



Progress Report



Serving Physicians & Nurse Practitioners Practicing in Florida's Postacute Care Continuum

Best Care Practices Conference Hosts "National Leadership Initiative on Excellence"

By Ian Cordes, Executive Director, Florida Medical Directors Association

Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) hosted its inaugural "National Leadership Initiative on Excellence" program on October 25, 2008, during its annual conference, "Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2008." This unique, three-session program was supported by an educational grant from Pfizer.

Featured in the first session were the presidents of the following national organizations: **Charles A. Crecelius, MD, PhD, CMD**, American Medical Directors Association; **Alfred L. Meyer, PharmD, CGP**, American Society of Consultant Pharmacists; and **Susan E. Mullaney, MS, GNP-BC**, Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association. They provided an update on the critical issues facing their organizations and examined current trends in long-term care and geriatrics from their profession's perspective.

The second session featured speaker **Josefina Carbonell**, assistant secretary for the Administration on Aging at



FMDA President John Potomski Jr., DO, CMD (from left to right), introduces AMDA President Charles A. Crecelius, MD, PhD, CMD; ASCP President Alfred Lee Meyer, PharmD, CGP, FASCP; and Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (formerly NCGNP) President Susan Mullaney, MS, GNP-BC.

the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. Her talk focused on the major programs funded by her agency and how they assist seniors nationwide.

Lastly, the third session of the series introduced **Janegale Boyd, RN**, president/CEO of the Florida Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. She offered a "View from Tallahassee," which described the challenges facing legislators as they prepare for the 2009 Legislative Session. She also discussed how the impact of declining state revenues on already limited resources would affect long-term-care providers.

"We are thrilled by the tremendous interest this leadership series has generated," said **Dr. John Potomski**, president of the Florida Medical Directors Association.

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President's Letter

As we near the many holidays celebrated in December, we realize how quickly this year has passed. It has been a very eventful year for FMDA.

We started in January with a very successful town meeting, under the direction of Dr. Hugh Thomas in Fort Myers. In February, the Industry Advisory Board met in Tampa to discuss many of the upcoming changes in the pharmaceutical industry and how they could impact our organization. Under Dr. Malcolm Fraser's leadership, this has been a very beneficial relationship for all parties involved. In March, FMDA's Board of Directors met in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the AMDA Annual Symposium. Dr. Leonard Hock, now hailing from Pensacola, was elected as the chairman of the House of Delegates, for a two-year term.

During the spring and summer months, the CME committee, under Dr. John Symeonides, met via teleconferences almost monthly to prepare for our annual meeting in October. We were able to have our summer Town Hall Meeting on June 6 in conjunction with Dr. Naushira Pandya's "Interdisciplinary Geriatrics Symposium: Closing the Gap in Elder Care" at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale.

Our executive director, Ian Cordes, along with two other AMDA chapter EDs were invited to participate in an effort to help struggling and emerging AMDA chapters to stabilize and grow their chapters. FMDA is considered the most successful state chapter and a model for other states.

Our ex-officio board member, Jo Ann Fisher, FNP-BC, was selected to participate in AMDA's Transitional Care Clinical Practice Guideline Advisory Committee in



Baltimore, MD, in September. She will continue to work with this group in an effort to help LTC providers across the nation with guidelines to promote effective and safe transitions across the continuum of care.



Under the direction of Program Chair Dr. Carl Suchar, we had our most successful "Best Care Practices in the Geriatric Continuum" conference to date. With more than 350 registrants and more than 500 total attendees, the conference ran very smoothly, and the evaluations have been very positive.

At this meeting, I was pleased to present a certificate of appreciation to doctors Rosemary and Ed Lamm for their dedicated service as co-editors of our *Progress Report* for the past two years (see photo on page 9).

The Brevard County Medical Directors Association held its 19th Annual LTC Symposium in Melbourne on Nov. 19, 2008. The meeting was well received, and there were nearly 500 attendees. On December 11, there was a very successful inaugural Tampa Bay Area membership meeting Clearwater, under the direction of Dr. Victor Gambone, Chairman of the Board.

In addition to those mentioned above, I would like to thank all of the officers and committee members, who worked so hard to make this year a success.

I would like to wish you and your families a safe and joyous Holiday Season and best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year.

John H. Potomski Jr., DO, CMD
John H. Potomski Jr., DO, CMD

An Invitation to Get Involved in FMDA

We invite each member to become more involved in the Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) by becoming a volunteer. Numerous opportunities are available to serve for a year, a month or a day. You can help guide our organization through committees, task forces and subsections that advise the board of directors, provide advice, facilitate or lead various programs, or even start a new subsection.

Volunteers are the heart of FMDA. Our strength is a result of the time and effort provided by those who volunteer their time and knowledge to serve their colleagues and to further all medical directors in long-term care.

Participating as a volunteer provides a gateway to develop and hone leadership skills, increase professional contacts, and give back to the profession. Let us know what types of volunteer opportunities interest you.

We look forward to your participation in FMDA. Should you have any questions, please contact Ian Cordes, executive director, at (561) 659-5581 or ian.cordes@fmda.org.

FMDA Announces Winners of Careers in Long-Term Care Awards

FMDA President John Potomski Jr., DO, CMD, is pleased to announce that Maria Rosaida Gonzalez, MD, and Valerie Gruss, PhD, are the two winners of FMDA's 2008 Careers in Long-Term Care Awards program. Presentations were recently held during the "Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2008" conference at *Disney's Contemporary Resort* in Lake Buena Vista, Fla., where each winner was awarded an educational grant of \$2,000.

Maria Rosaida Gonzalez, MD, completed her residency at Florida Hospital Family Medicine in Orlando, and recently completed a geriatric fellowship residency-training program at the same facility. Dr. Gonzalez earned her medical degree at the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic. In addition to her education and work experience, Dr. Gonzalez has led outbreak investigations and conducted morbidity and mortality research for national disaster response teams after major storms in her native Dominican Republic.

Valerie Gruss, PhD, GNP-BC, completed her geriatric nurse practitioner residency at Family Practice of Pilsen in Chicago, Ill. She then went on to earn her PhD in nursing from Rush University in Chicago. Dr. Gruss was awarded a pre-doctoral fellowship from The John A. Hartford Foundation for "Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity." Along with her education and experience as a researcher, Dr. Gruss is also a founding member of Chicagoland Gerontological Advance Practice Nurses.

FMDA President John Potomski, DO, CMD, was very pleased with the outcome. "We are very excited to be able to sponsor this important program," said Dr.

Potomski. "It provides an opportunity for up-and-coming physicians, as well as nurse practitioner and physician assistant students to share research results, best practices, and outcomes with their colleagues at our annual conference."

The Careers in Long-Term Care Awards Selection Committee chairman is Naushira Pandya, MD, CMD, associate professor and chair, Department of Geriatrics, Nova Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Lauderdale. Its co-chair is Karl Dhana, MD, CMD, Senior Vice President of Medical Affairs for MorseLife in West Palm Beach.

"We are thrilled with the commitment shown by Dr. Gonzalez and Dr. Gruss to long-term care and geriatrics. Their efforts of providing care to the elderly will undoubtedly improve the health care and quality of life for our seniors," said Dr. Pandya.

The Careers in Long-Term Care Awards Committee ranked each applicant according to his or her essay, poster submission, and credentials. This unique

program is open to all residents and fellows who are in geriatrics, family practice, and internal medicine and who are interested in practicing in long-term care and geriatrics. In addition, nurse practitioner and physician assistant students who are interested in practicing in long-term care and geriatrics are also eligible to apply.



From left: FMDA's 2008 Careers in LTC Award winner Maria Rosaida Gonzalez, MD; Careers in LTC Awards Committee Chairman Naushira Pandya, MD, CMD; FMDA President John Potomski Jr., DO, CMD; 2008 FMDA Careers in LTC Award winner Valerie Gruss, PhD, GNP-BC; and Careers in LTC Awards Committee Co-chair Karl Dhana, MD, CMD

FMDA *Progress Report* has a circulation of more than 1,000 physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, directors of nursing, administrators and other LTC professionals. *Progress Report* is a trademark of FMDA. Editor Karl Dhana, MD, CMD, welcomes letters, original articles and photos. If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please e-mail your article to ian.cordes@fmda.org.

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Is the Insurance Crisis Easing?

By Matthew Reese, Administrative Assistant, Florida Medical Directors Association

Long-term care physicians and medical directors have found it increasingly difficult over the years to secure, maintain, or renew their liability insurance policies as a direct result of their involvement in nursing homes. It was thought that unless something was done, Florida's nursing homes could find themselves without the mandated medical direction and medical care required by law. In order to address this ongoing crisis, a confidential questionnaire was developed and circulated at FMDA's recently-held annual conference in October.

Of the 30 physicians that responded, the results of the survey indicated that:

- 82% percent are medical directors in Florida
- On average, they are affiliated with 2.35 SNFs.
- 26% percent are full-time medical directors.
- 74% represent part-time medical directors who . . .
- Maintain practices that are 55% office-based, 36% nursing home-based, and 9% hospital-based.
- On average, the respondents have been nursing home medical directors for 13.55 years.
- 39% said that their facility liability coverage does not include coverage for their administrative duties as medical director.
- Only 10% have resigned in the last two years at an average of two facilities due to difficulty obtaining liability coverage.
- 10% have stopped following patients due to difficulties obtaining liability coverage. This translated into an

average of 100 patients not followed into long-term care due to problems with liability issues.

- High liability-insurance rate increases have caused 6% to stop seeing their patients.

- 24% have been notified that their medical malpractice insurance will not be renewed or will increase in cost because they are primary care physicians for their nursing home residents. The insurance companies claim that their plans will not be renewed or will rise in cost because the medical directors are viewed as "high risk" clients.

- 11% were aware of restrictions or limitations of coverage as a result of serving as a medical director of an uninsured or underinsured nursing home.

- 37% indicated that they would still continue as medical directors even if they were not covered by their nursing home's insurance or if they could not secure their own coverage.

- 37% felt that their facility was having a difficult time getting adequate physician coverage for patients as a result of physician liability issues.

- 43% have increased the number of PAs and NPs used to supplement their nursing home practice.

- 33% are having a difficult time securing liability coverage for NPs and PAs.

Based on the results of this small sample, it would appear the insurance crisis seems to be easing somewhat compared to the last study we completed in 2006.

Complete results of this survey in its entirety may be found at www.fmda.org.

In Appreciation of their Support

We gratefully acknowledge support of the "Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2008" from the following exhibitors:

- ◆ Abbott Laboratories ◆ Allergan ◆ Amedisys ◆ American Health Associates
- ◆ Amgen ◆ AstraZeneca ◆ Biocodex ◆ Boehringer Ingelheim ◆ Bristol-Myers Squibb ◆ Doctors Choice ◆ Eisai ◆ Eli Lilly & Company ◆ Evercare ◆ Forest Labs
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- ◆ Ultroid Technologies ◆ Vitas Innovative Hospice ◆ Watson ◆ Wyeth ◆

Dhana Appointed Editor of *Progress Report*

Florida Medical Directors Association (FMDA) President John Potomski Jr., DO, CMD, has announced that Karl Dhana, MD, CMD, has been appointed the new editor of FMDA's award-winning statewide publication *Progress Report*. Dr. Dhana currently serves on FMDA's CME/Education Committee and is co-chair of the Careers in Long-Term Care Awards & Poster Review Committee.

Dr. Dhana is senior vice president of medical affairs and full-time medical director for MorseLife, a 280-bed skilled nursing facility and seniors campus located in West Palm Beach. He is a board-certified internist and a Harvard fellowship-trained geriatrician who brings leadership and expertise as the new editor. He takes over newsletter responsibilities from Drs. Ed and Rosemarie Lamm, who have co-edited the publication since 2006. The Lamms were recognized by FMDA at the recent "Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2008" conference in Orlando for their hard work and dedication.



Karl Dhana, MD, CMD

"The Board of FMDA and its members are very excited to challenge Dr. Dhana to improve on an already award-winning publication," said Dr. Potomski. "We are very aware of Karl's accomplishments and feel that he is quite capable of bringing the *Progress Report* to new heights."

The *Progress Report* serves physicians and NPs practicing in Florida's postacute care continuum and is a winner of the Apex Award for Publishing Excellence. The newsletter is published quarterly and has a total circulation of more than 1,100. It reaches out to such professionals as medical directors, attending physicians, physician assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners, and other long-term care

related professionals throughout the state of Florida. The publication is also distributed to more than 700 nursing homes and assisted living facilities across the state.

For information on submitting an article to be considered for publication in FMDA's *Progress Report*, contact Ian Cordes, executive director, at ian.cordes@fmda.org or at (561) 659-5581.

New Medicare Codes for Smoking Cessation

In January 2008, Medicare introduced new "Smoking and Tobacco Use Cessation Counseling" Billing Codes with new CPT codes (99406 or 99407). These replaced the former HCPCS codes G0375 and G0376.

What You Need to Know

These new codes include:

- **99406** - Smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling visit; intermediate, greater than 3 minutes up to 10 minutes; and
- **99407** - Smoking and tobacco-use cessation counseling visit; intensive, greater than 10 minutes.

These codes apply to two cessation attempts per year. Each attempt includes a maximum of four intermediate or intensive sessions, up to eight sessions in a 12-month period for Medicare beneficiaries who use tobacco and have a disease or adverse health effect linked to tobacco

use or take certain therapeutic agents whose metabolism or dosage is affected by tobacco use. Be sure to verify those codes with the available benefits in a patient's insurance policy.

Remember to include the five (5) A's — Ask, Advise, Assist, Attempt, and Arrange — in the medical record.

Background

These new CPT codes were included in the 2008 Medicare Physician Fee Database (MPFSDB) and you can find CR 5878 at www.cms.hhs.gov/Transmittals/downloads/R1433CP.pdf on the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website. You will find the updated Medicare Claims Processing Manual, Chapter 32 (Billing Requirements for Special Services), Sections 12.1 (HCPCS and Diagnosis Coding), 12.2 (Carrier Billing Requirements), and 12.3 (FI Billing Requirements) as an attachment to that CR.

Nursing Home Quality of Care and Physician Liability

Physicians who provide medical care to nursing home residents do so as facility medical directors and as attending physicians. These physicians are personally at risk of malpractice litigation and liability, even for patient care when the physician is not present at the facility, in addition to the facilities' institutional risk regarding resident care. In recent years, a widespread perception has arisen among nursing home physicians that this legal environment is becoming increasingly intimidating and constricting.

In 2007, the California HealthCare Foundation partnered with The Commonwealth Fund to support Prof. Marshall Kapp of Southern Illinois University in a study of nursing home physician anxiety about legal liability. The project examined the psychological aura of legal risk among nursing home physicians and its effect on the quality of medical care and quality of life for nursing home residents. Effects include physician unwillingness to practice in nursing homes; premature or unnecessary resident transfers to hospitals; excessively or insufficiently

aggressive medical treatment; and infringement on the autonomy of residents. The study included a review of relevant literature and laws, plus interviews with nursing home professionals drawn from practice, private organizations, and academia.

The study examined:

- The origins and nature of the climate of apprehension among physicians;
- The extent to which the anxieties are justified by the actual risks confronted;
- The relationship between the liability insurance landscape and physicians' concerns;
- The effects of these physician anxieties on the quality of care and quality of life of nursing home residents; and
- This issue brief summarizes the project's research findings and analysis, and distills the project researcher's recommendations within the nursing home context.

The issue brief is available at www.chcf.org/documents/chronicdisease/PhysicianLiability.pdf.

Oral Health Status of Residents in South Florida Nursing Homes

A recent study by Diane Ede-Nichols, DMD, MHL; Peter E. Murray, PhD; and Franklin Garcia-Godoy, DDS, MS, from Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine is now available on our website at www.fmda.org.

The incidence of untreated root canals among nursing home residents was reported in the range of 64% (1) to 22% (2). In a study of elderly nursing home residents by Frenkel et al., 2000 (3), more than 70% had not seen a dentist for more than five years, and 22% reported an untreated dental problem. Calculus was present in 82% of subjects, and 95% of the dentures worn by subjects were unhygienic. Dry mouth was found in 10% of nursing home residents (4), and 28.6% wear removable partial dentures (5). Among elderly Americans age 65-74 years, a 25% incidence of severe periodontitis was observed (6).

The general oral health and hygiene status of these homebound elderly was found to be poor, with 84% of the subjects requiring dental care (7).

These reports indicate that a high proportion of elderly nursing home residents suffer from a range of serious oral health problems. There is a particular need to monitor the oral health status of elderly Americans living in nursing homes, because these individuals are among the most vulnerable to oral health neglect and poor standards of oral health care. However, the oral health status of residents of South Florida nursing homes remains uncertain.

The purpose of this study was to investigate the type and incidence of oral health problems within 265 residents of three nursing homes in the Miami-Dade and Broward counties of South Florida.

“Best Care Practices” 2008 Conference Photos



Malcolm Fraser, MD, CMD, (right) Chairman, FMDA Industry Advisory Board (IAB) and IAB Co-chair Al Henry of Watson Pharma



Jo Ann Fisher, FNP-BC, ex-officio board member of FMDA (right), introduces American Academy of Home Care Physicians' board members Kathy Kemle, MS, PA-C (left), and Past-President Gresham Bayne, MD.



Jacqueline Vance, RNC; Director of Clinical Affairs & Industry Relations for AMDA, presents at the Clinical Practice Guidelines "Train the Trainer" Implementation Workshop.



From left: Speakers Paul Kamitsuka, MD, and Dennis Stone, MD, CMD, with Jo Ann Fisher, FNP-BC; FMDA President John Potomski Jr., DO, CMD; and FMDA Program Director and Immediate Past-President Carl Suchar, DO, CMD



Dennis Stone, MD, CMD, Past President, American Medical Directors Association, speaks to the audience during a morning breakout session.



Brad Kile, PhD, Executive Director, FL-ASCP, addresses the audience during a FL-ASCP breakout session.



FGS board member Inna Sheyner, MD, CMD, alongside poster presenter Syeda Rizvi, MD, right, from the University of South Florida.



Polly Weaver, from Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration, interacts with the audience during her presentation.



Dave Reis and Herb Grigg of Boehringer Ingelheim enjoy the trade show.



FL-ASCP President Rick Goldstein, PharmD, addresses conference attendees.



Moderator Patches Bryan, RN, BSN (left); and FMDA President John Potomski Jr., DO, CMD; welcome speaker Lynne Carr Columbus, DO.



Sue Prevort from Pfizer greets attendees during the annual trade show.



Alejandro Jaen-Vinuales, MD, FMDA director (right), speaks during "Basic Training for New Health Care Practitioners and Those New to Long-Term Care."



From left: Leon Robinson, Roger Golden, Jim Koutroubis, and Esther Tomcykoski from Ortho Biotech



Alejandro Jaen-Vinuales, MD, FMDA director, introduces speaker Beata C. Casanas, DO.



From left: FMDA President Dr. John Potomski Jr., AMDA President Dr. Charles Crecelius, ASCP President Dr. Lee Meyer, and GAPNA President Susan Mullaney during the National Leadership Initiative



Josefina Carbonell, Assistant Secretary of the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, gives an update on senior care news from the nation's capital.



Florida Association of Home & Services for the Aging President/CEO Janegale Boyd, RN, (left), and moderator Dr. Rhonda Randall



Karl M. Altenburger, MD, Immediate Past-President, Florida Medical Association (left) and Anthony Ottaviani, DO, MPH, Immediate Past-President, Florida Osteopathic Medical Association



Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (formerly NCGNP) President Susan Mullaney, MS, GNP-BC (far left), hosts a session for nurse practitioners about developing a Florida chapter of GAPNA.



From left: FMDA President John Potomski Jr., DO, CMD; Marc Agronin, MD; FMDA Program Director and Immediate Past-President Carl Suchar, DO, CMD; Thomas E. Uttley, MD; and Mark Clay Williams, PhD



FMDA Program Director and Immediate Past-President Carl Suchar, DO, CMD (from left); AMDA State Chapter Liaison Kris Beig; and CME/Education Committee Chairman John Symeonides, MD, CMD



FMDA President John Potomski Jr., DO, CMD, (right) presents Drs. Rosemary and Edwin Lamm with a certificate of appreciation for their service as co-editors of Progress Report.



Karl Dhana, MD, CMD (right), introduces geriatric cardiologist Jeanne Wei, MD, PhD, during a luncheon & clinical presentation.

New AMDA CPGs to Address Transitions of Care

By Jo Ann Fisher, FNP-BC, Ex-Officio Board Member, FMDA

This past July, a workgroup comprised of interdisciplinary leaders participated in a consensus conference to draft a clinical practice guideline (CPG) on care transitions.

“This has long been a topic of interest for AMDA. With the evolving long-term care continuum and growing complexity of geriatric patients’ needs, it is very timely to develop a CPG addressing care transitions,” says AMDA Clinical Practice Committee member Charles Cefalu, MD, CMD.

“We found that there is no real guidance for physicians and others on this issue.”

– James Lett, MD, CMD

James Lett, MD, CMD, Chair of the Care Transitions CPG Work Group, and a past-president of both AMDA and FMDA agrees: “Our membership has talked more and more about quality of care and safety issues as patients move through the growing care continuum. We found that there is no real guidance for physicians and others on this issue.” The CPG will seek to flush out information, such as what body of information must travel with patients as they move from setting to setting.

During the recent conference, the workgroup looked at some of the challenges involved in care transitions, such as gaps in communication between sites, problems with medication reconciliation, and lack of attention to patient or family wishes and fears.

“As our interdisciplinary group sat down, we found that there were common issues and concerns,” says Dr. Lett. “We agreed there is a need to return to the patient focus

— what these people need in terms of support and education as well as information and documentation. It is essential that physicians and others revisit patients’ wishes as they move through the continuum.” Dr. Lett stresses these changes can dramatically affect their health, independence, and quality of life.

“It was important to be part of this group. Transitions of care have never been perfect, but the growing continuum of care has made it increasingly urgent that we address this issue,” says Eric Howell, MD, a workgroup member and a hospitalist at Johns Hopkins in Maryland.

“When patients move between the LTC facility and the hospital, there is a need to communicate with someone who can provide a history. We’re not always able to talk to family members, but we need to talk to someone who was involved in the decision-making process,” notes Dr. Howell. “A continuing relationship between providers is important. Our relationship with the patient doesn’t end when he or she walks out of your building.”

Dr. Lett and his group anticipate that the guideline will contribute positively to the dialogue about care transitions and give facilities a tool to improve their systems and processes. “We hope the CPG will shift the focus back to the patients to meet their needs and improve their safety and satisfaction. We also want to help practitioners and staff understand their roles and responsibilities in care transition activities. If we can make their paperwork and transition processes more accurate and effective,” added Dr. Lett, “perhaps we can help everyone understand the LTC continuum and where patients fit in it at any given time.”

As part of AMDA’s strategic plan and its commitment to maximizing access to and use of this guideline to improve care transitions, this will be the first full public-access CPG to be posted on and downloadable from the AMDA website free of charge.

A final draft of this guideline will be completed in the coming months. It then will go out for extensive internal and external review, with an anticipated publication date of July 2009. Watch the AMDA website and publications such as *AMDA Reports* and *Caring for the Ages* for updates on the progress of this project.

19th Annual Brevard County Long-Term Care Symposium

By Jo Ann Fisher, FNP-BC, Ex-Officio Board Member, FMDA

The 19th Annual Brevard County Long-Term Care Symposium was held in conjunction with the Brevard County Medical Directors Association at the Rialto Hilton in Melbourne, Fla., on Nov. 19, 2008. John H. Potomski Jr., DO, CMD, started this program in 1990 as an educational event to benefit clinical staff from Brevard County's long-term care facilities. This year's event was chaired by Jo Ann Fisher, MSN, FNP-C, Clinical Coordinator of Osler Geriatrics. Joan Burritt, MSN, ARNP-C; Marion Davenport, MSN, ARNP-C; and Terry Bryan of Geriatric Assessment Services were in charge of the registration process.

More than 470 health care professionals attended, including medical directors, physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, hospice representatives, home health administrators, nurses, nursing directors, SNF administrators, and facility department heads from the long-term care and assisted living facilities in Brevard County.

The evening started with registration at 5 p.m., followed by visiting the exhibit hall, where 33 exhibitors representing local businesses and pharmaceutical companies had their displays.

After opening remarks by FMDA President Dr. John Potomski Jr., the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lt. Commander Mary Powell, MSN, ARNP-C, of Novartis Pharmaceuticals. The invocation was given by Rev. Robert Bruckart, PhD, director of Pastoral Care with Health First Health Systems.

The Annual Long-Term Care Award was presented by Dr. Potomski to Elizabeth Michels, LPN, in recognition of her dedication, compassion and outstanding care provided to the



From left; Steve Selznick, DO, CMD; Jo Ann Fisher, FNP-BC; Jeffrey Behrens, MD, CMD; Gary Miller, MD, CMD; and John Potomski, DO, CMD

nursing home residents of Brevard County for the past 20 years.

There were three lectures by national speakers. Jo Ann Fisher, MSN, FNP-C, presented "New Options for the Treatment of Osteoporosis," Steven Selznick, DO, CMD, spoke on "Advancing Senior Care: Management of Depression with Anxiety Symptoms in Older Adult;" and Jeffrey Behrens, MD, CMD, and Gary Miller, MD, CMD, presented "How Hospice Can Benefit Your Facility and Your Residents."

The evening ended with door prizes and the annual post-symposium cocktail party, sponsored by Osler Geriatrics. In addition to providing an educational opportunity, this event continues to provide an opportunity for individuals in long-term care to network with one another and to recognize excellence among their peers.



Jo Ann Fisher, FNP-BC (from left to right), Lt. Commander Mary Powell, and FMDA President Dr. John Potomski



Thank You!

We wish to thank the following organizations for providing support for our annual conference:

AMD's CPG "Train the Trainer" Implementation Workshop

- This session was supported by an educational grant from **Purdue Pharma L.P.**

Secondary Hyperparathyroidism: Beyond Anemia

- This session was supported by an educational grant from **Abbott Laboratories.**

"National Leadership Initiative on Excellence"

- *Annual Update with National Leaders*
 - *Washington Perspective*
 - *View From Tallahassee*

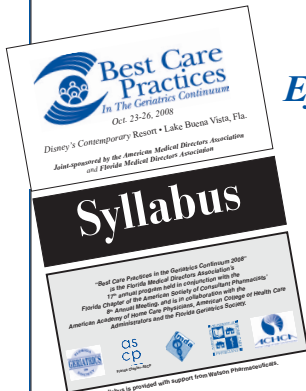
- This series of programs was supported by an educational grant from **Pfizer.**

COPD Management in the LTC Facility

- This session was supported by an educational grant from **Boehringer Ingelheim.**

Effective Mental Health Services in the Long-Term Care Setting

- This session was supported by an educational grant from **Forest Laboratories, Inc.**



Thank You!

We wish to thank the following organizations for hosting these industry-supported symposia on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008:

BREAKFAST & PRESENTATION

A Case Study in Anemia in Long-Term Care: Assessment & Management

This was supported by an educational grant from **Ortho Biotech.**

LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

A Case Study in Constipation: Diagnosis & Treatment in LTC Residents

This was supported by an educational grant from **Sucampo Pharmaceuticals, Inc.** and **Takeda Pharmaceuticals North America, Inc.**

Thank You!



We wish to thank the following organizations for providing non-educational support for our annual conference:

American Health Associates — Name Badge Holders
American Health Associates — Welcome Reception Entertainment in Exhibit Hall
Boehringer Ingelheim — Brief Cases
Greystone Health Care Management — Saturday's Continental Breakfast in Exhibit Hall
Pfizer — Annual Luncheon on Saturday
Pfizer — Sunday's Post-Conference FMDA Meeting
Teva Neuroscience — Coffee Break
Watson Pharma — Handouts on CD
Watson Pharma — Printed conference syllabus
Wyeth — Presidents' Wine & Cheese Reception on Saturday



Thank You!

We wish to thank the following organizations for hosting non-CME/CPE/CE/CEU sessions during our annual conference:

LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

Exelon Patch, the Only Transdermal Therapy for Mild to Moderate Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Dementia
 — Hosted by **Novartis**

DINNER & PRESENTATION

Managing Influenza in LTC: A Comprehensive Tool Kit
 — Hosted by **Roche**

DINNER & PRESENTATION

Clinical Rationale for Treating Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in Diabetic Patients with Declining Kidney Function
 — Hosted by **Abbott Laboratories**

DINNER & PRESENTATION

Advances in Back Pain Management: Treating VCFs with Balloon Kyphoplasty and Improving Quality of Life
 — Hosted by **Medtronic**

DINNER & PRESENTATION

Advances in the Treatment of Patients with Seizures in the Long-Term Care Setting
 — Hosted by **UCB Pharma**

CMS Issues New Guidelines and QIS Survey Forms



MS has issued new guidelines effective September 1, 2008, for F325, Nutrition, and F371, Food Sanitation. This new instruction deletes F370 and incorporates that guidance into F371 (go to www.cms.hhs.gov/transmittals/downloads/R36SOMA.pdf). Please be sure to share this information with your staff.

CMS has also issued new QIS Survey Forms on the Kitchen/Food Service Observation (CMS Form 20055) and Environmental Observations (CMS Form 20061), which are also effective September 1. The forms can be found on the University of Colorado's Division of Health Care Policy and Research website, which CMS has designated as the official source of the most up-to-date versions of the QIS Resource Manual and forms (www.uchsc.edu/hcpr/qis_forms.php).

CMS has released the draft MDS 3.0 Crosswalk, which incorporates the MDS 3.0 items currently proposed for implementation in October 2009 (www.cms.hhs.gov/NursingHomeQualityInits/25_NHQIMDS30.asp). Ongoing research and analysis could result in changes to

the document, and the final list will be available by March of 2009.

AHCA has informed us that they have received several requests for clarification of the basis for F156 citations despite facilities' providing an expedited appeal notice to residents. AHCA has requested further clarification from CMS regarding notice requirements related to demand billing, including the difference between the expedited appeal and the option to request demand billing (www.cms.hhs.gov/BNI/04_FFSSNFABNandSNFDenialLetters.asp). CMS has indicated they will provide additional information on this issue in the future via a Survey and Certification Letter.

The Florida Dental Association is launching a campaign, "Dentistry: Gateway to Good Health," to stress the importance of dental health and the correlation between early habits and lifelong smiles. FDA is offering free brochures and samples of Biotene dry mouthwash to distribute in your facilities as part of the campaign. Contact them at (850) 681-3692 if you are interested in receiving these to share with your residents (www.magnetmail.net/images/clients/FHCA/attach/SeniorsBrochure.pdf).

F M D A M e m b e r s h i p A p p l i c a t i o n

There are three classes of dues-paying FMDA members. **A. Regular Membership:** Every medical director or attending physician of a long-term care medical facility or organization in the state of Florida and neighboring states shall be eligible for Regular membership in FMDA. Members in this classification shall be entitled to a vote, shall be eligible to be a member of the Board of Directors and to hold office. **B. Affiliate members:** Composed of two categories, they may be any individual or organization in the medical, regulatory or political field of long-term care wishing to promote the affairs of FMDA. An Affiliate member shall have all FMDA privileges except shall not be eligible to vote or hold office. The two categories are: **1. Professional Affiliate members.** This category is comprised of physician assistants and advanced registered nurse practitioners. Professional Affiliate members may be appointed by the Board of Directors to serve on FMDA committees, and **2. Organizational Affiliate members.** Includes vendors, other professionals, and organizations. **C. Allied Health Professional Relations Committee:** Health care practitioners who provide essential services to patients in the postacute setting are eligible to join, including dental professionals, podiatrists, opticians, psychiatrists, senior care pharmacists, psychologists, etc. Committee members are non-voting and may be appointed by the Board of Directors to serve on other FMDA committees.

This is the only organization in the state devoted to physicians, physician assistants and nurse practitioners of all specialties practicing in hospital-based, skilled nursing units through subacute care to traditional long-term care. To become a member of FMDA, please complete the following and mail to the address below:

Yes! I would like to join FMDA. Enclosed is a check for \$65 for annual dues for **Regular, Professional Affiliate members, and Allied Health Professional Relations Committee.** Dues for **Organizational Affiliate members** are \$325 per year.

Name: _____ Title: _____

The mailing address below is for _____ the facility, or _____ my regular office address. Referred by FMDA member: _____

Facility Name/Affiliation: _____

Organization's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ State/ZIP: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Please make check payable to FMDA and mail to: 200 Butler Street, Suite 305 • West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 659-5581 • fax: (561) 659-1291 • www.fmda.org • e-mail: ian.cordes@fmda.org

Please share this information with a colleague who would benefit from membership in FMDA!

**Best Care Practices Conference Hosts
“National Leadership Initiative on Excellence”**

Continued from page 1

“Our attendees really enjoyed this new approach and the important information they took back with them. We are forever indebted to these amazing guest speakers, who truly are today’s leaders in our field,” Dr. Potomski added.



Josefina Carbonell, Assistant Secretary of the Administration on Aging, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, gives an update on senior-care news from the nation’s capital.

The “Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum” conference offers a unique educational paradigm of lectures, poster presentations, and nationally recognized speakers to a wide range of health care practitioners who work in long-term care and geriatrics. The 2008

conference was one of the most successful, with more than 350 attendees from 25 states and the Middle East.

“Best Care Practices in the Geriatrics Continuum 2008” was the Florida Medical Directors Association’s 17th annual program, joint-sponsored by the American Medical Directors Association and held in conjunction with the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists’ 8th Annual Meeting; and it was in collaboration with the American Academy of Home Care Physicians, American College of Health Care Administrators, and the Florida Geriatrics Society.



Florida Association of Homes & Services for the Aging President/CEO Janegale Boyd, RN, and moderator, Dr. Rhonda Randall (right).

To see a wide selection of photos taken during the conference, please visit www.bestcarepractices.org.

**Thoughts from the
2008 Annual Conference. . .**

This was the best conference yet in fulfilling the objective of the geriatrics continuum.

Rhonda Randall, DO – Regional Medical Director, Evercare, Orlando, FL

The conference was very well planned, with current information provided. I find this conference was one of the most complete in terms of the topics as well as high quality of the speakers. Looking forward to attend next year.

Maria Gonzalez, MD – Florida Hospital, Orlando, FL

I look forward to attending the Best Practices conference each year. It is a very friendly meeting, packed with useful information in both practice and regulatory areas.

Naushira Pandya, MD, CMD
– NovaSoutheastern University, Ft. Lauderdale, FL

Food was fabulous. Very efficiently, organized meeting.

Susan Funk, MD – Westminster Canterbury, Lynchburg, VA

Great conference to interact with peers from the southeast. You understand that as different as we are, the more we are alike.

Patrick McCarville, MD, CMD – Valley, NE

This is my 5th year attending this conference. From LTC nurses to medical directors all can benefit from such an educational weekend. Thank you for all the effort put forth to help us all better serve the LTC population.

Lea Herrick, RN-BC – Springhill Health & Rehab., Brooksville, FL

Great conference. A wealth of resources in the form of poster presentations, workshops and training workshops presented to emphasize “Best Care Practices.”

Madetric Wood, MS, ARNP-BC
– Internal Medicine Consultant, Ft. Pierce, FL

Excellent conference, again. Good balance between regulatory/practice management issues and clinical updates.

Marguerite Mauradian, ARNP/GNP,
– Oldsmar, FL

This was very informative and I really enjoyed it, more than most other conferences.

Diane Magill, MSN, ARNP – Clermont, FL

Overall, great conference. One of the best events available each year. I make time to attend this meeting because the overall speakers, conference content, and organization are by far one of the best around.

Heidi Wold, MSN, ARNP – Evercare, Oldsmar, FL

FMDA to Host Town Meeting in Tallahassee

By Hugh Thomas, DO, CMD; Vice President and Chairman, Membership Committee

On average, the FMDA Board of Directors travels around the state at least twice a year to better connect with its members and potential new members at the local level. We've had the pleasure of hosting events from Pensacola, Jacksonville, Orlando, Tampa, Sarasota, Fort Myers, West Palm Beach, Coral Gables, and Fort Lauderdale.



We are now planning another memorable FMDA Town Meeting & Dinner for Jan. 30, 2009. This time, the location is our state capitol — Tallahassee.

In addition to our regular meeting, Sec. Holly Benson with Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration will join us and share some thoughts about future plans for the Agency.

The dinner is being generously sponsored by Abbott Laboratories and Jaynie Christianson, our host. So, please look for your invitation in the mail.

Earlier in the day, the CME/Education Committee and the Board of Directors will meet for regular business meetings. We encourage all members to join us. If you would like to attend, please contact the business office for details.

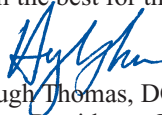
In March, we will reassemble in Charlotte, NC, at AMDA's Annual Symposium. Look for us on Friday evening as we host a Florida Chapter meeting and dinner, with support from Eli Lilly & Co.

In April, we are planning a half-day educational program that we will submit for CME and CMD approval. There will be a Town Hall-type dinner to conclude the day's programming. More information will be available once our plans have been finalized.

Then in June or July, we will host another Town Meeting & Dinner at a city and location to be announced soon.

We encourage all our members, and those interested in joining, to attend these enjoyable Town Meetings & Dinners as they are a great opportunity to network with physicians, nurse practitioners and other long-term care professionals from the local area.

All the best for the Holiday Season!



Hugh Thomas, DO, CMD
Vice President; Chair, Membership Committee

NP/PA Corner

More than 25 nurse practitioners came to a break-out meeting on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 25, during the "Best Care Practices conference," to meet with Susan Mullaney, President of the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association (GAPNA), formerly known as NCGNP. The purpose of the meeting was to determine if there was enough interest to start a Florida Chapter to which the response was unanimous and positive.

There was a lively discussion and it was decided that it was necessary to break the state up geographically, with two volunteers from each area. These volunteers will be contacting nurse practitioners in their regions from GAPNA's list of national members who live in Florida. Hopefully there will be enough interest to have a meeting as early as February in a location that is central to the majority of nurse practitioners interested in attending.

Anyone working in South Florida interested in representing that area, or if you are interested in more information, contact me at jmfisher@cfl.rr.com or at (321) 368-3817.

Happy Holidays!

Jo Ann Fisher, MSN, FNP-BC

FMDA's Progress Report

Winter 2009

Florida Medical Directors Association

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Happy New Year from FMDA!