

# President's Message

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I have enjoyed participating on the executive committee for the past six years and now, it is an honor and privilege to serve as President of the Wake County

Medical Society for 2009. Building on the great achievements of the past decade, there is one specific goal I have in mind for the Society this year: namely, to increase our membership in numbers and participation. Our society has served as a social, political and functional society for physicians and the patients being served in Wake County.

Due to the rapid growth of our area and the technological advances such as email, we have lost momentum in our social interaction and our membership percentage has dropped. As a specialist I have paid annual dues to many acronyms: the AAO, ASRS, NCSEPS, AMA, NCMS, and WCMS. But if I had to limit it to one, it would be an easy decision to make it the WCMS.

I am intrigued by the slogan "Think globally, act locally" and I feel that the WCMS is the most effective way for me to achieve that. On several occasions I have heard, "What does the WCMS do for me?" I can't help but to borrow a line from JFK, "Ask not what your society can do for you, but what can you do for your society". That is my challenge this year...what else can we do?

We should be proud of Wake County Medical Society and its programs. While this will take more space than usually allotted for a typical "Presidents Column", I would like to outline the activities and programs to emphasize their worth and to give proper credit to Paul Harrison, our Executive

Director, and the 45 paid employees of the Society.

**Project Access** - Four hundred and fifty physicians participate in a volunteer medical service program designed to meet the medical needs of Wake County residents who have no health insurance, and income below 185% of the poverty guideline. Since the inception of the program in 2001, 7,000 patients have been referred to volunteer physicians. Hospitals and physicians have donated more than \$50 million of care.

**Capital Care Collaborative (CCC)** is a membership of safety net providers working collaboratively to develop initiatives to improve the health of the regions medically underserved. The CCC utilizes centralized, web-based tools to assist local health care safety net providers in more efficiently providing services, thus having a positive impact on a provider's capacity to serve the uninsured with high quality medical care.

**The Community Care Program of Wake and Johnston Counties** - has created private and public partnerships to improve performance with disease management such as asthma and diabetes for ACCESS Medicaid recipients. Our goal is to build a community-based system that will achieve access, quality, utilization and cost objectives.

**The Fragile Children's Program (Medicaid CAP-C)** - The fragile Children Program is a special Medicaid program that targets medically fragile children, regardless of insurance, who meet the eligibility criteria for institutional care. The Fragile Children's Program in Wake and Johnston Counties has a team of RN's who inten-



sively case manage these children so they are able to be cared for at home instead of an institution.

**NC Vaccines for Adolescents Program** - The goal of the program is to increase NC adolescent immunization rates. The vaccination rate for 125,000 eleven to twelve-year-old North Carolinians is unacceptably low. Based on statewide 2008 data the immunization rates for adolescents by vaccine type follows: Meningococcal disease 9.7%, Tdap 16.3%, HPV 9.6%, MMR 40.14% (Note: there is a new requirement that all twelve-year-olds receive the Tdap vaccine to continue in school.)

**Su Hogar Medico** - This program, supported by a grant through the John Rex Endowment, is a pilot to develop the Spanish linguistic and cultural capacity in primary care offices. The grant funds will be used to support the hiring of practice liaisons for primary care practices. The liaisons will serve as interpreters while the practices are building their internal bilingual capacity as well as foster system change within the practice and create links to community resources external to the practices.

**The Wake County Physician** - is a publication for and by the members of the Wake County Medical Society. It is published in January, April, July and October. [Continued on page 3]

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The Wake County Physician is a magazine with appeal to the family of medicine in Wake County and to the larger world beyond bound together by scientific, intellectual and artistic glue. It is published with the collaboration of the Alliance, bringing together Wake County medical families through words and pictures. For fourteen years it has been a powerful instrument to attract members to organized medicine, particularly the WCMS, NCMS and AMA. It is hoped that these highlights will invite each and every one of you

to become an active, participating, dues paying member of our local organization that really makes a difference in the lives of Wake County citizens. You may recognize something that one of these programs can do to assist you and your patients. I welcome ANY advice and/or suggestions that you feel would improve our Society. Thank you for being a part of it, I look forward to 2009 being a better year for us all. §

# GOOD OLD DAYS

## LOOKING BACK AT NORTH CAROLINA



1944 Mary Elizabeth Hospital Operating Room



1947 Mobile X-Ray Unit Trailer



Sanatorium Fire Department (1940's)



1940 Dental care



1940 Army Nurses



1917 NC Oxypathor Exhibit (possibly at the NC State Fair)

reacts to stimuli in a series of electrical bursts, spanning a complex map of connections. To keep this fascinating machine functioning and intact, it must be constantly stimulated and exercised. Whether it is calculating an algorithm or memorizing Lorenzo De Ponte's libretto for Mozart operas or the poetry Wordsworth, or the prose of Ibn Khaldoun,

the brain must keep working to stay alert and fresh.

As physicians we are blessed with the gifts of intellect and compassion. Our patients are getting greyer. We must encourage them to continue to exercise their brains and perhaps as their role models continue to be avid "memorizers" ourselves. §