



GAMA

GREATER ALBUQUERQUE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION | FOUNDED 1893

GAMA Reports

VOLUME MMXIX NO. 3, MARCH 2019

Message from the Executive Director

This edition of GAMA Reports will bring some new content from our [healthcare partners](#) and provide a comprehensive wrap up of the 2019 legislative session. Scroll through so you don't miss anything.

This edition also rolls out our new program partner, Presbyterian Medical Group, who is the sponsor of this edition.



Welcome to the family, Pediatrix Cardiology of New Mexico.

Pediatrix Cardiology of New Mexico recently joined Presbyterian Medical Group. Working together, we will increase access to pediatric cardiology services for our patients and members. The partnership will further our outreach across the state with clinics in Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Roswell and Farmington. New providers include:

Bharat Srichand Dara, MD

James Goldsmith, MD

Jennifer Davenport, MD

Mina Mostafavifar, PA-C

For more information, or to refer a patient, call (505) 563-6120.



Improving Community Health is Part of our Mission as Physicians

By Jason Mitchell, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Presbyterian Healthcare Services

[New Mexico](#) physicians know that our patients' needs extend far beyond the clinic or hospital. And those social needs have a huge impact on health.

For example, while we may suggest that patients exercise more or try to [lose weight](#), many patients may not feel safe walking near their home or can't afford healthy meals.

The Presbyterian Center for Community Health is helping meet those needs through innovative programs focusing on three priorities – eating well, being active and avoiding unhealthy substances, like tobacco and alcohol. To develop these priorities, the team works closely with local health councils to assess community needs across New Mexico.

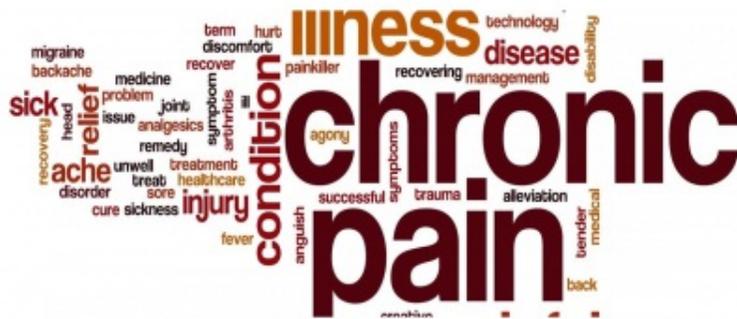
As physicians, we know healthy food can be medicine for patients. Last year, Presbyterian launched a Food Farmacy that provides free food for select patients in need on the campus of Presbyterian Kaseman Hospital. Physicians can “prescribe” a weekly visit for free healthy produce and shelf-stable foods, like oatmeal and tuna.

Other initiatives include a free [meal program](#) for children at five Presbyterian hospitals – which has distributed more than 35,200 meals in three years – and the Healthy Here Mobile Market, a farmer's market on wheels.

With our partners at Adelante Development Center, we also created a Wellness Referral Center. Providers across New Mexico – not just Presbyterian – identify patients at risk for [diabetes](#), high [blood pressure](#), high cholesterol or obesity, for example, and refer them to the center for community-based prevention and self-management [programs](#).

Let's continue the conversation around community health. Please share your ideas for how you are helping patients outside your facility.

For more information about these and other programs, see "community health program highlights" on www.phs.org.



PRESENTED BY THE GAMA FOUNDATION

If you need the required 5 hours of pain management CME to renew your New Mexico license, this program will fill that requirement and provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the broad spectrum that now defines pain management. We have compiled a great group of speakers who will address all aspects of the pain management spectrum from rules and regs to the use of cannabis and what role palliative care offers.

Current Agenda

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast Buffet**
- 7:55 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**
- 8:00 a.m. Review of CDC Opioid Guidelines and the NM Medical Board Regulations for Pain Management**
Phillip Styka, MD
- 9:00 a.m. Break**
- 9:15 a.m. Pain Management for Patients with Opioid Use Disorder**
Eric Ketcham, MD
- 10:15 a.m. Break**
- 10:30 a.m. Weighing Risks and Benefits of Cannabis and Cannabinoids for Chronic Pain**
Brant Hager, MD
- 11:30 a.m. Luncheon**
- Noon The Role of Palliative Care in Patients with Life Limiting Diseases**
Francesco Standoli, MD
- 1:00 Physician Leadership in the Opioid Epidemic: Responding to the Public Health Crisis of Our Time**
Barbara McAneny, MD

**SATURDAY
MAY 4, 2019**

**8:00 A.M. to
2:00 PM**

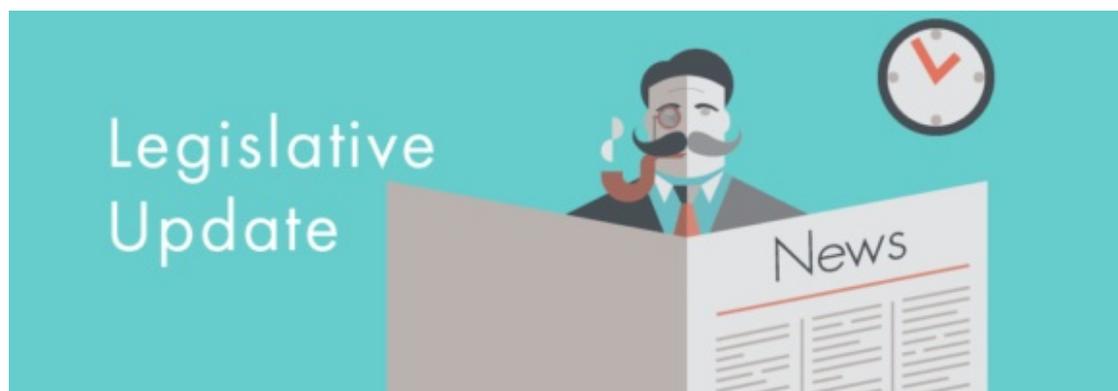
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This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the New Mexico Medical Society (NMMS) through the joint providership of the Greater Albuquerque Medical Association (GAMA) and the GAMA Foundation. GAMA is accredited by the NMMS to provide continuing medical education for physicians. GAMA designates this live activity for a maximum of 5.0 AMA PRA category 1 credit(s)TM. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



I'm sure many of you have kept abreast the myriad of bills affecting healthcare in this year's

session. However, I want to recap the most important legislation that was passed or defeated just in case you missed it.

#1. HB 629 - "MEDICAL MALPRACTICE CHANGES " was tabled due to the Governor's intervention with the sponsor E - Daymon Ely and the House Speaker D - Brain Egolf. This onerous legislation would have raised the cap on all physicians under the Patient Compensation Fund from \$600,00 to \$2 million. Hospitals, outpatient centers, practices operating as LLCs or PCs would have been raised to \$25 million. Obviously, this would have wreaked havoc in our medical community, so we are grateful for the Governor's vision and wisdom. A group of stakeholders will be assembled during the interim session to look at the Medical Malpractice Act and ensure that all parties' interests are represented.

#2. SB 188 - HEALTH INSURANCE **PRIOR AUTHORIZATION** ACT was passed unanimously in both the House and the Senate and has been sent to the Governor for her signature. This bill would simplify the process and require the Superintendent of OSI to standardize requests for non-emergency medical care.

#3. HB 51 - DECRIMINALIZE ABORTION would have removed statutory language that makes performing or receiving an abortion a 4th degree felony. Emotions ran high from opponents, and ultimately the bill failed to pass the Senate and died. The sponsor has already announced she will try again in the next session.

#4. HB 90 - ELIZABETH WHITEFIELD END OF LIFE OPTIONS ACT was another emotionally charged piece of legislation. This bill was tabled in the House, but the debate will go on.

#5. HB #356 - CANNABIS REGULATION ACT was one of several cannabis bills, but this was the most hotly contested and had several amendments at the 11th hour to keep it alive. It still never made it out of Senate Judiciary. HB 356 would have legalized recreational use but was met with a lot of resistance given the economic climate in New Mexico and a medical marijuana program that is operating effectively for patients.

#6. SB 337 - SURPRISE BILLING was among one of three bills pertaining to this topic that were introduced. This version survived after several amendments and agreement reached by stakeholders from around the healthcare community. It's fair to say that no one, payors or providers, got exactly what they wanted, but the patient was removed from the middle and that was what mattered most to the legislators. The bill will be reviewed in three years, so the sunset makes it more palatable for those who were concerned. SB 337 passed both chambers unanimously and is headed for the Governor's desk.

LEGISLATION OF GENERAL INTEREST

HB 6, the tax reform bill, bounced back and forth between the House and the Senate and finally ended up in a conference committee. Left in the bill were:

- * A provision which would require nonprofit and government hospitals to pay gross receipts tax

- * Increases to the motor vehicle excise tax. The rate will increase from 3 to 4% under the amendment. For two years, 1% of motor vehicle excise tax revenue will be sent to southeast [New Mexico](#) for road repair needed to sustain oil and gas production (about \$50 million per year). After two years, the money will be available for road construction statewide.

- * Increases the tax on cigarettes. Also, taxes will be imposed on e-cigarettes and liquids.

- * Provides a \$4,000 tax break in the form of a deduction for families with 2 or more children who were adversely affected by the tax changes made at the federal level because New Mexico did not amend its tax rates to mirror those at the federal level

- * Allows for the imposition of gross receipts tax on internet sales

- * A new top personal income tax bracket of 5.9 percent would be created for individuals who make more than \$210,000 annually. The state's top bracket is currently 4.9 percent. The income tax changes would not take effect until January 2021. For married couples filing jointly, the same new tax bracket would apply to annual income in excess of \$315,000. The income tax changes would only be implemented if state revenue levels in the coming budget year - starting July 1 - do not exceed current year levels by more than 5 percent.

SB 437, the minimum wage bill, also went on a [roller coaster](#) ride and ended up in

conference committee and a compromise that kept the annual indexing lower than the House and the Governor wanted. The House and Senate agreed to the state's first hourly minimum wage increase in a decade – a gradual rise from \$7.50 to \$9 next year and \$12 by 2023. The Governor campaigned on the \$12 minimum wage. Those who work primarily for tips will see their base minimum wage rise from \$2.13 to \$2.35 in January. Then they would receive three small raises each year until they reach \$3 an hour in January 2023.



TOPICS

**KEY NOTE PRESENTATION:
REBRANDING THE WAR ON DRUGS**

Tiffany Bowden, MA, PhD, ComfyTree Enterprises

MEDICAL CANNABIS: MANAGEMENT OF ALZHEIMER'S AND PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Mikhail (Misha) Kogan, M.D., George Washington University Center for Integrative Medicine

WHAT IS THE ENTOURAGE EFFECT, AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Mara Gordon, The Oil Plant

SELECTING A SAFE AND CLEAN CANNABIS PRODUCT

Sebastien Cotte, Flowering Hope Foundation

SHOULD CBD BE CONSIDERED A FIRST LINE THERAPY FOR THE TREATMENT OF MILD TO MODERATE PAIN?

Debra Kimless, M.D., Pond View Advisors, LLC

+ MUCH MORE!

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GAMA PAC

Join your colleagues in donating to GAMA PAC to support candidates interested in the future of healthcare in New Mexico.

With the 2019 session behind us, it has become more apparent than ever that the medical community must come together and support candidates who understand our concerns and the issues. Every dollar counts so please send your check or make a payment online today!



IT'S EASY!

gamamed.org/payments/

OR

Mail check to: GAMA PAC, 7770 Jefferson NE
Suite 420, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Registration is now open for the 20th Annual Santa Fe Bone Symposium!

The Santa Fe Bone Symposium is an annual forum devoted to advances in the science and economics of osteoporosis, metabolic bone disease, and assessment of skeletal health. Presented by the Osteoporosis Foundation of New Mexico, this meeting is for healthcare providers, scientists, and researchers with a special interest in bone disease, and for bone densitometry technologists who seek a high level of knowledge in their field. Close interaction and collaboration between faculty and participants. The Santa Fe Bone Symposium is endorsed by the International Osteoporosis Foundation. Click on the link below to register.

<http://www.ofnm.org/bone-symposium/2019>

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