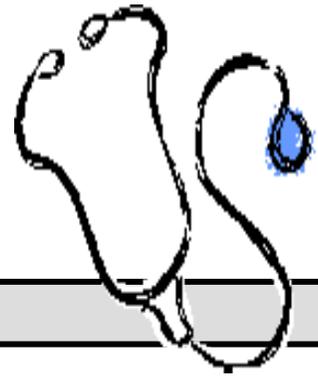


The Stethoscope



Quarterly newsletter of the Erie County Medical Society

Winter 2015 Issue



Paul J. Malaspina, MD
President



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ErieCountyMedicalSociety.org

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President's Note...

BAGs of M&M's

To most of the general public, M&M's are the colorful coated chocolate candies produced by Mars, Incorporated. The two "Ms" stand for the names of Forrest Mars, Sr, the company founder, and Bruce Murrie, son of Hershey Chocolate's president William Murrie. Through this association the candies were made with Hershey chocolate, as Hershey had control of government rationed chocolate at the time. Production began in 1941 during World War II, and the candies were exclusively sold to the US military. In more recent years candy characters were created for advertising. "Red" is the mascot on the bags of the milk chocolate M&M's, and "Yellow" is on the bags of Peanut M&M's.

To most doctors, M&M's are Morbidity and Mortality conferences, typically monthly meetings where physicians review complications and deaths in their clinical area of an institution. Boston surgeon Ernest Amory Codman, MD is widely regarded as the father of the M&M process. Codman was a pioneer whose contributions included what in modern terms is the organized study of medical outcomes.

Codman joined the surgical staff of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) and was a member of the Harvard Medical School faculty. While there, he had instituted the first Morbidity and Mortality conferences, but in 1914 the hospital refused his plan for evaluating surgeon competence, and he lost his staff privileges at MGH. Proceeding undaunted, his approach became part and parcel of the training of surgeons in the United States, and the M&M quality platform has been widely adopted by non-surgical disciplines. With his interest in medical quality, Dr. Codman was a founder of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) and the ACS Hospital Standardization Program, which eventually gave rise to the Joint Commission (formerly JCAH then JCAHO).

Morbidity and Mortality conferences are usually peer reviews of complications occurring during the care of patients. Conference objectives are to learn from complications and to discern any errors which occurred. M&M's are best conducted as non-punitive conferences which focus on the goal of improved patient care. Case-based presentations are made and evidence-based discussions follow. Intellectual honesty is expected and critical thinking ensues. By these virtues, M&M's are of key importance in helping physicians keep current and fine-tune their practices. M&M's also identify systems issues such as policies and processes which negatively impact patient care.

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The phrase "evidence-based" was first used by David M. Eddy, MD, PhD in mathematically analyzing patient population-level policies, and later the development of clinical practice guidelines. By now, "evidence-based medicine" has become a generalized term for the emphasis on data (over dictums) in medical decision making. Physicians have been very accepting of this philosophy, but it seems regulators have quite forgotten it applied to them first.

In our current era, bureaucrats, administrators and governmental entities promulgate well-intentioned policies and processes which none-the-less often negatively impact patient care. Our daily lives in practice are saturated with documentation requirements, coding requirements, compliance requirements and many other forms of make-work which keep us from our real work and contribute nothing to patient outcomes.

Bureaucrats, administrators and governments promulgating rules which impact physicians should be required to participate in M&M processes as well, evaluating the results of their own decisions for evidence of benefit, burden or harm; these would be the new *BAGs of M&M's*. ♦

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2014

Active Members

Kevin Fisher, MD – Radiation Oncology

Ruben Kuruvilla, MD - Ophthalmology

Charles Perrotta, MD – Child / Adolescent Psychiatry

Peter Sciarrino, MD - Urology

Student Member

Jason Cottrell

CONGRATULATIONS!

to our County President

PAUL J. MALASPINA, MD, FACS

For being elected as a member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons



Dr. Malaspina's responsibility as a Governor is to represent the Fellows of the American College of Surgeons and to act as the official liaison between Fellows and the Board of Regents which formulates policy and directs the affairs of the College.

Dr. Malaspina received his medical degree from Temple University School of Medicine. He served his surgical residency at Temple University Hospital where he was a Clinical Instructor of Surgery during his year as Chief Resident and was a member of the Hospital's Ethics Committee. He received numerous awards during his residency years.

Dr. Malaspina created the storage system that came to be known as the Pedi-PRO (Professional Resuscitation Organizer), a traveling emergency room kit designed to bring the ER to on-scene emergencies. With this invention, he was named the grand prize winner of the 2010 InnovationErie Design Competition.

Dr. Malaspina is an active staff member at UPMC Hamot Medical Center and practices at Great Lakes Surgical Specialists / UPMC Hamot Shock Trauma.

"DOCS ON CALL"

"Docs on Call" is coming back to Erie. After a several year hiatus, the Pennsylvania Medical Society and Erie County Medical Society are now teaming up with Fox Erie on

Monday, May 11th from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

to offer its "Docs on Call" program to the community. "Docs on Call" connects physician members with Fox Erie viewers in order to answer questions and discuss medical concerns. The public service program is open to anyone, anonymously, and free of charge.



Physicians interested in volunteering for this event should contact Renee Kubeja at 866-6820 or rkubeja@pamedsoc.org

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY

to the families of our deceased members



William F. Brereton, MD

November 11, 2014

George J. D'Angelo, MD

November 23, 2014

Paul W. Layden, Sr., MD

November 29, 2014

WATCH YOUR MAIL FOR UPCOMING EVENTS



Practice Administrator Meeting - April
Wine Tasting Social Event - May

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY AND PAMED MEMBERSHIP?

If you've already renewed your membership, thank you for your continued support.

If you haven't renewed, don't miss a day of membership.
Renew today and continue to support a strong physician voice in Pennsylvania.

PAMED membership allows you to obtain free CME, helps you stay in compliance with new regulations, saves your staff time with practice support, provides opportunities to make a difference at the grassroots level, and more.

TOOLS YOU CAN USE:

- Quick Consult: provides an overview of new laws and regulations – www.pamedsoc.org/quickconsult
- Daily Dose: daily all-member email
- Medicare Physician Fee Schedule: information about changes that affect your reimbursement – www.pamedsoc.org/2015Medicarefees
- 2015 Medical Record Copying Fees: www.pamedsoc.org/copyingfees
- Life of Medicine Resources: resources for your life as a physician – www.pamedsoc.org/lifeofmedicine
- Match-a-Member Mentoring Program: designed to match mentors and mentees – www.pamedsoc.org/mentoring
- Leadership Resources: www.pamedsoc.org/leadershipacademy
- Educational Webinars and Videos: www.pamedsoc.org/webinars
- Weekly Capitol Update Blog: www.pamedsoc.org/capitolupdate
- Quality & Value Blog: www.pamedsoc.org/qualityblog

Your membership ensures that you have a voice and access to the resources you need.
Let us take the uncertainty about tomorrow out of your day.

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www.pamedsoc.org/renew

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PREFERRED METHOD OF COMMUNICATION

Please take a minute to let us know if you would prefer to receive *The Stethoscope* via Mail, Email, or Fax



Contact Renee at 866-6820 or rkubeja@pamedsoc.org to indicate your preference

Make sure we have your correct fax number and/or email address

Thank You!

PAMED 2015 ADVOCACY PRIORITIES

- ♦ Physician-led, team-based care
- ♦ Regulations allowing pharmacists to manage medication levels with a physician collaborative agreement
- ♦ Supporting legislation requiring prompt physician credentialing
- ♦ Protecting employed physicians' ability to exercise clinical judgment and prohibit non-compete clauses in employment contracts
- ♦ Supporting increased medical student loan forgiveness in underserved areas
- ♦ Removing barriers to the expansion of telemedicine
- ♦ Requiring providers to be straightforward and fully transparent about licensing and board certification in advertisements
- ♦ Permanent repeal of the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) Medicare payment formula (federal)



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MARK YOUR CALENDAR	GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING	VIRTUAL/LIVE ICD-10 TRAINING WORKSHOP
	<p>Wednesday, March 4, 2015</p> <p>Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center Hemingway Room</p> <p>5:30 pm Registration</p> <p>◆◆◆</p> <p>6:00 pm Dinner / Presentation Business Meeting</p> <p>Watch your mail for formal invitation</p>	<p>IS YOUR PRACTICE READY TO ADAPT TO ICD-10?</p> <p>PAMED Presents</p> <p>“ICD-10: Practice Preparedness & Pitfalls”</p> <p>Thursday, March 19, 2015 9:00 – 11:30 am</p> <p>Participate from your home or office online through streaming video or with a group by attending in person at</p> <p>LECOM Medical Fitness & Wellness Center 5401 Peach Street ◆◆◆ Registration and Breakfast: 8:00 – 9:00 am (Limited Seating)</p> <p>\$120 – Members ◆ \$225 – Non-Members</p> <p><i>Call 866-6820 for more information</i></p>