

Bulletin

Physicians Caring for Our Community

July 6th • FineMark Bank & Trust

FSU/Lee Health Residents Reception

AMSA
Nominations
are **OPEN**



**Meet a Graduate
from the First Class
of FSU/Lee Health
Residency Program**

Dr. Alyson Sanchious, page 6



BULLETIN

Lee County Medical Society is a Virtual Operation
 Mailbox address: 5781 Lee Boulevard, Suite 208-104
 Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
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LCMS DISCLOSURE POLICY

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Lee County Medical Society Mission Statement

The mission of Lee County Medical Society is to advocate for physicians and their relationships with patients; promote public health and uphold the professionalism of the practice of medicine.

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Cover Photo: Former FSU resident physician turned local practice owner, Dr. Alyson Sanchious at the Spring 2026 Women Physicians Art Party. Members are encouraged to submit photos to be considered for the Bulletin cover. Must be large format/300dpi. Email photos to marketing@lcmsfl.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

MON, JULY 6th
6:30pm - 8:30pm

LCMS Residency Reception
 Sponsor/Host: FineMark Bank & Trust
 8695 College Parkway, Ste. 100

FRI, AUG 14th
5:30pm - 7:30pm

LCMS Cocktail Hour
 with Psychologists
 at Dr. Chetan Vedvyas' Office
 14210 Metropolis Ave., #101
 Sponsor: Precision Healthcare Specialists

SAT, AUG 15th
10:00am - 2:00pm

LCMS Family Beach & Pool Party
 Sundial Beach Resort
 1451 Middle Gulf Drive – Sanibel

THU, AUG 20th
6:30pm - 8:00pm

LCMS Member Meeting
 Dinner and a presentation on Veterans Healthcare
 Helm Club at the Landings
 4420 Flagship Drive

THU, AUG 27th
6:30pm - 8:30pm

LCMS Fall Women Physicians Event
 Cooper's Hawk
 13671 Olympic Ct.,
 Sponsor: MarkhamNorton

Details & RSVP at www.lcmsfl.org/events

NEW MEMBERS



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SOCIETIES HELP TO ADVANCE HEALTHCARE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Asif Azam, MD



Medical societies play a vital role in advancing healthcare by uniting professionals under shared standards, ethics, and goals.

They provide platforms for continuing education, research collaboration, and policy advocacy, ensuring that medical practices remain evidence-based and patient-centered. Through conferences, publications, and training programs, these organizations help physicians stay updated on emerging treatments and technologies. They also serve as a collective voice in shaping healthcare legislation, safeguarding both patient welfare and professional integrity.

Lee County medical society actively play a role in this through advocacy and participation alongside with the larger statewide Florida Medical Association. Each year LCMS sends delegates to the annual FMA conference where our colleagues get together and voice our needs and concerns and get updates on what is happening at the state congressional level.

With pressing issues such as telemedicine expansion, artificial intelligence in diagnostics, and the ethical use of patient data and Public health challenges like pandemic preparedness, antibiotic resistance, and mental health access remain high on our agendas. Additionally, debates over healthcare equity, climate change's impact on health, and personalized medicine are influencing policy discussions. By addressing these topics, medical societies not only guide clinical practice but also help shape the future of global health systems.

If you or someone you know would be interested representing at the annual conference in Orlando **July 31- Aug 2** please reach out to the society and we welcome all members and voices.

MEMBER NEWS

The Doctors Company announced that it has approved a 2026 premium dividend of approximately \$14.3 million, bringing the total of declared dividends to date to \$500 million. Eligible members in Florida will receive this year's 8 percent dividend on their annual premium for policy renewals between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027.

Dr. Scott Geller has space in his building for a medical office. Recently renovated 1560 SF medical office space. New building with street signage exposure on 4755 Summerlin Road (near Colonial) next to the Florida Heart Institute building. First year \$13/sf + \$8 CAM. Excellent access to Cape, Central and South Ft. Myers. Contact him at (239) 275-8222.

Precision Healthcare Specialists is pleased to announce that **Dr. Chetan Vedvyas**, a dermatologist and Mohs surgery specialist, has joined its practice located at 14210 Metropolis Ave, Suite 101, Fort Myers, FL 33912; Tel: (239) 431-5792; Fax: (239) 294-8127.

The Women's Derm Society is hosting a networking event tailored for female dermatologists in Southwest Florida Thursday, June 11, 2026, 5:30PM - 8:00PM at Estia in Naples. This gathering emphasizes the importance of balancing career with family life and personal well-being. [RSVP HERE.](#)

NEW OFFICE LOCATION

Dr. Nadia Kazim, Ophthalmic Plastic Surgeon, has relocated to 9500 Corkscrew Palms Circle, #3 Estero, FL 33928; Phone: (239) 948-7555; Fax: (239) 948-8077; Website: DrNadiaKazim.com.

Dr. Darvek Sharma is hosting a grand opening event at Sharma Plastic Surgery on Friday, June 5th from 5:00pm - 8:00pm at 12640 Creekside Lane. All physicians are invited.

THE PHYSICIAN WELLNESS PROGRAM: THERE WHEN YOU NEED IT

THE RAMIREZ REPORT: Julie Ramirez, CAE, LCMS Executive Director



One of my passions with the Lee County Medical Society is our Physician Wellness Program.

Ten years ago, LCMS started a Foundation to gather funds to spend on psychology sessions for our physicians. Life happens to all of us but then as a physician you must put on your face and pretend nothing is wrong. **The Physician Wellness Program** gives a confidential opportunity for our physician members to talk to a licensed mental health counselor at one of two, local and vetted psychology groups, for up to six times a year.

Anything is free to talk about – life changes, work stress, health issues, legal situations, hurricanes, death. Please remember this program, because if this program isn't for you now, it could be in the future or for one of your physician colleagues. The Society is about keeping our physicians stronger together and this is one of those benefits.

If this program is of interest to you, click on this QR code to learn more. And if you want to support the program, we always take donations – online or via check.



Click this QR Code to learn more about or start using the Physician Wellness Program

DREAMING BIG: HOW ONE DOCTOR LESSENED THE THREAT OF BURNOUT BY DELIVERING HEALTH CARE DIRECTLY TO THE PATIENT

by Mollie Page, Marketing Coordinator, Lee County Medical Society

A graduate of the first Family Medicine class in the FSU Lee Health Residency program (2014), Florida born Dr. Alyson Sanchouis entered the medical profession like many other doctors – with big ambitions and hefty student loan debt. As a National Health Services Corps Scholar, she spent the next seven years working at Family Health Centers in Fort Myers until she began to feel what many describe as burnout.

"I was seeing 30 patients a day in an underserved area, and it was starting to feel like I would never be able to provide substantial care in a manner that could truly improve health outcomes because of the way things were always done," said the mother of two young children.

During her residency, Dr. Sanchouis was exposed to many specialties including pediatrics and obstetrics, but the model for practicing medicine looked the same everywhere.

"I have a friend who is a dentist and she and I have compared training experiences. For her, there were courses on how to open a practice, but that kind of curriculum isn't offered in medical school," said Dr. Sanchouis. "I spent years learning about disease and training to navigate the healthcare system. It's assumed that upon graduation, you go work for an established practice or hospital system."

With her obligation as a Scholar nearing an end, Dr. Sanchouis was ready for a change. She didn't know what to do until fate intervened.

"My mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, and she was unable to help me take care of my children during treatment. I'm an only child and I knew her recovery would benefit from the support and care I could give," she admitted.

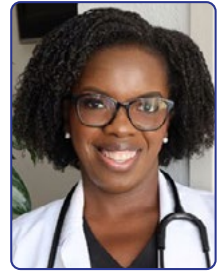
With two parents working in professional fields, Dr. Sanchouis' children were cared for by her mother during the day. Faced with few options, the doctor took FMLA leave to be present for both her mother's and children's care.

"I was at a crossroads though. I knew medicine was my calling, but I couldn't imagine going back to what felt like assembly line work. You get maybe 15 minutes of facetime with a patient. This just isn't enough time to develop the kind of relationship that builds trust and provides a high-level of clinical understanding," she said.

During residency at Lee Health, each class enjoys frequent talks and presentations from area physicians. But, during this now difficult time in her life, when she was faced with taking her next professional step, one colleague that she met years ago stood out for Dr. Sanchouis – Dr. Rebekah Bernard.

"I'd never heard of direct primary care [DPC] until I met her."

Armed with a desire to find out more, Dr. Sanchouis scoured the internet. She found forums and began asking questions.



"The DPC community is one of the friendliest groups of physicians I've ever encountered. Unlike modern medicine, where it feels like the objective is to get the patient into the exam room so they can bill an encounter, direct primary care focuses on building patient relationships – regardless of insurer influence."

According to the Direct Primary Care Alliance, a national member organization of DPC physicians, Direct Primary Care (DPC) is a simple, patient-focused way to get medical care without the hassle of insurance. Patients pay a low monthly fee that covers most healthcare needs including office visits, check-ups, urgent care, chronic condition management, and more.

In May 2025, Dr. Sanchouis opened Thrive DPC in Fort Myers. She currently manages the primary care needs for 100 patients and also provides lifestyle medicine, chronic disease management, and women's healthcare.

"Starting a DPC practice gave me the freedom to design a business that fit my life. I don't have to be in an office all day to see patients. My patients can reach me through text, and I do many visits virtually. It also allows me more time with family."

Recently, a patient of Dr. Sanchouis wasn't feeling well and she was able to do a video call with her during the patient's lunch break. She didn't have to wait days to be seen or take time off work to drive in for an exam.

Dr. Sanchouis said one of the best things about running a DPC practice is that she has more time to offer free services to those in underserved communities. To do this, she started a 501(c)3, Thrive Community Health Foundation, where she can easily collaborate with the health department, her church and other non-profit health providers to deliver free diabetes [A1C] screenings and mammograms.

She provides free screening events quarterly. The next one, a free mammography clinic, will be on October 17th at St. John Missionary Baptist Church. As the community grows, Dr. Sanchouis is determined to meet its needs by expanding her practice and adding services.

"I just hired a front desk person and am looking to hire a phlebotomist soon," said the doctor. "I'm expanding my office to add lab services and am currently taking classes to become a certified menopause practitioner. The DPC model is allowing me to grow at my pace and in my terms. It's changed everything I was taught about being a physician, and I love it!"

family

BEACH & pool

PARTY

Sat, 15 Aug 2026

10am - 2pm



Join us for a day of fun in the sun.

Activities included. \$25/family.

Special hotel rates available

SUNDIAL
BEACH RESORT & SPA

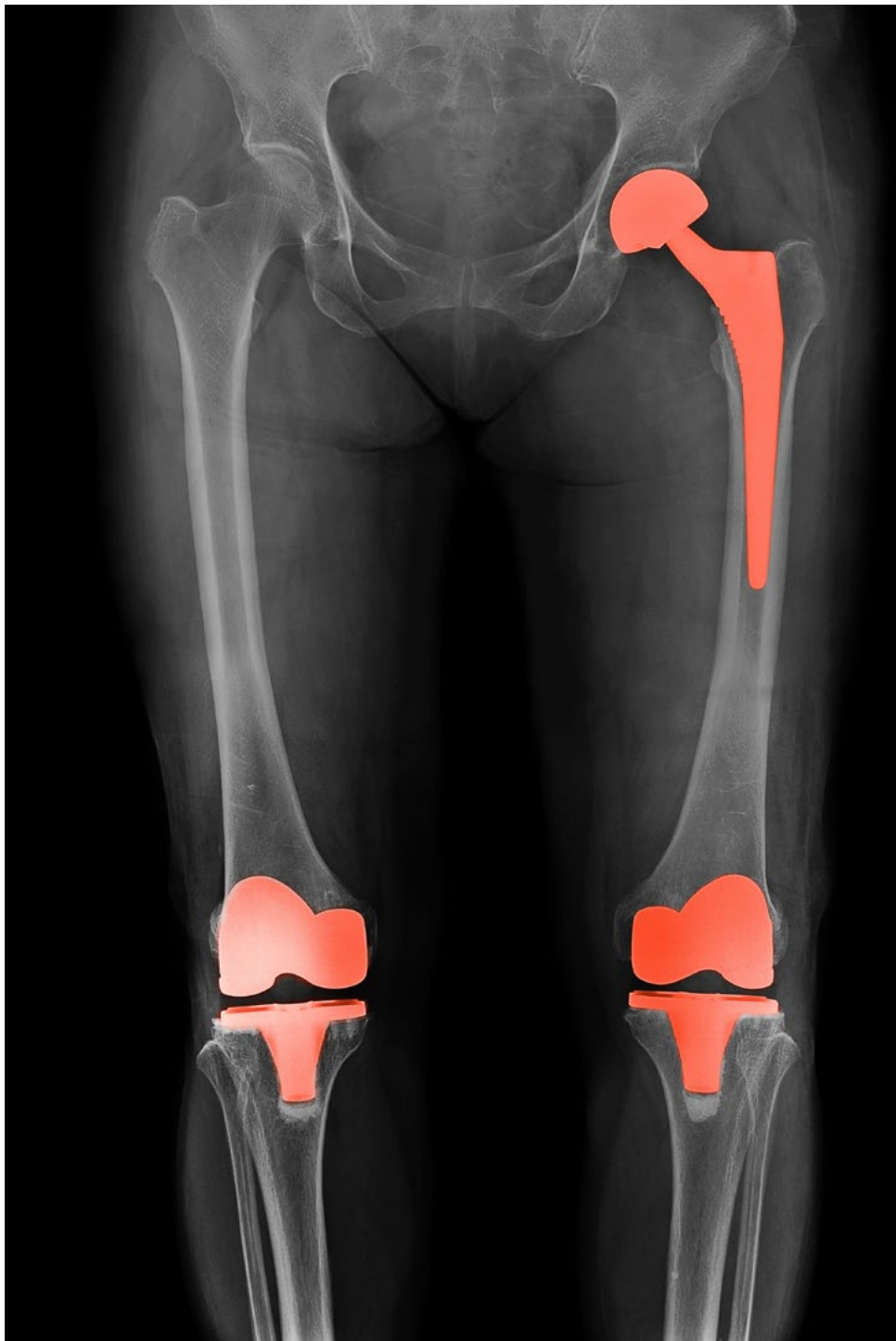


HIP & KNEE REPLACEMENTS: AN EXAMINATION OF MALPRACTICE CLAIMS AGAINST ORTHOPEDIC SURGEONS – AMBULATORY AND INPATIENT SETTING

by Jacqueline Ross, RN, PhD, Coding Director, Department of Patient Safety and Risk Management, The Doctors Company and TDC Group

Over 1 million total hip and knee replacements are completed annually in the United States. Dramatic increases are projected for both the total number of procedures and the proportion of procedures performed in the ambulatory setting.

The literature related to malpractice claims comparing inpatient and ambulatory knee and hip replacements has so far been limited. Therefore, the purpose of this novel study was to explore potential differences between the two settings in malpractice claims for surgery.



Study Design

The sample of 453 claims included all closed, coded malpractice claims in The Doctors Company database during the loss years between 2009 and 2019 where an orthopedic surgeon was the primary responsible party and the claim involved hip or knee replacement. The sample was also limited to cases that concerned either improper performance of surgery or the improper management of the patient. Major injury, gender and age of the patient, final diagnosis, location of injury, and contributing factors (risk management issues) were included.

Results

- The top three major intraoperative injuries were related to an aggravated or worsened preoperative condition, like pain or mobility (19 percent), nerve damage (16 percent), and/or postoperative pain (13 percent).
- Infections, including nosocomial infections, were more common in the ambulatory setting. One reason may be related to a need for greater compliance with the protocol for antibiotic dosing—individuals having ambulatory procedures often must take the third of three doses at home, and may be less adherent to their medication regimen than their inpatient counterparts.
- The contributing factors of communication between the patient and provider and patient assessment issues both appeared more frequently in claims deriving from the ambulatory setting. This finding

presents an opportunity for practices to consider how they create opportunities for physicians to establish rapport and pursue shared decision making.

Conclusion

For both inpatient and outpatient settings, the study's findings reinforce the necessity of up-front communication with patients about risks, and reveal how actions taken before surgery can influence outcomes after. Specifically, this study identifies risks related to potential gaps in patient prescreening and patient selection. These findings also emphasize the risk-reduction benefits of engaging in a complete process of patient preoperative optimization, which includes focusing on modifiable risk factors and setting expectations with the patient and family.

Claims against providers in the ambulatory setting, though, were far likelier to involve issues with patient assessment and/or communication. This is perhaps unsurprising, as both may be easier when the patient is hospitalized. Among other modifications, ambulatory providers might consider, during the first few days following a joint replacement, adding a telemedicine visit. This provides an opportunity to assess the patient's postoperative status, review expectations for recovery, and ensure the patient understands their postoperative plan of care.

Increasing understanding of where breakdowns in pre- and post-procedure patient assessment and communication are occurring can assist providers in evaluating and addressing these gaps as needed in their own practices. Physicians cannot always avoid complications, but effective communication with patients may help to avoid both errors and claims.

Read the Full Study at www.thedoctors.com/hipandknee.

The guidelines suggested here are not rules, do not constitute legal advice, and do not ensure a successful outcome. The ultimate decision regarding the appropriateness of any treatment must be made by each healthcare provider considering the circumstances of the individual situation and in accordance with the laws of the jurisdiction in which the care is rendered.

2026 FMA DELEGATION

The Florida Medical Association (FMA) House of Delegates is the primary legislative body of the association.

The House of Delegates is responsible for electing officers, passing policy, and nominating representatives to the American Medical Association (AMA). The delegation consists of representatives from the following bodies:

- FMA Board of Governors and Officers: Individuals holding internal elected seats.
- Component County Societies: One delegate for every 40 active dues-paying members.
- Specialty Societies: Recognized medical specialty organizations.
- FMA Sections and Alliance: Representatives from the Young Physician Section, Resident & Fellow Section, Medical Student Section, and FMA Alliance

LCMS FMA Delegates

The following LCMS members comprise the LCMS Delegation and will travel to Orlando to attend the 2026 FMA Annual Meeting on July 31st - August 1st.



Dr. Fadi Abu Shahin



Dr. Adrienne Argenio



Dr. Jennifer Carrion



Dr. Julio Conrado



Dr. Nariman Heshmati



Dr. Diana Khalil



Dr. Andres Laufer



Julie Ramirez, CAE



(october 10)

4th annual charity golf tournament

build your team & register early! \$175/golfer • \$650/foursome.
enjoy 18 holes. best ball format. lunch & awards included.



secure your spot

www.lcmsfl.com



🕒 8:30am - 1:00pm

📍 Eastwood Golf Course
4600 Bruce Herd Ln

2026 Spring Event Pics

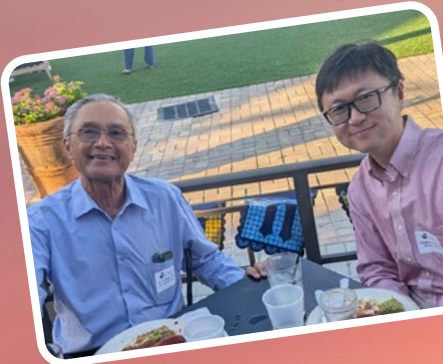
DINNER WITH ELVIS FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER



WOMEN PHYSICIANS ART PARTY



MAY COCKTAIL HOUR



MAY MEMBER MEETING





5781 Lee Boulevard, Suite 208-104
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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



SAVE THE DATES

14th Annual Medical Service Awards

Friday, October 2, 2026

4th Annual Golf Tournament

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Annual Holiday Party

Friday, December 4, 2026
