



WESTCHESTER PHYSICIAN

November 2014

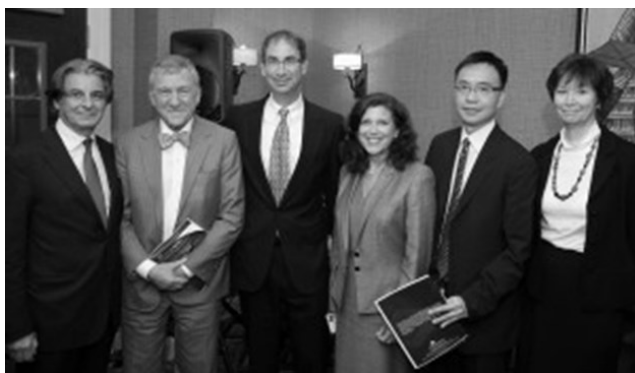
Volume 29, Issue 10



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month, along with the Westchester Business Journal, Citrin Cooperman, and sponsors Simone Healthcare Development and Danziger & Markhoff LLP., the WCMS celebrated the second annual Doctors of Distinction Awards at The Bristol in Armonk. This event recognizes those physicians and surgeons who have made exemplary contributions to patients, our community, the profession of medicine and efforts of philanthropy. It was an uplifting and humbling event and reminds that medicine is at its heart a noble and special pursuit. I think there are two great incentives in human endeavor; altruism and self gain. Medicine, more than any other human industry, encompasses altruism as its guiding force. This fact was in evidence on October 30th when Drs. Augustine Moscatello, Martin E. Lederman, William Bauman, Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, Thomas T. Lee, and Mary Beth Walsh all were honored as this year's recipients.

Martin E. Lederman, MD, of Lederman & Lederman, LLP, was the recipient of the Humanitarian Award, presented in recognition of service that impacts humanity by significantly improving or enhancing the quality of life for people in the region, nationwide or worldwide. As a pediatric ophthalmologist, Lederman has practiced in Westchester County since 1984, and has headed teaching and surgical missions to Panama, Kenya, Morocco, Dubai and Belize. "Once you see an area where if you don't do it, no one else will, it gets in your blood," Lederman said of his charitable efforts.



2014 Doctors of Distinction Award Winners
 From left: Drs. Augustine Moscatello, Martin E. Lederman, William Bauman, Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, Thomas Lee and Mary Beth Walsh.

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LOUIS F. MCINTYRE, MD
 President, WCMS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Holiday Party
 Friday, December 12, 2014
 6-9 p.m.
 Orienta Beach Club
 Mamaroneck, NY
TO RSVP SEE PAGE 8

WESTCHESTER PHYSICIAN

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FROM THE EDITOR...**PROFESSIONAL DISTANCE****PETER J. ACKER, MD**

I read a very interesting article in the *Times* today (November 23, 2014) in the Sunday Review section. It was titled "The 'Rules' of Psychotherapy" and was written by a practicing psychiatrist, Dr. Robin Weiss. He related the story of one of his patients who came to him in a state of deep and desperate depression. Despite her debilitating situation, she proved to be quite feisty in her therapy sessions. This patient was herself a physician, a neurosurgeon in fact, and apparently brought a surgeon's temperament to the sessions. In particular she pressed the therapist repeatedly to break "the rules of psychotherapy" and reveal things about himself. "The doctor should be opaque to his patients," Freud wrote in 1912, "and, like a mirror, should show them nothing but what is shown to him."

Dr. Weiss goes on to describe the frustrating period early in the treatment when she continued to badger him and when he offered a succinct analysis of some aspects of her childhood, she would shrink back. Eventually, he began to let down his guard in small ways. One time he admitted that he was having a migraine or offered that he had watched ER the night before, or where he had been on vacation. These small gestures began to "break the ice" and they began to forge a relationship that was therapeutic, but also in some ways personal. The result of this was that her depression began to lift as if some of the burden was being shifted to her doctor. He goes on to state that he is still treating her years later while her depression is recurrent and relapsing (as most severe depression is) and he is able to pull her back from the brink.

As I read this piece, I thought a lot about my own interactions with patients. There are, of course, many differences between the therapeutic relationship between a psychiatrist or psychoanalyst and his patient and a pediatrician and his patient. In the former, a careful neutrality is very important to not "muddy the waters" and allow the patient to feel comfortable in self-revelation. In the latter, it is quite common to reveal various personal aspects. Many of my patients know that I have three daughters and I often use illustrations of my own parenting in counseling my patients' parents in some of those thorny issues involving behavior, sleep, and diet. Also, it is hard to convey empathy if one is constantly on his guard about revealing anything about himself.

It gets a little trickier when as a primary care physician, one begins treating psychiatric issues, which is becoming more common

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *(continued from page 1)*

Augustine Moscatello of Westchester Medical Center received the Community Service Award, presented in recognition of outstanding service to his community in providing free medical and patient care services for people in need - the underserved, homeless, uninsured or indigent. "When you can give all your attention to the medical problems of the patient, the feeling of joy is a gift, it's a reward that no money can buy. You do it once, and you're addicted to it for life." What an extraordinary affliction; addiction to the service of others!

Kira Geraci-Ciardullo of Westchester Health Associates and Mary Beth Walsh of Burke Rehabilitation Hospital shared the Lifetime Achievement Award, given in recognition of a lifetime career in medical service to patients and the community. "I accept this award with great humility," Geraci-Ciardullo said. "Every single physician I've dealt with has done just as much." Mary Beth Walsh, Executive Medical Director and CEO of Burke, said "A lifetime achievement award is a truly special achievement, especially one recognized by your peers, and I'm truly grateful," upon receiving her award. Obviously, humility accompanies accomplishment in these outstanding physicians.

The Excellence in Medical Research Award, for recognition of research of special ingenuity or clinical significance was given to Dr. William Bauman of the VA Medical Center in the Bronx. Dr. Bauman, along with colleague Ann Spungen, received the Samuel J. Heyman Science and Environment Medal for their work in improving the health care and quality of life of paralyzed veterans. Dr. Bauman credited his parents with his success saying, "My mother, who has been a practicing pediatrician for only 60 years, instilled in me a work ethic, and my father instilled in me a love of science."

Dr. Thomas Lee was recognized with the Leadership in Medical Advocacy Award, given to a physician who has provided exceptional leadership in the form of advocacy on behalf of the medical profession at the local, state, or national level. It rewards the tireless volume of time required to help fellow physicians. "Despite the many negative factors that have come up in the last few years in the medical profession, it's still a noble profession and we're proud to do what we do," said Dr. Lee. When Tom fights for doctors, he is really and truly doing battle for patients and their access to our services. He thus does double duty for us, our families, and all the people of New York State. All that as a volunteer.

The tone of the evening was set by Dr. Edward Halperin, CEO and Chancellor of New York Medical College. Dr. Halperin is a wonderful speaker who weaves history and anecdote into cogent discussions that get to the essence of his subject. He outlined all the collaborative efforts between government and medicine that have led to therapeutic advances and the improvement of lives the world over. He argued that in a pessimistic world, American medicine has been and can still be a beacon of hope for improvement in the human condition.

Medicine is a great profession, tradition and association. All that is mostly lost in the alphabet soup of CMS, ACA, EMR, PQRI, I-STOP and all the other anodyne acronyms of administrative medicine. It can also get lost in the daily grind of the volume-driven practice of medicine that has become a reality for most of us. Lost also is the recognition that it is individual physicians who made a difference in the lives of their patients and communities, not interchangeable medical FTEs plugged into some economist's spreadsheet. It is good to relearn the essential value of medicine at events like the Doctors of Distinction Awards. Thanks so much to Dee DelBello for the concept and the cooperation.



2nd Annual Doctors of Distinction Awards

The Second Annual Doctors of Distinction Awards honored six doctors at a special awards ceremony held on October 30th at The Bristol in Armonk.

The ***Doctors of Distinction*** awards, co-founded by the Westchester County Medical Society, the Westchester Business Journal, and Citrin Cooperman, were established to recognize those dedicated physicians who go “beyond the diagnosis.”

It was standing room only as over 160 guests gathered at The Bristol to honor this year’s six honorees. After considering more than 40 stellar nominees, the judges, which the WCMS helped to select, chose:

Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, MD, of Westchester Health Associates was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her three decades in the fields of pediatrics, allergy and immunology. Dr. Geraci, a member of WCMS since 1986, is a Past President of both the Westchester County Medical Society and the Westchester Academy of Medicine and currently serves as MSSNY Vice Speaker. She also represents MSSNY on the AMA Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement.

Mary Beth Walsh, MD, Burke Rehabilitation Hospital was a co-winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her executive leadership in hospital administration and professional associations as well as in medical academics and the practice of medicine. Dr. Walsh has been a member of WCMS since 2001.

Thomas Lee, MD, of New York Neurological Surgery, was awarded the Leadership in Medical Advocacy Award in recognition of his advocacy for physicians and patients focusing on their well being, freedom of choice, and access to quality care while working collaboratively with health care stakeholders to promote needed and equitable legislation. Dr. Lee joined the WCMS in 1999. He is a Past President and currently serves as President of the Academy of Medicine and Chair of the Legislative Committee.

Martin Lederman, MD, of Lederman & Lederman, was awarded the Humanitarian Award in recognition of the strides he has made in pediatric ophthalmology and for co-founding One World One Vision, a charitable organization dedicated to teaching ophthalmologic surgical techniques in developing countries. Dr. Lederman, a WCMS member for 30 years, recently stepped down as President of the Section of Ophthalmology after serving for 10 years.

Augustine Moscatello, MD, from the Westchester Medical Center was honored with the Community Service award in recognition of his 20 year effort to bring the Westchester Medical Center Department of Otolaryngology to world class specialty status and providing corrective cleft palate surgery worldwide to suffering children. Since 2007, Dr. Moscatello has travelled to Peru, Colombia, Thailand, Vietnam, Cuba and Ecuador to provide corrective surgery to children suffering from cleft palates. Dr. Moscatello has been a member of WCMS since 1989.

(continued on following page)

William Bauman, MD, VA Hospital, was awarded the Excellence in Medical Research Award for his work at the Spinal Cord Damage Research Center, which he founded, which studies the secondary medical consequences of spinal cord injury and then develops effective interventions to improve the health and well being of those who have been afflicted. Dr. Bauman is the son of long-time WCMS member, Caroline Bauman, MD.

The Officers, Directors, and Members of the WCMS salute the Award Winners!



Drs. Thomas Lee, Martin Lederman, Louis McIntyre and Augustine Moscatello with other attendees .



Humanitarian Award winner Martin Lederman, MD & his proud daughter, Caroline Lederman, MD



Drs. Bento Mascarenhas, Elaine Healy and Karen Pechman congratulate Mary Beth Walsh, MD.



WCMS Member Caroline Bauman, MD (3rd from left) celebrates with her son, William Bauman, MD & family members.



Drs. Joseph Tartaglia, Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, and Robert Ciardullo.



Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, MD, WCMS President Louis McIntyre, MD, Former Congresswoman & WCMS Member Nan Hayworth, MD, Thomas Lee, MD, MSSNY EVP Phil Schuh and WCMS Executive Director Brian Foy enjoy the event.

Westchester County Medical Society and New York Medical College Students Wine Tasting

On Wednesday, November 19, the WCMS sponsored a Member Wine Tasting with the Medical Students at New York Medical College. The event, held at the Alumni House on the campus, was attended by over 100 medical students and WCMS doctors and guests.

Our own WCMS vintners, Drs. Joseph Tartaglia, Paul Gerardi, and Tancredi Abenavoli along with Alfredo Veronesi of Prospero Winery in Pleasantville, brought their own wines for the guests to sample and explained the wine making process. The event was sponsored in part through a contribution from Charles J. Sellers & Co., Inc.

The students enjoyed meeting the physicians and talking to them about their specialties. Fourteen students signed up for membership in the WCMS, MSSNY & the AMA.



NYMC Students signing up for membership.



WCMS Winemakers Drs. Tancredi Abenavoli, Paul Gerardi and Joseph Tartaglia.

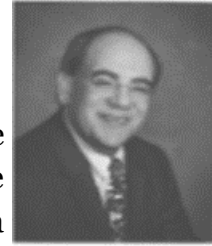


Dr. Stephen Schwartz talks to students about his specialty, Orthopedic Surgery.



Dr. Thomas Lee speaks about Neurological Surgery.

GINO BOTTINO, MD HONORED BY NYMC



WCMS Vice President, Gino Bottino, MD, was awarded the Outstanding Service Award of New York Medical College. This is the highest award given to a volunteer preceptor. Dr. Bottino has been a member of Northern Westchester Hospital's Medical Staff since 1984. He attended New York Medical College, completed his internal medicine residency and hematology fellowship at Montefiore Medical Center, and completed his oncology fellowship at the National Institutes of Health. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine in the specialties of internal medicine, hematology and medical oncology.



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PROFESSIONAL DISTANCE *(continued from page 2)*

as a result of the shortage of pediatric psychiatrists. Some of the common psychiatric disorders are increasingly in our purview such as Attention Deficit Disorder, mild depression, and mild anxiety disorders. I find myself increasingly bending the “rules,” though I try to be judicious lest it begin to become more about me than the patient. An example: I have a fair number of patients in their late teens who suffer from anxiety disorders. It so happens that I enjoy seeing these patients because I can relate to my own experience. I was quite an anxious person in my late teens and early twenties and at times it would progress to full-fledged panic attacks. Back in the early seventies, panic attacks were not as well understood and I remember vividly the dismissive “reassurances” I got from physicians. I have come to believe that unless one has experienced an actual panic attack, there is no way to understand the depth of the feelings of isolation and alienation that they engender. So when I am talking to a teenager who has come to me with panic disorder, I tell them about my own experience. And I have to say, it is almost magical the response I get because as I know, there is secrecy and silent shame that accompanies this disorder and when they see that they are not alone, it has a galvanizing effect.

In a broader sense, it speaks to the general shame and embarrassment that attaches itself to mental health disorders and it is this that often is a huge impediment to successful treatment. Judicious self-revelation, I have come to believe, goes a long way to conveying empathy and mitigating the stigma that is so prevalent today toward the mentally ill.




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WCMS Board Highlights October & November 2014

- At its October meeting, the Board heard a presentation from Medical Business Systems (MBS), Inc. MBS is a healthcare IT company based in Westchester and offering physician practices a comprehensive selection of innovative IT infrastructure and HIPAA solutions, including: EMR; consulting; managed services; hardware; healthcare software; system implementation; training and maintenance support. The Board agreed to promote an MBS webinar to its members as an opportunity to evaluate member interest and WCMS support going forward.
- Approved a joint recommendation from the Executive and Audit/Finance Committees to contract with Victor J. Cannistra, CPA, located in Mount Kisco, to audit the WCMS and Academy finances for the fiscal year 2014.
- Heard from the President of the Academy of Medicine, Joseph Tartaglia, MD, who reported that the Annual Academy Golf Outing, held on October 2nd, will ultimately net approximately \$9,000 in revenue to benefit the Academy and its Scholarship Fund. 41 golfers and an additional 25 dinner attendees enjoyed a beautiful day of golf and fellowship at Westchester Country Club. The Golf Outing is the Academy's largest fundraiser.
- Andrew Kleinman, MD, MSSNY President, urged the Board members to **save the date of March 4, 2015 as MSSNY Physician Advocacy Day**. A large physician turnout from around the state will be strongly encouraged as MSSNY has reserved "The Egg" for its legislative briefings and presentations.
- Approved the Membership Report welcoming 93 new medical student members from New York Medical College (NYMC).
- The November Board meeting was hosted by NYMC on November 13th at the new BioInc Building on 7 Dana Road, Valhalla. Following the regularly scheduled meeting, the Board was treated to a tour of the facility by Edward Halperin, MD, Chancellor and CEO, NYMC. Dr. Halperin discussed all the clinical training opportunities available to medical students as well as the laboratory space available to budding medical entrepreneurs. The BioInc officially opened on October 29.
- Heard from WCMS President, Louis McIntyre, MD, who reported on the Doctors of Distinction Awards Event on October 30 (see pages 4 & 5). Dr. McIntyre commented that the well-attended event, held at The Bristol in Armonk, was very moving and the physician awardees were inspirational. It is certainly an event that the WCMS will continue to co-host and he and the Board congratulated the WCMS Board members who received awards: Kira Geraci-Ciardullo, MD and Thomas T. Lee, MD.



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MEDICARE PAYMENTS SLATED TO DECREASE IN APRIL OF 2015

Pursuant to a Final Rule that was issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) earlier this month, all physicians could see payments cut by CMS of approximately 21% in April if the Medicare sustainable growth rate formula cuts are allowed to take effect.

Under the rule, the Medicare sustainable growth rate formula - a payment policy that has forced Congress to repeatedly intercede to avoid major cuts to physician payment - would slash reimbursement to doctors by 21.1% as of April 1, 2015.

The rule also affects reporting of manufacturers' payments to physicians under the Sunshine Act as it finalized the elimination of the exemption for reporting indirect manufacturers' payments to physicians for continuing medical education participation. According to the CMS, applicable manufacturers and group purchasing organizations now will be required to report compensation provided to physician speakers at continuing education events, unless the payment or other transfer of value is specifically excluded.

As the cut to CMS payments will not take effect until April of 2015, there is additional time for CMS to revise the rule or for Congress to intercede, as it has done historically, to avoid such a considerable cut to reimbursements. Similar cuts have been proposed in the past, only to be retracted at the last minute. Although there is no certainty this will happen again, it is widely speculated that such a considerable cut will face much scrutiny by Congress and that the final rule, as it is currently constituted, will not survive.

ACO STARK AND ANTI-KICKBACK WAIVERS

On November 2, 2011, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) issued an interim final rule, which granted waivers to qualifying Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) from prosecution under the Stark and Anti-Kickback laws (Waivers). The structure of ACOs implicates the Stark law (which generally prohibits referrals to an entity in which the physician or immediate family member has an interest) and the Anti-Kickback law (which generally prohibits knowingly receiving or giving remuneration in exchange for referrals) as physicians are encouraged to make referrals within the ACO to generate shared savings.

The rules setting forth the Waivers were set to expire on November 2, 2014. The intention was to receive comments from stakeholders on the implementation and effectiveness of the Waivers and then issue a final rule. **Instead of creating a final rule, on October 17, 2014, the DHHS issued an extension of the interim rule. The Waivers will now expire on November 2, 2015, unless a final waiver rule becomes effective on an earlier date.** The DHHS is now seeking additional feedback from stakeholders, specifically: how and to what extent ACOs are using the waivers; whether the existing waivers serve the needs of ACOs and the Medicare program; whether the waivers adequately protect the Medicare program and beneficiaries from the types of harms associated with referral payments or payments to reduce or limit services; and whether there are new or changed considerations that should inform the development of additional notice and comment rulemaking.



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