

Bulletin

Physicians Caring for Our Community

Features
of the New
**Member
Compass**

How Inflation
is Impacting
Medical
Malpractice
Claims

PLUS...

Photos from Foundation Events



BULLETIN

Lee County Medical Society is a Virtual Operation
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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: Dr. Andres Laufer crosses the finish line at the annual 5K Run/2K Walk on Oct 25th.
Members are encouraged to submit photos to be considered for the Bulletin cover.
Must be large format/300dpi. Email photos to marketing@lcmsfl.org

FAX MACHINE PHASE-OUT

According to the FMA, a transformative federal regulation, **effective Oct. 1, 2025**, is poised to phase out fax machines in doctors' offices by modernizing health information technology (IT) systems.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued the Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability (HTI-4) rule, which requires healthcare IT systems to provide real-time access to prior authorization requirements and prescription drug pricing during patient appointments. The goal is to enhance communication between physicians and insurers, reducing reliance on fax machines — a technology lingering in medical practices due to its compliance with HIPAA privacy standards. Read more.



Membership has its Benefits!

Become a new member or renew to enjoy all the benefits of a Society membership and be included in the 2026 Physician Directory!

UPCOMING EVENTS

WED, NOV 19th
11:30am - 1:00pm

LCMS Retired Member Lunch
Mission BBQ
12984 S. Cleveland Ave.

THUR, DEC 4th
6:30pm - 9:00pm

LCMS Physician Member Holiday Party
The Club at Renaissance
12801 Renaissance Way
Enjoy two floors of food & fun!
A physician with guest-only event.

FRI, JAN 9th - 11th
SAT, JAN 10th - IN PERSON

LCMS Physician CME Day
Jan 9th & 11th - virtual
Jan 10th - in person, Doubletree @ Bell Tower
*includes mandatory CME courses

RSVP to LCMS events at www.lcmsfl.org

MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Edward Grendys is pleased to announce a new practice location: Southwest Florida Gynecologic Oncology, 2320 Vanderbilt Beach Rd., Ste 102, Naples, FL 34109, Phone: 239.624.8080, Fax: 239.624.7081

Dr. John Neiner is looking for a tenant for some nice office space (6,324 sq. ft.) adjacent to his surgery center located at 5238 Mason Corbin Court, Suite 102. Block time and partnership track at surgery center also available. Location has Summerlin Road visibility with new roof and landscaping. For more information, email jneiner@phspecialists.com or call 239.826.4174.

Dr. Frederick Brett Shannon, founder of Pediatric Orthopedic, retired on October 3, 2025. Dr. Shannon established the Pediatric Orthopedic in 1992.

Premier Pain Specialists, LLC has closed. If you require patient charts, please contact Clary Document Management, 4190 Vinewood Ln., Ste 111-201, Plymouth, MN 55442 or (763) 548-1330

FINGERPRINTING SERVICE

Effective July 1, 2025, HB 975 requires all physicians to complete electronic fingerprinting prior to their next license renewal.

Step 1:

Create account at the Clearinghouse Applicant Initiated (CHAI) website.
<https://chai.flclearinghouse.com>. Get an ORI number.

Step 2:

Schedule a fingerprinting appointment with a Livescan provider. Bring ORI number.
<https://flhealthsource.gov/background-screening/southwest-region/#lee-county>

Here are some convenient Lee County locations:

Ship-N-Go, 16295 S. Tamiami Trail; UPS Store, 4085 Hancock Bridge Pkwy., Ste 112;
UPS Store, 10012 Gulf Center Dr., Ste. 5; or USP Store, 1446 Lee Blvd.

Step 3:

Request Transaction Control Number (TCN) from fingerprint provider.
Track your submission at Fla Dept. of Law Enforcement using your TCN.

NEW MEMBERS



Temitope Akinyemi, MD
Internal Medicine
Family Health Centers of SWFL
2232 Grand Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Practice: 844-342-7935
Fax: 239-332-4701
<https://fhcsfwfl.org>



Jorge Perez-De Armas, MD
Oncology - Locum Tenens
Florida Cancer Specialists
<https://flcancer.com>



Joshua B. Kramer, MD
Cardiology
Lee Health Heart Institute
16261 Bass Road, Ste 300
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Phone: 239.343.6410
www.leehealth.org



Jesalyn Taylor, MD
Hematopathology
Neogenomics
12518 Fairmont Drive
Fort Myers, FL 33913
Practice: 239-768-0600
Fax: 239-690-4237
<http://www.neogenomics.com>



Knisha Williams, MD
Family Medicine
Lee Health Group
16131 Roserush Court
Fort Myers, FL 33908
Practice: 239-343-7300
Fax: 239-343-5235
<https://www.leehealth.org>



Noor Yassine, DO
Family Medicine
Physicians' Primary Care
13195 Metro Parkway, Ste 8
Fort Myers, FL 33966
Practice: 239-482-1010
Fax: 239-938-7174
<http://www.ppcswfl.com>

USING OUR NEW ONLINE DIRECTORY AND MEMBER COMPASS

The **Membership Directory** and the **Member Compass** are two central components of our new association management software.

To locate another LCMS member, or to search for a specific specialty, look no further than the **"Find a Physician" directory**. Use the Search function by typing a few letters of the member's name or a specific specialty to get results.

The **Member Compass** allows you to view and update your individual or company contact information, your membership status, event registrations, and pay open invoices. When you log into the website, you'll be redirected to your Member Compass **Dashboard** automatically. The dashboard page shows the current number of upcoming events you're registered for and any outstanding invoices.

www.lcmsfl.org

ALL MEMBERS MUST CREATE A NEW LOGIN AND PASSWORD

(Tip: Use the email address that delivers you our email notices)

Keeping your data up-to-date is very important since we will pull information from the Member Compass to build our **2026 Physician Pictorial Directory**. However, if you change critical contact information, please send an email to admin@lcmsfl.org so we can alert members of the change in a member email and Bulletin newsletter.

If you have any questions or suggestions to improve the new member experience, please email Julie Ramirez, CAE at jramirez@lcmsfl.org.

RESULTS OF A HIGH-GEAR YEAR

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Gamini Soori, MD, MBA, FACP, FRCP

It is hard to believe that we will be reaching the end of this year in just a few weeks. We all at LCMS are in high gear, working energetically to execute our agenda pursuing the Strategic Plan we created earlier in the year.

One of the major initiatives we embarked on is expanding the LCMS membership to represent the majority of Lee County physicians and to make our society more representative of our greater physician community. We are pleased to report that we have delivered on that vision. Our membership will have grown from 806 at the end of 2024 to an estimated 1,247 by the end of this year. The leadership of LCMS and the membership committee worked very diligently to facilitate the entire Lee Physician Group to join our Society, in addition to all the physicians in the residency programs. This is a historic event for our Society as we celebrate this accomplishment! In the remaining weeks of this year, we will continue our efforts to reach out to other physician groups as well as individual physicians to become members of LCMS. We count on your active help in this endeavor!

These efforts have invigorated our Society, which in the past years have faced declining membership. With an expanded member-base, we will have the strength in numbers and enhanced financial and other resources to deliver on the mission of LCMS, to our physicians, patients and our community at large.

We have reorganized the functioning structure of our LCMS by formalizing continuing committees to work with the Board of Governors, and the Executive Director and staff. These include specific committees and groups on membership, resolutions, events, retired physicians, CME and others.

We now have a robust repertoire of active events throughout the year, to engage, support and entertain our membership and community. In addition to our quarterly member meetings, we host regular cocktail socials for our physicians and their guests. Annual CME program, family fun events, Spring and Summer women physicians events, a residency reception, practice administrator's luncheons and retired members luncheons are all well attended. We look forward to our holiday party, which is just around the corner! LCMS Foundation hosts an annual 5K wellness run/walk race (which I ran at enviable speed!), annual medical service awards and annual golf tournament, all of which are open to community participation. These events raise financial resources to support LCMS Foundation activities such as the Physician Wellness Program, which continues to be an important free service well utilized by LCMS members.

As we reach the end of the year, we had an exciting, highly productive and vibrant agenda as we kicked off our New Strategic Plan and delivered on its key strategic initiatives. This being my last president's message, I am happy to report that LCMS is stronger, highly productive, relevant and well-engaged in delivering on its mission to serve our Lee County physicians, patients and our community and its future remains bright in years to come!

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season!



GETTING RELIEF WITH THE PHYSICIAN WELLNESS PROGRAM

Family
Issues

Relationship
Problems

Work-related
Difficulties

Depression
& Anxiety

Burnout
or Crisis

Managing
Stress

Mood
Swings

Suicidal
Thoughts

The Physician Wellness Program (PWP) provides a safe harbor for active LCMS physicians to address normal life difficulties in a confidential and professional environment. Our program works with two independent, local psychology groups that provide physician members with **up to six FREE visits for calendar year 2026**. Priority scheduling. Appointments available in person or virtual.

This is a confidential and free member benefit. No insurance will be billed and LCMS will not be given any personal information about those who use the program. LCMS pays a monthly bill based on the number of sessions provided. Full details on how to enroll or donate to this program can be found on our website under Foundation, or at <https://www.lcmsfl.org/physician-wellness-program>.

FUNDING A VITAL NEED TO HELP ALL OUR MEMBERS

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



As the year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on the impact of our Physician Wellness Program (PWP).

For nearly a decade, the PWP has served as a confidential and neutral resource, offering free counseling sessions to our physician members—often within days of a request. These sessions provide a safe space to discuss anything life brings, helping physicians restore clarity and well-being so they can continue to care for others.

As of October (year-to-date), 29 physician members have utilized the program, with total costs reaching \$24,200. The most frequent users have been in the 50–59 and 30–39 age groups, with more women than men seeking support. Common topics include emotional health, marital and family concerns, physician and patient health, legal and financial matters, occupational challenges, and stress management. We do not have access to personal data, but our partners provide some overview information.

The Medical Society Foundation has worked diligently to sustain this vital program, setting an annual fundraising goal of \$30,000. Through events like the 5K Run, Golf Tournament, and Medical Awards, we've built a strong foundation of support. We are especially grateful to Finemark National Bank and Trust through Dr. Valerie Dyke for the bank's generous \$5,000 contribution on October 30th. With this support, we are on track to meet our goal by year-end.

Looking ahead, we anticipate increased demand and have set a fundraising goal of \$45,000 for next year. If you feel moved to support your fellow physicians through this meaningful initiative, we welcome your partnership. Scan the QR code to provide a year-end donation.



HOW INFLATION IS IMPACTING MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CLAIMS

Provided by The Doctors Company

Inflation—both economic and social—has added an estimated \$4 billion in insured losses and expenses to the medical malpractice insurance market over the past decade.

The Doctors Company, the nation's largest physician-owned medical malpractice insurer, part of TDC Group, is committed to commissioning independent, third-party research that examines the most pressing challenges in healthcare. The company's two studies on the impact of inflation on the medical malpractice insurance industry, conducted in 2023 and 2025 by actuarial consultants using National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) and industrywide data, provide in-depth analysis of nuclear verdicts and other factors driving malpractice costs.

New 2025 Study

The Doctors Company's new 2025 study expands on the findings of the 2023 report, confirming that inflation—both economic and social—continues to threaten access to care and promote defensive medicine.

The study estimates that increasing economic and social inflation added \$4 billion in insured losses and expenses incurred by physician-focused insurers, or 11 percent of booked losses for the decade ending in 2024. This is a \$1.6 billion increase from the previous estimate in the 2023 study of the decade ending in 2021.

Social inflation occurs when an insurer's average claim amount grows faster than the overall inflation rate. When that happens, insurers are forced to increase their rates and/or decrease coverage to keep up. The studies examined loss development factors (LDFs), a standard actuarial metric, across more than a decade for physician-focused medical malpractice insurers. In theory, these factors should change little except for random variation. Instead, they have been rising.

"Physicians are facing rising premiums driven by both economic pressures and the continued increase in large settlements," said Robert E. White, Jr., President of TDC Group. "We will continue to research and raise awareness of this concerning trend that affects physicians and patients."

Nuclear verdicts continue to increase at a drastic rate: The average of the top 50 medical malpractice verdicts was \$32 million in 2022, \$48 million in 2023, and an alarming \$56 million in 2024.

Key 2025 Study Findings

- Combined impact: Combined economic and social inflation added \$4 billion in losses—up \$1.6 billion from the previous estimate.
- Large settlements are rising: Reports of claims exceeding \$2 million have increased more than tenfold since 1990.
- Post-pandemic surge: The frequency of high-dollar claims rebounded sharply in 2023 after a pandemic-era dip.
- Third-party litigation financing—where private investors fund lawsuits in exchange for a portion of the settlement—is also emerging as a potential driver of social inflation, projected to cost insurers between \$13 and \$25 billion over the next five years.

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BECOME AN LCMS PARTNER IN 2026

Book Early!

Your Lee County Medical Society has developed a unique partnership program that provides unrivaled outreach to over 2,000 physicians and healthcare providers in 2026!

Let us help you develop a partnership plan that fits your needs and budget so you can enjoy getting your message to the doctors who are hungry for your products and services.

Contact Mollie Page at marketing@lcmssl.org.





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February 20–21, 2026

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Scan the QR code to register.



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All faculty, planners, presenters and reviewers will disclose any real or apparent conflict of interest related to the content of the presentation. Faculty will also identify any off-label or investigational uses discussed as such.

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John Neiner, MD
Otolaryngology



Jacob Benedict, MD
Otolaryngology

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RSVP to mmabry@phspecialists.com



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2025 FOUNDATION FUNDRAISERS

LCMS Foundation fundraisers fuel the **Physician Wellness Program (PWP)**, which provides a safe harbor for active LCMS physicians to address normal life difficulties in a confidential and professional environment with a licensed psychologist. LCMS hosted its three signature fundraising events in September and October, which contributed over \$29,000 to the PWP. Thanks to all our amazing sponsors and guests who helped us reach this goal!



2025 ANNUAL MEDICAL SERVICE AWARDS

Thanks to our generous sponsors: MarkhamNorton Accountants+Advisors, Advocate Radiation Oncology, GenesisCare, HBM Home Care, and Precision Healthcare Specialists.



Ellen Poage accepts the Non-Physician Award of Appreciation



Dr. Ashley Pezzi is honored with the Rising Physician Award



Dr. Natalia Spinelli accepts a well-deserved Health Education Award



A well-deserved Dr. Michael Tucker accepts the Citizenship & Community Service Award



Dr. Shari Skinner accepts the Leadership & Professionalism Award



Colleagues of Dr. Keith Miller accept the WeCare Award on his behalf



Dr. Arie Dosoretz bestows his father Dr. Daniel Dosoretz with the Lifetime Achievement Award



Amy Scott accepts her father Dr. Roger Scott's In Memory of an Outstanding Physician Award



Dr. Rebekah Bernard, FMA Treasurer and Dr. Will Adams, FMA Board (District E Rep) and FMA PAC Board



The Dosoretz grandchildren celebrate grandpa's big night



Ellen Poage surrounded by her supporters



Dr. and Mrs. Gamini Soori

2025 3RD ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Our 3rd Annual Golf Tournament was a hit. Played on the beautiful Eastwood Golf Course, golfers enjoyed the day with friends, made new friends and celebrated with a BBQ lunch. Congrats to the winners - Lowest Score: Dr. Mark Bloomston, Rich Perez, Tim Collier & Dr. Thad Kammerlocker. Closest to the Pin: Dr. Dale Segal. Longest Drive: Joe Simard. The tournament was possible with support from GenesisCare U.S., One Oncology, Urological Supplies, Select Medical, and Office Pride.



The team with the lowest score!



Closest to the pin & longest drive winners!



Team Caesar



Team Flamingo



Team Simard



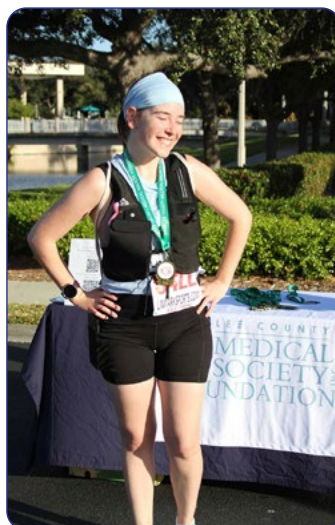
Team ??????

2025 5K RUN / 2K WALK

The 5K Run / 2K Walk took place on a beautiful morning in October at Florida Southwestern State College. Overall winners were Christine Lontin (19:48) and Brian Gonzalez (21:16). Special thanks to our Run sponsors: Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida, Millennium Physician Group, and Joint Implant Surgeons of Florida.



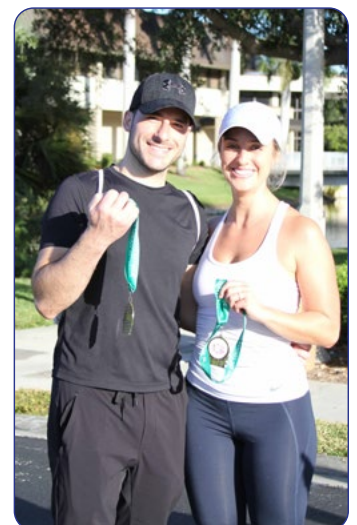
(l-r) Dr. Gamini Soori, Samina Azam, Ara Azam, Dr. Asif Azam, and Dr. Andres Laufer



Women's Winner (20-24) Sarah Hoyt



Men's Overall Winner and (15-19) Brian Gonzalez



Dr. Matthew Sweet and Olivia Sweet

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