

Florida Board of Medicine

January 2010

Dear Colleagues and Interested Citizens,

As your new chair for the Florida Board of Medicine, I would like to extend my best wishes for a happy and healthy 2010.

In the tradition of the chairs that preceded me I intend to continue to reach out via these quarterly newsletters. In so doing, we can enhance communication between physicians, citizens, and the Board of Medicine/Department of Health to fulfill our mission of improving patient safety and the quality of care throughout our state.

I am honored to have been entrusted with this new opportunity to continue to serve the people of Florida, and I would like to thank Dr. Fred Bearison, our immediate past chair for his excellent work, leadership and commitment to the Board and its mission. I would also like to thank my fellow board members, counsel, and staff for their diligence and dedication.

For those who don't know me, I am a pediatrician, fellowship-trained and board certified in adolescent medicine. I have been practicing and teaching since 1992 at the University of Miami, Miller School of Medicine.

This year, I intend to continue to build on the work of past chairs and Department initiatives. In addition, the Board will be active in developing rules for the regulation of pain clinics as dictated by the Florida legislature. Maintaining professional and ethical standards and ensuring patient safety and the quality of care that our citizens deserve in the state of Florida continues to be our top priority. In particular, I would like to start a new initiative that invites medical student leaders from each of our medical schools to be recognized by the board of medicine. They are the future of our profession!

It would be helpful to hear your constructive comments and concerns. Our board staff works diligently under the leadership of Mr. Larry McPherson, Executive Director, and our board counsel Mr. Ed Tellechea and staff, and we are all available to answer your questions and to help in whatever way we can.

Please find below information regarding the board's recent activities. If you have any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached through Crystal Sanford at (Crystal_Sanford@doh.state.fl.us).

The greatest mistake in the treatment of diseases is that there are physicians for the body and physicians for the soul, although the two cannot be separated. ~Plato

Thanks for all that you do!

Best,
Onelia G. Lage, MD
Chair, Florida Board of Medicine

Highlights of the December 4-5, 2009 Board of Medicine Meeting

85 Disciplinary Hearings Scheduled:	
46	Settlement Agreements
6	Informal Hearings
7	Informal Hearing by Default
23	Voluntary Relinquishments
3	Recommended Orders

Board Final Action – cases pending	
40	MDs/PAs placed under obligations *
23	MDs/PAs voluntarily relinquished * This category includes 14 Electrologists
6	MDs/PAs suspended *
4	MDs/PAs revoked*
2	MDs/PAs on probation
4	Cases dismissed
6	Cases continued

* See bottom of email for explanation of penalties.

The Credentials Committee, Rules/Legislative Committee, and the Surgical Care/Quality Assurance Committee met on the first day of the meeting to conduct their regular business. The Board also held their elections and the following 2010 leaders were selected:

Onelia Lage, M.D. elected Chair

Michael Chizner, M.D. elected Vice Chair

George Thomas, M.D. elected First Vice Chair

Steven Rosenberg, M.D. elected Second Vice Chair

To view the minutes for any of these meetings, go to our web site and click on *Minutes*.

Update on Pain Clinic Registration and Inspection Program

The Joint Pain Clinic Standard of Practice Committee has met several times since SB 462 was signed into law. A proposed rule has been developed and will be reviewed by the Committee at the next meeting scheduled for January 23, 2010 at the Hilton Tampa Airport Westshore, 2225 North Lois Avenue, Tampa, Florida 33601, (813) 877-6688. To view the proposed rule, please go to our website – it should be available for review prior to the meeting date. If you have comments for the Committee's review, please fax them to (850) 412-1261 or send to Ms. Sanford at Crystal_Sanford@doh.state.fl.us.

It's Renewal Time Again

If your license expires January 31, 2010, you have just a little longer to renew your license. Renewing online is a time saver plus you can print a temporary license to verify renewal until your license comes in the mail. This can be handy when applying for or renewing staff privileges, applying for licensure in other states and applying to become an insurance provider.

Remember you are now required to complete the physician workforce survey at renewal. If you elect to renew your license by mail instead of online, be sure to go to our web site to download the survey, complete it and return it with your renewal. Failure to complete the survey will result in a fine and inability to renew at your next renewal cycle.

This is also a good opportunity for you to review and update your practitioner profile. Remember, updates are required within 15 days of any change. So, it would be a good idea to check your profile periodically, but definitely at renewal.

CME Requirements

If this is your *first renewal after licensure*, then you must complete:

- 1 hour HIV/AIDS
- 2 hours prevention of medical errors

For every renewal after your initial renewal, CME requirements include:

- 2 hours in Prevention of Medical Errors
- 38 hours of general CME

Domestic Violence CME Requirement – *this is due every 6 years.*

- If you were already licensed in 2006, your first 2-hour Domestic Violence CME requirement is due by January 31, 2012
- If were licensed after 2006, then your first 2-hour Domestic Violence CME requirement is due January 31st, 6 years from your licensure date. To view your licensure date, go to www.FLHealthSource.com and click on *Citizen/Consumer*. Then click on *License Verification*. Search your name/license. Your original issue date can be found under the heading *License Original Issue Date*.

Reporting Medical Spa Treatments Resulting in Injury

The Board of Medicine's Surgical Care and Quality Assurance Committee has been discussing reports of injuries resulting from treatments received at medical spas. These treatments include liposuction, laser burns, nerve damage from face lifts, poor results from Botox© injections, injectable fillers and other cosmetic procedures.

Both Dr. John J. O'Brien, President Elect of the Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons and Dr. L. William Luria, past president of the Florida Society of Plastic Surgeons attended the October 1, 2009 meeting where they expressed great concern about the large numbers of injuries they are treating as a result of cosmetic treatments received in medical spas.

Dr. O'Brien and Dr. Luria stated that patients are reluctant to file a consumer complaint. Health care professionals should be encouraging injured patients to file a consumer complaint when an injury has occurred.

Research done by the Board staff indicates that the Department of Health has received very few adverse incident reports submitted by health care professionals when medical spa treatment results in an injury. To review this law, go to www.leg.state.fl.us and select statutes. Physicians should be reporting any injury as a result of a medical spa treatment, if that type of injury is listed in Section 458.351 (4) (d) (3) FS, via an adverse incident report.

Experts Needed

The Department of Health needs experts in the following specialty areas to review disciplinary cases:

- Physician Assistants
- Pain Management/Medicine
- Cardiology/cardiovascular disease/interventional cardiology
- Endocrinology
- Family practice
- Gastroenterology
- General surgery
- Hematology
- Nephrology
- Neurosurgery
- Oncology
- Orthopedic surgery/spine
- Pathology – must be willing to travel to view slides

If you are interested, please send an email for an application to MQA_Medicine@doh.state.fl.us.

Upcoming Events

Our next meeting is scheduled for February 5-6, 2010 in Tampa. Remember this is a good opportunity to learn more about Board activities and obtain 5 hours CME credit in ethics or risk management at the same time.

Below is the meeting schedule for 2010. The exact locations will be posted to the web site approximately two months prior to meeting date.

February 4-6, 2010	Tampa
April 8-10, 2010	Tampa
June 3-6, 2010	Ft. Lauderdale
August 5-7, 2010	Orlando
September 30 - October 2, 2010	Orlando
December 2-4, 2010	Orlando

Locating Information

Where can you find information you need to know about your license? Our web site! Go to www.FLHealthSource.com and click on *Licensee/Provider*. From here you can go directly to the Medicine web site, access your practitioner profile, renew your license online, review professional updates and declaratory statements, and much more.

Also, you might be interested in our Mailman System which replaces the Web Board as a mechanism to receive information from the Board. This is an email system you can subscribe to in order to receive up to the minute information. Simply log on to <http://flems.doh.state.fl.us/mailman/listinfo/boardofmedicine> and subscribe!

If you are unable to locate the information needed, send an e-mail to the Board! Send your question and comments to: MQA_Medicine@doh.state.fl.us.

If you would rather correspondence go to another e-mail address, please update your online Practitioner Profile. You can update your Practitioner Profile by visiting <http://www.flhealthsource.com>, selecting *Licensee/Provider*, then selecting *Update Profile* in the Current Licensee Services section of the page. If you need help accessing your online profile, call (850) 488-0595, then select menu option 3.

*** Explanation of Penalties (in order of severity)**

Obligations	The board disciplined the licensed practitioner and a penalty, which may include restrictions and/or additional requirements, was placed on the licensed practitioner. The licensed practitioner may practice his/her profession in the state of Florida under the conditions specified by the licensing board or department. Practitioner is obligated to update his/her profile data
Probation	The board has disciplined the licensed practitioner and placed his/her license in a probationary status. The licensed practitioner may practice his/her profession in the state of Florida under terms specified by Final Order. Practitioner is obligated to update his/her profile data.
Suspension	The board disciplined the licensed practitioner, prohibiting practitioner from practicing in the state of Florida for a specified period of time outlined in the final disciplinary order. The practitioner is obligated to update his/her profile data.
Revocation	The board or department disciplined the licensed practitioner and his/her license was removed permanently. The practitioner is not authorized to practice in the state of Florida. The practitioner is not obligated to update his/her profile data.
Voluntary Relinquishment	The licensed practitioner elected to give up their license to practice in the state of Florida. This relinquishment does constitute discipline and the licensee is not permitted to ever reapply for licensure in Florida. The practitioner is no longer obligated to update his/her profile data.

