



Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society
January - February 2004

Chander M. Kohli, MD Named 2003 Distinguished Physician

Doctor Chander M. Kohli was named the 2003 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, January 27, 2004, at the Holiday Inn Boardman. Presenting the award to Dr. Kohli was Dr. S. Cuddapah, who nominated Dr. Kohli for the award.

Dr. Cuddapah spoke of Dr. Kohli as a man dedicated to his family and his patients. He said that Dr. Kohli "makes friends before he needs them", and that he also contributes to his community through his service on many boards and committees. Dr. Cuddapah praised Dr. Kohli's wife, Karen, for her love and support of her husband.



Dr. S. Cuddapah

In accepting the award, Dr. Kohli thanked Dr. Cuddapah and all of his colleagues who sent letters of support for his nomination. Dr. Kohli vowed to keep his remarks short as he said that public speaking is not his forte, but he, too, thanked his wife and children who were present for the ceremony.

Dr. Kohli encouraged all physicians to stay active in organized medicine, especially in the face of the current professional liability insurance crisis. He told his audience that physicians must remain united in order to effect change in the area of tort reform.

In addition to his wife, daughter Nisha, son Aneal and daughter-in-law Kim, Dr. Kohli was joined by members of his office staff, Dr. Lois Nora and Mr. James Schubert from NEOUCOM, Dr. and Mrs. David Sweet from Youngstown State University, Mr. James Davis and Ms. Bonnie Perrato from St. Elizabeth Health Center, and Mr. Ted Gouza and Mr. Frank Hierro from Sky Bank, to celebrate his award.



Nisha Kohli and Mrs. Karen Kohli



Dr. Kohli's office staff joins in the celebration



Dr. Kohli receives his award from MCMS President, Dr. Marc Saunders

50 Years in Medicine Recognized

Receiving an award from the Ohio State Medical Association for 50 Years in Medicine was Dr. James Might, a native of Springfield, OH, who has practiced medicine in the Mahoning Valley since his internship and residency here. Dr. Might attended Wittenburg University and received his medical degree from the University of Maryland. His private practice of internal medicine is located in Austintown. Dr. Might and his wife, Ann, reside in Canfield.

Also recognized for 50 years in medicine but unable to attend were Dr. Sanford Weiss and Dr. Marshall Lowry. The awards were presented by Dr. Chris Knight, Secretary/Treasurer of the OSMA. The award ceremony was a part of the Mahoning County Medical Society Annual Meeting held at the Holiday Inn Boardman on January 27, 2004. The election and installation of the 2004 Council and officers was also held that evening. After the passage of a Bylaws amendment changing the term of officers to two years was passed, Marc S. Saunders, DO, was installed for a second year as President. Ronald M. Yarab, MD, will complete another year as President-Elect, and Janardan Tallam will stay on as Secretary/Treasurer. Delegates installed were Denise L. Bobovnyik, MD, and Chander M. Kohli, MD. Alternates are Ronald Dwinells, MD and Thomas Traikoff, DO. Elected to Council at large were Robert DeMarco, MD, Richard Marina, MD and Patrick Stocker, MD.



Dr. & Mrs. James Might

Bulletin

Editor Thomas S. Boniface, MD
Managing Editor Karyn Frederick
Editorial Board

Marc Saunders, DO Eugene Potesta, MD Daniel Handel, MD

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Phone (330) 758-1624 Fax (330) 758-1805.
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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.

Subscription rate of \$20.00 per year is included in MCMS dues. Correspondence and changes of address should be mailed to the above address.

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CALENDAR

<i>February 25, 2004</i>	<i>6th District Winter Caucus, Trumbull Country Club</i>
<i>February 28, 2004</i>	<i>MCMS Alliance Art Auction, Tippecanoe Country Club</i>
<i>March 26, 2004</i>	<i>International Dinner, Tippecanoe Country Club</i>
<i>April 15, 2004</i>	<i>Front Desk Workshop, Antone's</i>
<i>May 14~16, 2004</i>	<i>OSMA Annual Meeting, Cincinnati</i>
<i>May 25, 2004</i>	<i>Society Dinner, Holiday Inn, Boardman</i>
<i>June 17, 2004</i>	<i>OSHA Workshop, Antone's</i>
<i>September 1~6, 2004</i>	<i>Canfield Fair</i>
<i>September 28, 2004</i>	<i>Society Dinner, Holiday Inn, Boardman</i>

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From the President

by Marc S. Saunders, DO

Hello again, everybody.

Before I continue with my column, I want to thank everyone who has supported me in the past year, which for all of us has been a harrowing and eye-opening time. I want to thank the members of the MCMS Foundation Trustee Board for suggesting the bylaws change that increased the term of President to two years so that I could continue on in my current role, now that the ball is rolling for some interesting projects we're working on.

In case you hadn't noticed yet, our numbers are starting to dwindle. We've had some good physicians leave town in the past few months, some close their practices, and some go on to start non-medical careers. It's shocking and obscene that this is happening, and we're all appalled by these unfortunate circumstances.

Here's the problem—Only the medical community seems to know. The general public is completely in the dark. Oh, sure, the occasional patient may have heard something about this doctor or that doctor leaving, but nobody out there knows the reasons.

Recently, Dan Rivers from WKBN-radio had Dr. Tom Kaminski, Dr. Jim Sudimack, and Ann Womer Benjamin on his talk show. Tom is the President of the Trumbull County Medical Society, Jim is the OSMA 6th District Councilor, and Ann is the Commissioner of the Ohio Department of Insurance. This would have been a great forum to just spread the word about loss of public access to healthcare in the Mahoning Valley. However, Dan also invited Attorney David Betras onto the show, so it turned into a point-counterpoint argument. This is wrong. This should have been informational, not a debate.

This is not a debatable issue, Mr. Betras. This is a plain fact—Ohio's doctors are leaving. They're not leaving because they want to move to a warmer climate. They're not leaving so they can afford a bigger house. They're not leaving to be closer to relatives. Ohio's doctors are leaving so they can simply keep doing what they spent 4 years of medical school, 3 to 5 years of residency, and years of practice, on calls, and emergencies learning. They want to continue to be doctors. Unfortunately, the trial lawyers of Ohio are making it impossible, and to make matters worse, they have the gall to tell the public that the suits they generate don't damage the doctors.

In the past few weeks I've heard horror stories emerge from young physicians early in their practices who have had their rates double or triple while their practices are still in the growing stages. I've heard some stories about how Medical Directors of nursing homes have been told by their carriers that they have to drop their directorships or lose their insurance, all the while charging a doubling of the current premium. How do these companies expect these people to pay if they cut their incomes?

The trial lawyers want the public to believe that they are justified in generating their malpractice claims because suing a doctor is "just business". They claim that we have insurance just for that reason. They claim we're not personally damaged by these claims. How would you feel, Mr. Betras, if the pittance you pay for malpractice insurance (an online resource quoted the average rate per year for an attorney as about \$2500) suddenly and without warning rose to about \$100,000 and you had no way to control it, and you've never been sued yourself, and the increase was someone else's fault? What if on top of that you tell your clients that you charge \$200 per hour but they told you your time was only worth \$50 per hour and that's all they're going to pay and that's what you have to take? How are you going to make up all that money for your premium? Chances are that you'd pack up and go someplace where the rates are better or go do something else, or you'd retire if you had enough in the bank. Welcome to the world of the 21st century American doctor.

This nonsense has got to stop. The general public has to know that not only do our insurance rates increase because of indiscriminant nonmeritorious lawsuit filings, their homeowners policies and other polices will feel it too, because these insurance carriers are often diversified in other types of insurance. They have to know that there may not be a doctor to deliver their babies, operate on them, or take care of them as they get older. They have to know that nothing will change unless they pick up the phone and call their local state representatives and ask them to put a stop to it with some new laws. They just have to know, and they have to know NOW.

Stick around. Your medical society is gonna tell them. Don't touch that dial...

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc S. Saunders, DO, FACS". The signature is written in a cursive style.



Fill In the Blanks

Dear (Hospital or Third Party Insurer CEO / President):

I am writing to inform you that as of (date) I will (no longer be carrying malpractice insurance / be reducing my malpractice coverage limits to X / Y). I must take this step in response to the incomprehensible increase in premium rates for the coverage required by your (hospital / insurance panel), as these rates are no longer affordable to me, now that they represent what I feel is an impossible expense for me to maintain my practice of (specialty). These increases in overhead to maintain coverage of \$1 / 3 million, which I feel represents a facetiously exorbitant blanket, will preclude me from maintaining an even marginally profitable business. As you know, this equation is thrown even farther out of balance by the drastic cuts in reimbursement for the services I provide to patients in your (hospital / insurance plan).

I suspect that your response to this notification may be one of concern, but not of concern for me or my practice; rather concern over your potential for relative increased exposure to risk, and I do appreciate that. Unfortunately, the dynamics of this market have already driven a number of my colleagues out of the area, some out of practice altogether, and I refuse to succumb to such radical means. My first allegiance is to my practice, for all it means to my community, my employees, and my family. I am aware that I am assuming the risks inherent to my practice of medicine as my responsibility, and I intend to handle them accordingly, rather than to the extent that you have requested, an extent that quite frankly serves your interests more than mine.

Please note that I am specifically not requesting any financial assistance in paying for said outrageous premiums. I believe that my risk of lawsuit for alleged malpractice relates primarily to my performance of my duties as a physician, and I prefer to accept these risks inherent to my profession. Therefore, it is my intent to cover those risks in the manner which I feel appropriate to my individual circumstance, not with an arbitrary blanket that has been artificially imposed as a condition of privilege to work within your system.

I do not believe that numbers on a page can or should stand in the way of the practice of medicine. Therefore, I fully intend to continue to provide the same quality, ethical, professional services to my patients in need of (specialty) care in our community. I prefer to do so within (your hospital / the context of a provider on your panel), but will do so regardless of your response to this notification.

Sincerely,

Mad as Hell and Not Going to take It Anymore, (MD / DO)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. S. Boniface MD'. The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized script.

Bits 'n' Pieces

CHANGES TO DIRECTORY:

Dropped membership:
Musli Karmindro, MD
J. Ray Bernat, MD
Patrick Shannon, MD

Nancy Gantt, MD - Closed private practice
Chester A. Amedia, MD - Honorary Membership

Congratulations to Dr. Lisa Noble on her marriage. Her name is now Lisa Noble Weiss, MD.

DUES UPDATE

If you haven't paid your 2004 membership dues, you are officially "delinquent"! We still have approximately 40 members whose dues haven't been paid as of this publication. If you are among these members, **please send your payment immediately**. Members with unpaid dues will not be included in the 2004 Membership Directory. There is still time to insure that your listing appears if you submit your dues TODAY. Don't be left out!

In Memoriam
Raymond S. Lupse, M.D.
January 22, 1911 - December 18, 2003

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Internship: Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital, Cuyahoga
Falls, OH

Residency: Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital, Cuyahoga
Falls, OH

Edward J. Miller, MD

Internal Medicine

6505 Market Street
Suite 205
Youngstown, OH 44512

Medical Education: Northeastern Ohio Universities College of
Medicine, Rootstown

Internship: Forum Health Northside Medical Center,
Youngstown

Residency: Forum Health Northside Medical Center,
Youngstown

Douglas D. Lewis, DO

Internal Medicine

Youngstown Community Health Center
726 Wick Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44505

Medical Education: New England College of Osteopathic
Medicine, Biddeford, ME

Internship: Western Reserve Care System, Youngstown

Residency: Western Reserve Care System, Youngstown

Ronald J. Prizant, MD

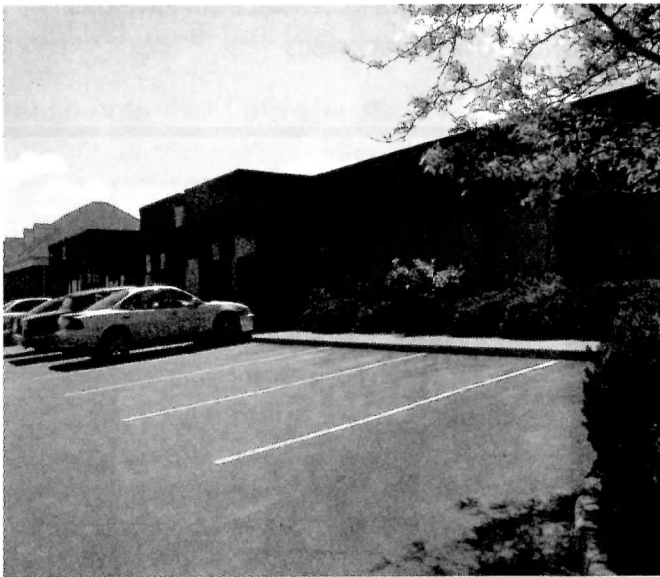
Anesthesiology

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