



GAMA
GREATER ALBUQUERQUE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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REPORTS
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXXII NO 11 - November 2011

Message from the President

Medicine, Policy & History

As my time on the GAMA Board of Trustees draws to a close (next month will be my last column), I'd like to express my gratitude to the officers, trustees and counselors with whom I've had the opportunity to work. I want to recognize Diane and Teresa for their hard work and dedication to GAMA, and I'd also like to thank all of you for reading my column and for providing feedback. During my time on the Board, I have gained an enormous appreciation for the diversity and energy of the medical community in Albuquerque. I have also seen firsthand the dedication and breadth of experience that the GAMA Board of Trustees brings to the table. It's really been a tremendous honor to work with them and to get the opportunity to talk with all of you.

I see significant challenges and opportunities ahead for the medical community in Albuquerque. The battle over the Medical Malpractice Act will continue and will require significant effort and vigilance from the medical community. Scope of practice issues regarding chiropractors, optometrists, naprapaths, naturopaths and others will continue. Significant uncertainty regarding healthcare reform will rule the day until the Supreme Court weighs in on the individual mandate and until entities such as the insurance exchange become clearer. Individual providers and small groups will continue to look for models of care that will maintain their viability. Large groups will have to decide on whether (and how) to respond to the move toward Accountable Care Organizations. Things will certainly be interesting over the next few years.

I am glad to report that the GAMA legislative reception for the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee was a great success. Over 30 GAMA physicians took the opportunity to meet with Chairwoman Senator Dede Feldman and members of the LHHS committee at the GAMA hosted reception at Los Poblanos. Senator Feldman addressed our group and thanked past GAMA president Dr. Dan Dirksen for his testimony to the committee earlier in the day. Representatives Dennis J. Kintigh and Miguel P. Garcia also addressed our group and were available to discuss the issues on the minds of our members afterwards. It was a very nice evening and thanks go to Diane and the GAMA staff for putting the evening event together and thanks to those of you took the opportunity to attend.

One of the interesting things I learned that evening at Los Poblanos was about Albert and Ruth Hannah Simms who previously owned the Los Poblanos estate. As many of you may know, Mr. and Mrs. Simms donated a significant amount of land that was used to establish and sustain the Albuquerque Academy. Mr. Simms was a banker in Albuquerque and also served at both the state and federal level as a congressional representative. Ruth Hannah McCormick Simms represented Illinois in the US House of Representatives and was instrumental in establishing Sandia Prep as well as the Manzano Day School.

I love to learn new things whether in medicine, policy or history. These past two years with GAMA have been a great lesson in all three. Thank you for following along with me.

Have a have a good month, take good care of your patients and take good care of yourself.

Dion Gallant, MD
dgallant@phs.org



Dion E. Gallant, M.D.

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GAMA Reports is published monthly by the Greater Albuquerque Medical Association. Opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent GAMA policy. Comments from members are welcome and may be mailed to GAMA, 7770 Jefferson NE, #420, Albuquerque, NM 87109, (505) 821-4583, or e-mailed to gama@gama-med.org. Material may be edited.

Guest Editorials must have prior approval of subject by the editor and should not exceed 800 words and may be edited;

The deadline for submission of final copy is the first Wednesday of the month preceding the month of publication

Please note that letters to the editor should be limited to 250 words and guest editorials as well as articles should be limited to 800 words. Subscription rates are included in dues. Advertising rates given on request. Advertisements appearing in this publication do not constitute endorsement by the Association of the product or service.
Jeremy Gleeson, M.D. - Editor

GAMA Board meetings are held every month on the second Thursday. The meetings are held at 7770 Jefferson NE in the 4th floor conference room beginning at 7:00am. -Members are welcome to attend.

VISIT THE GAMA WEBSITE AT:
<http://www.gamamed.org>

Article and ad submission deadlines
for the December Newsletter
Wednesday, November 9, 2011

Medical Licensing – State or National

In a letter to Senator Tom Udall (D - NM), the New Mexico Medical Board took a position opposing a bill that would establish some national licensing of physicians by the federal government. The thrust of the bill is apparently to promote telemedicine and other forms of practice across state lines, clearly a desirable objective. In order to achieve this, some form of federal licensing is proposed. The NM Board objected, claiming that this would impose a duplicate requirement on physicians.



Jeremy Gleeson, M.D.

Nobody wants to duplicate what is already a cumbersome licensing bureaucracy. The federal government is not exactly famous for simple and streamlined procedures. Physicians already deal with duplicative, probably redundant, state and federal requirements for controlled substance prescribing. Duplication must be avoided, but what about replacing the multiple state systems with a single national medical licence.

Imagine being able to move and practise in different states without multiple submissions of documentation and months of waiting, not to mention the large fees imposed by each state board. Remember, we doctors largely support these duplicative state bureaucracies with our licence fees.

The NM Medical Board states, rather grandiosely if ungrammatically, that states would need to keep their existing systems to “protect” its (sic) citizens from physicians who would be licensed by a new federal system. Really? Whom is the NM Medical Board trying to “protect”? It seems this might be the Board protecting itself and its bureaucratic structures, rather than the citizens of the state. Their claim that the Federation of State Medical Boards is “aggressively working” to expedite the process is not backed by any discernable improvement in multi-state licensing as far as I can tell.

It is surely obvious that the same standards of competence, education, and professional skill are required to practise medicine in New Mexico, New York, Arkansas or wherever. Separate state licensing of medicine and other professions has a long history – but has clear inefficiencies and excess costs to doctors. I don’t want to get into the contentious issue of states’ rights versus federal takeover – but just want to point out the apparent advantages of a unified national medical licensing system.

Aviation is an obvious example of a profession regulated and licensed by the Federal Government with little state involvement. No NM state agency, apparently, sees the need to “protect” the citizens of New Mexico from federally licensed pilots. Other countries with federal systems – Canada and Australia come to mind – regulate the practice of medicine at the federal level.

(You may notice I have taken the liberty to use English - as opposed to American - spelling in this article. It took long enough to learn how to spell licence/ license and practice/practise to stop doing it as my English teachers demanded.)

Let efficiency and simplicity win over state and federal turf battles. I suggest a single national medical license is an idea whose time has come.



Dawn Travelstead, RD, CDE; Cynthia Petersen, MA, LPCC, LADAC; Michele Zerah, MD; Ellen Kaufman, MD; Mary Wilcox, RN, CDE.
Not pictured: Deborah Zamora-Allen, MD; Douglas Henry, MD.

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Classified Ads & Updates

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Medical office for lease - Newly remodeled office on historic "Pill Hill" near all downtown hospitals. Perfect for solo practitioner or group practice wanting a downtown location. Three exam rooms, a physician's office, nurse's station, reception area and two restrooms. Lease rate of \$16.50 per Sq. Ft. which includes utilities. Available for immediate occupancy. For more information contact Peter at 505-242-4599.

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Vascular Surgeon or General Surgeon interested in Phlebology - The Vein Center of New Mexico, LLC, desires to establish a long-term relationship with a physician interested in Phlebology. With the advances in the treatment of venous disorders, and the application of advanced laser treatments, this newly recognized Sub-Specialty is a lifestyle friendly option for physicians. Interested individuals should contact Rita Marquez at the Vein Center of New Mexico. Her direct line is 505-314-7061.

Part time Medical Receptionist needed for a busy Orthopedic Practice. Previous medical office experience helpful. Approximately 16-20 hours per week. Please e-mail resume to Shirley@drlegant.com or fax to 338-6621

Specialty practice in women's health is seeking FT office manager. The perfect candidate will have a college degree and at least 5 years' experience managing all aspects of a medical practice. Competitive benefit package offered, salary will be determined based on experience. Please send resume and cover letter to: PO Box 36755, Albuquerque, NM 87176 Attn: Adam Kidd/Open Position

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Legislative Reception

The Greater Albuquerque Medical Association hosted a reception for the Legislative Health & Human Services Interim Committee, Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at Los Poblanos Inn & Cultural Center



Classified Ads & Updates - cont'd.

Kevin Goodluck, M.D., is moving his office October 4, 2011
West Mesa Professional Center, 4801 McMahon Blvd. Suite 235, 87114
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**MINUTES - BOARD OF TRUSTEES
September 8, 2011**

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 11 , 2011
The minutes of the August 11, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved as amended.
- II. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS
a. The following applications were unanimously approved for membership.

**COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS
September 8, 2011**

Name	Practice
Berger MD, Joel.....	After Hours Pediatrics - Pediatrics
Egelhoff MD Elizabeth	PMG Rust Hospital – Internal Medicine
Friedman MD, Sara.....	The Musello Partnership, LLC – Ob/Gyn
Head MD, Kathy L.....	Green Island Evaluations, Inc. – Occupational Med.
Mulqueen DO, Catherine T.	Radiology Associates of Albuquerque – Radiology
Schechterman MD, Steven.....	Hematology Oncology Assoc. PC - Oncology
Shah MD, Amish.....	NMCC – Radiation Oncology
Sharma MD, Margene S.....	Rio Grande Family Medicine – Internal Medicine
Sorg DO, John C.....	Manzano Medical Group – Physical Med & Rehab
Tran DO, Minhnga.....	Southwest Medical Associates – Family Practice
Hudson MD, Tamara S.	El Pueblo Health Services – Family Medicine

- III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - a. Delinquent Members: New member invoices continue to cause the delinquent member list to rise and fall as invoices are paid.
 - b. GAMA Quarterly Membership Professional Development/Educational meetings:
 - 1. "The NM Corporate Fix: What If . . . & What Are My Options?"
 - 2. Tuesday, September 20 at Casa Rondona
 - 3. Reception sponsored by Fairway Insurance.
 - c. GAMA Advocacy:
 - 1. LHHSC Reception – Wednesday, October 5;
 - 2. 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Los Poblanos
 - d. GAMA Future Events:
 - 1. "Family Fun Fiesta" – Sunday, September 18, 2011; 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM, NHCC
 - 2. GAMA EXPO 2011 – Thursday, October 27- Marriott Pyramid
 - 1. Preceded by a CME at 3:30 PM
 - 3. GAMA 2012 Annual Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2012
 - 4. Dr. Gallant requested that all Board members add the event dates to their calendars.
 - e. Medicaid Modernization Plan: GAMA Comments: Dr. Gallant reviewed the main bullet points. Following discussion the Board consensus was that the document needed to be more concise. Dr. Toubbeh volunteered to edit the document to a more manageable size. Dr. Gallant thanked the original task force (Drs. McAney, Whisler, and Aamodt) for their hard work. Dr. Sansonetti and Dr. Sever will provide brief clarification comments directly to Dr. Toubbeh for inclusion in the document. With the inclusion and the modifications discussed, the Board unanimously approved the document.
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. 2012 GAMA Dues Increase: following discussion the Board unanimously approved a GAMA 2012 dues increase of \$15.00 per member on a motion by Dr. Shoden and Dr. Porter.
 - b. Chiropractic Board Adopts New Formulary on 8/30/11: Following discussion, the Board of Trustees agreed to send a letter to the Governor, the Board of Medicine, and the Director of Regulation & Licensing stating the serious objection to such an action. It was suggested that consideration should be given to it being a joint agreement statement with NMMS. Dr. Gallant will contact Dr. Chiu regarding such a possibility
 - c. Imagine Health/Sandi National Laboratories: Snyder presented the concerns expressed by several GAMA members. Consensus was to watch for any adverse developments.
 - d. Senator Tom Udall National Licensing for Physicians Legislation: Snyder to check status with the NM Medical Board and report back. Dr. Gallant reported that some GAMA members were contacting Senator Udall.

- V. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Snyder to provide legislative talking points for the LHHSC Reception.
- VI. Next Board Meeting: Thursday, September 8, 2011.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Benjamin Q. Chan, M.D., Secretary
Reported by H. Diane Snyder
Approved: October 13, 2011

Candidates for Membership



Etsitty MD, E. Virgil

is practicing Obstetrics & Gynecology at PMG Rio Rancho, 4100 High Resort, Rio Rancho, NM 87124, 462-8870. Dr. Etsitty received his medical degree in 1998 from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. In 2002, he completed a four-year Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in Albuquerque, NM. American Board Certified in Obstetrics & Gynecology, Dr. Etsitty is licensed in NM.



Feliciano MD, Melvyn A.

is practicing Radiology at Radiology Associates of Albuquerque, 4411 The 25 Way NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109, 332-6900. Dr. Feliciano received his medical degree in 1990 from the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York, NY. In 1991, he completed a one-year Internal Medicine Internship at St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital in New York, NY. In 1995, he completed a four-year Diagnostic Radiology Residency at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine – Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY. In 1996, he completed a one-year Neuroradiology Fellowship at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine – Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY. In 1997, he completed a US/CT/MRI Fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA. American Board Certified in Radiology, Dr. Feliciano is licensed in NM, NY, PA and NJ.



Garcia MD, Rodney Hermilio

is practicing Anesthesiology at Anesthesia Associates of NM, 1720 Louisiana Blvd. NE Ste. 401, Albuquerque, NM 87111, 260-4300. Dr. Garcia received his medical degree in 2000 from St. George's University School of Medicine in St. George's, Grenada. In 2001, he completed a one-year Anesthesia, Surgery and Critical Care Internship at Cornell – New York Presbyterian Hospital & Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY. In 2004, he completed a three-year Anesthesiology Residency at the Cornell – New York Presbyterian Hospital in New York, NY. In 2004, he completed a three-year Anesthesiology, Surgery and Critical Care Residency at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, NY. American Board Certified in Anesthesiology, Dr. Garcia is licensed in NM and NY.



Gonzalez MD, Zorisadday

is practicing Internal Medicine with the Presbyterian Hospitalist Group, PO Box 26666, Albuquerque, NM 87125. Dr. Gonzalez received her degree in 2008 from the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock, TX. In 2011, she completed a three-year Internal Medicine Internship at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. In 2011, she also completed a three-year Internal Medicine Residency at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Gonzalez is licensed in NM.

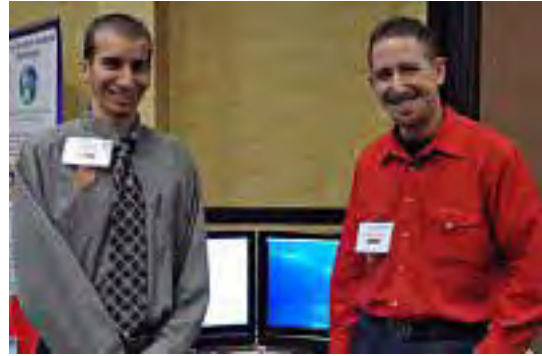


Krolik MD, Deborah I.

is practicing Anesthesiology at Anesthesia Associates of NM, 1720 Louisiana NE Ste. 401, Albuquerque, NM 87110, 843-7901. Dr. Krolik received her medical degree in 2006 from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. In 2007, she completed a one-year Transitional Internship at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. In 2010, she completed a three-year Anesthesia Residency at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. Dr. Krolik is licensed in NM.

Candidates for membership continued on page 11

Photos from GAMA EXPO 2011





Thanks to the GAMA Vendor Partners for their participation in GAMA EXPO 2011

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POD ~ Information technology
Premier Designs ~ Jewelry
Prepaid Legal ~ Asset protection
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RBC Wealth Management ~ Wealth Management
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The Rio Rancho Sleep Center ~ Sleep Center
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US NM Federal Credit Union ~ Credit Union
Vista Care ~ Hospice
Western Assurance ~ Business and malpractice insurance
X-Ray Associates ~ Outpatient radiology

Thanks from the Barrett Foundation

The GAMA Expo held on October 27, 2011 at the Holiday Inn Pyramid was truly wonderful. The Barrett Foundation, Inc. was blessed to be the beneficiary of this year's event and you might ask yourselves why this was so important to us?

Well.... did you know that the night of the Expo:

- There were in excess of 2,100 people homeless in Albuquerque?
- Families make up an increasingly greater percentage of the homeless in our city?
- **THE BARRETT FOUNDATION** HAD 80 women and children in some form of housing service?

Indeed, the Expo was important to us in that without the generous support of organizations such as the Greater Albuquerque Medical Association, the vendors in attendance that evening and the individuals who supported GAMA's efforts, we would not be able to ensure that these 80 women and children had a safe place to sleep.

The following are five good reasons as to why we are so thankful to the Greater Albuquerque Medical Association:

Shelter Services: The Barrett House Shelter provides a comfortable bed, nutritious meals, clothing counseling, laundry facilities, a library with computers, a children's play area and case management support to an average of 35 women and children each night. All of this designed to assist each woman in developing the self-confidence and independence needed to build a more stable life.

Transitional Housing: Through the Bridges to Self-Sufficiency program, women and children are assisted in moving from homelessness to independent living.

The Casa Milagro program is designed for mature, homeless women who present with chronic mental illness. Upon completion of the 18-month program, women move onto some form of permanent housing. There are 6 women in this program each night.

Permanent Housing: The Casa Socorro program is designed for single women who have been chronically homeless throughout the three years previous to their admission. Case management services are provided to ensure their success in independent living.

Casa Verde provides affordable housing for women with psychiatric disabilities. Despite their disabilities, these women have gained the stability needed to live on their own. Each woman lives in a private apartment and pays up to 30% of her income toward rent. There are 16 women in this program each night.

So.... I cannot say it enough. Thank you.... Thank you..... Thank you. We are proud and honored to be a partner with GAMA. Also, a special thanks to everyone who brought in kind items to the Expo and to Guy Appelman with Black Dog Shredding for delivering those items.

Michael L. Gaylor, Ed.D.
Executive Director
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Candidates for membership continued from page 7



Macdonald DO, Emily C.

is practicing Pediatrics at After Hours Pediatrics, 5904 Holly Ave., Albuquerque, NM 87113. Dr. Macdonald received her degree in 2007 from Des Moines University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Des Moines, IA. In 2008, she completed a one-year General Pediatrics Internship at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in Albuquerque, NM. In 2010, she completed a two-year General Pediatrics Residency at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center in Albuquerque, NM. American Board Certified in Pediatrics, Dr. Macdonald is licensed in NM.



McDade MD, Louise

is practicing Family Practice as a Presbyterian Medical Group Hospitalist, 1100 Central Ave. SE 4th Floor-B, Albuquerque, NM 87106, 724-6124. Dr. McDade received her medical degree in 2005 from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. In 2008, she completed a three-year Family Practice Internship at Southern Colorado Family Medicine in Pueblo, CO. American Board Certified in Family Practice, Dr. McDade is licensed in NM.



Rosenberg MD, Robert D.

is practicing Radiology at Radiology Associates of Albuquerque, 4411 The 25 Way NE Ste. 150, Albuquerque, NM 87109, 332-6900. Dr. Rosenberg received his medical degree in 1979 from the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO. In 1981, he completed a two-year Internal Medicine Internship at St. Luke's Hospital in St. Louis, MO. In 1984, he completed a three-year Diagnostic Radiology Residency at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, NM. American Board Certified in Radiology, Dr. Rosenberg is licensed in NM.

CME

November 4, 2011

James W. Wiggins MD Lectureship - Obstetrics & Gynecology Update
Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel, Albuquerque, NM

Contact: Presbyterian Medical Education Department (505) 923-1225

November 10-12, 2011

Endoscopic Sinus and Skull Base Surgery: State-of-the-Art

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Contact: (480) 301-4580 or email mca.cme@mayo.edu or website: <http://www.mayo.edu/cme/otorhinolaryngology-2011s647>

January 12 -14, 2012

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GAMA Events are now listed in detail on the GAMA Website.

Visit <http://gamamed.org/> and check the calendar!

LESSONS LEARNED AT “HOW DO I PROTECT MY MEDICAL CORPORATION”

On September 20, 2011 GAMA hosted the professional enhancement program “What if; How do I protect my Medical Corporation?” at Casa Rondena Winery, sponsored by Fairway Physicians Insurance. The event was well attended by GAMA members and had an excellent panel of speakers who are close to the action on the “Corporate Fix.”

On Panel One, Remo Gay, Esq., gave a history of the problem, created by the notorious memorandum of then superintendent Morris Chavez in October 2009 which stated that only hospitals and outpatient health care facilities are qualified to be covered under the NM Patients compensation fund. According to the memorandum, medical corporations “not certified or licensed” were not protected under the New Mexico Malpractice act and should be directed to make other insurance arrangements. Litigation was filed by Dr. Stephen Haynes leading to a temporary restraining order in Nov. 2009 and was extended indefinitely on Nov. 2010 by Superintendent John Franchini. The original memorandum was rescinded this year in full. However, a final ruling is still pending in the appellate court.

Ms Alice Lorenz, Esq., an expert on appellate law, outlined the legal background of the dilemma which puts the 30-year history of interpretation of the law against the verbatim letter of the law. She outlined the complex legal system and principles which will be used in arguing the case. As an expert, she has already testified with strong arguments in favor of the traditional interpretation in favor of physicians’ practices but there remains much uncertainty about a final ruling and when it might happen.

Panel Two featured John Franchini, the new superintendent of Insurance since 2010, who rescinded the memorandum. He first shared his personal history, which included an upbringing that had him slated to become a physician himself. That didn’t happen; instead he embarked on a long career as executive and board member in local and national insurance companies. He has held many leadership positions in the insurance industry and business community. As former member of the of the patient compensation administration board of directors he fully understands what a failure to uphold the traditional interpretation of the NM Malpractice Law means for physician practices and is cautiously optimistic about a favorable resolution. After all, he rescinded the original memorandum!

Representative Dr. Terry McMillan, an ENT physician with a history of medical leadership in Las Cruces, took the audience through the legislative process and resolutions introduced earlier this year. He made it clear that he will continue to work for solutions that protect physician practices from additional burdens. However, he also cautioned the audience that the “corporate fix” has become a bargaining chip in the fight over raising the minimum cap of the medical malpractice act and believes that ultimately a compromise is likely to pass the legislature. So far, Governor Martinez has rejected legislation that would increase practice expenses for physicians and further drive physicians out-of-state. Trial lawyers will, however, continue to attack the Act and will be vigorously pushing for higher caps or “opportunities to sue.”

Lastly, on Panel Three representatives of three insurance companies, including David Thorson (Fairway), Steve Simmons (Medical Protective) and Jeff Haisley (The Doctors Company), presented their viewpoints and what they believed to be strengths of their companies. Not surprisingly, they are prepared to offer additional insurance for practice corporations and they gave estimates of how much insurance premiums for physicians would rise if the cap on non-economic damages were raised to 1 million (with 2% - 5% ballpark figures).

While the amount of “lawyerly” information was daunting, the comprehensive review gave everybody a sense of what the issues are and what steps a practice might take to “limit exposure,” other than packing up and moving to Texas! Last but not least, it was a beautiful evening in the fall and gave GAMA members a chance to meet and connect outside of their busy work days.

Written by Dr. Cordelia Sever, Presbyterian Pathology and GAMA Board of Trustee member.



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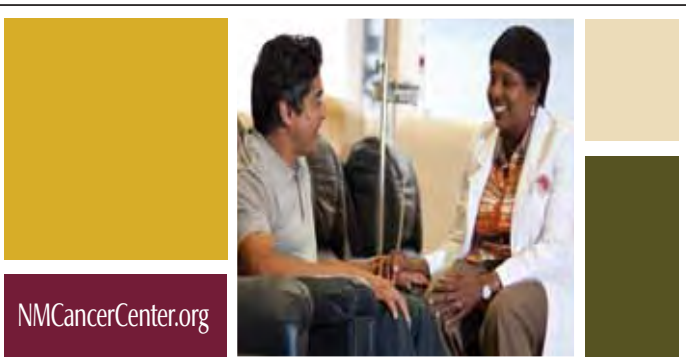
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GAMA Calendar of Events

GAMA Emeritus - to be announced in December

Westside GAMA Meetings - SOON!

**SAVE THE DATE! – PLAN TO ATTEND
GAMA Annual Meeting
Tuesday, January 10, 2012
Marriott Pyramid
6:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

NM Medical Group Management Association Calendar of Events

Don't Miss!

November 17-18, 2011 Healthcare Financial Management Association NM Chapter And NM Medical Group Management Association
This joint conference between NMMGMA & NM HFMA is scheduled for November 17-18, 2011
at the Sheraton Uptown in Albuquerque.

SAVE THE DATE! – PLAN TO ATTEND

April 23- 25, 2012 - 4-Corners MGMA Conference
At the Denver Marriott Tech Center
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