

Lafayette Parish Medical Society

Quarterly Newsletter

The Status of Louisiana's Malpractice Insurance

Dr Van Culotta gives updates on recent Legislative Session at the next LPMS general membership meeting

The 2010 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature recently ended last month. The session was dominated by the budget crisis and the oil spill. However, LSMS was able to influence some of the bills related to medicine. Dr Van Culotta, Chair of the Louisiana State Medical Society's Council on Legislation, has been very busy defending these bills.

One major win was the bill that removed the Insurance Commissioner from overseeing the PCF. This implies that PCF will no longer have to act like an insurance company by having a huge amount of money in reserve. This will translate to lower PCF premium for health care providers.

Unfortunately, LSMS was unable to get HB 140 out of committee. This bill would have exempt sales tax on medications provided in the office setting. However, the committee did agree to turn the bill into a "study resolution" so there is still possibilities in the future.

There was also a very important SB349 dealing with "balance billing" that was defeated. This bill would have allowed billing "routine charges" for services provided by non-contracted physicians.

HB175, which would have increased the limitation on liability to \$750,000 and the primary layer on physicians to \$150,000, was strongly defeated.

At the next general membership meeting, Dr Culotta will discuss the current state of our medical malpractice act 817 and update us on all the pertinent Legislative activities.

Dr Culotta has been volunteering his time to help LSMS represent all members in legislative activities for over 20 years. We are very fortunate to have such a passionate and dedicated physician leading this fight. Dr Culotta extends an invitation to anyone who would like to accompany him at the State Capital on Wednesday during the legislative sessions.

President's



During this great period of turmoil to the way we practice medicine, it is more important than ever to support organized medicine to help defend our values and beliefs. Unfortunately, the Louisiana State Medical Society and Lafayette Parish Medical Society, is not in complete agreement with the AMA regarding the healthcare reform.

At the March Board of Governors meeting, there was unanimous agreement to support the Coalition of State and Specialty Medical Societies. The primary mission of this coalition is to preserve the time-honored patient-physician relationship by keeping it free of outside influences. This organization is not intended to replace the AMA. It will work within the AMA to better represent our missions.

At the recent AMA House of Delegates meeting, the COALITION was instrumental in passage of resolution 204 which protects the patients and physicians rights to privately contract without penalty by Medicare. We will keep you updated to the COALITION'S actions



Peer-to-Peer
Recruitment
Award

Peer-to-Peer Recruitment Program

A peer-to-peer recognition program is offered by the Louisiana State Medical Society (LSMS) to encourage recruitment of new members. Physician-to-physician contact has never been more important in building the membership of the LSMS and your parish/component society. The increased number of members will strengthen your member organization,

and you will be recognized for your efforts! Here's what you can win -

Top Active Member Recruiter
Top Academic Member Recruiter
Top Military Member Recruiter
Top Resident Member Recruiter
Top Medical Student Member Recruiter

Congratulations to the following doctors for achieving the Peer-to-Peer Recruitment Award.

C. Barrett Alldredge
Anthony Blalock
Lonn Guidry
James Lipstate
Monique Vallee



*Recruit 5 or more
members and receive
free membership for
the following year.*

Lafayette Parish Medical Society

*Would like to invite you and your family the
General Membership meeting*

At Petroleum Club

On Tuesday, August 24th, 2010

6:30-8:00 pm

Guest Speakers include

Dr Van Culotta, Chairman of the Council on Legislation

*"Updates on our Medical Malpractice Laws and 2010 Legislative
Session"*

Dr Patrick Breaux, President of LSMS

Honor "Peer-to-Peer recruitment award" Recipients

Please RSVP by August 20th on our website (www.LPMS.org).

Please indicate any special meal preference.

**LPMS Premed
Undergraduate
Scholarship**

Please join us in
congratulating the
following recipients:

Diego Perez
Camille Robichaux
Iris Trochez

SAVE THE DATE
New Members Reception
617 Beverly Dr, Laf.
September 24, 2010

Welcome New Members to LPMS

We would like to welcome the following new members in 2010:

Dr Mohammad Allam: Cardiothoracic Surgeon
Dr Barbara Deming: OB/GYN
Dr Jennifer Myers: Dermatologist
Dr Monique Vallee: Pediatrics
Dr Michael Prejean: Psychiatry
Dr Michel Heard, Jr.: Anesthesiology
Dr Dennis Eschete: General Surgeon
Dr Brent Mahoney: Radiation Oncology
John Johnson: Medical Student
Danielle Kahanek: Medical Student

We are planning a welcome reception at Dr Debbie Johnson home on Sept 24th. Please check out our website for more information about these new members and the event. (www.LPMS.org)

LEMU in Position for Hurricane Season

The Louisiana Emergency Medical Unit (LEMU), created in 2006 by Dr Andy Blalock and Ashton Langlinais of WOW Technologies, Inc., continues its preparation for the 2010 Hurricane Season. LEMU's function is to close the gap in emergency health services by providing surge capacity to local hospitals and medical relief operations in critical hours after a major natural disaster. In 2008, LEMU provided medical assistance to 199 patients during Hurricane Gustav, and 157 patients during Hurricane Ike.

In addition to the four modular mobile units, which are equipped to provide critical medical support, LEMU has been able to secure three air

conditioned tents for patients requiring quarantine due to epidemic disasters. A more extensive pharmacy has been established with the support of Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center to immediately stock the mobile units from their surplus supplies.

Funding for LEMU is provided by grant funding and individual/corporate donation. Community support is critical to continue emergency healthcare access critical after a disaster. If you are interested in volunteering or donating to LEMU, please refer to the website www.laemu.org for more information or you can call Dr Andy Blalock at 337-852-8771.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

2010 LSMS President's Visions

Dr Patrick C. Breaux of New Orleans Parish Medical Society was installed as LSMS's 130th President at our 2010 Annual Meeting. In his acceptance speech, Dr Breaux stated that his primary focus will be on (1) defending Act 817 and the medical malpractice cap, (2) opposing any cuts in Medicaid and Medicare; (3) expanding membership; and (4) training our next generation of physicians to be effective leaders.

Dr Breaux has been very active pursuing these goals. In April, Lafayette hosted a "Membership and Retention Collaborative" meeting for executive members of all component society. He listened to our concerns and developed a list

of action plans, which can be viewed on our website under Advocacy/Legislative Affairs.

One of the items on the action plan was to improve communication between the state and parish medical society members. Facebook and Twitter sites are now available for all members. All LSMS committee meeting minutes will also be posted on our website (www.LPMS.org).

During this great time of "change", Dr Breaux is also passionate about training physicians to be effective leaders. An Ad Hoc Committee was recently formed to address development of future leaders. This committee will be headed by Dr Roger Smith, Immediate Past President.

"I truly believe that the autonomy of physicians is seriously threatened. Medicine needs strong leaders in all areas to protect our patients from outside forces and preserve the practice of medicine as a profession."

Dr Patrick Breaux, MD
2010 LSMS President

Doctors Take Control of Health Information Exchange

As part of the requirements to meet meaningful use for enhanced reimbursement Medicare schemes, providers will be required to participate in a qualified information exchange. Most providers are overwhelmed by this process, and do not understand how to accomplish connectivity at a reasonable cost.

Having to participate in health information exchanges (HIE) with little representation and with lots of future expense resulted in the establishment of the Health eConnect Collaborative (HCC). This is a collaborative for physicians in the Acadiana region to contain the cost of information sharing. Although there are many efforts to improve electronic health

information sharing through health information exchanges, none of the efforts have focused on providers as end users and payers.

HCC's mission is to reduce the many mistakes and expenses of the EHR and HIE implementation process through cooperative information sharing that is controlled by the cooperative membership.

It is past time that the health care industry takes the initiative in the information sharing practices. HCC would like to discuss the plan for Acadiana's health information sharing through an informal discussion with any interested healthcare provider. Please consider attending to participate in this collaborative effort.

HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE INFORMATIONAL MEETING

ULL LITE AUDITORIUM
537 Cajundome Blvd,
Lafayette, La. 337-735-5483

Thursday, Sept 9, 2010
at 3-5 pm

For more information, please call Paul E. Miller, MD at 337.594.0675 or at pemillerm@gmail.com.

Health care providers and health care services related entities are invited to attend.

DOCTORS HONORED AT VERMILLIONVILLE



Doctors honored for serving the community for more than 40 years: (seated) Dr William Bernard, Dr Sangeeta Shah, Dr Shirley Covington, Dr Robert Tarpy, (Standing) Dr Andrew Harwood, Dr James Blackburn



Past Presidents honored to celebrate 80th anniversary of LPMS: (seated in front) Dr James Lipstate, Dr Adrien Stewart, Dr Shirley Covington, Dr Terry Cromwell, (Standing) Dr Phillip Purpera, Dr Charles Stewart, Dr Andrew Harwood, Dr John Bernard, Dr Lonn Guidry, Dr John Tolson, and Dr Larry Baker.

A great Celebration took place in Honor of Doctor's Day and the Lafayette Parish Medical Society's 80th Anniversary. The festivities were held at Vermilionville on Saturday, March 27, 2010 from 11 am til 2 pm. Over 120 guests were in attendance. Dwight's of Lafayette catered the event with 400 lbs of boiled crawfish and jambalaya. Jingles the Clown made a special appearance to do face painting and balloon animals for the children.



Benefits of Membership

PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY

The political events of the past year have highlighted the great need for physicians to be involved in the LSMS and to have their voices heard in the public arena.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of Public Affairs provides media relations and communications on behalf of physicians and patients, presents a positive image of the profession with the media and the public, and works with statewide media to address healthcare issues from the physician's perspective. It also produces the publications listed below:

- The Journal of the LSMS
- Capsules newsletter
- LSMS eAlerts and legislative bulletins
- LSMS Direct -- an online member directory
- Listing in Independent's Acadiana Medical and Dental Directory annually.

Please consider joining us. Let us know how we can help you practice medicine.

Upcoming Events

SUMMER General Membership

Meeting

- August 24th at Petroleum Club at 6:30 pm
- Topic will be "Updates on the current state of Louisiana's Malpractice Cap and Legislative Session" by Dr Vince Cullota.

New Members Reception

- September 24th at Dr Deborah Johnson's home at 6:00 pm at 617 Beverly Dr, Lafayette.

Save the Date

WINTER General Membership Meeting

- November 9th at Petroleum Club at 6:30 pm
- Dr Ryan, Director of the Pennington Research



Lafayette Parish Medical Society

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New Doc?

Are you new in town? We would love to feature you on our website. Send us a brief biography and picture.

Welcome to Lafayette!