

GENESSEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY Organized Medicine's Leading Edge

THE BULLETIN is published monthly by The Genesee County Medical Society.

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FEATURE ARTICLES

Presidents' Ball 20 GCMS Committee Legislative Liaison

REGULAR FEATURES

President's Messad Editorially Speaking Director's Message GCMS Meetings MSMS District VI L New Members GCMS Board Meet Your \$ At Work Happy Birthday, Do Classifieds

That the Genesee County Medical Society maintain its position as the premier medical society by advocating on behalf of its physician members and patients.

The mission of the Genesee County Medical Society is leadership, advocacy, education, and service on behalf of its members and their patients.

The GCMS Nominating Committee seeks input from members for nominations for the GCMS Presidential Citation for Lifetime Community Service. The Committee would like to be made aware of candidates for consideration.

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* Centers for Medicare and Medicaid data



Read by 96% of GCMS members.

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Our Vision

Our Mission

PLEASE NOTE

COMPASSIONATE CARING

Compassionate Caring! We hope this is how we treat all of our patients. It is a noble goal. Unfortunately, during these difficult economic times even more will be demanded of the medical community in the way of compassion and charitable care.

Some would argue we should provide charitable care because health care is a right. I disagree. I disagree because it cannot be a classic right, as it is not inherent in our being. Rather, health care is a necessity, just like food and shelter. It is because of the

Hippocratic Oath and basic humanity that I argue for charitable and compassionate care.

Throughout this country's history our government

along with physicians have failed many people. That failure is a main reason we have entitlements today and an unfortunate reason that we have such significant health disparities. How do you rectify a history that was not created by us personally? We voluntarily take responsibility for improving the course of history and steering the present into a future we can be proud of.

It starts with compassion and continues with our efforts to become culturally competent physicians who provide the best care for each individual patient who enters our doorways. When you ask patients if they trust doctors, some say "no." When you ask patients if they trust their doctor, they invariably say "yes." That response is a powerful testament to the fact that as individuals, we are personally making a difference in the lives of our patients.

It will take all of us personally to help restore trust in the health care system and actually help those most vulnerable to reduce



John A. Waters, M.D.

their dependence on government entitlements with our compassionate caring, cultural competence and partnerships within our community. In doing so, we take the focus off of health care as a right, and place the focus on providing the "right" kind of care.

I don't need to tell you, as Medical Society members, the importance of our mission, because you have contributed greatly to the charitable care of our citizens via our practices, the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic, Genesee Health Care, and Covering the

Uninsured. I applaud our efforts and encourage you to pursue compassionate caring. If only other components of our community would give similarly.

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GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

DINNER Business Meeting

\$20 per person Hospital Residents \$10 *Reservations required by January 29, 2008.*

FLINT GOLF CLUB 3100 Lakewood Dr., Flint, MI 48507 6 p.m. Registration and Social Hour 6:30 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. Meeting 7:15 p.m. Presentation

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TOPIC The Future of the American Health Care "System"

Presenters: Peter Pratt of Public Sector Consultants and Senator Deb Cherry OTHERS PENDING

IT'S WHAT EVERYONE IS DISCUSSING. IN THE WAKE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS THE ECONOMIC CRISIS, THE PENDING VEBA, AND OTHER STIMULI, WHAT IS COMING? COME HEAR THE VIEWS AND INTERACT WITH EXPERTS ON THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE "SYSTEM".

ALL PHYSICIANS, SPOUSES, AND FAMILY MEMBERS, MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS OF GCMS AND GCMSA AND INTERESTED OTHER PROFESSIONALS ARE INVITED.

> Please mail check with reservations to: Genesee County Medical Society 4438 Oak Bridge Dr., Ste. B Flint, MI 48532

Call Marcia at 810-733-9923 for more information.

IS AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION WORTH...THE COST?

The New Year has arrived, faster than a speeding bullet it seems, and along with the flip of the calendar page comes a litany of New Year's Resolutions from friends, family, patients, colleagues, and even ourselves. These pledges tend to focus on correcting behaviors that effect our physical and financial health and longevity, such as smoking cessation, weight loss, increasing exercise, saving more, spending less, an on and on. Noble as these promises are, come February, most are forgotten or fall victim to procrastination. They are akin to the promises made by candidates in the heat of a political race. When reality strikes, expediency moves into the driver's seat.

Just as some resolutions do result in lifestyle changes in individuals, we can always hope that the new administration's pledge to reform the health care system in the United States is genuine and serious. A story in Time magazine this past November sought to outline problems and trends in our current system. The article points out that, "The biggest problem with the U.S. health care system is that it has long been designed to respond to illness rather than prevent it." It's hard to argue with that statement. So does this mean that our emphasis should be geared more toward preventive medicine?

Preventive medicine used to mean keeping people well by promoting healthy habits, just like those of our previously mentioned resolvers. Lately, the basic medical model seems to be less about health promotion and more about early diagnosis. Early diagnosis is generally a good thing, but it usually involves not saving money but actually spending more. We have to test a lot of healthy people to make sure they are not sick. Some advanced cases of disease are prevented, but any savings are dwarfed by the cost of intervening early in millions of other cases. Early diagnosis often leads to treatment of



Daniel Ryan, MD

others for a disease that may never have bothered them. This is called overdiagnosis. Also, treatments can have risks for harm to patients. Overdiagnosis can be a boon to pharmaceutical manufacturers, hospitals, and physicians. It may create lots of patients who are paying customers. But does it make us a healthier nation at reasonable and affordable cost?

It seems we have a dilemma here. For those who are the recipients of an early diagnosis, the costs and risks are

far outweighed by the benefit to them. However, those who are well are at risk of over-diagnosis. Over-diagnosed patients cannot be helped by prevention because there is nothing to prevent.

The leading cause of death in this country is the same today as it was in 1900, heart disease. It kills 650,000 of us every year. Now, we all have to die of something, but tremendous medical and surgical advances in the treatment of heart disease have not changed this fact. The National Commission on Prevention Priorities has formulated a list of the most valuable preventive services to aid in the fight against heart disease on the basis of two measures; health impact and cost effectiveness. The five clinical preventive services that would have the most impact (in order from greatest to least) include, 1) aspirin therapy, 2) smoking cessation advice and help to quit, 3) cholesterol screening in the past five years, 4) hypertension screening and treatment, and 5) influenza immunization in adults 50 years and older. These measures are not high-tech, highcost, or high-risk, but they are found to be preventive.

So the question becomes, is preventive medicine a help or a hindrance? Probably both. But careful attention to priorities and cost/benefit ratios is the key to effective prevention. In effect, all physicians should practice preventive medicine and remind our patients that good health is its own reward.

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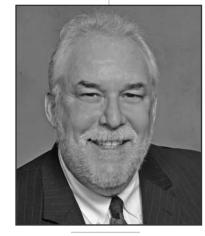
This issue of the magazine will present you with a verbal and photographic taste of the 2008 Presidents' Ball. The Holiday Inn was packed. It was visually magnificent. The music was phenomenal and captured the sense of A Passage to India. The food was delicious. People genuinely had a blast. The entertainment was wonderful. Don't miss it next year. An incredible committee put it together: Lakshmi Tummala, Chair, Cheryl Thoms,

Jeanette Rivera, Kee Kang, Vicki Saalwaechter, Velynda Makhene, Mona Sahouri, Felicity Thompson, Anita Mannam, and S. Bobby Mukkamala, MD, Marcia Gzym, and myself.

The Presidents' Ball has become a significant fundraiser for the society. If you know any potential sponsors for 2009, please do not hesitate to let me know. We appreciate our sponsors very much. They include the following: Genesys Regional Medical Center, Hurley Medical Center, McLaren Regional Medical Center, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan/Blue Care Network, Dr. AppaRao Mukkamala, American Physicians Assurance, Citizens Bank, HealthPlus of Michigan, McLaren Health Plan, Meritel Group, MSMS Physicians Insurance Agency, Complete Eye Care, Meadowbrook Insurance Agency/Star Insurance, Medical Protective, CV

GCMS MEETINGS - JANUARY 2009

1/5, 8 a.m. - Legislative Liaison @ GCMS - Cancelled 1/7, 7:30 a.m. - Bulletin Committee @ GCMS 1/19, 12 Noon - Membership Committee @ Grill of India 1/27, 5:15 p.m. - Finance Committee @ GCMS 1/27, 6 p.m. - GCMS Board of Directors @ GCMS 1/28, 12:30 p.m. - Community & Environmental Health Committee @ TBA 1/22, 8 a.m. Practice Managers @ GCMS



Peter Levine, MPH

Therapeutics, Inc., ProNational Insurance, Quest Diagnostics, Select Specialty Hospital, Wachovia Securities, and donations from:

Michael Boucree, MD, Dr. & Mrs. Clifford Cox, Raymond Rudoni, MD, Allen F. Turcke, MD, and Dr. & Mrs. Robert Soderstrom.

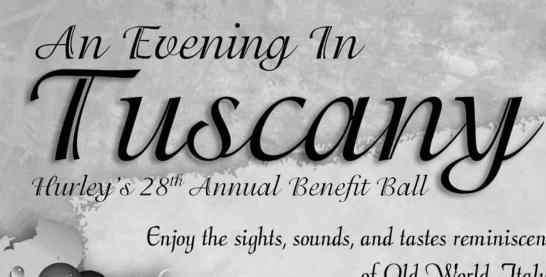
If you would like to read the text of Dr. Anné speech, please go to www.gcms.org, go to the "Members Only" section, sign in and go to the "Member Information" section. If you

do not have a password please contact Marcia at 810-733-9923.

Two issues which we have been working on might be of interest to the membership. The Board assigned Dr. Paul Dake and me to meet with the state police to develop an avenue that physicians and their staff can use when prescription fraud rears its ugly head. In the near future, we expect to work with more police jurisdictions, and involve more physicians in this process.

There have been several incidents of Medicaid patients being referred to Genesee County with transportation and even hotel stays provided because care is not available in their home community as far away as the east and west coast of the state. This is an issue which we are working on. As far as we know the activity has stopped at least as it relates to referrals into this county. Please let us know if there are other examples that we are not aware of.

As the year begins, we all know that health care system reform was one of the primary issues in the just completed presidential campaign. Please reserve February 5 to come to the next Dinner Business meeting: The future of the American Health Care "system". We will all hear from experts in the fields which will influence this process.



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Enjoy the sights, sounds, and tastes reminiscent of Old World Italy.

March 7, 2009 Holiday Inn-Gateway Centre

Cocktail Reception Dinner Entertainment & Dancing

6:00 p.m. 7:20 p.m. 9:00 p.m.

A Black Tie Gala Benefiting The Injury Prevention and Child Safety Programs at Hurley Medical Center

R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, February 25, 2009. For reservation information call Angie Cuneaz: 810-257-9399.



NO REST FOR THE WEARY: A LOOK AT THE YEAR AHEAD

An election year can seem like an eternity, especially when it's surrounded by threats of Medicare cuts, an uninsured crisis, unemployment, market deflation, and...well...you know the rest.

But sometimes an election year can bring with it a new enthusiasm, a chance to start over with promising ideals and lofty aspirations. At the recent meeting of the MSMS Board of Directors, I can tell you that enthusiasm and positivity filled the room. Your medical society understands that where there is crisis, there is opportunity.

So, as we look ahead to the new year, I wanted to use this column to discuss

some of the problems opportunities we will be facing in 2009.

Fixing the Medicare Payment Formula - MSMS advocacy helped to pass the "Medicare Improvements for Patients & Providers Act of 2008,"

which kept the 0.5 percent physician payment update and an additional 1.1 percent update in 2009. Despite the temporary fix, organized medicine remains vigilant. GCMS, MSMS and the AMA continue to work with legislators and we believe that a permanent solution may be within reach this year.

MSMS Establishes Nation's First Statewide Physician Network -MSMS recently announced that, starting in January, it will be offering to its members a statewide physiciansponsored electronic portal called MSMS Connect. The basic portal is a free benefit to members that securely connects physicians to patient data and to key resources - all through a



Venkat Rao, MD District VI Director convenient, single sign-on portal. It will use Compuware's Covisint subsidiary technology, securely connecting physicians to patient information and to each other for referrals and consultations - as well as to labs, patient registries and other resources.

MSMS Will Push for ICD-10

Delay - MSMS will push for a delay in the implementation of the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10), which is set to take effect on October 1, 2011. MSMS contends that physicians and their staff will not have adequate time to transition smoothly from 17,000 to 155,000 codes (an almost

tenfold increase) by that date, and that the transition must allow for steps that cannot be rushed, such as physician education, software vendor updates, coder training, and testing with payers.

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Educational Opportunity: Patient Centered Medical Homes - MSMS will continue its timely

and relevant educational programming by offering a series of three educational sessions on the patient centered medical home, a model of health care delivery that provides comprehensive care for children, youth and adults. Programs will be held in Troy on Wednesday, January 28; Wednesday, February 25; and Wednesday, March 25. For more information or to register, visit www.msms.org/eo.

Smoke-free Air in Michigan's Workplaces - It has been a long, uphill battle so far, but Lansing lawmakers know that the Campaign for Smokefree Air (of which GCMS and MSMS are a part) is not going away until Michigan's workforce is safe from deadly second-hand smoke.

Protecting Patients by Protecting Scope of Practice -Your medical society will continue to work diligently to stop legislation that would expand chiropractic scope of practice from the "spinal column" to the "musculoskeletal system." The bills specifically would add "differential diagnosis" and "physical modalities and rehabilitative services" to chiropractors' scope. In addition, this would allow chiropractors to order MRI, CT scans, PET scans, and almost any other imaging test.

Remember: You can read about all these issues - and take action through the online MSMS Action Center - simply by visiting www.msms.org.

AMA Approves Hypnotherapy as a Healing Modality (Headline, circa 1958!?!)

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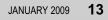


Practices That Set The Standard

By Lakshmi Tummala

A Passage to India & If there is one event in town that brings the whole medical community and its friends together, it is the GCMS/GCMSA Presidents' Ball in honor of the past presidents of both organizations. This much-awaited and most enjoyable gala was held at the Holiday Inn - Gateway Center on Saturday, November 1. The theme this year was, "A Passage to India" in honor of the out-going GCMS President Dr. Suresh Anne who hails from India. The Ball Committee worked hard to put together this event giving much attention to every detail, from the beautiful invitations to the table decorations, from the

Presidents, Ball





scintillating music to the delicious and spicy food.

The fall evening called for balmy weather. Guests started arriving dressed in their finest attire. The Indian ladies turned up in their traditional silk saris with exotic and rich designs. Some physicians even sported their traditional garb. The cocktails and hors d'oeuvres were served in the beautiful and spacious atrium. The place soon filled with guests socializing with each other and helping themselves to tasty tidbits. Soon, it was time for dinner and the guests were ushered into the ballroom which was transformed into a bygone era in Indian history. Crushed silk tablecloths in shades of sunset colors covered the tables. The center pieces were decorated with carved, wooden pillars filled with beautiful flowers, in rich fall colors, and dripping with jewels. At the far end of the room, was a gazebo draped in beautiful saris. This being the time of Diwali, the Indian "Festival of lights" celebrated throughout India, hundreds of tea lights were placed around the center of the tables, cast a soft light on the gems spread all over the table. The effect was spell binding, reminiscent of the rich banquet rooms of royal palaces.

Dr. Anne welcomed everyone and recognized the evening's distinguished guests: Congressman Dale Kildee, MSMS Executive Director Julie Novak, MSMS President Dr. Michael Sandler and MSMS Presidentelect Dr. Richard Smith, MSMSA President Lakshmi Tummala, MSMS Past Presidents Drs. Cathy Blight and AppaRao Mukkamala. After a short business meeting, he turned the podium over to Dr. Srinivas (Bobby) Mukkamala who was the evening's Master of ceremonies. Dinner was announced and the guests were led to the buffet tables laden with a wide variety of mouth-watering dishes. The carefully prepared food had dishes for everyone's taste. The chef went out of his way to include some all time Indian favorites like chicken curry, mixed vegetable masala, basmati pulao and raita. Soft music on the "sitar" (Indian string instrument) played in the background.

After dinner, a special video produced by Dr. Bobby Mukkamala on Dr. Anne was shown. Bobby's son Deven and Dr. Samasandrapalya Kiran played Dr.

Presidents Bal Anné's role during his childhood and later years; Bobby's wife Dr. Nita Kulkarni played a cameo role in this hilarious movie. Dr. Jagdish Shah played a couple of musical numbers on an Indian string instrument, the "bul bul tarang" that every one listened to with great interest. It was back to business as usual. GCMSA President, Beth Schumacher was invited to give a report on the Alliance. Then, Dr. Edward Gullekson installed Dr. John Waters as the 2008-2009 President of GCMS. Dr. Suresh Anné, in his exaugural speech thanked his board, staff, and colleagues for the tremendous support given him during his tenure. To read Dr. Anné's speech in its entirety please go to the GCMS website www.gcms.org. It is in the "Members only" section, and under "Member Information." For a password please contact Marcia Gzym at 733-9923. The highlight of the evening was a song rendered by Lajari Anné dedicated to her father Suresh. Her beautiful and haunting voice brought the house down. Dr. Waters, in his acceptance speech, said that it was an honor to be elected president of GCMS and that he was looking forward to a very productive year. Congratulations Dr. Waters!

It was then time for dancing and revelry. Pete Levine, Executive Director, GCMS recognized the past presidents from GCMS and GCMSA. They were asked to join Drs. Suresh and Aruna Anné on the dance floor. The disc jockey played a wide selection of music. The danced floor was soon filled with dancers swaying to a music mix of old and new, pop and jazz numbers interspersed with some catchy Indian songs from Bollywood movies. The delectable lemon and cheese cakes plus an assortment of Indian desserts disappeared in no time! The evening offered all the guests a taste of India.



GCMS/MSMS NEW MEMBERS

APPLICATIONS

Seann E. Wilson-Carr, MD Orthopedic Surgery Family Orthopedic Associates 4466 W. Bristol Rd., Flint, MI 48507 PH: (810) 733-1200 Fax: (810) 733-1265 Dr. Wilson-Carr received her medical degree from Wayne State University, Detroit, MI in 2002. She performed her residency at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL and Scripps Clinic, La Jolla, CA. Dr. Wilson-Carr is sponsored by Amitabha Banerjee, MD and S. Bobby Mukkamala, MD.

Syed Aftab Karim, MD

Insight Institute of Neurosurgery & Neurosurgery (IINN) 4800 S. Saginaw, Ste 1800, Flint, MI 48507 PH: (810) 732-8336 Fax: (810) 2394346 Dr. Karim received him medical degree from Brown University, Providence, RI in 1999. He completed his residency at Louisiana State University, Shreveport, LA in 2006. Dr. Karim is sponsored by Amitabha Banerjee, MD and S. Bobby Mukkamala, MD.

GCMS New Resident Members

Mazan Al-Qadi, MD Aamir Ansari, MD Azar Morrouf, MD Ankur Bhardwaj, MD Goyal, Vaibha, MD Smitha Iyer, MD Jafar Kafaie, MD Binay Kumar, MD Madka Odogwu, MD Mohammad Omaira, MD Jitendra Sah, MD Sampath Santhanam-Ethiraj, MD Imran Shafique, MD Raminder Singh, MD Mukesh Thawani, MD



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Harris Dabideen, M.D., Surgical Director

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Name: Paula Procedure: Roux-en-Y Lost: 103 lbs. Gained: Her Life Back!



Genesee County Medical Society Board of Directors Meeting – October 28, 2008

MINUTES

Motion:

That the Budget Report for the period ending September 30, 2008 and projections for October 31, 2008 be approved as presented. <u>The Motion Carried.</u>

Motion:

That the proposed Budget in its amount of \$258,200 for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 be approved as presented. <u>The Motion Carried.</u>

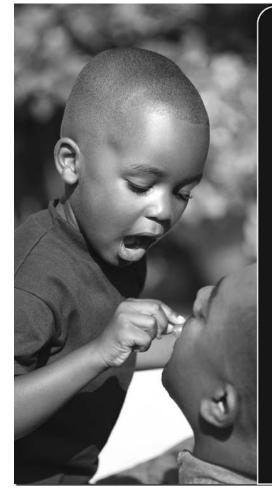
Motion:

That GCMS investigate and implement a process to have residents and fellows seated on the GCMS Delegation. <u>The Motion Carried.</u>

Motion:

That requests for membership be approved as presented.Request for Membership:Gordon Mc Climans, II, DOJoyce Stevens, MD

John Bitner, MD



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New Resident Members: Shivani Bishnoi, MD James Donovan, MD Gurvinder Kaur, MD Visalakshi Kunapuli, MD Mohamed Mansour, MD Maria E. Smith, MD Muni Theertham, MD The Motion Carried.

Mahesh Borhade, MD Hilana Hatoum, MD Robert Kinzinger, MD Eli Lotsu, MD Faranak Sarajzadeh, MD Vamsi Sreedharala, MD Divya Thomas, MD

Motion:

That the same physicians that attended the spring meeting with HealthPlus on its Clinical Quality Scoring and Member Satisfaction Program be reconvened to meet with Eric Helm and others of HealthPlus in the near future. <u>The Motion Carried.</u>

Motion:

That Drs. Suresh Anné and John Waters as President and President-Elect, Dr. Abd Alghanem, as a Board of Medicine member, and Peter Levine meet with the editor of The Flint Journal to note GCMS's concern about placement of such an article in newspaper at all. The article itself is very slanted and positioned on the front page. <u>The Motion Carried.</u>



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Edsil Asis De Ocampo, MD Mohammad Katout, MD Maral Kojaian, MD Ezequiel Martinez-Madrigal, MD Poonam Singh, MD Jyothsna Talluri, MD Enson Tseng, MD

YOUR \$\$\$ AT WORK

GCMS began forming relationships with new legislators

GCMS helped physician with personal insurance company claim

GCMS continued working on the issue of prescription fraud with local police

GCMS provided strategic planning expertise to a county medical society

GCMS continued work on physician engagement with looking towards of a Greater Flint Health Coalitions Regional Health Information Exchange

GCMS continued to provide representation on myriad Greater Flint Health Coalition task forces and committees



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Announcement

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Any physician volunteering for any committee was placed on the committee(s) of their choice. Physicians still wishing to volunteer for committees are encouraged to do so.

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AID TO IMPAIRED PHYSICIANS

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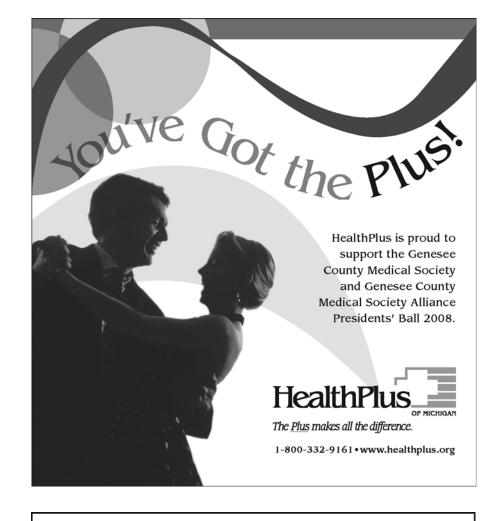
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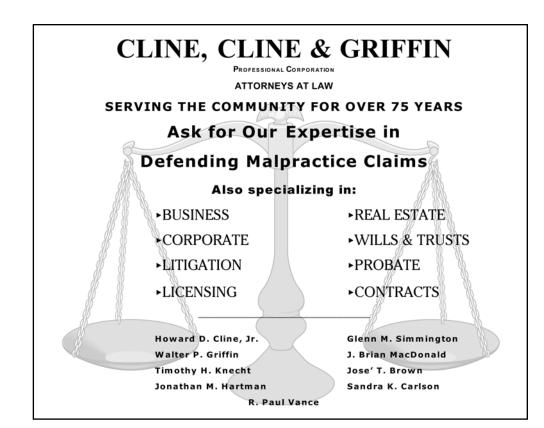


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LEGISLATIVE LIAISON **COMMITTEE** PRESENTS BOARD PROCLAMATIONS

On December 1, the Legislative Liaison Committee met with Representatives Brenda Clack, Lee Gonzales, and David Robertson. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed election results, implementation of the ballot initiatives which passed, and projected activities by the legislature during the lame duck session. In addition, Dr. Blight presented Board Proclamations of Appreciation to term-limited State Representatives Brenda Clack and David Robertson.



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