

The Stethoscope



Quarterly newsletter of the Erie County Medical Society

Spring 2016 Issue



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President



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ErieCountyMedicalSociety.org

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Erie County (PA)
Medical Society



President's Note...

Medical Marijuana

Currently 23 states and the District of Columbia have legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes. Four states have passed recreational marijuana laws and they include Alaska, Colorado, Oregon, and Washington. The Pennsylvania State legislature will be reconsidering Senate Bill 3, also known as the Medical Cannabis Act, to consider the legalization of medicinal marijuana in our state sometime in 2016. Marijuana is currently classified as a Schedule I substance by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which indicates this as a substance with no accepted medical use.

Marijuana is derived from the cannabis plant. The most commonly used species is *Cannabis sativa*. There are over 400 chemicals in cannabis with the major psychoactive chemical being delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol. It is this component that causes the "high" associated with marijuana. Other components of marijuana have been labeled cannabinoids and are felt to have no psychoactive effects but possible medicinal properties. Cannabis was used for medical purposes early in the history of the United States and at one time it appeared in the U.S. Pharmacopoeia.

There are two synthetic cannabinoids, nabilone and dronabinol, that are similar to marijuana cannabinoids and are approved by the FDA for use in the treatment of chemotherapy-induced vomiting. These oral medications have been available since the 1980s and are not considered first line therapies for this condition. Marijuana has been suggested to be beneficial for a number of conditions. These include epilepsy, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, pain management, sleep disorders, and Tourette syndrome. The medical literature on the use of medical marijuana is not regarded as robust. The current evidence of its effectiveness would typically not meet the standards required for the approval of other drugs by the FDA. There appears to be no common etiology among the different conditions that cite benefit from medical marijuana. This has raised concerns in the medical community given this lack of a common mechanism of action.

There have been a number of adverse effects associated with the use of marijuana noted in the literature. These include impaired driving,

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neurological and psychiatric effects, dependence, tolerance, hyperemesis, increased risk of myocardial infarction, head and neck cancers, and lung cancer. Physicians need to be cognizant of these risks when weighing in on this issue in our State. A large number of medical societies have noted that they do not fully support medical marijuana without further evidence and these include the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Neurology, American Academy of Ophthalmology, American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychiatric Association.

The current Medical Cannabis Act in Pennsylvania would allow for the dispensing of medical marijuana in multiple forms. The current version of the bill in Pennsylvania has 15 qualified medical conditions for the use of medical marijuana. These include amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, cachexia, cancer, chronic pain, Crohn's disease, diabetes mellitus, glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, posttraumatic stress disorder, seizures, severe fibromyalgia, spinocerebellar ataxia, and traumatic brain injury or postconcussive syndrome. There has been concern that legalizing medical marijuana would trigger a new Pennsylvania industry worth millions per year with the concomitant concern that the State is looking at this revenue more than the evidence regarding the use of medical marijuana.

The Erie County Medical Society and the Pennsylvania Medical Society are monitoring this legislation. This issue was discussed at the 2015 Annual Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates meeting in Hershey this past October. Testimony was heard from Pennsylvania physicians as well as patient advocacy groups on this topic. After deliberation it was decided that the Pennsylvania Medical Society would not support the Medical Cannabis Act but rather advocated for more research in the area of medical marijuana. Both the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the American Medical Society have requested the FDA to relax marijuana's Schedule I status to facilitate research in this area. It is hoped that with more information a better decision can be made on the use of this agent for medical purposes. I encourage all Erie County physicians to maintain an awareness of this evolving issue.

References:

- Albertson TR, Chenoweth J, Colby DK, Sutter, ME. FP Essentials 441. The changing drug culture. American Academy of Family Physicians. 2015. 11-17.
- "Is marijuana medicine." Pennsylvania Medical Society. 2015. www.pamedsoc.org/IsMarijuanaMedicine.
- Wilkinson ST, D'Souza DC. Problems with the medicalization of marijuana. JAMA. 2014. 311(23): 2377-8.
- "Is marijuana medicine." Pennsylvania Medical Society. 2015. www.pamedsoc.org/IsMarijuanaMedicine.



Meet Dr. Wienecke



Dr Kelli Wienecke

Kelli Wienecke, DO, is a family physician currently practicing at Millcreek Family Practice in Erie, Pennsylvania. Originally from Coatesville, PA, she took her undergraduate degree in biology from Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA, and completed medical school at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. Her internship and residency in family medicine were completed at Saint Vincent Hospital. Dr. Wienecke is a board member of Erie County Medical Society, which she serves as secretary, and was recently engaged to prepare both TV spots and print articles to promote health education throughout Northwestern Pennsylvania.

“Dr. Kelli,” as she is affectionately known by patients and coworkers, is proud to call herself an Erie-ite by choice. She is an active member of her church and greatly enjoys volunteering in her adopted community. Kelli’s hobbies include yoga, hiking at Presque Isle, and cooking. She has a long history of involvement in musical organizations and is a member of the Erie Philharmonic Chorus.

She is eager to serve her fellow physicians as an ECMS board member and can be reached at kwienecke@svhs.org.

“Docs On Call”

“Docs on Call” is back! The Pennsylvania Medical Society and Erie County Medical Society are now teaming up with WJET on

Monday, May 24^h from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

to offer a “Docs on Call” program to the community. “Docs on Call” connects physician members with WJET viewers in order to answer questions and discuss concerns. The public service program is open to anyone, anonymously, and free of charge.

Physicians interested in volunteering for this event should contact JoAnn Lyons at 866-6820 or jlyons@pamedsoc.org



Welcome Aboard!

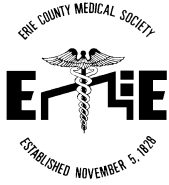
JoAnn Lyons joined the Erie County Medical Society as our new Executive Administrator on March 14, 2016.

After graduating with a BA in business/marketing, JoAnn began her career in Washington, D.C. with the May Company/Kaufmanns Division. She worked for the company for 28 years; 16 of those years as VP and General Manager of Kaufmann’s in Erie. She has done extensive volunteer work in fundraising for the Regional Cancer Center, the Bayfront Center for Maritime Studies and as Alumni Coordinator for the Erie Day School. She was a member of the ETN Advisory Panel in 2008. JoAnn and her husband Peter have a son who resides in New York City.

Welcome New Members

November 1, 2015 – February 29, 2016

- Ghassen Samir Abu-Hamad, MD- Vascular Surgery
- Matthew L. Behan, DO – Behavioral Health
- Anthony Behm, DO – Internal Medicine
- Ravi Chekka, MD – Pediatrics
- Bart A. Chess, MD – Vascular Surgery
- Lisa T. Cooper, MD – Anesthesia
- Ashi R. Daftary, MD – Maternal Fetal Medicine
- Constantine M. Dy, MD – Hospitalist
- Danh C. Huynh, DO – Hospitalist
- Divya Jain, MD – Family Medicine
- Alfred D. Jenkins, MD – Gynecological Oncology
- Gurjaipal S. Kang, MD – Cardiology
- Dawn Elizabeth Karns, DO – Emergency Medicine
- Tyner Joraas Kuehn, DO – Internal Medicine
- Jennifer Louise Lutschik, MD – Occupational Medicine
- Brendan Marr, MD – General Surgery
- Emily Parkman Morrison, DO – Emergency Medicine
- Satish C. Muluk, MD – Vascular Surgery
- Patrick J. Murphy, MD – Family Medicine
- Richard Redlinger, MD – Vascular Surgery
- Craig Joseph Rush, DO – Psychiatry
- Shameen Salam, MD – Pulmonary Disease
- Patricia Salvador, MD – Infectious Disease
- Khoa Q. Tran, MD – Behavioral Health
- Navalkishor R. Udgiri, MD – Vascular Surgery
- Paul Joel Weinbaum, MD -



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Get Practical Expert Advice at PAMED's Spring Practice Manager Meeting

UPDATES ON THESE TOPICS:

- New payment models under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA)
- MU/PQRS updates
- Revalidation
- Advance care planning and other reimbursement opportunities
- Prior authorization
- "Surprise billing"
- Controlled substances database
- Telemedicine

Live Webcast – Wednesday May 11, 2016

8:30 – 11:00 AM

Connect right from your office using the webcast option. Call-in information will be provided upon registration.

Or in person . . .

April 21, 2016, Noon – 2:00 PM

713 Ridge Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15212

April 26, 2016 11:30 AM – 1:30PM

1280 Highway 315, Wilkes-Barre, AP 18702

May 11, 2016, 8:30 – 11:00 AM

777 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17111

REGISTER AT WWW.PAMEDSOC.ORG/MANAGERMEETING

2015 – 2017 ECMS Board of Directors



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