



# THE FORUM

September/October 2018 • Volume 17, No. 5 • The Official Magazine of Collier County Medical Society

## *The CCMS Delegation – Your Voice at the FMA Annual Meeting*



*Dr. Corey Howard installed as FMA President*

*FMA Delegates from l to r: Dr. Gary Swain,  
Dr. Rafael Haciski, Dr. Cesar De Leon,  
Dr. David Wilkinson, Dr. Rebekah Bernard,  
Dr. Jose Baez, Dr. James Talano, Dr. Rebecca Smith,  
Dr. George Brinnig, and Dr. Alejandro Perez-Trepichio*



*Dr. Rafael Haciski campaigns for AMA delegation*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register at [www.ccmsonline.org](http://www.ccmsonline.org) or  
call (239) 435-7727

Thursday, September 13, 6:00pm  
**CCMS Women Physicians Social**  
Naples Sailing & Yacht Club

Friday, September 14, 5:30pm  
**PLAN Evening of Appreciation**  
Venue Naples  
RSVP to 234-5596

Thursday, September 27, 6:00pm  
**CCMS After 5 Social**  
Inca's Kitchen

Saturday, October 6, 8:00am  
**Foundation of CCMS**  
**"Docs & Duffers" Golf Tournament**  
Bonita Bay Club East in Naples

Thursday, October 18, 6:00pm  
**CCMS After 5 Social**  
Joint Replacement Institute

Thursday, October 25, 5:30pm  
**CCMS & GGN 21st GI Symposium**  
The Club at Pelican Bay

Thursday, November 1, 5:30pm  
**CCMS After 5 Social**  
Sleep Disorders Center of SW Florida

Friday, November 9, 6:30pm  
**CCMS New Members Welcome Reception**  
Kapnick Center at Naples Botanical Garden

Thursday, November 15, 5:30pm  
**CCMS After 5 Social**  
The Claw Bar

Thursday, November 29, 5:30pm  
**CCMS Wellness Event: Healthy Holidays –  
a Cooking Demo for Physicians**  
YMCA Naples

Saturday, February 23, 8:30am  
**CCMS Women's Health Forum**  
Naples United Church of Christ

Saturday, May 4, 6:30pm  
**2019 CCMS Annual Meeting**  
Wyndemere Country Club

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# MEMBER NEWS

## New Members:



**Leopoldo M. Baccaro, M.D.**  
Gardner Plastic Surgery  
1250 Pine Ridge Rd #101C  
Naples, FL 34108  
Phone: (239) 566-2611 Fax: (239) 431-8069  
Board Certified: General Surgery  
Specialty: Plastic Surgery



**Bobbi G. Brady, M.D.**  
The Woodruff Institute  
235 Venetian Ct Ste 1  
Naples, FL 34109  
Phone: (239) 596-9337 Fax: (239) 596-9466  
Specialty: Dermatology



**Klaus Freeland, M.D.**  
Snead Eye Group  
4790 Barkley Cir Bldg C103  
Ft. Myers, FL 33907  
Phone: (239) 936-8656 Fax: (239) 936-2532  
Board Certified: Ophthalmology



**Marc D. Laufe, M.D.**  
Millennium Physician Group  
400 8th St N  
Naples, FL 34112  
Phone: (239) 263-8385 Fax: (239) 263-8592  
Board Certified: Internal Medicine,  
Pulmonary Disease



**William A. Ross, M.D.**  
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Specialty: Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon



**Scott A. Thompson, M.D.**  
NCH Physician Group  
1285 Creekside Blvd E Ste 102  
Naples, FL 34108  
Phone: (239) 624-1700 Fax: (239) 434-8605  
Board Certified: Orthopaedic Surgery

## CCMS Member Dues

The 2019 CCMS dues deadline is Dec. 31, 2018. Members (or their groups) can pay online today at [ccmsonline.org/membership](http://ccmsonline.org/membership). Invoices will also be mailed directly to members who pay individually, or to practice administrators for group payment. Thank you for renewing!

## New Practice:

**Reisha F. Brown, M.D.**  
Children's Care West  
1008 Goodlette Rd N Ste 100  
Naples, FL 34102  
Phone: (239) 325-5437 Fax: (239) 325-5438  
Board Certified: Pediatrics

**Nancy J. Goodwin, D.O.**  
Goodwin Medical Center  
12260 Tamiami Trl E Unit 102  
Naples, FL 34113  
Phone: (239) 692-9096 Fax: (239) 231-4901  
Board Certified: Internal Medicine, Emergency Medicine

**Chris Greengood, M.D.**  
Total Health Care of Naples  
9400 Bonita Beach Rd SE Ste #204  
Bonita Beach, FL 34135  
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Board Certified: Obstetrics & Gynecology

## New Locations:

**Fikria E. Hassan, M.D.**  
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**Shawky A. Hassan, M.D.**  
Board Certified: Allergy & Immunology, Pediatrics  
Allergy Asthma Sinus & Immunology Center  
680 2nd Ave N Ste 201 & 202  
Naples, FL 34102  
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**Chaturani T. Ranasinghe, M.D.**  
Integrative Pain Management of Naples  
1855 Veterans Park Drive Suite # 304  
Naples, FL 34109  
Phone: (239) 234-2448 Fax: (239) 234-2435  
Board Certified: Anesthesiology, Interventional Pain Medicine

## Reinstated:

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Bonita Springs, FL 34135  
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Board Certified: Family Practice

**Carlos Portu, M.D.**  
Shoreline Physician Group  
12250 Tamiami Trl E Ste 208  
Naples, FL 34113  
Phone: (239) 235-7908 Fax: (239) 692-8999  
Board Certified: Internal Medicine

**Rajeev Rajani, M.D.**  
Collier Medical Specialists  
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Naples, FL 34112  
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Board Certified: Internal Medicine



## A Message from the President

Cesar De Leon, D.O., President, Collier County Medical Society



This is a great year to be the president of CCMS; we have a fantastic board, Collier County is the healthiest county in Florida (Gallop-Sharecare poll); we're implementing new CCMS programs; and multiple members have assumed state leadership positions.

At the recent FMA Annual Meeting, Dr. Corey Howard, CCMS past president, was installed as President of the FMA; Dr. Rafael Haciski, CCMS past president, was elected to represent us at the AMA; Ms. April Donahue, CCMS executive director, was installed as Chair of the Florida Medical Society Executives; CCMS Alliance past president Ms. Karen Swain was installed as president-elect of the FMA Alliance; and Dr. Ronald Garry, CCMS member, was installed as president of the Florida Geriatrics Society. Dr. Corey Howard also remains chair of the FMA's delegation to the AMA.

These members of our medical community have taken steps to represent us, to fight for us as physicians, and maintain the honorable reputation that our profession deserves. There is no better time than now to have our voices heard, to stand behind our chosen leaders, and to show them that we value their hard work. There is no better time to stand up and stop the abuse against the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship from special interest groups and other organizations. If we are dissatisfied and not optimistic about where healthcare is going, now we have CCMS members that can take our voices much higher than our small community and even to a national level. We cannot just complain to each other, we must become active and follow the path that our colleagues have taken and defend the future of our profession.

A few weeks ago your board represented you at the yearly FMA meeting in Orlando to stand up for our rights as physicians and the rights of our patients. Some of the topics that we requested the FMA to address were:

1. Seek to decrease some requirements of the burdensome new opiate law, HB 21. Despite the good intentions to decrease opiate deaths, the law has complicated the care we provide our patients and increased the burden to check a website that most of the time provides no benefit. The FMA has already been successful at removing the criminal offense that physicians were to face if PDMP was not to be checked. The FMA is also addressing the need to remove the 3-day mandate for medications that can cause sudden death if rapidly removed, such as seizure medications.
2. Investigate policies to address gun safety while at the same time protect our Second Amendment right. It is felt that some firearms should be kept out of the hands of individuals that can potentially cause damage to themselves or others. We often hear of mass casualty crimes that should have been prevented if someone had stepped up to alert the authorities. Weapons are a right to own to those that will not be a threat to others.
3. Seek to discourage pharmacists from refusing to fill valid prescriptions, unless potential side effects of interaction with other medications. There is a general concern regarding pharmacist overreach when they refuse to fill valid prescriptions.
4. Request the AMA to lobby to rescind all penalties related to MIPS.

Among these and multiple other resolutions that were presented, your board took your voice to the FMA to make sure we have the tools, and we keep the tools, that will allow us to practice good medicine. We heard multiple times that our profession is under attack, that physician extenders are fighting to have the same rights as physicians, that pharmacists want to diagnose and treat, and that our hands are becoming more tied up caring for our patients. We must continue to fight for what is right and for the benefit of our patients, for the physician to continue being the cornerstone of healthcare, and to be reimbursed accordingly. We must stand to promote each other while at the same time not turn a blind eye to those that taint our profession.

The time to act is now; our elected colleague healthcare leaders are in place to hear our voices. Let's support them, let them know what we need to fight for, and let's give them the tools to do it. Consider joining more levels of organized medicine, such as the FMA, so that they can speak with a louder voice and with the financial support to lobby on all our behalf. Let's vote and support politicians that will represent our interests and will not turn a blind eye to healthcare for the benefit of big interest groups. The healthcare fight is not lost, especially if we all act together to protect it. Per the words of our past president, Dr. Haciski, let's make American Healthcare Great Again.

The Foundation of Collier County Medical Society presents

# Docs & Duffers 2018

5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Charity Golf Tournament/Raffle benefiting scholarships for future medical professionals and funding for local healthcare programs in need

**Saturday, October 6, 8am-2:30pm**

(non-golfers purchasing raffle tickets need not be present to win)

**Bonita Bay Club Naples**

3700 Wildwood Blvd, Naples, FL 34120

**This event is open to the public!**

**Register at [ccmsfoundation.org](http://ccmsfoundation.org)**

or call (239) 435-7727 or email [info@ccmsonline.org](mailto:info@ccmsonline.org)

## Sponsors

from \$550 - \$4000

## Golfers

\$175/person, \$650/foursome

## Raffle Tix

\$50/Premier, \$25/Standard

## Highlights

8:00am: Registration & Refreshments

8:45am: Shotgun Start, Scramble Format

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# The CCMS Delegation Represents CCMS Members at the 2018 FMA Annual Meeting

Collier County Medical Society

Members of the CCMS FMA delegation recently returned from the Florida Medical Association 2018 Annual Meeting, August 3-5 in Orlando. The delegation was active with appointments to committees, campaigning for FMA offices, judging the poster symposium, and testifying on resolutions. The meeting included the House of Delegates (HOD) sessions, CMEs, FMA Political Action Committee activities, and celebrating the installation of new FMA president Dr. Corey Howard, a CCMS past president.

The CCMS delegation consisted of CCMS president and delegation chair Dr. Cesar De Leon and delegates Dr. Rebekah Bernard, Dr. George Brinnig, Dr. Rafael Haciski, Dr. Alejandro Perez-Trepichio, Dr. Rebecca Smith, Dr. Gary Swain, and Dr. David Wilkinson; and alternate delegates Dr. Jose Baez and Dr. James Talano. Additional CCMS members who were delegates included FMA's new President and AMA Delegation Chair Dr. Howard; Dr. Catherine Kowal, Florida Society of Rheumatology; Dr. Craig Eichler, Florida Society of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery; Dr. Ronald Garry, newly-installed president of Florida Geriatrics Society; and Dr. Rolando Rivera, Florida Urological Society.

In addition to the critical activity of providing testimony and voting on resolutions and FMA elections with CCMS members' concerns in mind, each year the delegation connects with colleagues from around the state and particularly the Lower West Coast Caucus (Charlotte, Collier, Hillsborough, Lee, Manatee, Polk, and Sarasota counties). These connections help to increase our county's voice at the state level.

The FMA Alliance (FMAA) and the Conference of Florida Medical Society Executives (CFMSE) also held their Annual Meetings during the weekend. During the FMAA meeting, CCMS Alliance Past President Karen Swain was installed as FMAA president-elect, Dr. Bernard presented on physician wellness, and the CCMS Alliance received three awards from the FMAA board. At the CFMSE meeting, CCMS Executive Director April Donahue was installed as chair of the CFMSE board.

## State Representation

Each year at the Annual Meeting the House of Delegates elects FMA's leadership. Dr. Howard was installed as FMA's 142nd President. CCMS is also proud to announce the election of Dr. Haciski to the AMA delegation. Ms. Donahue was appointed to the FMA Board of Governors' component medical society executive seat. These representatives can take your concerns to the state and national level.

## Committees

CCMS was privileged to have local delegates on three FMA annual meeting committees. Dr. Smith and Dr. Talano served on the reference committee for Health, Education and Public Policy, and Dr. Bernard and Dr. De Leon on Legislation. The reference committees hear testimony and make recommendations to the House of Delegates. Dr. Baez and Dr. Kowal were members of the Credentials & Rules committee, which can approve whether late resolutions are heard and has the responsibility of ensuring fair elections.

## Resolutions

Below is a synopsis of some of the House of Delegates' more noteworthy actions. For the full report visit <https://bit.ly/2PnrTjP>.

**Physician Right to Decline Supervision of Non-Physician Clinicians** [Referred to BOG for study]. This resolution CCMS submitted in 2017 had been reviewed by the FMA Board of Governors (BOG), who recommended the 2018 House not adopt. CCMS presented new information in the reference committee hearings, and the House then referred the resolution to the FMA Board for further study.

**FMA on ARNP Compact** [Adopted]. Reaffirms FMA position that health care teams are best led by physicians; and resolves that the FMA oppose any legislation that would enact into law, directly or indirectly, the Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Multistate Compact proposed by the National Council of the State Boards Nursing; educate the public, legislators, regulators, and healthcare administrators; and oppose state legislative efforts aimed at inappropriate scope of practice expansion.

**Denial of Prescriptions by Walmart Health & Wellness Practice Compliance Office** [Adopted]. Resolves that the FMA communicate to Walmart the need for their community pharmacists to collaborate with the local physicians by openly publishing and providing specific "prescribing patterns and other factors" parameters that they are monitoring and offer a time frame for recourse; and that the FMA request Walmart discontinue sending, and rescind, physicians' letters addressing "the physician's prescribing patterns and other factors" until a more collaborative approach to the opioid crisis can be agreed upon; and that the FMA request the AMA, state associations, and national specialty societies engage national pharmacist organizations and corporate entities to ensure that physicians and pharmacists are collaborating to more effectively address the opioid crisis while not endangering patients or interfering with physician's ability to care for patients.

*continued on page 7*



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**Controlled Substance Legislation Fixes / Mandatory PDMP Checking / HB 21 Epilepsy Exemption** [Referred to BOG for Decision]. These resolutions regarding Florida's new controlled substance prescribing law were presented to the House with a variety of requests for FMA to seek amendments to the current law. The resolutions were referred to the Board for decision due to the complexity of the issue.

**FMA Campaign Initiative to Protect Public Safety / FMA Campaign Initiative to Educate, Advocate, Research, and Protect Public Safety** [Referred to BOG]. Two resolutions were presented to the House addressing firearm safety, both of which were referred to the Board of Governors.

**Denials for Substitute Procedures that can be Reasonably Anticipated** [Adopted]. Resolves that the FMA seek legislation to prohibit insurance carriers from denying claims for the performance of surrogate procedures that can be reasonably anticipated to be a valid substitution for an authorized procedure to treat an underlying ailment or injury.

**Duplicative Credentialing for In-Network Practice Transitions** [Adopted]. Resolves that the FMA support legislation or administrative rules that would prohibit insurance carriers from subjecting in-network providers to re-credentialing when they transition to a new practice.

**Sham Reviews and Transparent Authorization Process** [Adopted]. Resolves that the FMA support legislation to mandate that all treatment guidelines and authorization protocols implemented by insurance carriers must be 1) transparent and readily available to their insured and treating physician and 2) that Medical Directors making coverage determinations on the grounds of Medical Necessity must certify that they have directly reviewed the relevant medical records and received input from a physician in the same specialty as the treating physician, prior to the denial.

**Prior Authorization for In-Patient Care and Non-Emergent Procedures** [Adopted]. Resolves that the FMA support legislation to prohibit insurance carriers from requiring prior authorization for patients who are being treated in the hospital and that would prohibit insurance carriers from requiring prior authorization for treatment associated with an emergency condition.

**Proposed Changes to Evaluation and Management Codes** [Adopted]. Resolves that the FMA work diligently with the AMA to urge CMS to not adopt any changes to E/M payments that would adversely impact physicians, and instead enact reforms that would reduce administrative burdens without compromising access to care.



*Members of the CCMS delegation campaign with Dr. Rafael Haciski*



*Dr. Catherine Kowal with Rep. Gayle Harrell, candidate for Florida Senate*



*Dr. Rebekah Bernard and Karen Swain accepting an FMA Alliance Award for the CCMS Alliance*



*Dr. Corey Howard is installed as FMA president with Dr. Cyndi Yag-Howard and AMA president Dr. Barbara McAneny*



*Dr. Craig Eichler representing his specialty society at the House of Delegates*



*Dr. James Talano was a judge for the FMA poster symposium*



*The CCMS delegation is ready for a morning at the FMA House of Delegates*



*Dr. Gary Swain testifies before a reference committee*



*Dr. David Wilkinson testifies before a reference committee*

# Foundation of CCMS Announces 2018 Healthcare Scholarship Winners

Foundation of Collier County Medical Society

The board of directors of the Foundation of CCMS is pleased to announce the winners of its 2018 Foundation healthcare scholarship awards: Hannah Klopff, Revenel Metayer, Savannah Moore, Steven Peretiatko, and Daniela Salazar. The final tally of 2018 scholarship awards given by the Foundation is now \$36,000.

The Foundation of CCMS healthcare scholarships are for students who are Florida residents enrolled or accepted into a healthcare degree program, with awards based on need, academic performance, and community involvement.

“Dozens of outstanding healthcare students submitted scholarship applications this year to the Foundation,” said Dr. Rolando Rivera, Foundation Chair. “We are thankful to the many Foundation donors and sponsors who have given us the opportunity to support our future medical professionals.”



Hannah Klopff, who received a \$7,500 award, is a Naples High School and University of Florida graduate attending the Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine. “This generous award will allow me to focus on my studies rather than my finances throughout my first year of medical school,” said Ms. Klopff. “Moving to

Colorado to pursue my dream of becoming a physician is a huge step in my career and your support means the world to me. I can’t wait to return to Naples as a physician and pay it forward to the community that has given me everything!”



Revenel Metayer, a Golden Gate High School and Emory University graduate, received a \$4,000 scholarship for pursuing his Physician Assistant degree as a student at Barry University. “This scholarship has assisted in lightening the financial burden that graduate school requires of me,” said Mr. Metayer.

“I am so very grateful for the generosity and support of the

Foundation. I hope to pay it forward and assist others who are pursuing medical careers.”



Savannah Moore is a Bonita Springs resident and nursing student at Florida Southwestern State College. She received a \$4,000 award. “It has been a lifelong dream of mine to work in the medical field,” said Savannah. “Due to your generosity, the path to continuing my education has never looked brighter.

It is my most sincere goal to become a caring and hardworking nurse who can help others during their time of need.”



Steven Peretiatko is a North Port High School and University of Florida graduate attending the USF Morsani College of Medicine, and received a \$4,000 award. “The generosity of the Foundation is making an impact on the future generation of physicians by supporting those who advocate for the

future of the profession,” said Mr. Peretiatko. “Simply put, the significance of this scholarship to me is an investment in the future of medicine.”



Daniela Salazar, who also received a \$4,000 scholarship, is a Lorenzo Walker Technical High School and FSU graduate attending the FSU School of Physician Assistant Practice. “Receiving this scholarship will help me tremendously,” said Ms. Salazar. “This was my second time applying

to the scholarship and it only motivates me to continue my journey and overcome all the odds against me as a minority in medicine.”

The Foundation’s signature fundraiser, the Docs & Duffers Golf Tournament on October 6, 2018 will help raise funds for its scholarship program and local healthcare programs in need. The Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization launched by the Collier County Medical Society in 2012, with the mission to provide support and leadership to programs that address access to healthcare and promote health education. More information is available at [ccmsfoundation.org](http://ccmsfoundation.org).

## 2019 FCCMS Scholarship Applications Deadline March 31st

**The Dr. William Lascheid Memorial Scholarship**, recognizing future physicians with excellence in community service  
**Foundation Healthcare Scholarships**, for students pursuing careers in healthcare, awards based on need and academic performance

To learn more/Support the Foundation:

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## Opting out of MOC: What Florida doctors need to know

Rebekah Bernard, MD



After completing my initial board certification in Family Medicine in 2002 and re-certifying in 2009, I decided that 2017 would be my year of Jubilee, and I said goodbye to the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS).

I had my epiphany when I logged into the ABMS system to start working on my next re-certification cycle, which had just introduced

maintenance of certification (MOC) with “SAMs” (self-assessment modules). I had just resigned myself to start doing the tedious-but-not-difficult modules when I reached an impasse – the system wouldn’t allow me to even start working on the SAMs until I entered my credit card information and made a payment.

I blinked at the several-thousand-dollar number (the prepayment option, which “guaranteed” the cost over my 7 or 10-year cycle). Another option was to make annual payments – still a hefty number - or I could obtain pay-as-you go balloon financing, which allowed me to pay less in the years before the exam, and then a balloon payment during the exam year, which I was warned was not guaranteed and might increase in the intervening years.

As I contemplated this expense, I thought about my experience the year before when I sat for the Certificate of Added Qualification in Hospice and Palliative Medicine. I paid \$1200 to take the exam, traveled to Orlando where I also had to pay for a night in a hotel, and spent the day locked in a cubicle answering multiple-choice questions. I was treated almost like a criminal - finger printed, photographed, and nearly patted down each time I entered and left the exam room – no extra sweaters, bottles of water, or tissues allowed.

I had also done a little reading about some of the controversies with the ABMS, in particular, the Internal Medicine Board, which was subjected to an expose by Newsweek writer Kurt Eichenwald in 2015. The investigative journalist uncovered “lavish” spending on CEO salaries and deferred compensation, as well as questionable behavior such as failing to report lobbying activity on IRS filings (a no-no for non-profit organizations).

Concern over the ABIM was reported even earlier by Westby Fisher, MD, a cardiologist and electrophysiologist, who blogged in 2014 about the ABIM’s purchase of a \$2.3 million luxury condominium, complete with chauffeur-driven BMW 7-series town car (which they sold in 2016 at an estimated \$1.2 million loss).

These reports, along with studies showing that MOC does not improve patient outcomes and the ABMS’ belligerence in refusing to make meaningful change, led physician leaders of some of the nation’s most prestigious medical centers including Scripps Clinic, Mayo Clinic, Harvard, Dartmouth, Massachusetts General, and Colombia to create the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons (NBPAS) in March of 2015, as an alternative to the ABMS.

Politicians in some states have responded to calls from physicians to change MOC. Five states have already enacted strong bills prohibiting tying MOC to credentialing, including Georgia (the first on 7/1/17), Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Oklahoma (2018). Weaker MOC reform legislation passed in five other states, and six states have pending MOC reform legislation.

In Florida, legislators presented an MOC reform bill in February 2017 (Representatives Julio Gonzalez, MD and Ralph Massuolo sponsoring, and Reps Ben Albritton and Joe Geller co-sponsoring). Unfortunately, HB 723 died in committee only three months later.

### *So where do Florida physicians stand right now?*

First, board certification is not a requirement for medical licensure in the state of Florida. One caveat: physicians may not advertise as “board certified” unless your certification is through a Board of Medicine-recognized certifying board, most of which are only ABMS boards.

If you work with insurers or hospitals, you may be restricted from participation if you are not board certified. Several CCMS member-physicians have been refused privileges at local hospitals because they chose not to recertify with ABIM.

Hospital privileges are bylaw dependent, and some hospitals across the country have changed their bylaws to allow alternate board certification. In Florida, hospitals in Brandon, Sebring, Daytona Beach, Melbourne, Palm Bay, and Titusville will credential physicians who are certified through alternate organizations like the NBPAS. The NBPAS provides for hospital staff to present to their medical executive committee to request bylaw changes that would allow physicians to opt-out of burdensome MOC and yet maintain hospital privileges.

If you are billing patients directly for services and not accepting payment from insurance companies, then opting-out of MOC is less of an issue. Malpractice rates are not affected by alternate board certification (at least in my case), and while patients may say that they prefer board-certified physicians (according to an ABMS-sponsored study), I can count on one hand the number of times I have been questioned about not being board-certified

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(by ABMS) in the last two years.

*What is the future for physicians who wish to opt-out of MOC?*

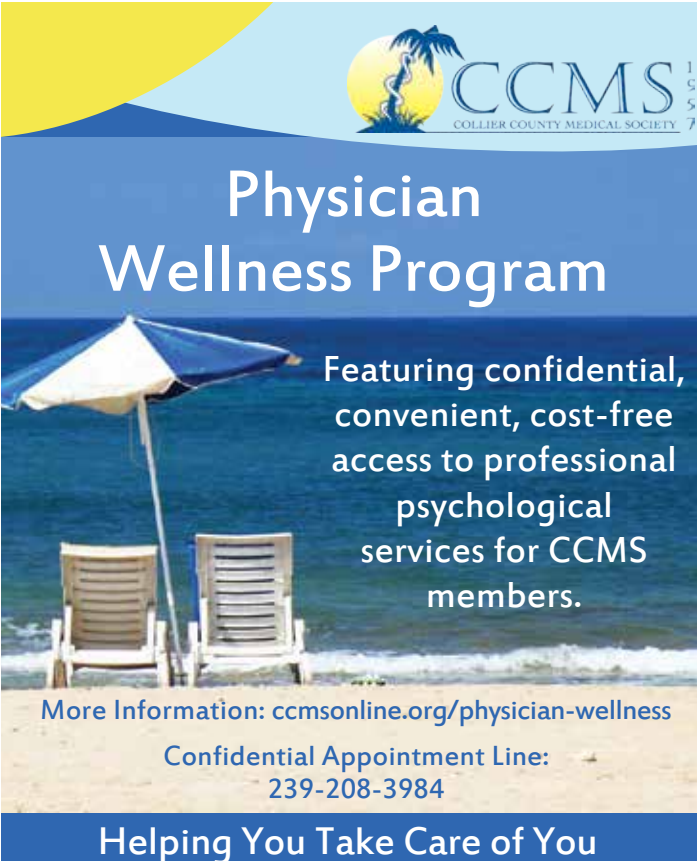
In Florida, current FMA policy states the FMA “opposes any action(s) by the Florida Board of Medicine to implement board certification as a condition of licensure or re-licensure” (P285.023), “seeks legislation to...eliminate unnecessary administrative and regulatory requirements; health care providers shall not be required, by any public or private entity to comply with maintenance of certification requirements after achieving initial board certification” (P285.029), and “calls upon the ABMS and its component boards to end the current MOC process, that includes high-stakes interval testing in favor of life-long learning with a program of high quality CME courses” (P285.032). There are also grassroots physician organizations aggressively fighting mandatory MOC. I invite CCMS members to contact me for more information.

<sup>i</sup> <https://www.newsweek.com/certified-medical-controversy-320495>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://drwes.blogspot.com/>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2020370?resultClick=3>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://nbpas.org/>



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## Physician Wellness Program

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

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Confidential Appointment Line:  
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Helping You Take Care of You

## To our CCMS Women Physicians

# Happy Women in Medicine Month!

September is the AMA's Women in Medicine Month, which serves to showcase the accomplishments of women physicians, as well as highlight advocacy related to women physicians and health issues impacting women patients. The 2018 theme is "Celebrating Our Legacy, Embracing Our Future."

### Resources for Women in Medicine

[ama-assn.org/about/women-medicine](http://ama-assn.org/about/women-medicine)  
[ama-assn.org/about/women-physicians-section-wps](http://ama-assn.org/about/women-physicians-section-wps)  
[SheMD.org](http://SheMD.org)  
[MomMD.com](http://MomMD.com)  
[amwa-doc.org](http://amwa-doc.org)  
[womensurgeons.org](http://womensurgeons.org)  
[ccmsonline.org/physician-wellness](http://ccmsonline.org/physician-wellness)  
 CCMS women physician & CCMS Alliance events  
 (stay tuned for more to come!)

### Women in Medicine by the Numbers

In 1860 there were roughly 200 women physicians in the U.S.

Today, there are more than 376,500.

Over the past 10 years, the number of female physicians has grown more than 43%.

Today, 47.6% of U.S. med students are women.

Fewer than 10% of women in leadership reported being a department chair, CEO, or CMO.

-<https://www.ama-assn.org/about/women-medicine>



## Community Corner: Make-A-Wish Southern Florida

### You Can Make a Life-Changing Difference for Critically-Ill Kids and their Families

Janey Cook, Medical & Community Outreach Coordinator, Make-A-Wish Southern Florida



17-year-old Chas Alaimo is probably a lot like other patients you may have seen or treated. The Naples resident has a long history of medical issues (which ultimately required a kidney transplant) and he's often confined to a wheelchair. He also happens to love dinosaurs.

What makes Chas different than some other kids facing life-threatening illnesses

in our community is that he was referred to Make-A-Wish® Southern Florida, a nonprofit organization that grants life-changing wishes for children who have critical illnesses. Eligible kids can 'wish to be' (something), 'wish to meet' (someone), 'wish to go' (somewhere), 'wish to have' (something), or 'wish to give' (something) and Make-A-Wish makes this happen for the child and his or her entire family at no cost or obligation.

Not surprisingly, Chas' wish had a dinosaur theme. He visited the Hell Creek formation in Montana, one of the most famous and intensely studied fossil sites in the world, and was never closer to the prehistoric creatures that occupied so much of his time and attention during a medically-challenged childhood.

The referral that started Chas on his way to the experience of a lifetime is something any medical professional with knowledge of a child's condition can do in the time it takes to fill out an online form. That form, which can be found on the Southern Florida chapter's website ([sfla.wish.org](http://sfla.wish.org)), is how Make-A-Wish begins the process of identifying children potentially eligible for its services. Once a doctor certifies they have a medical condition that's life-threatening, what the child can wish for is only constrained by the limits of their imagination.

"We're currently granting a wish every 14 hours but are positioned to do more," said Tammy Lynn, regional director of Make-A-Wish Southern Florida in Bonita Springs. "The goal is to reach every eligible child in our territory, but we're not able to find all those kids without referrals from people most aware of their health challenges."

Make-A-Wish believes, and new research from the medical community concurs, the wishes it grants aren't just nice, they're necessary to the improved health and well-being of the children and families that experience them. They provide a much-needed respite during times of medical crisis, with some recipients crediting the wish as a turning point in the battle against illness. We've also been able to document the ripple effect of our



services in the community through those connected to the wish child, including extended family, friends, teachers, and, yes, medical professionals. In addition to doctors, that last group would include nurses, child life specialists, social workers, those that work for physicians, and all those heartened that a sick child can experience a dream come true.

One common misconception about the services we offer is that they are only available to terminally ill children. This is not true. In fact, the great majority of the children we grant wishes for overcome their medical issues and many give back to our organization as adults so that other kids might experience what they did. We're proud to report these wish kids are now volunteers, donors, board members, and attend events that support our efforts.

In addition to having a doctor certify that the child has an illness or condition that is on the list of those considered critical, there are a few other conditions that must be met before a child is eligible to receive a wish:

- Each wish child must: be older than 2 ½ years and younger than 18
- live or be treated in one of the counties in our territory
- not have received a wish by any Make-A-Wish chapter or other organization

Make-A-Wish Southern Florida has granted nearly 12,000 life-changing wishes since 1983 and we're counting on you to be part of the next 12,000. If you are aware of a child/family that could potentially use our services, I urge you to visit our website ([sfla.wish.org/refer-a-child](http://sfla.wish.org/refer-a-child)) or contact me directly, 813-288-2600 ext. 306 or [JCook@sflawish.org](mailto:JCook@sflawish.org). Our territory includes 22 counties/four regions in southwest and southeast Florida, Tampa Bay, and the Suncoast (Sarasota area). It also includes the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## CCMS Hosts High School Interns

Collier County Medical Society

This summer and fall, for the second year, CCMS has been pleased to participate in the Collier County Public Schools internship program for CCPS career academy students. Internships and other work-based learning opportunities serve as a critical component to developing our community's future workforce. The goal for CCMS is to help engage, prepare, and retain local talent, while gaining significant value and productivity to the Society's business operations.

Stefany Leon, a student at Gulf Coast High School and Daniela Paz from Golden Gate High School, are both required to complete an internship of at least 120 hours for their medical academy career tracks. Stefany and Daniela have been working on a variety of projects and tasks for the Medical Society, such as event planning, communications, healthcare industry research, data maintenance, and general administrative tasks.



Stefany, who completed her internship this summer, hopes to one day work in pediatrics. "I'd like to thank the Medical Society, and most especially April and Nancy, for hosting my internship over this past summer; it was my favorite," she said. "Working with you has not only improved my general office skills, but has given me a chance to meet the faces

of the Medical Society and the doctors involved. As I move forward in my education, I will take and utilize all that I've learned throughout this internship. It was not only a pleasure but an honor to intern for CCMS."



Daniela will be working through the fall to complete her internship hours. "The opportunity to intern at CCMS is one of the best things to happen for me. Working here has made me completely sure that I want to pursue a career in the medical field," said Daniela. "Along with experiencing new things, working with two amazing women who are extremely hard-working has been great. April and

Nancy have shown me how much a person must work to succeed and accomplish their goals. I'm more than happy to have been a part of CCMS and hopefully another person just like me gets the chance as well."

To host a student for a work-based learning opportunity, such as job shadowing, mentoring, internship, and more, contact the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce Work-Based Learning Coordinator, Alex Breault, at 239-403-2912.





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## CCMS After 5 Socials



Angela Land and Dr. Spencer Land



Dr. Matthew Baker, Ellie Gross, Dr. Maria Santiago  
and Dr. Hussein Wafapoor



Dr. Scott Fuchs, Dr. Carlos Portu,  
Dr. Marc Guttman



Dr. Christopher Bartruff and  
Dr. Connie Alford Bartruff



Dr. Rebekah Bernard, Dr. Susan Cassidy



Jeremy Kershaw and Dr. Bobbi Brady



Dr. Gary Swain, Lindsey Turnbaugh,  
Dr. Megan Cheslock, Dr. Fred Qafiti, Dr. Thien Le



Dr. Ron Repice, Dr. Jose Baez, Dr. David Krueger



Marie D'Orazio and Dr. Stephen D'Orazio



Dr. James Talano, Dr. James Scanlon, Dr. Sajan Rao



Dr. Sam Tunkle, Dr. Maria Del Rio-Giles,  
Dr. Jonathan Jay, Hugo Myslicki, Dr. Chaundre Cross



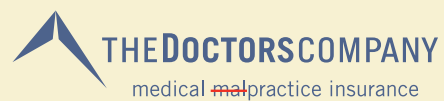
Noelia Halavacs and Dr. Leo Baccaro



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