



WCMS News

Winnebago County Medical Society

March 2016

Upcoming Events

April 13, 2016

University of Illinois
College of Medicine Rockford
Research Day

April 15-17

ISMS House of Delegates
Meeting
Springfield

April 25, 2016

Board of Directors Meeting

May 23, 2016

Board of Directors Meeting

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Meeting

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WCMS Annual Meeting

Winnebago County Medical Society Annual Meeting was held on January 21, 2016. Keynote speaker was Alex Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, Regional Dean, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. Scott A. Cooper, MD President, Illinois State Medical Society addressed the legislative and advocacy activities of the ISMS.

Doctor's Day is March 30th

**Anniversary of the first administration of anesthesia
by Crawford Long, MD.**

We would like to honor all physicians and thank you for your commitment, diligence and dedication to your profession and patients. We would like to thank our member physicians for their time spent serving on committees, task forces or Board of Directors. Without your commitment and support of the Winnebago County Medical Society, and the Illinois State Medical Society, we would be unable to continue the fight for you and your patients.

Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) Legislative Activity for 2015

ISMS is a powerful force for good medicine in our state capital and beyond. Your dues are your single most effective tool for making positive change and preventing harmful legislation from advancing.

Among many victories, this year ISMS:

- Prevented trial lawyers from **repealing the Medical Studies Act** and removing confidentiality of hospital peer review meetings (p.13);
- Influenced **landmark opioid legislation**, strengthening patent safeguards while protecting physicians from onerous mandates and restrictions (p.23);
- Blocked a mandate on physicians to provide **estimates of patients' health care costs** and act as insurance navigators for the patient (p.17);
- Protected physicians' ability to charge fees for **copying medical records** in connection with claims or appeals filed under the *Social Security Act* (p.16);
- Passed legislation allowing Illinois to join the **Interstate Medical Licensure Compact**, giving Illinois physicians access to expedited licensure in other member states (p.14.);
- Stopped proposals to inappropriately **expand IDFP's authority and automatically suspend physician licenses**, preserving due process in medical discipline (p.15);
- Instituted a requirement the **workers at child care facilities must be vaccinated** against vaccine-preventable diseases (p.33);
- Ensured access to and reimbursement for **breast cancer screenings** (p.9);
- Removed a mandate that physicians **test newborns who fail hearing screenings for cytomegalovirus (CMV)**, instead supporting a public education campaign (p.21);
- Allowed **team physicians** from other states to care for traveling sport teams (p.6);
- Secured proper reimbursement for services rendered by **surgical assistants** (p.10);

- Clarified and improved **mental health reporting requirements** under Illinois' concealed carry law, which had been unfair to patients and burdensome for physicians (p.21); and
- Created a **Certificate of Religious Exemption from immunizations**, ensuring that parents receive accurate information on the risks of vaccine-preventable diseases (p.32).

ISMS strives to protect our patients and inform lawmakers of the differences in education and training between physicians and other health professionals. We succeeded in:

- Reaching a compromise that allows **Advanced Practice Nurses** greater flexibility while maintaining the collaborative agreement requirement and other patient safeguards (p.2);
- Preventing IDFP from contracting the **Illinois Psychological Association** to audit compliance with continuing education requirements, a clear conflict of interest (p.3);
- Averting proposed expansions of **pharmacists'** authority to administer vaccines (p.4);
- Blocking licensure of **direct-entry midwives** and **"naturopathic physicians"** (p.4); and
- Stopping an attempt by **podiatrists** to broaden their scope of practice by redefining the foot (p.6).

To access the end of legislative session report go to www.isms.org, click on governmental affairs.

Welcome New Members

Olga Goodman, MD, Rheumatologist, is affiliated with OrthoIllinois. Dr. Goodman earned her medical degree at Nizhny Novgorod State Medical Academy, Nizhovy Novgorod, Russia. She completed a combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics program at Western Michigan University Medical School, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Dr. Goodman completed a Rheumatology Fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine-MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, Texas.

Carrie L. Sharkey, MD, board certified in Family Medicine is affiliated with Crusader Community Health. She earned her medical degree at the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Peoria, Illinois. Dr. Sharkey completed her residency at St. Francis Hospital, Peoria, Illinois.

The following medical student have joined the medical society:

Ashton B. Ballinger

Noah H. Boton

Joshua Brozek

Julie Canter

Paige B. Clayton

Alyssa M. Cole

Andrew C. Crawford

Craig W. Forsthoefel

Robert M. Freidel

Alfreda Grace

Kate M. Heitkamp

Christopher James

Peter G. Karalis

Sonali Khurana

Christina Kim

Noah G. King

Katelyn J. Klosterman

Kristen L. Koniewicz

Pruthvi J. Kothari

Anthony L. Logli

Caitlin C. Moliske

Mischelle R. Nelson

Leonard T. Onsen

Amanda Patterson

Nathaniel E. Quinn

Franklyn Rocha Cabrero

Theodore Schoenfeldt

Harsh Shah

Neil K. Sharma

Mariah N. Sisson

Michael B. Small

Kavish R. Thakkar

Dyllan Tiburzi

Rachel N. Trumpy

Megan J. Webber

Kelsey R. Wojcik

Julia Yi

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Catherine Rogers, DNP
Dr. Leslie Edgcomb, Medical Director
Dean Kujawa, EMT, Safety Director

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Highlights from the Annual Meeting and Vendors' Fair

The Annual Meeting and Vendors' Fair was held on Thursday, January 21, 2016 at Forest Hills Country Club. *The Board of Directors wishes to thank the following vendors that participated in this event.*

Gary P. Fernando, MD, was elected President at the Winnebago County Medical Society Annual Meeting, held at the Forest Hills Country Club on January 21, 2016. Gary P. Fernando, MD, Board Certified, Pediatrician, is affiliated with Crusader Community Health and serves as its Chair of Pediatrics.

Alex Stagnaro-Green, MD, MHPE, was keynote speaker. Dr. Stagnaro-Green spoke of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford and its transition into a Health Science Center. The University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford opened in 1972 with medical students second through fourth year of training; Rural Medicine Education Program began in 1993; Nursing in 1991; Pharmacy in 2010.

Dr. Stagnaro-Green reported the future plans for the University are: first year medical students will begin in 2017 with ten new faculty members; researchers will focus on stem cell research, physical disability and prostate cancer; community seminars and health fairs will be held on campus; and new residency programs will be established.

Scott A. Cooper, MD, President, Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) reported on the legislative and advocacy activities of ISMS. He updates those present on: medical studies act; mandate on hepatitis C screening; CPT code for reimbursement for advance care planning; marijuana legislation; and many scope of practice issues. Dr. Cooper

encouraged physicians to become active members of the medical society so we can speak with a collective voice and have greater impact on legislators. Encouraged medical students to move out of their comfort zones and reach out and meet physicians so they may grow.

2015 President's Award was presented to Roger L. Greenlaw, MD by Christopher M. Gibbs, MD. The WCMS Board of Directors wished to acknowledge the special work of Dr. Roger Greenlaw, in recognition and sincere appreciation of his commitment to the well-being of our community, including his many years of dedication to the Fit Families Task Force. For over ten years, under Dr. Greenlaw's leadership, the Fit Families Task Force has implemented many educational projects and transformed countless families through efforts in the Rockford Public School District.

Christopher M. Gibbs, MD, thanked fellow members, for the privilege of serving as President these last two years. This role has allowed me to contribute to our medical community in a different way and to give back to our profession. During this time we have devoted time and effort to a variety of endeavors, including monthly board meetings, service on ISMS committees and councils, periodic meetings with state legislators, organization of social events, coordination of the retired physician luncheons and support medical student activities. We remain a strong active county medical society, we are in fact, the only local organization that represents all local physicians, across all healthcare systems, both employed and independent physicians primary care doctors and specialists, active and retired.

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ISMIE Mutual Insurance Company
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University of Illinois
College of Medicine at Rockford
Carrie Hermanson, Laura Wilhelmi

President's Message



Gary P. Fernando, M.D. – President

Hello and Happy
Almost Spring!

As I sit down to write this first of my newsletter columns I have been reflecting upon the value of membership and involvement in organized medicine as well as the current political climate in which we find ourselves.

As my term as your president begins I want to encourage you all to explore activities that will help you get the most out of your Winnebago County and Illinois State Medical Society membership. Sometimes I will often hear people state that they do not see a purpose of the local medical societies because in healthcare most of the legislative decisions made happen at the Federal level. I write to you all today to say that nothing could be farther from the truth. Your medical society not only authors resolutions at the suggestions and input of you, our valuable members, but also follows key legislation continuously both at the local and state levels. Your Board of Directors meets regularly with our locally elected officials as well as with our elected officials at the national level. As your president over the next two years I look forward to strengthening these relationships with these officials and I look forward to the complexities of pushing forward or defeating back legislation with them regardless of political party affiliation so long as they work with us to make our medical profession and our medical community healthier. Make no mistake, our profession is under attack. We need organized medicine now more than ever to protect not only the healthcare field, but the welfare of our patients and their health as well.

I would secondly like to encourage you to engage with the medical society as well as your medical colleagues in our county. We have a unique opportunity in Winnebago County that not many medical societies with membership numbers similar to ours enjoy—a medical school. The regional campus of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford is an amazing resource but also allows us the distinct opportunity to have a difference not only in the current landscape of healthcare in our county but also the future of our profession. By cultivating young minds and strong physicians and showing them the value of organized medicine

we can strengthen the healthcare field for generations to come. If you have the ability to, I challenge you all to take students. As a former medical student here in Rockford I can attest to the invaluable experience I had as a medical student working with the physicians of Winnebago County and clearly it made enough of an impression on me that I returned to Rockford to practice once I completed residency.

Finally, I would like to encourage you all to find something you are passionate about and make a pledge to do just one thing about that in the course of the next year. It can be something as simple as a quality improvement project in your practice or as complex as reviewing pending legislation and discussing it with a member of Congress. We always welcome suggestions for resolutions to be discussed on the floor of the House of Delegates at the annual meeting of the Illinois State Medical Society. In the past, resolutions which became national initiatives have started right here in Winnebago County!

I will leave you with the story of Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha. She is a pediatrician in Flint, Michigan. Many of you by now have no doubt heard about the public health tragedy occurring in Flint. However, did you know that it was a physician (and a fellow pediatrician!), Dr. Hanna-Attisha, who would not take no for an answer when politicians and officials were telling her that the water in Flint was fine? Dr. Hanna-Attisha used contacts at multiple organizations and then had the support of her state chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics as well as the Michigan State Medical Society to continue to back the data which they knew were sound. That is how just one physician in a fairly small community can make a difference in the landscape of their community.

I am honored and humbled that you all elected me to serve as your president for the next two years. I look forward to the work ahead as we continue to move the needle of healthcare and the healthcare profession in the right direction.

WCMS Physician Advocacy & Community Involvement in 2015

- As WCMS President, Dr. Christopher Gibbs, has served on a steering committee at the medical school, advising Dr. Alex Stagnaro-Green, Regional Dean, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, on the development of his 5-year strategic plan. Dr. Gibbs co-chaired the Clinical Practice Sub-committee, charged with exploring the possibility of establishing additional residency training programs in Rockford. Dr. Gibbs continues to support the Dean and the medical school as a member of the Dean's Action Council.
- Met with Senator Syverson, Senator Stadelman, Representative Cabello, Representative Wallace, and Representative Sosnowski throughout the year. We discussed the Illinois Medical Practice Act renewal, Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion, state income tax rate, scope of practice issues and public education funding. We continue to meet with our legislators throughout the year to address legislative issue relevant to the practice of medicine.
- Represented WCMS at the ISMS Annual Meeting and House of Delegates, meeting with members of other county medical societies to discuss and vote on submitted resolutions, thereby establishing policies and determining the agenda of the ISMS for the year, and to vote on nominees for ISMS leadership positions. WCMS members also served on councils and committees of the Illinois State Medical Society throughout the year. Dr. John DeGuide serves as ISMS Trustee and Dr. William Kobler serves as AMA Trustee.
- Provided medical society updates and encouraged membership at the medical staff meetings of OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center, Mercy Rockford Health System and SwedishAmerican Health System.
- Continued to support the Rock River Valley Blood Center, founded by WCMS in 1972, and appointed members to its Board of Directors. Dr. Richard Nora and Dr. David G. Cable represent the medical society on the Board.
- Continued to participate in the Rockford Health Council, with Dr. Dennis Norem serving as WCMS representative on its Board of Directors.
- Provided information for physicians and the community through the WCMS website: www.wcmsonline.com.
- Resumed retired physician luncheons in the spring. Dr. Jim Frakes works with WCMS executive director, Janet Corirossi, to schedule these monthly gatherings. The group meets April through December.
- Sponsored and presented the medical student award to a graduating medical student at the Senior Awards Banquet. The award is given to a medical student that has participated in a community organization or provided service to a segment of the community to enhance a particular understanding of health care and who have demonstrated an interest in organized medicine. Dr. Christopher Gibbs presented the medical student award to Jacob Moore.
- Co-sponsored Research Day with the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. Physicians from the medical society serve as judges and review medical student research projects. The medical students present their posters and answer questions. The medical/pharmacy students that received the award this year are: Mina Tanaka, Kendall Marszalek and Andrew Gibbs.
- Co-sponsored the White Coat Ceremony / Family Day with the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. Fourth-year medical students presented second-year medical students with white coats, symbolizing the second-year students' entry into the clinical phase of their medical training.



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The Board of Directors of the Winnebago County Medical Society meets on the fourth Monday of each month, 6:30pm at the Medical Society office.
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