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THE Bulletin

JULY 2009 Volume 85 Number 7

**THE 2009 GCMS
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THE Bulletin

Read by 96% of GCMS members.

FEATURE ARTICLES

<i>Bullies in Cyberspace</i>	7
<i>Healing Hands Run/Walk</i>	9
<i>GCMSA President's Annual Report</i>	11
<i>GCMSA Officers</i>	12
<i>Inaugural Speech</i>	14
<i>Geranium Lunch</i>	16
<i>GCMSA Membership</i>	17
<i>Health Careers</i>	18
<i>Reach Out and Read</i>	20
<i>GCMSA Plays Host to MSMSA</i>	21

REGULAR FEATURES

<i>President's Message</i>	4
<i>Editorially Speaking</i>	6
<i>GCMS Meetings</i>	7
<i>Director's Message</i>	8
<i>MSMS District VI Update</i>	10
<i>New Members</i>	16
<i>Your \$ At Work</i>	18
<i>Happy Birthday, Doctor</i>	22
<i>Classifieds</i>	22

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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

PLEASE NOTE

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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ECONOMIC REALITIES

Health care now represents 17% of our economy or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and is growing. Health care is heavily regulated as government directly pays about half of that money (and money never comes without strings). GM is now in bankruptcy largely due to irresponsible promises including lifetime health care and long retirements without funding them as the obligations were incurred. Our US government has the same problem. It has promised retirements through Social Security while spending all the contributions as they arrived. The same is true for Medicare, but the costs have escalated so fast that it has been deficit spending since 2007. On a cash flow basis Medicare is already bankrupt! And the baby boomers have not even begun to receive benefits.



John A. Waters, M.D.

At the May GCMS Board of Directors meeting, a unanimous vote was cast to support the Hurley Medical Center Millage. It is an economic reality that Hurley needs help and this community needs a healthy Hurley. Please vote for it in August!

Our GDP is about \$13.84 trillion. In today's dollars our debt for Social Security is \$6.8 trillion and for Medicare it is \$34 Trillion. Our government's current debts are \$11.4 trillion. The total indebtedness is \$52.7 trillion or about 4 times our entire country's GDP. Medicare spending from 2000 to 2007 increased 270%. As a country we are quickly approaching a tipping point. Clearly, we must make more responsible decisions.

In addition, preventative care is not well covered under the government programs and neither is long-term care. Medicare claims data indicate only about 8% of recipients get an eye exam to detect glaucoma and other eye disease in any year.

So what has been tried? Hawaii has tried government-funded universal healthcare and ended it when it nearly bankrupted the state. Massachusetts is trying a mandate for private (often individual) insurance coverage and is having some problems. It clearly should be watched. Tennessee has also tried universal health care and also nearly bankrupted the state. Recently, Tennessee began a basic plan with simple office visit, generic drug and limited testing and hospital related coverage. This limited coverage has satisfied many. Across the globe, government run

universal health care has resorted to serious delays, cues and/or extremely limited care to keep costs reasonable.

So how do we update health care in a responsible way? Following our principles will allow us to develop some general guidelines and goals of what we should advocate for in our future system.

1. Individuals are key decision makers in their own health care including choice of personal physicians thus maintaining the doctor-patient relationship, and choice (including ownership) of insurance,

2. Similar tax treatment of all health care and insurances costs,

3. Mandates minimal (catastrophic) continuous insurance coverage, while allowing a wide range of choice of coverage

4. Guaranteed issue of insurance, allowing persons to group together for better rates, portability (not linked to employment) and the purchase of insurance across state lines,

5. Transparency of pricing across all of health care,

6. Limit the role of government, those who make the market conditions through the rules of law should not be competing in that market.

Let me know your thoughts.

Announcement

GCMS members now entitled to 15% discount on automobile and homeowners insurance.

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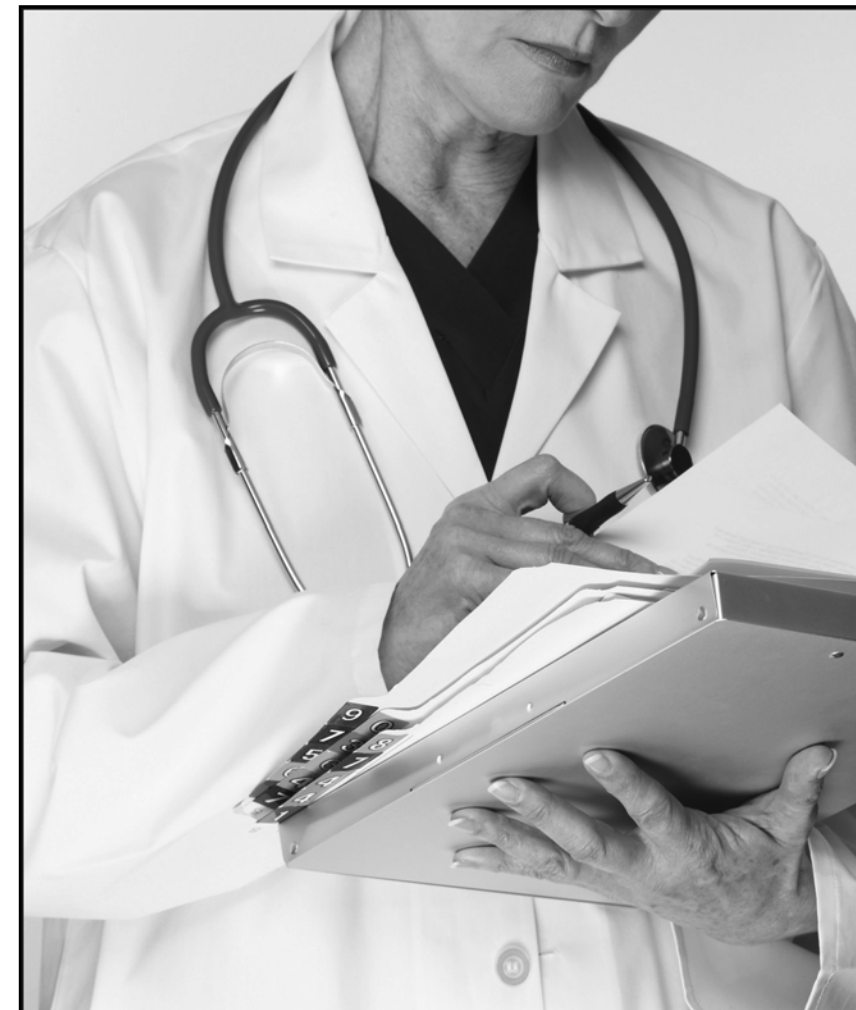
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THE ALLIANCE 2009: STILL GOING STRONG

An alliance is a bond, association, or connection between individuals or groups, to identify common interests and further common goals. The Genesee County Medical Society Alliance (GCMSA), to which the July issue of *THE BULLETIN* is devoted each year, is a volunteer organization that is a vital and active ally of the Genesee County Medical Society.

This past May 19th at the annual Geranium Luncheon held at Warwick Hills, GCMSA members gathered to thank Beth Schumacher for a job well done as president for the past year, and to welcome Elizabeth Jordan as the incoming president for 2009-2010. The number of events and activities organized and promoted by the GCMSA over the past year is remarkable.

September brought the annual International Luncheon at the home of Mona Sahouri. Also, the Capitol Check-Up was a great opportunity for organized medicine to meet with legislators and other power brokers in Michigan state politics to create a dialogue regarding issues important to both camps. An evening of wine sampling accompanied by gourmet hors d'oeuvres prepared by chef Luis Fernandes was well attended and a big hit in October. The November highlight was the annual President's Ball with the theme of A Passage To India honoring outgoing president Dr. Suresh Anne and opening the term of Dr. John Waters. Also in November, the GCMSA was represented at the American Arab Council's annual Art and Health Fair by Lakshmi Tummala, Mary Lou Mathias, Mona Sahouri, and Fadwa Alghanem. They were able to educate attendees of the fair about GCMSA programs that promote health in our community. The Good Friends Group held a luncheon at the Flint Golf Club in December.

The new year found Jay Kommareddi hosting a



Daniel Ryan, MD

lunch that celebrated diversity in the local medical community. Members had the opportunity to discuss and learn about customs, cultures, and religions that make our area unique. A tour of the Mott Children's Health Center was eye-opening and a fashion show in March was for fun. The MSMSA Annual Session was held in Flint in early May, followed by the annual Healing Hands 5K Run/Walk in mid-May that benefits the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic.

Programs and Committees that are the core of the goals of the Alliance are continuing to do their good work. Doctors and Their Families Make A Difference collects personal items and toiletries that are desperately needed by the YWCA Domestic Violence/Sexual Abuse Services Shelter in Flint. The Health Careers Program allows the opportunity for kids interested in a career in the health fields to gain experience while volunteering at local hospitals. Screen Out is a program that lobbies the film industry to keep youth oriented movies tobacco free. It pushes for R ratings for films that promote smoking to young people. Reach Out and Read and SAVE are programs that promote early reading skills and alternatives to violence as a solution to problems, respectively.

Special interest groups are popular such as the Gourmet Club, Investment Club, Friendship Group, and a group that supports spouses working in the medical office. In other words, The GCMSA offers something for everyone.

The GCMSA continues to be the most active and involved Alliance group in the state, maybe in the entire country, thanks to dedicated volunteers with good ideas and the energy to implement them. Remember, membership has its privileges.



Bullies in Cyberspace

By Mary Lou Mathias, RN; BS; MA,
Health Promotion Chairman, GCMS Alliance

You may remember getting 'bullied' as a kid in school or on the playground, but nowadays your kids might be getting 'bullied' online as well and the bad guys are not always who you think. A bully can be a girl spreading rumors about a former friend, or a student trying to get revenge on a teacher who gave them a bad grade, or a group of kids playing a prank on an unsuspecting schoolmate. Cyberbullying is a complex beast.

Often it starts with otherwise nice kids from nice families who go online to "have a little fun" at someone else's expense. But it can get out of hand very quickly.

Bullies are resourceful. With all the high-tech tools out there, they can take their pick from cell phones, pagers, websites, blogs, chat rooms or e-mails. They can go on a site and invite other people in to help bully their victim, by asking them to comment on their picture. They can create a webpage that looks like it belongs to the person being bullied, but it is malicious. They can enter an e-mail address and have their victim spammed with messages from websites they've never visited. They can put up embarrassing pictures, or even use a tool like Photoshop to adjust a picture and make it look different.

Although cyberbullying is a relatively new phenomenon, there are things that you can do to help. The following tips are provided courtesy of the Princeton Review.

You can't help with cyberbullying if you don't know it's going on. Make sure that your children feel comfortable coming to you with a problem. Many kids worry that their parents will blame them and react by taking their Web privileges away.

- Don't confront the bully or the bully's parents unless you are 100 percent sure it won't make things worse for your child. Bullies will often become worse when parents intervene.
- Do a Google search for your child's name on the web so you can identify any instances where they've been mentioned, bullied or publicly embarrassed.
- Don't let your child keep profiles of themselves on websites. They become easy targets for bullies, in addition to being magnets for solicitation.
- Know everyone on your child's buddy list. Learn how to block unwanted interaction.
- Keep printed copies of all bullying messages in their entirety. It's especially important to save the header information, which helps law enforcement track the problem.
- Introduce the idea of a bullying curriculum for your child's school.

GCMS MEETINGS - JULY 2009

Recessed for July - Legislative Liaison @ GCMS

7/1, 7:30 a.m. - Bulletin Committee @ GCMS

Recessed for July - Membership Committee @ Grill of India

Recessed for July - Finance Committee @ GCMS

Recessed for July - GCMS Board of Directors @ GCMS

Recessed for July - Community & Environmental Health Committee

@ Sagano Japanese Restaurant

Recessed for July - Practice Managers @ GCMS

11/7 - Presidents' Ball

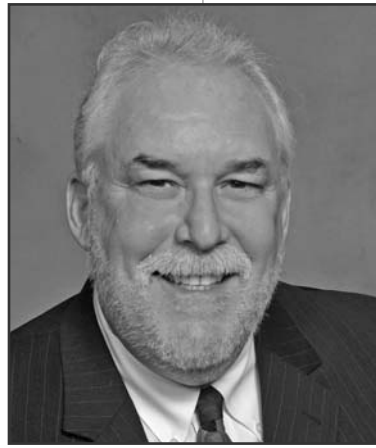
GCMSA – THE ALLIANCE OF ALLIANCES!

I love the July issue of *The Bulletin*. We produce it every year so that all can see that GCMSA is the Alliance that eclipses all other Alliances. I would like to compliment Beth Schumacher on a fantastic presidential year.

Everything that the Alliance did this year was a success. The cultural diversity meeting that was featured in articles in *The Flint Journal* and *Your Magazine* was most impressive.

The Genesee County Medical Society Board of Directors unanimously voted to support the Hurley Millage. Please vote for it on August 4!

That meeting reinforced the fact, that this is a diverse medical community which works beautifully together. The Genesee County Free



Peter Levine, MPH

Medical Clinic's 5K Run/Walk was another success. The Free Clinic would never be able to replace the Alliance as a key supporter. The medically indigent working poor owe GCMSA more than they can ever know! While the physicians provide the care, it is the Alliance that works to fund the infrastructure that allows the care to be provided. Doctors and Their Families Make a Difference Day is a wonderful thing. The Hands Are Not For Hitting Project is something which has affected many children. The Reach Out and Read Project is important! We know that the GCMS Alliance will continue moving aggressively forward, on a political level too. That is the never ending obligation of all of us, to represent physicians, their families and their patients in all important venues. The Presidents' Ball provides so much fun for everyone. We thank the

Alliance for all of those things and for so much more! Thanks to all GCMSA members who are involved in committees, as chairs, and officers. Your inclusiveness is critical to your success. So is your organizational focus. Here's to a great year with Dr. Elizabeth Jordan leading the Alliance of Alliances!

Our two organizations support each other in ways that are really positive. As a consequence, both are without parallel anywhere.

We would hope that all GCMS members will give their spouses its gift of a GCMSA membership. The costs are

minuscule and a GCMSA application is in this issue of *The Bulletin*. If they were to join, they would get much more than their dues dollar back in return. We hope that all Alliance members will push their spouses to join the Medical Society too!



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14th Annual Healing Hands 5k Run/Walk

The annual Healing Hands race was held on Saturday, May 16th. It was great weather- no rain and pleasant temperatures. We had 310 participants. The race generated around \$100,000. again this year.

The Alliance and the Phi Delta Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International worked hard to make the race have another successful year. The organizational skills of the committee is to be commended. They are a wonderful group of women, most of whom have devoted years to the Healing Hands race. From the food committee to the signs and the awards, and all of the permits, the countless hours of behind the scenes work, the committee handles it all with ease.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers that came out on the day of the race to help on the race course as well as inside the field house including the Grand Blanc High School students who were eager to help and did a fantastic job!

The Genesee County Free Clinic is grateful for everyone's time and effort to make this race successful every year. It enables the clinic to stay open and treat the patients in our community most in need of healthcare. They are our number one reason to hold this race every year. Otherwise they would go without treatment. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your help.

If you haven't helped with the race or participated in the race- please think about coming next year- You won't regret it.

Sincerely,
 Marianne Almeida, Co-chair



INDIVIDUAL MARKET REFORM: PART II? SENATE, HOUSE INTRODUCE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILLS TO COVER UNINSURED

The state Senate and House recently introduced bill packages that aim to reduce the number of uninsured in Michigan and reform the individual insurance market. Both of these legislative proposals are efforts to move individual market reform forward in the context of more comprehensive reforms.

If that sounds familiar, it's because last session we saw similar efforts fail because the legislation tended to disproportionately favor Blue Cross. This time, each bill package also includes a host of other reforms that aim to cover the growing number of uninsured individuals in the state and enact many consumer protections.

The Senate and House packages are similar in that they both have strategies to protect consumers from being dropped for pre-existing conditions, and they both offer plans to cover those who are uninsured and don't qualify for Medicaid.

The House version seeks to expand coverage for children by expanding MICHild coverage to children in households up to 300 percent of the federal poverty level (for a family of four this would be \$66,150). This program would be funded by an assessment on non-profit insurers equal to their state and local tax exemptions.

The Senate version, also referred to as "MI Health," takes a two-tiered approach to cover the uninsured regardless of age. For recipients up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, the program expands Medicaid coverage. For recipients up to 300 percent, the program creates a sliding scale subsidy for coverage offered by insurers for products meeting certain criteria determined by an independent administrative board. The Senate version is funded by a combination of increases to the existing provider taxes and a one-percent premiums tax on all insurers, including third-party administrators. At this time, a physician tax is not being considered.

But perhaps the most surprising similarity in both proposals is the apparent consensus on a form of high-risk pool. Both versions allow Blue Cross to maintain its



*Venkat Rao, MD
District VI Director*

"insurer of last resort" status and contain a proposal for reinsurance to all carriers in the individual market for claims exceeding \$25,000 in a single year. Both versions fund this mechanism with proportional contributions from the plans in the individual market. And both versions rely on an independent board to administer this reinsurance. This represents a shift in thinking from last session when the concept of a high-risk pool was rejected by the Senate and many of the stakeholder groups – including MSMS – that participated in these negotiations.

The versions differ in many technical areas related to underwriting. The Senate version assumes that appropriate

competition exists within the individual market and prohibits certain abuses. Under the Senate plan, rescinding coverage based on a medical condition would be prohibited, as would closing books of business for the purpose of shedding "bad" risk obtained over time.

The House version seeks more regulation in this area by legislatively specifying medical loss ratios (MLR) for various types of plans while also placing limits on the highest rate an insurer can charge an individual relative to the lowest rate the carrier charges (rate bands). These differences are significant in that they reflect the divergent view among insurers as to the root cause of the problem. Blue Cross contends they need rate bands and mandated MLR in order to protect themselves from commercial insurers "cherry picking" the good risk. Commercial insurers contend that this phenomenon is overstated by Blue Cross and is part of their responsibility as insurer of last resort.

The proposals do not address all of the relevant issues, and MSMS can have even more influence on the direction of the discussion and injecting the critical elements of the Future of Medicine and market reform discussions MSMS has undertaken.

Both packages are being addressed in committee workgroups at this time. MSMS will keep members posted on any developments and opportunities for leadership and grassroots action.

GCMSA PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR GCMSA- 2009

By Beth Schumacher, President of GCMSA

We have been busy in our county this year with revising the by-laws and the budget. The committee submitted the revised by-laws to the January board meeting and they were approved. The revised by-laws were available at the January general meeting as well as on the Website. We voted on the by-laws at the May general meeting and they were passed with a unanimous vote. The major change in the by-laws was to move from a number of different membership categories to one universal category where everyone paying dues is a member.

We held our International Luncheon meeting at Mona Sahouri's home. It was well attended and we had lots of food, fellowship and fun.

In October a wine tasting seminar and gourmet food tasting was held at the home of Mary Ryan. This meeting was held on Friday evening and spouses were invited. Everyone agreed that the food and wine were a wonderful treat.

We held the annual Peace Day Celebration Oct 11th. This is the day that the Genesee County Committee for Community Peace had their peace march. We participated in the march and provided the prizes for the writing contest for school children and teens.

The legislation group attended the Capital Check-up in September and October they held an organizational meeting about the upcoming election and ballot. In February they went to MSMS and attended the meeting for newly elected officials.

In November we held the annual President's Ball at the Holiday Gateway Center. As usual the Ball Committee did a fabulous job. It was entitled a Passage to India. The ball honors GCMS and GCMSA past presidents.

We had a great luncheon in January at the home of Jay Kommareddi. We discussed our cultural and religious diversity. We had five speakers from different cultures and religions and were able to ask questions freely and discuss our differences. The Flint Journal and Your Magazine did an article on our meeting. It was well attended and lunch was prepared by Chef Luiz Fernandez of the Big Eazy Grill. It was informative and we were able to show how our alliance from all different backgrounds can all work together for the medical community.

In February we held a meeting at the Mott Children's Health Center and learned about the various services that are available to children in the community. Our alliance donates books to this organization under the Reach Out and Read program. Lunch was provided by the Health Center.

In March we hosted a fashion show at the Flint Golf Club. What a great way to start our spring and our members did a wonderful job modeling the latest fashions.

In May our annual Geranium Luncheon at Warwick Hills was the last general membership meeting and luncheon for the year. We honored past presidents of GCMSA.

Rula Ali-Bakr and Pam Martin were in charge of "Doctors and Their Families Make a Difference." We delivered several bags to the YWCA in March. A special thank you also goes out to Cheryl and Peter Thoms for all the efforts they have made to make sure we collected the items needed for the shelter.

In December Velynda Makhene held a gourmet club event. Members went to a gourmet store in Ann Arbor, shopped and enjoyed a wonderful lunch.

Health Careers has been busy under the guidance of Mary Lou Mathias. They have handed out over 2500 booklets and placemats. They have also organized student Health Careers at Hurley Medical Center. A Certificate was distributed to honor each student's efforts and dedication to the program. This committee also worked diligently on the anti smoking campaign and handed out hundreds of books for the Reach Out and Read program.

This year we also participated in the AMA Foundation and our donations were turned in to the foundation.

The Healing Hands Run Walk committee works efficiently. Mary Ann Almeida was the committee chair this year and the walk was on May 16, 2009 the third Saturday in May. Monthly meetings were held at the GCMS office with the National Nurses Association. The Free Medical Clinic was featured on the CBS nightly news. This facility offers Health Care for the working uninsured.

The Investment Club is still going strong and hanging in during tough economic times. We have approximately 20 members of the Alliance who have met since Jay Kommareddi's presidency in 2000.

We were saddened this year by the death of former MSMS Executive Director Kevin Kelly. A group of GCMSA members attended the memorial service. Kevin was a great and kind leader who always listened to well, gave pertinent advice and accomplished a great deal in his life time. Our Alliance made a donation to the MSMS Foundation in his memory.

Our board met several times this year brainstorming about ways to increase membership and interests. We had a very dedicated board that was willing to help each other and work together for the medical community. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be the president this year and look forward to the coming years to continue serving in such a worthwhile organization.

Oya Agabigum: Secretary

Oya was born and raised in Istanbul, Turkey. She was studying at the Istanbul Technical University to become a Chemical Engineer when she met her husband Mehmet. They married in 1978, and moved to Detroit, Michigan, where Mehmet was doing his Medical Residency. There, Oya continued her studies at Wayne State University. Later, they moved to Flint, where Mehmet started his Medical Practice.

Oya decided to follow her passion in the field of Art and Design. She attended the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, where she received a BFA degree. She soon started her own business called Art In Graphics; where she worked as an Interior Consultant and Graphic Designer.

Oya and Mehmet have three children (ages 22, 19, 16). Their involvement in music gave her a chance to become a typical orchestra and band mom. This also gave her the opportunity to appreciate the beauty of classical music more deeply and from a closer perspective. Her passion for fine arts still continues today. Oya spends some of her time working as a volunteer Docent at the Flint Institute of Arts; she loves every moment of it. She also works as a Realtor for RE/MAX Platinum, helping people with their real-estate needs.

Oya had been an active member of the GCMS Alliance in the past, but took time off to focus her attention on raising her children. Now that her children have grown up, she dedicates more of her time to the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance's causes.



Feroza Raffee: Treasurer

Feroza Raffee was born and raised in an apartheid-ravaged South Africa in a small town called Carnarvon. She was forced to leave her hometown to attend school in Cape Town at the age of twelve due to racial restrictions on where one could attend school. Despite the severe limitations placed on members of its non-white population, she was among the few chosen to be a radiographer and worked in one of South Africa's biggest hospitals. While there, she was chosen from among many to care for a very special patient, a still-incarcerated Nelson Mandela. This experience was an amazing one for at the time few people had ever seen, let alone met, Mr. Mandela as the South African government had banned even his picture. Despite his incarceration for over twenty years as a political prisoner, she describes him as wonderful human being who continued to rally for racial equality while being imprisoned. He asked her if she was being treated equitably as she did his ultrasound even while being heavily guarded by his white captors. She later immigrated to the US and today manages her husband's medical practice. She is a mother to two children, a son and a daughter. She lives in Flint with her husband, daughter and three cats.



Velynda R. Makhene, President-Elect

I am a native of Flint, MI with Mississippi, Louisiana, and South African footprints; wife of Ramotsumi M. Makhene, mother of Thabo and Naledi; a member of the Alliance for nine wonderful years; new real estate agent for Century 21 Sabo Associates.

Things I love: God, family, friends, traveling, entertaining, music and great parties.

My Goals: To become more active as a humanitarian, to help increase Alliance membership, to nurture more closely my family and friends.

Live life to the fullest, and love all people.



Dr. Elizabeth Jordan

Dr. Elizabeth Jordan was born in Georgetown, Guyana, South America - the only child of a physician father and a homemaker mother. She is married to Kenneth, a retired Flint Internist and a Past President of the Genesee County Medical Society. Kenneth and Elizabeth are the proud parents of 3 children - Eloise Alicen, a Human Resources Specialist with DTE in Detroit; Kenneth Eoin, Manager of Pier 1 in South Bend, Indiana; Christopher Charles a third-year Medical Student, MSU, College of Human Medicine, East Lansing, Michigan.

Before coming to the USA in 1977 Elizabeth worked in banking. She has obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Michigan (Flint); a Master of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Development and a Ph.D. in Family and Child Ecology with a major in Child Development and a minor in Educational Administration from Michigan State University.

Elizabeth is currently the Executive Director of the Michigan Home-Based Child Care Council. Its mission is to raise the quality of care for children in family child care facilities in the State of Michigan. She has held other administrative positions: Chief Administrative Officer of Mosaica Educational Incorporated; Director of Curriculum at the UAW-GM Child Development Center, and Mid-West Regional Assessor for the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Elizabeth's volunteer activities include serving as Senior Warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Flint. She also serves on the Board of Christ Enrichment Center, 4Cs Unlimited of Genesee and Lapeer Counties, and the Greater Flint Association for the Education of Young Children. She is a Past President of Greater Flint Association for the Education of Young Children, and has also served on the boards of Blue Care Network East Region, and the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children.

Elizabeth has been a member of the Genesee County Medical Society Alliance since 1978. She hopes to utilize all of her varied talents and experiences to make her year as President of this organization a very fruitful one.



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Inaugural Speech

By: Elizabeth Jordan Ph.D., Alliance President

It is indeed a privilege to serve as president of GCMSA for 2009-2010. I wish to thank each and every one of you for your support and for coming today. Special thanks to those of you who have agreed to serve as fellow officers, committee chairs and members for the coming year.

I would like to take a few moments to acknowledge and thank some special people in my life for being here today. First Past President Mrs. Lorraine Edelen Stevens (1994-1995) for coming to swear me in today: my parish priest Rev. Martin Field from St. Paul's Episcopal Church for the invocation: my husband Kenneth - Past President of GCMS (1998-1999): my daughter Eloise who took the day off from work at Detroit Energy where she is a Human Resource Analyst: And Dr. Michael Boucree - Alliance member and Past President of GCMS (1999-2000).

I have been a member of this organization since I joined as a resident's wife in the late 70s. I have always thought that an unwritten goal of the Alliance was to make friends. Along the way I have made many friends some of whom are here with me today. The kinds of friends I have made in the Alliance are those who have been there for me through sickness and health, for richer, for poorer, through laughter and tears, for better or for worse, until death parts us. And so as the song says - "I get by with a little help from my friends." I look forward to my year as president as I know that my friends are here to help.

There is an old African proverb that says - you must know where you came from to determine where you are going. And so, as I worked with board members to plan for the coming year I took a look back and talked to some past presidents. This organization has done and continues to do many wonderful things to support the community and the medical society. As we continue the legacy, I would like to borrow a phrase from the Ruth Person, Chancellor of the University of Michigan Flint - we will convene and collaborate.

In these times of scarce resources - time, talent and people - it behooves us to collaborate with other organizations that share our goals to help Genesee County be a healthier, happier place for everyone to live. My goals for this year are:

GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE, INC. 2009-2010 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

GOAL I. Collaborate with the Genesee County Medical Society to improve the health of the citizens of Genesee County.

- GCMSA President will attend GCMS Board meetings
- GCMSA Community Health Chair will attend GCMS Health committee meetings
- GCMSA Legislative Chair will liaison with GCMS and MSMS Legislative committees, communicate and educate members on political actions related to the medical community
- GCMSA will continue to support the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic by helping to raise funds for this organization through the Healing Hands Run/Walk.

GOAL II. Collaborate with other organizations to promote health education and our service oriented health projects.

- AMA Foundation to support scholarships for future doctors
- AMAA - Stop America's Violence Everywhere (SAVE)
- AMAA & Mott Children's Health Center to help reduce childhood obesity
- American Heart Association
- American Cancer Association
- Hurley Medical Center - Health Careers
- Genesee County Intermediate School District Health initiatives
- Other county Alliance groups

GOAL III. Collaborate with Genesee County Medical Society to increase communication and promote a mutual understanding among physicians' families.

- GCMS/GCMSA Past Presidents Ball
- Physicians family fun day in April
- Doctor's and their Families Make a Difference
- GCMSA web site
- Special Interest Groups (Gourmet, Investment club)
- Membership Meetings - Celebrate the colors of your life

I would like to end today by sharing a paraphrase version of a poem written by Shane DeRolf. The poem is about a box of crayons.

While walking in a toy store
the day before today,
I overheard a crayon box
with many things to say.

"I don't like red!" said yellow.
And green said, "Nor do I!"
And no one here likes orange,
but no one knows quite why."

"We are a box of crayons
that really doesn't get along,"
said blue to all the others
"something here is wrong!"

Well, I bought that box of crayons
and took it home with me
and laid out all the crayons
so the crayons could all see.

They watched me as I colored
with red and blue and green
and black and white and orange
and every color in between.

They watched as green
became the grass
and blue became the sky.
The yellow sun was shining bright
on white clouds drifting by.

Colors changing as they touched,
becoming something new.
They watched me as I colored.
They watched till I was through.

And when I'd finally finished,
I began to walk away.
And as I did the crayon box
had something more to say...

"I do like red!" said the yellow
and green said, "So do I!"
"And blue you are terrific
so high up in the sky."

"The Alliance is a box of crayons
each of us unique,
but when we get together
the picture is complete."

Now I hope that you have learned
from the box of crayons
Our Alliance and the world would be a
better place.

*DeRolf, Shane & Letzig, Michael:
The Crayon Box that talked.
(ISBN- 0-679-88611-7)*

Geranium Lunch

The Annual Geranium Luncheon was held on Tuesday May 19, 2009 at Warwick Hills Country Club in Grand Blanc. This luncheon was an occasion to honor all past presidents of GCMSA. Past Presidents in attendance were: Judy McLeod, Leisbeth Fernandez, Rula Ali-Bakr, Cheryl Thoms, Marianne Almeida, Beth Schumacher, Lorraine Edelen-Stevens, Jay Kommareddi, Bobby Schoolfield, Ida Dawson, Evelyn Dykewicz, Mary McAlindon, and Kee Kang.



GCMS / MSMS NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Faisal I. Ahmad, MD

Neurology
5082 Villa Linde Pkwy., Flint, MI 48532
810-720-1335 Fax: 810-720-1373
Dr. Ahmed graduated from Wayne State University SOM, Detroit, MI in 2002. He did his residency at Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI. Dr. Ahmad is sponsored by Amitabha Banerjee, MD and S. Bobby Mukkamala, MD.

Mazen Najjar, MD

Infectious Disease
5084 Villa Linde Pkwy., Ste. 5, Flint, MI 48532
810-733-3812 Fax: 810-733-8135
Dr. Najjar graduated from the University of Aleppo, FAC of Med, Aleppo, Syria in 1991. He did his residency at Seton Hall University School Grad. Med. Ed. Dr. Najjar is sponsored by Amitabha Banerjee, MD and S. Bobby Mukkamala, MD

Mott Children's Health Center Tour



SAVE THE DATES!

Hurley Medical Center

Date/Topic

- 8/19 - Management of Common Skin Conditions
- 9/30 - Emergency Psychiatry Update
- 10/7 - Radiographic Evaluation of Breast Cancer
- 10/24 - Endocrine Update
- 10/28 - The Journey and Destination of Patient Safety
- 11/11 - Pediatric Update

For more information, please contact the Hurley Medical Center, CME Department, at 257-9142.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

It is clear that the GCMSA is of vital importance to GCMS. They are "the wind beneath our wings" in many ways as they support what GCMS does. Often it is GCMSA that pushes our political agenda by responding to Pete Levine's "all points" bulletins. Beth Schumacher, Mona Sabouri and Jay Kommareddi have been a dynamic tag team getting us in front of legislatures.

It is GCMSA that has worked hard to make the Healing Hands Run/Walk a huge success in raising money that supports the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic. It is GCMSA that organizes our Annual Presidents Ball. It is GCMSA that does a myriad of things that enhances our practice of medicine and represents us in many places in our communities.

But the GCMSA could do more if every spouse were a member. There is strength in numbers. We are vitally aware of that in the Genesee County Medical Society. It is no less true of the GCMSA. We need the membership. We need the cash that goes with the membership because what we do costs money AND the more money we have the more we can do. Elizabeth Jordan has laid out an ambitious program for the coming year. Your part in making it happen is to FILL OUT THE FORM ABOVE AND MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK TO ME.

Peter Thoms, GCMSA Membership Chair

GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE **MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2009-2010**

Alliance Member's Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone (if desired) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Physicians Full Name: _____

Annual Dues: AMA Alliance - \$40 MSMS Alliance - \$32 GCMS Alliance - \$20

Total Remittance \$92.00

Make check payable to: MSMSA

Check enclosed for: \$ _____

If you are a retired widow State dues are only \$25. Your total would be \$85.00

Mail to: Peter Thoms M.D., GCMSAlliance Membership Chair

1213 Carter Dr., Flint, MI 48532

For questions and more information, please call (810) 732-7719.

- § GCMS met with Democratic House leadership and Senate Republican leadership to express opposition to Medicaid physician reimbursement cuts as well as to a tax on physician gross receipts to fund the Medicaid program
- § GCMS met with Genesee County legislative delegation twice to discuss the state budget, liability reform, tax on physician liability protection, and smoking legislation
- § GCMS Board endorsed the Hurley Medical Center Millage
- § GCMS communicated updates relating to MedAssurant and Care Core to Practice Managers and members
- § GCMS organized a session for Practice Managers on several issues of concern relating to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- § GCMS interfaced on multiple occasions with third-party-payors on behalf of physicians
- § GCMS interfaced with pharmacies regarding issue of concern on the part of individual physicians
- § GCMS represented physicians of Genesee County on the Mayors Auto Task Force
- § GCMS represented physicians on multiple political and charitable activities to the future of medicine in Genesee County
- § GCMS continued to aggressively pursue membership among non-members in an effort to approach 100% membership in the society
- § GCMS began a campaign to encourage physicians to utilize PPI as an answering service and Emergency Medical Centre both endorsed services of GCMS which provide substantial support to the society
- § GCMS provided a venue for several physician groups to meet on issues of critical import to them
- § GCMS met Islamic Medical Association and Flint Area Physicians of India to explain GCMS activities and seek membership



Health Careers

Mary Lou Mathias RN; BS; MA, Health Promotion Chairman,, GCMS Alliance

Since the early 1970's Hurley Medical Center, has given high school students ages 15-18 and in grades 10-12, an opportunity to explore the vast field of Health Careers as hospital volunteers. A commitment of at least four hours a week for one semester is required to enroll in the program. The Genesee County Medical Society Alliance, awards certificates to students donating a minimum of thirty hours and a special gift is given to the student with the largest number of volunteer hours for the year.

Debi Peters, Director of Volunteer Services reports that over 100 students annually donate their time to the program. Registration is held twice during the school year, for the Alliance's Health Career program.

The Alliance is forever grateful to Hurley Medical Center and Debi Peters for their partnership in providing area high school students the opportunity to explore the exciting field of Health Careers.

Genesee County Medical Society Dinner Business Meeting

September 9, 2009

A Town Hall Meeting
on

**THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY,
WHAT EVERY GENESEE COUNTY PHYSICIAN NEEDS TO KNOW!**

With the bankruptcy of General Motors, this region is entering what might be called a "post industrial era". David Cole, PhD, Chairman, of the Center for Automotive Research will be our keynote speaker. Dr. Cole often serves as keynote speaker at major international meetings on the future of the automobile industry, and is often heard on national media.

Invited responders include: Ed Donovan, Senior Vice President for Economic Development Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce, Ted Henry, Chair of the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, Scott Kincaid, UAW Regional 1C, and a representative for the Michigan State Medical Society.

COME READY FOR A DISCUSSION!

All physicians, spouses, and family members, members and non-members of GCMS and GCMSA and interested other professionals are invited.

\$30 GCMS Members & Spouses per person - \$20 Hospital Residents and Students
\$50 Non-Members per person

Reservations required by September 4, 2009.

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. - Presentations

Please mail check with reservations to:

Genesee County Medical Society

4438 Oak Bridge Dr., Ste. B

Flint, MI 48532

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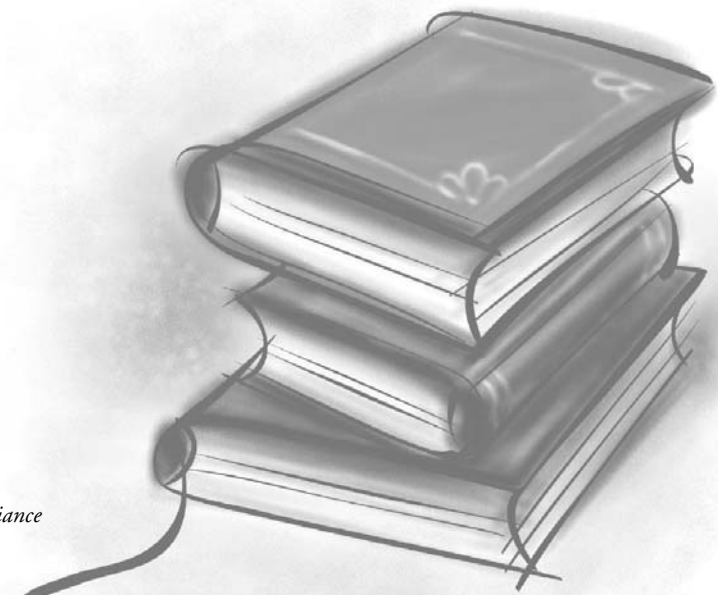
REACH OUT AND READ

By: Mary Lou Mathias, RN; BS; MA
Health Promotion Chairman--Genesee County Medical Society Alliance

Reach Out and Read (ROR), was developed at Boston City Hospital in 1989 by a collaboration of Pediatricians and early childhood educators. ROR, is a program that makes early literacy part of pediatric primary care. Pediatricians encourage parents to read aloud to their young children and give their patients books to take home at all pediatric check-ups from six months to five years of age.

Through Reach Out and Read every child starts school with a home library of at least ten children's books, and parents reading aloud is the most important thing they can do to help their children learn to love books and to start school ready to learn. Parents who have difficulty reading are encouraged to invent their own stories to go with picture books and spend time naming objects with their children. At many pediatric clinics volunteer readers are in the waiting rooms reading to children as they wait for their appointments showing parents and children the pleasures and techniques of looking at books with children.

Genesee County Medical Society Alliance has been a strong supporter of the Reach Out and Read program and have provided funding for the purchase of books that are distributed to area pediatric clinics. Gently used books are also donated by our members to schools and community groups and may be dropped off at the GCMS office.



GCMSA Plays Host to MSMSA



The eighty third Annual Session of the House of Delegates of the Michigan State Medical Society Alliance was held on May 3 and 4, 2009 at the Holiday Inn, Flint. The meeting was very well attended by delegates from counties across the state. The program began with a luncheon for the Past Presidents of the State Alliance and their corresponding secretaries. After lunch, the ladies had a chance to share with the group some family pictures and recent happenings in their personal life. Later, Linda Allen, the Immediate Past President was formally inducted into their exclusive group. The formal opening of the House of Delegates took place with President Lakshmi Tummala welcoming the delegates. Past President Barb Grennan from Muskegon county offered the invocation, Past President Mary Lou Mathias from Genesee County leading the Pledge of Allegiance and the Oath of Loyalty and Past President Dee Wacker from Ingham County performing the memorial service for members lost during this past year. Lakshmi introduced Chair-AMA Alliance Membership Advisory Committee and Nominated Director, Sarah Sanders from Indiana who delivered the key note address.

Kudos to the Annual Session Co-Chairs, Jeanette Rivera and Cheryl Thoms who with help from past GCMSA presidents Marianne Almeida and Kee Ja Kang spent endless hours planning for the event. They pulled it all off beautifully from the wonderful decorations to the delicious meals and the lively entertainment. They played gracious hostesses attending to all the guests.

It was then time to get ready for that evening's cocktail reception in honor of the incoming President Carol Horowitz and the banquet in honor of President Lakshmi Tummala. Lakshmi welcomed the guests who included the Executive Director of Michigan State Medical Society, Julie Novak, Past Presidents of Genesee County Medical Society, Drs. Suresh Anne, Samuel Dismond, Peter Thoms and AppaRao Mukkamala who is also a past president of MSMS, the Executive Director of GCMS, Peter Levine and Sarah Sanders from the AMA Alliance. Also in attendance were past GCMSA presidents Evelyn Dykewicz and Judy McLeod. After a delicious dinner, the guests were treated to a short entertainment program. There was a beautiful rendition of a couple of songs by Lajari Anne who is none other than the daughter of alliance members, Drs. Suresh and Aruna Anne. This was followed by a couple of Indian dances to Bollywood music performed by Pragya Khurana, Neha Thawani and Sanjhavi Agrawal. The dancers then invited the guests to join them on the dance floor to learn some simple dance moves. Soon the dance floor was filled with enthusiastic people who were sporting enough to do a few jigs. On conclusion of the program, the guests left having enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

The following day, the delegates were up early for business. The House of Delegates reconvened with the introduction of resolutions by Chairs of By-Laws and Finance. The House recessed for Reference Committee Hearings. Nathan Mersereau from MSMS Practice Partner Oakland Wealth

Management, Inc. was the guest speaker and spoke about personal finances. The buffet lunch was a serious matter with a wide spread of tasty dishes. Awards were presented to counties which excelled in AMA Foundation, Health Promotion and Membership. The House reconvened with the adoption of three resolutions recommended by the By-laws and the Finance Reference Committees. Nominations for delegates to the AMA Alliance Annual Session, MSMSA Nomination Committee and MSMSA officers were held. Sarah Sanders installed the officers for 2009-2010. The newly elected president Carol Horowitz announced the appointed committee chairs and board members. It should be noted that GCMSA was well represented with Velynda Makhene-AMA Foundation, Rula Bakr-Corresponding Secretary, Mary Lou Mathias-Liaison for Health Promotion, Kee Ja Kang-Member at Large, Felicity Thompson-Membership, Lakshmi Tummala-Nominations and Rosa Wang-Web Liaison. MSMSA is well represented on various AMA Alliance committees with Linda Allen (Midland County) on AMA Foundation, Dee Wacker (Ingham County) on Legislation and Lakshmi Tummala (Genesee County) on Membership Development. Congratulations ladies!

This has been an outstanding year for MSMSA which is proud to announce the AMA Alliance awards won for Health Awareness Promotion and Membership Development Project in the category of Membership Development Initiative. Way To Go MSMSA!!

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Katikuti Dutt	1	Earle McGarvah	19
John Hebert III	1	Melinda Wheatley	19
Gali Subbareddy	1	Charles Bodem	20
Tarik Wasfie	1	Jose Fernandez	20
Barina Zado	1	Jaime Ballesteros	21
Ivana Vettrai	1	James Vyskocil	21
John Waters	3	John Morrison	21
Leslie Lemieux Jr	4	Farhan Khan	22
Linda Diane Norrell	4	Nabil Zaki	23
David Wilson	5	Allen Turcke	24
Leonard Dias	6	Jae Chul Kim	25
Glen Sullenger	6	E Grant Murphy	25
Abdefatah Osman	6	Dong Whan Oh	25
Kang Kwon	7	Jon Santiago	25
Purushottam Naik	7	James Knaggs	26
James Gibbons	8	Orestes lung	27
Niketa Dani	9	David Strahle	27
BB Ganatra	9	Lindsey Gold	27
Fikria Hassan	9	Sosa Kocheril	27
Jawahar Tummala	10	Eyassu Habte-Gabr	28
Radwan Alkiek	10	Khalil Katato	28
Kathleen Justice-Kirtek	10	Seann Wilson-Carr	28
Barbara McIntosh	12	Robert Cross	29
AppaRao Mukkamala	14	Michael Boucree	30
Koteswara Vemuri	14	Hindi Ahmed	30
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