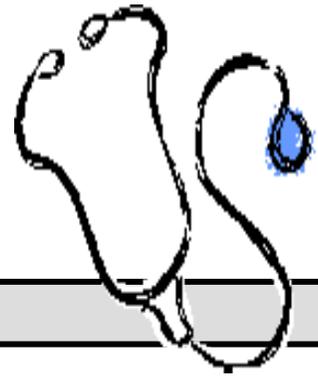


The Stethoscope



Quarterly newsletter of the Erie County Medical Society

Fall 2015 Issue



Timothy D Pelkowski, MD
President



Renee C. Kubeja
Executive Administrator
rkubeja@pamedsoc.org



1438 West 38th Street
Erie, PA 16508
Phone: 814-866-6820
Fax: 814-864-6199
Hours: 8:00am – 4:30pm

ErieCountyMedicalSociety.org

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Erie County (PA)
Medical Society



President's Note...

Timothy D. Pelkowski, MD is sworn in as Erie County Medical Society's 139th President

Distinguished colleagues and guests: Thank you all for coming out tonight. I consider it an honor and privilege to be your 139th president of the Erie County Medical Society. I look forward to working with the Board and all of the Erie County Medical Society members over the next two years.

I would like to begin this evening by extending a number of well-deserved thanks. First, I would like you all to join me in thanking Paul Malasapina, MD, for his service and leadership as our most recent President. His efforts have been outstanding over these past two years. In addition I would like to extend my thanks to the Erie County Medical Society Board. In particular I would like to note those Board members that have left over this past year. These include Christopher Clark, DO, Frank Foti, MD, Robert Haverly, MD, Craig Johnston, DO, Charles Joy, MD, Nathan Moore, MD, and Eardly Wickramasinghe, MD. They have all provided many years of service that has been greatly appreciated. I also want to thank Renee Kubeja, Executive Administrator of the Erie County Medical Society, and Janet Thompson, our Membership Liaison to the Pennsylvania Medical Society. These two keep the Erie County Medical Society on task and their tireless efforts are always appreciated. Thanks and welcome also needs to be extended to our Pennsylvania Medical Society guests tonight. These include Michael Fraser, PhD, Executive Vice President of the Pennsylvania Medical Society and John Gallagher, MD, District 8 Trustee of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to my family who joins me tonight. They include my wife Cassie, as well as my three children, Sarah, Katherine, and Andrew. Finally, I am honored to have my parents, Dan and Gerri, here tonight.

I could begin tonight by listing the trials and tribulations that our profession has been subjected to but I know we are all well aware of these challenges. Regulation, reimbursement, and the erosion of our profession would be some of the central themes. Rather, I would like to focus on some of the rewarding aspects of our profession and their specific overlap with the Erie County Medical Society. Since my involvement on the board, I have observed many of the vital roles that the Erie County Medical Society fosters in our profession and several resonate with me. The Erie County Medical Society has specifically helped to sharpen my focus on community service, advocacy, and professional fellowship. Let's briefly examine each of these roles.

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One of the most visible and primary roles of the Erie County Medical Society is that of providing community service. This organization directly contributes to the care of the Erie community through a large number of activities. These programs have included the Erie Healthcare Collaborative, annual health fair, public service announcements, Sheltering the Community events, and Docs on Call. These varied events strengthen our community and allow us to do what we as physicians do best: helping others. There is no better way to be involved with community service than through our organization and it enjoys a rich history in that area.



Paul Malaspina, MD passes the Presidential Gavel to Timothy Pelkowski, MD

Advocacy is another of the vital strengths of this organization. There is frequently the lamentation that we have no more control in the profession of medicine. The Erie County Medical Society is a voice that is heard through organized medicine at the Pennsylvania Medical Society as well as locally. The Pennsylvania Medical Society has been active as a number of us on the Board heard when serving at the House of Delegates for the Pennsylvania Medical Society this past October. They were most recently exploring such topics as the legalization of medical marijuana, universal access for immunizations, the transparency of hospital costs for patients, and strategies for reducing healthcare disparities to name just a few areas. These are essential issues for the health of our patients and your Erie County Medical Society is contributing. It is easy to dismiss the problems in our profession as not our worry or concern or that we have no control. We cannot let this be an excuse for inaction and we cannot abdicate our professional responsibility to our patients and our profession. This is a transformational time in medicine and organized medicine serves a vital role in helping us safeguard our profession and better care for our patients.



Paul Malaspina, MD with his wife, Debbie

The last aspect I will discuss is that of professional fellowship. So often in the course of our work there can be a focus on all that divides us. Medicine versus surgery, primary versus subspecialty care, the Boomer versus the Millennial generation, office based versus hospital based care, employed versus self-employed, Allopathic versus Osteopathic, practicing physician versus administration, and last but not least that of competing healthcare institutions. Over the course of my involvement in the Erie County Medical Society I have been pleased to see these barriers fall away when interacting with my colleagues. It filters down to one group of physicians trying to do their best to take care of patients and the community in which they reside. It is this sense of overwhelming professional fellowship that I find the most rewarding at the Erie County Medical Society. I believe that it is this, above all else, that has allowed

the Erie County Medical Society to endure since its inception in 1828. Do not lose sight on the age of this organization, there is a reason the Erie County Medical Society has endured for so long. It is up to all of us to ensure that it remains a vibrant organization into the future.

In conclusion, we are blessed to serve in this profession and I feel Erie has a tremendous resource in its local physicians. I am proud to call all of you colleagues and to work with all of you for the health of our community especially through our roles in community service, advocacy, and professional fellowship. Erie County has a rich medical history and I believe that each of us can contribute to that ongoing story in our own way. Charles H. Mayo, one of the founding members of the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota, noted that "Medicine is about as big or as little in any community, large or small, as the physicians make it." My hope is to make our presence be as significant as possible in our community and I hope you will join me in allowing the Erie County Medical Society to make medicine as large a presence as it can be in our community. I encourage you to become involved with the society. I am confident that in the end you will take away from that experience more than you give.

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Before I close I wanted to make a final acknowledgement for the evening. Renee Kubeja, Executive Administrator of the Erie County Medical Society, will be retiring at the end of this year. She has been with the Erie County Medical Society for 15 years. On behalf of the Board and all of the members of the Erie County Medical Society we wish her the best with this change. She has been invaluable to the organization and she will be greatly missed. Please join me in thanking and congratulating Renee for her years of service and devotion to this organization. We all wish her, her husband Dave, and her three sons; Adam, Paul, and Eric all the very best in their future. ♦

Congratulations Dr. Falasca!



Dr Falasca is pictured with Silvia Ferretti, DO, LECOM Provost, Senior Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs

ECMS member, **Thomas D. Falasca, DO** was the recipient of the John M. and Silvia Ferretti Award for Distinguished Teaching.

This award is presented to a member of the Clinical Faculty who has been recognized for outstanding service in stimulating and guiding the intellectual development of the students at the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine.

This award is dedicated by Anthony J. Ferretti, Jr., DO, John M. Ferretti, DO and Silvia Ferretti, DO in honor of their parents, John and Silvia Ferretti.



Dr. Falasca was honored at the LECOM graduation award luncheon on May 29th at the Ambassador Banquet Hall.

Congratulations

to
David W. Doupé, MD, MPH
John T. Schaaf, MD

for celebrating 50 years in the practice of medicine.

Dr. Doupé and Dr. Schaaf were honored at the recent ECMS Annual Dinner and Business Meeting

A Special Thank You to

Dr. Warren Beaver
Dr. Charles R. Joy
Dr. Paul & Debbie Malaspina
Dr. Limjadi Santoso

for graciously donating to the ECMS Capital Fund to help with the upkeep of our office building.

If you would like to make a donation, please contact the ECMS office at 866-6820. Thank you!



*All of us at the
Erie County Medical Society
would like to wish
our members and colleagues
a very wonderful Holiday Season and hopes
for a very happy 2016.*

Welcome New Members

April 1 – October 31, 2015

Active Members

Ruel Taylor, DO - *Urology*
David Seastone, DO – *Hematology/Oncology*

Resident Members

Kasey Gillett, DO ♦ Vanessa Emdadi, DO

Student Members

Joan Cullen ♦ Curtis Ingold ♦ Ryan Sadloo

Administrative Members

Julie Noonan ♦ David Markiewicz
Anne Frew ♦ Sherri Hodge ♦ Lori Krahe

Thank You

As I'm sure most of you know, I am retiring from ECMS at the end of this year. I want to thank each of you for your support of the Medical Society which provided me the opportunity to work, learn and grow with such a great organization over the past 15 years. I have met and worked with so many wonderful people and for that I am grateful and will miss very much.

We will keep you informed as the new Executive position is filled and the hours of operation here at the office.

Thank you all so very much.

Renee



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Your Mcare Refund

On November 16, 2015, Mcare mailed notice letters to physicians and medical practices with information about assessment refunds for their Mcare coverage.

Your next steps to ensure proper payment of the refunds for your coverage depend upon the designation of the refund. You should make your payment choices for claimed refunds by December 30, 2015.



Go to www.mcarerefund.org for additional information on the entire process. Included are three video tutorials which provide physicians with an overview of the refund notice letter and also walks you through the steps of making a payment choice submission.

Also, be sure to click on the link *"Quick Consult on Mcare Refund Notice Letter"* for additional detailed information on your next steps and the payment of refunds.

Meet Your 2015 – 2017 ECMS Board of Directors



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