

# Lafayette Parish Medical Society

## Quarterly Newsletter

February 2014

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### President's Corner



The Lafayette Parish Medical Society has just celebrated its 85th year of service to our physicians, patients and our community. I am honored and humbled to be serving as your 85th president.

Our medical climate has experienced countless scientific advancements, regulatory changes, and now reform that will drastically affect the way we practice medicine on a daily bases. I often find myself explaining to patients that "I would like to prescribe this medication, however your insurance dictates that you try this less effective generic medication first" or "I recommend diagnostic testing but we will need to see if your insurance approves". This wave of medical reform has been viewed by many as a means to restrict patient care.

I am reminded of the Hippocratic Oath, that rite of passage I held, and still hold close to my heart when I graduated from medical school some 15 years ago. I choose medicine as a vocation, eager to apply my knowledge, skills and judgment to individual patients, each with a unique set of symptoms and circumstances. I vowed to show compassion and to practice medicine to the best of my abilities. I practice evidence- based medicine tempered with personal judgment based on years of practical experience. In essence, the practice of medicine is an art and a science. The science, evidence, and research provide the knowledge to make hard diagnostic decisions. The art is the compassion, experience and judgment used in treating a patient and allowing them to be involved in discussing options and making decisions for medical care and treatment plans. Bureaucratic changes have effectively placed barriers to not only the art of medicine but also to effective and efficient patient care. Having to submit to a treatment plan delegated by their insurance company under rules that render patients unable to negotiate or have any meaningful input in their medical decisions only exacerbates feelings of hopelessness. This raises the question, who is making the decisions in healthcare?

The medical community is witnessing decisions being made on patient management by non-physician bureaucrats rather than by those most affected- the patients themselves along with their doctors. Significantly, these recent and fundamental changes in medicine are not voluntary. Doctors are jumping through increasingly

enormous hoops to get tests approved and medications authorized, while at the same time having to accept increasingly lower reimbursements. We have not had real input in this process and we often believe there is no choice but to accept what has been given to us. Complacency has contributed to the demise of our profession.

In these times of change, it is most important that we all take part in the legislative process. Our voices should be heard and our concerns addressed. How can we fulfill our oath to care for patients if we allow the "practice" of medicine to be put into the hands of others?

This beckons the next question: What can you do to actively participate in the process such that we play a part in making a change for the better? The future of medicine depends on maintaining the quality and autonomy of patient care that we all took an oath to provide. We must strive to protect the physicians' ability to "practice" medicine based on the experience and judgment of the physician and their relationships with their patients, rather than a generic "one size fits all" mandate under the guise of reform.

My goals for the coming year will to be to promote professionalism and protect autonomy and individualism in the "practice" of medicine through advocacy, education, and representation. We have elected a strong group of physician leaders to serve on the Executive Board representing different specialties in medicine. As advocates and advisors, we hope to identify and address the needs of our current and future members. We encourage you to express your individual concerns and experiences so that we may effectively represent you. Our goal is to have your voice heard. By establishing leadership that can highlight the concerns of medical specialties, our patients and our community, we hope to actively participate in the legislative process and make a difference. With advance strategic planning, we hope to reinvigorate advocacy efforts and address the needs of our colleagues, and effect positive changes in medicine.

I urge you to get involved, speak up and have your voice heard. Visit our website at <http://www.lpms.org> for more information, to provide feedback and stay apprised of LPMS' plans and resolutions to be presented at the next Legislative session.

Maria M. Doucet, M.D.

## WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR COMMUNITY

### Women In Medicine Luncheon 2013



A great time was had by all who attended the LPMS Women in Medicine luncheon. The afternoon was full of fun, fashion, comradery and great door prizes!

A special thanks to Cynthia glass for donating a day of beauty from CoccoLare spa. Also we thank La Marquis for such a special fashion show and wonderful donation of door prizes as well. La Marquis generously donated a designer scarf and a spa treatment. In addition, each guest received a special cosmetic sample from La Marquis and a 20% off shopping pass! Imonelli catered the champagne brunch and the food was delicious. In addition to a fashion show, a special guest, Dr. Chu, was taken for a bit for a makeover. She returned as a supermodel as we all cheered her on.

### Annual House of Delegates 2014



#### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR DELEGATES!

Paul Azar, Jr, MD    Leslie Greco, DO  
Fred Hall, MD      Andy Blalock, MD  
Deborah Johnson, MD    Maria Doucet, MD  
Uyen Chu, MD      Rachael Roberts, MD  
Dee Dee Garrett, MD    Larry Simon, MD  
Zeke Ducote, MD      Rod Clark, MD  
Jason Shumadine, MD

The Annual House of Delegates was held in Baton Rouge on February 1, 2014 at the Baton Rouge Hilton. Lafayette was well represented with 12 Delegates in attendance! We had Drs Maria Doucet and Rachael Roberts made a major breakthrough with a Resolution they presented to the House of Delegates on behalf of the OB/GYNS. The Resolution passed and is now in the phase towards becoming a law.

The resolution read as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Medicaid managed care program in Louisiana, also known as Bayou Health, has been operating in Louisiana since February of 2012;  
**WHEREAS**, currently, there are five different private health plans which administer the Bayou Health program; and  
**WHEREAS**, a majority of these health plans provide monetary incentives to their enrollees in the form of gift cards and prepaid credit cards to incentivize the enrollee to make healthy choices such as scheduling primary care appointments, attending well baby visits, and for diabetics getting annual blood screenings; and  
**WHEREAS**, while promoting healthy choices and lifestyle is certainly commendable, it is equally important to ensure that there are adequate controls on how the Medicaid recipient can use the funds such that the money can only be used to purchase healthcare products and services and not unhealthy purchases such as alcohol and cigarettes, therefore be it  
**RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana State Medical Society opposes the use of monetary incentives provided to enrollees of Medicaid managed care plans to incentivize the Medicaid recipient to make health choices especially if there is an absence of adequate controls on the use of the funds to ensure that monetary incentives may only be used to purchase healthcare products and services.

## DOCTOR'S DAY CELEBRATION 2014

### *Lafayette Parish Medical Society*

*Would like to invite you and your spouse to  
Doctor's Day Celebration*

*Come join us to honor your colleagues for a memorable evening  
at*

### *The City Club in River Ranch*

*on Friday, March 28, 2014*

*6:00-8:00 pm*

*Please RSVP by March 21st*

*via email to [staff@lpms.glacoxmail.com](mailto:staff@lpms.glacoxmail.com)*

*Or phone at 232-2860*

*Please indicate any special meal preference.*

## 2014 Honorees

### 40 Years

John Bernard, MD  
Richard Bourgeois, MD  
Daniel Dupree, MD  
Cary Hernandez, MD  
John Humphries, MD  
Alfonso Lebron-Berges, MD  
Philip Perret, MD  
Stephen Person, MD  
Charles Williams, MD

### 50 Years

Philip Avet, Jr, MD  
Terry Cromwell, MD  
Pierre Dupleix, MD  
John Fuselier, MD  
Harold LeDoux, MD  
Albert Rees, MD  
Paul Zehnder, MD

### 60 Years

Victor H. Feske, MD



## LAFAYETTE PARISH MEDICAL SOCIETY

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Type address here or use Mail Merge (under Tools) to automatically address this publication to multiple recipients.



### New Doc?

Are you new in town? We would love to feature you on our website. Send us a brief biography and picture.

Welcome to Lafayette!

## ARE YOU A MEMBER YET? Benefits of Membership

### PROFESSIONAL ADVOCACY

The political events of the past year have highlighted the great need for physicians to be involved in the LSMS and to have their voices heard in the public arena.

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Department of Public Affairs provides media relations and communications on behalf of physicians and patients, presents a positive image of the profession with the media and the public, and works with statewide media to address healthcare issues from the physician's perspective. It also produces the publications listed below:

- The Journal of the LSMS
- Capsules newsletter
- LSMS eAlerts and legislative bulletins
- LSMS Direct -- an online member directory
- Listing in Independent's Acadiana Medical and Dental Directory annually.

Please consider joining us. Let us know how we can help you practice medicine.

## FOR MORE DETAILS

**CHECK OUT OUR  
WEBSITE!**

**WWW.LPMS.ORG**

## COMING SOON!

**The Lafayette Parish Medical Society is currently working on another option for members to renew their memberships through PayPal! Be on the look out!**