



Lehigh County Medical Society

The mission of the Lehigh County Medical Society is to encourage physicians and healthcare professionals to have the highest moral and ethical standards; to counsel and censure them when necessary; to serve as a strong and united voice for our Lehigh County physicians, our patients and our community; to promote healthful living and well-being and to advance the highest standards of healthcare and service in our region through education, service and advocacy.

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Established 1852

MMXVI No. 1

Jan/Dec 2016

The DR Bulletin

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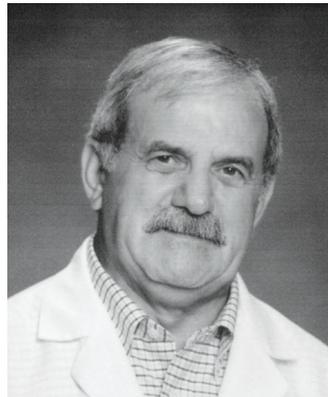
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A Winter Reflection: The Spirit of LCMS Future

*A final note from Robert Barraco, MD,
President 2015-2015*

As I sit here in an airport waiting for the second flight delay in the same day, I have had time to reflect on the State of the Medical Society. I see the good and the bad, the opportunities and the threats. I see that if we are not careful, we very well could have a future without a Lehigh County Medical Society (and no I am not jaded by the frustration of not getting home tonight). Active full membership is down again, from 271 last year to 256 this year. The Medical Society could no longer afford to keep

the building it has owned for 33 years and it is up for sale. Our annual socials have had poor attendance no matter the format tried. While the State Medical Society works to become more responsive to its members by further building its infrastructure to provide more value-added services, rates remain the same. As a result, members in our County are slated to pay over \$700 a year to join both medical societies. With the pressures of the economy and the competition for organizational dues and donation dollars, this has become prohibitive for many. This has resulted in the threat of dissolution of County Medical Societies into regional societies disconnected from their communities. And lastly, as the providers in the state become increasingly hospital employed to the tune of 70%, many do not see the value in joining these organizations. They are incorrectly assuming that these societies are only relevant for private practitioners. Active membership in the State and County Medical Societies can and does influence legislation and practice relative to all providers in the Commonwealth, private or employed. The Spirit of LCMS Future has shown me a very bleak midwinter (or fall) vision.

But just as with the original Spirit of Christmas Future in the Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol", these are only visions of what may be, not what must be. As I said earlier, I see both the good and the bad, the

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Manuscripts offered for publication and other correspondence should be sent to 1620 W Highland St, Allentown, PA.

The DR Bulletin is published six times a year bi-monthly, beginning in January, by the Lehigh County Medical Society.

The editorial board reserves the right to reject and/or alter submitted material before publication. All manuscripts and letters should be typed double-spaced on 8 1/2" x 11" stationary.

The opinions expressed in these pages are those of the individual authors and not necessarily those of the Lehigh County Medical Society.

The ad material is for the information and consideration of the reader. It does not necessarily represent an endorsement or recommendation by the Lehigh County Medical Society.

Preserve Your County Medical Society - The Grassroots of Organized Medicine

opportunities as well as the threats that led to the above visions. We as members of the Lehigh County Medical Society, an institution that has lived in our community for 163 years, have the power to do something about it. With the advent of medical schools in the Lehigh Valley, we have a stronger than ever student section for which we have provided new rules to facilitate their participation. They have been active within our middle and high school programs and helping to build connections with the health professions clubs of undergraduate schools in our area. After the successful grant application by Past President Gertner, we established very successful Health Career Club programs with Raub Middle School in Allentown and interest from Allen High School in the same. We have a great opportunity to build these programs to last with our Community Fund for education but have only been able to raise \$17,000 of the \$100,000 dollars to endow the program.

So what do we need to change the Spirit of LCMS Future's vision from bleak to great? YOU. We need you all to step up in your own way. Whether it be to donate whatever you can to our fund to educate our youth in the inner city of Allentown about our great profession or to be active in the organization as a trustee or officer or even website developer, we need you to step up. Whether it be recruiting new members or helping our student and resident sections build a bright future, we need you to step up. We need you to bring the joy of our profession and the good works of our Society to others and not be caught up in the bah, humbug of the frustrations and vagaries of life as a provider. So as I leave this office, it is up to you what happens in our LCMS future. Your LCMS has done great things over the years for the providers and for the community. With you as a vital part, it can continue to do more. You pick the Spirit of LCMS vision you want to make real.

Thank you for the privilege of serving two terms as your President.

Bob Barraco

ATTENTION

Lehigh County Medical Society MEMBERS

Does your Physician Group have a Website?

Contact the Lehigh County Medical Society
and have your Website linked onto the
Lehigh County Medical Society Website.

www.lcmedsoc.org

Call: 610-437-2288

Proposed Immunization Changes Could Provide Greater Protections, Says PAMED President

The Pennsylvania Departments of Health and Education announced proposed changes to immunization requirements for schoolchildren during a state news conference Thursday morning, Nov. 5.

"Pennsylvania physicians through the Pennsylvania Medical Society have voiced growing concerns in recent years over immunization rates, vaccine exemptions, and occasional outbreaks of diseases such as measles," said Scott Shapiro, MD, FACC, FCPP, president of PAMED, in a statement. "Our long-standing policy has pushed to establish a parental duty to immunize their children in a complete and timely manner."

"The Pennsylvania Medical Society believes Health Secretary Karen Murphy and Education Secretary Pedro Rivera are correct in proposing changes to improve state-required immunization policy. This will help provide greater protection for Pennsylvanians."

Specifically, the departments proposed the following changes to current regulations:

- Definitions for new terms "full immunization" and "medical certificate"
- Clarifications to existing vaccine requirements
- Additional meningococcal dose before entry into the 12th grade
- Change to method of providing evidence of immunity for measles and for mumps from accepting a statement of history by parent or guardian to requiring a statement of history of disease by physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant
- Replacing the eight month provisional period with the following:
 - Requiring exclusion from school attendance of a child who lacks a single dose of a single dose vaccine and/or the first dose of a multiple dose vaccine
 - Allowing a child that needs the next or final dose of a multiple dose vaccine five school days to obtain the next or final dose in the series before being excluded from school attendance; or
 - Allowing a child needing more than one dose of a multiple-dose vaccine series beyond the five days to attend school provisionally upon the submission of a medical certificate outlining the dates for additional vaccination
 - Requiring school administrators to review the medical certificate and the child's compliance at least every 30 days
 - Allowing school administrators to exclude a

child who does not comply with the dates in the submitted medical certificate.

- Exempting from exclusion a child who is homeless
- Exempting from exclusion for 30-days a child who is transferring from a school or country outside the commonwealth and cannot provide records
- Providing limited waiver of vaccine requirements in the event of a disaster impacting the ability of children transferring into a school to provide records, or a nationally recognized vaccine shortage
- Changing reporting times for schools to report kindergarten and 7th grade immunizations to allow schools more time to gather information and report
- Requiring schools to report electronically to obtain more accurate reporting

The departments also said that they are not proposing any changes to the religious and medical exemptions in the regulations. Read more on the Department of Health's website, including FAQs and its news release. PAMED's current policy supports these changes:

60.998 More Stringent Vaccinations

The Society supports legislation to 1) establish a parental duty to immunize their children in a complete and timely manner and 2) mandate Pennsylvania public health clinics provide all recommended immunizations as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (specifically Hepatitis B Vaccine) that supports these changes. "As any physician will tell you, vaccines play an important role in the health of all citizens, whether it's protecting yourself or others around you," said Dr. Shapiro. "We must remember that there are some patients who have medical conditions that prevent them from receiving certain immunizations, so we need to increase herd immunity to lower the risk these individuals face." From www.pamedsoc.org

LCMS is looking for members interested in becoming active on the Board of Trustees or on various committees.

Please contact our office if you are interested, 610-437-2288 or lcmedsoc@rcn.com

Lehigh County Medical Society Welcomes the following New Members

Jonathan Thomas Hunt, Med. Student
626 Greene Ct.
Fountain Hill PA 18015

Stephanie-marie Lynn Jones, MD (OBG)
1245 S Cedar Crest Blvd Ste 201
Allentown PA 18103

Valerie Joyce Lewis, MD (ADL-PD)
400 N 17th St Ste 202
Allentown PA 18104

Nektarios I. Lountzis, MD (D)
1259 S Cedar Crest Blvd, Ste 100
Allentown, PA 18103

Jeffrey Carl Wells, DO (FP)
4520 Park View Dr
Schnecksville PA 18078

SAVE THE DATES

April 16th 2016 Annual Social at Lehigh Country Club

May 10th 2016, SCAN Program, by the PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, at Lehigh Country Club

This program for primary care is designed to encourage change in the day to day practice procedures. Presentation team of a physician and local Children and Youth worker, the two hour PowerPoint presentation is approved under Act 31. More information to follow.

REMEMBER

If you change your business or home address and/or phone or fax number, please notify the Lehigh County Medical Society. Call: 610-437-2288

NOTE

Members of the Lehigh County Medical Society can now view the membership roster (Physician Directory) at our website: www.lcmedsoc.org or request a Membership Roster by calling the Lehigh County Medical Society at: 610-437-2288.

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The vision of the Lehigh County Medical Society is to be a relevant and influential leader in the Pennsylvania Medical Society; to unite our physicians and to empower them to deliver compassionate, ethical and evidence based healthcare of the highest quality and value to our community.

The Lehigh County Medical Society will accomplish its mission and its vision by the following:

Legislative Advocacy within our State Medical Society and our Government
Community Education within the Public Health Arena
Member Education, Collaborative Relationships and Collegiality
Service Activities for our members and our community

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