

THE FORUM

Also In This Issue:
10th Anniversary
Docs & Duffers Highlights

November/December 2023 • Volume 22, No. 6 • The Official Magazine of Collier County Medical Society

AI Insights in Healthcare: Medical Liability, Neurosurgery, and Documentation

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Register at www.ccmsonline.org or call (239) 435-7727

Friday, December 2, 6:30pm
CCMS New Members Welcome Reception
 LaPlaya Beach Resort
Support opportunities at ccmsonline.org

Thursday, December 7, 6pm
CCMS After 5 Social
 Blue Martini

Wednesday, January 24, 6pm
CCMS After 5 Social
 Naples Art District

Saturday, February 17, 5:30pm
CCMS & CCMS Alliance Family Golf Night
 Topgolf Fort Myers

Saturday, March 23, 8:30am
CCMS Women's Health Forum
 Naples United Church of Christ
Open to the public
Support opportunities at ccmsonline.org

Saturday, April 13, 5:30pm
CCMS & CCMS Alliance
Everblades Family Hockey Night
 Hertz Arena

Saturday, June 15, 6:30pm
CCMS 67th Annual Meeting
 Arthrex One Conference Center
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Support opportunities at ccmsonline.org

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CCMS Member Dues

The 2024 CCMS dues deadline is Dec. 31, 2023.

Members (or their groups) can pay online today at 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!

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MEMBER NEWS

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Orthopedic Center of Florida
8831 Founders Square Dr
Naples, FL 34120
Ph: (239) 482-2663 Fax: (239) 482-7585



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Naples, FL 34109
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1350 Tamiami Trl N Ste 203
Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 325-1131 Fax: (239) 262-5980



Alan Nguyen, DO
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
Gardner Orthopedics
3033 Winkler Ave Ste 100
Ft Myers, FL 33916
Ph: (239) 277-7070 Fax: (239) 277-7071



Ramu Patakoti, MD
Nephrology
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Ph: (239) 306-6993 Fax: (239) 306-6996
Board Certified: Nephrology; Internal Medicine



Luis H Paz Rios, MD
Interventional Cardiology
NCH Heart Institute
399 9th St N Ste 300
Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 624-4200 Fax: (239) 624-4241
Board Certified: Cardiovascular Disease;
Internal Medicine

New Members (continued):

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Retired

Russell S Yale, MD
Retired

New Address:

Michael Collins, MD and Jason Fredrichs, MD
Collins Vision moving Naples office to former
Fisher Eye & Laser Center:
875 105th Ave N, Naples, FL 34108

Kiran Gill, MD and Nadia Kazim, MD
Naples Aesthetic Institute
3025 Airport Pulling Rd N, Naples, Florida 34105

Aleksandra Granath, MD PhD
Naples Rheumatology PLLC
5495 Bryson Dr Ste 423, Naples, FL 34109

J. Ryan Jackson, MD and Sharon Jackson, MD
The Jackson Center
4500 Executive Dr Ste 300, Naples, FL 34119

Opened New Practice:

Diana Macian, MD
4270 Tamiami Trl E Ste 201, Naples, FL 34112
Ph: (239) 580-6099 Fax: (239) 203-2179

Kathleen Marc, MD
BioAesthetics of Naples
599 9th St N Ste 300, Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 799-4147

Joined Practice:

Ashley Pezzi, MD
Precision Healthcare Specialists
13691 Metro Pkwy Ste 200, Ft Myers, FL 33912

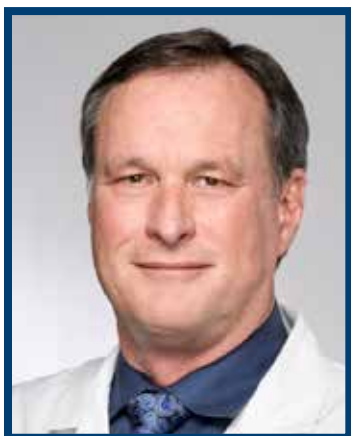
Adam Riker, MD
Precision Healthcare Specialists
599 9th St N Ste 308, Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 423-7139 Fax: (239) 268-0781

Katia Taba, MD
Retina Group of Florida
3467 Pine Ridge Blvd Ste 103, Naples, FL 34109

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A Message from the CCMS President

Gary Swain, M.D.



Many of us were shocked last weekend when we woke to hear about the war in the Middle East. For this edition, I would like to defer some of my time to the president of the FMA. He has written a letter that discusses this topic. He also provides information for those who may wish to volunteer to help with medical services that may be in demand in the area. I assume that all of us in Collier County also want to see an end to the bloodshed and send our prayers for peace.

On a different note, the Foundation of CCMS annual Doc & Duffers golf event was a great success, thanks to the hard work of many! We raised over \$25,000 so that we may continue providing much-needed scholarships for healthcare students. Thank you to all who contributed.

As I write this, we are getting closer to several other charitable events, including the CCMSA Halloween party on Oct 28th catered by Jimmy-Ps, which should be great. And some of the more talented among us will be performing at the Physicians' Community Talent Show on Nov 11th at the NCH Telford Auditorium, which raises money for the Foundation of CCMS,

Neighborhood Health Clinic, and Physician Led Access Network of Collier County. I look forward to sharing the good news about the money raised at these fundraisers. Thank you for all your support of the healthcare-related fundraisers in our community.

Letter from the FMA president:

Dear Members of the Florida Medical Association,



As physicians, we take a sacred oath to do no harm, ease suffering and heal those in need. The horrific and inconceivable events transpiring in the Middle East, the senseless brutality and loss of innocent lives, are not only devastating, but wholly antithetical to our values and an affront to our basic humanity. On behalf of the Florida Medical Association, I want to take this opportunity to clearly and unequivocally denounce, in the strongest possible terms, the abhorrent and purely evil terroristic crusade and the violence being committed in the Middle East.

With countless patients coming in and out of our exam and operating rooms every day, I know each of us has a deep, yet unique understanding of the value of human life. We are intimately familiar with the fact that every single person is unique and important to another human being; a parent, a child, a sibling, a friend. The loss of so many thousands of lives in this conflict weighs so heavily upon our hearts as we empathize and mourn with those directly suffering as we are all members of an extended family, united by a universal chain of human affection.

We also grieve for our colleagues on the front lines, working tirelessly and in unimaginable conditions to heal those injured and suffering in this humanitarian crisis. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the physicians, colleagues and their families trying to persevere through this horrific circumstance. At times, thoughts and prayers are not enough and I recognize that many of us may feel helpless yet are driven by a calling to serve. I have found several options to volunteer for those who are so inclined to do so:

- The Israeli Health Ministry is compiling a database of willing medical volunteers to help expedite emergency licensing if/when the need arises. If you are interested, please visit survey.gov.il/en/internationalvolunteers to complete the survey.
- While also still in the planning stages, the Sheba/Tel Hashomer hospital near Tel Aviv is discussing the logistics of "team staffing" and how they may begin rotating groups of surgical specialties and anesthesiologists in and out. If you are interested, please login to your **WhichDocs.com** account (or create one for free), update your contact information and specialties, and then click on the insurance option created solely for this purpose – "Israeli Medical Volunteer Project."

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or members of the FMA staff with any additional resources, suggestions, or views.

The Florida Medical Association hopes for a swift end to the hostilities and will continue to keep the people of Israel in our prayers through these dark times.

Sincerely,
Jason Goldman, M.D., FMA President

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The Effects of Artificial Intelligence on Medical Professional Liability

Robert G. Pope MD, Chairman & President, CARE Risk Retention Group



Artificial intelligence (AI) may have profound effects on the medical professional liability (MPL) industry. On the operations side of our business, AI is a positive change and is improving efficiently for transactions with physicians and their agents. The ability to integrate the end-to-end processes of application, underwriting, policy generation, premium collection, and claims management utilizing AI are becoming the standard business practice in our industry. Also, the ability to use AI for forecasting the liability risk of an individual physician is under development and will be used in the underwriting of individual policies.

The use of AI as a clinical decision tool will be of utmost importance to practicing physicians. Its implication in MPL is still to be determined and will evolve over the next 5-10 years. Presently if the physician follows the standard of care in treating a patient, the chances of having a lawsuit would be low. Obviously, if a physician follows the standard of care and there is an adverse outcome, the potential for a lawsuit is present, and the MPL insurer and defense attorneys

would defend the treatment with expert witnesses testifying to the standard of care. AI will add a variable input that is presently unknown in present day juris prudence.

A journal article in The Journal of Nuclear Medicine in 2021* reported on a study of potential lay jurors who were given a case where AI input had been used for judgement of liability. Hypothetical scenarios that could exist demonstrate how AI is translated by the physician when the standard of care is followed and is supported by AI and when it is not. These four scenarios are characterized in the following chart:

AI DECISION	PHYSICIAN DECISION	PHYSICIAN DECISION
FOLLOWS STANDARD OF CARE (SOC) RECOMMENDATION	Standard accepted	Standard rejected
CREATES NON-STANDARD OF CARE (SOC) RECOMMENDATION	Non-Standard SOC accepted	Non-Standard rejected

These four scenarios were designed to evaluate lay judgment of legal liability, and findings in the study make quite different predictions about the results and what a physician should do to minimize liability.

The authors conclude that “If physicians receive a standard-care AI recommendation, there is a legal incentive to accept it. All else being equal, participants judge accepting a standard-care recommendation as more reasonable than rejecting it. On the other hand, if physicians receive a nonstandard AI recommendation, they do not necessarily make themselves safer from liability by rejecting it.”

The last part of that declaration could be very troubling to many physicians (as it is to me). We live in a world where technology is a driving force and jurors are younger and use and understand technology and rely on its outcomes. According to this study, they are favorable to their use in clinical decision making.

Another troubling aspect for physician liability with AI is based on the generative AI concept of creating output that may not be accurate. Defense attorneys have told us that their fear is that physicians may accept the inaccurate output reports as written from AI-generated documents (such as operative reports), sign them, and have them used by the plaintiff’s attorney against the physician within a medical malpractice claim. It is incumbent that, as you do now when you sign your name, to read and verify the accuracy of all information in the reports, before their release to the medical record.

AI is here to stay, is evolving, and will be an assist to medical practice. At this point in time as you use AI decisions with individual patients, improved communication is the best adjunct to reducing liability as we enter “uncharted waters” regarding AI use in patient care. With greater shared decision making between physician and patient, it would be prudent to include the patient as often as possible in these decisions where non-standard care conflicts are present.

*When Does Physician Use of AI Increase Liability? K Tobia, A Nielsen, & A. Stremitzer

Invited Perspective: How Much Can Potential Jurors Tell Us About Liability for Medical Artificial Intelligence, W.N. Price, S. Gerke, & I.G. Cohen
The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, Volume 62, No.1, January 2021

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Karen Wilkinson is dedicated to being a trusted resource for her clients as they navigate the complex process of buying or selling a home. With integrity, the power of technology, and her extensive network, Karen ensures her customers achieve their real estate aspirations.

Previously in health care, Karen credits her ability to remain calm under pressure through her experience of providing respiratory therapy for 15 years to those in the most critical state as Level I traumas, enabling her to navigate even the most difficult circumstances.

Together with her husband, Dr. David Wilkinson, Karen is an active part of the Collier County Medical Society. She both guides physicians new to the area in finding homes as well as helps them work with a team of commercial REALTORS® in setting up a practice.

Michelle Fuchs

GLOBAL REAL ESTATE ADVISOR

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As a native Floridian, Michelle Fuchs has extensive knowledge of Naples and Southwest Florida, putting her in a unique position to help customers looking to buy or sell in the area. Michelle listens to her customers so she can match them with the property that best fits their desired lifestyle.

Her passion for real estate was fueled when she and her husband, Dr. Scott Fuchs, bought and sold several homes, both for their family and as investment properties. Michelle is also involved with the Collier County Medical Society Alliance, and actively participates in the community.

No one better understands the life-work balance demands on professionals in the health care industry than Michelle. She is dedicated to supporting medical professionals and their families with guidance on finding new homes as well as locations for their practices.

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The Future of Artificial Intelligence in Neurosurgery

Gregory Cannarsa, MD and Amanda Sacino, MD-PHD, Apex Brain & Spine



Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been increasingly integrated into various sectors, including the internet, automotive, and entertainment, but nowhere is its possible impact more profound than in the medical field, particularly in specialties like Neurosurgery where precision, accuracy, and real-time decision-making are crucial. This article delves into how AI technologies could shape the future of Neurosurgery, offering unprecedented advancements that could revolutionize patient care.



AI in Preoperative Planning

One of the most vital steps in Neurosurgery is pre-operative planning.

Neurosurgeons must carefully study a variety of scans including X-rays, CTs, MRIs, angiograms, etc. and evaluate risks such as medical comorbidities and relevant lab values to chart a surgical course towards a good outcome. AI technologies have the potential to automate much of this time-intensive process. Advanced algorithms can analyze MRI and CT scans to create detailed merged 3D models of the brain, highlighting critical areas such as blood vessels, tumor locations, and functional regions. This enables neurosurgeons to simulate various surgical approaches, thereby reducing the likelihood of complications and enhancing surgical accuracy. Further, automated intelligent review of the patient's chart could yield simple, easy-to-understand risk analysis of the relevant medical comorbidities and medications.

Intraoperative Applications

AI also has immense potential in aiding neurosurgeons during the operation itself. Robotics assisted by machine learning algorithms can assist in tasks that demand high precision. For instance, AI-powered robotics could execute the drilling of bone in the skull or spine or assist in tumor removal by identifying the boundary between healthy and cancerous tissues in real-time, significantly minimizing human error.

Postoperative Care and Monitoring

After surgery, there are still postoperative complications that can occur that AI can help to prevent and avoid. AI can provide real-time monitoring of patient vitals and lab values, predicting potential complications before they become life-threatening. AI algorithms can also analyze historical patient data to tailor postoperative care plans, optimizing pain management and reducing recovery time.

Table Summarizing Key Applications of AI:

Stage of Surgery	Current Practices	Future with AI
Preoperative Planning	2D Imaging, Surgeon Expertise	3D Modeling, Risk Assessment Algorithms
Intraoperative Assistance	Manual Operation and Navigation	AI-assisted Robotics, Real-time Data Analysis
Postoperative Care	Routine Monitoring	Predictive Analytics, Personalized Care Plans

Ethical Considerations

While AI has the potential to revolutionize Neurosurgery, it also raises ethical questions that must be carefully considered. Issues related to data privacy, consent, and potential algorithmic biases need to be addressed before widespread implementation. Additionally, the financial implications of integrating high-cost AI technologies into healthcare systems are a consideration that cannot be ignored.

Training and Adaptation

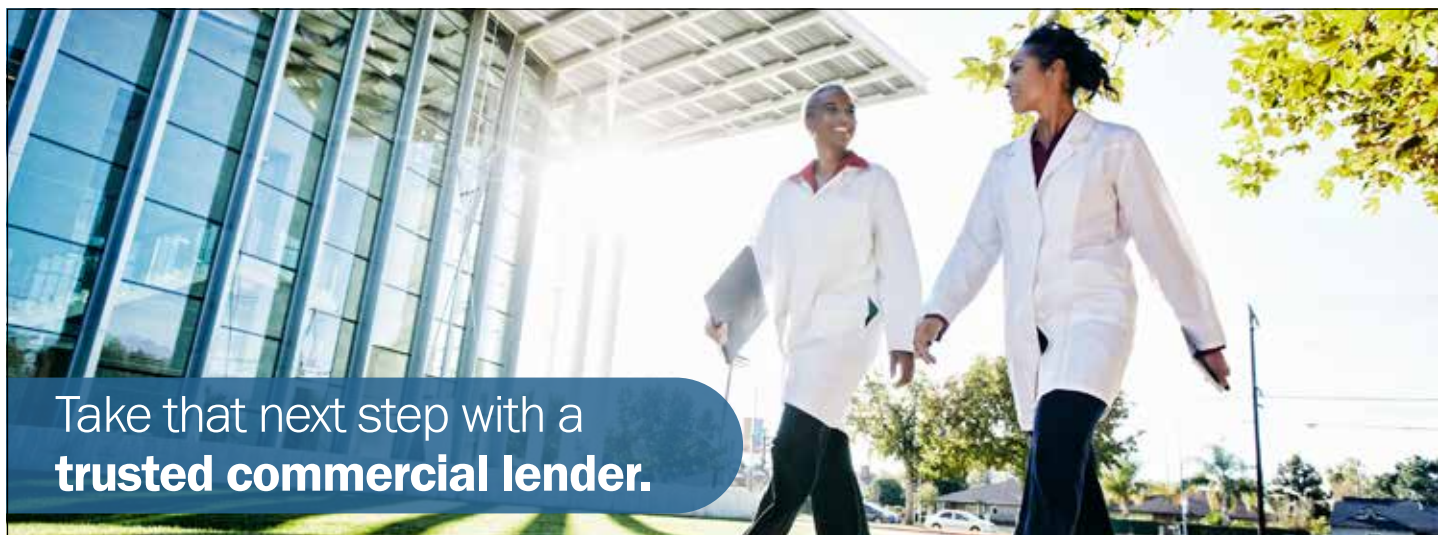
The adoption of AI in Neurosurgery would also necessitate changes in medical training. Future neurosurgeons would require a basic understanding of AI technologies, data interpretation, and ethical considerations. Existing neurosurgeons would need to adapt by undergoing retraining programs designed to equip them with the necessary skills to interact with AI-assisted technologies efficiently.

The Human Element

One of the most significant concerns surrounding AI in healthcare is the fear of technology replacing human expertise. It is important to advocate that AI augment rather than supplant human expertise. Surgical procedures, particularly those as complex as Neurosurgery, are as much an art as they are a science. The intuition, experience, and expertise that surgeons bring to the table can never be entirely replicated by a machine. Thus, the role of AI should be seen as that of an assistant that can take over repetitive tasks and computations, leaving the surgeon free to focus on more complex decision-making, patient care, and the "art" of surgery.

Conclusion

AI's role in Neurosurgery and healthcare is poised to become increasingly significant in the coming years. From enhanced preoperative planning to intraoperative guidance and postoperative care, the possibilities are both exciting and boundless. However, a cautious, stepwise approach is necessary to address ethical considerations and the associated financial implications. As technology continues to advance, the collaboration between AI and Neurosurgery promises a future of more accurate, less invasive, and ultimately more successful surgical interventions, benefiting both physicians and patients alike.



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My Experience using AI Documentation

Rebekah Bernard, M.D., Gulf Coast Direct Primary Care



I admit that I'm a bit of a skeptic when it comes to artificial intelligence (AI) in medicine. Sure, a computer algorithm may be able to spit out a reasonable differential diagnosis when straightforward symptoms are spoon-fed into it by a medical professional. But how will AI stack up against a fully trained human physician when faced with a 'typical' patient? You know, the one

who presents for management of diabetes, hypertension, and anxiety; "Oh, and by the way, I have a cough, my toe hurts, and why am I so tired all the time?" COMPUTER. OVERLOAD.

While I don't believe that AI is ready to replace physicians when it comes to the practice of medicine (now or ever), I have been shocked at how far it has progressed in acting as a medical scribe. About a year ago, I was offered the chance to beta-test an AI documentation system that promised to transcribe an office visit into a succinct SOAP note. While I started the trial with high hopes, the system was unable to keep up with the myriad of patient complaints and chronic conditions discussed in a single visit, especially when acute and chronic problems were addressed, as is usual in primary care. After a few hours of copy/pasting data into the correct SOAP note format, I gave up.

But what a difference a few months make in the world of AI! After stumbling upon rave reviews for a new AI documentation system in one of my social media medical groups, I logged in for a free 10-note trial. By my 9th patient visit, I was grabbing my credit card to sign up (\$99/month).

Here's how it works. I open the system in a browser window and click 'record' before the patient enters the room. The visit proceeds as normal, although I try to remember to say my physical findings out loud for the computer to document. Within a minute or so of clicking 'stop recording,' I have a comprehensive SOAP note, which can be copy/pasted into my EHR. My system also auto-generates a visit summary to print or email to the patient, as well as a transcription summary. Amazingly, my system translates foreign languages and has written perfect notes (in English) of visits conducted entirely in Spanish and in Portuguese.

I've been astounded by the quality of my AI documentation – somehow, the program can sift through the small talk and document just the relevant clinical details. I do find the need to edit some details in most of my notes, but this may be more related to perfectionist qualities – the AI system I use gets pretty darn close to perfect most of the time.

The biggest benefit is that in the last few months since I've been using AI for documentation, I've been able to get my notes done in real-time. I find myself more relaxed and focused on the patient during office visits, without having to worry about frantically typing or scribbling notes. I also use the system to record my conversations with patients by phone and paste the documentation into the patient's chart.

Regarding patient consent, most AI scribing systems are HIPAA compliant and automatically delete recordings after an interval of time. Details for each system are available on their websites. Just search online for AI medical documentation programs for more information – you will be glad you did!

Member News continued from pg. 3

Joined Practice:

Boyd Vaziri, MD

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Retired from Practice:

Paul Irra, MD

In Memoriam:

Alfonse Cinotti, MD

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10th Anniversary “Docs & Duffers” Raises Over \$25,000

Foundation of Collier County Medical Society

The Foundation of Collier County Medical Society recently hosted its 10th Anniversary “Docs and Duffers” charity golf tournament at Kensington Golf & Country Club in Naples. The fundraising event on September 30th raised over \$25,000 in net proceeds with participation from 110 golfers, 24 sponsors, 35 prize donors, and 25 volunteers. The community came together for an enjoyable day of golf, a tournament raffle, and an awards ceremony luncheon.

“We send our heartfelt gratitude for the continuous and enthusiastic support we enjoy at our annual charity golf tournament,” says Dr. Rolando Rivera, Foundation board chair. “The active involvement of our golfers, supporters, and volunteers is instrumental in raising funds for future medical professionals and underscores their commitment to our community’s healthcare.”

Dollars raised from the event will provide scholarships for future medical professionals and funding for local healthcare programs in need. The Foundation provided \$34,000 in scholarships this year alone, including the Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid Memorial Scholarship for Medical Students and 6 additional healthcare scholarships. Scholarship applications for 2024 will be available at ccmsonline.org/foundation in December 2023.

After breakfast and coffee, and a few practice swings, golfers started out at 8:30am. The format was a scramble shotgun with complimentary on-course beverages, exhibitor treats, and a variety of hole contests throughout the day.

At lunch the golfers and supporters heard from presenting sponsors Naples Heart Rhythm Specialists and two scholarship winners, Stephanie Galindo and Dulce Morales. These students shared inspiring words with the group and communicated how the scholarships will help them achieve their goals to serve the community as future physicians. The Foundation also presented awards to the tournament winners:

- First team: Naples Heart Rhythm Specialists foursome – Dan Curran, Jeff Darwish, Kyle Harrington, Dr. Kenneth Plunkitt
- Second team (after tie-breaker): Life in Naples foursome – Reg Buxton, Kyle Rayburn, Ron Stamerro, Tyler Stamerro
- Long Drive: Tommy Peluse, Louise Melby
- Closest to the Pin: Dr. Elizabeth Hidlebaugh, Tyler Stamerro

More photos from the tournament are posted at facebook.com/ccmsfoundation. The Foundation’s 11th Annual Docs & Duffers will be held in the fall of 2024. More information will be available at ccmsonline.org/foundation.

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continued from page 12



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