

The FAOEM Times – February 2010

Message from the Editor:

Please email me if you would like to be featured in one of our upcoming newsletters: dmcclusk@health.usf.edu

Monthly Physician Spotlight:

Thanks to Dr. Monica Grinberg for being our February 2010 Physician in the spotlight!

This month I had the pleasure of learning about one of our South Florida members, Dr. Monica Grinberg. Born, raised and educated in lovely Buenos Aires, Argentina, Dr. Grinberg practiced medicine there for 10 years before coming over to the United States. Initially she specialized in Emergency and Intensive Care, but the stressful lifestyle resulted in her decision to change over to Occupational Medicine. With a husband she adores and four beautiful children, Dr. Grinberg was looking for a little more balance in her life. Dr. Grinberg shares her clinic with her husband who is a Psychiatrist. They have been married for 30 years. With a passion for sailing and travel, they leave the city every time they have the opportunity.

I was impressed to learn that Dr. Grinberg won the Florida Choice Award for a physician in 2004 and then her clinic went on to win the “best practice overall” award in Florida for 2006! It’s clear that her approach to medicine and running a successful clinic is working. I asked her what is the key to her great success and here is what she told me... “When you practice like me in an urgent care setting, you have the opportunity to deal with a lot of acute situations and your interventions could change the prognosis of the case completely. It’s a permanent challenge.” With her background in emergency medicine, she enjoys the opportunity to release pain, make a diagnosis, decide about a surgical necessity and many other challenges that come up in the clinical setting. Likewise, Dr. Grinberg recognizes the value of excellent communication and the importance of positive relationships with the case managers, adjustors and employers.

Thank you Dr. Grinberg, for sharing with us your approach to medicine and a happy life.



West Palm Beach Doctor Fights Back!

An interesting article was printed in the Palm Beach Post about a West Palm Beach doctor fighting an insurance company for unpaid claims. You can view this article online at:

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20100104/ARTICLE/1041038?p=all&tc=pgall>

Like many other doctors, this physician is fed up with not being reimbursed. His approach was a little different – he took the insurance company to small claims court and will continue the battle as long as necessary. With approximately \$120,000 in unpaid claims, it is an important fight. It’s an article worth reading and it gives you a chance to read about his success.



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Legislative Information Provided by the FMA:

While it seems eerily quiet when it comes to Florida specific legislative news, the usual undercurrent of legislative activities by the FMA continues. You can see all the tips and tidbits being worked on by the FMA at this link: http://www.fmaonline.org/INFORMZ/FMA_LU_02082010.pdf . If you are short on time, here is what I found noteworthy:

- Despite efforts by the FMA and the Florida Society of Ophthalmology (FSO), SB330 passed by a 4-3 vote. This bill will allow optometrists to prescribe oral medications. Both the FMA and FSO presented compelling testimony on why the bill presents a danger to public safety. FSO President Bradley Fouraker, MD, and Joshua Lenchus, DO, argued that optometrists do not have the education and training to safely prescribe oral medications, and they clearly articulated the dangers these medications present.
- Sen. Stephen Wise proposed a bill that would essentially prevent a physician from entering into an enforceable arbitration agreement with his/her patient.

Although the next item does not affect our state, I thought it was relevant to share in this newsletter. In the past couple of years, the FMA has been battling scope-of-practice expansion involving other healthcare practitioners (like SB330 and optometrists. If we look to Maryland, we can see the latest regarding Nurse Practitioners.

- The FMA online newsletter recently described proposed legislation in Maryland, for scope-of-practice expansion of Nurse Practitioners. The proposed legislation is called “Nurse Practitioner: Authority to Practice.” This measure, if passed, would remove the requirement for an NP to have a written collaborative agreement with a physician to practice. An article on Nurse.com concludes, “NPs diagnose and prescribe, are listed as primary care providers on HMO panels, have hospital privileges, bill insurance companies and may own their own practices.” This bill would take them to the last step to independent practice under the Board of Nursing. You can read the article by clicking on the following link: <http://news.nurse.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20100208/DC02/102080056>

Yes.... It's Back, Doctor of the Day

The Florida Office of Legislative Services is looking for physicians to participate in the Doctor of the Day program for the 2010 Legislative Session, which begins Tuesday, March 2, and concludes Friday, April 30. Physicians who are willing to spend a day in Tallahassee during the session provide health care for members of the Legislature and legislative employees. If you are interested in serving, please contact Althea Houston at HOUSTON.ALTHEA@leg.state.fl.us or call (850) 488-6803. If you have participated in this program before (either in our state or another state), please email me. I would love to hear about how your day was and do a little write up for the rest of the group. This seems like such a great opportunity for our members to interact with the folks making decisions about our future.

Haiti

Have you or has someone from your office helped provide care, supplies or expertise to victims of the earthquake in Haiti? If yes, please share your story with me.