



Bulletin

of the Mahoning County Medical Society
Third Quarter 2009

MCMS - Your Ticket Connection!

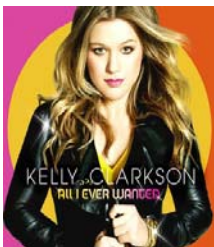
As we have done for the past couple of years, the medical society will continue to offer tickets to local concerts and events to its members. MCMS members can get one free ticket to all events with the purchase of at least one ticket at full price. There is usually a limit of a total of four tickets per member, but exceptions to this policy will be noted. This year we will not be sending individual flyers for each event to every member. Instead members can go to the updated MCMS website, www.mahoningmed.org and download the flyers from the event calendar. As always, ticket requests will be honored on a first-come, first-served basis, and payment must accompany the request. Below is a listing of upcoming events and ticket prices. All events are at the Covelli Centre.



Jeff Dunham, comedian/
ventriloquist
Thursday, October 8, 7:30 P.M.
Tickets \$45.50 each
(VERY limited availability)



Styx & REO Speedwagon
with Night Ranger
Saturday, November 7,
7:00 P.M.
Tickets \$59.50 each



Kelly Clarkson
Saturday, October 17, 8:00 P.M.
Tickets \$47.50 each



Disney on Ice -
100 Years of Magic
Friday, December 18,
7:00 P.M.
Tickets, \$44.00 each



Trans-Siberian Orchestra
Sunday, November 1,
7:30 P.M.
Tickets \$59.00 each

Remember, this offer is for MCMS members only!
Not sure if you're a member? Want to join?
Call the MCMS at 330-533-4880.

Bulletin

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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

September 2 - 7, 2009	Canfield Fair
September 12, 2009	YSU Tailgate Party
October 8, 2009	Comedian Jeff Dunham, Covelli Centre
October 17, 2009	Kelly Clarkson, Covelli Centre
November 1, 2009	TransSiberian Orchestra, Covelli, Centre
November 7, 2009	Styx & REO Speedwagon, Covelli Centre
December 18, 2009	Disney on Ice 100 Years of Magic, Covelli Centre

Classifieds

MCMS Members - place your classified ad here FREE! Up to 25 words. Call 330-533-4880 for more information. Classified ads of 25 words or less are available to non-members for \$35.

Visit our *newly revised* website at
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New E-mail Address

We have a new email address:
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GREEN MEDICINE

“Does it hurt when you do that? Then, don’t do that!” Groucho Marx
“It’s up to me.” Marcus Aurelius

Reality is catching up with us. No matter which side of the aisle one is on, all must agree that while we have the most remarkable system of medical intervention the world has known, the way we consume and pay for it is badly broken. Patients and employers pay more and more, providers receive less and less, where is it all going?

A sustainable system of health care will most definitely involve less utilization (rationing, if you must) in some way. Progressive declines in reimbursement have squeezed inefficiencies out, and the expansion of high tech may have leveled off for the time being. Less utilization need not be feared, however, as the case can be made that much of spending on health is ultimately discretionary. It is certainly so with elective surgery, probably with most helicopter rides, often when selecting between medication regimens, arguably with use of chemo / surgery for advanced cancer, and potentially in the very aged and/or preterminal patient who has never had an open, honest discussion with family or trusted physician about their wishes in such a time, to cite but a few examples.

But who should have the discretion? The patient can exercise control, as in the stoic Emperor Aurelius, but this is highly unlikely, unless the Groucho Marx School of Medicine picks up steam. Government can take control, which many believe is their ultimate goal. (Interestingly, a reduction in spending is a stated government priority, but then why are they budgeting so much more money?) While it seems tempting to give in to a single payor system, which can happen out of fatigue, frustration, or ignorance, I believe this would doom us all to a far worse fate. The government assuming any more control of the perverse system we have will only pervert it further. We as physicians can control utilization, but as we look at any given patient our thoughts can be corrupted by regulations, fear of liability, need for income, and the fact that there is simply not enough time left in the pace of our current practices to know our patients well enough. If we could spend less on everybody, there would be more room to serve those truly in need of the modern marvels we have developed.

To quote yet another long ago celebrity: “We have met the enemy, and he is us.” We are being driven to look at every patient as needing every answer, no matter the cost, or worse yet as “revenue streams”. If physicians could afford to slow down, and pursue reasonable care, one on one with their patients, then other interests would not have the opportunity to come after us. We may be like the farmers who at first saw tremendous gains in productivity with fertilization and chemical manipulation of their crops and livestock, which led to eventual decline in price per unit. They are now struggling to keep overworked farms both productive and profitable. Medicine may have gone too far. Like them, we might be better off returning to a more “organic” method, and rely on the laws of nature as they pertain to us – pursue effective, common means of management, recognize our limitations, and exercise sound control of diagnosis and treatment, with nothing in mind besides the patient.



From the President by Dean R. Ball, DO

Well I hope everyone had a great Spring. I think it was the longest one on record. Hopefully we will get a summer next year. Even better, maybe a little global warming during January and February to make up for one of the coldest Summers on record.

Karyn and I had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Jay Osborne, CMO of Forum Health, Mike Seelman, COO, and Tim Roe, CIO to discuss a new initiative to link all medical records for hospitals and physicians' offices as well. This is called the Health Information Exchange and will provide physicians with the first step towards adopting electronic medical records. This Exchange will be a community-based solution to enable information exchange among members. It will help in Public Health data reporting, E-prescribing, results processing, physician-to-physician communication, as well as physician-to-patient communication. This exchange is not a provider of Electronic Medical Records but will increase the utility of having such a system in one's office. It was reported that the initial financial backing to start such a system will be assumed by local hospitals and maybe some of the stimulus money that we have heard so much about.

I can vouch for the problems that occur in getting imaging reports or even lab results for patients in my own office. Many patients seem to move within our community from one hospital to another and/or physician to physician and it's difficult to keep up with the paper trail. Having an integrated system would make our jobs way more efficient and would give better care to the patient. We would not be the first community to have such an exchange; it is modeled after other systems that have been created. The results have been tremendous.

I would imagine with the inevitable changes soon to be coming in health care, this one will be very positive. Of course tort reform, ability to choose health insurance across state lines, and perhaps medical savings accounts would also work and hopefully will be part of the solution. The Medical Society has been asked to participate in the planning of this Exchange and will be involved in the initial meetings to organize such a plan. Meetings with interested physicians will also be coming soon for their input as well.

The Journey and Heart show was quite a success and Society members will have an opportunity to acquire tickets to upcoming Kelly Clarkson, Styx/REO Speedwagon, Trans Siberian Orchestra and Disney on Ice shows. Sadly, the YSU football tailgate party was canceled due to lack of participation. Maybe next year.

Go Penguins.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean R. Ball, DO". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bits 'n' Pieces

The following doctors have left the area:

Charles DeMario, MD
Joel Siegal, MD
Julius Kato, MD
Douglas Harley, DO

Want to save money on your medical waste? Contact **Accu Medical Waste Service, Inc.** at 866-696-8379. You will be amazed at how much you can save! You must be a member in good standing (dues paid) of the MCMS. For group practices, all physicians in the practice must be members in order to take advantage of the special pricing.

Dues Invoices Mailed

2010 Membership Dues invoices have been mailed. Dues should be paid by December 31, 2009. If you wish to pay by credit card, or set up a payment plan, call the society office at 330-533-4880.

Health System Reform Meeting

We are currently working on an opportunity for physicians to meet with Rep. Tim Ryan to talk about health system reform and express their concerns. Look for more information soon as plans for this important discussion proceed. This event will be open to all physicians in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties, regardless of membership status.

Canfield Fair

Thanks to all the physicians and residents who volunteered to man the "Ask the Doctor" booth at the Canfield Fair. With great weather for five out of the six days, everyone had a great time. Thanks to Dr. Jay Osborne for once again chairing the fair committee, and to these volunteers: Dominic Conti, DO; Tolga Icli, MD; John Venglarcik, MD; Robert Casten, MD; Karolina Hatlapa, MD; Szymon Krzyzanowski, MD; Dinah Fedyna, MD; Charles Crans, MD; Ruperl Patel, MD; Lyn Yakubov, MD; C. J. Julius, MD; Michelle Kapon, MD; Mike Morgan, MD; Steve Swain, MD; Patrick Skarote, MD; Tom Traikoff, DO; Joseph Gregori, MD; Eugene Tareshawty, MD; Shannon Barillare, MD; Sean McGrath, MD; and Augustine Biscardi, DO.

ATTENTION ALL OFFICE AND PRACTICE MANAGERS

Shepherd of the Valley has started an Office Manager Networking Group that meets monthly at Shepherd of the Valley on Western Reserve Road in Poland. Marketing Director Kate Davis would like to extend an invitation to all office and practice managers to attend. Each meeting has a speaker on topics of interest and lunch is included. The meetings generally last only about an hour and are a great way to meet and talk with others who share your interests and challenges.

The schedule for upcoming meetings is as follows:
Thursday, October 22nd
Thursday, November 12th
Thursday, December 10th

All meetings are from 12 noon to 1 P.M. Call Kate Davis at 330-550-3790 for more information or to make a reservation.

Dr. Fred Friedrich Receives Canfield Fair Award

On Wednesday, September 2, 2009, the opening day of the Canfield Fair, Dr. Fred Friedrich was presented with the Jack Schreiber, MD Award for "Meritorious Service to the Canfield Fair and to the Mahoning County Medical Society".

For many years Dr. Friedrich served as chairman of the Canfield Fair Committee, organizing and preparing the "Ask the Doctor" booth and the old physician's office display in the Medical/Health Building. After turning over the chairmanship to Dr. Jay Osborne, Dr. Friedrich continued to help with the setup of the displays each year.

Our deep appreciation goes to Dr. Friedrich for his many years of dedication to the Canfield Fair and to the medical society.



NEW MEMBERS

Joseph Ohr, Jr., MD
Forensic Pathology

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345 Oakhill Road
Suite 320
Youngstown, OH 44502

Medical Education: St. George's University School of Medicine
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Fellowship: Miami-Dade Medical Examiner, Miami, FL

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Canfield Fair



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OSMA Offers Information & Resources on Health System Reform

The Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA) has long advocated that all Americans should have health insurance and high quality, affordable health care, regardless of employment or health status. Now with comprehensive health system reform legislation coming out of Washington D.C., the OSMA is committed to keeping you informed as the process continues. The OSMA website, www.osma.org, contains several links to resources that may answer questions that physicians or patients have about the health system reform debate.

In addition, the OSMA is dedicated to making sure that physicians have a seat at the table for reform discussions. We are actively engaged in conversations with Ohio's Congressional delegation as well as the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor's office on health system reform.

Below are some resources you can find on the website:

Health System Reform Toolkit

Includes a letter from OSMA President Roy Thomas, MD, talking points, a printable patient handout, a patient poster and a roadmap to information.

Organized Medicine's View on Health System Reform

OSMA's Vision for Creating a Healthier Ohio: In 2007, the OSMA created a plan for reforming the health delivery system in Ohio. The plan, called the OSMA's "Vision for Creating a Healthier Ohio," calls for portable universal coverage for basic services through an individual mandate and a focus on wellness and prevention instead of more treatment of illness. The OSMA's "Vision" also recommends more personal responsibility and ownership of one's health insurance all through a mechanism with stable financing. The OSMA was among the first provider organizations to call for an individual mandate for health insurance. For more on the OSMA's Vision, go to www.osma.org.

Ohio Medicine: The recent edition of OSMA's bi-monthly magazine, *Ohio Medicine*, is dedicated to the health system reform debate.

AMA's Vision for Health System Reform: The AMA is committed to achieving health system reform this year that:

- * Protects the sacred relationship between patients and their physicians, without interference by insurance companies or the government.
- * Provides affordable health insurance for all through a choice of plans and eliminates denials for pre-existing conditions.
- * Promotes quality, prevention and wellness initiatives
- * Repeals the Medicare physician payment system that harms seniors' access to care.
- * Eases the crushing weight of medical liability and insurance company bureaucracy.

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In Memoriam

Juan A. Ruiz, MD

June 22, 1934 ~ June 23, 2009

Lester O. Gregg, MD

November 6, 1915 ~ July 6, 2009

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