



THE FORUM

July/August 2026 • Volume 25, No. 4 • The Official Magazine of Collier County Medical Society

CCMS Installs 69th CCMS President Dr. Glenn Groat and 2026-2027 Board of Directors



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

July 23, 6:00pm
CCMS After 5 Social
Florida Oncology & Hematology, Collier Blvd.

July 31-August 2, 2026
FMA Annual Meeting
Hilton Orlando
Register at flmedical.org

Thursday, August 6, 6:00pm
After 5 Social
HSS at NCH

Thursday, August 13, 6:30pm
CCMS Employed/Group Physicians Lecture
Mighty Mussels Baseball Game

Thursday, September 17, 6:00pm
CCMS Women Physicians Social
Seasons 52

Saturday, September 26, 8am
Foundation of CCMS
"Docs & Duffers" Charity Golf Tournament
Bonita Bay Club Naples
Support opportunities at ccmsfoundation.org

Thursday, October 8, 6pm
CCMS After 5 Social
Sharp Health MD

Saturday, October 24, 5:30pm
CCMS Family Outing at FC Naples
Paradise Coast Sports Complex

Thursday, November 5, 6pm
CCMS Fall General Membership Meeting
Moorings Park

Thursday, November 19, 6:30pm
CCMS New Members Welcome Reception
Vineyards Country Club
Sponsor opportunities at ccmsonline.org/support

Thursday, December 3, 6:00pm
CCMS After 5 Social
Location TBD

Premier Circle of Friends



Dave Dubowy • 954-884-0027
ddubowy@integrigrp.com
integrigrp.com



Sunil Muley • 239-919-1361
sunil.muley@lmcu.org
LMCU.org



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

2026 RCC Cards

CCMS Members receive special \$10 pricing on the 2026 RCC Card, which provides discounts at restaurants and merchants. Order a card at ccmsonline.org/membership or call CCMS at 239-435-7727. Cards will be mailed to the office address on file unless otherwise specified.

CCMS Board of Directors 2026-2027

President
Glenn Groat, MD

Vice President
Alexandra Grace, DO

Secretary
Sonal Sura, MD

Treasurer
Erik Hiester, DO

Officer/Director at Large
Mazen Albeldawi, MD

Immediate Past President: Jose Baez, MD
Directors at Large: Tam Mai, MD and Tareq Khader, MD

Ex Officio Directors: April Donahue, Executive Director, CCMS
Sheryl Guttman, CCMS Alliance President
Brian Rodriguez, MD, Theodore Soares, DO, and Zachary Wald, DO,
Resident Physician Representatives

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

New Members:


Kristine M Almonte, MD

Naples Nephrology PA
878 109th Ave N, Naples, FL 34107
Phone: (239) 513-1002 Fax: (239) 513-1915
Board Certified: Nephrology; Internal Medicine


Talley Sharp, MD

Sharp Health MD
625 Tamiami Trl N Ste 302, Naples, FL 34102
Phone: (239) 696-3100 Fax: (239) 522-0001
Board Certified: Emergency Medicine


Danielle Grossman-Stuart, MD

Naples Concierge Healthcare
700 2nd Ave N Ste 305, Naples, FL 34102
Phone: (239) 690-6286 Fax: (833) 956-2893
Board Certified: Family Medicine


Ali T Zreik, MD

Hobdari Family Health
1855 Veterans Park Dr Ste 201, Naples, FL 34109
Phone: (239) 260-1033 Fax: (239) 260-1491
Board Certified: Internal Medicine


Aaron Jacobs, MD

Naples Plastic Surgery
1250 Pine Ridge Rd Ste 101C, Naples, FL 34108
Phone: (239) 566-2611 Fax: (239) 431-8069
Specialty: Plastic Surgery

Reinstated:

Scott Thompson MD

Orthopaedic Surgery
Meliora Healthcare
708 Goodlette Rd Ste 200, Naples, FL 34102
Phone: (239) 291-7005 Fax: (239) 241-6284

New Practice:

Nadia A Kazim, MD

Ophthalmology
Nadia Kazim, MD, FACS
6435 Naples Blvd #101, Naples, FL 34109
Phone: (239) 936-8686 Fax: (239) 467-6109

Catherine H Law, MD

Cardiovascular Disease
Naples Heart Rhythm Specialists PA
6376 Pine Ridge Rd Ste 180, Naples, FL 34119
Phone: (239) 263-0849 Fax: (239) 263-2376

Troy L Masouras, MD

Surgery-Breast
CAN Navigators/Concierge Breast Navigator MD, LLC
3384 Woods Edge Cir #102, Bonita Springs, FL 34134
Phone: 239-366-7286 Fax: 239-688-6814

New NCH Residents:

Madelaine Andrews Paterson, MD

Angel Bas Acevedo, MD

Mariana Beltran Lopez, MD

Gabriella Cutrali, DO

Demiliz Diaz, MD

Alicia DuPont, DO

Naicha Gustinvil, MD

Roksolana Habal, MD

Aaron Harris, MD

Harrison Howe, MD


Daniela A Kloos, MD

Calibrate
228 Park Ave S 76071, New York, NY 10003
Phone: (585) 861-6398
Board Certified: Internal Medicine


Todd C Morehouse, DO

Collier Otolaryngology
1879 Veterans Park Dr Ste 1201, Naples, FL 34109
Phone: (239) 592-9666 Fax: (239) 592-1835
Board Certified: Otolaryngology


Austin M Morris, MD

Naples Nephrology PA
878 109th Ave N, Naples, FL 34108
Phone: (239) 513-1002 Fax: (239) 513-1915
Board Certified: Nephrology; Internal Medicine


Brittany Ranieri, DO

Salt + Light Psychiatry
10550 Abernathy St, Bonita Springs, FL 34135
Phone: (239) 513-9434 Fax: (239) 688-1261
Specialty: Psychiatry


Joseph T Sharp, MD

Sharp Health MD
625 Tamiami Trl N Ste 302, Naples, FL 34102
Phone: (239) 696-3100 Fax: (239) 522-0001
Board Certified: Internal Medicine

A Message from the 69th CCMS Board President

Glenn Groat, MD – Board President, Collier County Medical Society



[Adapted from Dr. Groat's Installation Address at the CCMS Annual Meeting, June 20.]

Good evening, colleagues, distinguished guests, friends, and family. It is both a profound honor and a humbling responsibility to stand before you tonight as the 69th President of the Collier County Medical Society.

First, I want to express my sincere gratitude to the members of this Society for your trust and confidence. I am deeply thankful to our past presidents, officers, board members, and dedicated staff whose leadership and service have built the strong foundation upon which we stand today. I would also like to thank my wife Dr. Anne Marie Tremaine, family, friends, partners, and mentors whose support has made this moment possible.

For the past four years, I have had the privilege of serving as Assistant Managing Partner of Radiology Regional. That experience has reinforced something I believe deeply: healthcare works best when physicians work together. Whether we are primary care physicians, surgeons, radiologists, specialists, hospital-based or private practice physicians, we are all part of the same team. Our patients do not see separate specialties; they see a healthcare system. They see us.

For nearly seven decades, the CCMS has played a unique role in bringing that team together by serving as a unifying voice for physicians and a steadfast advocate for our patients and our profession. Through changing times in medicine, remarkable scientific advances, and unprecedented challenges, CCMS has remained committed to excellence, professionalism, and service to our community.

Today, we practice medicine in an era of remarkable innovation. Advances in imaging, artificial intelligence, precision medicine, and new therapies are transforming what is possible for our patients.

Yet we also face significant challenges with increasing administrative burdens, workforce shortages, physician burnout, and a healthcare system that often seems more complex than ever.

These challenges are not unique to any one specialty. They affect all of us.

In the midst of these challenges, it is important to remember why we entered this profession.

We became physicians because we wanted to heal. We wanted to serve. We wanted to make a difference in the lives of others.

That purpose remains unchanged.

As President, my goal is to strengthen our Society's role as a source of connection, advocacy, and support for every physician in Collier County. Regardless of specialty, practice setting, or career stage, we are united by a common mission: providing the highest quality care to our patients and improving the health of our community.

Over the coming year, I intend to focus on three priorities. First, supporting physicians and physician well-being. We cannot provide exceptional care if we ourselves are exhausted, isolated, or overwhelmed. We must continue to foster collegiality, mentorship, and professional fulfillment among our members.

Second, advocating for our patients and our profession. Physicians must have a seat at the table when healthcare policy is discussed and decisions are made. Our collective voice is stronger than any individual voice, and together we can help shape a healthcare environment that puts patients first.

Third, strengthening our connection to the community we serve. Medicine is more than a profession—it is a public trust. Through outreach, education, and service, we can continue to improve the health and well-being of our patients and the people of Collier County.

I also believe that one of the greatest strengths of CCMS is the diversity of expertise, experience, and perspective represented in this room. When physicians come together, we can accomplish remarkable things.

As I begin this term, I do so with optimism. I am optimistic because I see physicians who remain deeply committed to their patients despite immense challenges.

I am optimistic because I see future leaders among our younger colleagues who bring fresh ideas, energy, and vision. And I am optimistic because I know that this Society has a long tradition of rising to meet whatever challenges lie ahead.

Tonight is not simply about a new president. It is about our shared commitment to one another, to our profession, and to the patients who place their trust in us every day.

I pledge to listen, to serve, and to work alongside each of you in the year ahead.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President. I look forward to the year ahead and all that we will accomplish together.

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Sunil Muley

(239) 919-1361 | Sunil.Muley@LMCU.org



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CCMS Honors Leaders at the 2026 CCMS Annual Meeting

Congratulations to new President & Board of Directors, and CCMS Awardees

CCMS is pleased to announce the installation of its 2026-2027 board president and directors. Dr. Glenn Groat began his one-year term as the 69th CCMS board president at the Medical Society's 2026 Annual Meeting, June 20th at Arthrex One Conference Center. Dr. Lisa Cosgrove, Florida Medical Association past president, administered the oath of office, and Dr. Jose Baez, outgoing CCMS board president, presented the ceremonial president's gavel. The event also featured Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, immediate past president of the American Medical Association, as a guest speaker, and CCMS presented the Physician of the Year Award to Dr. Rebekah Bernard, and the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Hermes Koop.

The installation was attended by approximately 200 local physicians, community leaders, and guests. Thank you to the Annual Meeting title sponsor Arthrex, presenting sponsors Apex Brain & Spine and Preferred Care Home Health Services, and major sponsors Integris Assurance Company, Lake Michigan Credit Union, Markham Norton, Millennium Physician Group, Neuroscience and Spine Associates, Regions Bank, Southwest Florida Physicians Association, and Vascular Center of Naples/Naples Prostate Center.

2026-2027 CCMS Board of Directors:



Glenn E. Groat, MD – President

Dr. Groat currently serves as Assistant Managing Partner at Radiology Regional. He has served on the CCMS Board of Directors since 2021 and is also a board member of the Foundation of CCMS, a member of the CCMS Programs Committee, and a CCMS delegate to the Florida Medical Association. Dr. Groat earned undergraduate degrees in

Kinesiology and Psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder and received his medical degree from SUNY Upstate Medical University. He completed his internship at Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, his radiology residency at SUNY Upstate Medical University, and a fellowship in Body Imaging and Interventional Radiology at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Groat is board-certified by the American Board of Radiology and is a member of the American College of Radiology.



Alexandra R. Grace, DO – Vice President

Dr. Grace received her BS in Psychobiology at Univ. of Miami. She completed both a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and Master in Public Health at Nova Southeastern, residency in internal medicine at Mount Sinai, and gastroenterology fellowship

at St. John Macomb Oakland, MI. She is dual boarded in internal medicine and gastroenterology. After 7 years of hospital employed practice, Dr. Grace started her private gastroenterology practice in 2022, Gastroenterology Specialists of Southwest Florida. She has been a CCMS member for 10 years, is former chief of medicine at Physicians Regional, past CCMS nominating committee chair, and an FMA delegate since 2021.



Erik D. Hiester, DO – Treasurer

Dr. Hiester is board certified by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Physicians and by the American Board of Family Medicine. He received a Bachelor and Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering at the Univ. of Miami and a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree

at the Kansas City Univ. of Medicine and Biosciences. Dr. Hiester completed a family medicine residency in Binghamton, NY, and an interventional pain medicine fellowship at Emory Medical School in Atlanta. He also has a minor in classical piano and is a co-producer of the bi-annual Physicians' Community Talent Show. He is Vice-Chair of the NCH Medical Staff Wellness Committee and a concierge physician at NCH working with his wife, Karen Hiester, DO.



Sonal Sura, MD – Secretary

Dr. Sura earned her MD at George Washington Univ., was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society, and graduated Magna Cum Laude. After a research fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, she went on to residency training at SUNY Downstate Medical

Center where she also served as Chief Resident. She is board certified in Radiation Oncology and has a Master in Business Administration from the New York Univ. Stern Executive MBA Program. Before relocating to Naples to join GenesisCare, Dr. Sura served as Director of Radiation Oncology at NYC H+H/Elmhurst, NY and Assistant Professor at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She now practices at Inspire Oncology.



Mazen Albeldawi, MD – Officer/Director at Large

Dr. Albeldawi serves as a managing partner and practicing gastroenterologist at Meliora Healthcare, a position he has held since 2023. He obtained his MD from Ross Univ., followed by an Internal Medicine residency and a Gastroenterology fellowship

at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. From 2014 to 2023, he served as Section Head of Gastroenterology at NCH, during which time he also led the endoscopy unit and later chaired the Quality and Patient Safety Committee. Currently, he is an

Continued on page 7

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Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the Univ. of Central Florida College of Medicine and is distinguished as a Fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology and the American College of Physicians.



Tam T. Mai, MD – Director at Large

Dr. Mai is a board-certified and fellowship-trained breast surgical oncologist practicing with Magnolia Breast Center, a division of Precision Healthcare Specialists. She earned her medical degree from the Univ. of South Alabama College of Medicine, completed her General Surgery residency at the Univ.

of South Alabama Health System, and completed fellowship training in breast surgery and oncoplastic breast surgery through the Keck School of Medicine of the Univ. of Southern California. Prior to relocating to Southwest Florida, she served as Medical Director of the Springfield Clinic Breast Health Center in Illinois.



Tareq N. Khader, MD – Director at Large

Dr. Khader is a board-certified internist practicing in Southwest Florida since 2015. He earned his medical degree from Jordan Univ. of Science and Technology and completed his internal medicine residency at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio, where he served as Chief

Resident. Dr. Khader practices as a hospitalist with Millennium Physician Group and is the current owner of Naples Longevity Clinic, where he focuses on preventive, functional, and longevity medicine. Fluent in English and Arabic, he is dedicated to personalized, patient centered care and promoting long-term health and wellness.



Jose Baez, MD – Immediate Past President

Dr. Baez is a board-certified internist with a private practice in North Naples. He attended medical school at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and completed his Internal Medicine residency at Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center. While in private practice in Connecticut, he was Assistant

Clinical Professor at Univ. of Connecticut's School of Medicine. Dr. Baez has served on numerous hospital committees and medical association boards. He chaired the CCMS Membership Committee 2018-2025 and served on the CCMS delegation to the FMA for 11 years. Dr. Baez has completed 7 New York City Marathons and a Chicago Marathon.

Ex-officio Board Members:



April Donahue
CCMS Exec. Director



Sheryl Guttman
CCMS Alliance President

**Brian Rodriguez, MD; Theodore Soares, DO; and
Zachary Wald, DO**
Resident Physician Representatives

FMA Alternate Delegates:



George Brinnig, MD



Rafael C. Haciski, MD



Michael D. McGee, MD

Award Winners:



**Dr. Catherine Kowal presents the Physician of the Year Award
to Dr. Rebekah Bernard**



**Dr. Hermes Koop receives the Lifetime Achievement Award
from Dr. Paul Jones**

CCMSA 2025-2026 Year in Review

Robin Babbo – CCMS Alliance Immediate Past President



Collier County Medical Society Alliance celebrated another year of giving and connecting healthcare families across Naples.

The Alliance continued its mission of bringing together medical families. From physicians to spouses, fiancés, partners, and children, our community stayed strong and connected.

CCMSA had our whirlwind start to our calendar!

The year kicked off in August with the annual Family Pool Party. New member families, excited kids, and friends of the Alliance were welcomed to a fun-filled day in the sun. In September, our Fall Preview Luncheon brought familiar faces and newcomers together as our board launched the new season. Next up, the much-loved annual Trolley Bar Crawl Scholarship Fundraiser traveled through town to Naples' favorite spots while raising money for future healthcare students.

While we were busy promoting events, behind the scene, our Membership Committee worked to grow our numbers and engage our members. Often recruiting at CCMS events where the Alliance is always grateful to meet new physicians and spouses. It was exciting to welcome many new young family members to foster a vibrant Alliance for years to come.

Moonlight & Martinis - Where Glam Meets Giving was a smash success! This fundraiser under the stars at a luxurious waterfront home featuring live music, delicious hors d'oeuvres, and of course a variety of martini flavors raised thousands of dollars for the Dr. Ethel Trygstad Scholarship Fund.

In December, Naples became the host city for the Florida Medical Association Alliance's 100th Year Celebration and Annual Meeting. Medical families from across the state gathered to mark a century of achievements. CCMSA was honored to receive the County Fundraiser Award for 2025's Award the World Dinner and the Communications Award for the CCMSA Connections newsletter.

Based on this success, Award the World Dinner returned in February where members shared their favorite global cuisine. And yet again, the Alliance raised thousands to reach our annual \$10,000 fundraising goal. Our Scholarship Committee was honored to present these monies to five Collier high school seniors seeking healthcare careers. The Alliance also gave \$1500 to CCMS for the Physician Wellness Program.

Throughout the year, CCMSA hosted Nights Out and Game Nights and continued to explore options for new activities and events.

Lastly, at the Spring Member Luncheon in May, the new 2026-2027 Board of Directors was installed. We look forward to a new year ahead and welcome the medical families of CCMS to join the Alliance.

CCMSA 2026-2027 Board of Directors:

Sheryl Guttman – President

Nicole Elstad – Treasurer

Barbara Rougraff – Foundation Treasurer

Karen Swain – Recording Secretary

Deb Levitsky – Correspondence Secretary

Nikki Ahuja – Director at Large

Mindie Blau – Director at Large

Grant Bell – Director at Large

Kathryn Berman – Director at Large

Amy Howard – Director at Large

Christine McGee – Director at Large

Gabby Vickaryous – Director at Large

Robin Babbo – Past President



Fall Preview Luncheon



Around the World Dinner



Moonlight & Martinis



Collier County Medical Society 2025-2026 Annual Report

VISION

Helping Physicians Practice High Quality Medicine in Our Community

MISSION

Serve the needs of our physician members so they can better serve the needs of the community

CORE VALUES

**Collegiality, Professionalism, Leadership, Advocacy, Education,
Communication, Physician Wellness**



Thank You to the 2025-2026 Board of Directors:

Jose Baez, MD – President

Glenn Groat, MD – Vice President

Alexandra Grace, DO – Treasurer

Erik Hiester, DO – Secretary

George Brinnig, MD – Officer/Director at Large

Zubin Pachori, MD – Immediate Past President

Sonal Sura, MD – Director at Large

Mazen Albeldawi, MD – Director at Large

Ex-Officio:

April Donahue – CCMS Executive Director

Robin Babbo – CCMS Alliance President

Yenlee Hernandez, MD and Dairon Lago, MD – Resident Physician Representatives

Outgoing President's Address & Annual Highlights

Jose Baez, MD



[Adapted from Dr. Baez's Address at the CCMS Annual Meeting, June 20.]

Dear Colleagues and Esteemed Guests,

As my presidency concludes, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my wife, Marisol, for her support and dedication. Also, April Donahue and Nancy Wood for their unwavering support throughout the year. Thank you to our medical society for your continued commitment to our patients. The strength of our organization comes from physicians who advocate for excellence in healthcare while supporting one another in an increasingly complex practice environment.

This year, our educational programs and community outreach efforts have reinforced the important role physicians play in both patient care and public health advocacy. We are proud of the leadership and engagement demonstrated by our members throughout these initiatives.

I encourage you to stay involved through committee service, educational events, mentorship, and advocacy. Your participation helps shape the future of medicine in our community. Consider becoming a teaching attending physician at the PRMC Internal Medicine Residency Program and an NCH College of Medicine faculty appointment.

Please watch for upcoming announcements on educational programs, networking opportunities, and legislative developments affecting medical practice. Your expertise and voice remain essential as we address healthcare challenges and advance solutions that benefit physicians and patients alike.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for your support and commitment. Together, we can strengthen our profession, improve patient care, and ensure a strong future for organized medicine



Thank You to 2025-2026 Committee Chairs

To join a committee, email april@ccmsonline.org or call 239-435-7727

Diversity, Health Equity, & Inclusion Ad-Hoc

Dr. Shawn Khan, Chair
Dr. Nena Korunda, Vice-Chair

FMA Delegation

Dr. Jose Baez, Chair

Grievances

Dr. Richard Pagliara, Chair

Health Insurance Co-Op

Dr. Pavan Anand, Trustee

Legislative

Dr. Zubin Pachori, Chair

Membership

Dr. Jose Baez, Chair
Dr. Erik Hiester, Vice-Chair

Nominating

Dr. Jose Baez, Chair

Physician Wellness

Dr. Rebekah Bernard, Chair

Programs

Dr. Elizabeth Arguelles, Chair

Women's Health Forum

Dr. Theresa Vensel, Chair

The Forum Magazine

Dr. Rebekah Bernard, Editor
Dr. George Brinnig, Assistant Editor

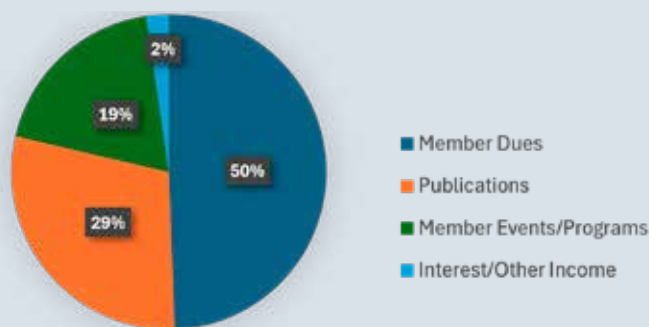
CCMS Political Action Committee

Dr. Rolando Rivera, Chair

Income and Expenses

Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2026

Income



Expenses



*reflect only direct expenses, not indirect operational costs

CCMS PAC Report 2025-26

The CCMS Political Action Committee (PAC) provides funds to local and state candidates who are physician and patient-friendly. CCMS members and spouses are invited to contribute \$100 each to the PAC to help make an impact on elections in Collier County and Florida. Contact CCMS or visit ccmsonline.org/advocacy.

Your PAC had \$2,000 in income last fiscal year and \$2,000 in expenses, with a bank balance just over \$3,700 on March 31st. The board's primary goal was to save funds and begin researching candidates for the 2026 local elections. CCMS members are strongly encouraged to resume their contributions or contribute for the first time this year to help replenish the expenditures in preparation for the 2026 elections.

During the 2025-26 fiscal year, the PAC contributed \$1,000 to Representative Yvette Benarroch, running for re-election to the Florida House of Representatives to represent District 81. The PAC also contributed \$1,000 to Representative Lauren Melo who represents House District 82 and is running for election to the Florida State Senate to represent District 28 (as Senator Kathleen Passidomo has reached her term limit).

If you have questions about voting, the PAC, or its endorsements, contact any of the PAC Board: Dr. Rolando Rivera – Chair/Treasurer, Dr. Mitchell Zeitler, Dr. Catherine Kowal, Catherine Campbell (CCMS Alliance representative), or April Donahue at CCMS.

Net Assets Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2026: \$526,364*

**Based on unreviewed financial statements, pending CPA review*

Membership

Total Membership 2025-2026: 800 (including 646 practicing, 78 retired, 76 resident/fellow)

New Members, April 2025-March 2026:

Rola Ali MD
Jacqueline N Alvarez MD
David R Artz MD
Romany Auclair MD
James J Augustine MD
Horea A Baila MD
Karen E Beckman MD
Ellen E Bellairs MD
Gregory A Bernath MD
Shauna E Berry DO
Shivank S Bhatia MD
Raphael C Bosse MD
Thomas G Caranasos MD
Michael R Cohen DO
James M Curry DO
Reginald Davis MD
Adela de Vera MD
Alondra M Diaz Diaz MD
Yanet Diaz-Martell MD
Richard J Dreiss MD
Sara El Aryan DO

Ernesto A Eusebio MD
Anika N Fernandez MD
Aleksandra G Florek MD
Margaret A Franklin Christian MD
Lauren A Furman Cline MD
Preston A Gardner DO
Felipe Gascon MD
Lindsey Greenfield DO
Christopher Y Gris MD
Lazaro Hernandez MD
Nicholas J Houser MD
Manrique O Iriarte MD
Spencer M Johnson MD
Stephanie L Jones MD
Thad C Kammerlocher MD
Mahesh C Karamchandani MD
Osaf Ali Khan MD
Dallas J Kingsbury MD
Niveda Anki Reddy Konda MD
John C Lane MD
Jason D Lehman MD

Changzhao Li MD
Pranav D Mahadevan MD
Yara R Maia MD
Susan M Manson MD
Meghna Mendu DO
Nithya R Mitta MD
Ara J Montalvo MD
Marilyn Nedumcheril MD
Brooke K Norton MD
Natalie Nowak DO
Jonathan R Obi MD
Carlos T Ojeda MD
Kelsey Parks MD
Adrian Parra MD
Jaydeepbhai Patel MD
Rodolfo J Pena-Ariet MD
Juan Perez Hernandez MD
Evelyn Pineiro MD
Ariel Prieto Valdes MD
Read M Quarles MD
Amir H Qureshi MD

Rajagopal K Reddy MD
Peter E Regala MD
Melva Reve Urgelles MD
Matthew Riehl MD
Ralph S Ryback MD
Gustavo Saladin Miller MD
Miguel Salazar MD
Sariely Sandoval MD
Christopher Sasco DO
Chelsey Scheiner DO
Stacey L Sensor DO
Elias I Shaheen MD
Anish J Soni DO
Stachyse Stanis MD
Patricia A Stewart DO
Jamie E Stucker MD
Kinjal Suryawala MD
Matthew Sweet MD
Rudolph F Taddonio MD
Richard E Whisnant MD

Foundation of CCMS 2025 Annual Report

Rolando Rivera, M.D., Foundation Chair



I am happy to provide the 2025 report from our Medical Society's 501c3 charitable arm, the Foundation of CCMS. We continue to grow and increase awareness of our organization, adding new donors, increasing our scholarship awards, and supporting the CCMS Physician Wellness Program.

We awarded 6 scholarships in 2025, for a total of \$37,500, and exceeded \$280,000

awarded since our inception in 2013. The awards included the Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid Memorial Scholarship, which honors the Neighborhood Health Clinic co-founders, and is awarded to medical students who are Florida residents excelling in community service. Award recipient Michael Grossi, a Marco Island H.S. graduate in the class of 2027 at Florida State Univ. College of Medicine, exemplified the Lascheids' dedication to helping those in need.

We then provided 5 additional awards in our general healthcare scholarship program, helping 3 medical students, a nursing student, and a physician assistant student. Read about all our winners at ccmsfoundation.org, where, later this year, interested applicants can apply for next year's scholarships, due March 31st.

Also in 2025, we received exciting news that board member Dr. Rebekah Bernard would fund a new endowed scholarship to be awarded by the Foundation each year, the Kathy Lampl Bernard Memorial Nursing Scholarship for future bedside nurses. We completed the necessary planning in 2025, and are pleased to announce the inaugural recipient later this summer.

One of our goals is to continue building the endowment fund we launched in 2017, managed by the Community Foundation of Collier County, which helps create long-term sustainability. We surpassed \$60,000 in endowed funds last year, plus the \$50,000 of our new endowed scholarship fund. Supporters can participate in the endowment in a variety of ways, such as gifts of property, planned giving, and more.

Our 12th Anniversary Docs & Duffers was held on September 27, 2025. At this signature fundraiser, 112 golfers, 20 sponsors, 36 prize donors, and 26 volunteers came together for an enjoyable day of golf, contests, a raffle, and an awards luncheon. The event raised over \$27,000 in net proceeds.

We also raised nearly \$3,500 at the 2025 Women's Health Forum with approximately \$1,500 in attendee donations and \$2,000 from a portion of sponsorship proceeds. We also raised funds with a wine brunch in March 2025, and raffles at the CCMS Annual Meeting and New Members Welcome Reception.

Our mission: Provide support and leadership to programs that address access to healthcare and promote health education.

The Physician Community Talent Show returned in November 2025, and we were grateful to be a recipient of half of the funds raised at this extraordinary event showcasing the talent of our physician members and the healthcare community. Their efforts raised \$11,234 for the Foundation.

Another highlight in 2025 was our continued support of the CCMS Physician Wellness Program, with a grant of \$6,000. This important initiative to help our members treat and prevent burnout is critical to improving access to quality healthcare in our community. We also donated \$1,000 to the Florida Lions Eye Clinic in Bonita Springs.

Gross revenue for 2025 was \$117,648, including donations from members and friends, net income from fundraising events, and our new scholarship endowment. Total expenses for 2025 were \$30,649, including scholarships, grants, professional fees, and low operational costs (one scholarship award was deferred to 2026 on the student's request). At the end of our fiscal year, our balance of net assets was \$178,715.

Thank you to all the CCMS members and friends of the Foundation who have donated and contributed to our success. Your support is critical, and we look forward to continued growth for the years to come. We encourage all our members to consider the Foundation in your charitable giving plans. You can donate at ccmsfoundation.org or call us at 239-435-7727.

We also invite everyone to participate in our upcoming 13th Annual Docs & Duffers golf tournament and raffle, Saturday, September 26, 8:30am at Bonita Bay Club in Naples. You are welcome to golf, be a sponsor, prize donor, volunteer, or raffle entrant (need not be present to win), or simply attend the awards luncheon. Register or learn more about the tournament and raffle at ccmsfoundation.org.

Contact any of the FCCMS board members for information on our activities and mission, or reach out to April, (239) 435-7727 or april@ccmsonline.org. You can also follow us on Facebook, fb.com/ccmsfoundation. Thank you again, and we look forward to working with you to improve the health of our community.

Thank you to the 2025 Foundation Board Members:

Rolando Rivera, MD, Chair
 Jeremy Darstek, Treasurer/Secretary
 Rebekah Bernard, MD
 Joshua Bialek
 Mitchell Dannenberg
 April Donahue
 Kiran Gill, MD
 Glenn Groat, MD
 Catherine Kowal, MD
 Karen Mosteller
 Andy Reed



MEMBER NEWS

Continued from page 3

Kafayat Kareem, MD
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Claudia Miranda, MD
Bruce Nakfoor, MD
Jillian Niceley, DO
Riley Petrovich, DO
Summer Porter, DO
Ana Proenza, MD
Raul Proenza, MD
Daniel Shtirmer, DO
Ethan Thakran, DO

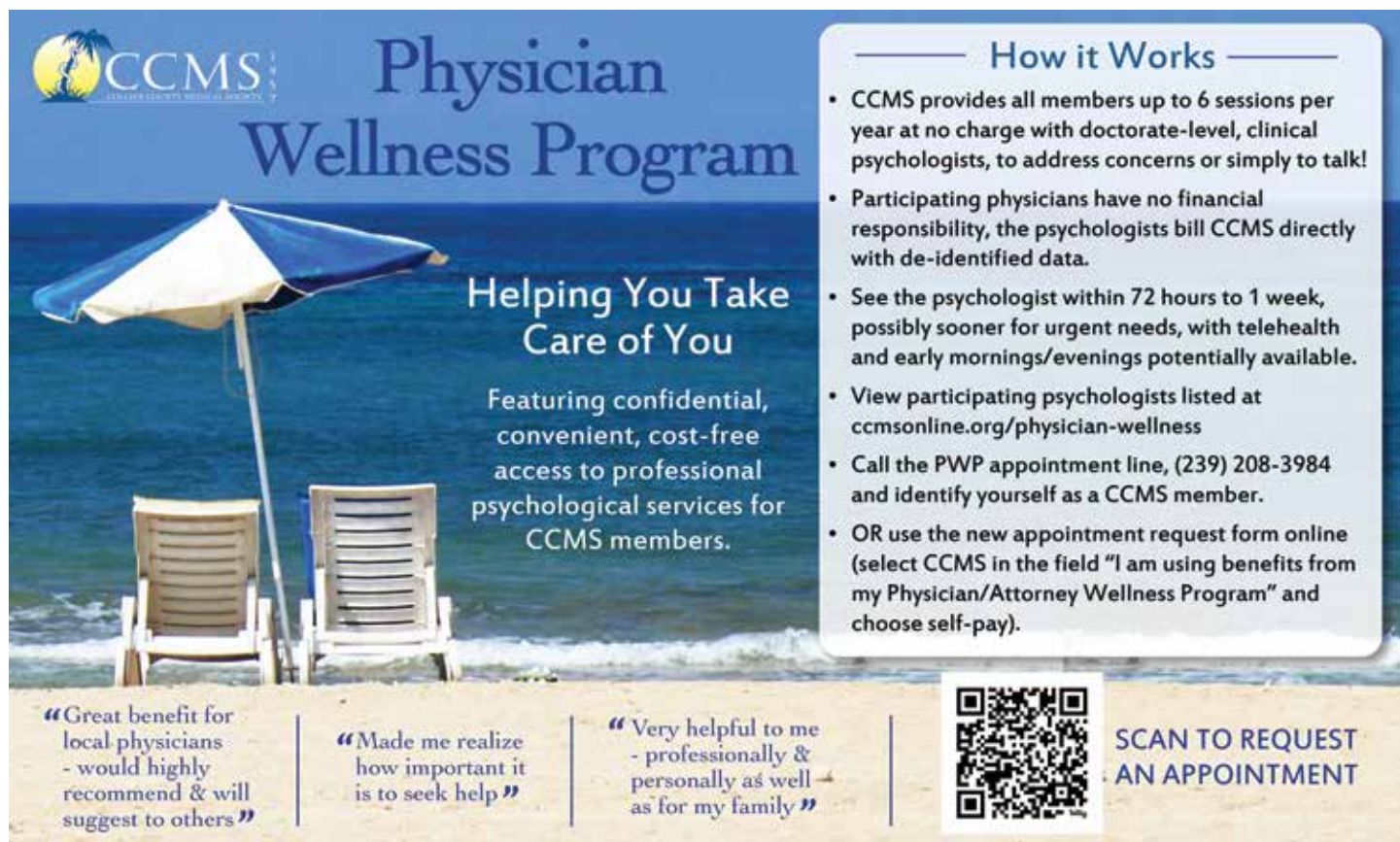
New Physicians Regional Residents:

Pradeep Adhikari, MD
Muhammad Faizan Ali, MBBS
Talha Anwar, MD
Muhammad Fawad Ashraf, MBBS
Awais Butt, MD
Ravindra Reddy Gangavarapu, MD
Muhammad Qasim Hasan, MD

Muhammad Haseeb, MD
Asma Khalid, MD
Amayed Murtaza, MD
Eisha Naveed, MD
Prachi Patel, MD
Krupa Savani, MBBS

Incoming NCH Fellows:

Moh'd Daise, MD – Cardiovascular Disease
Danna Reyes Herrera, MD – Cardiovascular Disease
Matthew Riehl, MD – Cardiovascular Disease
Oluwaremilekun (Zeth) Tolu-Akinnawo, MBBS – Cardiovascular Disease
Viet Nghi Tran, MD – Cardiovascular Disease
Juan Vargas, MD – Cardiovascular Disease
Maleeha Ajmal, MBBS – Critical Care Medicine
Johum Haque, MBBS – Critical Care Medicine
Jessica Chambers, DO – Hospice and Palliative Medicine
Fady Awad, DO – Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine
Noelle Messina, MD – Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine



CCMS Physician Wellness Program

Helping You Take Care of You

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

How it Works

- CCMS provides all members up to 6 sessions per year at no charge with doctorate-level, clinical psychologists, to address concerns or simply to talk!
- Participating physicians have no financial responsibility, the psychologists bill CCMS directly with de-identified data.
- See the psychologist within 72 hours to 1 week, possibly sooner for urgent needs, with telehealth and early mornings/evenings potentially available.
- View participating psychologists listed at ccmsonline.org/physician-wellness
- Call the PWP appointment line, (239) 208-3984 and identify yourself as a CCMS member.
- OR use the new appointment request form online (select CCMS in the field "I am using benefits from my Physician/Attorney Wellness Program" and choose self-pay).

“Great benefit for local physicians - would highly recommend & will suggest to others”

“Made me realize how important it is to seek help”

“Very helpful to me - professionally & personally as well as for my family”

SCAN TO REQUEST AN APPOINTMENT

Foundation of CCMS Announces Lascheid Scholarship Recipient

Foundation of Collier County Medical Society



The board of directors of the Foundation of Collier County Medical Society is pleased to announce that Kaitlyn Barnes is the recipient of the Foundation's 2026 Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid Memorial Scholarship for Medical Students. Ms. Barnes is a graduate of Barron Collier High School in Naples and is in the class of 2028 at Florida State University College of Medicine.

This prestigious, \$15,000 award recognizes medical students who are residents of Florida and have demonstrated exceptional community service efforts. It honors the memory of Dr. and Mrs. Lascheid, visionary founders of the charitable Neighborhood Health Clinic in Naples and past presidents of CCMS and the CCMS Alliance, respectively.

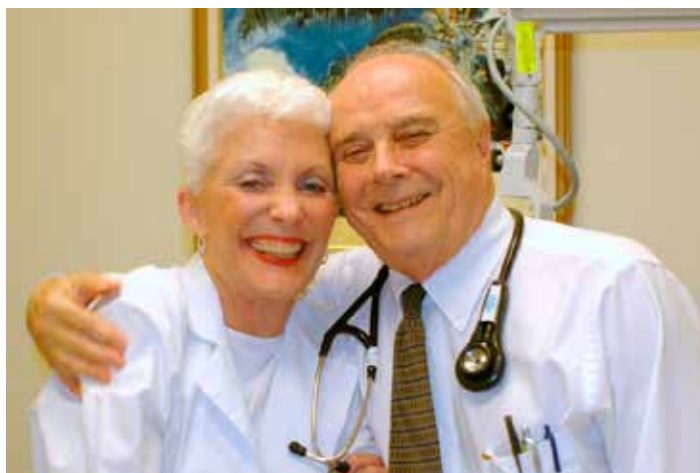
"The 12th annual Memorial Scholarship recognizes future physicians who exemplify not only academic excellence but also a lasting commitment to serving those in need," said Dr. Rolando Rivera, board chair of the Foundation. "Ms. Barnes represents the compassion, dedication, and commitment this award was created to honor. We are proud to recognize her accomplishments and support her future in medicine."

"The Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid Memorial Scholarship carries forward a legacy of compassion and service that Bill and Nancy embodied throughout their lives," said Keith Maples, CEO of Neighborhood Health Clinic. "The Foundation of CCMS has built something truly meaningful in honoring that legacy, and each recipient is a living testament to what happens when a community invests in its people. We are honored to celebrate Kaitlyn Barnes and the bright future ahead of her."

Ms. Barnes obtained her Bachelor of Science from Florida State University. Her community service activities have included volunteering at Leon County Humane Society, Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, Big Bend Hospice, Cross Point Church, Big Bend Buddies, and City Church, as well as mentorship for pre-medical and medical students. She has also served in a variety of leadership roles at FSU, such as the Interdisciplinary Medical Sciences Program Ambassador, FSU College of Medicine Dance Marathon Chair, Christian Medical Association Treasurer, Research Interest Group Vice President, and Women in Surgery Chair.

"I am deeply honored to be selected as the Dr. William and Nancy Lascheid Memorial Scholarship recipient. This award represents far more than financial support, it is an investment in my calling to serve others through medicine," said Ms. Barnes. "The inspiration of the Lascheid Family and the generosity of the Foundation of CCMS will help me continue pursuing my dream of becoming a physician dedicated to compassionate, patient-centered care. I look forward to one day returning to Collier County to serve the community that has given me so much, and I am grateful beyond words for this honor."

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 charitable organization launched by the Collier County Medical Society in 2012, with the mission to provide support and leadership to programs that address access to healthcare and promote health education. The Foundation's 13th Annual signature fundraiser, the Docs & Duffers Golf Tournament on September 26, 2026, will help raise funds for its scholarships and local healthcare initiatives. Further details can be found at ccmsonline.org/foundation/#golf and fb.com/ccmsfoundation.



Nancy Lascheid, Dr. Bill Lascheid

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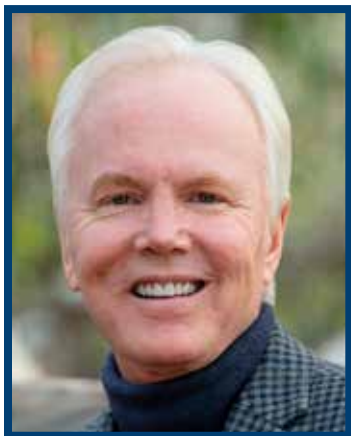
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Be Well Practice Well: How to Manage Depression in the Medically Ill

Michael McGee, MD – CCMS Physician Wellness Committee



It's okay – and necessary – to provide hope, as long as it's realistic. Here's how.

Scenario

A 47-year-old Hispanic woman with stage III breast cancer sits quietly in the exam room. She has stopped chemotherapy. When asked why, she shrugs: "What's the point? I'm probably going to die anyway." She

describes exhaustion, hopelessness, and feeling overwhelmed by appointments, side effects, and the burden placed on her family. Her oncologist worries about nonadherence; her primary care physician feels both urgency and frustration.

Moments like this test not only our clinical knowledge but our way of being as clinicians.

Be Well – How to Maintain Hope

The first task in this scenario is to cultivate what I like to call compassionate equanimity or "compassionate composure." Compassion means allowing ourselves to feel the gravity of the patient's suffering – the terror, grief, and demoralization that often accompany serious illness. Composure allows us to remain steady in the presence of that suffering. Without composure, physicians may become anxious, directive, or subtly coercive. Without compassion, we risk emotional distancing or premature problem-solving. However, when used together, they allow us to stay present with intense pain while maintaining an even keel.

Working with patients who decline lifesaving treatment evokes normal human responses of frustration, helplessness, and fear of poor outcomes. The task is not to eliminate these emotions but to metabolize them so they do not narrow our listening – or push us toward persuasion rather than understanding.

Hope plays a dual role here. For clinicians, hope is a stance that healing, meaning, and improved quality of life remain possible even in the face of terminal illness.

Practice Well – How to Invoke Your Clinical Skill

Providing hope to patients is a clinical skill that physicians can learn and grow over time. However, that hope must be realistic. Overly optimistic reassurance can feel invalidating and may deepen disengagement. Instead, we need to communicate grounded hope: that is, communicating that suffering can be reduced, that support can be increased, and together a way forward can be found.

Physicians can also provide hope through unwavering therapeutic presence. The patient in this scenario needs to clearly hear that we are there with her and for her every step of the way, no matter where the journey goes.

Skill then moves to assessment. Depression in patients with chronic or terminal disease exists along a spectrum from understandable distress to major depressive disorder. Careful evaluation of mood, anhedonia, neurovegetative symptoms, cognition, and suicidal ideation helps determine severity and guides intervention. When a true depressive disorder is present, it deserves treatment as vigorously as any physical condition.

For mild-to-moderate depression, primary care physicians can intervene effectively. Behavioral activation – that is, helping patients re-engage with meaningful activities despite low motivation – has strong evidence and can be integrated into brief visits. Equally important is recruiting support. The physician becomes a steward, facilitating collaboration among oncologists, mental health clinicians, family members, and community resources. Cancer support groups, culturally responsive counseling, or faith and community networks may restore connection and reduce isolation.

Understanding the patient's broader life context is essential as well. What sources of meaning remain? Who supports her? What losses or traumas may be resurfacing? Cultural experience also matters here. For many patients, especially those in under-resourced communities, chronic illness unfolds within a wider context of social stress, financial strain, and exposure to subtle or overt cultural hostility. Exploring these realities communicates respect and deepens alliance.

When depression is moderate to severe, antidepressant treatment may be appropriate, although medication alone rarely addresses demoralization or existential despair. More frequent visits focused on listening to fears, grief, and uncertainty can themselves be therapeutic, restoring a sense of containment and partnership.

Ultimately, success is not measured solely by adherence to chemotherapy but also by whether the patient leaves feeling seen, supported, and accompanied. From that relational ground, hope can re-emerge – not as denial of risk, but as the possibility that a meaningful path forward exists regardless of the outcome. Our role is to hold that possibility steadily enough so that patients may begin to hold it themselves.



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CCMS Spring Membership Meeting CCMS After 5 Socials CCMS Annual Meeting



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Dr. Stacey Sensor



Dr. Alexandra Grace, Dr. George Brinnig, Scott Lowe



Dr. Glenn Groat, Dr. Anne Marie Tremaine



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James Hannigan, Dr. Diana Miranda,
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Dr. David Greene, Denise Altman



Dr. Muhammad Faizain Ali, Dr. Qasim Hasan,
Dr. Pradeep Adhikari



Resident Physician Members

The Foundation of Collier County Medical Society presents

Docs & Duffers 2026

13th Annual Charity Golf Tournament & Raffle benefiting scholarships for future medical professionals and funding for local healthcare programs in need

Saturday, September 26, 8:00am

Bonita Bay Club Naples

3700 Wildwood Blvd, Naples, 34120



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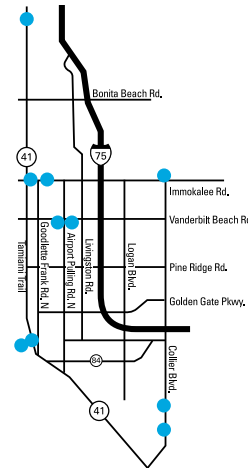
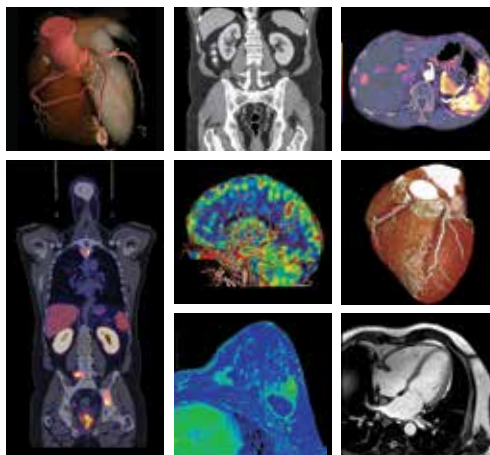
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