



Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society

September - October 2007

Scrappers & Penguins Provide Fun for the Whole Family



Bulletin

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CALENDAR

October 6, 2007

*Concert for the Cure,
Ford Family Recital Hall*

November 2, 2007

*Trans-Siberian Orchestra,
Chevrolet Centre*

December 21, 2007

*Disney on Ice,
Chevrolet Centre*

January 22, 2008

*Annual Meeting,
Butler Institute of American Art*

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2008

**MEMBERSHIP DUES INVOICES
HAVE BEEN MAILED TO ALL
ACTIVE MEMBERS!
DUES ARE PAYABLE BY
DECEMBER 31, 2007.
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From the President by Charles A. Crans, MD

My fair lady "Canfield Fair"

What a glorious Canfield Fair was enjoyed by over 350,000 visitors in 2007! Mother Nature cooperated to the fullest with six days of warm, inviting weather. The fair brought together many splendid activities, embracing an entire gamut of interests - from antiques, oil refinement, hobbies, photography, art, Idora Park, cancer awareness, agriculture, and many other activities far too numerous to mention. But certainly, I cannot overlook the many amusement rides and the fantastic array of ethnic delicacies. It was a total success. Congratulations to Kathy Bennett, fair board president, and her entire board of directors.

As has been the custom over the past fifty-seven years, your county society sponsored the exhibit booth in the medical health building, and I was privileged to participate in the "Ask the Doctor" program. It was such a pleasure to speak to the many children and adults regarding the surgical specimens. Most of all was the joy of attempting to answer the multitude of questions offered by the fairgoers, and getting an opportunity to renew acquaintances with my friends and previous patients. A "tip of the hat" goes to Jay Osborne, M.D. and Karyn Frederick for their organizational skills.

It did bring back the sense of nostalgia to the point of homesickness for being back in the OR and being entwined in the practice of surgery. But Oh!, all good things have to come to an end and I'm enjoying retirement, and yet thankful for being involved in our Society. Keeping in touch with our many colleagues and participating in the Society's activities gives me great joy.

As I sat on the bench in front of the health barn, I was mesmerized by the diversity of all the passers-by and the enjoyment shared by all. Daydreaming for a few minutes, I couldn't help wondering why everyday life couldn't be like this. We don't need to have wars and turmoil. What a wonderful world this would be without them. We need to "Love thy neighbor".

Just then I was abruptly aroused out of my meditation when someone sat down next to me and said "hey buddy, move over!"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles A. Crans, MD". The signature is stylized and includes a large, circular flourish at the end.



Ranksta' Rap

I'm not much for watching game shows, but of those I've seen on occasion the one that bothers me most is Family Feud. In case you've been blessed and never seen it, its idea is based on contestants' guessing responses to surveys by a population at large, on all sorts of meaningless things. The game requires no knowledge, no intellect, and contains no facts – just percentages of responses, given by people who know nothing, but do have opinions apparently.

I was reminded of this premise the other day as I saw the annual US News issue ranking the "Top 100" colleges and universities in the country. As many of you have done or are doing, my wife and I are shopping higher education for our oldest child, and it seems impossible to avoid the ranking hysteria. Top 100, top 361, most competitive, best/worst food, most/least parties, most selective, and on and on the ranksters' surveys say, using predominantly polling data reflecting little more than opinion of those people chosen to be asked.

A number of colleges have opted out of this process, feeling that such an approach to college selection distorts the perception of education, substituting popularity and reputation gleaned from surveys for what should be a highly individual decision based instead on what is right for any one student – the so-called "best fit."

Such an approach has also been applied to hospitals, as we know, and the same magazine puts out its annual list of the "Top 100", invariably led by the Mayo, Cleveland Clinic, and the usual university suspects. These rankings too are primarily a result of surveys of people's opinion, which is nothing more than a self-propagating popularity contest.

Why do we care what they say? Who they? Such rankings are simple to produce and require little actual investigation of the facts, and meaningful facts themselves are hard to identify. Furthermore, our culture is a competitive one which puts a premium on being "first / best" even if only in a matter of opinion, which is probably as good as it gets since it is impossible to truly objectify the quality of such things as education or health care beyond such gross parameters as graduation or mortality rates, respectively.

A person's choice of health care, like education, should be individual and based upon a best-fit relationship. Most important considerations should be centered on trust and knowledge of each other by patient and physician, convenience of and access to consistent, reliable services, responsibility for care and follow up, and comprehensive assessment and treatment, all of which is easily had in one's own community in the vast majority of situations. While important, these concepts don't lend themselves well to surveys, and having all these qualities doesn't stand up against headlines in newspapers and magazines. We are unfortunately becoming victims of a push for objectification of what we do – what used to be a profession but is becoming more of a commodity every day, which trend is only enhanced by participation in the nonsense of ranking exercises. I say save the surveys for game shows and leave the health care to us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T S Boniface MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



Trans-Siberian Orchestra

Friday, November 2, 2007

8:00 P.M.

Chevrolet Centre

Tickets - \$45.50 per person

Mahoning County Medical Society members may get one ticket at no charge and may purchase additional tickets up to a limit of three. Members only, please!

Tickets are limited, so order now!

Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must accompany ticket request.

Member Name: _____

Additional Tickets (limit 3) @ \$45.50 each _____

Check Enclosed for: \$ _____

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NEW MEMBERS

Jeffrey A. Fulton, DO

Thoracic Surgery

Associates in Cardiothoracic Surgery
540 Parmalee Ave., Suite 510
Youngstown, OH 44510

Medical Education: Philadelphia College of Osteopathic
Medicine
Internship: Conemaugh Hospital, Johnstown, PA
Residency: Albert Einstein Medical Center,
Philadelphia, PA
Fellowship: University of Massachusetts, Worcester, MA

Joseph Jose, MD

Internal Medicine/Pediatrics

49 State Street
Struthers, OH 44471

Medical Education: Medical College of the Americas, Nevis,
West Indies
Internship: Northside Medical Center, Youngstown, OH
Residency: Northside Medical Center, Youngstown, OH

Sean T. McGrath, MD

Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

PM&R North
822 E. Western Reserve Rd.
Poland, OH 44514

Medical Education: NEOUCOM, Rootstown, OH
Internship: Akron General Hospital, Akron, OH
Residency: Ohio State University, Columbus, OH

Meredythe A. McNally, MD

Gastroenterology & Hepatology

St. Elizabeth Health Center
1044 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44501

Medical Education: NEOUCOM, Rootstown, OH
Internship: Forum Health, Youngstown, OH
Residency: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN
Fellowship: Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN

Huong Thi Nguyen, MD

Infectious Disease

Northeast Ohio Infectious Disease Associates
540 Parmalee Ave., Suite 610
Youngstown, OH 44510

Medical Education: American University of the Caribbean
Internship: Northside Medical Center, Youngstown, OH
Residency: Northside Medical Center, Youngstown, OH
Fellowship: New York Medical College, Westchester
Medical Center

Michael K. Obeng, MD

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery

St. Elizabeth Health Center
1044 Belmont Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44501

Medical Education: University of Texas Medical Branch,
Galveston, TX
Internship: University of Texas Medical Branch,
Galveston, TX
Residency: University of Texas Medical Branch,
Galveston, TX
Fellowship: Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA

Mark A. Memo, DO

Urology

NEO Urology Associates, Inc.
602 Parmalee Ave., Suite 300
Youngstown, OH 44510

Medical Education: Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine,
Kirksville, MO
Internship: Akron General Medical Center, Akron, OH
Residency: Akron General Medical Center, Akron, OH

Preparation Begins for 2008 Membership Directory

Preliminary work has begun on the 2008 membership directory. The directory will once again contain Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana county society members. Proposals to compile the directory and sell the advertising will be requested soon so that the winning company can begin the sales process. Members will have an opportunity to purchase advertising space in the publication and you will receive information on ads when the vendor has been selected.

This year arrangements are being made with RCL Portrait Design to hold photo sessions for members who currently have no photo in the directory, or those who wish to have photos updated. Photographs are taken at no cost to members. You will be notified of the dates, times and locations of the photo sessions, but it should be some time in November.

Bits 'n' Pieces

The following members have left the area:

Suman K. Mishr, MD -- Lima, OH
Uma Perni, MD -- New York
Steven A. Chismar, MD -- Dover, OH
Drs. Stephanie & James Dewar -- Pennsylvania
Stephen J. Muehlenbein, MD -- South Carolina
J. Richard Hurt, MD -- "warmer weather"

The following physicians have retired:

J. James Anderson, MD
Norma J. Hazelbaker, MD
Jae J. Lee, MD

Michael G. Saalouke, MD has moved. His new address is:

6505 Market Street,
Bldg. A, Suite 203
Youngstown, OH 44512
Phone: 330-884-2001
Fax: 330-884-2005

Alan Katz, DO, has joined Diagnostic Cardiology Associates, 1325 Fifth Ave., Youngstown, OH 44504

The following doctors have dropped membership in the MCMS:

Arthur Brant, MD
Manu Sethi, MD

OSMA Launches Complaint and Action Form

The OSMA is gathering information about problems members are having in dealing with insurance companies. Please take a few minutes to complete our complaint form and assist us in gathering data on unfair practices by the insurers. Your confidential responses will help the OSMA in its fight to level the playing field with the payers. You can either complete the short one-page form on line at www.osma.org, or print it out and fax it in to 614-527-6763. All responses are confidential.

Tamper-Proof Prescription Requirement for Medicaid Patients Gets Six-Month Reprieve

A federal requirement due to go into effect on October 1, 2007 that Medicaid prescriptions be on tamper-proof prescription pads has received a six-month delay to help physicians, pharmacists and patients better prepare for implementation. Both the OSMA and the AMA had pressed for the delay in implementation. The new effective date for implementation is April 1, 2008.

OSMA-Backed Healthcare Simplification Act Passes Ohio House

The Ohio House of Representatives passed, by a vote of 91-5, House Bill 125 - the Healthcare Simplification Act, which was spearheaded by the Ohio State Medical Association. The bill is designed to provide remedies for many of the excessive administrative demands faced by doctors in their interactions with health plans.

The bill is composed of four common-sense reforms that bring more balance, uniformity and clarity to interactions between physicians and HMOs. It will bring transparency to the contracting process, fairness in contracting, a standardized and time-efficient credentialing process, and web-based insurance eligibility verification.

"This legislation will help eliminate bureaucratic, unfair and anti-competitive practices imposed on physicians by Ohio's HMOs and other health insurers," said Craig W. Anderson, MD, OSMA president and a Columbus neonatologist. "By getting rid of some of the bureaucracy in our healthcare system, we can get physicians back to what they do best - taking care of patients."

Since the introduction of HB 125 in March, there have been 12 committee hearings where more than 32 different witnesses have offered proponent, opponent and interested party testimony.

The OSMA has been working over the past year to pursue legislative remedies to problems that Ohio's physicians and patients have been encountering when dealing with Ohio's HMOs and other health insurers.

"The passage of the bill in the Ohio House of Representatives is great progress," added Dr. Anderson. "We hope that the Ohio Senate will follow suit so that we put patients first ahead of paperwork."



Disney on Ice

Friday, December 21, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Chevrolet Centre

Tickets - \$43.50 per person

Mahoning County Medical Society members may get one ticket at no charge and purchase additional tickets up to a limit of three.

Members only, please! Tickets are limited, so order early!

Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment **must** accompany ticket request.

Member Name: _____

Additional Tickets (limit 3) @ \$43.50 each: _____

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BOARDMAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ASKS FOR REPRESENTATIVE

The newly-formed Boardman Community Foundation has asked the Mahoning County Medical Society for a volunteer to serve on its board of directors. The mission of the foundation is as follows:

"The Boardman Community Foundation is organized for the purpose of accepting, managing and investing charitable contributions and using its resources to fund projects and activities which enhance our sense of community and beautify Boardman Township."

Candidates must have the following qualifications:

Resident of Boardman.

Business or professional practice in Boardman.

Does not have to be a member of the appointing board.

Individual has strong desire to improve the quality of life of the Boardman community.

Must not hold political office.

Individuals who are advocates of the appointing organizations.

If you possess the above qualifications and are interested in serving on this board, please contact the medical society office (330-533-4880) for more information.

DR. RAYMOND DUFFETT NAMED 2007 OUTSTANDING TEAM PHYSICIAN

Raymond Duffett, MD, was named one of the Outstanding Team Physicians for 2007 by Joint Advisory Committee on Sports Medicine of the Ohio State Medical Association, the Ohio High School Athletic Association, and the Ohio Athletic Trainers Association. Dr. Duffett has served as team physician for Shaker Heights High School while an orthopaedic surgical resident, at Amelia High School during his Sports Medicine fellowship at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati, and at Austintown Fitch High School upon returning to Youngstown to practice. He currently serves as team physician for Youngstown State University. Dr. Duffett was nominated for the award by the Council of the Mahoning County Medical Society, on which he serves as an Alternate Delegate. Letters of support for his nomination were submitted by former Fitch athletic director Gene Chepke, and YSU Executive Director of Athletics, Ron Strollo. Dr. Duffett was recognized between quarters at the September 22nd YSU game.

OSMA Physician Victorious Against Frivolous Lawsuit

OSMA member Michael Banks, MD, will finally receive his court-ordered payment from a plaintiff's trial lawyer. The order to pay Dr. Banks became final when the Ohio Supreme Court refused to accept the appeal of the plaintiff's trial lawyer. The lawyer had challenged the award of sanctions to Dr. Banks, a Cleveland-area orthopedic surgeon. The OSMA Frivolous Lawsuit Committee and the Litigation Center of the AMA and the State Medical Societies submitted a friend of the court brief in the case on Dr. Banks' behalf. The case unfolded as follows. In October 2004, a Motion for Sanctions requesting \$23,000 was filed on Dr. Banks' behalf. This \$23,000 figure was based upon the facts of the case, the fact that the increase in the doctor's insurance rates was solely due to the pending suit, and Dr. Banks' legal expenses. On Thursday, May 11, 2006, the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas awarded Dr. Banks \$4,500 personally against the lawyer in his case. The lawyer then filed an appeal with the Eighth District Court of Appeals. On May 3, 2007, the appellate court unanimously ruled that the trial court was correct in awarding Dr. Banks sanctions. However, the lawyer then appealed to the Ohio Supreme Court. The Supreme Court declined to take the case and dismissed the trial attorney's appeal. By doing this, the sanctions award was upheld and this case has reached its final conclusion. "I think that lawyers who bring and then pursue a frivolous lawsuit should pay a price. My time and my money are just as valuable as a lawyer's time and money. It is only when physicians stand up for their rights that we can expect the system to change," said Dr. Banks. "It's significant that the courts did not ignore the egregious behavior of the trial lawyer in this case. The decision lets Ohio physicians know that they have recourse in the courts when a plaintiff's lawyer engages in frivolous conduct," said OSMA General Counsel Almata E. Cooper.



Dr. Raymond Duffett was joined by his wife, Shelley, and children, Drew, Ross and Dana, at the YSU Tailgate Party



Dr. Duffett's parents, Jean and Cecil Duffett, came to see their son honored as 2007 Outstanding Team Physician on September 22nd.

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Louis Bloomberg, MD

April 5, 1917 ~ June 6, 2007

Donald R. Dockry, MD

August 30, 1922 ~ June 15, 2007



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