



GAMA

GREATER ALBUQUERQUE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1893

GAMA Reports

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Message from the Executive Director

Aah summer has finally arrived. Being outdoors and enjoying the spectacular sunshine, views and outdoor activities New Mexico has to offer is incomparable. It's one of many reasons we all choose to live here and call New Mexico our home. I hope many of you are taking the time from your busy professional schedules to decompress and re-energize.



GAMA will be sending out a ballot in the next few months for two NMMS Councilor positions. This is a very important function for GAMA and facilitates communication between the two organizations that is critical for the success of the medical community. The duties and responsibilities for a councilor as outlined in the GAMA bylaws are:

B. Councilors: The Councilors to the New Mexico Medical Society (NMMS) Council serve as an important communications, policy, and membership link between the NMMS and GAMA leadership and GAMA member physicians. The Councilors are a key source of information on activities, programs, and policies of GAMA for NMMS and its leadership and members. In addition, the Councilors shall perform such other duties as determined by the Board.

Councilors are expected to attend all NMMS Council meetings, all regular meetings of the GAMA Board, pertinent committee meetings and any other meetings as determined by the Association. Councilors serve for a term of three (3) years. Councilors representing the Greater Albuquerque Medical Association to the New Mexico Medical Society Council shall also serve as voting members of the Greater Albuquerque Medical Association Board of Trustees.

If you think you would be able to meet the criteria to serve as a GAMA Councilor and willing to make the commitment needed, please contact me directly at sylvia.lyon@gamammed.org.

Helping Patients in Need

Jason Mitchell, M.D., Chief Medical Officer

Access to same day care is a challenge for many patients. It can result in emergency room visits that are costly for the patient and, ultimately, unnecessary. Nationally, we've seen a variety of stories in the news highlighting these costly practices. The strain on patients can be exacerbated by the fact that some national freestanding emergency departments bill everything as emergency care, may not contract with payers, and balance bill patients. Last year Presbyterian set its sights on doing the exact opposite by opening an urgent care/emergency care facility where every patient receives emergency care but is billed at urgent care costs when emergent care is not actually necessary.

I am happy to announce we opened our first PresNow 24/7 Urgent and Emergency Care location in Albuquerque at Paseo del Norte and San Pedro earlier this month. These new facilities combine emergency care and urgent care in one location creating a venue of care where patients no longer must choose where to access the right care in their time of need. We never balance bill patients and work to contract with every payor to ensure all New

Mexicans have access.

We're proud that Presbyterian is the first health care provider to bring these innovative facilities to the Albuquerque metro area. When we talked to community residents, they told us they want to avoid the higher cost and longer wait times of an emergency room visit. They also want continued access to urgent care services beyond the early evening hours. So, we took action and are planning to open several of these facilities over the next year.

At the walk-in locations, each patient will be assessed by a clinician and then provided the care they need, whether it's urgent or emergent. This approach makes care more affordable for patients by avoiding the higher costs of emergency care if patients only require urgent care.

The locations will be staffed by experienced emergency physicians and advanced practice clinicians. They'll also have onsite laboratory and radiology services so patients can access care when they need it most. If a patient needs hospital care, such as a major operation or longer-term care, we will transfer them to the appropriate level of care.

Our clinical partnerships helped make our PresNow program possible and I'm grateful for their support and input as we continue to improve health care in our community. This is just the start. Look for more exciting news from Presbyterian soon.



Presbyterian Hospital named one of the nation's 50 best hospitals for inpatient cardiovascular services.



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**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>

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/

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

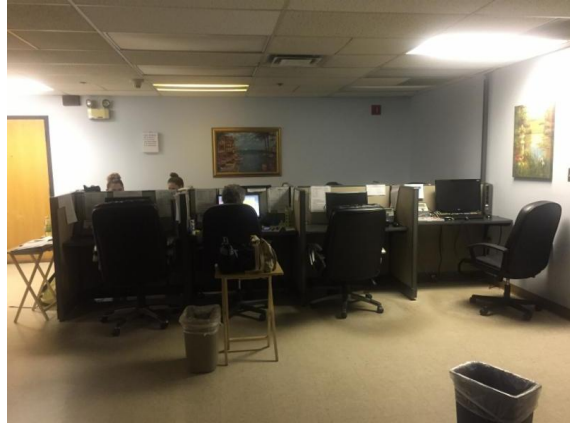
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