



PHYSIATRIST'S VOICE

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016

*Enhancing Health And
Function Through Education
And Research In The Field Of
Physical Medicine And
Rehabilitation*

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Michael Creamer, DO



The past two years have gone by quickly and I am grateful for the opportunity to have served this organization. We have weathered the fear of Medicare reimbursement cuts, ICD-10 implementation, and coverage policy changes. Affordable Care Act provisions are moving forward with an uncertain political climate and future. Medical marijuana legislation looms on the horizon with the next election cycle. Patient access to pharmaceutical drugs continues to be a challenge to both patients and physicians. While the use of physician extenders expands health care access, concerns including the implications to physicians and the quality of health care remain an uncertainty. These are just a few of the issues to be confronted in the future. This is an important time to remain involved in state and national issues and not

shy away from them.

Our society continues to be actively involved with national, regional, and state organizations. Mark Rubenstein, MD, continues to represent the interests of our members through his involvement in the FMA and AAPMR. He has continued to be our voice regarding medication access for our patients and restricting "Pill Mills." Lindsay Shroyer, MD, has completed the FMA Leadership course and is our FMA representative. She is our connection to state legislative issues. Nicholas Henderson, MD, is our CAC representative and informs us about reimbursement concerns and changes. Jesse Lipnick, MD, is now the President Elect of FSIPP and we look ahead to increased collaboration with this organization. We now have Nurse Practitioners as members and welcome their voice and input. Board members continue to meet "after hours" to discuss changes affecting our society and upcoming events. Their commitment of time and energy is demonstrated by the stability of the organization. Matt Imfeld, MD, has solidified our membership base and financial stability. He will be assuming the Presidency at our Annual Meeting and we welcome his leadership.

When national issues involve our state, we are the organization the AAPMR, the AOCPMR, and the AMA contact to disseminate information and obtain advice. We are already making plans to have a joint meeting with our Osteopathic counterparts in 2017.

We are grateful to have the three Florida PM&R residencies involved in our state organization. Their contributions to our meetings and newsletter have been significant.

The upcoming Annual FSPMR Business Meeting is August 13, in conjunction with the FL Academy of Pain Medicine's Annual Conference, August 12 - 14, to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria, Orlando. Jesse Lipnick, MD, has assembled a program that includes a diverse group of speakers. You may review the Friday FSPMR breakout schedule, <http://fapmmed.net/PDF/FAPMConferenceSchedule1.pdf>, and sign up online today! <http://fapmmed.net/confreg.htm> The topics cover many areas of patient care. The annual business meeting and dinner meeting is Saturday evening, August 13, and elections will be held. Updates of our organization activities will be discussed. Thank you to Medtronic for sponsoring our dinner!

As my term ends I am indebted to the support of Lorry Davis, Executive Director, and her continued dedication and enthusiasm for our society and its members. Thank you for giving me this opportunity and I hope to see you in August!

Respectfully Submitted,
Michael Creamer, D.O.
President FSPMR



THANK YOU TO
MEDTRONIC
FOR ITS CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP





PHYSIATRIST'S VOICE

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2016



The Florida Academy of Pain Medicine Is Proud to Present The 16th Annual Scientific Meeting



In Conjunction with
Florida Society of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation &
American Academy of Regenerative Orthopedic Medicine
August 12 -14, 2016



Waldorf Astoria Hotel
Bonnet Creek Resort Lane
Orlando, FL

**Florida Society of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Workshop
Friday, August 12, 2016 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (8 hours of CME)**

See next page for agenda.

For the entire conference brochure including hotel information and registration details, please go to
<http://fapmmed.net/PDF/FAPM2016ConfBroch.pdf>.

To register for FSPMR's Breakout as well as Saturday's/Sunday's educational offerings, please go to
<http://fapmmed.net/confreg.htm>.

Here is the entire schedule for this event: <http://fapmmed.net/PDF/FAPMConferenceSchedule1.pdf>



The 16th Annual Scientific Meeting 2016 Program Schedule

C) Florida Society of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Workshop

8:00 – 9:00 AM

The Future of Pain Medicine

Randall Braddom MD

9:00 – 10:00 AM

Disability and Workers Compensation

Anthony Dorto MD

10:00 – 10:15 AM Coffee Break

10:15 – 11:00 AM

What Exactly Is a Nurse Practitioner?

LaMisa Rayside ARNP-BC

Brandi Silinski ARNP

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Update on Subacute Rehabilitation

Nicholas Henderson MD

12:00 – 1:00 PM Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Medical Marijuana Update

Penelope Ziegler MD

2:00 – 3:00 PM

Update on Intrathecal Therapies

Robert Kent DO

3:00 – 3:30 PM – Break in Exhibit Hall

3:30 – 4:15 PM

Building a PM&R Residency Program

Alan Novick MD

4:15 – 5:00 PM

Treatment & Management of Spinal Stenosis

Nilusha Fernando DO

5:00 – 5:45 PM

Multimodal Approached to Treatment of Low Back Pain

Lindsay Shroyer MD



The 16th Annual Scientific Meeting 2016 Program Schedule

Saturday, August 13, 2016

- 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 A.M. Registration & Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall
- 8:00 A.M. – 8:15 A.M. Welcome: Vinod Malik, MD, President FAPM, Michael Creamer, DO, President FSPMR, Felix Linetsky, MD, President AAROM

Program at a Glance: Interventional Fluoroscopy & Ultrasound Guided Procedures in Pain & Dysfunctions, Updates on Opioid Prescriptions, Legal Updates & more.

- 8:15 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. Pain Medicine Issues Today – Dr. Randall Braddom
- 9:00 A.M. – 9:45 A.M. Implantable Devices & Pump Therapy, Ramsin Benyamin, MD
- 9:45 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. Exhibit Hall Break
- 10:15 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. Advance Stimulation Techniques – Jason Pope, MD
- 11:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Epidural lysis of adhesions – Gabor Racz, MD
- 12:00 P.M. – 12:45 P.M. Luncheon & Presentation on Pump Therapy – Ramsin Benyamin, MD
- 12:45 P.M. – 1:15 P.M. FAPM Annual Business Meeting
- 1:15 P.M. – 2:00 P.M. Full Endoscopic Spinal Surgery From Concept to Reality
Marion McMillen, MD
- 2:00 P.M. – 2:45 P.M. Use of Biologic Injectates PRP, Stem Cells, Chorionic Membrane for Pain Treatment with Regenerative Injection Therapy – Michael Scarpone, DO
- 2:45 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. Regenerative Injection Therapies Principles & Practice – Felix Linetsky, MD
- 3:30 P.M. – 4:00 P.M. Exhibit Hall Break
- 4:00 P.M. – 4:45 P.M. Use of Stem Cells in the Treatment of Discogenic Pain with Regenerative Injection Therapy – Farhan Siddiqui, MD
- 4:45 P.M. – 5:30 P.M. Spinal Procedures – Vinod Malik, MD
- 5:45 P.M. – 7:15 P.M. President's & FAPM Reception in the Exhibit Hall
- 7:15 P.M. – 9:15 P.M. FSPMR Dinner & Annual Business Meeting



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The 16th Annual Scientific Meeting 2016 Program Schedule

Sunday, August 14, 2016

The Legislative Day

(How the new laws affect the physician's practices in Florida)

7:30 A.M. – 8:15 A.M. Registration/Breakfast in the Exhibit Hall

8:15 A.M. – 9:45 A.M. Opioid Crisis Symposium
Panel Discussion led by Albert Ray, MD
Darrell Contreras, Esq., Stanley Dennison, MD

9:45 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. Break in the Exhibit Hall

10:15 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. Legislative Updates Affecting the Practice of Pain Medicine:
Featuring David Aronberg, State Attorney, Ralph Nobo, MD, FMA
President & Jeff Scott, FMA Lobbyist

UPCOMING EVENTS

FSPMR at AAPMR, October 2016, New Orleans

The Florida Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will meet with the Louisiana Society of PM&R during AAPMR's Annual Assembly, October 20-23, 2016, New Orleans.

The FSPMR/LSPMR gathering will be a social event and will be held on Thursday, October 20, 7:30 – 9:30 P.M., in Grand Salon D, Section 22, Hilton New Orleans Riverside.

RSVP to lorry4@earthlink.net if you will be at this event. For full information about AAPMR's Annual Assembly, and to register, please go to

<http://www.aapmr.org/education/annual-assembly/highlighted-learning-opportunities>.

See you in the Big Easy!

FSPMR to Join AOCPMR in May 2017, Hollywood, Florida

The Florida Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation will join the American Osteopathic College of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for a meeting in May 4 - 7, 2017, to be held at the Margaritaville Hotel in Hollywood, Florida. We are excited about a South Florida FSPMR event!

This AOCPMR event will have a physician track, a resident track, and a student track. FSPMR will help develop approximately one-third (around 10 speakers/topics) of the physician track, and we will help promote the event. There will be CMEs for MDs as well as the regular DO continuing education credits.

Stay tuned for more details about this FSPMR/AOCPMR joint venture.



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JULY 2016

THANK YOU AND A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO THE FSPMR BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2014 – 2016



President
Michael Creamer DO



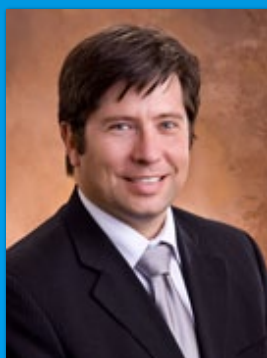
Vice President
Matthew Imfeld MD



Secretary
Mark Rubenstein MD



Treasurer
Jesse Lipnick MD



Immediate Past President
Rigoberto Puente-Guzman MD



Member-at-Large
Wilda Murphy MD



Member-at-Large
Andrew Sherman MD



Member-at-Large
Craig Lichtblau MD



Member-at-Large
Mitchell Freed MD



FSPMR RECOGNIZES APPOINTED POSITIONS



Florida Medical Association (FMA)
Representative
Lindsay Shroyer MD



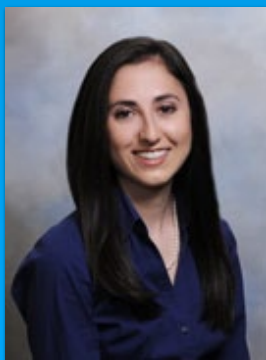
Carrier Advisory Council (CAC)
Representative
Nicholas Henderson MD



Liaison, University of South Florida
PM&R Residency Program
David Ciaccia DO



Liaison, University of Miami
PM&R Residency Program
Benjamin Mendelsohn MD



Liaison, Nova Southeastern University
PM&R Residency Program
Patricia Goodwin DO

JOB OPS/OTHER OPS

May 31, 2016

BC/BQ Partner

No buy-in for 25 year thriving Central Florida practice.
Inpatient acute rehab, inpatient consults. Outpatient office.
Extensive referral base in place to help get established.
Knowledgeable office staff who are an integral part of this practice for over 15 years.

Stephanie Indomenico, Office Manager cfpmfl@gmail.com 352-365-9553

Other Opportunities

Looking for Job Ops, Practices for Sale, Office Space for Lease, Equipment for Sale, other appropriate medically-related items, etc.,

To place such an ad, please go to
<http://www.fspmr.org/opportunities.html>.

Placement cost is \$150.00 and is posted for a 3 month period.



FSPMR BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS FOR 2016 – 2018

The Nominations Committee has developed the slate of candidates for the FSPMR 2016 – 2018 term. It is as follows:

President – *Matthew Imfeld MD, Orlando*

Vice President – *Craig Lichtblau MD, North Palm Beach*

Secretary – *Jesse Lipnick MD, Gainesville/Chiefland*

Treasurer – *Mark Rubenstein MD, Jupiter*

Immediate Past President – *Michael Creamer DO, Orlando*

Members at Large:

Mitchell Freed MD, Orlando

Andrew Sherman MD, Miami

Bao Pham DO, Jacksonville/Orange Park

Diana Hussain MD, Orlando

We are grateful to those who are willing to continue serving on the FSPMR Board of Directors as well as to our newcomers, Drs. Hussain and Pham.

Elections will be held at the time of FSPMR's Annual Business Meeting and Dinner, Saturday, August 13, 2016, 7:00 P.M., at the Waldorf-Astoria Orlando. Nominations can be accepted from the floor at that time.

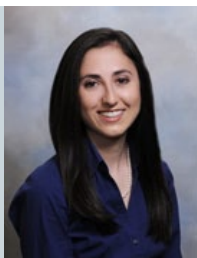
***RSVP to FSPMR Executive Director,
lorry4@earthlink.net, for FSPMR's Annual Business Meeting and Dinner.***



Sponsored by Medtronic. You do not need to register (but do RSVP) for the rest of the meeting to attend FSPMR's Business Meeting; however, you will want to when you see the terrific program! The FSPMR Annual Meeting is in conjunction with the Florida Academy of Pain Medicine/FSPMR Annual Conference. FSPMR has a full day breakout of PM&R topics, Friday, August 12, and FSPMR has speakers on Saturday's and Sunday's portion of the program as well. Please see following pages for full schedule details.



RESIDENTS SECTION



Patricia Goodwin, DO
PGY-1 Department of PM&R
Nova Southeastern University
College of Osteopathic Medicine
Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education
Larkin Community Hospital
AOCPMR Resident Council Education Co-Chair

Nova Southeastern University (NSU)/Larkin PM&R Residency Update

Another exciting academic year for Nova Southeastern University (NSU)/Larkin PM&R comes to a close. In February, 2016, Larkin Community Hospital (LCH) acquired Palm Springs General Hospital in Hialeah, FL. This acquisition will lead to the expansion of graduate medical education at

LCH. Set to finish in 2016, the new NSU Center for Collaborative Research (CCR) will allow for further research opportunities to be made available to NSU/Larkin residents. The CCR is located on NSU's main campus and will house an IBM supercomputer, as well as one of the largest wet labs in Florida.

Our own Amir Mahajer, DO, PGY-4, Chief Resident, is continuing to propel the field of PM&R forward with his recent publication: Mahajer A, Tolchin RB. Lumbar and Sacroiliac Pain Screening Tests. *Journal of Osteopathic Physiatry*. 2016 April; 1(1): 17-18. (Editor's Note: Tolchin RB is Ronald Tolchin DO, also an FSPMR Member.)

NSU/Larkin PM&R successfully launched its Inaugural PM&R Research Day on June 6, 2016, at NSU's main campus. Michael Wieting, DO, opened the event with "The History of Physiatric Research." Gail Wetzler, DPT, EDO, BI-D and Robert Boltuch, DO, presented "Osteopathic Research at the Dr. John E. Upledger Foundation." Resident presentations included:

Brennan PT. *Rehabilitation Outcomes for Total Knee Arthroplasties with Two Methods of Post-Operative Pain Control: Adductor Canal Block vs. Femoral Nerve Block*

Goodwin P. *Bacterial Endocarditis and Stroke Risk Assessment*

Iyamu M, Subbarao B. Compas J. *Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, the Hidden Gem*

Kola S, Lui M, Nedd K. *Utilizing Modafinil to Manage Hypoarousal After Severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Affecting the Reticular Activating System (RAS)*

Lui M, Kola S, Le H, Nedd K. *Nerve Block of the Ophthalmic (V1) Division of the Trigeminal Nerve for Headache Management*

Mahajer A, Covington S, Cowling M, Brown A. *Linking Ultrasound with Nonspecific Electrodiagnostic Results in Upper Extremity Neuropathy*

Ritucci S, Mahajer A, Silva R, Vargas JL, Roumanos P, Hwang M, Diaz JJ. *Atypical Presentation of Autonomic Dysreflexia in a T12 AIS A B*

Sakla ES, Yamagami S, Miller J, Ritucci S. *Efficacy of Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment after Total Knee Arthroplasty in Patients Receiving Inpatient Rehabilitation*

Subbarao B, Andar H, Mandell S, Gonzales M. *The Question of Age's Role in Concussion Recovery in Sports: A Retrospective Look at Mixed Martial Arts Fighters and Their First Knockout Losses*



Inaugural PM&R Research Day Presenters



RESIDENTS SECTION

Prizes were awarded for first, second and third place winners. Third place was Brennan Patrick, DO, second place was Bruno Subbarao, DO, and the first place winner was Amir Mahajer, DO.

On June 4, 2016, residents gathered at the Evidence Based Acupuncture Workshop, led by Tom Corbin, PhD, LAc. Topics discussed included the history of auricular medicine, auriculotherapy used in pain management, auricular point acupressure, and current research in the field. The hands-on portion of the workshop involved practicing four common auricular acupuncture points and energy/relaxation acupuncture points. Please refer to our website for upcoming department events: <http://www.graduatemedicaleducation.org/pmr-homepage/get-more-involved>.



Evidence Based Acupuncture Workshop

Congratulations to the NSU/Larkin PM&R residents and recent graduates on attaining positions with the 2016-2017 AOCPMR Resident Council and Executive Council. Positions on the AOCPMR Resident Council include: Jesse Hatgis, DO, Immediate Past President; Patricia Goodwin, DO, and Daniel Grabarek, DO, Co-Chairs Education Committee; Tricia Prince, DO, Southcentral Regional Representative; Alexander Morales, DO, Website Chair; Charles Fischer, DO, and Patrick Brennan, DO, Southeast Regional Representatives. Positions on the AOCPMR Executive Council include: Bruno Subbarao, DO and Amir Mahajer, DO, Journal of Osteopathic Physiatry Committee; and Amir Mahajer, DO, Chief Resident, Chair of the Education Committee.

NSU/Larkin PM&R PGY-4s graduated on June 12, 2016, at NSU Main Campus and are looking forward to new adventures. Jeffrey Compas, DO, and Jesse Hatgis, DO, are starting Pain Medicine Fellowships at NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine-Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education/LCH in South Miami, Florida. Amir Mahajer, DO, will start the Interventional Spine and Sports Medicine Fellowship at Icahn

School of Medicine at Mount Sinai/The Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, New York. Bruno Subbarao, DO, is starting the Brain Injury Medicine/Polytrauma Fellowship at University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio/Audie L. Murphy VA Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. Michael Iyamu, DO, will be practicing inpatient rehabilitation in Texas. Scott Mandell, DO, will be joining a hospital group in Nashville, Tennessee. Janice Carrero, DO, Tho Chi Le, DO, and James Kwok, DO, are in the process of exploring future career opportunities.

NSU/Larkin PM&R would like to introduce our incoming Traditional Rotating Interns (Class of 2020): Sara Evans, DO, Michael Hassell, DO, Huykien Le, DO, Ian Miller, DO, Karen Rosen, DO, Romy Ryan, DO, Robert St. Clair, DO, Anuja Bedi, DO. We would also like to introduce our incoming PGY-2 residents (Class of 2019): Patricia Goodwin, DO, Bradley Hakim, DO, Shiel Jhaveri, DO, Eric Lebbeney-Bandar, DO, Marjorie Mamsaang, DO, Wesam Mohamed, DO, Alexander Morales, DO, Tricia Prince, DO, Thiago Queiroz, DO. Congratulations to the incoming PM&R Chief Residents for 2016-2017: Sandra Hong, DO, and Matthew Irvin, DO.

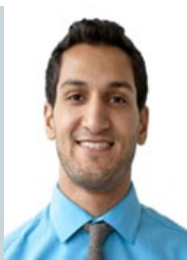
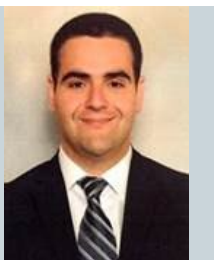
NSU/Larkin PM&R is currently seeking Florida Physiatrists interested in clinical and didactic exposure. If you would like to learn more about opportunities to become an Assistant Clinical Faculty, Associate Professor, or present a lecture in your field of expertise, please contact the PM&R Program Director, Dr. Jose Diaz (josediaz@larkinhospital.com) and Ms. Yusleiby Sanzo (ysanzo@larkinhospital.com) the Graduate Medical Education Program Coordinator.



Graduation



RESIDENTS SECTION



Armen Derian, MD
Usker Naqvi, MD
Chief Residents
Department of PM&R
University of Miami
Miller School of Medicine

University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Hospital PM&R Residency Update

We would like to take this opportunity to update the members of the FSPMR on the accomplishments of our fine residents. On February 20, 2016, 15 PM&R residents plus our program director, Dr. Andrew Sherman, and attending Dr. Erin Woolf, provided coverage for The Dolphins Cancer Challenge, a charity

cycling event to raise money for Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. The full-day event featured various cycling courses through Broward and Miami-Dade counties, culminating in the finish line at Sun Life Stadium, where attendees enjoyed food, games, and a free concert by Melissa Etheridge and Sheryl Crow. Our residents staffed the medical tents at each of the water stops along the way, providing necessary triage and first aid treatment to injured riders and attendees.

Another community service project our residents participated in was the 2016 Paralympic Experience, where we helped the disabled enjoy recreational activities including kayaking, cycling, wheelchair basketball and tennis. It was a truly rewarding experience for everybody involved. These events provided excellent opportunities for our residents to give back to the community while being exposed to sports medicine coverage. We look forward to participating in these events and similar experiences in the coming year. On June 3, 2016, the department of PM&R held its Tenth Annual Research Day, where our graduating class of six residents and two fellows presented their individual research and quality improvement projects. All projects were mentored and co-authored by attending physicians within the department. Residents also placed numerous research posters that had been presented at national meetings on the wall to show their work. The Department was pleased to host keynote speaker, Dr. Kathleen Bell, Professor and Chair of the Department of PM&R at U Texas Southwestern Medical Center, who delivered a compelling talk on the topic "Understanding Post-Traumatic Headache: What Have We Learned?" Later that evening, a graduation ceremony was held to honor our graduates among family and colleagues. We are very proud of all of our graduates and their accomplishments, and we wish them the best in their future endeavors! They are listed below:

Joshua Rothenberg, DO – sports medicine fellowship, Pittsburgh, PA;
Chanë Price, MD – interventional pain management fellowship, Miami, FL;
Jordan Klein, MD – general rehabilitation private practice, PA;
Angie Lastra, MD – inpatient rehabilitation, Hollywood, FL;
Lauren Lerner, MD – inpatient rehabilitation, Miami Beach, FL;
Terri Griffith, MD – general PM&R, Orlando, FL.

Our program held its annual ultrasound course OSCE where the residents had to perform diagnostic ultrasound on two random peripheral joints. All our residents passed and scored very highly. The leading scorer was Huy Nguyen, a PGY 3 who achieved a perfect score. Additionally, residents from the program took the national SAE exam. This year's scores came in significantly above the national mean, with several residents scoring above the 90th percentile!

Our residents are excited for the upcoming AAPM&R annual meeting this October in New Orleans, LA. Many have had abstracts accepted for presentation and look forward to learning from leading experts and networking with PM&R professionals from around the country.

We look forward to welcoming our new incoming PGY-2 class of six residents this July 1st (more on them in the next update), and will continue updating the constituents of FSPM&R about the upcoming exciting events occurring at the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation here at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/Jackson Memorial Hospital PM&R program.



RESIDENTS SECTION



David Ciaccia, DO
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation,
PGY-3
University of South Florida

University of South Florida PM&R Residency Update

The University of South Florida (USF) Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation residency program is proud to announce the graduation of all 3 of its senior residents. Jessica Cupido, DO, will be working in an outpatient practice and opening a new department of PM&R at Florida Medical Clinic, a multispecialty group that serves the Tampa Bay Area. Joseph (Joey) Frye, DO, will be starting in a private practice setting in Tennessee in August. Lawrence (Larry) Kelleher, DO, will be starting at USF's pain fellowship to further strengthen his skills to enable patients to function in the community. We all are proud of the time and dedication these three have put in to become well trained physiatrists. We look forward to hearing great things about their practice in PM&R in the future.

Call For Patient Education Articles

If you have any pertinent patient education articles and would like to share with our community, please contact Lorry Davis, Executive Director at 904-994-6944, or email at: Lorry4@earthlink.net



JOIN FSPMR

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP INCLUDE:

MEETINGS WITH CONTINUING
MEDICAL EDUCATION

OPPORTUNITY FOR NETWORKING IN
THE STATE

EMAIL BROADCASTS KEEPING YOU "IN
THE LOOP," AND MORE FREQUENT
EMAIL BROADCASTS DURING
FLORIDA'S LEGISLATURE

A LINK TO ORGANIZED MEDICINE VIA
REPRESENTATION ON THE FLORIDA
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION'S SPECIALTY
SOCIETY SECTION

[CLICK HERE TO JOIN ONLINE](#)

IF YOU PREFER TO MAIL IN YOUR
APPLICATION,

[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD
THE MAIL-IN APPLICATION.](#)



American Academy of
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

REMS PLAYBOOK FOR OPIOID PRESCRIBING

Complimentary education
for all physicians



AAPM&R Launches REMS Playbook for Opioid Prescribing

AAPM&R has developed a highly interactive educational activity for physicians who want to take a leadership role in balancing the benefits of prescribing extended-release (ER) and long-acting (LA) opioid analgesics to treat pain against the risks of serious adverse outcomes.

The online activity, REMS Playbook for Opioid Prescribing, is now available on the mē® Catalog. Earn up to 3.00 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™ with this complimentary activity!

The experience features 6 online interactive learning modules and games:

- The “Know the Play Book Video Series” is comprised of 4 interactive episodes with leading pain specialists. Faculty share experiences and clinical pearls for opioid treatment through video clips, information crawl, and case study.
- The “Test Your Knowledge” section includes interactive gaming quizzes that will help familiarize and reinforce physician knowledge of both the general drug information as well as the specific characteristics of ER/LA opioids. These games can be played at any time to reinforce learning along the way.

This activity is free for all physicians, so share this email with your peers!

Watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60YPjRuQ1SU>

and visit <http://www.aapmr.org/REMSplaybook> to learn more.



FSPMR Signs On to AANEM Letter

The AANEM is spearheading efforts to improve the quality of electrodiagnostic medicine which has been of concern because of widespread misuse of nerve conduction testing by non-qualified providers and also because of moves by CMS to cut the costs of these services. [Click here](#) to read the OIG EDX Call-to-Action.

Below is a copy of the letter FSPMR signed-on to:

Andy Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt,

The undersigned organizations write you today to express our interest in ensuring optimal and high quality electrodiagnostic (EDX) medical care is delivered to all patients. We are concerned that deep cuts in the reimbursement rates to needle electromyography (EMG) and nerve conduction studies (NCS) did little to reduce the fraud and abuse driving increased utilization and may further harm patient access by straining qualified healthcare providers operating in this important space. We encourage the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to protect patient health by working with the stakeholder community in a meaningful way to collaboratively pursue efforts which ultimately ensure that patients receive EMG and NCS testing only from healthcare providers that can meet objective quality standards. In this regard, we offer ourselves as a resource and hope to establish a working relationship with CMS.

For serious and progressive conditions such as ALS, muscular dystrophies, and various neuropathies, an early and accurate diagnosis through EDX testing is essential to ensure timely patient access to life-sustaining or life-improving therapy. The proliferation of poor-quality and incomplete EDX testing by bad actors that often operate with little overhead and thus feel less impact from recent reimbursement cuts undermines the chance that medically necessary EDX procedures will be performed early in the disease state or that the number of studies performed will be extensive enough to diagnose complex diseases. Moreover, for common conditions including carpal tunnel syndrome, cervical and lumbosacral radiculopathies, and ulnar neuropathies, performing the right EDX study at the right time avoids missed or inaccurate diagnoses and allows the correct treatment to occur sooner, saving healthcare dollars and decreasing patients' pain and suffering. The fact that sub-optimal, improper, and incomplete EDX studies continue to be reimbursed by CMS represents a noticeable loss of critical healthcare dollars. We hope to work with you and your colleagues to define quality standards and pursue additional opportunities to effectively reduce fraud and abuse.

Representative organizations met with CMS staff recently for an initial conversation on this issues, and the community was encouraged by the discussion that occurred at that time. Moving forward, we would like to more formally and regularly engage with CMS to ensure constructive progress continues to be made. In this regard, we hope to have a community stakeholder call with your office to receive an update on this issue and identify opportunities that we can support and assist CMS with advancing. To coordinate a call, please contact Dane Christiansen of the Health and Medicine Counsel of Washington at christiansen@hmcw.org or (202) 544-7499.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of our request.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Spring Edition
Atlanta Regional Office

The Pulse of CMS

CMS RELEASES MACRA NPRM (PAGE 2)

HHS Takes Action on Opioid Use Treatment

In conjunction with the President's visit to the National Rx Drug Abuse and Heroin Summit, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced a proposal to allow qualified physicians to prescribe the opioid use disorder treatment medication buprenorphine to an increased number of patients. The proposed change is designed to strike an appropriate balance between expanding access to this important treatment, encouraging use of evidence-based medication-assisted treatment (MAT), and minimizing the risk of drug diversion.

Buprenorphine is an FDA-approved drug used as part of MAT, which is a comprehensive way to address the recovery needs of individuals that combines the use of medication with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders. Buprenorphine, because of its lower potential for abuse, is permitted to be prescribed or dispensed in physician offices. This significantly increases its availability to many patients. When taken as prescribed,

buprenorphine is safe and effective.

Under current regulations, physicians that are certified to prescribe buprenorphine for MAT are allowed to prescribe up to 30 patients initially and then after one year can request authorization to prescribe up to a maximum of 100 patients. This cap on prescribing limits the ability of some physicians to prescribe to patients with opioid use disorder.

If adopted, the proposal will allow for a qualified and currently waived physician to prescribe buprenorphine for up to 200 patients. HHS welcomes public comment on this proposed rule. The 60 day comment period on the proposal opened on, March 30, 2016. HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell has made addressing opioid misuse, dependence, and overdose a priority. [The evidence-based HHS-wide opioid initiative](#) focuses on three priority areas that include: informing opioid prescribing practices, increasing the use of naloxone (a rescue medication that can prevent death from overdose), and expanding access to and the use of MAT to treat opioid use disorder. These efforts build on work that began in 2010, when the President released his first National Drug Control Strategy, which emphasized the need for action to address opioid misuse and overdose, while ensuring that individuals with pain receive safe, effective treatment. Also in 2010, the ACA improved access to substance use disorder treatment options by requiring coverage of substance use disorder services in the Health Insurance Marketplace and establishing important parity protections to ensure that substance use disorder coverage is comparable to medical and surgical care coverage.

CMS Awards Round 2 Recompete Contracts for Competitive Bidding

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the Round 2 Recompete and national mail-order recompete contract suppliers for Medicare's Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program. This program has been in effect since 2011 and is an essential tool to help Medicare set appropriate payment rates for DMEPOS items, save money for beneficiaries and taxpayers, and ensure access to quality items.

Under the program, DMEPOS suppliers compete to become Medicare contract suppliers by submitting bids to furnish certain items in competitive bidding areas (CBAs). After the first two years of Round 2 and the national mail-order programs (July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2015), Medicare has saved approximately \$3.6 billion while health monitoring data indicate that its implementation is going smoothly with few inquiries or complaints and has had no negative impact on beneficiary health outcomes.

The Round 2 and national mail-order program contract periods expire on June 30, 2016. Round 2 Recompete and the national mail-order recompete contracts will be effective from July 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018. The national mail-order recompete for diabetes testing supplies will be implemented at the same time as Round 2 Recompete and will include all parts of the United States, including the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa.

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Communication Regarding Medicare's Provider Enrollment Revalidation - Cycle 2

Dear Medical Society or Association:

First Coast Service Options (First Coast), your Medicare Administrative Contractor for the fee-for-service program in Florida, requests your help communicating important changes to your members to prevent potential loss of revenue to their practice or facility.

Provider Enrollment Revalidation Cycle 2

All Medicare Part A and B providers are required to recertify the accuracy of their enrollment information every five years through a process known as revalidation. The initial five year revalidation cycle was completed in 2015 and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) began Cycle 2 in March 2016.

CMS implemented improvements to streamline the revalidation process during Cycle 2. One enhancement is that CMS is establishing due dates with six months of advance notice for when the revalidation application must be received to remain compliant with Medicare's provider enrollment requirements. CMS posts the due dates for all currently enrolled providers in the Medicare Revalidation Lookup Tool at Data.CMS.gov/revalidation. **A due date of "TBD" means that CMS has not set the date yet.** Please do not send a revalidation application if there is **NOT** a listed due date. First Coast will return any unsolicited revalidation applications received earlier than six months before the due date, or when a due date is not yet listed.

The Revalidation Lookup Tool is updated every 60 days, so we encourage providers to check the tool periodically and respond timely once your due date is established. First Coast is also issuing notices by mail to providers two-three months before the due date.

An important change for Cycle 2 is that failure to submit a revalidation application will result in possible deactivation of a provider's Medicare enrollment and billing privileges. Please note other important impacts:

- If the revalidation application is received, but additional information is requested (through development) and not received within the 30-day timeframe, the provider's Medicare enrollment will possibly be deactivated
- Requests for application submission extensions will not be granted
- Be sure to submit the application fee, if applicable

Please access the following key resources for additional information:

- MLN® Special Edition (SE) 1605 article
<https://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE1605.pdf>
- Steps for completing the revalidation process: http://medicare.fcso.com/PE_Revalidation/269940.asp
- Revalidation Cycle 2 FAQs
https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Downloads/Reval_Cycle2_FAQs.pdf
- CMS' Revalidations page
<https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Provider-Enrollment-and-Certification/MedicareProviderSupEnroll/Revalidations.html>
- First Coast's on-demand webcast recording "Provider Enrollment Revalidation – Cycle 2"
<https://gm1.geolearning.com/geonext/fcso/coursesummary.CourseCatalog.geo?src=CourseCatalog&selectTab=Details&id=22507369817>
(Note: To access the recording, request a free training account at First Coast University).