161st MAG House of Delegates

NOVEMBER 2015

A PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
ERUDIRE ET DELECTARE
There is a difference between a nonprofit hospice and a for-profit hospice: *It is in the mission.* Columbus Hospice is a nonprofit hospice and our mission is to help people. Our bottom line goes back into the services we provide for our patients and families, not to owners or investors. Just look at the board of Columbus Hospice and you’ll see the difference. Our board is made up of volunteers who watch the finances, but also the level of compassionate care that is delivered.

Does being a nonprofit hospice make a difference in care? *Absolutely. At Columbus Hospice our mission is about people, not profits.*
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Ad position is at the sole discretion of the Editorial Board.

The Bulletin of the Muscogee County Medical Society is the official monthly publication of the MCMS located at 2612 Commons Blvd, Augusta, Georgia. Opinions expressed in The Bulletin, including editorials, are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect policies of the Society, unless stated. Advertisements in this publication are paid advertisements and are not necessarily supported or endorsed by the Muscogee County Medical Society.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, current news or upcoming events for publication in The Bulletin. Deadline for copy is the 10th of the month preceding date of issue. Those wishing to advertise in The Bulletin may request requirements and rates by contacting the society office. Items to be published should be sent to the society coordinator, Stacie McGahee, via email to Stacie@muscogeemedical.org.
Report from the MAG House of Delegates

The 160th Medical Association of Georgia House of Delegates met in Savannah, Georgia over the weekend of October 17th. The Muscogee County Medical Society was represented by 9 delegates out of the 200 voting delegates in attendance. There were over 50 resolutions that were debated and voted upon. Those resolutions which passed will be advanced through MAG’s advocacy in the Georgia state legislature next year.

A resolution was passed to allow hospitals to accept board re-certification from the National Board of Physicians and Surgeons (NBPAS). This is an effort to make recertification less onerous than the current MOC required by the ABMS. If legislation can be passed, this will prevent hospitals from de-credentialing physicians that fail to complete the MOC required by the ABMS. Hopefully, the ABMS will notice and make the MOC less time-consuming.

Another resolution was passed to increase the grace period for Medicare Part D recipients to 90 days. Testimony was provided that seniors often select a Part D plan that does not cover their current medications. The current grace period to change plans is 45 days. Unfortunately, most seniors do not see their PCP within this 45-day grace period. Extending the grace period will allow more time for the Medicare Part D enrollee to change to more appropriate coverage. The federal government is unlikely to change the 45-day grace period, but the MAG delegation to the American Medical Association has pledged to push this issue on a national front.

There was also a resolution to preserve the Georgia Prescription Drug Monitoring Program. This program has to be refunded each year by the Georgia state legislature. There was a lively debate to modify the program to allow better reporting of patient prescription drug abuse. I do not anticipate any changes to the current program.

There were also a number of resolutions to modify the term limits of various MAG elected officers. In particular, the MAG delegates to the AMA were targeted for term limits. There was feisty debate from both sides and term limits were placed on most elected positions – except for MAG delegates to the AMA.
Interestingly, only 33% of Georgia physicians are members of the AMA. Delegates were asked to reconsider membership to the AMA as the AMA Board of Directors has been completely overhauled since passage of the Health Care Affordability Act. Shortly after passage, AMA membership plummeted to only 19% of physicians nationwide. This shakeup has lead to the AMA board now being comprised primarily of moderate Southern physicians. Perhaps it is time to reconsider AMA membership.
Contrary to the recent election results, Dr. Glenn Fussell will not serve as MAG Director for 2016. Dr. Fred Flandry will continue in that capacity and fulfill his current term.

CORRECTION: In the September Bulletin, we introduced Dr. Aaron Schrayer and incorrectly identified him as a D.O. as opposed to an M.D. We regret the error.

We are currently reviewing our membership database and making additions and corrections. Please assist us in this task by completing the form below and returning to stacie@muscogeemedical.org or you can mail to: MCMS, 2612 Commons Blvd., Augusta, GA 30909.

MEMBER UPDATE FORM

Name

Spouse’s Name

Office Address

Office Phone Office Fax

Home Address

Home Phone Mobile

Email

At which address do you prefer to receive communication from MCMS?
☑ Office ☐ Home

Would you be interested in being contacted to write an article of interest for the Bulletin?
☐ Yes ☐ No
What’s your financial prognosis?

You have built a practice around passionately caring for your patients. You have balanced your skill with a scalpel and with an empathetic bedside manner. You have administered a hospital with a steady and equitable hand. But there comes a time in the career of everyone in the medical profession when you must ask:

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(The following editorial appeared in the Ledger-Enquirer on September 18, 2015. It is reprinted with permission from the author.)

Hospital’s Troubles Will Pass
By Lee McCluskey, M.D.

As I have read about Columbus hospitals in the news lately, I’ve felt compelled to share a different perspective.

I was born at St. Francis and have been an orthopaedist here since 1992. My brother, George, and I practice at St. Francis because it’s our community’s hospital, staffed by neighbors and friends. Three years ago, ST. Francis cared for my father when he needed heart bypass surgery, and St. Francis saved his life. This fall, my son, Leland Jr., a medical student at Mercer will perform rotations here. I am proud he is learning to provide compassionate, high quality care from my colleagues and friends.

Our community created St. Francis 65 years ago, and many of us have shared special moments here, surrounded and comforted by kindness.

I’m not naïve – I know our Board and new leadership have discovered challenging administrative issues. And yet, I thank our Board each time I see them in the halls or in the pew at church. I know they are working to address these issues appropriately. Our board members, who are volunteers from the community, have taken on demanding roles to keep St. Francis open. They take time away from their “day jobs” to round the facility, talk to associates, and make sure everyone is confident in care St. Francis delivers. I trust them to do what’s right for our hospital.

I am confident in our future. The more I am exposed to LifePoint, the more I am convinced they are the right partner for St. Francis.

I urge you to join me in supporting St. Francis and the exceptional people who work here. Together with LifePoint, I know we will stay true to our mission as a healing ministry as we work to elevate the quality of care we provide to our community.
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Endoscopy and Cystoscopy Addition Completed at Northside Medical Center

Northside Medical Center has completed construction on the Endoscopy and Cystoscopy addition and is now accepting patients. The project, which started the beginning of April, consists of a 6,700 gross square feet, single-story addition to Northside Medical Center in conjunction with the long-range master plan for the Northside Medical Center campus.

The addition accommodates a cystoscopy procedure room, three endoscopy procedure rooms, nine preparation and recovery rooms and support space.

Dr. Rebecca Reamy Named Chief of Pediatrics, Children’s Hospital; Medical Director, Pediatric Emergency Department

Dr. Rebecca Reamy has been named both the Chief of Pediatrics of the Midtown Medical Center Children’s Hospital and also the Medical Director of the Pediatric Emergency Department. Reamy joins Columbus Regional Health with over twenty years of professional experience in pediatrics. She most recently served as a Pediatric Emergency Physician at Children’s Hospital of Atlanta: Scottish Rite Hospital. She lives in Columbus with her husband and two children, ages 11 and 5.

CME Opportunities Offered for Physicians

The following Continuing Medical Education (CME) opportunities for physicians have been approved for one hour of CME credit each:

Breast Cancer Conference: Once a month every fourth Friday, 7:00a.m., Conference Room at the John B. Amos Cancer Center. For more information, call (706) 321-6603 or (706) 571-1881.
Good: a cancer treatment and research center

Simply Better: a cancer treatment and research center close enough for your best friend to come visit while you’re there receiving care

The region’s only cancer treatment and research center, John B. Amos Cancer Center, is right here. And that’s simply better for the people who live here. Because what better place is there to be treated than home?

ThatsSimplyBetter.com
Cancer Conference: Every Monday, 12:30 p.m., Conference Room at the John B. Amos Cancer Center, except for the first Monday which is held at Columbus Regional Conference Center at Midtown Medical Center (approved as a series). For more information, call (706) 321-6603 or (706) 571-1881.

Pediatric Grand Rounds: Every Thursday, 8:15 a.m., Columbus Regional Conference Center at Midtown Medical Center. Open to any physician or other health professional providing care for children. For more information, call Lori Sitch at 706-571-1220.

Thoracic Oncology Conference: 1st and 3rd Friday, 7:00 a.m., Conference Room at the John B. Amos Cancer Center. For more information, call (706) 571-1102.

Midtown Medical Center is accredited by the Medical Association of Georgia to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Midtown Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of one AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
Folarin Olubowale, M.D., FACP cordially invites you and a guest to his eighth annual infectious disease lecture series "Overview of the New Antibiotics and the Future"

Speaker:
Yoav Golan, MD, MS, FIDSA
Associate Professor of Medicine
Attending Physician
Tufts University School of Medicine
Boston, Massachusetts

Dinner will be served Friday, December 4, 2015 6:30 P.M – 12:00 A.M.
at Columbus, Gerogia Convention and Trade Center 801 Front Avenue Columbus, Georgia 31902 The Ball Room

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