary Women's Health Forum

YOUR *Health*
YOUR *Future*

CELEBRATING
10
YEARS!

Saturday | February 3, 2018 | 8:30am - 12:30pm | Naples United Church of Christ (new location)

FREE Public Event



Register at
ccmsonline.org



Limited Seating!

Exhibit/Sponsor opportunities still available. Download the form at ccmsonline.org/support

Community Corner - The Florida Lions Eye Clinic

Tamika Seaton, MSM - Executive Director, The Florida Lions Eye Clinic



The Florida Lions Eye Clinic (FLLEC) "Gives the Gift of Sight" by providing free eye care and surgeries for people without medical insurance and below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. The clinic was started when a few retired ophthalmologists and Lions Club members wanted to help prevent blindness for low income people in the community. They saw a growing need for eye care for people who could not afford medical insurance.

The Bonita Springs Lions Club's board of directors approved the idea and assisted with setting up the eye clinic. The founding physicians and Lions Club members, Frank Hayes, Dr. Howard Freedman, Dr. Richard Shapiro, Robert Hilliard, Dr. Alfonse Cinotti, Dr. Joseph Carpentieri, Evelyn Barger, Gordy Hare, and Steve Blad used their connections and experiences from 30+ years in the optical medical practice to put together the eye clinic in 2008.

FLLEC is a Federally recognized 501c3 charitable status organization. The clinic is 100% supported by donations, grants, and events hosted by the clinic and supporters. Although it is the only free eye clinic in the state of Florida, it is not supported by government, but is required to follow governmental regulations.

The clinic is looking for medical professionals to make an impact and volunteer. They invite all interested to join their team of volunteer ophthalmologists to provide free eye care to needy children and families in Florida. The clinic would not be

able to operate without the help of volunteer ophthalmologists and volunteer staff.

Some of the clinic's partnerships include several physicians who provide quality eye care to the clinic patients, whether it is at the clinic location in Bonita Springs, Florida or at the referring physician's practice. As an out of clinic volunteer physician, a medical practice would receive a referral packet with a letter to accept patients for a pro-bono evaluation. Physicians are welcome to decide on the number of patients they wish to see in their offices each month.

The clinic has no borders and would help anyone in the country, as long as the patient meets the criteria to receive their services. One patient, Erica Serrato traveled three hours to the clinic from Dade City because her eyes were sore, and she was having problems seeing. Fearing that she would go blind if she did not get help, she asked friends for referrals to get low-cost or no-cost eye care. A friend told her about the eye clinic, and the services they offered free of charge. Erica immediately called the eye clinic to make an appointment for an eye examination to find out what was wrong with her eyes.

After her eye examination, Dr. Richard Shapiro, the clinic's medical director, diagnosed her with pterygium. Pterygium is an abnormal growth of fibrovascular tissue which extends from the white of the eye onto the cornea and eventually over the iris. The following week after Erica's diagnosis, Dr. Shapiro scheduled her for surgery to remove the pterygium in the clinic's surgery room. After Erica's surgery, she had a new outlook on life and was relieved to know that she was not going blind. Today, she is grateful for the eye clinic's services and is even more relieved that she got the help that she needed at the eye clinic, although it was not located in her county.

For more information on FLLEC, email Executive Director Tamika Seaton at tseaton@fllec.org or call Tamika at 239-293-2009. The Clinic is located at 10322 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.



Volunteer Diane Bauman and Patient Erica Serrato

Thank you to the Clinic's Medical Volunteers:

Edward Anderson, MD	Ben Martin, MD
Rachid Aouchiche, MD	Katrina Mears, MD
Joseph Carpentieri, MD	Paul Rauskauskas, MD
Alfonse Cinotti, MD	Richard Shapiro, MD
George Corrent, MD	Ashish Sharma, MD
James Croley, III, MD	Thomas Sheehan, OD
Bonnie Eads, OD	Parna Shenoy, MD
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Michelle Herrin, COMT	Shawn Slattery, OD
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- MD - University of Miami School of Medicine
- Internship - General Surgery - Shands Hospital, UF
- Residency - Diagnostic Radiology - Shands Hospital, UF
- Fellowship - Interventional Radiology - Shands Hospital, UF



Michael R. Theobald, MD

Fellowship in Neuroradiology

- BS - Georgetown University - Biology
- MS - Georgetown University
- MD - Georgetown University School of Medicine
- Residency - Diagnostic Radiology - Allegheny General Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA
- Fellowship - Neuroradiology - Barrow Neurological Institute



Jason D. Hamilton, MD

Fellowship in Musculoskeletal Radiology

- BS - University of FL - Microbiology
- MD - University of FL College of Medicine
- Internship - Transitional - Riverside Regional Medicine Center, Newport News, VA
- Residency - Diagnostic Radiology - Shands Hospital, UF
- Fellowship - Musculoskeletal - Shands Hospital, UF



Theresa Vensel, MD

Women's Imaging

- BA - University of Virginia - Chemistry
- MD - University of Miami, School of Medicine
- Residency - Obstetrics and Gynecology - Shands Hospital, UF
- Residency - Diagnostic Radiology - Shands Hospital, UF