



# THE FORUM

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## 2023 FMA Legislative Update

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Saturday, April 1, 8:30am  
**CCMS Women's Health Forum**  
 Naples United Church of Christ  
*Open to the public*  
*Support opportunities at [ccmsonline.org](http://ccmsonline.org)*

Saturday, April 15, 5:30pm  
**CCMS & CCMS Alliance**  
**Everblades Family Hockey Night**  
 Hertz Arena

Wednesday, April 26, 5:30pm  
**CCMS General Membership Meeting**  
 Sugden Auditorium at Telford Building  
 NCH Baker Downtown Hospital

Wednesday, May 10, 6pm  
**CCMS After 5 Social**  
 Location TBD

Monday, May 22, 6:30pm  
**Foundation of CCMS Wine Dinner Fundraiser**  
 The French Brasserie Rustique  
*Open to the public*

Saturday, June 10, 6:30pm  
**CCMS Annual Meeting**  
 Arthrex Conference Center  
*Open to the public*  
*Support opportunities at [ccmsonline.org](http://ccmsonline.org)*

### Corrections:

In the Jan/Feb 2023 President's Message, Dr. Cesar De Leon's years as President of the CCMS Board of Directors should have been listed as 2019-2020, and Dr. Mark Gerber's first year of practice in Naples should have been listed as 2000.

## Premier Circle of Friends



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Michael Smith, CPA • 239-325-2458  
[michael@oascms.com](mailto:michael@oascms.com)  
[oascms.com](http://oascms.com)

### CCMS Member Dues

**The 2022 CCMS dues deadline was Dec. 31, 2022.**

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. Members who would like an extension, payment program, or waiver due to Hurricane Ian, please contact CCMS. Thank you.

## CCMS Board of Directors 2021-2022

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# MEMBER NEWS

## New Members:



### Lizmarie Andino, MD

Naples Pathology Associates  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd Unit 306  
Naples, FL 34108  
Phone: (239) 263-1777 Fax: (239) 263-6983  
Board Certified: Pathology - Anatomic/  
Pathology - Clinical



### Angela Babbo, MD

GenesisCare  
1885 SW Health Pkwy  
Naples, FL 34109  
Phone: (239) 593-3030 Fax: (239) 593-3022  
Board Certified: Radiation Oncology



### Jay M Barnett, MD

Advanced Dermatology and Cosmetic Surgery  
4037 Del Prado Blvd S  
Cape Coral, FL 33904  
Phone: (239) 829-7102 Fax: (239) 829-7104  
Board Certified: Dermatology; Internal  
Medicine



### Eric A Dean, DO

Pediatric Gastroenterology  
Lee Health Pediatric Gastro  
16230 Summerlin Rd Ste 215  
Ft Myers, FL 33908  
Phone: (239) 343-7474 Fax: (239) 343-4185  
Board Certified: Pediatrics



### Kristin Mascotti, MD

Administration  
NCH Healthcare System  
350 7th St N  
Naples, FL 34102  
Phone: (239) 624-4022 Fax: (239) 624-4001  
Board Certified: Pathology - Anatomic/  
Pathology - Clinical



### Rachel L Pandit, MD

Advance Medical of Naples LLC  
720 Goodlette Rd N Ste 500  
Naples, FL 34102  
Phone: (239) 566-7676 Fax: (239) 566-9149  
Board Certified: Family Medicine



### Mary Ravelo, MD

Psychiatry  
VA Naples  
800 Goodlette Rd Ste 120  
Naples, FL 34102  
Phone: (239) 659-9188



### Khurram Shafique, MD

Naples Pathology Associates  
1110 Pine Ridge Rd Unit 306  
Naples, FL 34108  
Phone: (239) 263-1777 Fax: (239) 263-6983  
Board Certified: Pathology - Anatomic/  
Pathology - Clinical; Cytopathology



### Jennifer L Sherwin, MD

Healthcare Network  
12655 Collier Blvd  
Naples, FL 34116  
Phone: (239) 658-3000  
Board Certified: Pediatrics

## Reinstated Members:

### John D Campbell, MD

Collier Neurologic Specialists  
3200 Bailey Ln  
Naples, FL 34105  
Phone: (239) 262-8971 Fax: (239) 262-5903

### William E Grubbs, MD

Retired

## New Practice:

### Robert Swift, DO

Blue Sky Orthopedics and Sports Medicine  
4513 Executive Dr Ste 102  
Naples, FL 34119  
Phone: (239) 877-4662 Fax: (866) 439-5644

## Updated Contact Information:

### John F Alburger, MD

848 1st Ave N Ste 330  
Naples, FL 34102

### Joshua Blitstein, DO

Wellspan Medical Services, LLC  
599 9th St N #308  
Naples, FL 34102  
Phone: (239) 643-7888 Fax: (239) 643-4744

### Paul Greco, MD

Concierge Medical Services  
1333 3rd Ave S Ste 304  
Naples, FL 34102

### Robert Klausner, MD

26800 S Tamiami Trl Ste 360  
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

### Carlos Portu, MD

Shoreline Physician Group  
950 Manatee Road  
Naples, FL 34114

### Brad Snead, MD

John Snead, MD  
Snead Eye Group  
(change for Naples location only)  
6435 Naples Blvd  
Naples, FL 34109

### J Fred Stoner, MD

Phone: (724) 698-4795  
Fax: (724) 652-1109

## A Message from the CCMS President

Rebecca Smith, M.D., Board President, Collier County Medical Society



healthcare workers.

We communicated that Collier County physicians are seeing an ever-growing, critical need for access to inpatient mental healthcare in our community. With the closing of the NCH inpatient psychiatric unit, our NCH colleagues are experiencing a growing census of patients who desperately need inpatient psychiatric care. The acute care hospitals do not have trained staff and programs to accommodate their needs. Current lack of access to appropriate inpatient mental health care is resulting in patients spending more time in the acute care hospitals without specialized care and often necessitates transfers to centers in Lee and Charlotte Counties, as well as the east coast of Florida, away from their support systems.

Fortunately, county officials have been moving forward to address this issue. In 2007, David Lawrence Centers (DLC) offered the county, for free, 5 acres of land which would provide space for a Collier County mental health facility to be built. Over the past 15 years, public meetings have been held and the project to build a mental health intake facility was approved by the County Commissioners. In February 2021 the Commissioners reviewed sites for the facility and unanimously chose the DLC site, and in May 2021 unanimously approved a long-term lease and operating agreement with DLC. There were four meetings held with residents near DLC and adjustments were made to address their concerns. The neighbors continued to express concerns about having the facility in their neighborhood. The Commissioners decided to take the advice of the Collier County planning commission and have another vote at their February 14, 2023 meeting to determine whether the county would go forward or look for another site.

At our individual discussions with the Commissioners, and then at the February 14th meeting, we informed Commissioners that it is the standard of care, best practice for the intake facility to be in a centralized location that is easy to access, and not far from our two hospital systems; be located on or very near the campus of an existing, recognized, expert community mental health center for best integration and continuity of care; and

to honor the needs of our entire community by moving in a cost-effective timely manner. We also emphasized that patients the facility would serve are from diverse socio-economic backgrounds, from those without housing to those in affluent neighborhoods. Mental illness affects our entire community and requires specialized medical treatment just like heart disease, diabetes, and stroke. We stressed that our patients deserve to be treated in an environment that is conducive to their healing. We asked, in the best interest of our community, for the Commissioners to vote yes to proceed with the current plan.

The CCMS board invited CCMS members to submit their comments on this issue, and several members including psychiatrists and local primary care physicians expressed their support of the plan and conveyed the urgency of need. We shared many of these comments at the Commission meeting on February 14th. A CCMS member wrote to us about his concern that CCMS was involved in this advocacy effort, and we were very mindful to limit our advocacy to our medical expertise. Fortunately, our communities' advocacy, including CCMS, made a difference! The Commissioners voted 4 to 1 in favor of moving forward with the new county intake facility being built on the land given to them by DLC. This is proposed to be completed in a few years.

The second major concern we expressed to the Commissioners in our individual meetings was the shortage of healthcare staff in our community. We hear of physicians who won't move to the area because of the housing prices. Our nursing staff, medical assistants, and other healthcare workers are often unable to afford living in Collier County and many workers drive from Lee County. This shortage affects patient care. For example, the lack of physical and occupational therapists for our local acute care hospitals is leading to more patients becoming debilitated.

The lack of affordable housing has also been in the recent news. There are some projects on the horizon to improve access to housing. The Florida Hometown Heroes Housing Program helps make housing more affordable for eligible "front line" workers, educators, police officers, healthcare providers, childcare, firefighters, military personnel, and others, by providing down payment and closing cost assistance to qualified homebuyers. This program offers a lower first mortgage rate and additional special benefits to those who currently serve their communities and those who serve or have served our country. Some new condominium and community projects have been approved based on the contingency of having a proportion of their units or homes meet affordable housing criteria. More housing solutions for our healthcare workforce are also necessary.

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# 66th Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 10th, 2023 | 6:30PM – 9:00PM**

**Arthrex One Conference Center**

**1 Arthrex Way, Naples, FL 34108**

## AGENDA

### PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Featuring the Installation of our 2023-2024  
Board President & CCMS Board of Directors

Cocktail Reception, 6:30pm

Dinner & Program, 7:15pm

#### Highlights:

*CCMS Physician of the Year Award*

*Presentation and special guest*

**Dr. Joshua Lenchus, FMA President**

## RSVP BY JUNE 5TH

### REGISTER

Register at [ccmsonline.org/events](http://ccmsonline.org/events)

call (239) 435-7727

email [info@ccmsonline.org](mailto:info@ccmsonline.org)

#### COST

Complimentary for CCMS physician  
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# 2023 FMA Legislative Agenda

*Florida Medical Association Legislative Team*



The issues listed below are those that the FMA believes will occupy the majority of our lobbying effort. However, the Legislative

Session is a fluid process and unforeseen events may develop. The FMA consistently communicates 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

The FMA will pursue legislation to simplify, streamline, and expedite prior authorizations. Health plans employ time-consuming prior authorization requirements to control patient access to certain treatments. To reduce the burdensome impact that prior authorization requirements have on patients, physicians, and the healthcare system, the FMA will seek reforms including but not limited to requiring electronic prior authorization requests, procedural transparency, reducing the medically unnecessary and duplicative information health plans currently require, and implementing time limits for approval or denial.

## Expansion of Telehealth and Payment Parity

In the era of COVID-19, telehealth emerged as an essential tool for access to healthcare, particularly for the medically vulnerable. The FMA will seek to expand the definition of telehealth to include audio-only visits and work to ensure that telehealth visits are paid at the same rate as in-person visits.

## Tort Reform

Over the last two decades, the FMA has successfully fought for a number of reforms of the medical liability system, only to see these reforms invalidated by the Supreme Court. The FMA is working with other interested parties to develop a strategy for revisiting these reforms while the environment for doing so, and not having them judicially invalidated, is favorable.

## Scope-of-Practice Expansion

As always, the FMA will fight attempts to expand scope of practice for non-physicians. This year, the FMA will work to protect patients from unqualified optometrists wanting to perform laser surgery, CRNA independent practice, prescriptive authority for non-medically trained psychologists, deceptive name changes such as physician assistant to “physician associate” and nurse anesthetist to “nurse anesthesiologist,” and any other legislation that would endanger patients. These dangerous initiatives would serve only to lower the quality of care delivered in Florida.

## Access to Cancer Drugs

The FMA supports legislation that would prohibit insurers from requiring patients to meet prior authorization requirements before life-saving drugs could be prescribed for certain cancers

and associated conditions. Further, the FMA supports prohibiting insurers from requiring mandatory home infusion of complex medications against the recommendations of the patient’s treating physician. The FMA will also seek legislation to prohibit insurer-mandated “white bagging” and “brown bagging” policies, which compromise patient safety, result in medication and resource waste, and further complicate care coordination. Physicians know what the safest route of administration is for these specialty medications – not health insurers.

## Wrongful Death

The FMA opposes legislation that seeks to increase rates for medical malpractice insurance and healthcare costs in general. This legislation, which has been filed unsuccessfully in years past, would permit the recovery of noneconomic damages by adult children for the loss of a parent, and by the parents for the loss of an adult child with no surviving spouse or children, in a medical malpractice wrongful death claim. This type of policy is based on the offensive premise that certain patients would receive a lower standard of care and would drive up Florida’s already high malpractice rate.

## DNA Glitch Bill

During the 2021 Legislative Session, legislation was passed with the goal of protecting a patient’s DNA sample from being collected and analyzed without the patient’s knowledge or consent. Unfortunately, the final language encompasses any DNA sample that is taken from the patient and sent to a third party – regardless of intended use. For example, medical waste containing any bodily material would be subject to this law once it is transferred to a waste management facility. Concerningly, any practitioner who fails to comply with the consent provision would be subject to criminal charges. The FMA will work to clarify the law during the 2023 session so that physicians are not unjustly disciplined.

## Medical Student Loan Forgiveness

The FMA was able to ensure the inclusion of \$6 million in recurring revenue in the state budget during the 2022 legislative session. The FMA is working with the Department of Health to implement the system for distributing these funds and will work to ensure that the \$6 million appropriation continues and is enhanced based on the outcome of the distribution of funds this year. Continuation of this program will help alleviate physician shortages in underserved communities, encourage more physicians to practice family and general medicine, and promote team-based medicine in rural communities, which will help safeguard patient safety and quality of care.

## Limitations on Medical Payments

The business community will be back with legislation this year that will seek to set arbitrary limits on the fees that physicians

*continued on page 7*

*continued from page 6*

can charge certain patients who are injured due to the negligence of third parties. For these patients, physicians would be forced to accept government-determined rates and would be prohibited from accepting certain alternative payment arrangements for patients who do not have insurance. The FMA will fight against the imposition of unfair and irrational government-imposed limitations on physician compensation and will seek to ensure that negligent third parties are required to pay for the full cost of the medical care provided to the victims of their negligence.

### Stop the Bleed

“Stop the Bleed” is a national hands-on educational program that teaches bleeding control technique to laypeople in less than an hour without cost. Trained bystanders are more likely to stop the bleeding of injured people when bleeding control kits containing gloves, gauze, and tourniquets are readily accessible in public locations. Recognizing that hemorrhage is the top cause of preventable death from injury and that swift interventions to stop bleeding with pressure, packing, and tourniquets have saved the lives of countless victims, the FMA will seek state appropriation to fund the purchase, placement, and maintenance of bleeding control kits in schools and high-trafficked public spaces in Florida.

### Graduate Medical Education

The FMA will continue its efforts over the last several legislative sessions to increase state funding for graduate medical education. While Florida’s 10 medical schools produce a large number of medical school graduates, approximately 50% of these students leave Florida to complete their residencies. Since most do not return to practice in Florida, while the majority of those who complete their residencies in Florida do stay in state, it is crucial that Florida create additional residency positions to ensure that the projected physician shortage is averted and Florida remains a state with available high-quality healthcare.

[www.flmedical.org](http://www.flmedical.org)

*continued from page 3*

### Updated Contact Information:

**Janice N Young, MD**  
Woman to Woman GYN of Naples  
1201 Piper Blvd Ste 21  
Naples, FL 34110

### Newly Retired:

Richard Beatty, MD  
Ophthalmology

*continued from page 4*

The lack of access to mental health care and shortages of staff (often related to lack of wages to meet housing costs), among other concerns, are making it even more difficult for physicians to do our jobs. We are finding we must do more than what we were trained or hired to do, to make sure our patients get the quality care they need and deserve. I’ve been reassured that the shortage of healthcare workers is national, not just local. However, I feel we have an even greater problem because many other communities at least have affordable housing.

There is an ever-growing need for physician advocacy to inform the community what we’re experiencing on the “front line”. Sadly, we are often unable to attend the monthly Collier County Board of Commissioners meetings, among others, due to work restrictions. We do need to make our voices heard. Having attended the February 14th Commission meeting, I do feel that the Commissioners and audience were receptive to my testimony, and the report of responses from our physicians by April Donahue, CCMS Executive Director.

The CCMS Board of Directors and legislative team are also meeting virtually with Senator Passidomo this March to relate local healthcare concerns. We will continue to do our best to find ways to inform our local, state, and national legislators of the concerns of our local physicians regarding our communities’ healthcare needs and involve you so we can make our voices heard. Together, we can make a difference! We need to do this for our patients, our community, our profession, and ourselves.

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# CCMS Legislative Advocacy: Serving our Members and their Patients

Collier County Medical Society



CCMS is constantly focusing on major areas of concern to our physician members while monitoring the political and business climate. Advocacy is one of our core values, and our efforts locally, statewide, and nationally address critical issues on behalf of physicians and patients.

CCMS sends a delegation to the FMA House of Delegates each year where FMA policy is formed and a strong legislative agenda is created. We meet with our legislators to advocate for members and their patients and provide important commentary and information to the press. The CCMS Political Action Committee (PAC) supports the campaigns of physician & patient-friendly candidates at local and state levels with contributions from our members and their spouses.

CCMS members may join the CCMS Legislative Committee to assist with our advocacy efforts, and CCMS members and spouses are encouraged to contribute to the CCMS PAC. Call CCMS at 239-435-7727 or email [april@ccmsonline.org](mailto:april@ccmsonline.org) for details.

## What is the CCMS PAC?

To pass laws that protect patients and support the medical profession, physicians need strong allies among local and state elected officials. The CCMS Political Action Committee was created to help elect candidates to local and state offices who are aligned with CCMS healthcare advocacy policies. The CCMS PAC can donate to political campaigns, while CCMS itself cannot.

The CCMS PAC solicits voluntary contributions from physicians, their spouses, medical students, and resident physicians to research, interview, and support the election of medicine-friendly candidates.

## Is the CCMS PAC non-partisan?

Yes. The CCMS PAC can support pro-medicine candidates of any political parties. The CCMS PAC works closely with CCMS physician members and medical societies from around the state to identify pro-medicine candidates as they seek elected office.

## Who can contribute to the CCMS PAC?

Anyone who wishes to support medicine-friendly candidates, including physicians, their spouses, medical students, and resident physicians can support the PAC. The suggested contribution is \$100 annually. Medical practices and medical staffs may contribute as well. Contribute at [ccmsonline.org/membership/#dues](http://ccmsonline.org/membership/#dues) (note: PAC Contributions are not tax deductible).

When you contribute to the CCMS PAC, you help make Collier County and Florida a better place to practice medicine by helping pro-medicine candidates get elected. Your dollars help ensure that physicians have a voice in government, which is vital in passing pro-medicine legislation and defeating harmful bills.

## Who serves on the CCMS PAC Board?

The CCMS PAC Board is comprised of physician leaders from around the county, one CCMS Alliance member, and the CCMS Executive Director. Current Board Members:

Rolando Rivera, MD – Chair

Catherine Campbell

April Donahue

Julian Javier, MD

Catherine Kowal, MD

Mitchell Zeitler, MD

## Whom do I contact for more information?

Contact CCMS Executive Director, April Donahue, 239-435-7727 or [april@ccmsonline.org](mailto:april@ccmsonline.org) with questions or to donate. We can also forward questions to any of the PAC board members.

## Upcoming Election Dates

Presidential Preference Primary – March 19, 2024

Primary Election Day – August 20, 2024

General Election Day – November 5, 2024

## Find Your Elected Officials

Collier County: [colliervotes.gov/Candidates/Current-Elected-Officials](http://colliervotes.gov/Candidates/Current-Elected-Officials)

Lee County: [lee.vote/Elected-Officials](http://lee.vote/Elected-Officials)

## Voter Registration Details

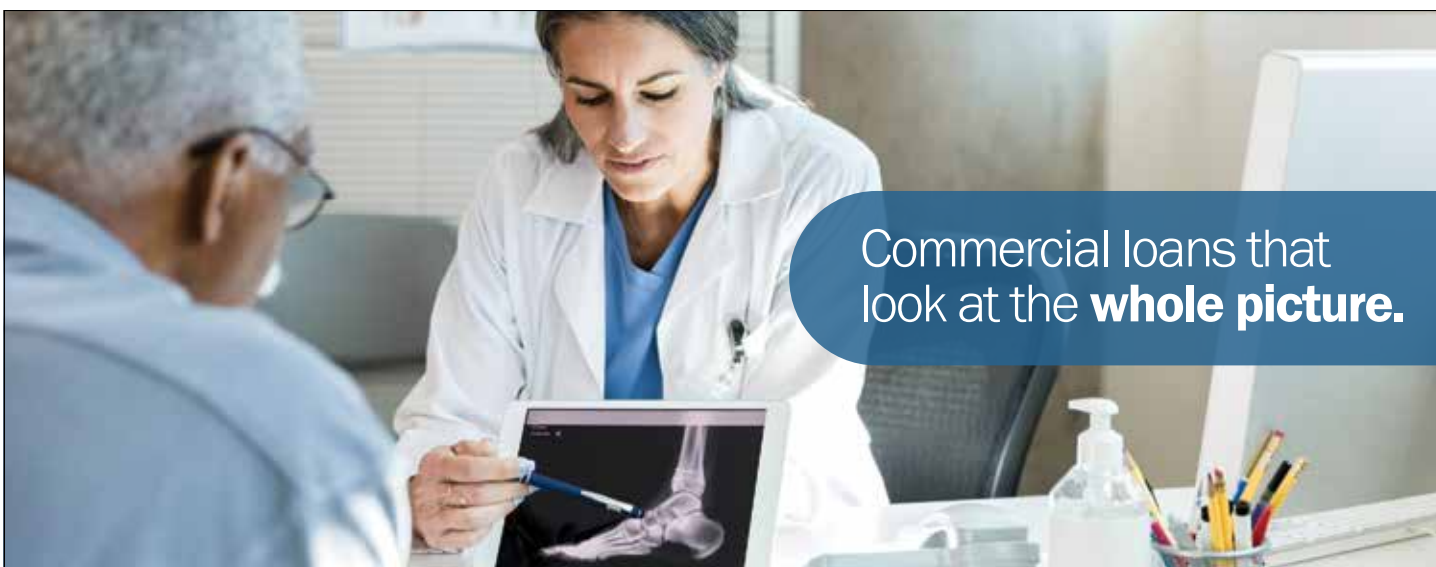
Collier County: [colliervotes.gov/Register-to-Vote/Registration-Application](http://colliervotes.gov/Register-to-Vote/Registration-Application)

Lee County: [lee.vote/Admin/Check-my-Registration-Status](http://lee.vote/Admin/Check-my-Registration-Status)



*Senate President Kathleen Passidomo with Dr. Rafael Haciski at the 2017 CCMS Annual Meeting*





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# Medicare Physician Pay System Needs a Real Fix—Not More Patches

Jennifer Lubell, Contributing News Writer, AMA News



The AMA's push to avert an 8.5% Medicare cut in the 2023 omnibus spending bill slowed down the wheels of a runaway train—but didn't stop it completely.

Physicians will still see a 2% cut in Medicare pay this year, with at least a 1.25% cut in store for 2024.

Throwing in patches and preventing cuts year after year after year is not sustainable, warned AMA Senior Vice President of Advocacy Todd Askew.

"We spend all our time trying to prevent a 2% cut, a 4% cut, an 8% cut. And nobody on Capitol Hill or within the administration is focused on fixing the root problem—and that's the payment system itself," Askew said during a recent episode of "AMA Update."

Askew also discussed why a 2% cut might force some practices to reconsider Medicare, underscoring the urgency of reforming the Medicare payment system.

## 2% reduction in Medicare fees

Medicare physicians initially faced an 8.5% reduction to physician payments in 2023. This was due to multiple factors: the expiration of a 3% bonus to account for evaluation and management (E/M) increases, and new E/M values that called for a budget-neutrality adjustment of 1.5%. Another 4% came from a pay-as-you-go (PAYGO) cut to reduce excess spending.

"The timing could not really be worse given, first of all, a lot of practices are still recovering from lower revenue during the heart of the pandemic," noted Askew.

## PAYGO cut averted

The AMA, along with 150 other physician organizations and health care groups worked hard to avert these cuts. Advocacy made some progress, said Askew. "Overall, the 4% reduction from PAYGO was put off, eliminated for this year."

Congress also phased down the physician bonus that offsets E/M increases to 2.5%, with another phase down scheduled in 2024, to 1.25%.

Lawmakers also decided not to deal with offsetting the higher E/M values that caused other budget-neutrality cuts. "All in all, it's about a 2% reduction in Medicare fees from 2022 to the current year," explained Askew.

## Practices may reexamine Medicare

While a 2% cut is better than 8.5%, the reduction will force many practices to make some tough decisions, said Askew.

Some already operate on a 2% or even 0% margin. "It's going to have some practices examining whether Medicare participation is viable," he emphasized. For older adult patients, this will likely result in access problems across the country across multiple specialties for multiple types of care.

Continued erosion in Medicare payments compared with inflation will have long-term implications, he continued.

Physicians have already seen reductions of 22% over the last few decades "based on the fact that the underlying payment system has no mechanism for regular increases to keep up with the cost of inflation," said Askew.

## A wake-up call

Congress has not done any serious oversight on the current payment system since it was put into place under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) of 2015, Askew noted.

His hope is the 2% cut will be a wake-up call to Congress—that continuing cuts and erosion in the value of Medicare payments threatens access.

Askew urged physicians to stay tuned to AMA's social media channels and be on the lookout for alerts from the Physicians Grassroots Network. "We can't wait until there's another crisis because, likely, we're going to see more cuts next year," he said.

*"AMA Update" covers health care topics affecting the lives of physicians and patients. Hear from physicians and experts on public health, advocacy issues, scope of practice and more—because who's doing the talking matters. You can catch every episode by subscribing to the AMA's YouTube channel or the audio-only podcast version, which also features educational presentations and in-depth discussions.*

*Reprinted from the American Medical Association  
<https://www.ama-assn.org/>*

## CCMS Call for Officer Nominations

Rebecca Smith, M.D., Chair, CCMS Nominating Committee



The 2023 CCMS nominating committee will present its slate of CCMS officers for 2023-2024 to the membership this spring, at least 30 days prior to this year's annual meeting, which is scheduled for June 10th. The nominating committee would like to invite members in good standing to submit candidates for review by the committee.

According to CCMS bylaws, candidates proposed by a CCMS member to the committee must be proposed in writing, including qualifications, at least 60 days before the annual membership meeting. Nominations from the floor at the annual meeting are also accepted from a member in good standing and with the consent of the nominee.

The officers of this Society shall consist of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and one officer/director at large. At the discretion of the nominating committee up to two additional directors at large can be nominated to the Board of Directors. The nominating committee will also present candidates for alternate delegates to the Florida Medical Association 2023 Annual Meeting, July 28-30 in Orlando.

Only active members of the Society shall be considered for office (does not include adjunct, associate, resident, retired, or honorary). Candidates for president shall have served a minimum of one year on the Board of Directors. Candidates for vice-president shall have served either on the Board of Directors or chaired the PAC or a committee for one year. Those elected shall assume office at the close of the annual membership meeting for a term of one year.

To submit your nomination(s), send the nominee information by Monday, April 10th to executive director April Donahue via email to [april@ccmsonline.org](mailto:april@ccmsonline.org), fax 239-435-7790, or 88 12th Street N, Unit 200, Naples, FL 34102. Please note if the nominees have consented to the nomination.

### Nominating Committee:

Jon Berlie, MD; Nena Korunda, MD; Rebecca Smith, MD; Gary Swain, MD; James Talano, MD



*CCMS Board of Directors at 2022 CCMS Annual Meeting: Jose Baez, MD; Glenn Groat, MD; Zubin Pachori, MD; Alexandra Grace, DO; Rebecca Smith, MD; George Brinnig, MD; Gary Swain, MD. Not pictured: Alejandro Perez-Trepichio, MD.*

### Board of Directors 2022-23

Rebecca Smith, MD – President  
Gary Swain, MD – Vice President  
Zubin Pachori, MD – Treasurer  
George Brinnig, MD – Secretary  
Jose Baez, MD – Officer/Director at Large  
Alejandro Perez-Trepichio, MD – Immediate Past President  
Glenn Groat, MD – Director at Large  
Alexandra Grace, DO – Director at Large

### FMA Delegation 2022

George Brinnig, MD  
Alexandra Grace, DO  
Glenn Groat, MD  
Zubin Pachori, MD  
Alejandro Perez-Trepichio, MD  
Rebecca Smith, MD  
Gary Swain, MD  
Alternate Delegates:  
Rafael Haciski, MD; Erik Hiester, DO



## Community Corner – David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health

Maxim A. Chasanov, M.D., CCMS Member and Medical Director of Acute Adult Services at  
David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health



***CCMS helps save lives by support of New Central Receiving Facility for those in Mental Health Crisis***

Valentine's Day is an opportunity for all of us to show appreciation to those that we love. This year on February 14, 2023, the Collier County Board of Commissioners showed its concern and care for the mentally ill population

in our county by voting 4-1 in favor of the construction of a new Collier County Central Receiving Facility (CRF) for our residents. This official go-ahead could not have been possible without the zealous advocacy of our medical community, including our own president, Dr. Rebecca Smith and executive director, April Donahue.

This approval is a huge win for our residents, especially those that are challenged by mental health issues. The new facility will be serviced by David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health and will result in improvements to the quality of care that our county residents will receive. As Medical Director of Acute Adult Services at David Lawrence Centers for Behavioral Health, I am aware of the challenges we face daily in meeting the needs of our county residents. While our facility does its best to meet the needs of our patients and county residents that are in crisis, we have found that the number of people we serve requires more resources and space. We serve so many people each day that there are not enough beds, and some clients end up having to sleep on a mattress on the floor just to get the treatment they need.

The new CRF will have a bed capacity of 102, which is much higher than our current 30 beds. Additionally, this new facility will allow our patients to be on smaller pods of 15 to reduce the amount of crowding and will help us to attend to our patients' needs with an even higher amount of dignity. While our goal is to treat all those in a crisis, we also understand that our county's aging population has unique needs that must also be met. As such, in the new facility we plan to open a unit that will serve Medicare recipients.

The new Central Receiving Facility will be built just east of our current campus on Golden Gate Parkway, making it a familiar setting for our community to seek help. It will also be convenient to the outpatient services already available on our David Lawrence Center Campus. We will be able to maintain important continuity of care for the patients.

There have been many changes that our community has gone through, as demonstrated by the past 3 years alone. New initiatives like the national 988 suicide prevention hotline have made more residents aware of the variety of mental health treatment options. With an increased awareness and understanding, the demand for mental health services will likely be even higher in the years to come.

David Lawrence Centers wants to thank the community for trusting us with your care and we are thankful that this new facility will allow us to do so with the addition of many great benefits to the county. We are greatly appreciative of the medical society's support of this vital game-changer for our population. Thank you CCMS for your advocacy and to the David Lawrence Centers executive director, Scott Burgess, for his hard work and diligence in making this project come to fruition.

It will take some time to construct, but the new CRF will be worth the wait. This new facility will not only improve access to crisis services in our county but most importantly, it will SAVE LIVES!



*Rendering of Proposed Central Receiving Facility*

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### How it Works

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- View participating psychologists at [ccmsonline.org/physician-wellness](https://ccmsonline.org/physician-wellness).
- Call the PWP **private appointment line, 239-208-3984** and identify yourself as a CCMS member. Receive same-day responses 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.
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## CCMS Women Physicians Social CCMS After 5 Social



Dr. Ashley Pezzi, Dr. Elizabeth Hidlebaugh,  
Dr. Alison Baker, Dr. Farah Hartmann



Dr. Marilyn Varcoe, Dr. Catherine Kowal



Dr. Troy Shell-Masouras, Dr. Elizabeth Arguelles



Dr. Gary Webb, Dr. Marc Guttman



Dr. Prathima Moorthy, Sheryl Guttman



Dr. Viktoria Totoraitis, Dr. Candice Hurst,  
Dr. Rebecca Smith, Dr. Shona Velamakanni



Dr. Graciela Garton, Dr. Tameca Bakker,  
Dr. Susanna Gaikazian, Dr. Rebecca Kosloff



Dr. Richard Prewitt, Sylvia Prewitt, Dr. Richard Beatty



Irena Golubova Radojevic, Dr. Ivana Paz



Dr. Joanna Chon, Dr. Betsy Brothers, Dr. Kiran Gill




Dr. Svetlana Kogan, Dr. Tami Kuhlman



Sherri Kubesh, Dr. Nadia Kazim, Dr. Graciela Garton





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	Vein Specialists

**FEATURED SPEAKERS:**

Elizabeth Arguelles MD  
Courtney Bell, MD  
Susan Cassidy, MD  
Caroline Cederquist, MD  
Carmella Fernandez, MD  
Andrea Hayes, MD  
Elizabeth Hidlebaugh, MD  
Lindita Hobdari, MD  
Robert Korolevich, MD  
Leela Lavasani, MD  
Joseph Magnant, MD  
Kathleen Marc, MD  
Diana Miranda, MD  
Prathima Moorthy, MD  
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**Happy National Doctors' Day,  
March 30th!**



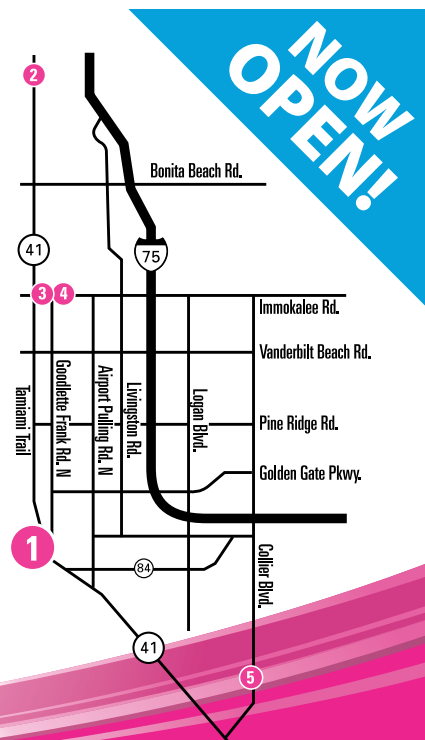
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