



THE FORUM

January/February 2026 • Volume 25, No. 1 • The Official Magazine of Collier County Medical Society

2026 State Legislative Update



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Saturday, February 7, 10am
CCMS Family Water Park Outing
Great Wolf Lodge Naples

Friday, February 27, 6pm
CCMS After 5 Social with
Collier County Dental Association
Blue Martini

Friday, March 6, 6pm
Lecture: "Strategies for Independent Practice Success"
& Minnesota Twins Spring Training Game
Lee Health Sports Complex

Thursday, March 12, 6pm
CCMS After 5 Social
Baker Senior Center

Saturday, March 28, 5:30pm
CCMS Everblades Family Outing
Hertz Arena

Saturday, April 11, 8:30am
CCMS Women's Health Forum
Naples United Church of Christ
Open to the public
Sponsor opportunities at ccmsonline.org

Saturday, May 2, 9:30am
South Florida Women Physicians Retreat
Sonesta Fort Lauderdale
Support opportunities at ccmsonline.org

Saturday, June 20, 6:30pm
CCMS Annual Meeting
Arthrex One Conference Center
Open to the public
Sponsor opportunities at ccmsonline.org

CONGRATULATIONS



to Lisa Muehlenbein, PhD
CCMS Past President
on becoming President-Elect of the
Florida Medical Association Alliance



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sunil.muley@lmcu.org
LMCU.org



Karen Mosteller, CPA, CHBC • 239-261-5554
kmosteller@markham-norton.com
markham-norton.com

CCMS 2026 Member Dues Deadline was 12/31/25.
Members (or their groups) can pay online today at ccmsonline.org/membership. Invoices have also been mailed directly to members who pay individually, or to practice administrators for group payment. Members who need an extension, payment program, or waiver, please contact CCMS. Thank you for renewing!

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Views and opinions expressed in *The Forum* are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Collier County Medical Society's Board of Directors, staff or advertisers. Copy deadline for editorial and advertising submission is the 15th of the month preceding publication. The editorial staff of *The Forum* reserves the right to edit or reject any submission.

MEMBER NEWS

For full listings of practicing members, visit ccmsonline.org/find-a-doctor

New Members:



Jacqueline N Alvarez, MD
Family Medicine
Northwestern Medicine Primary Care Group
681 4th Ave N Ste 201, Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 920-5713 Fax: (239) 920-5710
nm.org/locations/primary-care-naples



Reginald Davis, MD
Joint Implant Surgeons
1020 Crosspointe Dr Ste 110, Naples, FL 34110
Ph: (239) 337-2003 Fax: (239) 337-3168
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jointimplant.com



Thad C Kammerlocher, MD
Vein Specialists
3359 Woods Edge Cir Ste 102, Bonita Springs, FL 34134
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Board Certified: General Surgery; Vascular
Surgery
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Dallas J Kingsbury, MD
Fountain Life
1000 Immokalee Rd #90, Naples, FL 34110
Ph: (239) 235-6644
Board Certified: Physical Medicine and
Rehabilitation
fountainlife.com/location/naples



Chelsey Scheiner, DO
DLux Medspa
6100 Trail Blvd Unit 205, Naples, FL 34108
Ph: (239) 776-4956 Fax: (239) 304-5157
Board Certified: Family Medicine
dluxmedspa.com



Stacey L Sensor, DO
Physicians Regional Medical Group
6376 Pine Ridge Rd, Naples, FL 34119
Ph: (239) 348-4277 Fax: (239) 348-4028
Board Certified: Obstetrics and Gynecology
physiciansregionalmedicalgroup.com



Jamie E Stucker, MD
Physicians Regional Medical Group
6376 Pine Ridge Rd, Naples, FL 34119
Ph: (239) 348-4277 Fax: (239) 354-6490
Board Certified: Obstetrics and Gynecology
physiciansregionalmedicalgroup.com



Ralph Ryback, MD
Psychiatry
Retired

Reinstated:

Robert J Cubeddu, MD
NCH Rooney Heart Institute
399 9th St N Ste 300, Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 624-7426
nchmd.org

Practice Updates:

Kenneth Bookman, MD
Naples Pulmonary Concierge Medical Practice
New Address: 10661 Airport Rd Ste 10, Naples, FL 34109

Daniela Burchhardt, MD
New Practice: Burchhardt Facial Plastic Surgery
1333 3rd Ave S Suite 501, Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 999-4541 Fax: (239) 299-4496
drdanielaburchhardt.com

Nancy J Goodwin, DO
Goodwin Medical Center
Additional Location: 9955 Tamiami Trl N Unit 4, Naples, FL 34108

HSS at NCH
New Address: 11190 Health Park Blvd Bldg 2, Naples, FL 34110

Matthew M Levitsky, MD
Joined Practice: Neuroscience and Spine Associates
130 Tamiami Trail N Ste 220, Naples, FL 34102
Ph: (239) 312-7800 Fax: (239) 423-9233
nasamri.com

Christopher A Mendello, MD
Premiere Pulmonary & Sleep
New Address: 10661 Airport Pulling Rd Ste 10, Naples, FL 34109

Cosmina I Popa, MD and Andre Nye, MD
Joined Practice: Lee Health Family Medicine – North Naples
2515 Northbrooke Plaza Dr Ste 200, Naples, FL 34119
Ph: (239) 254-5951 Fax: (239) 468-7957
leehealth.org



Join CCMS / Renew Your Membership

A Message from the CCMS President

Jose Baez, M.D., Board President



As we head into the busiest time of the year in our community, we also head into our state legislative session. Because 2026 is an election year, the session begins early, on January 13th, instead of the typical March starting date. It's an important time for CCMS and organized medicine as we follow legislation that could have significant impacts on

healthcare in Florida.

CCMS took the opportunity to join with many of our county society colleagues from across the state to visit with our legislators at the Capitol in Tallahassee during the second legislative committee week of December. Our goals were to improve physician collaboration with our elected officials at the state level and discuss some of the most critical issues in healthcare legislation.

I was joined by CCMS Past President and FMA Treasurer, Dr. Rebekah Bernard, and CCMS Executive Director April Donahue as we kicked off our visit on the evening of Monday, December 8th with a multi-county reception. Physician delegations from Duval, Broward, and Miami-Dade Counties and Central Florida hosted several legislators for a casual meet and greet. It was a pleasant opportunity to connect with those who serve us at the Capitol and get to know them a bit better.

On Tuesday, in addition to a little time spent enjoying the history of the Capitol Building, the three of us met with Representatives Yvette Benarroch and Lauren Melo. Among the issues discussed were human oversight of AI determinations in health insurance claims, retroactive claims denials, caps on non-economic damages in wrongful death legislation, and scope of practice expansion. Learn more about these issues on page 6 of this magazine. We also discussed pending legislation from Rep. Benarroch regarding full licensure options for physicians trained in Puerto Rico, with participation in the conversation via phone from CCMS Past Presidents Dr. Rolando Rivera and Dr. Catherine Kowal.

Late that afternoon, a new omnibus bill was filed in the House, HB 693 also known as the "Florida Big Beautiful Healthcare Frontier Bill." This large piece of legislation has expansions of authority for non-physician members of the healthcare team that are concerning for their potential impacts on patient safety. On Wednesday, our executive director April, along with Dr. Kowal and her colleague Dr. Bob Levine from the

Florida Society of Rheumatology, had the opportunity to meet with Senator Kathleen Passidomo and added this proposed legislation to their discussion.

CCMS will work with our colleagues throughout Florida and our partners in the legislature to ensure our patients, family, friends, and communities are protected while championing ways to safely increase access to care.

We thank Representatives Benarroch and Melo and Senator Passidomo for their time listening to our concerns and providing their insights, and we look forward to continuing to work with them throughout the session. Note that this is Senator Passidomo's last session in the Florida Senate, as she terms out this year. CCMS is grateful for her many efforts over the years to protect the physician-patient relationship and work with the medical community to provide access to quality healthcare in our state.

The continued engagement and dedication you, our CCMS members, bring to our mission makes our advocacy efforts possible. We're thrilled to see our membership continue to grow, welcoming over 90 new members in 2025, including the new residents and fellows from our local GME program at NCH. That brings us to a total of over 790 members, with over 640 actively practicing members! We enjoyed meeting many of these new members at the CCMS New Members Welcome Reception on November 21st at the Naples Grande Beach Resort, a delightful evening with nearly 200 in attendance.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2026, please do so soon to continue receiving full access to our member benefits, including our physician wellness program, networking opportunities, and advocacy updates. For more information, visit our CCMSonline.org website where we list social events and member programs.

I would be remiss to not include a shout-out and well-deserved kudos to the many physicians and healthcare professionals who planned, hosted, and performed in the Physicians' Community Talent Show on November 16th at the Sudgen Theater in Naples. From musical performances to standup comedy, our members and colleagues entertained a nearly full house and displayed that their talents extend far beyond the exam room. Congratulations to you all, and thank you for supporting the Foundation of CCMS and physician wellness with your efforts.

I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season, and my best wishes to you for a happy, healthy new year.

On the cover, Dr. Rebekah Bernard, April Donahue, and Dr. Jose Baez at the Florida State Capitol



Physician Wellness Program

New Year Mental Health Check-Up

How it Works

As a benefit to CCMS members, CCMS provides up to 6 confidential sessions a year at no charge with independent, doctorate-level clinical psychologists.

We invite local physicians to take advantage of the program for a new year mental wellness “check-up” session.

- Use a session to help with your mental wellness self-assessment; make your new year's resolutions stick; receive tips on time management & communication skills; address lawsuits/disciplinary action; or simply talk.
- To participate: call the psychologists' private, CCMS member **appointment line, 239-208-3984**. Receive a same-day response during business hours or next-morning response after hours.
- See one of the psychologists within 72 hours to 1 week, possibly sooner for urgent needs, with telehealth and evening or early morning hours potentially available. You may extend your check-up for up to 5 more cost-free sessions.

For more information on the program & the participating psychologists visit:

ccmsonline.org/physician-wellness

2026 State Legislative Update

CCMS and Medical Society Partners

Each year, medical societies and associations across the state identify legislative priorities that will be the hot button concerns in healthcare for Florida. The issues listed below are among those that we believe will capture the bulk of advocacy efforts for the 2026 legislative session. As the session is a continually developing process, unforeseen issues might arise. We will collaborate with our partners at the Florida Medical Association, county medical societies, and specialty medical societies, to address these concerns with our legislators to ensure that the only legislation that passes will honor the physician-patient relationship and protect the health and safety of our community.

Put Physicians, not Machines, in the Driver's Seat

Supporting legislation that would prevent machines from making decisions that negatively impact patients and require “qualified human professional” review for any automated system denial or adjustment of care. Currently, artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to deny care that a patient needs. The legislation would require a human to sign off on any such denials and take responsibility for denying care that a doctor has deemed medically necessary. It would end the practice of AI, machine learning algorithms, or automated systems from making treatment decisions on whether a patient receives the care that has been prescribed for them as medically necessary.

Payment Certainty to Benefit Patients & Physicians

Supporting legislation that aims to prevent health plans from retracting their determination for covered services after care has been provided, except under specific circumstances. This law already exists to protect dental practices and should include physicians. Currently, if a physician has received prior authorization from a health plan to perform procedures covered under the patient’s plan, the health plan can still deny payment for the claim after it is submitted and retroactively claw back payment from the physician. This denial interferes with the doctor-patient relationship and shifts the burden of unexpected payment to the patient.

Prevent Skyrocketing Medical Malpractice Premiums

Advocating that meaningful, medical malpractice caps be included in repeal of the exception in current Florida wrongful death law allowing for a decedent’s adult children to recover non-economic damages (“pain and suffering”) if there is no surviving spouse; and the parents of an adult decedent if there is no surviving spouse or surviving minor or adult children. The legislation in its current form does not cap the amount that can be awarded – allowing the expanded pool of survivors to recover unlimited non-economic damages in wrongful death medical liability suits. Adding caps on damages and attorney fees would ensure a more equitable medical liability framework that protects Florida’s provider community and the patients we serve.



April Donahue, Dr. Rebekah Bernard, Dr. Jose Baez,
Representative Yvette Benarroch

Maintain High Quality and Lower Costs for Patients

Opposing scope of practice expansions for non-physician practitioners beyond the highest level of their competency. Non-physician practitioners are critically important members of quality team-based care that promotes patient safety and shared medical decision making. The opportunity to escalate unexpected complications when moments matter is critically important for patient safety. Research indicates that non-physician practitioners are often more expensive given an overreliance on diagnostic imaging and referral to specialists. Previous legislation that enabled autonomous primary care for APRNs has not increased access to care or resulted in increased APRN licensure in Florida.



Dr. Jose Baez, Representative Lauren Melo, Dr. Rebekah Bernard,
April Donahue

Continued from page 6

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 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. Contribute at 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. PAC members interested in serving the board should contact April at CCMS. Current Board Members:

Rolando Rivera, MD – Chair

Catherine Campbell

April Donahue

Catherine Kowal, MD

Mitchell Zeitler, MD

How do I contact the PAC?

Contact CCMS Executive Director, April Donahue, 239-435-7727 or april@ccmsonline.org with questions or to donate. We can also forward questions to any of the PAC board members, including input on election candidates.

Find Your Elected Officials

Collier County: colliervotes.gov/187/Current-Elected-Officials

Lee County: lee.vote/173/Elected-Officials

Voter Registration Details

Collier County: colliervotes.gov/161/Register-to-Vote-Update-Voter-Registration

Lee County: lee.vote/290/How-Do-I-Register-to-Vote



April Donahue, Dr. Catherine Kowal, Senator Kathleen Passidomo, Dr. Bob Levine

Purchasing or Leasing Healthcare Real Estate – Key Determining Factors

David Rodriguez - Agent, CARR



One of the most common questions physicians ask is: Should I purchase or lease my office space? While many assume that owning their home means they should also own their office, the truth is that the best choice depends on multiple factors. There is no universal answer—each practice must evaluate its specific needs, finances, and long-term plans before deciding.

Key considerations include the stage of your practice, growth expectations, available financing, cash flow, tax implications, and what the local market offers. Understanding these elements will help you make a strategic choice.

Leasing Your Office Space

Flexibility:

Leasing typically offers greater mobility. With a 5-, 7-, or 10-year lease, you can relocate or renew at the end of the term without the work involved in selling a property. This makes leasing attractive for newer practices or those anticipating future changes.

Concessions:

Landlords often offer strong incentives to healthcare tenants—especially when the tenant is professionally represented. These concessions may include tenant improvement allowances, free build-out periods, and even free rent after opening. With proper negotiation, these benefits can reach well into six figures, reducing upfront costs and borrowing needs.

Availability:

In many markets—especially dense urban areas—leasing options significantly outnumber purchase opportunities. In some regions, properties for lease outnumber those for sale by 10 to 1 or more. Because of this, providers should evaluate both leasing and purchasing options to determine what best fits their operational needs.

A thorough lease-versus-purchase analysis should include monthly costs, principal paydown, tax impacts, landlord concessions, and long-term equity position at 10-, 15-, and 20-year intervals. This full comparison ensures an informed decision.

Purchasing Your Office Space

Additional Asset:

If you have the required down payment, can secure financing, and have viable properties available, purchasing can be a powerful long-term investment. Many physicians find their real estate is worth as much—or more—than their practice at retirement.

Retirement Income:

Physicians can also sell their practice while keeping their building

and leasing it to the buyer. This creates an annuity-like income stream, often with a property that is already paid off.

Healthcare-Specific Financing:

Working with healthcare-focused lenders can be advantageous. These lenders understand build-out timelines, specialized space requirements, and the financial strength of medical practices, often resulting in more favorable loan structures.

Principal Paydown & Equity:

Ownership allows you to build equity over time. After 10–15 years, property equity can easily reach into the hundreds of thousands or more. Once the mortgage is paid, costs are generally limited to upkeep, taxes, and operating expenses—a major long-term financial benefit.

Tax Benefits:

Both leasing and buying offer tax advantages, but ownership adds depreciation and mortgage interest deductions. A CPA and experienced agent can help you understand how these apply to your situation.

Additional Considerations

Your decision should also reflect where you are in your career.

- **Start-ups:** Leasing is often ideal for the first 7–10 years as you learn your market, space needs, and patient volume.
- **Established practices:** If you've been leasing for a decade or more, a detailed analysis with your agent and CPA can clarify whether purchasing now makes sense.
- **Approaching retirement:** Physicians nearing retirement must balance build-out costs, purchase price, and the timeline of a practice sale. While purchasing may not seem logical with only a few working years left, retaining the property and leasing it to the buyer can significantly increase both practice value and retirement income.

Every situation is unique, and the best outcomes come from evaluating the whole picture with qualified advisors.

In Conclusion

It's easy to see how this may be the most common question regarding healthcare office space; however, it's not a question that has a definitive answer for everyone. You need to dive into your situation and scenario deeper with the help of a good healthcare tenant Agent or Broker. There are many considerations and implications to consider and having all the information in a comparative analysis puts you in the driver's seat to make the most beneficial decision for your practice.

CARR is the nation's leading provider of commercial real estate services for healthcare tenants and buyers. Every year, thousands of healthcare practices trust CARR to achieve the most favorable terms on their lease and purchase negotiations. CARR's team of experts assist with start-ups, lease renewals, expansions, relocations, additional offices, purchases, and practice transitions. Healthcare practices choose CARR to save them a substantial amount of time and money; while ensuring their interests are always first. To learn more visit CARR.US and contact your local agent David Rodriguez representing healthcare practices in your area.



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CCMS Physician Awards Request for Nominations

Collier County Medical Society

Collier County Medical Society is pleased to announce its search for the 2026 CCMS Physician of the Year and CCMS Lifetime Achievement Awards. These awards honor CCMS member physicians who deserve special recognition for their services. The Board of Directors of CCMS invite you, as a member, to submit nominees for these prestigious awards.

The awards will be presented at the 69th CCMS Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers, June 20th at Arthrex One Conference Center. Stay tuned for details at ccmsonline.org/events. For sponsor opportunities visit ccmsonline.org/support.

Complete the nomination form located at bit.ly/3Y5gquC noting explicitly why the nominee is deserving of the award. We strongly encourage you to submit additional documentation such as supporting letters, CV, or news articles. All nominations must be made by CCMS member physicians. You can also email info@ccmsonline.org or call 239-435-7727 to request a copy of the form.

Physician of the Year Criteria:

CCMS Member who has demonstrated exceptional activities over the past year that reflect well on the medical profession, such as exemplary contributions to the practice of medicine, outstanding service to our community as a volunteer or benefactor, or leadership in advocacy efforts.

Lifetime Achievement Criteria:

CCMS Member whose body of work over the course of their career has gone above and beyond their daily role as a physician and serves as an inspiration to colleagues. For example, noteworthy innovations in medicine, significant improvements in access to or quality of care, or leadership in worthwhile causes for our community or for healthcare.

Mail, fax, or email the nomination form and supporting information to:

Collier County Medical Society
 ATTN: Physician of the Year Award
 88 12th St. N., Unit 200, Naples FL 34102
 Tel (239) 435-7727 Fax (239) 435-7790 info@ccmsonline.org

Deadline for entries is February 28, 2026.

The CCMS Board of Directors thanks the Medical Society members for your part in helping us to acknowledge those physicians who go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our community.

Past Physicians of the Year:

Paul Mitchell, MD - 2015
 Robert Tober, MD - 2016
 Paul Jones, MD - 2017
 James Talano, MD - 2018
 Cesar De Leon, DO - 2019
 Raymond Phillips, MD - 2020
 Mark Russo, MD - 2021
 Catherine Kowal, MD - 2022
 Nena Korunda, MD - 2023
 Corey Howard, MD - 2024
 Rolando Rivera, MD - 2025



Dr. Rolando Rivera, 2025 Physician of the Year, with Dr. Rebekah Bernard

Past Lifetime Achievement Honorees:

Robert Meli, MD - 2019
 Charles Camisa, MD - 2022
 Wallace McLean, MD - 2023
 Robert Tober, MD - 2025



Dr. Robert Tober, 2025 Lifetime Achievement Honoree



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239-261-5554 | markham-norton.com



Compounding Pharmacy | Jerry Meloche, PharmD
239-261-0050 | creativescripts.net



Financial Services | Nolvia Valladares
239-963-0783 | finemarkbank.com



Employee Benefits | Timothy McGee | 239-415-0101
hubinternational.com/offices/us/fort-myers



Financial Planning | Jeremy Darstek
239-898-3836 | jdprivatewealth.com



Attorney | Linda Minck
239-260-5827 | minck-law.com



Insurance | Mitchell Dannenberg
239-877-1688 | ltcimarketplace.com



Financial Advisors | Dan Shannon
239-690-9820 | mfgflorida.com



IT Services | Janice Wade
239-659-3428 ext. 11 | networkminds.com



Law Firm | Joshua Bialek
239-593-2962 | porterwright.com



Banking | Cynthia Valenti Smith | 401-862-4874
regions.com/locator/mlo/mortgage-loan-officer-cynthia-valenti-smith-naples



Wealth Management | William Slepcevich
239-435-9433 | sfgnaples.com



Software Design & IT Support | Matt Bernhardt
239-206-1193 | stickboycreative.com



Telecommunications | Nicole Somsen Business
239-980-9805 | summitbb.com/business



Wealth Management | Nina Azwoir
239-687-5204 | wintrustwealth.com/nazwoir.html



Wealth Management | Shannon Holland, CFP
239-513-6513 | wiserriverwealthmanagement.com

RAYMOND JAMES

Scholarship Applications for Medical & Healthcare Students Due March 31st

Foundation of Collier County Medical Society

The Foundation of Collier County Medical Society (CCMS) board of directors announces the latest call for applications for its two scholarship award programs: the Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid Memorial Scholarship for Medical Students, and the Foundation of CCMS Healthcare Student Scholarships for students enrolled in or accepted to healthcare degree programs. The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2026.

Since its inception in 2013, the Foundation has awarded over a quarter of a million dollars to exceptional healthcare students from Florida.

The Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid Memorial Scholarship for Medical Students honors the legacy of Neighborhood Health Clinic co-founders Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid, whose visionary efforts provide vital medical care to underserved populations in Collier County. Along with their many contributions to the local medical community, Dr. Lascheid was also CCMS Past President and Mrs. Lascheid was a CCMS Alliance Past President. This scholarship is open to eligible Florida residents enrolled in or accepted to medical school, who have demonstrated excellence in service to their community.

The Foundation's Healthcare Student Scholarships offer awards to eligible Florida residents enrolled in or accepted as students in healthcare degree programs, such as nursing, physician assistant, physical therapy, and more. Awards are based on academic merit and contributions to the community, and, in some cases, financial need.

"Our healthcare scholarships have long supported Florida students who pair academic excellence with a deep commitment to service," said Dr. Rolando Rivera, Foundation Board Chair. "By investing in their education today, we're strengthening the future of patient care across our community."

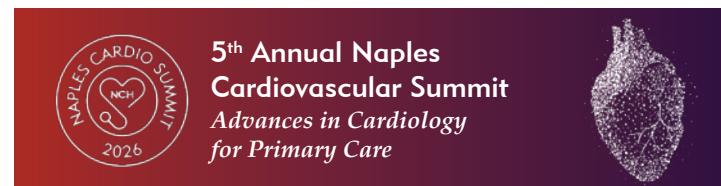
Applications and requirements are available at ccmsfoundation.org, or may be obtained by calling the Foundation of CCMS, (239) 435-7727 or emailing info@ccmsonline.org. Information about the 2022 Scholarship Winners is also online.

The Foundation of CCMS is a 501(c)3 charitable organization launched by the Medical Society in 2012, with the mission to provide support and leadership to programs that address access to healthcare and promote health education. To support the Foundation's scholarship program and charitable healthcare endeavors, make a tax-deductible donation at ccmsfoundation.org or call 239-435-7727.



2025 Foundation Scholarship recipients:

Michael Grossi, Ronasia Duprat, Hailey Mathieu, Arnold Morales Loyola, Alejandro Aguilar, and Kayla Miranda



February 20 – 21, 2026

Arthrex One Conference Center | Naples, FL

Naples Comprehensive Health (NCH) Rooney Heart Institute in collaboration with Mayo Clinic brings you the latest breakthroughs in cardiac care to enhance your knowledge through interactive sessions and case-based learning.

Interactive Sessions and Key Topics:

- Coronary Artery & Vascular Disease
- Cardiac Prevention & Treatment
- Cardio-Oncology-Obstetrics & Women's Heart Disease
- Cardiac Rhythm Disorders
- Structural & Valvular Heart Disease
- Heart Failure & Cardiomyopathies

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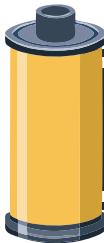
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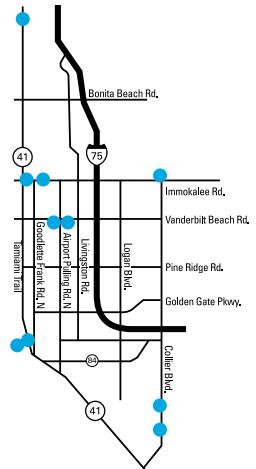
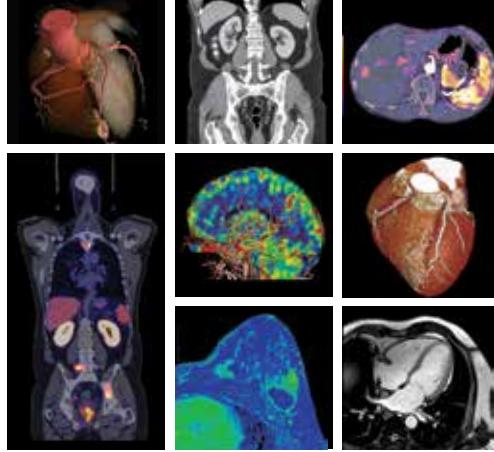
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