

November 2011

## 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

#### **November 15th: Legislative Event/Annual Meeting, Meadow Springs Country Club**

We've invited our legislators from the 8th and 16th districts to attend dinner with us and discuss several of the most pressing issues facing your practices right now. This is an excellent opportunity and the more physicians we have in attendance, the larger impact we'll make.

**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** will be mailed shortly.

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.

Please visit the website at  
**[www.bentonfranklincms.com](http://www.bentonfranklincms.com)** for a complete listing  
of CME activities in our area.

## **Plan on Attending the November 15th Annual Meeting/ Legislative Showcase**

Our November General Membership meeting (November 15th) is also our Annual Meeting where we vote our new officers into their positions. Our program for that evening is a legislative showcase including our local legislators from the 8th and 16th districts and legislative staff from the Washington State Medical Association attending and participating in discussions about the current issues addressing us as we head into the upcoming 30 day special legislative session.

Your attendance at this event is important to communicate to our local legislators how much these issues will impact your practices and ultimately the patients in Benton and Franklin Counties.

Several issues that might be discussed that evening include:

- The current lawsuit brought forth by the Washington Academy of Emergency Physicians, Washington State Hospital Association and Washington State Medical Association regarding the 3 non-emergency ER visit limitation for Medicaid patients that went into effect on October 1.
- The supplemental budget cut options released by the Governor last week. The final version of the health care related cuts is on our website in the newsletter section and titled "Health Care Cut Options." These tentative cuts include reducing eligibility for the Children's Health Insurance Program, suspending Medicaid pharmacy benefits, eliminating the disability lifeline medical program, eliminating Basic Health Program (delivers subsidized health care to 35,000 patients in our state), reducing certified public expenditure hospitals, modifying critical access hospital payment methodology, eliminating maternity support services...the list goes on.
- On the national level– Medicare SGR Repeal. Medicare payments to physicians are set to be reduced by 30% on January 1, 2012 unless Congress acts before then. Visit our website and follow the link on the welcome page to write to Senator Patty Murray about this critical issue. We already have access issues with the senior citizens in our community, I can't imagine what will happen to these patients if this payment reduction is implemented. The impact would be devastating for these patients.

I can't stress enough how important is for us to have a large showing for this meeting. It sends a clear message to our legislators when you make the effort to attend these functions. Please be sure to RSVP by November 11th. You can call the office at 582-2866 or email to Nicole at [nicole@bfcms.org](mailto:nicole@bfcms.org).

**Be on the lookout for your dues statements, which will be mailed later this week. 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!**

# Applications for Membership

## **THANK YOU DR. JECHA**

As Dr. Jecha prepares to wind down his role as our Health Officer, we'd like to offer a special thank you to him for his service to our community.

Dr. Jecha served as our Health Officer from 1988-1992 and since 1996. He has been a tireless advocate for the patients in Benton and Franklin county, many of which are the most vulnerable members of our community.

Dr. Jecha has served on the Board of Directors for our local society and served as President in 2000. He remains active on our Board as a Trustee and member of the CME Committee and also as an Eastern Washington Delegate on the Washington State Medical Association Board.

Dr. Jecha promises to remain active with our local society and at the state level and in addition will remain the Health Officer for Walla Walla County on a part-time basis.

Dr. Amy Person, Board Certified Pediatrician, will replace Dr. Jecha as our new Health Officer. Dr. Person has practiced pediatrics for 20 years in addition to her role as an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Medical College of Wisconsin and participation in epidemiology research. Please join us in welcoming her to our society.

## **Cares, Concerns and Congratulations**

Although our primary function is that of a professional membership society, we are fortunate to live in a small enough community where we can cultivate personal relationships with our members as well.

From time to time we hear about personal struggles concerning our members and can offer appropriate support to them. There are, however, times that we hear of these issues after the fact and we miss the opportunity to offer assistance.

While we want to respect the privacy of all of our members and their families, we also want to be able to offer support to our members in difficult times. If you know of any such circumstances, we would appreciate you letting a board member or Nicole know.

We also want to know of the happy events in your lives too and hope to share those with our members.

You can call Nicole at the office at 582-2866 or email at [Nicole@bfcms.org](mailto:Nicole@bfcms.org). Thank you for your assistance!

## **First Notice:**

### **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

## **Second Notice:**

### **Jennifer Balde MD**

Board Certified Internal Medicine , Practices Geriatrics also

Medical School: Univ. of the E. Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (2002)

Internship: NY Metropolitan Hospital Center

Residency: NY Metropolitan Hospital Center

Practice: 4403 W. Court St., Ste. B, Pasco

Phone: 545-6220 Fax: 545-0894

### **Uma Dhanabalan MD**

Board Certified Occupational Medicine Board Eligible Family Medicine

Medical School: Univ. of Medicine and Dentistry NJ (1995)

Internship: Medical University of SC

Residency: Medical University of SC

Practice: 2505 Garlick Blvd. Richland

Phone: 373-8200

## **Welcome New Members!**

### **Kelly Nelson DO**

Board Certified Family Medicine

Medical School: Des Moines University (2005)

Internship: Doctors Hospital

Residency: Doctors Hospital

Practice: 9605 Sandifur Pkwy., Pasco

Phone: 942-3170 Fax: 543-9795

## **They've Moved!**

**Sharon Ahart MD (Pediatrics)** has moved to the Lourdes-Kania Clinic at 5304 N. Road 68 in Pasco. The phone is 543-9300.

**Shakti Matta MD (Pediatrics)** has moved to their new building at 6802 W. Rio Grande Ave. in Kennewick. Their new phone is 572-2201.