



# The Proceedings

A publication of the Medical Society of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties

Summer 2008

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## A Message from Our President: We Are Not Just Providers

by Joseph Simone, MD, PhD, FACS

What's in a word? Shakespeare said "that which we call a rose, by any other name would smell as sweet," so in this case he felt that the name didn't matter. However, I would argue that a great deal rests on the words that we use. Words not only define things for us, but also consciously and unconsciously affect our perceptions of things and people.

When I was a child and either I or my brother or sister became ill, my parents took us to "the doctor." There was no ambiguity about the use of that phrase and no doubt as to whom we were being taken for treatment.

When I was older and in college, and especially graduate school working on my PhD, I began to accept that there were many different types of "doctors." Some of these, such as dentists, podiatrists, chiropractors, audiologists and optometrists were directly involved with health care. Many, such as my college

professors with PhD's, were not involved with health care and spent their efforts in teaching and research. We accepted that these individuals were also entitled to the use of the term "doctor," and it became fashionable to refer to the doctors of my childhood as "physicians."

Well, this term seemed to be acceptable. Members of the medical profession have been known as physicians for centuries, and this word seems to unambiguously define what we do and who we are.

However, in the last decade or so, a new word has insinuated itself into our lexicon and is now used to describe the members of the medical profession. This word, which I am sure you now know, is "provider," and I personally do not view its introduction as benign or acceptable, and I have a personal distaste for the use of this word in describing physicians.

When this term is used to describe us it has the effect of reducing doctors (physicians) to the level of generic providers of (continued to Page 3)

## Members Attend AMA Annual Meeting

Mary Redmon, DO, KMS President; Alternate Delegates to the AMA Richard Warner, MD and Art Snow, MD; Mark Meyer, MD; and Jacque Amspacker, MSJWC Executive Director represented MSJWC at the 2008 AMA Annual Meeting held June 12 through 18 in Chicago.

New AMA president Nancy Nielsen, MD, challenged physicians to build bridges to a better health care system. Joseph McDonald, MD, an internal medicine resident at the University of Kansas Medical Center was elected to the AMA Council on Medical Education.



l to r: Mary Redmon, DO, KMS President, Joseph McDonald, MD and Mark Meyer, MD and at the 2008 AMA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

## MSJWC and CMS Collaborate on Physician Preceptor Program

The Medical Society of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties and the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid collaborated for the 21st year to organize the annual Physician Preceptor Program held on May 7th and 8th. The program gives physicians the opportunity to interact with CMS employees and others showing them the multitude of services provide to patients on a daily basis in physician offices, operating rooms, nursing homes and emergency departments.

Thirty physicians served as preceptors to nine preceptees from the Kansas City CMS Regional office, Kansas Health Institute, Kansas University and the Lawrence Journal World.



*Physician Preceptor Program Participants*

After two full days of interactions, a wrap up dinner was held at Jack Stacks, Kansas City, Mo. to allow all involved to talk together about their experiences and discuss the problems confronting medical care today. All in attendance agreed that this unique experience is enlightening for all and

allows the administrators, researchers and media to see medicine from a new and different perspective.

The Medical Society wishes to thank Dr. Art Snow, Chairman of the Physician Preceptor Program, for his continued work on this program. ■

## Resolutions Adopted at Annual KMS Meeting

The 149th Annual Meeting of the Kansas Medical Society was concluded May 3rd in Overland Park. Over 100 physician delegates from the across the state attended. Twenty-seven physicians represented the Medical Society of Johnson & Wyandotte Counties (MSJWC). The following three resolutions were brought before the House of Delegates by MSJWC:

**Resolution 08-14: KMS Physician Communication Seminar:** Resolved, that KMS periodically produce and disseminate to the membership a resource guide of programs offered on physician communication issues: and be it further

Resolved, that the KMS encourage physicians to regularly include programs on effective communication in their educational activities: and be it further

Resolved, that the Executive Committee consider presenting and / or sponsoring programs or seminars

on physician communication issues from time to time, as appropriate.

**Resolution 08-15: Early Detection Works Expansion:** Resolved, That KMS supports expansion of the Early Detection Works program to cover all eligible individuals who qualify for the program under the federal income guidelines,: and be it further

Resolved, that KMS encourages physicians to work with their local medical facilities in urging their participation in the Early Detection Work program: and be it further

Resolved, that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, in conjunction with participation facilities, develop and conduct an educational campaign designed to raise awareness in the public and among health care providers of the Early Detection Works program.

**Resolution 08-16: Support the Removal of Limiting Charges for Physicians Services:**

Resolved, that KMS will carry to the 2008 Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association a resolution to immediately call on Congress for the removal of limiting charges for physician services under Medicare and preemption of state laws limiting charges for physician services.

This resolution was introduced and adopted at the June meeting of the AMA House of Delegates.

Next year's event will be the 150th Meeting May 1 through 3, 2009 in Topeka. Mark your calendars now as you never know who may be there. ■



*Baby Jay (a.k.a. Jacque Amspacker, MSJWC Executive Director) and Mary Redmon, DO*

## United Health Care Stars Update

by James Appelbaum, MD

I wanted to give some follow-up to my last article. I wrote about losing a star for efficiency from United Healthcare (UHC). I could not understand this demotion, as I was practicing Neurology in the same manner I was last year, when I still had a star.

Dr. Mergens of United Healthcare called me two months ago and asked to meet with me to explain UHC's determination. He provided me with some details as to why I lost my "efficiency" star. It turns out I had substandard efficiency in the areas of migraine, non-hemorrhagic stroke, hereditary and congenital disease, inflammation of the CNS, and inflammatory eye disease.

As I reviewed this data, I found out some interesting things, such as:

1. I was supposed to take care of UHC stroke patients for a total cost of \$2,730.61, regardless if they had a stroke, TIA, transient global amnesia, or, in the case of one patient, vasculi-

tis of the nervous system requiring complex diagnostic testing and treatment.

2. Hereditary and congenital diseases include Parkinson's, conversion disorder, and neck pain. UHC apparently believes these diseases are the same and should cost them no more than \$1,712.48.

3. I was charged \$11,132.70 in costs for a patient I saw in the hospital after she fell and fractured her clavicle. I found she had Parkinson's and started her on Sinemet. When I saw her in office follow-up, she was very happy with the improvement in her gait and coordination.

4. I am supposed to care for MS patients for less than \$6,000 per year. The standard of care is to place these patients on immunomodulating medications, which by themselves cost more than \$14K per year. By following the standard of care, I was not being "efficient" by UHC standards.

I appealed the loss of my efficiency star. I requested a detailed explanation regarding the above, as well as several other points. I received a one-page form letter back from UHC, stating, without explanation, that my appeal was denied. I sent an email, per their instructions, asking further explanation. In their publicity, UHC stated that they educate doctors to be more efficient; I also requested education. I have received neither explanation nor education.

This behavior confirms my belief that quality control from above is irrelevant. In my opinion, UHC uses capricious and arbitrary criteria to impose quality from afar. I am not surprised by UHC's behavior, although I do appreciate their attempting to explain their position. I guess I'll have to keep practicing medicine the same inefficient manner, until the insurance company deigns to let me how to do so otherwise... ■

## Not Just Providers

(continued from Page 1)

health care and demeans our profession and what we do. I believe that the gradual introduction of this term was a premeditated act by third party payers and those in the allied health care industry to blur the distinction between doctors and anyone else who cares for patients, and would argue that we should resist using this name when we talk about members of the medical profession.

So remember the next time that someone tries to call you a provider that ours is a noble profession with centuries of tradition and that the simple truth of the matter is that there are only two people necessary for the practice of medicine — the doctor and the patient! ■

## Redmon Installed as KMS President

Mary Redmon, DO has come a ways from her roots in Inman, Kansas, as she was installed as President of the Kansas Medical Society at the annual meeting on May 2.

Dr. Redmon graduated from Kansas State University in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Bacteriology, and again with a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology in 1967. She worked as a Medical Technologist in the Microbiology Section of the Clinical Labs at the University of Kansas Medical Center until 1979 when she was accepted as a student at the University of Health Sciences, College of Osteopathic Medicine. She graduated in 1983 and did a Rotating Internship at Oklahoma Osteopathic Hospital in Tulsa, Okla-

homa. In 1987, she completed her residency in Family Medicine at the University of Kansas Medical Center where she has been an Assistant Clinical Professor ever since.

She has been a member of KMS and the AMA since 1987, and served as President of the Medical Society of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties in 2005.

She has also been active in the community with the Ozark Wilderness Waterways Club for 30 years; as a Board Member of the Wyandotte Health Council, and of Summerfest; and for 25 years, she has been the Medical Arts Symphony's principal Clarinet.

Congratulations, Dr. Redmon! ■

## Volunteers Help Care for the Low-income, Uninsured

“Twenty million working adults without health insurance equals 20 million Americans unable to access health care services on a regular basis. This is not a nameless, faceless statistic; these uninsured Americans are our neighbors, friends and families’, said John C. Nelson, MD, MPH, 2005 AMA President.”

Wy/Jo Care’s mission is to enhance access to health care and improve the health status of low-income, uninsured residents of Johnson and Wyandotte counties by partnering with safety net clinics to connect their patients with donated specialty medical services. Wy/Jo Care assists uninsured residents of

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**Bruce Aistrup MD**  
**Scott Ashcraft MD**  
**Mark Brady MD**  
**Gregory Erb MD**  
**Timothy Lair MD**  
**Michael Manalo MD**  
**Brian Mills MD**  
**Daniel Mitchell MD**

**Elizabeth Ng MD**  
**J. Chris Nichols MD**  
**Don Richter MD**  
**John Robinson MD**  
**Charles Striebinger MD**  
**Gregory Trempey MD**  
**J. Clinton Walker MD**  
**Blake Wendleburg MD**

Johnson and Wyandotte counties who are not eligible for government medical assistance programs and have a family income of less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

The Medical Society of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties Foundation

welcomes 16 specialists to the Wy/Jo Care program. These physicians join over 200 other specialists that have already become Wy/Jo Care volunteer physicians.

To learn more about volunteering call Ruth at 913.403.0544. ■

## New MSJWC Members

### **Rony Abou-Jawde MD**

*Hematology/Oncology*  
 902 North Riverside Td #200  
 St Joseph MO 64507  
 Phone: 816-271-1301  
 Fax: 816-271-1302

### **Christa Balanoff MD**

*General Surgery*  
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 Overland Park KS 66209  
 Phone: 913-469-0550  
 Fax: 913-469-5088

### **Stanley Brand MD**

*Gastroenterology*  
 5701 w 119th St #249  
 Overland Park KS 66209  
 Phone: 913-499-6901  
 Fax: 913-499-6996

### **Larry Botts MD**

*Pulmonary Medicine*  
 8901 W 74th St Ste 348  
 Shawnee Mission  
 KS 66204  
 Phone: 913-432-8000  
 Fax: 913-432-3144

### **David Hill MD**

*Otolaryngology*  
 20375 W 151st  
 Doctors Bldg 1 Ste 106  
 Olathe KS  
 Phone: 913-764-2737  
 Fax: 913-764-7502

### **Michael Hughes MD**

*Radiation Therapy*  
 6601 Winchester Ave  
 Ste 230  
 Kansas City MO 64133  
 Phone: 816-313-2677  
 Fax: 816-313-6000

### **Judy Panek MD**

*Internal Medicine*  
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 Lenexa KS 66219-1376  
 Phone: 913-410-2906

### **Scott Propeck MD**

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 7230 Renner Rd  
 Shawnee KS 66217  
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 Fax: 913-962-2422

### **Namita Sahgal MD**

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 Shawnee KS 66226  
 Phone: 913-588-1227

### **Vivek Sahgal MD**

*Infectious Disease*  
 6850 Hilltop Rd Ste 150  
 Shawnee KS 66226  
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 Fax: 913-825-1904

### **David Shaeffer MD**

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 Fax: 816-313-6000

### **Pir Shah MD**

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 Shawnee Mission KS 66224

### **Robert Tung MD**

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### **Christopher Stapley DO**

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### **Douglas Tietjen MD**

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### **Emily Venteicher, MD**

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 Fax - 913-825-0905

### **Terry Wall MD**

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### **Kathleen Weatherstone MD**

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 Fax: 913-310-0565

### **Nura Yasin MD**

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 913-310-0225  
 913-310-0565

### **Melissa Young MD**

*Family Practice*  
 10875 Grandview, Bldg 22 Ste 2200  
 Shawnee Mission KS 66210-1510 ■

## Gratzer Keynote Speaker at Recognition Dinner

David Gratzer, a physician, is a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute, will be the keynote speaker at the Medical Society of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties 2008 Recognition Dinner on September 22 at the Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park. The dinner honors the Wy/Jo Care Volunteer Physicians and the Kansas Legislators of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties.

The late Milton Friedman, Nobel Laureate in Economics, wrote that Dr. Gratzer is "a natural-born economist." David Gratzer's most recent book, with Foreword by Milton Friedman, is *The Cure: How Capitalism Can Save American Health Care*.

Previously, Dr. Gratzer authored the book *Code Blue: Reviving Canada's Health Care System*,

which was awarded the Donner Prize for best Canadian public policy book in 2000 and which is now in its fifth printing. Dr. Gratzer is also the editor of *Better Medicine*, a collection of essays from leading health care thinkers in Canada, the United States, and Europe.

He is often quoted on health matters across North America. His writing has graced the pages of more than a dozen newspapers and magazines, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *The Los Angeles Times*, and *The Weekly Standard*.

Dr. Gratzer has recently been cited in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Health Affairs*, as well as by major media outlets across the United States and Canada. He has been interviewed by dozens of the nation's top media hosts and he has

delivered keynote addresses at several major industry conferences, including the World Health Congress and the Consumer Driven Health Care Conference. He debated Congressman Gil Gutknecht on drug reimportation at the American Enterprise Institute, testified before Congress on the Health Care Choice Act, and keynoted the Long Island Health Care Summit.

Dr. Gratzer is a peer reviewer for numerous publications and organizations: the *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law*, the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, the *American Journal of Medicine*, the Max Bell Foundation, the Pacific Research Institute, and the National Center for Policy Analysis.

For more information, call Jacque Amspacher at 913.432.9444 or [medicine@msjwc.org](mailto:medicine@msjwc.org). ■

## Charity Golf Tournament Benefits Two Safety Net Clinics

The Medical Society of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties Charity Golf Tournament held on May 22 raised \$7,500 for the Turner House Children's Clinic, Kansas City, Kansas and the Health Partnership Clinic, Overland Park. Thirty-two golfers enjoyed the two person scramble The Golf Club of Kansas, Lenexa, a new venue for the tournament.

For more than fifteen years, the Turner House Clinic for Children has been dedicated to providing comprehensive healthcare to the medically uninsured and underserved children of Kansas City, Kansas, and its surrounding communities. They believe every child deserves access to quality healthcare, therefore they seek to improve the general health

and development of our community's children by offering them the best in medical care and health education.

The Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County is the result of a community effort begun in 1990 to address access to health care for Johnson County residents with lower incomes and no medical insurance. The Clinic offers general family practice and internal medicine, pediatrics, allergy and chronic disease clinics. The clinic is a critical health resource for Johnson County residents, drawing on professional staff and volunteer physicians to provide health services to 2,000 individuals a year.

Dr. Cran Cederlind, tournament chairman and his committee, Dr. Larry Batty, Dr. Larry Drahota, Dr.

Robert Jackson, Dr. David Morgan, Dr. Thomas Olson, Dr. David Owens, Dr. Art Snow, Dr. Larry Riffell and Jacque Amspacher deserve congratulations for putting on this outstanding charity event. Also a special thank you to the tournament sponsors:

- KaMMCO
- Olathe Medical Center
- Shawnee Mission Medical Center
- Menorah Medical Staff
- St. Luke's South Medical Staff
- Olathe Medical Center Medical Staff
- Providence Medical Center Medical Staff
- Shawnee Mission Medical Center Medical Staff ■

*The Medical Society's mission:*

*To promote high standards of medical care for residents of Johnson and Wyandotte counties, advance the medical knowledge of members, and encourage enforcement of equitable medical laws and regulations.*



Medical Society of  
Johnson and Wyandotte Counties  
6405 Metcalf Avenue, Suite 507  
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# *Please, Plan to Attend*

The Medical Society of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties

## *2008 Recognition Dinner*

*Tuesday, September 23*

Overland Park Convention Center  
6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, Kansas

6:00 p.m. - Drinks                      6:30 p.m. - Buffet

7:00 p.m. - Recognition Program

7:15 p.m. - Keynote Address

### *Honoring:*

The Wy/Jo Care Volunteer Physicians and the  
Kansas Legislators of Johnson and Wyandotte Counties

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### *Keynote Speaker: David Gratzner, MD*

Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute and Author of:  
*The Cure: How Capitalism Can Save American Health Care*  
*Code Blue: Reviving Canada's Health Care System*