Message from the President

GAMA on the Move

First a big thank you to Immediate Past-President Dr. Harvey White who has generously given his time and effort to GAMA for not only one but two years. Under his leadership many projects have been started and completed, or are in process with early successes. An unforeseen event towards the end of last year was our President-Elect Dr. Sandra Whisler’s resignation for a very good reason: she will be pursuing a sabbatical/fellowship at Denver Children’s Hospital to learn new skills to better serve her patients. We wish her an invigorating and worthwhile experience and look forward to seeing her back in our medical community and GAMA.

So here I am on short notice, trusted by the GAMA board, voters and members to pick up the baton without skipping a beat. Fortunately there are many familiar faces on the Board of Trustees who will be of invaluable help and assure continuity and leadership to fulfill our mission. After scrolling through last year’s newsletters, I found several themes that will continue to demand our attention and creativity to navigate the rapid changes in medicine and the practice of the medical profession. In particular, physicians long in practice perceive a loss of stature and leadership, declining dedication by incoming physicians and an actual deterioration of patient care. There remains the threat of malpractice lawsuits, new demands and costs of electronic medical record keeping along with a bewildering array of new care delivery models and caregivers. While this has been voiced for a number of years, there is also the call for embracing changes and accepting new roles of increasing leadership to facilitate greater collaboration, care coordination, working in grey zones and taking on some responsibility to find affordable solutions to our patients’ health problems.

With such a diverse spectrum of opinions, reality must be somewhere in the messy middle. In the last twenty years, there have definitely been improved outcomes for patients, with big wins in cardiology, orthopedics and oncology resulting in a longer lifespan and improved fitness of older patients. In other areas such as patient safety, the Institute of Medicine tells us gains have been less than satisfying as new error categories are recognized (Improving diagnosis in Healthcare, IOM 2015). Behavioral health issues have gotten worse if anything and all physicians are impacted; hence the Behavioral Health Educational Program before the GAMA Annual Meeting on Jan 12 for building awareness and the knowledge to address the issues more effectively.

Our mission

"To promote excellence in patient care by identifying and solving physician practice problems in any practice environment through advocacy, education & collegiality"
Introduction

It is such an honor to be chosen GAMA’s 2016 President-Elect. I am a practicing Emergency Medicine physician in Albuquerque, where I split my clinical time between the Lovelace Health Systems and UNMH Emergency Departments. While relatively new to GAMA, I bring my leadership experience and will work positively to influence GAMA. I am a Past-President and current Board Member of the NM Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). I also serve as a NM Councilor to the National ACEP and serve on National ACEP’s State Legislative/Regulatory Committee.

While fulfilling my duties with NM ACEP, I have worked closely with Diane Snyder and Sophia Waara for many years and I am confident my relationship with these outstanding GAMA leaders will assist in my transition as President-Elect. I am excited to collaborate with my fellow medical leaders in the community who practice in a variety of specialties. As I continue meeting these professionals, I am quickly discovering that similar advocacy issues apply to those specialties as they do to Emergency Medicine. It is my hope to work together productively for better patient care and for improving our profession locally.

In addition to advocacy, one of my top priorities will be to strengthen our GAMA PAC. If there is one thing I have learned from travelling to the state Capitol in Santa Fe and Capitol Hill in DC, it is to appreciate the importance of communication with legislators and the influence of political contributions. While many of us see the impact of political decisions on the practice of medicine, we continue to underestimate the influence we can have in the political process. Our GAMA PAC can serve as a vehicle to educate to our local, state and national politicians. Physicians current contributions to our PACs do not proportionally match the contributions that other groups donate to their respective PACs. As a result, our voice is not as strong in the political arena. While
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Did you know that classified ads are free to GAMA members?

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February 12 - 13, 2016
Enhancing Recovery After Surgery, 2016 Improving the Quality of Recovery for the Patient
Pointe Hilton Tapatio Cliffs Resort, Phoenix, AZ
Register: https://ce.mayo.edu/surgical-specialties/content/enhancing-recovery-after...

February 20, 2016
34th Winter Refresher - NM American Academy of Family Physicians
Hotel Albuquerque, Old Town, Albuquerque, NM
Contact: (505) 292-3113, familydoctor@newmexico.com

February 25 – 28, 2016
Mayo Clinic Gastroenterology and Hepatology 2016
Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, AZ
Register: https://ce.mayo.edu/gastroenterology/gi

March 3-5, 2016
12th Annual Mayo Clinic Women’s Health Update
FireSky Resort, Scottsdale, AZ
Registration: www.ce.mayo.edu/node/4885

March 10, 2016
NM Bone Club – Update on Osteoporosis Treatment
Marriott Pyramid, Registration: www.ofnm.org

March 16-19, 2016
27th Annual Family Medicine and Internal Medicine Update
Westin Kierland Resort, Scottsdale, AZ
Registration: http://ce.mayo.edu/node/4985

March 31- April 2, 2016
Tackling Problematic Sinusitis: Module-Based Solutions
Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, AZ
Registration: https://ce.mayo.edu/otorhinolaryngology/content/tackling-problematic-sin...

April 8-10, 2016
3rd Annual Southwest Laryngology Conference: Focus on Voice Disorders
Mayo Clinic, Scottsdale, AZ
Registration: https://ce.mayo.edu/otorhinolaryngology/node/4885

May 25-29, 2016
Wilderness Medicine Santa Fe
Eldorado Hotel and Spa, Santa Fe, NM
Registration: www.wilderness-medicine.com, info@ameetingbydesign.com or (888) 995-3088

August 6-7, 2016
17th Annual SF Bone Symposium
Eldorado Hotel Santa Fe, NM
Register: www.ofnm.org
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How about outcomes for doctors? Doctors reminiscing about the old days when everybody was caring for their patients 24/7 tend to forget how strenuous it really was for them and their families. However, when awards were given to dedicated senior physicians for lifetime achievements, I have seen tears when it came to acknowledging the burden this dedication put on spouses and children. Younger colleagues are no less dedicated, but a lot of their work is not seen. In Dr. Dion Gallant’s narrative on the implementation of the EPIC medical record we learn that he completes his medical records at home after work, and he answers e-mails and patient messages even on vacation. What about night calls? A lot if not most “off-hour” care has shifted to emergency rooms and hospitals with dedicated physicians working 24/7/365 shifts, certainly in the metropolitan areas, if not in rural settings. So what’s the net effect for doctors? Could it be the same long hours, but with some added freedom to choose when and where some of the work occurs?

One of the hardest things during this period of transition is how to deal with the old and the new in tandem, when neither is working well and the entire system is bogged down in a swamp of old and new regulations. But it is also a period when there’s open space for creativity and exploration. The New Mexico physicians have an abundance of these qualities and have some good patient outcomes to show despite constrained resources: according to Americas Health Rankings, New Mexico ranks 4th for low rate of cancer deaths and 9th for cardiovascular deaths http://www.americashealthrankings.org/nm

In the coming months we will continue to explore together what of the “new” is worthwhile adopting and advocating for, and what are merely flashy new tools that perhaps need to be mastered but kept in their place as just tools. We understand that no tools can replace the healing function of direct interaction and the relationship of physicians with their patients. No one wants to tinker with that but we can keep an open mind as to how this might look like.

Any comments, input or questions are welcome, either directly to my e-mail Cordelia.Sever@tricore.org or to GAMA at gama@gamamed.org

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Experienced and dedicated physician who is passionate about New Mexico is seeking full time employment, or flex PT/FT (if FT incl benefits). Prefer full-time, but also available locum tenens. Allergy-Asthma-Clinical Immunology. Willing and able to develop an allergy immunotherapy program. Has DEA-X waiver for opioid addiction therapy with Suboxone for 30 patient max thru May, then 100-pts as of 6/1/2016. Please contact at: 920-216-4313 and email glasjw@juno.com

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Kathy Finch is closing Adult Health Care at 5341 Wyoming Blvd NE. The four exam room space is for rent from Tony or Rusty Chan (505 270-8437). I, Kathy, will be available to show the space at 505 331-2063.
Candidates for Membership

John J. Brinkley MD
Eye Associates of NM, 5757 Harper Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109
**Neuro-Ophthalmology**
Med School: 2009, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX
Internship: 2009-10, Transitional, Houston Methodist Hospital, Houston TX
Residency: 2010-13, Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences, The University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
Fellowship: 2013-14, Neuro-Ophthalmology, The University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA
State License(s): NM

Lan Chang MD
Eye Associates of NM, 806 Dr. MLK Jr. Ave NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102
**Ophthalmology**
Med School: 2007, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Internship: 2007-08, Internal Medicine, Albert Einstein Medical Center, Philadelphia, PA
Residency: 2008-11, Ophthalmology, Duke Eye Center, Durham, NC
Fellowship: 2011-12, Pediatric Ophthalmology & Adult Strabismus, Harvard, Boston, MA
State License(s): NM

R. Philip Eaton MD
UNM SOM, 1 UNM MSC09 5300, Albuquerque, NM 87131
**Internal Medicine**
Med School: 1961, University of Chicago Hospital
Internship: 1961-62, Internal Medicine, Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, MO
Residency: 1965-66, Internal Medicine, Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, MO
Fellowship: 1966-68, Internal Medicine, Barnes Hospital, St. Louis, MO
State License(s): NM

Brian L. Holt MD
ABQ Health Partners, 10511 Golf Course Rd. NW #103, Albuquerque, NM 87114
**General Surgery**
Med School: 2003, The Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, Bethesda, MD
Internship: 2003-04, General Surgery, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX
Residency: 2003-08, General Surgery, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX
State License(s): MO and NM

Nikhil Kulkarni MD
Anesthesia Associates of NM, 1720 Louisiana Blvd. NE #401, Albuquerque, NM 87110
**Anesthesiology**
Internship: 2001-02, Transitional, Griffin Hospital, Derby, CT
Residency: 2002-05, Anesthesiology, SUNY Downstate Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY
State License(s): OR, VA, MD and NM

Jimmy C.M. Leung MD
X-Ray Associates of NM, PC, 8020 Constitution Pl NE Ste 202, Albuquerque, NM 87110
**Diagnostic Radiology**
Med School: 1994, University of Hawaii-Manoa, Honolulu, HI
Internship: 1994-95, Internal Medicine, University of Hawaii Residency Programs, Honolulu, HI
Residency: 1995-99, Diagnostic Radiology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
Fellowship: 1999-00, Musculoskeletal Radiology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
State License(s): AZ and NM
Carolyn C. McCarty DO  
Radiology Assoc. of Abq, PA, 4411 The 25 Way NE Suite 150, Albuquerque, NM 87109  
**Diagnostic Radiology**  
Med School: 2003, Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Pomona, CA  
Internship: 2003-04, Transitional, North Texas University, Corpus Christi, TX  
Residency: 2004-05, Diagnostic Radiology, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA  
Residency: 2005-08, Diagnostic Radiology, Kaiser Permanente, Los Angeles, CA  
Fellowship: 2008-09, Vascular Interventional Radiology, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL  
State License(s): CA, MT and NM

Roberto E. Perez-Gautrin MD  
Radiology Assoc. of Abq, PA, 4411 The 25 Way NE Suite 150, Albuquerque, NM 87109  
**Radiology**  
Med School: 1983, Autonomous University, Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico  
Internship: 1983-84, Rotating, General Hospital of Sonora, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico  
Residency: 1984-86, Social Service, Dept of Health, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico  
Fellowship: 2005-06, Interventional Radiology, Louisiana State University, New Orleans, LA  
Fellowship: 2006-07, Interventional Radiology, Rush University, Chicago, IL  
State License(s): MA, NC and NM

John D. Pitcher III MD  
Eye Associates of NM, 4411 The 25 Way NE Ste. 325, Albuquerque, NM 87109  
**Ophthalmology**  
Med School: 2008, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX  
Internship: 2008-2009, Transitional, The Methodist Hospital, Houston, TX  
Residency: 2009-12, Ophthalmology, Jules Eye Institute, Los Angeles, CA  
Fellowship: 2012-14, Vitreo Retinal, Wills Eye Hospital, Philadelphia, PA  
State License(s): NM

Charlie Pluto MD  
Radiology Assoc. of Abq, PA, 4411 The 25 Way NE Suite 150, Albuquerque, NM 87109  
**Diagnostic Radiology**  
Med School: 2007, University of Toledo School of Medicine, Toledo, OH  
Internship: 2007-08, Integrated Radiology, UNM, Albuquerque, NM  
Residency: 2008-12, Diagnostic Radiology, UNM, Albuquerque, NM  
Residency: 2002-13, Neuro Radiology, UNM, Albuquerque, NM  
Fellowship: 2013-14, Pediatric Radiology Fellowship, Nationwide Children’s Hospital, Columbus, OH  
State License(s): OH and NM

Kevin A. Richardson MD  
NM Heart Institute, PA, 502 Elm Street NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102  
**Thoracic and Cardiac Surgery**  
Med School: 1994, Meharry Medical College, Nashville, TN  
Fellowship: 1994-99, General Surgery, NY Presbyterian Columbia Medical Center, NYC, NY  
State License(s): IL, OH, NY and NM

Cesar B. Rodriguez MD  
ABQ Health Partners, 13701 Encantado Rd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87123  
**Family Practice**  
Med School: 2012, Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica, West Indies  
Residency: 2012-15, Family Medicine, Rutgers-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, Trenton, NJ  
State License(s): NM

Candidates for Membership cont’d on page 12
At the Cancer Center at Presbyterian and the MD Anderson Radiation Treatment Center, we take cancer personally. We put our combined resources and knowledge into developing a unique radiation treatment plan for every patient we serve – because no two patients are the same.
there are many ways for us to educate our politicians, a good start is to donate to our GAMA PAC. I hope that over the next few years, we will work as a team to revitalize our PAC and turn it into one of the strongest PACs in the state.

In summary, I am excited to begin my term as your President-Elect. I look forward to working with our President, Dr. Sever, and the rest of our GAMA leadership team. I hope to meet with all GAMA members and to hear from everyone their thoughts on what we can do to continue improving healthcare in the Greater Albuquerque area. Please feel free to email me at tonyb-salazar@gmail.com with any comments, questions or concerns.

patients. I bet our job satisfaction would significantly improve. It would be a win-win situation for us and for them. Isn’t that what being a physician is all about?

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Due to space issues, GAMA’s minutes from 2015 Board of Trustees’ meetings can now be read online at: http://gamamed.org/minutes.

GAMA Newsletters are printed and mailed even months, online only odd months.

You may read past issues online.

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— Physician, practice owner
Kenneth J. Smith MD
PMG, 8300 Constitution Ave. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110
Hematology/Oncology
Med School: 1974, Cornell Medical College, NYC, NY
Internship: 1974-75, Internal Medicine, Hospitals of the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Residency: 1975-77, Internal Medicine, Hospitals of the University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Fellowship: 1977-80, Hematology/Oncology, Hospitals of the University of Washington, Seattle, WA
State License(s): CT and NM

Lance T. Taylor MD
SW Gastro Associates, P.C., 7788 Jefferson NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109
Gastroenterology
Med School: 2003, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, WI
Internship: 2003-04, Internal Medicine, University of California, San Diego, CA
Residency: 2004-06, Internal Medicine, University of California, San Diego, CA
Fellowship: 2006-09, Gastroenterology, UNM, Albuquerque, NM
State License(s): CA, OR and NM

Margaret L. Wilson MD
PMG San Mateo, 401 San Mateo Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87108
Family Practice
Med School: 2008, UNM School of Medicine, Albuquerque, NM
Internship: 2008-09, Family Medicine, OHSU-Cascades East Family Medicine Residency, Klamath Falls, OR
Residency: 2009-11, Family Medicine, OHSU-Cascades East Family Medicine Residency, Klamath Falls, OR
State License(s): OR and NM

Candidates for Membership cont'd from page 9

Required CME Information

Controlled Substance Abuse In New Mexico: Perspectives and Approaches in the Clinic and Community. DVD and CD order form. Approved by NM Medical Board to meet 5 hours of pain management education requirements and 5.50 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s) TM. This enduring material is accredited from December 1, 2014 through November 30, 2017. Call (505) 828-0237 for more information.

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GAMA LEGISLATIVE DAY 2016

Please join GAMA on our annual trip to Santa Fe for Legislative Day on Thursday, February 4th!

Itinerary:
10:00 AM: Meet at GAMA Office
10:15 AM: Travel to Santa Fe
11:15 AM: Lunch in Santa Fe
1:00 PM: Meetings at Roundhouse and Visits with Legislators
5:00 PM: Reception for GAMA Members
6:00 PM: Travel Back to Albuquerque

Register NOW:
Register @ www.gama2016legislativeday.eventbrite.com
Contact GAMA at 505.821.4583 With Any Questions
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH BRIEFING for the GREATER ALBUQUERQUE AREA

When: Thursday, March 3rd, 2016
Registration @ 5:30 PM
Program @ 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Where: ABQ Health Partners Auditorium, 5400 Gibson Blvd. SE

No Cost, but RSVP is Required: https://gamabhbriefing2016.eventbrite.com or call 505.821.4583
**GAMA Calendar of Events**

**2016 Save the Dates**

**Legislative Day in Santa Fe**
Thurs. Feb. 4, 2016, see page 13

**Behavioral Health Briefing**
Thurs. March 3, 2016, see page 14

**GAMA EXPO**
Thurs. August 25 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.

**NM Medical Group Management Association Calendar of Events**

**2016 Schedule**

February 18, Tuesday from noon to 1:00 p.m.
GAMA Hosts NM MGMA
Sophia Waara with Medical & Commercial Communications-What MACC can do for your practice
French Funeral and Cremations
15000 Lomas Blvd NE