

MD Connection

Wake County Medical Society Alliance

October 2004

A Guide to Antiques

Tuesday, October 19
9:30 a.m.
Home of Ginny McKay
1509 Chester Road, Raleigh
833-4483

Don't forget to join us for our October general membership meeting. Ann Daniel will discuss antique furniture with an accompanying slide presentation, and will comment on examples of antique furniture.

DIRECTIONS: From 440, take Glenwood south (downtown). Right on Oberlin. Right on Fairview. Left on Lewis Circle. Left on Chester. House is on right. **IMPORTANT:** Please park on the street unless you have special needs for parking in the driveway.

President's Letter

Hello my fellow Alliance Members! I trust everyone had a wonderful summer and is as excited as I am to begin the new year.

As I have always said, **we are the face of our spouses in the community.** To that end, one of our duties is to become legislatively active. I know we have the potential to be quite a force in Wake County and the state! The first order of business, then, is to make sure you **register to vote** by October 8 then exercise your rights on November 2. If you think that your vote does not count, just think back four years when 537 votes changed the course of the election. I have other stats that will show up in a future publication that will blow you away!

The other activity we must do is **work on the malpractice issue**, a potential crisis that may impact patient access and must be solved. *...continued on page 2*



Big Savings At Belk Equal Big Rewards For WCMSA

We have 200 tickets to sell for a fundraiser at the Belk at Triangle Town Center for \$5 each! The tickets provide coupons for big savings at Belk. The total of all the tickets we sell comes back to the Physician Family Foundation PLUS a percentage of sales generated on the day of the charity fundraiser, Saturday, October 30! Last year the organizations took home an average of \$600 in addition to the ticket sales!! This is a win/win deal for us and a chance to do a little shopping! More details to follow. Contact Julie Newman at 554-4351 or Kathy Kobs at 844-6469 to purchase ticket(s) or for more details.

Bring Friends to Our Meetings! If you would like to bring a friend to enjoy the wonderful speakers we offer at meetings, please ask them to arrive 45 minutes after the scheduled start time so that we may finish our business meeting first.

EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE:
It's Good For Your Health!

This fall nothing is more important than assuring that you, your spouse, and other members of the health care community are registered to vote, *and* getting out there and actually voting. The registration form is available at many libraries, in the doctors' lounges at local hospitals (thanks to the WCMS), and through the Alliance (call 878-0077 or e-mail jandr@deltaforce.net and we will get a voter registration form to you). You have until October 8th to register.

Wake County will have numerous One-Stop Absentee voting sites open from October 23 until October 29, and you may vote at the Board of Elections from October 14th until October 30th. For details call the Board of Elections at 856-6240 or go to www.WakeGov.com/elections. You do NOT need to offer any reason for voting early.

REMEMBER: *There is no excuse for not voting. If you don't vote - you can't complain!* And don't forget to take your children to KIDS VOTE (www.kidsvotingwake.org).

Join WCMSA for the S.A.V.E. Dinner An All-American Chili Cook Out!

Sunday, October 24th (6:30 p.m.)
Home of Helen Majors
3805 Williamsborough Court

The S.A.V.E. (Stop America's Violence Everywhere) dinner will benefit SAFEchild, a child abuse prevention agency established in 1992 by the Junior League of Raleigh, committed to eliminating child abuse in Wake County. Please RSVP by October 19th to 872-9471. The dinner will be \$25 for a couple; \$15 for a single. Make checks payable to Physician Family Foundation and mail to Pat Udekwu, 7028 Rainwater Road, Raleigh, NC 27615. Bring a side dish, dessert, or salad (green or fruit) to compliment chili; we will have meat and vegetarian. Carbs are welcome!

*See the Alliance Calendar on page 4
for fun new events!*

Good Reading Breeds Healthy Minds

Our Healthy Minds program is looking for volunteers to read to patients and their siblings in the pediatric clinic at Wake Med while they wait for their appointments. Your commitment is only two hours each quarter (i.e., four times a year). Contact Mittie Blake at 847-5852 or mittieblake@hotmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

Condolences

The Alliance sends their heartfelt condolences to:

- Leigh Bruner on the death of her mother
- Shirley Lucey on the death of her brother
- Dr. Frank Winslow on the death of his wife

JOIN THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Would you like to be a part of selecting next year's slate of officers? The Nominating Committee is looking for four members to help select the 2005-2006 President-Elect, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary.

Although the responsibility is great, the time commitment is small. Please contact Joyce Killinger at 829-5050 or jfkmail@mindspring.com if you are interested.

President's Letter, continued from page 1...

This is an incredibly divisive issue, and I, for one, am getting very frustrated by the reactionary stances of all involved. Rather than working to effect a real change in the system, all sides of the argument seem content to throw blame around without actually offering any real solutions. Yes, physicians would like to set the cap for pain and suffering at \$250,000, but will that truly slow the pace of frivolous lawsuits? Maybe it will, maybe it won't. I fear that we are losing the public relations battle on this issue. We, as the medical community, need to take a proactive stance and come up with a plan that will help control the rise of malpractice premiums while still protecting patients and their access to care.

We must acknowledge that indeed, there are cases of serious malpractice and those patients deserve compensation. Physicians should be appropriately monitored and reprimanded by other physicians.

We must also better explain the difference between the types of damages we seek to cap. We don't want to stand in the way of legitimate expenses related to injury such as medical care and lost wages. There must be a way that we can reach our goal of curtailing malpractice while continuing to deliver the extraordinary care for which Wake County physicians are known. I know there are people more learned than I who have yet to make heads or tails of this issue. But perhaps a grassroots initiative to reach out to the attorneys (not forgetting that trial lawyers defend us as well) and the public in general to come up with a plan that incorporates all the issues will be the first baby step to resolution.

So as you can see, there is an ambitious year ahead of us! I look forward to seeing everyone at our General Meetings and Special Events. Feel free to contact me at any time with ideas or input. The Alliance needs **you** to help us continue our mission!

Julie Newman

"Net Post"

If you would like information about an online resource for quickly and economically sending out WCMSA mailers (such as invitations) through the U.S. Postal Service, please contact Jane Patterson at djmapat@bellsouth.net.

Welcome Coffee

Our Welcome Coffee was held on Tuesday, September 7th at the elegant home of Betty Madry. Thirty attended with five potential new members coming to learn more about our organization and to meet us. As reflected in our membership, a wonderful cross-section of ages, backgrounds, and interests of those present brought out interesting conversations.

Thanks go out to Betty and also to Jan Garside for planning this special event.

DUES INFORMATION

County dues are \$30
State dues are \$40
National dues are \$40

You can join at any combination of levels. The state provides our billing for us and is another reason we encourage state membership. We also benefit from grants awarded to us by NCMSA. Checks should be made out to "NCMSA" and mailed to NCMSA, P.O. Box 27167, Raleigh, NC 27611-7167.

REMINDER: For current members (not new ones), WCMSA will assess a \$5 late fee for those dues received after September 30, 2004, per our by-laws.

"Tea at Three": Female Physicians in the Alliance

On September 12th, Virginia Scanlan opened her beautiful home to us for our first event focused on female physicians. Fifteen people joined us for our "Tea At Three," seven who were physicians. Physicians are eligible to become members and we encourage them join us. See dues information to the left.

Do you know someone who is interested in our organization, but was unable to attend one of our recruitment events?

It's never too late to join! Encourage your friends, colleagues, or physicians to become members. See dues information to the left. For membership questions, please contact Mary Tyrey at 866-1294 or mtyreya@aol.com.

WCMSA 2004–2005 Book Club Reading List

Join us for our monthly book club. We are still looking for a few hostesses and a reviewer, so now is your chance to get involved! Contact Claire Casey at 781-2030.

Date	Book	Hostess	Reviewer
Oct. 13	Mrs. Kimble By Jennifer Haigh	Jane Patterson	Susan Montgomery
Nov. 10	Naked in Baghdad By Anne Garrels	Kathy Hayes	Judy LeGrand
Dec. 8	Devil in the White City By Erik Larson	TBD	Joyce Killinger
Jan. 12	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time By Mark Hadden	Betty Griffin	OPEN
Feb. 9	Life of Pi By Yann Martel	OPEN	Ann Ashburn
Mar. 9	The Dante Club By Matthew Pearl	OPEN	Claire Casey
April 13	The Master Butcher's Singing Club By Louise Erdrich	OPEN	Leslie Fleming
May 11	Second Glance By Jodi Picoult	Shawney Weisler	K. Keener

CANDIDATES' FORUM



October 20 (6–8:30 p.m.)
Wake Med

Andrews Conference Center

The Wake County Medical Society will host a candidates' forum to include the NC General Assembly, U.S. Congressional candidates, and others. Some topics for discussion may include:

FDA buyout of tobacco	Malpractice caps
Physical activity in schools	Stem cell research
Future of mental health care in Wake County	

Persian Rug Sale

Wednesday, October 27

11 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Alice Aycok Poe Center
for Health Education
224 Sunnybrook Road, Raleigh
(919) 924-1991

Proceeds will benefit Wake County

Persian Rugs...Presented by Persian Rug House, Pineville, NC

Persian Rug Clinic – Cleaning and Repair
Handcrafted Jewelry
Gift with Purchase
Door Prizes

Refreshments will be served

Kelly's Story: Weighing the Options

Television station WRAL explores the epidemic of overweight children with a local drama and talk. *Kelly's Story* is a unique program that takes viewers into the life of a teenage girl who struggles with the difficulties of being overweight, then gives experts and a studio audience the chance to discuss it. The hour-long program airs Saturday, November 27 at 12 noon on WRAL. For more information, call Executive Producer Phyllis Parish Howard at 821-8646.

Family Support

The Alliance strives to support its members in times of crisis as well as in times of celebration. We cannot do this, however, unless you, the membership, notify us of events in the lives of the medical community.

Please contact the Family Support Chairs with news of death in the immediate family of our members as well as times of illness or surgery.

We would also appreciate notification of happy events – birth or adoption of a baby, 50th wedding anniversary, etc.

When you call one of the Family Support Chairs and reach an answering machine, please ask for a confirmation call back. If you do not receive this call within 24 hours, call the President with the information. Thank you.

Family Support Chairs:

CARY – Virginia Anthony, 816-8271

RALEIGH – Ann Ashburn, 781-3965

NORTH RALEIGH – Julie Newman, 554-4351

SENIOR SUPPORT – Barbara Myers, 876-4027, and Marcy Garside, 876-1755

North Carolina Medical Society Alliance
WCMSA MD Connection
2500 Blue Ridge Road, Suite 312
Raleigh, NC 27607

Alliance Calendar 2004-2005

October 7 12:30-2:00 pm	BOARD MEETING Poe Center for Health Education
October 19 9:30 am	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: <i>A Guide to Antiques</i> Home of Ginny McKay, 1509 Chester Road, Raleigh, 833-4483
October 20 6-8:30 pm	CANDIDATES' FORUM WakeMed Andrews Conference Center
October 24 6:30 pm	THE S.A.V.E. DINNER Home of Helen Majors, 3508 Williamsborough Court, Raleigh
October 27 11:00 am-8:00 pm	PERSIAN RUG SALE Poe Center for Health Education Proceeds benefit Wake County
November 4 12:30-2:00 pm	BOARD MEETING Poe Center for Health Education
November 7 6:30-8:30 pm	WINE TASTING Carolina Wine Company, 6601 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh, 852-0236 RSVP by October 23 to Julie Newman
November 9 9:30 am-4:00 pm	NC SYMPOSIUM 2004 McKimmon Center, Raleigh Presented by the NCMMSA
November 13 4:00-5:30 pm	WOMEN AND GIRLS' SELF DEFENSE CLASS Black Belt World, 2821 Spring Forest Road, Raleigh
November 16 9:30 am	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: <i>Holiday Book Gift Giving</i> Quail Ridge Books and Music, 3524 Wade Avenue, Raleigh, 828-1588
December 11	FUNDRAISER AT CAROLEE JEWELRY Triangle Town Center, Raleigh Proceeds will benefit Passage Home

NC Symposium 2004

**Learning Differences:
Ensuring Success for Every Mind**

Tuesday, November 9 (9:30 am-4:00 pm)
McKimmon Center, Raleigh

*Presented by the
North Carolina Medical Society Alliance*

Featuring Dr. Mel Levine

**What a great opportunity to
sponsor a child's teacher,
guidance counselor, or coach!**

For more information, contact Susan
Hammer at 848-4757

HELP WANTED

Committee Co-Chairs needed.
Membership: contact Mary Tyrey, 866-1294. Development: contact Kathy Kobs, 844-6469.

TV/Film Experience needed for NC Symposium. Contact Susan Hammer at 848-4757.

MD Connection Contacts: Morgan Ford (881-4151, morganford@nc.rr.com); Jane Patterson (844-1528, djmapat@bellsouth.net).