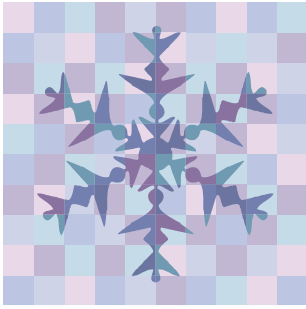


January 2012

## UPCOMING EVENTS



BENTON FRANKLIN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

# The Society Pages

### GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

6:30-7:00 pm Social Hour, 7:00-8:30 Membership Business Presentation

**Spring Membership Meetings** will continue to be held at Meadow Springs Country Club. Mark your calendars for **March 20th , April 17th and May 15th.**

Registration forms for the **28th Annual CME Seminar** have been mailed and are also available on the website at [www.bentonfranklincms.com](http://www.bentonfranklincms.com).

Mark your calendars now for  
**February 24/25, 2012.**

Also, please remind any pharmaceutical representatives that visit your office that we are always looking for exhibitors for our seminar. They can contact me directly at 582-2866.

**You should have received your invitation to the Society Ball by now, please don't forget to RSVP by January 18th.**

**2012 Society Ball honoring  
Past-President Stanley Ling MD,  
Saturday, January 21, 2012**

**6:30, Social Hour**

**7:30 Dinner with music by Smooth as Jazz**

**RSVP to Nicole 582-2866. Please indicate beef, chicken or vegetarian meal when you RSVP.**

The Society office will be closed from December 29-January 3. Email and phone messages will be checked periodically during this time. If you need assistance and are unable to reach me, you may contact one of our board members. Thank you.

Here are just a few brief news items courtesy of the WSMA as we prepare to close out 2011.

Registration is open for the **WSMA Legislative Summit in Olympia on January 23rd**. This event is free to all WSMA members. With the financial crisis our state is facing and the potential negative impact this may have on physicians and their patients, this is an event you won't want to miss. Gubernatorial candidates Jay Inslee and Rob McKenna are confirmed speakers at the event. Members from our local society will attend as well— contact Nicole with any questions.

The 17-day special legislative session concluded last week with medicine coming out relatively unscathed—in large part due to the fact the legislature chose to leave most of the tough budget decisions until January. What was agreed upon by a bipartisan majority was approximately \$480 million in what have been characterized as mostly administrative cuts. The chairman of Senate Ways & Means Committee informed WSMA that this was simply a down payment on addressing the state's approximately \$2 billion budget gap and that come January all health care cuts remain on the table (BHP, disability lifeline, interpreter services, critical access hospitals, public health, etc.).

Though the debate during the special session was helpful, the legislature has much to do when they return on January 9th. There will be a push to come to agreement on a tax/revenue package that they can bring to the voters to help limit the impact of what would be an all-cuts-budget hitting health care, education and corrections disproportionately hard. If they can come to an agreement on a new taxes/revenues package in time to limit some of those cuts, and if the public will approve the package, only time will tell. In any event, the WSMA will remain diligent in advocating to limit the impact of such cuts to these essential health care programs.

*As for policy bills*—the WSMA was successful in keeping the Medicaid fraud expansion bill with its problematic "qui tam" provisions in the Senate Health Care Committee. We were also successful stopping a bill that would have increased your licensure fees in order to fund the state's Prescription Monitoring Program. The WSMA was instrumental in getting the PMP enacted into statute. However, we don't support an increase in physicians', or anyone else's, licensing fees as the funding source. The PMP is currently funded through 2013 through a variety of grants, but does need a long-term funding source. The WSMA remains committed to working with the state and other interested stakeholders in finding an appropriate funding source for the program.

*Interpreter program continues for now.* While the governor's budget includes termination of the interpreter program, the special session ended without action on the program and the legislature has not yet indicated it will agree with the proposed termination of funding. So, at the moment, the Health Care Authority is not expecting the program to end on January 1 and the HCA reports it is negotiating another extension of the previous interpreter broker contracts.

More information about the HCA budget is posted on the HCA's [website](#). Questions about the program? Contact WSMA's Senior Director of Health Care Economics and Practice Support Bob Perna at [rjp@wsma.org](mailto:rjp@wsma.org).

***As many of you are already aware, we lost our friend and colleague Dr. Gladson Vaz on December 14th. Dr. Vaz was well respected and admired by his colleagues and patients and will be missed greatly in our community. He practiced at Lourdes for the past 14 years, serving as Chief of Medical Staff and Director of the Lourdes Sleep Lab. His family has requested that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Lourdes Foundation or Holy Spirit Parish in Kennewick.***

# Applications for Membership

**Second notice dues statements will be sent out in early January for those who have not paid their dues yet.**

**We are happy to accept cash or credit card payments. We thank you for your continued support of our society and look forward to serving you in the next year!**

## **MQAC Final Pain Rules to go in to Effect January 2, 2012**

The Medical Quality Assurance Commission adopted the final rules for the management of chronic non-cancer pain which will go into effect on January 2, 2012 for MD's and PA's. The rules went into effect for DO's in July of 2011. The WSMA Department of Legal Affairs has produced a question and answer document, which I have loaded on the website for you to review. We encourage you to review this document and the rules to familiarize yourself with the changes and if they apply to you.

### **Second Notice:**

#### **Gary Belcaster MD**

#### **Board Certified Gastroenterology**

Medical School: Univ. of Illinois (1990)  
Internship: University of Wisconsin  
Residency: University of Wisconsin  
Practice: 4403 W. Court St. Ste. B, Pasco  
Phone: 545-6220 Fax: 547-0894

#### **Tania Matta MD**

#### **Board Certified Pediatrics**

Medical School: St. Joseph School, Beirut (1990)  
Internship: Hotel Dieu de France, Beirut  
Residency: Sophia Antipolis Nice, France, Woodhul Hospital, NY  
Practice: 3950 Keene Rd., West Richland  
Phone: 942-3627

#### **Michael Myers MD**

#### **Radiation Oncology**

Medical School: The Chicago Medical School (2005)  
Internship: Alameda County Medical Center  
Residency: Virginia Commonwealth University  
Practice: 7350 W. Deschutes Ave., Kennewick  
Phone: 737-3371 Fax: 736-0958

#### **Janmeet (Rocky) Sahota DO**

#### **Board Certified Spinal Surgery**

Medical School: University of Medicine and Dentistry of NJ, Stratford, NJ (2002)  
Internship: Northshore University Hospital, NY  
Residency: Northshore University Hospital, NY  
Practice: 6703 W, Rio Grande Ave., Kennewick  
Ph: 946-6144, Fx: 946-7253

### **Welcome New Members!!**

#### **Amy Person MD**

#### **Board Certified Pediatrics**

Medical School: Univ. of Illinois (1989)  
Internship: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin  
Residency: Children's Hospital of Wisconsin  
Practice: 7102 W. Okanogan Place, Kennewick  
Phone: 440-2372 Fax: 460-4590