



THE FLORIDA SOCIETY  
FOR POST-ACUTE AND  
LONG-TERM  
CARE MEDICINE

# Progress Report

Serving Physicians, Medical Directors, Advanced Practice Nurses, Pharmacists, Physician Assistants, and Nurse and Nursing Home Administrators Practicing in Florida's Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Continuum

## Editor's Corner

Lauren Tafur, ARNP-BC

**I**t is with great pleasure that I write my first article for the *Progress Report*. Like many organizations during this tumultuous time, we have had our difficulties. Even through these hard times we were able to successfully offer our annual conference virtually in 2020 with amazing reviews from our participants. Now our Education Committee is already planning an in-person conference at the Loews Royal Pacific Resort at Universal Orlando, on Nov. 4-7, 2021.

The year 2020 opened our eyes to long-term care facilities' weaknesses and deficiencies in many aspects during a pandemic caused by SARS-CoV-2, a coronavirus not known by the world that inflicted serious illness and death all over; on top of the confusing CDC, AHCA, DOH, WHO, and FAHCA COVID-19 rules and regulations that stressed the long-term care continuum to the extent that many facilities had a hard time dealing with the ever-changing criteria, patient admissions, and healthcare staffing, etc. These led to nursing homes and SNFs turning away patients after hospital discharge, fearful of an influx of COVID-19 patients and mandatory reporting requirements. COVID-19 naive patients do not want to go to a facility where there are positives reported, for obvious reasons. For example, my facility has been turning away patients who tested positive and, as a result, have had less than 50 percent occupancy since the pandemic.

Not only long-term care facilities have been affected by



the pandemic, but family and specialty practices have seen a significant decrease in patients. Some of these practices had to close down temporarily or permanently. Patients cannot get the care they need for fear of increased exposure to this novel virus. Inconsistent face covering requirements, fluctuating travel recommendations, and inevitable medical treatment changes compound the pandemic's outcome.

Medicare legislative and regulatory changes have been made in the last year in response to COVID-19—for example, expanding reimbursement for telemedicine services, waiving the three-day prior hospitalization requirement before Medicare coverage for SNF services, and easing up some paperwork requirements. CMS implemented a program to target COVID-19 training for front-line nursing home staff, part of a \$5 billion coronavirus relief funding for infection control. These are just a few examples of legislative changes that impacted our long-term care bubble that we live in.

We are fortunate, as part of a diverse, collaborative group, we have the opportunity to continue working together throughout these trying times. It is imperative to stay up to date on the medical guidelines and regulatory reforms and

implement them into our daily practices. Please stay tuned to our FMDA weekly Journal Club with Dr. Diane Sanders-Cepeda regarding all the changes and recommendations regarding COVID-19.

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sub-acute, skilled care, home care, hospice,  
and assisted living facilities.

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## Coming in March 2021!

### Enhance Clinical Staff Competencies, Knowledge, and Skills in Nursing Facilities

*Raising the educational understanding  
of the complexity of care delivery*



Available  
Online  
Soon!

- FMDA has developed an exciting program to improve the training of all health care professionals, including physician and nonphysician providers, in the principles and practice of geriatric medicine and other medical disciplines dealing with chronic care conditions
- The vision is for practitioners to obtain a sufficient level of knowledge and skills so that care will be provided concomitant with your patients' complex needs.
- The goal is to improve the quality of care given to residents in nursing homes by raising the educational understanding of the complexity of care delivery.
- Thereby providing first-class, high-level education that will directly affect the quality of person-centered care provided to Florida's most frail and fragile citizens living in nursing homes.

#### Scholarships Available

- The program is designed to close the knowledge gap related to clinical care and regulatory compliance in nursing homes by awarding partial tuition scholarships to eligible medical directors, physicians, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, consultant pharmacists, nurse administrators, registered nurses, students, and nursing home administrators across the State of Florida.
- The faculty includes national and regional authorities in the fields of medical direction, senior care pharmacology, post-acute and long-term care medicine, and geriatric medicine.
- Clinicians interested in a partial tuition scholarship to attend *Leveraging Clinical Staff Engagement Through Education – A Certificate of Excellence in PALTC* may apply online.

Discover a unique clinicians' **Certificate of Excellence in PALTC**  
to enhance competencies, knowledge, and skills in this ever-changing environment  
– with a sophisticated on-demand format.



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FMDA *Progress Report* has a circulation of more than 4,000 physicians, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, consultant pharmacists, directors of nursing, administrators, and other PALTC professionals. *Progress Report* is a trademark of FMDA. *Progress Report* Editor Lauren Tafur, ARNP-BC, welcomes letters, original articles, and photos. If you would like to contribute to this newsletter, please email your article to [ian.cordes@fmda.org](mailto:ian.cordes@fmda.org).

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# Save the Date!

**FMDA's 30<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Conference & Trade Show  
Nov. 4-7, 2021**



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UNIVERSAL ORLANDO™



**We hope to see you all there! Please visit [BestCarePractices.org](https://www.BestCarePractices.org) for updates!**

# FMDA News from Around the State

## FMDA's 2020 Capital Campaign

We are grateful to all our donors for helping us reach **\$16,920** or 68 percent of our original \$25,000 goal. We thank the following for their generosity:

**\$3,000:** Ms. Lisa Sliney

**\$1,000:** Dr. Diane Sanders-Cepeda

**\$500:** Dr. Pari Deshmukh, Dr. Daniel Fortier,  
Dr. Leonard Hock Jr., Dr. Bernard Jasmin,  
Dr. Joseph Ouslander, Dr. Rhonda Randall

**\$380:** Dr. Laurie Sheffield

**\$300:** Dr. Paul Katz and Dr. Laurel Pfeil, Dr. Carl Suchar

**\$250:** Ms. Lynne DiLella, Dr. Gregory James, Dr. Robert Kaplan, Dr. Brian Kiedrowski, Dr. David LeVine

**\$200:** Ms. Robin Bleier, Dr. Elizabeth Hames, Dr. James Howell, Dr. James Lett II, Dr. Angel Tafur, Lauren Tafur

**\$100:** Dr. Sujatha Baskar, Dr. Yvonne Buchanan, Dr. Paula G. Carmichael, Ms. Kerry Crandall, Dr. Maria Gonzalez, Dr. Ken Goodman, Ms. Jackie Hagman, Dr. Susan Levy, Dr. Elizabeth Porter, Dr. Hugh Thomas

**\$50:** Dr. Kimberly Jackson, Mrs. Madetric Wood

**\$20:** Ms. Diane Boodram, Dr. Ian Levy Chua

### Corporate Contributions/Matches

**\$2,000:** Wal-Mart

**\$1,500:** Florida Blue

**\$1,380:** UnitedHealthCare Foundation

**\$250:** Corecare Associates, Shell Point Retirement Community

## COVID-19 Webinars Viewed 16,200 Times

In March 2020, the Journal Club pivoted to weekly webinars with a focus on the challenges and trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic in PALTC.

As of January 2021, the Journal Club's 27 COVID-related videos were viewed more than **16,200** times since March 25. They are all available online at [www.fmda.org/journalclub.php](http://www.fmda.org/journalclub.php).

Our heartfelt thanks to **Dr. Diane Sanders-Cepeda**, who chairs our Journal Club and hosts its meeting for doing such a superb job with an essential topic.

We look forward to your participation at the next scheduled meeting at **12 p.m., Jan. 27, 2021**. We will cover COVID-19 skin manifestations with Pamela Scarborough, PT, DPT, MS, CWS, FAAWC; Vice President of Clinical Affairs, AMT.

## POLST Moving Forward in Florida

FMDA has been the home of Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatments (POLST) in the State of Florida since December 2017.

Chaired by **Dr. Leonard Hock**, the purpose of this POLST workgroup is to develop effective strategies for statewide educational programs, securing grants, fundraising, developing educational and promotional tools, soliciting letters of support from stakeholder groups, lobbying to pass a POLST law in the Florida legislature, developing a coalition of stakeholders, and developing an overall coordinated strategy.

At the national level, Dr. Maria Gonzalez joins Dr. Leonard Hock as a Plenary Assembly Member representing Florida to National POLST.



General information about POLST events throughout the country may be found on the National POLST website at <http://polst.org>. Florida POLST has its own website at [www.polstfl.org](http://www.polstfl.org), where you can find a copy of the Florida POLST form.

If you would like to support Florida POLST, please call or email our executive director, Ian Cordes, at **(561) 689-6321**, or [ian.cordes@fmda.org](mailto:ian.cordes@fmda.org).

## Progress Report Newsletter Is Digital

Since transitioning to a digital-only edition, we continue to ask our members if they prefer a printed version be mailed to them instead. Please send your requests for a printed newsletter to **Ian Cordes** at [ian.cordes@fmda.org](mailto:ian.cordes@fmda.org).

## Call for Articles for Progress Report

FMDA is currently accepting articles for future issues of its award-winning publication, *Progress Report*. If you would like to submit an article or get more information, please contact **Ian Cordes** at [ian.cordes@fmda.org](mailto:ian.cordes@fmda.org).

## FMDA to Launch CMS-Funded Certificate of Excellence in PALTC

FMDA has been awarded a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide a very unique educational and training opportunity for clinicians in the post-acute and long-term care (PALTC) setting. Titled *Leveraging Clinical Staff Engagement – A Certificate of Excellence in PALTC*, the program provides 29 hours of specialized education designed to close the knowledge gap related to clinical care in nursing homes by awarding partial tuition scholarships to up to 500 eligible physicians, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, consultant pharmacists, nurse administrators, registered nurses, and nursing home administrators at certified nursing homes across the State of Florida.

This program confers a Certificate of Excellence to participants who successfully complete the learning requirements



**FMDA News from Around the State***Continued from previous page*

and demonstrate the performance, proficiency, and passing standards for a post-conference exam.

Participants who complete the program will be empowered on numerous levels to provide better patient-centered care to skilled nursing facility residents. The Certificate of Excellence in PALTC affirms a knowledge and experience base for practitioners and demonstrates to employers and the public that the practitioner is committed to career development and dedicated to quality PALTC medicine. The professional standards of the certificate process promote competency and consistency of practitioners working in PALTC settings.

In addition to adding credibility, the certificate enhances professional reputation and supports continued professional development, a high level of commitment to the field of practice, a certain level of knowledge and skill, and increases and/or validates skills and knowledge.

Nursing homes may also benefit directly with improved customer satisfaction, higher safety and quality of care, increased competence of employees, future professional development opportunities for employees, ongoing enhancement of knowledge and skills, increased confidence in employees' abilities, demonstration of employers' commitment to competence, compliance with industry regulation or government requirements, potential to increase staff satisfaction, and reduced turnover.

FMDA will be launching *Leveraging Clinical Staff Engagement – A Certificate of Excellence in PALTC* in March.

**Help Direct the Future of FMDA**

Before FMDA's annual membership meeting on Nov. 5, 2021, there will be an electronic election of officers and directors. The positions of vice president (president-elect) and secretary-treasurer will become vacant in October along with eight board of director positions.

Members of the board provide leadership, a shared vision and sense of mission, and are responsible for the fiscal health of our organization. We are looking for leaders with: proven performance and a commitment to the organization; time and ability to serve; understanding of teamwork, communication, and mentoring skills; Sound judgment and integrity; and enthusiasm and the ability to be a strategic, visionary thinker.

If you are interested in serving the society in a leadership position, please visit [www.fmda.org/nominations/php](http://www.fmda.org/nominations/php) where you can indicate your preference(s), submit a short bio, and complete a brief statement outlining your interests and why you want to serve. If you have any questions or issues, please contact the FMDA business office at (561) 689-6321, or [sbellotti@fmda.org](mailto:sbellotti@fmda.org).

The FMDA Nominations Committee will then make its recommendations for the slate of officers and directors; voting will take place electronically before Best Care Practices 2021 and the results will be announced at FMDA's Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, Nov. 5, 2021, during the conference.

Now is your opportunity to join the leadership and make your mark! The deadline is **May 15, 2021**.

**PALTC21** MARCH 11-14  
VIRTUAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**FMDA's Dynamic Mission & Vision Statements**

**Mission** – *Describes the fundamental purpose of an organization, why it exists, and what it does to reach its vision.*

The mission of FMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine is to promote the highest quality care as patients transition through the post-acute and long-term care continuum. FMDA is dedicated to providing leadership, professional education, and advocacy for the inter-professional team.

**Vision** – *Describes the desired future state of an organization in terms of its objectives. It is a long-term view.*

FMDA – The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine will provide professional leadership to disseminate information and provide access to resources and experts.

FMDA will further advance as the professional hub for education on best care practices, evidence-based medicine, regulatory compliance, and practice management.

FMDA will continue to be the model organization that collaborates with related organizations to promote the highest quality patient care and outcomes in the post-acute and long-term care continuum.

## FMDA's Committee Chairs for 2021

Here is the list of FMDA's standing committees and workgroups with their 2021 chair assignments:

**Annual Conference** – Education Committee Chair

– Dr. Kenya Rivas

(1) Program Director – Dr. Angel Tafur

(2) Quality Champion Award – Dr. Mark Beauchamp

(3) Presentations & Poster Presentations Review

– Dr. Bernardo Reyes

**Fundraising** – Capital campaigns, educational grants, and sponsorships – Dr. Maria Gonzalez

**Government/Legislative Affairs** – Dr. Leonard Hock

**Journal Club** – Dr. Diane Sanders-Cepeda

**POLST Workgroup** – Dr. Leonard Hock

**Membership Development** – Dr. Alfonso Gonzalez

**Newsletter/Communications** – Lauren Tafur,

ARNP-BC, Editor, *Progress Report*

**FMDA's Quality Advocacy Coalition (FQAC)** –

*Statewide Initiative to Reduce Avoidable Hospital Readmissions Due to Sepsis*; Co-Chairs, Dr. Bernardo Reyes and Dr. Simone Minto-Pennant

NOTE: *On hold*

**Technology Readiness** – Website, membership management software, mobile app, social media, telemedicine, emerging technologies, etc.

– Dr. Rick Foley

### Mission Statement

The mission of FMDA – The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine is to promote the highest quality care as patients transition through the continuum. FMDA is dedicated to providing leadership, professional education, and advocacy for the inter-professional team.

### Vision

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FMDA – The Florida Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

Dedicated to supporting physicians and other practitioners in **Post-Acute & Long-Term Care Medicine**



Learning how to work smarter while providing excellent care



Join online at [www.fmda.org](http://www.fmda.org)

### CAREER-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING:

What do practitioners see as valuable? They can find clinical talks anywhere, but should they come to Best Care Practices for career guidance information, regulatory, and administrative talks? Why should physicians, NPs, pharmacists, PAs, nurse administrators, and nursing home administrators join FMDA and attend our conference? Answer = Career Competitive Advancement. What topics or burning questions would you like to see featured at future educational programs? Become a member today!

## Stand Up and Be Counted

We invite each member to become more involved in 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 physicians, medical directors, advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, consultant pharmacists, nurse administrators, and administrators in post-acute and 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. Should you have any questions, please contact **Ian Cordes**, executive director, at (561) 689-6321 or [ian.cordes@fmda.org](mailto:ian.cordes@fmda.org).

Sign up now: [www.fmda.org/join-fmda.php](http://www.fmda.org/join-fmda.php)



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## Benefits of Membership

- Award-winning statewide newsletter, *Progress Report*
- Association website: [www.fmda.org](http://www.fmda.org)
- Nationally recognized annual conference, Best Care Practices in the Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Continuum (PALTC)
- Dedicated conference website: [www.bestcarepractices.org](http://www.bestcarepractices.org)
- Annual update on Medicare billing
- Discounted member registration fee for annual conference
- Convenient, online annual conference registration
- Networking with other PALTC practitioners statewide
- Networking and partnering with other post-acute trade and professional associations
- Advocacy in Tallahassee on behalf of the members of FMDA
- Advocacy in AMDA's House of Delegates
- Advocacy in Florida Medical Association's House of Delegates
- Liaise with Florida Osteopathic Medical Association
- Home of Florida POLST
- Free FMDA mobile app for iPhone and Android devices
- Support statewide initiatives to improve patient care and quality of life
- Join FMDA Quality Advocacy Coalition's statewide initiative to reduce avoidable hospital readmissions



Download our  
free app for  
iPhone and  
Android!

Members receive  
our award-  
winning statewide  
newsletter:  
*Progress Report*





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