



PHYSIATRIST'S VOICE

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Matthew D. Imfeld, MD



It's that time of year again: graduations, vacations, family reunions, weddings.....while these busy events happen, summer is still a time of slowing down life's rhythm a bit, taking some time to relax and reflect. I hope each and every one of you has the opportunity to enjoy a bit of summer's bounty, a chance to renew and recharge for the coming year.

Many, many thanks to Dr Craig Lichtblau, FSPMR VP, who presided at FSPMR's Annual Meeting for me last month. His report is below.

We are already looking forward to FSPMR's 2018 Annual Meeting which will be in conjunction with the Florida Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, July 18 – 22, to be held at The Breakers, Palm Beach. Please go ahead and mark your calendars now. FSPMR will also be meeting in conjunction with the AAPM&R's 2018 Annual Assembly, October 25 – 28, to be held in Orlando. Mark your calendars for this one as well. Stay tuned for details of both events.

Thank you to Dr Andrew Sherman, FSPMR Board Member-at-Large, who has accepted my appointment as Membership Chair. We are aware that membership organizations nationwide are failing because of relying on an outdated business model, i.e., dues revenue.....there is a lot of competition for physicians' memberships, and most physicians no longer choose to belong to all of them, so membership #s are also falling. Young physicians no longer automatically join their specialty's organizations, they are unaware of the value. So what is FSPMR's value? Read Dr Sherman's article in this issue to better understand the paradigm shift he will help to lead us through.

Again, it's summer so remember to take some time for yourself, your family.

Sincerely,
Matthew Imfeld, MD
FSPMR President





VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Craig Lichtblau, MD



As most of you know, FSPMR held its 2017 Annual Meeting on May 6, at The Margaritaville Beach Resort in Hollywood Beach. This was in conjunction with the American Osteopathic College of PM&R's national meeting. FSPMR's Immediate Past President, Michael Creamer, DO, paved the way for this integrative experience between allopathic and osteopathic physiatrists.

FSPMR's current President, Matthew Imfeld MD, was not able to attend due to a promise to a deceased friend to give his (friend's) daughter away at her wedding on the same weekend as our meeting.

This is how I came to be the presiding FSPMR officer at our 2017 Annual Meeting. As such, I joined the AOCPMR President in his welcoming comments and I introduced the Keynote Speaker, Warren Rivera, a former DEA Agent who is helping physicians stay out of trouble by presenting "Protecting Prescribing Practices."

The Margaritaville (one of Jimmy Buffett's properties) was a fun venue. I particularly enjoyed the continuous oldies playing throughout the hotel. Hollywood Beach has a 2.5 mile broadwalk (no, not boardwalk, but the same principle) right along the ocean and it passes by The Margaritaville. We found ourselves strolling for a bit of fresh air (and people watching!).

FSPMR had members making presentations at this conference and some were:

Spasticity/Botulinum Toxin - Andrew Sherman MD

Ketamine Therapy, Update on Intrathecal Therapies, and Amputee/Prosthetics Update - Robert Kent DO

Depositions, Trials, and Other Sworn Testimony: What the Expert Needs to Know - Anthony Dorto MD

Comprehensive NonSurgical Management of Low Back Pain - Ron Tolchin DO

Alan Novick MD, FSPMR Member and Medical Director of Memorial Hospital's Rehabilitation Institute, gave a Saturday afternoon tour of that facility and it was well attended. Dr Novick is also in process of developing what would be Florida's 4th PM&R Residency Program and there is an article about that in this newsletter by Dr Novick's Residency Program Director, Meilani Mapa MD.

One aspect of the meeting for which I was particularly grateful: the opportunity to spend quality and quantity time with one of our Florida physiatric pioneers, Rodolfo Eichberg MD, and his wife, Yvette. We are grateful for and stand on the shoulders of our forerunners!

Since FSPMR was not the primary organizer behind this event, our Executive Director, Lorry Davis, and I were able to spend quite a bit of time with our board members and other members in attendance. These are rare opportunities to communicate outside the regular professional realm. For example, Dr Andrew Sherman was motivated to begin discussion about an FSPMR Membership Task Force, and he has written a piece about that in this newsletter.

I, too, was inspired to begin thought about what initiatives and programs of value that I might add for members of FSPMR.

Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Craig Lichtblau MD
FSPMR Vice President



FSPMR MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



Andrew L. Sherman, MD, MS
Professor and Vice Chair
Department of Physical Medicine
& Rehabilitation
University of Miami Leonard M.
Miller School of Medicine
FSPMR Chair, Membership
Sub-Committee

Most recently at our FSPMR full board quarterly meeting, the topic of membership was discussed. Currently it was reported that we have 81 dues paying members. In the State of Florida, there are estimated to be over 500 practicing (and retired!) physiatrists. Thus there is a clear gap in membership that the board felt should be addressed.

As one of the least populous (and least well known among lay persons) specialties in medicine, it is imperative that physiatrists in the State of Florida are able to have a place where we can work together to achieve common goals. Whether it is reducing

malpractice rates, protecting the interests of physiatrists to admit qualified patients to acute inpatient rehab, or ensure that well qualified physiatrists are able to obtain interventional pain privileges at all hospitals and reimbursement for the procedures we do, the FSPMR is often the only organization fighting for the physiatrist.

As an organization, we can only be successful in bringing the needs of the physiatrist to other county, specialty, and state organizations such as the FMA if the FSPMR truly represents the majority if not all physiatrists in the state. Thus it is with this background that the FSPMR Board has created a subcommittee to address the shortfall of membership and create programs and initiatives to increase the FSPMR membership accordingly. The goal of the committee would be that 80% of the physiatrists in this state – if not all physiatrists would be members.

Over the next few months, this committee will meet via teleconferencing and email exchanges to create programs and plans to increase our membership. Hand-in-hand would be the goal to reward our members with increased benefits and value added for the expanded base of members. I look forward to the task at hand and welcome any input from the general membership – either in the form of email suggestions, or to become actual members of the subcommittee. Send me a note at asherman@miami.com.

2017 Conference Snapshots



Jose Diaz DO, FSPMR Member and
Co-Program Director for this AOCPMR
Meeting, & Lorry Davis, FSPMR Executive
Director



Andrew Sherman MD,
Lecturing at AOCPMR/FSPMR



Michael Creamer DO, FSPMR Immediate
Past President, Stephanie Wilson, AOCPMR
Executive Director, Lorry Davis, & Mitchell
Freed MD, FSPMR Member & Past President



RESIDENTS SECTION



Benjamin Mendelsohn MD, PGY-3
Department of PM&R
University of Miami Miller School
of Medicine



Andrew Sherman, MD, MS
Residency Program Director
FSPMR Member-at-Large
University of Miami Miller School
of Medicine

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

The University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital PM&R Residents have been very productive during this spring 2017. We had an unbelievable turnout at the Dolphin Cancer Challenge on February 11th 2017 where residents provided medical coverage at the charity cycling fundraiser to raise money for Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. The event consists of cycling from Palm Beach County all the way through Miami-Dade counties and finishing at Hard Rock Stadium. Our residents staffed the medical tents at the Hard Rock Stadium finish as well as each of the pit stops along the way, providing necessary triage and first aid treatment to injured riders and attendees. We are very proud of continuing to support this event as not only do we get significant sports medicine exposure, but also allows us to give back to our community.

Our 11th annual Research Day was held on May 5th, 2017, where senior residents presented their individual research projects. We were pleased to host keynote speaker, Dr. Andrew Haig, Active Emeritus Professor, Department of PM&R at University of Michigan, who delivered an engaging talk on the topic "Paraspinal Mapping and Spinal Stenosis: Research, Scandal, and Health Policy." The lectures given by our residents included the following...

Kimberly Ross, MD: A Five Year Longitudinal Intervention for Improving Medical Student Exposure to Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

Ori Schnitzer, MD: An Assessment of the Frequency of Traumatic Brain Injury in Patients with Spinal Cord Injury

Usker Naqvi, MD: Examining Interrater Reliability in Ultrasound Evaluation of the Piriformis

Armen Derian, MD and Brianna Hoffman, MD: A Novel Infusion Method of Intrathecal Baclofen Using Personal Therapy Manager

Huy Nguyen, MD: Spinal Cord Stimulation Use in Lumbar Axial Pain: A case report and review of the literature
Diana Molinares, MD and Joslyn Gober, DO: Meta-Analysis/Systemic Review Course Update

On Thursday, June 8th, a graduation ceremony will be held to honor our graduates among family and colleagues. This year, the graduation ceremony is unique as it is the 10 year anniversary of our program and as such we will be inviting all of our alumni and adjunct and former faculty who helped build and shape the program into what it is today. We are very proud of all of our graduates and their accomplishments, and we wish them the best in their future endeavors!

Armen Derian, MD - Pain Medicine fellowship, Mayo Clinic, Phoenix, AZ
Usker Naqvi MD - OSS Interventional Spine & Sports Medicine Fellowship, York, PA
Huy Nguyen, MD - Inpatient/outpatient PM&R, SIMED Physiatry, Ocala, FL
Kim Ross, MD - General PM&R/UM Spasticity fellowship, Miami, FL
Ori Schnitzer, MD - University of Miami/JMH/VAMC SCI fellowship, Miami, FL
Brianna Hoffman, MD - General PM&R, Washington DC

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RESIDENTS SECTION

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

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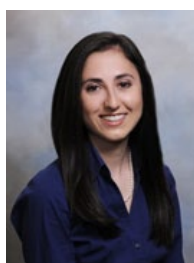
Recently, several of our residents had an opportunity to go to the AOCPM&R conference jointly held with the FSPM&R annual academic meeting. At the conference we were able to set up a University of Miami Miller School of Medicine/JMH Residency table. We met with numerous osteopathic medical students from MS1-MS4, and discussed various aspects about PM&R; from general questions about why PM&R to specific questions regarding our program. We also had a strong turnout at the FSPM&R dinner, which was attended by Ben Mendelsohn, MD; Joslyn Gober, DO; Kathy Lin, MD; Kimberly Ross, MD; and Charles Plumlee, MD. Our residents enjoy going to these dinners to meet and have great discussions with local practicing physiatrists and learn about some of the challenging issues that physiatrists around our state face.



AOCPMR/FSPMR Annual Meeting

Our residents are excited for the upcoming AAPM&R annual meeting this October in Denver, CO. Several of our residents 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 updating the constituents of FSPM&R about the upcoming exciting events occurring in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation here at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.



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

Summer is almost here and that means 8 more newly minted physiatrists are about to enter the world. The Larkin Community Hospital PM&R Class of 2017 is set to graduate on Saturday, June 4, 2017 at 12:30 PM at Nova Southeastern University. Matthew Irvin, DO, Haroon Andar, DO, and Patrick

Brennan, DO will be completing a Pain Medicine Fellowship at Larkin Community Hospital in South Florida. Sandra Hong, DO will be starting a TBI Fellowship in San Antonio, TX. Peter Roumanos, DO will be joining Healthsouth Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington, KY. Emmanuel Sakla, DO will be completing an Interventional Spine Fellowship in Clearwater, FL. Steve Ritucci, DO will be starting an Interventional Spine Fellowship in Boston, MA. Janelle Miller, DO will be starting a SCI Fellowship in Dallas, TX. Congratulations to our graduates!

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RESIDENTS SECTION

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

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Summer is almost here and that means 8 more newly minted physiatrists are about to enter the world. The Larkin Community Hospital PM&R Class of 2017 is set to graduate on Saturday, June 4, 2017 at 12:30 PM at Nova Southeastern University. Matthew Irvin, DO, Haroon Andar, DO, and Patrick Brennan, DO will be completing a Pain Medicine Fellowship at Larkin Community Hospital in South Florida. Sandra Hong, DO will be starting a TBI Fellowship in San Antonio, TX. Peter Roumanos, DO will be joining Healthsouth Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington, KY. Emmanuel Sakla, DO will be completing an Interventional Spine Fellowship in Clearwater, FL. Steve Ritucci, DO will be starting an Interventional Spine Fellowship in Boston, MA. Janelle Miller, DO will be starting a SCI Fellowship in Dallas, TX. Congratulations to our graduates!

The Larkin PM&R Annual Research Day took place May 22, 2017 at 9 AM at Nova Southeastern University with guest speaker, Randall Braddom, MD. Dr. Braddom spoke on several topics including, "Current Diagnosis and Treatment of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome," "The Recognition and Treatment of Chronic Pain Syndrome," and "The Future of PM&R." Resident scholarly activities ranged from case presentations to book chapters. Daniel Grabarek, DO, PGY-3 is publishing a chapter in, "Glenohumeral Instability in Musculoskeletal Pain Conditions: A Comprehensive Guide," this July 2017.



Larkin PM&R Residents
at the AOCPMR Mid-Year Meeting



The AOCPMR Mid-Year Meeting took place this past May 4-7, 2017, at the Margaritaville Beach Resort located on Hollywood Beach. The resident portion of the conference was hosted by two of our very own residents. This was in conjunction with the FSPMR Annual Meeting. The conference theme was "Integration and Innovation: Merging Integrative Medicine with the Newest Innovations in Physiatry."

Sandeep Kola, DO, PGY-3 presented at the FSPMR Annual Business Dinner on, "Nerve Block of the Ophthalmic Division of the Trigeminal Nerve for Headache Management." One of the highlights of the conference for residents was the MSK US Course on Sunday. Residents were able to get hands on with the US machines as they learned various techniques and clinical applications on how to properly diagnosis and treat hip pain. At the Saturday evening social event, "Costal Rehab at the Carpenter House," everyone was introduced to Captain, the rehabilitated sea turtle with a spinal cord injury from a boat strike. Overall the conference was a huge success!



Larkin PM&R Residents at the AOCPMR
Mid-Year Meeting Carpenter House Event

NSU/Larkin PM&R is 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, DO (josediaz@larkinhospital.com) and Ms. Yusleiby Sanzo (ysanzo@larkinhospital.com) the Graduate Medical Education Program Coordinator.



RESIDENTS SECTION



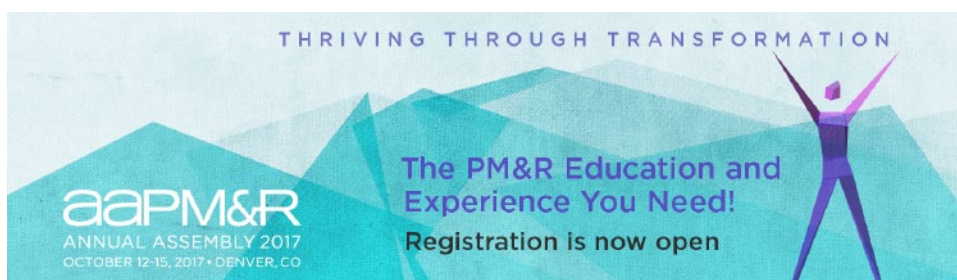
Morgan Pyne, DO
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation PGYII
University of South Florida Residency
Program Liaison

University of South Florida PM&R Residency Update

It's hard to believe another year has already gone by! After a very competitive interview season, the University of South Florida's Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Program is pleased to announce our newest residents for the class of 2021. Welcome Krystal Yankowski, Robert

Rotman and Elizabeth Mortazavi! We are excited to have you all join our family here at USF!

Our residents continue to keep busy with research, with case reports being done on intra-theal granulomas and spinal cord lesions along with a poster acceptance into the AAPMR annual conference in Denver, CO, this October. The program also continues to improve its scholarly activity by now hosting Dr. Randall Braddom monthly as part of the programs didactics schedule. Our residents also had a great experience when we are able to practice our ultrasound guided injection techniques using cadavers at USF's medical school.



And while we are sad to say good bye to our seniors, we know they are off to do great things! Good luck to Corey Reeves, who will be completing his pain fellowship at Wake Forest University, David Ciaccia, who is heading to Charlotte, NC, to complete an Interventional Spine Fellowship, and Bryan Thomas, who will be a pain fellow here at USF. We are so proud of you all!

FSPMR is now on Facebook

Follow us at: <https://www.facebook.com/fspmr>





RESIDENTS SECTION



Meilani H. Mapa, MD, CMQ
Medical Director
Brain Injury
Memorial Rehabilitation Institute
Program Director
Physical Medicine and
Rehabilitation Program
Memorial Healthcare System

Florida's Fourth PM&R Residency Program at Memorial Healthcare System

The Memorial Healthcare System Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) program in Hollywood Florida recently received initial accreditation in January 2017 through the ACGME (Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education) for a 4- year residency program. In collaboration with the tertiary and quaternary

care provided across Memorial Healthcare System, our program will provide residents with ample exposure to highly-specialized care of a variety of patient populations including complex multiple trauma, strokes, brain and spinal cord injuries, geriatrics, cancer, pediatrics, pain medicine, and orthopedics.

Our 4-year program enables residents to complete their training in one healthcare system, inclusive of a preliminary Internal Medicine year in partnership with our ACGME-accredited Internal Medicine Program at Memorial Hospital West. Post graduate years 2-4 (PGY 2-4) will be housed at Memorial Rehabilitation Institute at Memorial Regional Hospital South, one of the largest acute rehabilitation hospitals in Florida. Memorial Regional Hospital South and Memorial Rehabilitation Institute have developed a wide range of inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation services in an academic, community-based healthcare system with a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary patient- and family-centered care.

Memorial Rehabilitation Institute is accredited through CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) in 5 different programs including comprehensive integrated inpatient rehabilitation, outpatient medical rehabilitation, stroke specialty, brain injury specialty and pediatric specialty. After an extensive evaluation and survey, cancer rehabilitation accreditation is expected very shortly which will make the Memorial Rehabilitation Institute only the eighth facility in the country to be accredited in cancer rehabilitation and the first and only in Florida.

We are delighted to welcome our first class of residents to sunny South Florida! We will accept applications through ERAS and will be participating in 2018 NRMP (National Resident Matching Program) match for our inaugural PGY1 class beginning in July 2018. For more specific information please visit our website at: <http://www.mhs.net/gme-pmr> or call 954-265-4GME (4463) or email pmrresidency@mhs.net.



ALLIED HEALTH UPDATE



LaMisa S. Rayside, MSN, ACNP-BC
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP)
Student
University of Alabama at
Birmingham (UAB)
Central Florida Pain Relief
Centers
Orlando, Florida

It has been nearly five months since prescriptive authority for ARNPs and PAs has been in effect. With change, barriers must be overcome. Upon inception of prescriptive authority, pharmacists presented with unfamiliarity and uncertainty. There was an incident in March where I found myself having to fax the protocol to a pharmacist who was adamant in accepting that ARNPs and PAs can write for controlled substances if they have an active DEA license. I did and still do appreciate the pharmacist taking precaution however, it was hard for me to comprehend that a monumental undertaking had not been on the pharmacist's radar.

Our practice is now able to electronically prescribe controlled substances. We use an app called "VIP Access," which produces a 6-digit code to be entered upon submitting prescription to the pharmacy. Large retail pharmacies like Walgreens, CVS, Wal-Mart and mail-order pharmacies such as CVS Caremark, Humana Mail Pharmacy, Optum Rx, and Express Scripts are equipped to accept controlled substances electronically. There are smaller pharmacies that are not set up to receive controlled substances electronically. In those instances, patients are given a hard copy as done prior to the implementation of this new process. I recently learned that although pharmacies are equipped to receive electronic prescriptions, there are pharmacists who may decline to fill the prescriptions. One pharmacist told me that she does not "trust the process." Again, barriers must be overcome.



In regards to newer surgical procedures, I have interacted with a few patients over the last 6 months who have undergone implantation of Stimwave technology. The outcomes have been favorable where patients are reporting better pain control. The goal is to minimize use of opioids and I am confident that with the many alternative therapies available, this goal is attainable. I have become acquainted with a clinical liaison for Compass Research and she and I are working together to enroll patients in studies (if qualified) to achieve optimal health. Studies range from therapies for smoking cessation to the management of opioid induced constipation (OIC). Again, these are strategies to reduce the opioid crisis.

Barkley and Associates held its very first conference for nurse practitioners in acute care. The conference was held in gorgeous Miami, Florida, April 6-9. Nurse practitioners certified in family, adult, emergency, or acute care were in attendance. There were over 1000 attendees and I had the privilege of being one of them. Attending the conference gave me an opportunity to network with fellow nurse practitioners as well as to learn about updates on infectious diseases, radiology reviews, neuro diagnoses, and so forth. The special segment on how nurse practitioners can maximize reimbursement in an acute care setting was very informative. Barkley and Associates will be hosting another conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Registration will open on November 07, 2017. Please visit <http://www.npcourses.com> to learn more.

Lastly, I would like to extend an invitation to my colleagues to join the Florida Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The opportunities to learn more about the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation are endless. For more information on how to become a member and register for upcoming conferences, please visit <http://www.fspmr.org>.

Respectfully submitted,
LaMisa S. Rayside, MSN, ACNP-BC



FMA
FLORIDA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

FMA 2017 Legislative Session Report

The 2017 Florida Legislative Session concluded on Monday, May 8, with passage of the state budget. This year's session will be remembered as much for the legislation that didn't pass as for the legislation that did. This was the least active session in terms of the number of bills passed since the Republicans gained control of the statehouse in the mid-1990s. While 3,131 bills were introduced this year, only a handful were approved by both the House and Senate.

For the third year in a row, most of the substantive health care legislation got caught up in the political dynamics of the two legislative chambers. Your FMA team of lobbyists tracked 241 bills and numerous amendments that either directly or indirectly affected the practice of medicine in Florida.

Following is a summary of some of the key legislative issues that the FMA worked on this session on behalf of our members.

Legislation That Passed

Catastrophic Fund Exemption for Medical Malpractice

In 2016, the FMA succeeded in extending the expiration date for the medical malpractice premiums exemption from the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund from emergency assessments. This year, SB 454 by Sen. Jeff Brandes and HB 359 by Rep. David Santiago repealed the sunset provision and permanently exempted medical malpractice premiums from emergency assessments.

Board of Medicine Rule Ratification

Over the past several years, the Florida Board of Medicine has worked on updating the office surgery rule. The FMA proposed language that would allow physicians to administer controlled substances in doses appropriate for the unsupervised treatment of insomnia, anxiety or pain in a Level I Office Surgery setting. The language also required that if an office administered benzo - diazepines or opiates, then Flumazenil and Naloxone must be stocked on the crash cart, respectively. As a result of the added crash cart requirements, legislative ratification was needed before the rule could go into effect. The rule was ratified unanimou s - ly by the House and Senate.

Foundation for Healthy Floridians

The Conference Committee for the fiscal year of 2017-18, General Appropriations Act, provided \$750,000 to the Foundation for Healthy Floridians in specific appropriations 539A. In an effort to curtail escalating health care costs, this program seeks to



leverage the state's network of primary care physicians to distribute high-quality nutrition education resources to hundreds of thousands of Floridians. A significant percentage of Florida's population is obese, and obesity-related diseases drive up health care costs each year. Enabling physicians to assist patients in taking responsibility for their own health could help Floridians avoid or modify behaviors that increase health care costs.

Legislation the FMA Defeated

ARNP Independent Practice

During the 2016 Legislative Session, the FMA struck a compromise to allow ARNPs to prescribe controlled substances under several limitations and safeguards, with the understanding that all parties could focus on issues outside of independent practice moving forward. Nevertheless, Rep. Cary Pigman, M.D., sponsored HB 7011, a 185-page bill aimed at granting independent practice to Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners. A Senate companion was never filed, but the FMA continued to fight HB 7011 as it moved through the House committees.

Optometry

HB 1037 by Rep. Manny Diaz and SB 1168 by Sen. Jack Latvala reignited the "Eyeball Wars." HB 1037 would have allowed optometrists to perform laser and non-laser ophthalmic surgery, despite the fact that these practitioners do not have nearly as much training and expertise as ophthalmologists. In addition to surgical privileges, optometrists would have had full power to prescribe controlled substances – including Schedule II drugs. This would have allowed almost 3,000 additional practitioners to prescribe addictive narcotics in Florida. Because of the FMA's strong opposition, SB 1168 was never heard in committee. HB 1037 barely passed its first committee with an 8-7 vote, was removed from its second committee, and was temporarily postponed in its last stop because it did not have the votes to pass.

Scope Expansion for Pharmacists

The FMA was also successful in stopping SB 1180 by Sen. Jose Javier Rodriguez, which would have expanded the scope of practice for pharmacists. The bill would have allowed pharmacists to order and evaluate laboratory and clinical tests; administer medications; initiate, modify or discontinue medications; and diagnose and treat influenza. The FMA spent a considerable amount of time trying to work on a compromise, but unfortunately, the pharmacy groups would not budge on the above-mentioned expansions. A companion bill was never filed, and SB 1180 died in its first committee.

In addition to fighting the bills regarding, ARNP independent practice, optometry and pharmacy, the FMA opposed bills that would have allowed ARNPs and PAs to qualify as medical directors (SB 96/HB 129) and that would have created a backdoor route for CRNAs to obtain independent practice by allowing their protocols to be "in collaboration" with a physician instead of under a physician's supervision (SB 394). Another bill would have changed the composition of the PA Council by removing two physician members and replacing them with PAs (SB 732/HB 1307). Because of the FMA's vigilance, none of these measures were successful.



PHYSIATRIST'S VOICE

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

Liability for Termination of Pregnancy

Florida's medical malpractice reform statutes have been carefully crafted over four decades and are specifically designed to ensure that Florida citizens have access to high-quality medical care. SB 1140 by Sen. Keilli Stargel and HB 19 by Rep. Erin Grall sought to unravel this system by targeting one specific medical procedure for disparate treatment.

While the FMA does not typically engage in legislation surrounding the termination of pregnancies, SB 1140/HB 19 would have unfairly subjected any physician who performed this procedure to be sued outside of the medical malpractice system. The bill would have increased the statute of limitations period, and defendant physicians would have been responsible for plaintiffs' attorney fees – something no other medical professionals face. SB 1140 was never heard, and HB 19 died in committee. This legislation would have created a pathway to chip away at the protections built into the medical malpractice system.

Limitations in Medical Payments

Once again, legislation was filed to dictate what evidence a jury could consider to determine the amount of medical damages in all personal injury and wrongful death actions. SB 146 by Sen. Kathleen Passidomo and HB 583 by Rep. Jay Fant would have made the amount of a health care provider's charges inadmissible in evidence. This legislation would have created a major access-to-care issue for injured victims by unfairly eliminating their ability to receive the best medical care after being injured by the wrongdoing of others. With fewer health care providers willing to treat people injured by the wrongdoing of others, the victims would have had no choice but to be treated in the emergency rooms of hospitals that (under federal law) cannot turn them away. Therefore, taxpayers would have ended up subsidizing medical care for injuries that the wrongdoers caused. The FMA opposed this legislation, which died in committee.

Legislation That Did Not Pass

Health Insurance Legislation

The FMA supported legislation that would have prevented retroactive denials, allowed physicians to override fail first protocols, and provided for simpler prior authorization procedures. The FMA was successful in passing this key legislation through the Senate, and we achieved more momentum on these policies in the House than ever before. These policies greatly affect patients and physicians alike, and lawmakers' increasing interest brings this legislation closer to becoming law.

Direct Primary Care

Direct Primary Care (DPC) is a primary care medical practice model that eliminates third-party payers from the primary care physician-patient relationship. The FMA supported legislation by Sen. Tom Lee (SB 240) and Rep. Danny Burgess (HB 161) to establish that DPC agreements are not insurance and therefore not subject to regulation under the Florida Insurance Code. Unfortunately, SB 240 became trade bait and did not pass. The FMA will continue fighting for the DPC model as a way to improve access and quality of care.



Maintenance of Certification

While Maintenance of Certification (MOC) once ensured continuous physician education, it has become prohibitively expensive, unnecessarily time-consuming and burdensome ultimately taking physicians away from their patients and their own specialty-specific studies. The FMA pushed for legislation that would have alleviated the burdens of the MOC process and placed education back in the hands of Florida physicians. While the FMA made significant strides in promoting SB 1354 by Sen. Dana Young and HB 723 by Rep. Julio Gonzalez, M.D., the MOC issue was unknown to legislators. The FMA will continue educating members of the Legislature about the shortfalls of MOC in preparation for the 2018 Session.

How You Can Make Medicine Stronger

The FMA is the strongest advocate for you in defeating legislation that would negatively affect your practice and the way you practice medicine. Legislative committee weeks for the 2018 Legislative Session begin in four short months, but we need your help now so that we can achieve our goals on your behalf.

Make your profession stronger by [donating to the FMA PAC](#). The FMA PAC supports pro-medicine legislative candidates who will fight to eliminate unnecessary administrative and regulatory requirements so that you can focus on patient care.

[Click here to make a donation to the FMA PAC today.](#) Thank you for your support.



Floridians for Reliable Health Coverage

Session Outcome HB 95/SB 182 Bait-and-Switch Bills

You may recall that SB 182 passed the Senate, but HB 95 was still in committee and not ready for the floor. In spite of Senator Mayfield's numerous attempts to amend the SB 182 language on to other bills, she was unable to pass the bill and send it to the House. Time is always an enemy in this process. We not only ran out of time, but we were unable to overcome the House's opposition to the bill, in spite of the fact that HB 95 was passed out of the Health Innovation Subcommittee unanimously. There were two remaining committee references.

Could I ask for one more action item regarding these bills? Could you kindly thank our bill sponsors, Senator Debbie Mayfield and Representative Ralph Massullo? Both of them were strong advocates in stopping health plans' bait-and-switch practices and in protecting Floridians from potentially harmful medication changes?

Please feel free to use any of the messages below by calling, emailing, tweeting, and/or posting to Facebook.

Senator Debbie Mayfield

Phone: 321-409-2025

Email: mayfield.debbie.web@flsenate.gov

Twitter: @debbie_mayfield

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/debbie.mayfield.927>

Representative Ralph Massullo (M.D.)

Phone: 352-527-4510

Email: ralph.massullo@myfloridahouse.gov

Twitter: @RalphMassullo

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100009403771591>

Sample phone, email, or Facebook messages:

- On behalf of _____, I want to thank you for sponsoring SB 182/HB 95 to protect patients from unfair insurance coverage reductions. Although the bills didn't pass, your support has been greatly appreciated.

- Insurers shouldn't change your health plan mid-year. Thank you for fighting for patients by sponsoring SB 182/HB 95. Let's come back next year!

Tweets:

- Floridians don't deserve unfair bait-and-switches. Thanks for all your efforts @debbie_mayfield and @RalphMassullo #NoBaitAndSwitch

- Thank you for your efforts to protect patients #NoBaitAndSwitch @debbie_mayfield and @RalphMassullo #SB182 #HB95

I would also like to thank each of you, members of Floridians for Reliable Health Coverage, for your incredible support throughout this process, which started over 18 months ago. Your phone calls, emails, tweets, and posts, your letters to the editor, your testimony, and your presence at committee meetings all contributed to passage through five legislative committees and the full Senate this Session. We never would have gotten this far without you! As we take some time to consider our next moves, I know you'll continue to fight to protect patients, ensuring that they receive the medications that they need and that their physicians deem necessary. We appreciate all of you!

Chris Fisher

Floridians for Reliable Health Coverage

<https://www.facebook.com/HealthFla/>

@HealthFla

C 321-978-1420



PHYSIATRIST'S VOICE

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2017

UPCOMING EVENTS

FSPMR's 2018 Annual Meeting

In conjunction with FSIPP's Annual Conference and Trade Show

July 18-22, 2018

The Breakers | Palm Beach, FL



aaPM&R

American Academy of
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

FSPMR Will Join AAPM&R for 2018 Annual Assembly

October 25 - 28, 2018

Orlando Convention Center
Orlando, Florida





JOB OPS/OTHER OPS

April 19, 2017

Physiatrist - Tampa, FL Rehabilitation and Electrodiagnostics, P.A.

Unique opportunity for a Board Certified/Board Eligible physiatrist to join a dynamic group of well-established 5 physician single specialty Physiatry practice in beautiful Tampa Bay.

This is an exciting and challenging position for the right candidate with interest in general rehabilitation (acute rehab inpatients, acute care hospital consultations, SNF/LTAC). Work schedule is flexible but coverage of physicians on vacation is required.

No weekends or night call coverage required.

The successful candidate will have a volunteer clinical faculty position at USF PMR program.

Tampa Bay is a vibrant and very desirable metropolitan area with a world class international airport. It is a major-league city with easy access to all forms of outdoor recreation- golf, tennis, water skiing, white sandy beaches with cruises to the Caribbean and beyond from the Port of Tampa. We are also only an hour away from Orlando attractions.

Excellent private and public schools and several universities. Cost of living in Tampa is very affordable and an ideal place to raise a family.

We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package (including profit sharing/401K) and productivity bonus. Established in 1958, Rehabilitation and Electrodiagnostics, PA is both the oldest and largest PM&R practice in Tampa Bay. Pediatric Physiatrist applicants are welcome but must be willing to treat adults inpatients (acute in-patient rehab, SNF/LTAC).

****Please Note:** Florida medical license required to apply

Please send curriculum vitae and 3 references to:
Laura Porter
Practice Administrator for Rehabilitation and Electrodiagnostics, P.A.
2914 N. Boulevard, Tampa, Florida 33602
Telephone: 813-865-4777, Fax: 813-228-0677
Email: administrator@pmrdocs.com

NOTES: Additional Salary Information: medical insurance, dental insurance available, 401k/profit sharing after 12 months, PTO, CME days, malpractice insurance, and yearly dues.

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.