



Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society
First and Second Quarter 2013

ABDUL GHANI, MD NAMED 2013 DISTINGUISHED PHYSICIAN

Doctor Abdul Ghani was named 2013 Distinguished Physician by the Mahoning County Medical Society and presented with a plaque commemorating the honor at the Annual Meeting of the Society on Tuesday, May 7, 2013, at The Lake Club in Poland. Presenting the award to Dr. Ghani was Dr. Daniel Ebert. Dr. Ghani was joined by his wife, Saeeda.

Dr. Ebert said that he was surprised that Dr. Ghani had not received the award previously as he was instrumental in the training of most of the surgeons practicing in Youngstown today. Dr. Charles Crans who served as Dr. Ghani's Program Director at Northside Hospital when he began his surgical residency in 1973, also spoke about Dr. Ghani's dedication to medicine and to his students.

Dr. Ghani graduated from the University of Karachi, Pakistan, with his medical degree in 1964. He received his surgical training in England and was board certified and made a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1969.

In 1973, Dr. Ghani moved to the United States and came to Youngstown to complete his surgical residency at Youngstown Hospital Association. He was board certified and made a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. In 1978 he was appointed Surgical Clerkship Director of Northeast Ohio Universities College of Medicine (NEOUCOM), where he was appointed Clinical Professor of Surgery in 1996. Following his appointment as Director of Surgical Education at the Youngstown Hospital Association in 1982, Dr. Ghani served as Associate Program Director from 1985 to 2001. He retired from clinical practice in 2009, and served as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Northside Hospital from 2010 to 2011. In his last ten years of practice, Dr. Ghani served on surgical mission trips to Guatemala.

Dr. Ghani was accompanied at the dinner by his wife, Saeeda. He has two children and six grandchildren.

Also honored at the dinner were the recipients of the Ohio State Medical Association Fifty Years in Medicine Award. Honored were Dr. David Reed and Dr. Chong M. Lee. They received their medical degrees in 1963.



Dr & Mrs. Ghani, Dr. Crans



Dr. David Reed



Dr. Daniel and Mary Ebert

Bulletin

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The Bulletin is published bimonthly by the
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The Bulletin reserves the right to edit all contributions for clarity and length, as well as to reject any material submitted, including advertisements.

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Correspondence and changes of address should be mailed to the above address.

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CALENDAR

July 20, 2013 Daughtry/3Doors Down, Covelli Centre
August 16, 2013 Pat Benatar, Covelli Centre
August 28 - September 2, 2013 Canfield Fair
September 1, 2013 Train, Canfield Fair Grandstand
September 2, 2013 Sheryl Crowe, Canfield Fair Grandstand

In Memoriam

Glenn J. Baumblatt, MD
September 1930 ~ December 19, 2012

Robert M. Kiskaddon, MD
February 3, 1916 ~ March 24, 2013

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March 17, 1937 ~ 2012

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The Death of Private Practice

As I have written about in past editorials, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPAC) (“Obama Care”) has many far-reaching and long-term implications to not only the delivery of health care in our country, but also the very fabric of the physician patient relationship. Many aspects of the PPAC, including but not limited to the creation of accountable care organizations, would undoubtedly make it more and more difficult for physicians to remain as independent private practitioners. Instead we will be driven into large group settings and employee positions. Further, our ability to advocate on behalf of individual patients will not only be neutered, but actually de-incentivized.

Recently the Physicians Foundation commissioned a panel of expert physicians, along with Merrit Hawkins, to put together a forward thinking view of the future of medicine under the PPAC. This 116 page document entitled “Health Reform and the Decline of the Physician Private Practice” paints a fairly scary picture for those physicians who value independence, autonomy, and a patient centered practice model. The following are excerpts from the Executive Summary of their findings:

- 1) The current iteration of health reform, both formal and informal, will have a transformative effect on the health care system. This time reform will not be a “false dawn”, analogous to the health reform movement of the 1990s, but will usher in substantive and lasting changes.
- 2) The independent private physician practice model will be largely, though not uniformly, replaced.
- 3) Most physicians will be compelled to consolidate with other practitioners, become hospital employees, or align with large hospitals and health systems for capital, administrative, and technical resources.
- 4) The emerging practice model will vary by region: one size will not fit all. Large accountable care organizations, private practice medical homes, large independent groups, large aligned groups, community health centers, concierge practices, and small aligned groups will proliferate.
- 5) Reform will drastically increase physician legal compliance obligation and potential liability under federal fraud and abuse statutes. Enhanced funding for enforcement, additional latitude for “whistle-blowers” and the suspension of the government’s need to prove “intent” will create a compliance environment that many physicians will find problematic.
- 6) Reform will exacerbate physician shortages, creating access issues for many patients. Primary care shortages and physician mal-distribution will not be resolved. Physicians will need to redefine their roles and rethink delivery models in order to meet rising demand.
- 7) The imperative to care for more patients, to provide higher perceived quality care at less cost with increased reporting and tracking demands, and an environment of high potential liability and problematic reimbursement will put additional stress on physicians, particularly those in private practice. Some physicians will respond by opting out of private practice or by abandoning medicine altogether, contributing to the physician shortage.
- 8) The omission in reform of a “fix” to the sustainable growth rate formula and of liability reform will further disengage doctors from medicine and limit patient access. STR is unlikely to be resolved by Congress, and probably will be folded into new payment mechanisms, sometime within the next 5 years.

I would encourage all physicians and members of the Mahoning County Medical Society to go to www.physiciansfoundation.org and take the time to read this document in its entirety. It certainly gives an onerous prediction of the future of medicine as we know it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Engle', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

From the President

by Sean T. McGrath, MD



I would like to begin my tenure as the President of the Mahoning County Medical Society with a Thank You. First, thanks to Ronald Yarab and Mick Engle for introducing me to Our Medical Society and encouraging me to participate within the leadership. Second, thanks to Karyn Frederick and her leadership as the Society "Queen" and know/do it all abilities. Third, thanks to the many role models over the five years I have been here to help me learn what the heck I'm supposed to do. I like to think I'm a quick study, and I got lucky to be President-elect while Tom Albani was President because there is doubtfully a better role model for a young physician. Lastly, thanks to all the members of the council that have let me ride their coattails while learning how this society works.

My goal for this editorial over the next two years is simply to speak my view as honestly as I can. I hope to spark some conversation, and of course some humor, related to many topics I hold near and dear to my heart. Some topics will be obviously related to medicine, some not so obvious, but certainly pertinent. I hope you all enjoy the ride!

Let's talk about "GUNS"! It's the most recent "four letter" word that brings about a wide range of emotions. (I strongly prefer the more specific term firearm to the general term gun.) Some will always demonize firearms while others will always glorify them. One thing I learned with test-taking is that the answer rarely, if ever, includes ALWAYS and NEVER. Now, I am an avid hunter and shooter. I enjoy the RIGHT of ownership of firearms, including pistols, shotguns, and rifles. I especially enjoy target shooting with pistols, upland hunting with shotguns, and deer hunting with black powder rifles. I also maintain and often employ a concealed carry permit. All legitimate uses of these firearms. I also understand there is a serious responsibility with firearm ownership. I have three young children and I make sure they never have access to any loaded firearms or the chemicals necessary for their care. However, I do not shelter my children from firearms. How would it be possible with all the gun-related video games, movies, cartoons, etc. available to them every day. I do make sure they have close encounters with unloaded firearms in my presence and learn what they are, how they work, and just how dangerous they can be. This summer I am likely to take my eight year old daughter out and teach her to shoot a .22 rifle (if I can find any ammunition for it!). I believe having positive experiences with firearms early in life makes all the difference when it comes to developing RESPONSIBILITY and an appropriate level of RESPECT for them.

I think, as with many important issues, when everything is status quo no real conversation happens. Unfortunately, in our REPUBLIC (where a small few make decisions for the great many), interest groups with the most money and/or power often do the talking. The recent GUN debate came on quickly with little discussion. Then it was, for all intents and purposes, "squashed" just as quickly. Now it is time to truly converse as citizens. Everyone must be heard and all views must be expressed and understood so we can make the RIGHT decisions.

I pretend in no way to have all the RIGHT answers. I do think some things need to change and some need to stay exactly the same. I think we need to maintain the power in the hands of law abiding citizens and not relinquish it to the criminals. We MUST keep our children safe! We have to educate the public about firearm safety to decrease fear. We need to know that bad people are real, but that good people are too, and there are more of the latter than the former. We should remember why we have the Constitution and the Bill of Rights in the first place. We must recall our history teachers telling us that without knowledge of our history, we are certain to repeat the same errors.

Let's do something crazy! Let's talk to each other. Let's tell stories about the 24 point buck that got away. Let's brag about the tight pattern on the 50 yard target at the pistol range. Let's laugh about the running rabbit no one could hit on the sporting clay course. We need those involved in the shooting sports to share with everyone why we love it so much and hate to see firearms given a bad rap.

Lastly, I want to congratulate my wife on finally getting her concealed carry permit after passing the course, with a tighter pattern on the silhouette than me, almost three years ago. Now we both have our permits and are doing something I think is very important; we are protecting our RIGHTS by carrying a pistol. (If you don't exercise your RIGHTS, someone will take them away one by one).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. McGrath MD', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Bits 'n' Pieces

ACCESS HEALTH MAHONING VALLEY

- Access Health Mahoning Valley, Inc. is helping provide medical care to uninsured adults aged 19 through 64 within the Mahoning Valley (Mahoning and Trumbull counties) with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level who are not eligible for public insurance; a medical provider can pledge to see any number of uninsured patients
- Seeking physicians, specialists and dentists to volunteer to provide free medical care to AHMV patients in their private office or a free clinic setting, the Midlothian Free Clinic in Mahoning County or the Hands of Hope Clinic in Trumbull County
- Providers simply complete the provider pledge form on the website (www.accesshealthmv.org) and send back to AHMV via fax at (330) 373-0705, email or mail.

If you are interested in volunteering, please visit the AHMV website and sign up today!

CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Denise Bobovnyik has been elected to serve as an Alternate Delegate to the AMA. Dr. Bobovnyik was elected at the 2013 OSMA Annual Meeting in April to serve a term beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2015.

UPDATE YOUR DOCBOOKMD!

If you are using DocBookMD you must update your directory periodically. New physicians are being added and changes are being made all the time, so you should try to update at least monthly to insure that you have the most recent membership information. Simply go to the DocBookMD app, go to the MENU button and hit UPDATE DIRECTORY. If you are not yet using DocBookMD, go to the MCMS website, www.mahoningmed.org, and hit the DocBookMD button to register. Call the Society office for your member number.

HELP FOR HIPAA

MCMS will be providing guidelines for the implementation of the new HIPAA regulations effective in September. These guidelines will have an overview of the changes and step-by-step instructions on how to implement them in your practice. These guidelines will be provided free to MCMS members and will be made available to non-members for \$25.

HELP FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

Have questions or concerns about the upcoming deadlines for Health Care Reform? What is an early renewal? What do the exchanges mean for an individual's or group's health coverage? Huntington Insurance is here to help you put together the pieces of the Affordable Care Act puzzle. Contact: Nate Mullen 330.742.5467 or email

nate.mullen@huntington.com

Did you know....? The Mahoning County Medical Society has had an exhibit at the Canfield Fair since 1951, starting in a tent and moving to its permanent location in 1971.



Dr. Armand Minotti, D.O. Joins SOV-Boardman



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Boardman, OH 44512

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Internship: UPMC Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA
Residency: UPMC Mercy Hospital, Pittsburgh, PA

David W. McDonald, MD

Diagnostic/Pediatric Radiology

Akron Childrens' Hospital Mahoning Valley
6505 Market Street
Boardman, OH 44512

Medical Education: NEOMED, Rootstown, OH
Internship: St. Vincent Mercy Medical Center, Toledo
Residency: Monmouth Medical Center, Long Beach, NJ
Fellowship: Childrens' Hospital of Philadelphia, PA

Dianna Tolen, MD

Pediatrics

Kids 1st PediatricCare
4133 Boardman Canfield Road
Canfield, OH 44406

Medical Education: NEOUCOM, Rootstown, OH
Internship: Tod Childrens' Hospital, Youngstown
Residency: Tod Childrens' Hospital, Youngstown

LEGISLATIVE WATCH

Dr. Raymond Duffett is now serving as our Legislative Liaison for the Mahoning County Medical Society, keeping members updated on new and pending legislation that affects the medical profession. He brings the following to the attention of MCMS member physicians:

1. State Representative Ron Hood (R-78) has introduced legislation that would permit physical therapists to diagnose a patient's physical impairment "if the patient's condition is within the scope of physical therapy, and, if not, refer the patient to another health care provider". The justification for this legislation is that "during their education physical therapists are taught assessment and differential diagnosis". He goes on to say that "physical therapists have shown to be a cost efficient treatment for neuromuscular-skeletal conditions".

This legislation has been introduced as H.B. 220. We will continue to update you on its progress.

2. *U.S. Supreme Court decision supports class arbitration in dispute with insurer.*

HealthLeaders Media reports that, in a unanimous decision, the U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed an arbitrator's ruling to permit class arbitration of disputes between physicians and insurers, even when the two parties had not expressly agree to such a procedure. At issue was a lawsuit in which several physicians provided medical services under a fee-for-service contract that "required binding arbitration of contractual disputes" between individual physicians and the insurer. The state trial court sent the case to arbitration, and the arbitrator concluded that class arbitration was authorized. The insurer filed a motion in federal court to vacate the arbitrator's decision. The U.S. District Court denied the motion and was upheld on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The Supreme Court's ruling supports the right of physicians to join in class arbitration in payment disputes with insurers. The New Jersey Medical Society and the Litigation Center of the AMA and the State Medical Societies submitted *amicus curiae* briefs to the Supreme Court.

CHANGES COMING TO MEMBERSHIP DUES BILLING

Beginning with the membership dues invoices for the 2014 dues year, the Ohio State Medical Association has informed the county societies that the OSMA will no longer bill for the counties, nor will the counties be offered an agreement to bill for the OSMA as we have done in the past.

What does this mean to you? If you are a member of the Mahoning County Medical Society and the Ohio State Medical Association, you will receive two separate invoices for dues for 2014, one for MCMS and one for OSMA.

If you are a member of the Mahoning County Medical Society only, you will receive an invoice with only the county dues amount shown. All MCMS dues should be sent directly to the MCMS office as you have done in previous years. OSMA dues must be sent directly to them in a separate check.

This change will have no effect on the benefits and services you receive from the Mahoning County Medical Society. You can expect to receive your 2014 Membership Dues Invoice during the first week of August 2013. If you have any questions regarding this change or your membership, please call the Society office at 330-533-4880.



Canfield Fair Coming Soon!

It will soon be time for the Canfield Fair, and for the 63rd year the Mahoning County Medical Society will have the "Ask the Doctor" booth in the Health and Medical Building. Any physician who is interested in volunteering to work in the booth is welcome. Shifts are Wednesday, August 28th through Monday, September 2nd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. or 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. If you worked last year, you will be receiving a letter soon. If you didn't work, call the society office to get a schedule.

CONFUSED ABOUT THE "AFFORDABLE CARE ACT"? HELP IS ON THE WAY!

Does anybody really know what's in the ACA?
Does anybody really care?

We know that our members don't really know what's in it, but they do care! Especially when faced with the possibility of fines for non-compliance! As each new deadline looms, it becomes more and more important to know how all of this will affect you and your practice.

Your Mahoning County Medical Society is collaborating with the Area Agency on Aging 11 to prepare a program which will cover the provisions of "Obamacare", what you need to do to be ready, and ways that you can help your patients navigate the maze of options in the health insurance exchanges.

We are planning to offer this seminar in the early Fall. Flyers will be sent to all members and the information and registration will be posted on our website. Thanks to the Area Agency on Aging and director Lisa Solley for their help with this important topic.



Alliance President Shelley Duffett presents a check for \$10,000 to Dr. Tom Albani for the Midlothian Free Health Clinic. The money was raised by the Alliance with their Annual Fashion Show and Champagne Brunch and presented at the "Festa Italiano" in April.

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Edward J. Hassay Jr.
Cell 330.397.1185 Office 330.742.5307
ed.hassay@huntington.com



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