



# Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society  
November ~ December 2008



**From the President** by Charles A. Crans, MD

## Farewell

This is my last editorial since I shall be stepping down from the presidency in favor of our president-elect, Dr. Dean Ball. I would like to take a few moments to thank all of you for providing your help and support during my term. It has been an honor and privilege to have been your president during the past two years. I can hardly believe it has passed so quickly. You have been my steady colleagues and companions, and I truly appreciate your cooperation. I can only hope you will support Dean, equally, or perhaps even more so, during his upcoming tenure.

I would be remiss if I didn't take advantage of this last opportunity to share our usual advisory sessions.

As we have just completed the holiday seasons, I am confident you have realized the importance of the family unit and our family interactions. The family is truly the reason for the season. Your County Society is also one of your professional families and needs your participation and dedication. In order to be strong and productive, the society needs your continued corroboration. Step up! Volunteer! Assume a role in your association! Remember, when united, we remain strong. In order to accomplish our resolutions and legislations, we need your participation and cooperation. Support the Mahoning County Medical Society.

2009 is a new year, and although many folks are focusing on the new challenges we are facing at the moment, we should approach this period with a positive attitude, and look to the opportunities within our grasp. As Solomon wrote, there is a time and a season for everything, and the only thing certain is change itself. I pray you face your changes and challenges optimistically. This provides me with cause to wish you a happy new year, with good changes, good health, happiness, and success.

Sincerely yours,

# Bulletin

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## 2008 Council

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## CALENDAR

January 20, 2009	Resolutions due to OSMA
January 27, 2009	Annual Meeting, Grand Lobby, Powers Auditorium
February 20, 2009	Alliance Fashion Show Avion on the Water
March 6, 2009	Cirque du Soleil Saltimbanco Chevrolet Centre
March 20 - 22, 2009	OSMA Annual Meeting, Columbus
March 27, 2009	International Dinner/Wine & Beer Taste Fellows Riverside Gardens

## Classifieds

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### iWant

While I am not personally much of a gadget kind of guy, I must say I am impressed with the progress in electronic technology, which seems to be accelerating exponentially, especially noticeable in the personal devices, typified by the iPhone. It does an amazing array of functions – “apps” – readily accessible through its direct link to the internet, ranging from silly video gimmicks through complex GPS functions. Ironically, the least of its functions is that where it acts as a phone.

I don't own an iPhone, but I do have an iPod, a first generation model, handed up to me by son #1, who is now on his third upgrade, in addition to his iMac computer, and his iTouch, which is apparently an iPhone, minus the phone. The screen on my iPod is barely readable, and the battery goes dead so I have to plug it in a lot – quaint – but it does play songs from iTunes, and holds more music by far than the two crates of vinyl I lugged around in college. Works for me.

Apple has obviously struck a chord with these ubiquitous devices, which are now parts of, and a reflection of, our culture. The prefix “i” is telling, as the function and purpose of them is centered on the individual's need, or perhaps more accurately desire and wants. Very few people can't get by perfectly well without such technological marvels, but very many have and will sacrifice time and a lot of money for the opportunity to play video games or search the internet on their phone, anywhere and anytime, usually because they want to, not because they have to. This is all well and good, since it's their money to spend, and that's what a free society and capitalism are all about. However, the emphasis on the “i” implies an importance on the self, which is an accurate reflection of the direction our culture has taken. This iCulture is ultimately concerned with immediate gratification, which has become an expectation – in entertainment, information, government, and of course health care. For instance, Emergency Departments are crammed with ultimately non-emergent problems, effectively having become the locus of all too much primary care. If iHave a sore throat or iJammed my thumb or iBumped my head or iHurt my knee, well then iWant an MRI or whatever other immediate test and intervention iCan have, and iWant it today, not when my real doctor can see me in 24 or 48 hours, because by then iMight feel better. And why not? After all, iHave the internet in my pocket and can watch viral videos on demand. The answer, of course, is that the iPhone user has chosen to spend *his* disposable income on *his* toy, and doesn't expect someone else to foot that particular bill.

Unfortunately, the delivery of health care here has become disconnected with the cost so that its users have come to expect the toy without the cost. This disconnection between what the individual wants and that for which he hasn't had to pay is one of the primary reasons our system has deteriorated to its current state, of inefficient and costly care, that despite its cost is ironically inadequate when it comes to the truly significant health issues facing our society today. To put it another way, if we spent half as much time and money on preventing obesity and its complications, for instance, as we do evaluating and treating aches and pains that are usually self-limited, not to mention the fortunes that are spent treating the other extreme of terminal illnesses that all of us will endure someday (in the hopefully distant future), I'd venture our populace would be a whole lot healthier, for a lot less cost.

It will be interesting to see if and how our affluent culture will respond to the new realities we will face in the worst economy in generations, and whether the global economic realignment will force us to actually accept that what iCan have and what iThink iNeed, may not always be what iWant. Mr. Obama, you have my prayers.

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

# ADOPT A RESIDENT

Each year the Mahoning County Medical Society accepts into membership resident physicians from Forum Health Northside Medical Center and St. Elizabeth Health Center. OSMA dues for these residents in the amount of \$30 per year are paid by the Mahoning County Medical Society; the society does not charge for resident member dues.

This year we are offering our active and retired members an opportunity to “adopt” a resident by paying their membership dues. This will not only involve our members in the resident member program, but will also save the society money by assuming the cost that has previously come from our operating budget.

Following is a list of the current resident members from each hospital. If you wish to adopt one or more of these residents, please send your check, payable to the Mahoning County Medical Society, to 565 E. Main St., Suite 220, Canfield, OH 44406. A list of contributors will be published in the next issue of the *Bulletin*.

## Northside Medical Center

Sa'do Al Bitar	Upendra Kaphe
Hassan Alkhatib	Michelle Kapon
Amardeep Athwal	Ryan Lawrence
Amrinder Bhatti	Joohee Lee
Andrea Bretal	William Lee
Sarah Burton	Gaston Moran Celayes
Jonathan Canella	Gayathri Muthukrishnan *
Robert Casten	Moanis Omar *
Philip Cataline	Mona Parikh
Allen Cochran	Brimal Patel *
Lisa Coughlin	Ruperl Patel
Lukasz Czerwonka *	Shonak Patel
Louis De La Garza *	Raymond Pryor
Damian Durka *	James Robinson
Lucas Henn *	Jaytinder Sandhu
Omar Hussain	Benjamin Simmons
Tolga Icli	Rashika Sood
Aruna Jayaram	Dorothy Sparks
Hassan Kahi	Arul Vigg

## St. Elizabeth Health Center

Matthew Gugliotti	Debra Angelo
Stephen Martiny *	Naser Hakki *
Scotty Ortega *	Josh Henderson *
Harneet Walia *	Karen Johnson *
Jeremy Heffner	Lerzan Madenci *
Pratheek Kakkasseril	Anil Shrestha *
Carla West-Coffee	Tulika Singh
	Hui Zhang *

## 2009 Slate of Nominees

The Nominating Committee met on December 23, 2008, to propose the following slate of nominees for Council and Foundation positions for 2009 - 2010.

**President-elect** Thomas Albani, MD  
**Secretary/Treasurer** Michael Engle, MD

### Delegates to OSMA

Eugene Potesta, MD  
Dean Ball, DO  
OPEN POSITION

### Alternate Delegates to OSMA

Charles Crans, MD  
Raymond Duffett, MD  
Mark Memo, DO

### Council-at-Large

Sean McGrath, MD  
Michael Obeng, MD  
OPEN POSITION

### Foundation Trustees (3-year terms)

Prabhudas Lakhani, MD  
James Stille, MD

If you are interested in filling one of the open positions, please contact the society at 330-533-4880. Delegates to the OSMA must have served at least one year on Council and attended one Annual Meeting of the OSMA. Duties of Delegates and Alternates include representing the MCMS at caucus meetings of the 6th District, and at the Annual Meeting of the OSMA House of Delegates. Council-at-Large positions may be filled by any member in good standing.

\* Will complete residency in 2009. Half year dues only - \$15.



## Bits 'n' Pieces

### **ANNUAL MEETING JANUARY 27, 2009**

If you have not already sent in your reservation for the Annual Meeting on January 27th at the Grand Lobby of Powers Auditorium, please do so ASAP.

### **2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Membership dues for 2009 were due by December 31, 2008. If you have not already paid your dues, please do so as soon as possible to avoid losing your member benefits.

### **CIRQUE DU SOLEIL**

The society has purchased tickets for Cirque du Soleil Saltimbaco on March 6, 2009, at the Chevrolet Centre. A flyer with order form will be mailed to all members at the end of February.

### **ALLIANCE SPRING FASHION SHOW**

The annual fashion show presented by the MCMS Alliance will be held on Friday, February 20, 2009, at Avion on the Water with clothes by Talbots.

### **MEMBER BENEFITS**

Just a reminder to all members that your membership makes you eligible for reduced prices for medical waste from Accu-Medical Waste Services and DRS computer backups. For more information on these and other member benefits, call the society at 330-533-4880.

### **MCMS FOUNDATION OFFERS STUDENT LOANS**

Did you know that the MCMS Foundation offers low-cost loans to medical students from the Mahoning Valley? Students applying for loans must be residents of Mahoning or Trumbull County and must be enrolled in medical school or school of osteopathic medicine, or participating in the bridge program at the year three level or higher, with NEOUCOM. Interest on the loans is one percent below the prime rate at the time the loan is granted. Interest is forgiven if the recipient returns to Mahoning or Trumbull county to practice medicine and becomes a member of the Mahoning County Medical Society. For more information or an application, call the society office.



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## *In Memoriam*

*Sidney L. Davidow, MD*

*February 3, 1912 ~ December 6, 2008*

*Elmore R. McNeal, MD*

*May 13, 1915 ~ December 31, 2008*



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