



THE FORUM

May/June 2019 • Volume 18, No. 3 • The Official Magazine of Collier County Medical Society

Dr. David Wilkinson Installed as 62nd CCMS President



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Thursday, June 13, 5:30pm

CCMS Women Physicians Social

Natural Wines Naples

Thursday, June 20, 6:00pm

CCMS After 5 Social

Gardens at Terracina Health and Rehabilitation

Friday, August 9 – Sunday, August 11

FMA Annual Meeting

Hilton Bonnet Creek, Orlando

am.celebratemedicine.com

featuring CME & House of Delegates

Wednesday, August 21, 6:00pm

CCMS Fall General Membership Meeting

Vi at Bentley Village

Saturday, September 28, 8:00am

Foundation of CCMS Docs & Duffers

Charity Golf Tournament

Bonita Bay Club Naples

Support opportunities at ccmsonline.org

Premier Circle of Friends



Certified Public Accountants / Consultants

Contact:

Karen Mosteller, CPA, CHBC
239-261-5554

kmosteller@markham-norton.com
markham-norton.com



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Contacts:

Kim Donnelly
Business Relationship Officer
239-219-4220

kim.donnelly@suncoastcreditunion.com

Carolyn Bare, MBA
Wealth Management Officer
239-675-1503

carolyn.bare@suncoastcreditunion.com



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239-220-5980

Stephan.gmelin@technicaldr.com
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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

New Members:



Maria L. Becka, D.O.

Specialty: Hospitalist
Millennium Physician Group
1735 SW Health Pkwy
Naples, FL 34109
Phone: (855) 979-5700 Fax: (855) 979-5701
Board Certified: Internal Medicine



Sheldon K. Cho, M.D.

Korunda Pain Management Center
4513 Executive Dr
Naples, FL 34119
Phone: (239) 591-2803 Fax: (239) 594-5637
Board Certified: Anesthesiology, Pain Medicine



Svetlana Kogan, M.D.

Concierge
Custom Longevity, P.A.
720 Fifth Ave S, Unit 209
Naples, FL 34102
Phone: (239) 676-6883
Board Certified: Internal Medicine



William J. Provance, D.O.

Millennium Physician Group
681 Goodlette Rd N Ste 130
Naples, FL 34101
Phone: (239) 643-9767 Fax: (239) 649-5878
Board Certified: Internal Medicine,
Gastroenterology



Alberto Rotsztain, M.D.

Millennium Physician Group
1735 SW Health Pkwy Ste 201
Naples, FL 34109
Phone: (239) 249-7800 Fax: (239) 249-7803
Board Certified: Internal Medicine,
Cardiovascular Disease



Erick Stephanian, M.D.

Neuroscience and Spine Associates
6101 Pine Ridge Rd #24
Naples, FL 34119
Phone: (239) 649-1662 Fax: (877) 334-1886
Board Certified: Neurosurgery

Reinstated:

Mark A. Brown, M.D.

NCH Physician Group
800 Goodlette Rd N Ste 370
Naples, FL 34102
Phone: (239) 624-0800 Fax: (239) 643-9062
Board Certified: Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine

CCMS Physician Directory Notice

Planning is underway for the 2019-20 CCMS Physician Directory. Members with changes to their office information or new photos should email updates to info@ccmsonline.org by May 24th.



Reserve advertising space for the Directory by May 15th. Rates start at \$425. The Directory is a great way to reach the community - 10,000 copies are distributed each fall. Visit ccmsonline.org or call the CCMS office, 239-435-7727 for details.



It's not too late to submit

FMA Annual Meeting Resolutions:

CCMS members may still submit resolutions for the FMA 2019 Annual Meeting for consideration to the CCMS Board, who will review submissions for potential County sponsorship. Follow these guidelines at <https://bit.ly/2UP6eLu>. The due date to submit resolutions to the CCMS Board for consideration is June 3rd. Email to april@ccmsonline.org or fax 239-435-7790.



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Outgoing President's Message & Physician of the Year Acceptance Speech

Cesar De Leon, D.O., CCMS 2018-19 President and 2019 CCMS Physician of the Year



My goal when I took over as your president was to bring the medical community together. I like to think that today we are a more cohesive and healthy medical community than we were a year ago.

It is truly an honor to receive such a distinguished award in a town with amazing and caring physicians. I accept this award not only for myself, but also in the name of all

those physicians who worked shoulder to shoulder with me to protect the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. These physicians include Ron Garry, Sajan Rao, Alex Perez-Trepichio, Richard Kravis, Zubin Pachori, Jonathan Marsh, Robert Tober, and Paul Jones. These physicians sacrificed their own relaxation time, their family's time, time away from their practices and even sacrificed their own piece of mind to stand up to the prior most powerful pair of individuals in Collier County. They worked to protect the most important relationship in our professional lives, the one with our patients.

The Doctor-Patient relationship is one of the purest bonds that has existed in the society from times immemorial. We are taught that each patient is an individual, and that the essence of good medical care rests on the recognition and observance of this fact. In the confines of a small exam room, we invite a stranger to share intimate details of his or her life, hoping to improve the patient's quality of life. Unfortunately, in the last few years, there has been a gradual erosion of faith and trust in this equation. Times have changed and from being treated akin to God's instrument of health, today we hear stories around the nation of this relationship being desecrated.

The systemic problems in society are creating a rift between the sanctity of the doctor and patient relationship and we hear many discouraging stories of this strained relationship daily. The straining financial resources from the payers have created a state where it almost feels like we are at war with our own healthcare system. Government against physicians, payers against physicians, lawyers against physicians, hospitals against physicians, extenders against physicians and at the end physicians against physicians. All this is putting a strain on why we went into medicine, to take care of those less fortunate.

At the end of the day, medicine is about love, kindness and compassion, and we need an urgent dialogue about the crucial need of reviving these values between a patient and his or her physician. We must open the channels of communication, so we do not see each other as competitors in a broken healthcare system, but partners to provide the best care possible to our patients.

Our recent campaign portrayed the value this relationship has for us. Now as a healthy and strong medical community we can engage in open collaboration with local hospital leaders to provide the best care possible to our community. CCMS continues to stand strong under a new leadership so the physician-patient relationship continues to be the cornerstone of medicine.

I step down as your president proud to have been of service to you and our patients. I leave you in the hands of one of the best boards CCMS has ever had. Without them we would still be asking our patients to write letters of support for our campaign. Each of them brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and desire to protect your rights as physicians and the rights of our patients. They have their hearts in the right place and recognize the importance of the title they will be holding, knowing above all that we are all here to serve our community and leave the world a little better than how we found it.

Above all I thank God for the wisdom and the guidance that he gave me to lead the Medical Society. He knows well the countless times that I would wake up in the middle of the night to ask for direction and protection. He never left me side. Next, I would like to thank the most beautiful woman in the world, my wife. She has been my rock, my advocate, my advisor and the one who made sure that the title of president would not go to my head. She is the best thing that has ever happened to me and has blessed me with three amazing children. She is my inspiration.

CCMS would be nowhere without the dedicated, smart, and resourceful contributions from our staff April and Nancy. They helped guide our most recent campaign so that we were paced, measured, and above all determined not to fail. They made sure that I kept my composure as sometimes I felt like throwing my shoe at those causing the problem. Both are invaluable to our society and they truly live the mission of helping our physician members provide the best care to their patients.

I would like to thank our legal firm Porter Wright, Joshua Bialek and Ted Walters as they watched over us during this campaign and approved, or disapproved the plans we presented. They kept me from having to wear an orange uniform day after day. I also thank Nancy and Leslie Lascheid, pillars of love and devotion to our community and patients, for their great partnership and unwavering support.

Finally, I would like to close by saying that having a great medical community is all about us working together with one common goal – our patients. It is not about the money, the title, nor the power, it is about caring for those individuals that put their lives in our hands and ask from us to help them feel better, to help them live longer, or to even help them transition peacefully. We are part of a blessed community with wonderful hospitals, physicians, and charity organizations. Let's not stop now to continue opening those channels of communication to make Collier County a true world class destination of medical care. God Bless you all.

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A Message from the Incoming President

David R. Wilkinson, M.D., President, Collier County Medical Society



Thank you for entrusting and honoring me by making me your 62nd CCMS president. It is truly humbling, and I am eager to serve.

I thank my creator for this opportunity and the chance to make a difference in the lives of our physicians, our patients, and all of those who live in our community.

Thank you to my wife Karen, who for half of my life has

been my rock, my confidant, my advisor, my encouragement, my best friend, and the one friend who tells you things like they really are. Through all the turmoil, drama, conflict, change, excitement, disappointment, anxieties, and victories, you have always been there, unfailing and ready to help in any way you could. I could not have done this, or be here at this moment without you. You are very honestly my better half and I am eternally grateful.

Thank you to my sons, J.T. and Isaac, for understanding my crazy schedule, for keeping me grounded and helping me understand why I do what I do. Thank you to my partners Rolando Rivera and Jonathan Jay. Over the past 12 years, we have accomplished many things and provided the best care to our patients.

The last few years in medicine have been challenging to say the least. Shrinking reimbursement, corporate giant mergers, expectations to see far more patients and use significantly less resources to do so, hospital system greed with changes that threaten our ability to provide the best care to our patients, challenges at the state legislature level to expand the scope of care for PAs, ARNPs, and even pharmacists threatening to change the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship, pushes for large insurance companies to replace physicians with physician extenders, ... these are challenging times indeed. Some would see this situation as a losing battle and hopeless, I disagree!!!!

What happened in Naples over the last year has been extraordinary, and something we should all be proud of. For those who are unaware, former administrators of a local hospital system proposed and began implementing changes that would only allow physicians employed by the hospital system to admit and see patients during their hospitalization. These changes ignored the medical staff bylaws and were extremely alarming to physicians outside this hospital's employ and to their patients. This would forever change the relationship between physician and patients, taking away the right of patients to choose their doctors. It seemed that no matter how logical the arguments from community doctors, this was going to occur, and be a major blow to already embattled physicians AND to the patients in the community who trusted them, to the detriment of our community. Then something amazing happened...

CCMS, under the direction of Dr. Cesar De Leon, the FMA under the direction of Dr. Corey Howard, the Millennium Physician Group under the direction of Dr. Alejandro Perez-Trepichio, concierge physicians, employed physicians, multiple state specialty societies, the AMA, independent physicians, physicians in every phase of their career, and the community itself began to ask numerous questions, none that returned with favorable answers. This led to meetings, committees, rallies, fundraising, community awareness campaigns, editorials in the local news, and ultimately uniting and speaking to the hospital system in a loud, clear and undeniable voice. This unified voice was able to enact the change necessary to continue the highest level of care possible and preserve the patient-physician relationship. This voice changed the course of healthcare in Naples itself.

I am truly proud to have been part of this process as a CCMS board member and for all that I learned from those on the board with me. For me, this is the best possible scenario to show exactly what a medical society does for its members! This proves what physicians who are involved in their community and part of their local, state, and national societies can accomplish when we stand together.

I am taking this opportunity to call on all my fellow physicians to stand up and GET INVOLVED. We can no longer sit on the sidelines and allow insurance companies and administrators to make decisions for us, we MUST be involved in the decision-making process. WE AS PHYSICIANS MUST STAND TOGETHER FOR WHAT IS BEST FOR PATIENT CARE. Not the most cost effective, not the best for CEO salaries or corporate bottom lines, but FOR OUR PATIENTS. We must be aware and engaged. Decisions about healthcare should not be made by MBAs who have never been involved in direct patient care, but by physician advisory boards to these companies. We have become complacent and allowed others to make critical medical care decisions without our advice. We need cooperative efforts between physicians and those who run the business of medicine to once again make patient care our most important goal. We as physicians must also learn how to support each other, despite our differences, if we intend to enact true change in the healthcare system.

The events of this entire year can be summed up this way:

- 1 BE ACTIVELY involved in local, state, and national societies that have resources available for our use;
- 2 Give generously to local, state, and national PACs to promote political candidates who are favorable to physicians and preserving the patient-physician relationship;
- 3 Physicians MUST STAND TOGETHER to enact the change we seek and that is necessary to preserve the practice of medicine.

I look forward to this year as CCMS president, to creating increased unity among physicians, patients, hospital systems, health plans, and the community to ensure we provide care that is second to none.

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CCMS Installs 62nd President and New Board of Directors at Annual Meeting

Collier County Medical Society

Collier County Medical Society will welcome members and guests at its 62nd Annual Meeting and Installation of Officers, May 4, 2019 at Wyndemere Country Club. Since 1957, CCMS has celebrated the installation of its new board by hosting this annual dinner celebration. The program includes a reception with vendor exhibits and networking, and a dinner program featuring guest speaker Dr. Corey Howard, Florida Medical Association President and CCMS Past President; the Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. Robert Meli; and the Physician of the Year Award to Dr. Cesar De Leon.

This spring, the CCMS Nominating Committee announced its slate of candidates for the 2019-2020 president and board of directors. The slate, which will be voted on at the CCMS Annual Meeting, nominates Dr. David Wilkinson for CCMS President. The board of director nominations joining Dr. Wilkinson on the slate are: Dr. Rebekah Bernard, Vice President; Dr. Alejandro Perez-Trepichio, Treasurer; Dr. Rebecca Smith, Secretary; Dr. Gary Swain, Officer/Director at Large; and Drs. George Brinnig and Zubin Pachori, Directors at Large. Dr. Cesar De Leon will remain on the board for an additional year in the position of Immediate Past President.

The board members will lead CCMS in its mission to serve the needs of our physician members so they can better serve the needs of the community. Dr. Howard, FMA president, will lead the installation ceremony at the Annual Meeting, when the new board members will assume office.

CCMS 2019-2020 Officers of the Board



David R. Wilkinson, M.D. – President

Dr. Wilkinson began his career as a respiratory therapist and returned to medical school at The Boonshoft School of Medicine at Wright State University. He graduated with honors and was elected into the international honor society of Alpha Omega Alpha.

Dr. Wilkinson completed his urologic surgery training at the University of Kentucky, Albert B. Chandler Medical Center. During his residency he received the Excellence in Medical Student Education Award. Dr. Wilkinson is board certified, a Diplomat of the American Board of Urology, and practices with Advanced Urology Institute. He has been a member of the CCMS Board since 2015.



Rebekah Bernard, M.D. – Vice-President

Dr. Bernard is a Family Physician in a private Direct Primary Care practice in Estero. A Florida native, Dr. Bernard grew up in the rural town of Clewiston, attended the University of Florida graduating with a degree in Sociology, and received her MD from the University of Miami. She completed her residency at Florida Hospital in Orlando, and served for 6 years in Immokalee as a National Health Service Corps Scholar. Dr. Bernard authored *How to Be A Rock Star Doctor* and writes a monthly blog for the Medical Economics website. She is also a national speaker on the topic of Physician Wellness and practice management.



Alejandro D. Perez-Trepichio, M.D. – Treasurer

Born in Argentina, Dr. Perez-Trepichio is a graduate of the National University of La Plata. He pursued a research career at Cleveland Clinic Foundation, where he received grants from the National Institutes of Health as co-investigator and published several articles in peer-reviewed journals. He then completed his Internal Medicine residency at Cleveland Clinic and relocated to Naples. In 2009 he was appointed a member of the physician leadership for Millennium Physician Group. From 2014-18 he represented CCMS as an FMA delegate and is a PHO/SWFPA board member.



Rebecca G. Smith, M.D. – Secretary

Dr. Smith, Medical Director for VITAS Healthcare, earned her BS in Biology and MS in Physiology from The Pennsylvania State University, and MD from St. George's University School of Medicine. She began her internship in Internal Medicine and residency in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) at Louisiana State University Medical Center, completed at Temple University Hospital. She completed a Pain Medicine fellowship at Harvard Medical School and is Board Certified in PM&R, Hospice & Palliative Care Medicine, and Pain Medicine. She has co-authored peer-reviewed publications and teaches at St. George's School of Medicine.

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Gary D. Swain, M.D. – Officer/Director-at-Large

Dr. Swain attended medical school at the University of Nevada School of Medicine where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha. He completed his residency in family medicine at David Grant USAF Medical Center at Travis Air Force Base. Following his residency, he was stationed in Italy where he was Chief of Clinical Services at the San Vito Air Station. He then returned to a faculty position at the Travis AFB residency program prior to retiring as a Lt Colonel. He practiced in Decatur, Texas in a solo practice prior to moving to Naples to accept a position with NCH physician group.



George Brinnig (Jastrzebski), M.D. – Director-at-Large

Dr. Brinnig continues his 26-year career as a general ophthalmologist most recently joining Montgomery Eye Center, Naples. He has practiced in numerous settings including solo practice in California, large group in Massachusetts, and single specialty group in Connecticut. He has served in several organized medicine venues including governing boards of California Medical Society, Stanislaus County (also as President and CEO), and New Haven County Medical Societies. His BS is from SUNY Albany, PhD from UC Berkeley, MD from UC Berkeley, and MMM from Carnegie Mellon. He enjoys inventing, foreign language, and travel.



Zubin Pachori, M.D. – Director-at-Large

Dr. Pachori is a Hospital Medicine Physician, practicing in Collier County since 2012. He was raised in Florida and is a graduate of Florida Atlantic University. He received his medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine, and completed his residency at Stamford Hospital/Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons Program in Family Medicine. He is one of the founders of Premier Inpatient Partners, and has been involved with several hospital committees. At home he enjoys spending time with his two sons and his wife.



Cesar R. De Leon, D.O. – Immediate Past President

Dr. De Leon is a board-certified Family Practitioner with Millennium Physician Group and graduated with the President's Award and Recognition from Western University of the Health Science College of Osteopathic Medicine, completing his residency at Broward General Medical Center. He recently graduated with honors from Colorado State University with a Master's in Healthcare Administration and has served as Family Practice Department Chair at NCH for five years.

FMA Alternate Delegates:



Rafael C. Haciski, M.D.



Jose M. Baez, M.D.



James V. Talano, M.D.

CCMS Honors Local Physician Leaders

Collier County Medical Society



*Dr. Cesar De Leon
Physician of the Year*

Dr. Cesar De Leon Named CCMS Physician of the Year

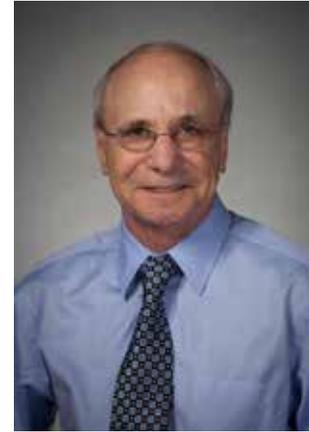
CCMS is pleased to announce that Cesar De Leon, D.O. is the recipient of the 5th Annual CCMS Physician of the Year Award. The award honors a CCMS member who deserves special recognition for exemplary contributions to the practice of medicine and/or outstanding service to our community. Members of the Medical Society submitted nominations for this prestigious award to the CCMS Board of Directors, who have selected Dr. De Leon from the talented pool of candidates.

The award will be presented at the CCMS 62nd Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers, May 4, 2019 at Wyndemere Country Club.

“I am humble to be a servant of my community and our CCMS physician members and accept this recognition in the name of the physicians, community members, and local leaders who stood up to protect the physician-patient relationship,” said Dr. De Leon. “This award reflects the achievement possible when kind-hearted individuals unite to protect those who have no voice.”

Dr. De Leon was nominated and selected by his peers for his extraordinary leadership in protecting the physician-patient relationship in Collier County. He is a board-certified Family Practitioner with Millennium Physician Group and graduated with the President’s Award and Recognition from Western University of the Health Science College of Osteopathic Medicine, completing his residency at Broward General Medical Center. He recently graduated with honors from Colorado State University with a Master’s in Healthcare Administration and has served as Family Practice Department Chair at NCH for five years. He is the 2018-2019 CCMS President.

Congratulations to all the CCMS member nominees who were submitted by their peers for Physician of the Year: the late Dr. Rick Bhasin, Dr. Howard Freedman, Dr. Ron Garry, Dr. Paul Jones, Drs. Bert Maulsby and Adam Olmstead, Dr. Raymond Phillips, Dr. Sajjan Rao, and Dr. Mark Russo.



*Dr. Robert Meli
Lifetime Achievement Award*

Dr. Robert Meli to Receive First CCMS Lifetime Achievement Award

CCMS is excited to introduce a new award recognizing CCMS members for a career of inspirational service to Collier County physicians and patients, the CCMS Lifetime Achievement Award. The award will be presented at the CCMS 62nd Annual Meeting & Installation of Officers, May 4, 2019 at Wyndemere Country Club.

Dr. Robert Meli, recipient of the first CCMS Lifetime Achievement Award, was nominated and selected for his decades of inspirational service to Collier County. He is a board-certified Radiologist with Proscan Imaging and has practiced in Naples since 1974. He received his M.D. from Medical College of Wisconsin and completed his residency in Diagnostic Radiology at St. Luke’s Hospital in Milwaukee. Dr. Meli was an active staff member at Physicians Regional and NCH Hospitals, and was an honored nominee for NCH Physician of the Year in 2003. He served as President of Naples Radiologists for many years and was a cofounder of Naples Diagnostic Imaging Centers.

Dr. Meli has also volunteered his time with Greater Naples Little League, Naples High School swim team, Boys and Girls Optimist basketball, Naples YMCA, and the Collier County high schools redistricting committee. Dr. Meli is on the board of SunTrust Banks of Southwest Florida and the Neighborhood Health Clinic, where he serves on the Medical Committee and provides volunteer radiology services.

“I am humbled to receive this award as there are so many physicians and healthcare providers in Collier County who deserve this recognition,” said Dr. Meli. “It has been an honor and privilege to have interacted with such great and caring physicians for so many years.”

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Concerns about U.S. Measles Outbreak

Christopher M. Cirino, D.O. - Health Officer, Marion County Department of Public Health, Oregon



A recent poll by The Doctors Company received 9,459 responses to the question: How concerned are you as a healthcare provider about the recent U.S. measles outbreak? Some 43 percent responded that they are very concerned. There are significant reasons for this level of concern.

The number of measles cases reported in the United States in 2018 (372) was three

times higher than that of the preceding year, and currently, only the second month in to 2019, there are more than 100 reported cases of measles. With an estimated worldwide 30 percent increase of measles cases over the last few years, it is frustrating to think that this vaccine-preventable illness, which can be associated with serious consequences, including death, is resurging. Do we as healthcare workers really need to be concerned about measles?

In this global stage, what goes on in one country really does affect the entire world. The highest caseloads of measles worldwide in 2018 were seen in India, Ukraine, and the Philippines. We are now in a time when you can cross the globe in as little as 18 hours—in less than the typical time it takes for an infected person to develop the telling measles rash. A person can acquire the infection from a high-prevalence country, spread the infection to others in the closed quarters of an airplane, and return to a low-prevalence country with a silent stowaway, only to then go back to a social circle with similarly low vaccination rates—and this is precisely what is happening.

Measles, which is one of the most transmissible infectious diseases (with an attack rate of 90 percent), has always been regarded as a “canary in the coal mine” for the status of vaccine programs both nationally and worldwide. Breakdowns in the vaccine chain have typically been seen in countries beset by war and political turmoil, which often abandon vaccine programs, leaving children unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated. There has also been a growth in the level of distrust and “alternate facts” about vaccine safety and need, specifically regarding the MMR and MMRV, and this spread has been kindled by social media. Unfortunately, this distrust isn’t something that can easily be mitigated by education initiatives.

It might be easier for some to decline a vaccination, because the risk of death from measles is one in 1,000. Though sadly, with the estimated caseload of measles each year worldwide, more than 100,000 children likely die from measles each year. The medical field is steadfast on the principal of reducing the risk of death from a vaccine-preventable illness, and concerted vaccination programs were able to eradicate a much more harmful viral illness—smallpox—which had a death rate of one

in three. Though until we can bridge the rift between public health goals and anti-vaccination sentiment, and bolster the more highly prevalent countries’ vaccination programs, we should all expect to see more cases of measles, mumps, and a myriad of other vaccine-preventable illnesses coming to a clinic near you.

Dr. Cirino works in Portland, OR and specializes in infectious diseases. Dr. Cirino is affiliated with Portland Adventist Medical Center and Vibra Specialty Hospital and is the health officer at the Marion County Department of Public Health. Dr. Cirino has also written a blog on this topic at his site <https://yourhealthforumbydrcirino.org>

The guidelines suggested here are not rules, do not constitute legal advice, and do not ensure a successful outcome. The ultimate decision regarding the appropriateness of any treatment must be made by each healthcare provider considering the circumstances of the individual situation and in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction in which the care is rendered.

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Department of Health – Collier County Offers MMR Vaccines

MMR vaccines for children and adults are offered at DOH-Collier clinics Monday through Friday either by appointment or walk-in.

Naples: 3339 Tamiami Trail East, Naples 34112; Monday-Friday 8am-3pm. To schedule an appointment, call 239-252-8207.

Immokalee: 419 North First Street, Immokalee, 34142; Monday-Friday 8am-4pm. To schedule an appointment, call 239-252-7300.

Patient’s insurance will be billed. Vaccine patient assistance programs are available for some vaccines for those who meet financial eligibility.

For more information on measles, visit floridahealth.gov/measles

Non-Physician Practitioner Rates Increasing

Rebekah Bernard, M.D., CCMS 2019-20 Vice President



The number of non-physician practitioners (NPPs) entering the workforce is growing exponentially, and significantly outpacing the number of physicians graduating from residency.¹ As these trends continue, there will eventually be more non-physicians practicing medicine than physicians.

The FMA is discussing this changing demographic, and several resolutions regarding NPPs were presented at the FMA House of Delegates in 2018, including:

1) Resolution 17-410 Physician Right to Decline Supervision of Non-Physician Clinicians

In some work environments, physicians are being forced to supervise non-physicians as a requirement of employment. Physicians often have no input on the hiring of these individuals nor recourse if the non-physician is practicing at a substandard level—and yet they remain liable as the supervising physician.

This resolution was presented by Collier County Medical Society in 2017, and the House voted to send it to the Board of Governors for study. When the Board returned with a recommendation not-to-adopt in 2018, the House rejected the Board's recommendation. The discussion at the House revealed that more physicians are being impacted by mandatory supervision of non-physicians, and the House voted to return the resolution back to the Board for more study.

2) Resolution 18-106 Initial Assessment and Treatment Recommendations by Specialists

Primary care physicians referring patients for specialty consultation expect that their patients be seen by a physician and not a non-physician-practitioner, who has less knowledge and training than the referring physician.

Collier County Medical Society supported this resolution, sponsored by the Florida Academy of Family Physicians. The House of Delegates sent the resolution to the Board of Governors for decision, and voted not to adopt.

3) Resolution 18-107 Physician Education Regrading Clinical Training of Nurse Practitioners

Increasingly, nurse practitioner and even physician assistant training programs are online with no standardization for clinical experience. NPs require only 500 hours of clinical training to practice and can switch “specialty” on a whim. Physicians face liability when supervising non-physicians and must understand the changes that have occurred in non-physician education and training.

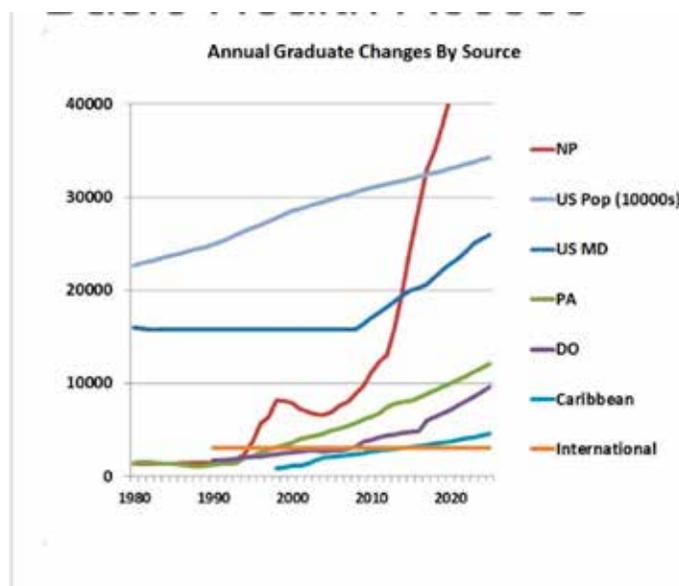
CCMS supported this resolution sponsored by the Florida Academy of Family Physicians. The House of Delegates adapted the resolution to include information about non-physician training on the FMA website and the FMA is working to prepare those materials.

4) Resolution 18-112 Pharmacists Prescribing

Pharmacists are increasingly seeking the right to diagnose and prescribe medication to patients. CCMS supported this resolution by the Emerald Coast Medical Society. The House voted to send this resolution to the Board of Governors for decision, which was adopted as policy last October.

Physicians who are interested in discussing the issue of non-physician are welcomed to speak with the CCMS board members, who are also delegates to the FMA Annual Meeting this August.

Another group that might be of interest is Physicians for Patient Protection (PPP). PPP is a grassroots organization of physicians that opposes the unsupervised practice of medicine by non-physicians through political advocacy and patient education. The organization also offers a physician-only practice mapper, where patients can find physician-led care (available on the website PhysiciansforPatientProtection.org - click “Find a Physician”).



<https://basichealthaccess.blogspot.com>

[1] Auerbach, D, Staiger, D and Buerhaus, P 2018 *Growing Ranks of Advanced Practice Clinicians — Implications for the Physician Workforce*, NEJM Catalyst, <<https://catalyst.nejm.org/advanced-practice-clinicians-nps-and-pas/>>.

Rebekah Bernard, M.D. is a board member of Physicians for Patient Protection and an FMA delegate for Collier County Medical Society.

CCMS/LCMS After 5 Social
 CCMS Spring General Membership Meeting
 CCMS/CCMSA Everblades Outing
 CCMS Panel Discussion



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Rebekah Bernard, M.D., Editor
George Brinnig, M.D., Associate Editor
121 Goodlette Road North
Naples, Florida 34102
Ph. 239-435-7727
Fax 239-435-7790
E-mail info@ccmsonline.org
www.ccmsonline.org

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