



Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society

March - April - May 2005

SUSAN YARAB IS "GEM OF THE YEAR"



Mrs. Susan Yarab was honored as the MCMS Alliance "Gem of the Year" at the annual International Dinner, March 18th at Youngstown Country Club. This is the twelfth year for the award, presented to an Alliance member who has generously donated her time and talent to the Alliance and to the support of the Mahoning County Medical Society. The award was presented by Donna Hayat.

Sue has been active with the Alliance since first joining 13 years ago. She was president of the MCMSA in 2000 and has also served in many other capacities in the Alliance. At the state level, Sue served as the AMA Foundation chair from 2001 to 2002, raising money for medical students.

She currently serves as the state Alliance Health Promotion chair, a position she has held since 2003, where she is collaborating with the American Medical Association and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to reduce underage drinking.

Sue holds a degree in exercise science from the University of South Carolina and a BS in physical therapy from the Medical University of South Carolina. She also holds a masters degree in orthopaedic physical therapy from the University of Indianapolis, as well as board certification from the American Physical Therapy Association in geriatrics. Sue puts her 18 years of experience as a physical therapist to good use at PM& R North Physical Therapy Clinic, which she owns along with Power Pilates in Boardman.

Sue was joined for her special evening by her husband, Dr. Ron Yarab, and many family members.



Alliance Honors Ann Might

At the annual International Dinner, which Ann Might cochaired for many years with Heidi Boening, the Mahoning County Medical Society Alliance honored Mrs. Might posthumously with the "Golden Gem of the Year" award. The award was originated last year by then Alliance president Gloria Detesco, who presented this year's award to Mrs. Might's family. Present to accept were Dr. James Might and his daughters Carol and Linda, and Ann's cousin Ethel Vincent. As a special surprise for the Might family, Janeen Williams and her brothers Eric and James McClellan were on hand to entertain with their very special music.



Bulletin

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CALENDAR

June 16, 2005	Canfield Fair Breakfast
June 23, 2005	OSHA Workshop, Antone's Banquet Center, Boardman
Aug. 31 ~ Sept. 5, 2005	Canfield Fair
September 27, 2005	Society Dinner Holiday Inn, Boardman

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From the President by Ronald M. Yarab, Jr., MD

I have nothing more to say!

Well, I was trying to come up with an original article for this installment of the *Bulletin* when it hit me. I have nothing else to say. I have harped on membership in every article; also the value of membership in the Mahoning County Medical Society and the OSMA. Physician apathy has been addressed numerous times with no great increase in participation. I

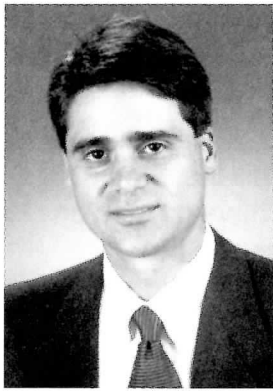
also have discussed the medical malpractice crisis and, luckily, tort reform has been enacted and we should see some results in the next few years in lowering our premiums. I have gone over the politics of medicine and which candidates support our agenda. Insurance reimbursement, Medicare and Medicaid cuts and what organized medicine is trying to do about these questions have also been addressed. (Unless something is done soon, we are slated to receive a 20% cut from Medicare over the next 5 years.)

I have discussed the difficulty of rising overheads in the face of decreasing reimbursements, and the problems of other ancillary health care providers practicing medicine. In case you haven't heard (or pulled your head out the sand or wherever lately), there are numerous bills in the house and senate that basically will allow pharmacists to change your scripts without calling you, physical therapist to perform needle electromyography, and nurse practitioners to admit patients without a supervising physician. So, if you want to continue down this path of decreasing reimbursements and losing your profession to ancillary providers, stick your head back in the sand and continue to be a disgruntled malcontent.

Luckily for you, we have some great people going to bat for you and sacrificing time and money to try to save our noble profession. Yes, money!! It takes tens of thousands of dollars to put together an ad campaign like the "Where Does It Hurt?" campaign we did last year. We are going to continue this year by rolling out a second phase to the "Where Does It Hurt?" campaign. We had a very good meeting last month on what ideas need to be presented next. But I don't need to go into that since you all were in attendance at the last society meeting ...weren't you?? (Dr. Khanna informed me that he was the youngest person at his table. There was only one person under 40 at the meeting.) So don't be surprised if someone asks you to donate to the process.

Quit whining and do something,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronald M. Yarab, Jr., MD". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.

WHO DIED, AND LEFT THEM IN CHARGE?

A short while ago I was looking at an EOB from one of our beloved “third party” insurers, which was denying payment for a service I provided to one of my patients, and one of their customers. The payment was denied, you see, as the service was not “a covered benefit” – OK, fine – but then went on to apply a 70% reduction to the charges anyway, so that what the patient owed was reduced to the amount that would have been paid if the service was “a covered benefit.” How is this possible? Since the service was not part of the contract between the patient and his insurer, what business is it of theirs what the patient pays or what I collect?

I then saw Mrs. C., an elderly woman with dementia living in an ECF, with minimal ambulation, who fell and fractured her arm. One of the first questions from the family was whether I could “get her a wheelchair”, followed shortly thereafter by “will insurance cover it?” My explanation that her insurance won’t likely cover the cost of a wheelchair given the diagnosis of a fractured arm, but that the family could easily go out and rent or purchase said wheelchair with their own money was met with blank stares.

The headline of the local news that night was about a meeting between the leadership of the GM / Lordstown Plant and the Governor’s office regarding the high cost of health insurance for the auto industry and its workers. It seems that about \$2000 of the cost of each and every car GM builds goes to “legacy costs” (health benefits and retirement), and the industry is struggling with this issue, trying to reduce their overhead for what has become their single largest expense, after employee wages, in a very competitive market.

The common thread here is that we, all of us, you and I, our patients as part of the population as a whole, as well as the leaders of business and government, have abdicated any and all reasonable sense of relationship about the realities of what we do and what it costs and who should pay for it. I’m quite certain, buried deep somewhere in my contract that I signed with the insurer, that I will find a provision that allows them to adjust my rates any way they see fit. I’m also certain that the two generations of family in attendance with Mrs. C. that day can scrape up enough to get her a wheelchair, all by themselves. I’m especially certain that the only thing preventing GM from solving their high overhead problem is spelled U-A-W.

We physicians have allowed the insurers, with their promises of easy payments and filled waiting rooms, to call our shots. Patients have been led to believe in insurance as pre-paid, no-risk health coverage for comprehensive services, with no need or responsibility to pull anything out of their pockets. Industry has been coerced and tax-incentivized by unions and government to give benefits in lieu of wages, which feeds the misconception of a large portion of the populace further into the notion of insurance as the ultimate solution to whatever they need.

Can we handle the prospect of some empty chairs in our offices? Can patients be taught that a larger share of their costs can and should come out of their pockets? Can industry compete for workers without pie in the sky promises of all the health care you can eat? In essence, can everyone involved participate in this business with less “insurance” in the way? I don’t know the answers, but these are the questions we need to ask ourselves, our patients, and the leaders of our communities and business in order to help solve the problems with which we are universally faced. The system isn’t working for anyone as it stands now. Let’s try to be honest with ourselves and our patients, if and when we have the chance, to confront the real issues. We have all overutilized insurance for too long – it’s time to look for another way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "T. S. Boniface MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bits 'n' Pieces

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP:

James Might, MD - changed to part-time status
Norma J. Hazelbaker, MD - changed to part-time status

Angela Roberts, MD - changed to part-time status

Change of Address:
Susan G. Kelley, MD
7067 Tiffany Blvd.

Suite 240
Poland, OH 44514
Phone: 330-259-1707
Fax: 330-259-1711

DR. SINSEIMER PLACES IN SWIM MEET

Dr. Robert Sinsheimer, vice president of medical affairs at Forum Health Northside Medical Center, finished third in the 50-yard butterfly and fourth in the 100-yard freestyle in the 55-59 age group at the YMCA Masters National Swimming Championship in Indianapolis, IN. Dr. Sinsheimer swam a personal-best 27.05 in the butterfly event and was just seven-tenths off the national record. His time in the free was 54.81. Congratulations, Dr. Sinsheimer!

2005 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

The 2005 Tri-county Membership Directory is due out any day now. All members with dues paid by March 31, 2005 are included in the directory. Active and retired members will each receive one complimentary copy as soon as they are available. Additional copies may be purchased at reduced rates for members.

DR. TARESHAWTY RECEIVES CERTIFICATION

Dr. Eugene Tareshawty, medical director for Forum Health At Home Hospice, has obtained certification by the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine. He is one of only about 1900 physicians nationwide who have received this certification. Dr. Tareshawty has served as medical director for the organization since 2003.

DR. SUDERSHAN GARG APPOINTED AS YSU TRUSTEE

Governor Bob Taft appointed Dr. Sudershan Garg to the Youngstown State University Board of Trustees. Dr. Garg was appointed for a term ending May 1, 2006, to replace Larry E. Esterly who passed away on May 7, 2005. Dr. Garg, a hematologist/oncologist with the Blood and Cancer Center in Canfield, is also an associate professor of internal medicine at NEOUCOM.

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Trumbull Memorial Hospital
Forum Health WorkMed

Medical Education: Ohio University College of Osteopathic
Medicine

Internship: Western Reserve Care System,
Youngstown, OH

Residency: Western Reserve Care System,
Youngstown, OH

Residency: Aultman Hospital, Canton, OH

Douglas H. Musser, DO

Orthopaedic Surgery/Spine

Youngstown Orthopaedic Associates
6470 Tippecanoe Rd.
Canfield, OH 44406

Medical Education: Ohio University College of Osteopathic
Medicine

Internship: Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital

Residency: Cuyahoga Falls General Hospital

Fellowship: Neurological Surgery of Greater Louisville &
Southern Indiana, Louisville, KY

STILL LOOKING FOR THOSE OLD ROCK 'N' ROLLERS!

We've heard from a few of you, but we know there are still some out there who would really like to jam with your fellow "Rockin' Docs". If you play an instrument ~ even if you haven't played in years ~ you're welcome to join in the fun. Vocalists are also welcome.



Don't put it off any longer, call the Society office. As soon as we've heard from a few more folks, a jam session will be scheduled. Don't miss out!

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International Dinner Honors Doctors

The annual International Dinner, a joint meeting of the Mahoning County Medical Society and Alliance, was held at Youngstown County Club on March 18. A toast to doctors in honor of Doctors' Day, March 31, was presented by Alliance President-elect Carol Sankovic and Myung Lee, Maria Latorre and Gloria Detesco who offered the toast in various languages.

Those in attendance were offered a truly international menu with selections of Chinese, Indian, Italian and German foods. Entertainment was provided by Janeen Williams and her brothers, Eric and James McClellan.

Susan Yarab was honored as the Alliance's "Gem of the Year", and Ann Might received the "Golden Gem of the Year" posthumously.



Another New Member Benefit!

The MCMS is pleased to offer another new benefit to members. Council recently approved an agreement with Shred-It of Cleveland, Inc., a document destruction company.

Shred-It provides a secure, on-site destruction service which eliminates the risks associated with transporting documents before they are destroyed. Shred-It shreds 1500 pounds per hour, yielding a cross-cut, thumbnail size shred. Locked security containers are provided to customers free of charge. A "certificate of destruction" is provided with every visit, stating that confidential documents were destroyed for your practice.

Shred-It is offering members of the Mahoning County Medical Society a discounted rate on the per-minute charge, as well as on the minimum per-visit charge. Existing Shred-It customers who are members of the Mahoning County Medical Society will receive this preferred pricing.

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In Memoriam

Nicholas J. Garritano, MD

September 16, 1929 - March 31, 2005

Howard Rempes

November 28, 1915 - February 23, 2005

SAUNDERS, SUDIMACK ELECTED AT OSMA ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting of the Ohio State Medical Association, held in Cleveland May 20-22, 2005, Marc S. Saunders, DO, immediate past-president of the Mahoning County Medical Society, was elected to the office of Sixth District Councilor. In this position, Dr. Saunders will represent the medical societies of Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana and Stark counties on the council of the OSMA. Dr. Saunders has the distinction of being the first osteopathic physician ever to serve on OSMA Council.

Also at the Annual Meeting, Dr. James Sudimack of the Trumbull County Medical Society was elected to the position of President Elect of the OSMA. He will assume the office of President at next year's Annual Meeting.

Malpractice Commission Final Report "Medical liability crisis persists..."

The Ohio Medical Malpractice Commission, the 10-member commission of doctors, hospitals, lawyers and insurance industry representatives created under tort reform law, issued its final report in April, two years after passing a law that limits noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases.

"While the Ohio medical liability market is beginning to recover, it is still in a state of crisis," the report reads. "Although rate increases are stabilizing, doctors in Ohio are still suffering from the effects of rising rates. Premiums are overall much higher than they were just five years ago."

The lone dissenting voice on the Commission was Toledo trial lawyer Steve Collier, who argued that the facts included in the report appeared to be designed to set up a predestined conclusion in support of tort reform.

The full text of the report can be found on the OSMA website, www.osma.org. Click on "News and Events". Login is required.

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