



The Bulletin

Official Publication of the York County Medical Society

Fall, 2023

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President's Letter

Each fall, I find nature reminds me to relax and refocus. I recently had the opportunity to take my son on his first camping trip to one of my favorite places, Worlds End State Park. Hiking to the top of canyon vistas during the day is rewarded by the sound of the rushing river lulling us to sleep in the tent. These moments away from everyday grind provide clarity on the meaningful connections necessary to thrive.

As the corporatization of medicine powers on, it is easy to get lost in the wake. Many of you may have read the June New York Times article "The Moral Crisis of American Doctors" by Eyal Press. The article delves into the realities of life as an employed physician and the distress and isolation that can occur as a result. In case anyone needs to hear this, your worth both personally and professionally is not tied to your productivity.

This quarter, I'd like to encourage you to reconnect with yourself, your peers, and our York community. Our inaugural pickleball tournament in conjunction with the York County Bar Association offered a healthy rivalry between physicians and lawyers and benefited the York Opioid Coalition. The York County Medical Foundation has two upcoming events to benefit local suicide prevention initiatives. The annual golf tournament is on Sunday, September 17 and for those less athletically inclined, the biennial Indian dance festival is on Saturday, September 23. Full information is available on the Foundation's website. And each October the Pennsylvania Medical Society House of Delegates occurs. With groups specifically for medical students and residents, women physicians, and early career physicians, there are numerous ways to engage with others. This is also an important platform to advocate for ourselves and our patients. Delegates have been selected for this session but if this sounds appealing, we are always looking for future delegates.



Kathryn Hosey, DO
President
York County Medical Society

The Changing Landscape of Medicine: Trends & Advantages of Private Practices

Last Updated: Jul 6, 2023

In the field of medicine, there are two primary types of practice settings: corporate and private. Over the years, corporate practices, such as hospitals and hospital-owned entities, have become increasingly popular, resulting in a decline in smaller, private medical practices. Despite this shift, private practices offer numerous benefits to employed physicians, practice owners, and partners. Understanding the current state of private practice medicine and its advantages can help physicians make informed decisions about their careers.

Trends in Private Practice Medicine

Private practice employment is at an all-time low, according to the American Medical Association. For the first time, private practice employment has dropped below 50%, with the majority of patient care physicians now working in corporate environments.

Advantages of Private Practice Ownership

Despite the decline in employment and ownership, there are many benefits of private practice that appeal to many physicians across Pennsylvania. We highlight three of these below.

More lucrative and secure

Though many shy away from practice ownership because of the financial burden associated with financing, pursuing ownership can lead to greater financial success. According to [Medscape](#), self-employed physicians earn an average of \$374,000, while employed physicians earn \$344,000.

Ownership also allows physicians to build equity and secure their retirement through post-buyout arrangements. Partnership or sole ownership can provide greater job security, as partners usually require a majority vote for removal, while multi-year employment contracts in corporate settings can be easily terminated.

Autonomy

Owning a private practice grants physicians a high level of autonomy. Instead of navigating through multiple layers of organizational leadership, private practices allow for individual authority and efficient group decision-making.

Additionally, owners and partners in a practice have a greater say in services offered, new hires, and other high-level decisions, which is an opportunity not often offered in corporate settings. Moreover, they have more control over their schedules, while employees in corporate settings often have limited control over their work hours, patient load, and vacation time.

Professional opportunities

While private practice ownership entails additional business-focused responsibilities, it can be personally and professionally rewarding. Surrounding oneself with experienced professionals, such as attorneys and CPAs, can make the transition smoother. Panacea Financial's [Build Your Team](#) program connects
(Cont. Pg.3)

Press Release: Pennsylvania Medical Society Pushes for Medicare Payment Reform

Last Updated: Jun 21, 2023

At the annual meeting of the American Medical Association (AMA), Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) leadership drove the passage of a resolution to address the need for permanent and meaningful Medicare payment reform. Leadership from the Pennsylvania AMA Delegate, in partnership with the leaders of the Florida and Texas state delegations, presented the resolution at the AMA annual meeting, stating that this type of reform is critical for physicians' practice sustainability and to protect senior citizens' access to care.

Scott E. Shapiro, MD, Chair of the Pennsylvania Delegation to the AMA, said "Medicare's recognized flawed payment formula has become a concerning access to care issue for patients across Pennsylvania. Washington must tackle this issue efficiently and effectively before more patients lose access to care. Bottom line: with Medicare payment rates lower now than they were 25 years ago practices are no longer able to afford to care for Medicare patients if rates are not corrected soon."

In the face of inflation, the COVID pandemic, and growing costs of running a medical practice, physicians have struggled to keep open their doors, jeopardizing access to care. According to the AMA, not only have Medicare payments failed to respond, but physicians saw a 2% payment *reduction* for 2023, creating an additional challenge at a perilous moment. Physicians are one of the only Medicare providers without an inflationary payment update.

The passage of the resolution issues the AMA to build a multipronged campaign on addressing the issue on a national level.

(Cont. from Pg. 2 - Changing Landscape...)

doctors with experts such as CPAs and attorneys who specialize in helping doctors throughout their careers.

The Case for Private Practice

Private practices are essential for a strong physician community. They can offer patients and providers more options and flexibility, allowing providers to establish stronger connections with their patients, which can lead to improved outcomes and satisfaction.

Although private practices are facing a decline, they continue to provide significant advantages. Autonomy, financial prosperity and security, and professional growth are key benefits that attract physicians to private practice ownership. As the landscape of medicine evolves, understanding these advantages can help physicians make informed decisions about their careers.



Dr. Merle John Wampler, Jr., of Tequesta, FL, beloved husband of Mary Jean (Simpson) Wampler, passed away peacefully at York Hospital with family at his side, in the early morning hours of July 11th, 2023. He was 90 years and 11 months young. He enjoyed counting his age this way for many years.

Born August 8, 1932 in Philadelphia, PA to Gladys (Allison) Wampler and Merle John Wampler, John was a precocious child. As a 9 or 10 year-old in Upper Darby, John tutored some of the neighborhood high schoolers in math and science. The family moved to York in the early 1940s, and lived with his mother's parents, Norman Emanuel and Cora Louisa (Hess) Allison in the 500 block of W. Market Street. With deep roots in York County and surrounding areas, John was an invaluable source of south-central PA history.

In addition to his talent for math, as is often the case, John excelled in music, playing piano at home, clarinet with the York High Marching Band and saxophone when he joined the Jazz Band. He graduated from York High as Valedictorian in 1950.

Early in his academic studies, John decided to become a physician. He graduated from Franklin and Marshall College's pre-medical program in 1953, and was selected for membership in the Phi Beta Kappa Society. He decided that the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine was the best choice for him, and he enrolled in the Berry Plan to help pay for his schooling, which obligated him to future military service. During his academic breaks, John was a York City summer camp counselor, where he met Richard P. Noll, who introduced John to his future wife, Richard's younger sister, Nancy J. Noll. John and Nancy married in June of 1956.

The young couple celebrated the arrival of their first child, Scott, on Mother's Day in 1957. Talk about precision, they often joked that Scott started as John's birthday present, and then was Nancy's first Mother's Day gift. That June, John graduated from medical school and began his one-year internship at York Hospital. After his internship he left for Officer Training School in San Antonio, TX, where he received his commission as a Captain in the Medical Branch of The United States Air Force. Captain John Wampler spent most of his military service as a flight surgeon at Edwards AFB in California, where the couple's second son, Douglas, was born in 1959.

The young family loved desert life, where John would reminisce "You could start hanging laundry at one end of the line and it would be dry by the time you got to the other." As a result, John loved hanging clothes out to dry on a sunny day.

After completing his obligation to the Air Force, John and family moved back to York. He then undertook and completed his residency in Internal Medicine in Baltimore. John and Nancy's daughter, Allison, was born in York in 1964.

Following his residency, Dr. Wampler began his solo private practice in York, first on West Market St., then on S. George St., and lastly on Security Drive, assisted for years by his Office Manager, Kris Webb, who became a dear family friend. John served as the Medical Director for York College's Student Health Center from 1974 to 2004, where he enjoyed meeting the young students and hearing their stories of student life. John was Medical Director of Rest Haven and Misericordia nursing homes, and the Hahn Home, and provided care to patients at various hospitals and convalescent homes across York County. He made house calls at all hours, carrying his traditional doctor's black bag.

John's caring and holistic approach to his patients and their families was always apparent. If he came to check a grandmother's blood pressure, he would often also give advice on a father's backache or mother's cough. Patients often paid or expressed gratitude with sweet potato pies, a fresh trout or a piece of venison. He retired from practice in 2005.

Over the years, John and Nancy loved to travel. As members of the York Twinning Association, they traveled to

(Cont. from pg. 4) France and often hosted visitors from Arles, York's sister city. They enjoyed all types of social and community gatherings, from square dancing and crab fests to dancing at wineries.

After the loss of his first wife, Nancy, to breast cancer in 1991, John immersed himself in his work. He received comfort from tending to his patients, including the students at York College, from his extensive community of friends, and while singing in the choir and playing the handbells at Asbury United Methodist Church on East Market Street, where he was a life-long member.

In 1997, John started a new life chapter when he married his dear friend of 40 years, Mary Jean Roseberry, the widow of his close friend and colleague, Dr. Philip Roseberry. Thus began a 26-year wonderful, loving second marriage. John and Mary Jean built a warm, fun, music-filled life, merging their two families into one. They became residents of Tequesta, FL in 2005 and traveled north each Summer to visit family and friends. As adventurous "snowbirds," John and Mary Jean adored the drive south together, taking whatever scenic or leisurely route they chose, sightseeing and listening to music and books on tape.

The couple loved to travel and made trips to various countries in Europe and Latin America. They would visit museums and art shows, especially The Norton Museum in West Palm Beach to see John's favorite painting by George Bellows, "Winter Afternoon." John was red-green color-blind and the painting was full of shades of blue. They would travel to jazz festivals near and far, enjoyed the Tannenberg organ concerts at the Historical Society, and always patronized restaurants which supported local musicians.

John's life blood was music, particularly jazz, and as a young man he often traveled with friends to New York and other East Coast cities to hear new performers. Interestingly, John, with his color-blindness, always said that different keys in music suggested various colors. John was an avid supporter of all musicians, especially his dear friend, the master multi-instrumentalist Ira Sullivan, who traveled from Miami to perform at John's surprise 70th birthday party in 2002. John was moved to tears, thanking everyone for "doing this while I'm alive." When John and Mary Jean became residents of Florida in 2005, they continued to travel to Miami to hear Ira play.

Daytime rituals in later years found John going out to local produce stands, working with Mary Jean on crossword puzzles, and exploring spiritual topics on his weekly Zoom Bible Study, growing especially interested in and sharing with others the progressive writings of Bishop John Shelby Spong. After John finished his daily Sudoku and perusal of the local news and comics (the funniest of which he would often send to his children), John and Mary Jean shared evenings laughing together at Brit Wit, and enjoyed seeing movies at the Small Star Art House Theater.

After their move, John continued singing with the choir at the First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta as an Associate Member of that congregation, where the men's Wednesday morning breakfast group was very special to him.

John was always joyfully engaging on a wide range of topics, and he deeply enjoyed theological discussions, discourse on inclusion, tolerance, spirituality and love. During these discussions he would focus his full attention on the person before him, radiating so much love that the speaker would not only feel heard, but also heartfully engaged and appreciated. Such was the beautiful spirit of a man who will be deeply missed. He will be celebrated for the kindness and joy he would bring to any and all who had the good fortune to cross his path; whether he knew you or not, you always felt "known." Soar on, ever upward, Dr. John, into the music of the spheres, knowing you are deeply loved for all of the unconditional love you have given.

John was a member of the Country Club of York, the York County Historical Society, the York Twinning Association, a Gold Star supporter of the Central PA Friends of Jazz, and he served as President of the York County chapter of the American Heart Association. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jean Wampler, his children Scott D. Wampler (Yukiko Ishida, DMA), Douglas J. Wampler (Darcelle), and Allison E. Mitchell (Steven Rastatter), step-children Catharine M. Roseberry (Jon Dale) and Philip Andrew Roseberry (Robin), eleven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. John was predeceased by his first wife Nancy, his younger brother, Norman E. Wampler, Ph.D., and grandson, Evan M. Rastatter.

(Cont. to pg. 8)

FDA Approves Second Over-the-Counter Naloxone Nasal Spray Product

For Immediate Release:

July 28, 2023

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved RiVive, 3 milligram (mg) naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray for over-the-counter (OTC), nonprescription use for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. This is the second nonprescription naloxone product the agency has approved, helping increase consumer access to naloxone without a prescription. The timeline for availability and the price of this nonprescription product will be determined by the manufacturer.

Drug overdose persists as a major public health issue in the United States. In the 12-month period ending in February 2023, more than 105,000 reported fatal overdoses occurred which were primarily driven by synthetic opioids like illicit fentanyl. Naloxone is a medication that rapidly reverses the effects of opioid overdose and is the standard treatment for opioid overdose.

“We know naloxone is a powerful tool to help quickly reverse the effects of opioids during an overdose. Ensuring naloxone is widely available, especially as an approved OTC product, makes a critical tool available to help protect public health,” said FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D. **“The agency has long prioritized access to naloxone products, and we welcome manufacturers of other naloxone products to discuss potential nonprescription development programs with the FDA.”**

The approval of RiVive nasal spray for nonprescription use was supported by data from a study submitted by the manufacturer that showed similar levels of RiVive reach the bloodstream as an approved prescription naloxone product. The drug has been demonstrated to be safe and effective for use as directed in its labeling. The manufacturer also provided data that showed consumers can understand how to use the drug safely and effectively without the supervision of a healthcare professional.

The use of RiVive nasal spray in individuals who are dependent on opioids may result in severe opioid withdrawal characterized by body aches, diarrhea, increased heart rate (tachycardia), fever, runny nose, sneezing, goose bumps, sweating, yawning, nausea or vomiting, nervousness, restlessness or irritability, shivering or trembling, abdominal cramps, weakness and increased blood pressure.

The FDA has taken a series of steps to help facilitate access to opioid overdose reversal products and to decrease unnecessary exposure to opioids and prevent new cases of addiction. The agency [approved the first nonprescription naloxone nasal spray](#) product in March 2023, [the first generic nonprescription naloxone nasal spray product in July 2023](#) and over the last year has undertaken new efforts to expand [opioid disposal](#) options in an effort to reduce opportunities for nonmedical use, accidental exposure and overdose.

Through the [FDA Overdose Prevention Framework](#), the agency remains focused on responding to all facets of substance use, misuse, substance use disorders, overdose and death in the U.S. The framework’s priorities include supporting primary prevention by eliminating unnecessary initial prescription drug exposure and inappropriate prolonged prescribing; encouraging harm reduction through innovation and education; advancing development of evidence-based treatments for substance use disorders; and protecting the public from unapproved, diverted or counterfeit drugs presenting overdose risks.

The FDA granted the nonprescription approval of RiVive to Harm Reduction Therapeutics.



J. Joseph “Joe” Danyo, MD passed away on July 21, 2023 at age 89. Joe will be greatly missed by so many people whose lives he touched. He was a man who went above and beyond to show his abounding love, generosity and genuine interest in his rich group of family, friends, the many patients he took care of and really all people who came into his path. His vibrancy and humor brightened so many lives and the lessons he taught us about life will never be forgotten. Joe is survived by his five children and 17 grandchildren: Lucinda “Cindy” Danyo Hammaker of Phoenixville, PA with husband Mark Hammaker and children, Daniel, Thomas, Sarah and James Hammaker ; J. Joseph Danyo Jr., MD of Kennett Square, PA with partner, Katina Tsaganos and his children, Chloe, Lilly and Ben Danyo; Daniel Danyo, MD of Alpharetta, GA with his wife, Becky Danyo and children, Hayden, Evan and Ella Danyo; Timothy Danyo of Missoula, MT with his wife, Misty Danyo and their children Hannah, Saidee, Elsie and Nathan Danyo; and Robert Danyo of Landenberg, PA with wife Reetie Danyo and their children Ruth, Wade and Owen Danyo.

Born August 24th, 1933, he was predeceased by parents Andrew Danyo and Mary (Lasichak) Danyo and three brothers and three sisters – Anne, Olga, Helen, John, Michael, and Nicholas and also by his wife, Sally (Little) Danyo whom he married in 1960 until her passing in 2002. He was remarried to Lynn (Phaflin) Danyo from 2004 to 2019.

He is also survived by nieces Dr. Marlene Kocan of Columbus, OH and Renee Danyo Coupland of Philadelphia, PA and cousins Lydia Lasichak of W Bloomfield, MI, Diane Lasichak of Seattle, WA, Andrea Lasichak of Ann Arbor, MI, Renee Lasichak of Dearborn, MI and Ruth Ann and John Lasichak of Jermyn, PA.

Joe graduated from Jermyn High School, the University of Scranton with honors and Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia. He became a medical officer in the US Navy in 1960-1962. Upon discharge from the Navy, he entered an orthopedic residency at Jefferson Hospital and became Board Certified. Next he completed a hand surgery fellowship at Grace Hospital in Detroit, MI. In 1967, he came to York where he resided until 2019. In 1967, he began practicing orthopedics with Dr. John Kruper. The practice became KDV Orthopedics with the addition of Dr. Peter Van Giesen, Dr. Stephen Triantafyllou, and Dr. Michael Sicaranza. Joe was highly respected as a strong leader in medicine in York and was a well-loved orthopedic surgeon throughout his years practicing medicine. He not only changed lives as he applied his brilliant medical knowledge, operating skill and acumen to every one of his patients, he focused on connecting with his patients to make them feel heard and uplifted in the midst of their illness. Joe’s love for practicing medicine carried through the rest of his life as he maintained his medical license and relished in offering his medical advice and consultation to those who came to him in need. In addition, he was proud to serve as president of the PA Medical Society (in 1989) and also board chairman. Joe was especially proud of his role as founder and first president of the American Association for Hand Surgery (AAHS) which he began in 1970 and has grown into a thriving organization providing and supporting care to people world-wide. He maintained an active membership through the years in AAHS and enjoyed the annual meetings. Joe was also a shrewd businessman who was instrumental in growing his medical practice and he sought to constantly learn and analyze business ideas; and following retirement in 2000, he felt great satisfaction in helping new entrepreneurs as an advisor for SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) until 2019. Also, Joe was heavily involved in and contributed to the success of York Sports Night for many years. Joe enjoyed his latter retired years in the warmer weather in Ocala, FL since 2019.

Throughout his adult life, Joe was a voracious learner. He was constantly reading books, news articles, etc and his family and friends were deeply enriched with his knowledge that he loved to share with them. His informative emails, anecdotes and jokes will be greatly missed. He especially loved imparting his words of wisdom to his kids and grandkids which had a great impact on the successful course of their lives. Joe had such a brilliant, sharp mind with an ingenious memory and all were amazed by his expansive storytelling, joke-telling and deep conversations even about things in the distant past. There was a spark of mindful, charismatic energy about Joe that lit up everyone in his path. He lived with great focus and intention and demonstrated his love for all people as he went above and beyond to show interest and respect to all while giving generously in many (Cont. on pg. 8)

(Dr. Danyo obit. Cont. from pg. 7) ways. When people think of Joe, they remember a great, influential, passionate person who made them smile and who brought a high point to their day. He changed lives, and taught us so much about how to truly live life to the fullest. Joe is someone to strive to emulate and his powerful legacy will continue to shine brightly for eternity.

A viewing will be held from 5:00-7:00 PM Friday, July 28, 2023, at Kuhner Associates Funeral Directors, Inc., 863 South George Street, York. A parastas (Trisagion) service will begin at 6:45 PM, given by The Very Rev. John Kowalczyk. Funeral services are scheduled for 10:00 AM Saturday, August 12, 2023, at Saint John Chrysostom Orthodox Church, 2397 North Sherman Street, York, with Father Peter Pier officiating. Burial will be in Prospect Hill Cemetery. A reception will follow at the Country Club of York.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Cancer Patient Help Fund, 2500 South George Street, York, PA 17403.

KuhnerEquities.com

Loan Repayment Program Included and Increased in the 2023-24 State Budget

Last Updated: Jul 20, 2023

On July 5th Pennsylvania's General Assembly approved House Bill 611, the bill designated as this year's state budget. Throughout this year's budget process, the Pennsylvania Medical Society was a strong advocate for maintaining, if not increasing, the funding for the Pennsylvania Primary Care Loan Repayment Program (LRP). Last year, after more than a decade of flat funding, PAMED won approval to increase program's operating budget by \$1 million.

When the fiscal year 2023-2024 budget was originally unveiled, funding for the LRP program was not included. PAMED worked hard to restore the program's funding and was successful in attaining an additional \$1 million for the program in House Bill 611.

PAMED applauds the legislature's recognition of the important role LRP plays in attracting healthcare providers to rural and underserved communities throughout the Commonwealth. While the budget received the approval of both legislative chambers, an administrative requirement that House Bill 611 be "signed" by the Senate remains unfulfilled. This "signature" is the last step before the measure can be signed by Governor Shapiro. Despite this delay, PAMED believes that the funding level contained in House Bill 611 will ultimately be signed into law by the Governor.

PAMED Approaches Health Care as a Team

Earlier this year, Senate Bill 25 was introduced that would grant full practice authority to Certified Nurse Practitioners (CRNPs). Current law requires nurse practitioners (NPs) to practice under a collaboration agreement at all times, but the bill would permit qualified CRNPs to practice independent of a physician after fulfilling a three-year, 3,600-hour collaboration agreement.

While the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) understands and supports the important role that CRNPs, CRNAs, nurse midwives, and physician assistants play in patient care, we also believe that there is a need for physician oversight, whether by direct supervision or a written collaborative agreement, of all non-physician practitioners.

Current PAMED President F. Wilson Jackson, III, MD, agrees: “the strong feeling is that a physician-led team is the best approach to patient care, (and) nurse practitioners are Dr. Jackson’s practice includes several nurse practitioners (NPs), who are an integral part of the patient care team, and he stresses the many positive benefits of establishing a collaborative environment.

“I think it’s terrific for the patients.... there’s that reassurance - they know that there’s a team approach,” Dr. Jackson says. “I think from a patient perspective, which is central to everything we do, the patients have that reassurance that there’s a backup plan in place should questions arise.”an invaluable part of that care team.”

Practicing in a specific subspecialty in gastroenterology, Dr. Jackson sees a lot of patients that were referred to his practice from both physicians and non-physicians when a patient is experiencing signs of something more serious or complicated going on with their symptoms. At those times, he says he essentially must start over with a patient instead of just continuing their care.

“Any practicing physician has been in a similar situation where, in hindsight, something more serious was going on with a patient that could have been picked up earlier,” he says.

John R Mantione, MD, an obstetrician-gynecologist in Hummelstown, currently has a newer grad NP working with him and keeps in close proximity while they are having patient interactions or charting. He believes that it works well to have physicians available for back-up if needed, when different expertise is necessary, or in cases where NPs don’t have enough time to see a patient.

“For (NPs) to practice at their highest potential seems to be in a collaborative setting. If you look at the number of hours my NP has trained and has her certification that says she’s ready to practice, it’s not the same level as a fourth-year resident.” John R Mantine, MD

In his practice, Dr. Mantione says he, too, has had patients come through that were seeing a NP at a different family practice setting, and there were more to their symptoms than what was originally understood.

“On paper, the care the patients received met the standard that was required but there is recognition that there was more to their symptoms that I think could have been picked up earlier.”

Both physicians firmly believe that maintaining oversight should remain an essential component of the non-physician practitioner relationship, and that continuing to maintain this oversight leads to better outcomes for everyone involved.

“There’s no question in my mind that having a healthy dialogue back and forth around patient care is really productive,” says Dr. Jackson. “I think it’s also mutually educational. Sometimes a nurse practitioner will pick up certain aspects of the patient’s medical history or story that is relevant to the physician - that’s important as far as patient care. So having that team approach, I think, allows for a more dynamic, collaborative approach to patient care.”

Legislation That Sets Patient to Nurse Staffing Ratios Passes the House and Advances to the Senate

Last Updated: Jul 20, 2023

Recently, the Pennsylvania House of Representatives approved House Bill 106 also referred to as the “Patient Safety Act.” This bill proposes to amend the Health Care Facilities Act to include hospital patient protection provisions that mandate patient to nurse staffing ratios. While nurses celebrate the recent action taken by the House, opponents question whether this is an appropriate solution for employee well-being and patient safety.

In addition to staffing ratios, this bill requires hospitals to develop, implement and review annually a written hospital-wide staffing plan to meet the healthcare needs of patients. The staffing plan must be based on specialized qualifications of nursing staff, size of the hospital, total diagnosis for each hospital and other requirements specified in the bill. Hospitals will be required to submit their staffing plans to the Department of Health.

Hospitals will also need to comply with staffing transparency requirements by maintaining and posting in a physical location in each unit and a publicly accessible internet website a list of staffing data on a day-to-day, shift-by-shift basis. This bill also includes a complaint process and safe harbor provision to protect direct care registered nurses.

Finally, violations of the requirements may result in civil and administrative penalties, issuance of a corrective action plan, and/or suspension or revocation of a hospital license. Repeat violations will result in increased penalties.

While nurses and hospitals remain divided on this bill, it is clear that both earnestly await the outcome as it advances to the Senate for consideration

Pickleball Event Photos



August 2023 Board of Trustee Recap

Last Updated: Aug 3, 2023

This week, PAMED Board of Trustees met virtually for the August 2023 meeting. The trustees engaged in a healthy and productive debate and acted on priority issues impacting the Society and its members.

The Board discussed and approved the 2024 budget with membership dues remaining the same for full active members. Membership dues for medical students changed to \$20 per year and \$40/year for residents for the 2024 dues cycle. The opportunity is available to apply for special status for reduced membership dues due to financial hardship. Please reach out to your County Medical Society or to PAMED to complete the form when the time comes.

Representative Dan Frankel joined the meeting as a guest speaker. Frankel serves Pennsylvania's 23rd legislative district in the Pittsburgh area. He is the Democratic Chairman of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Health Committee, where he supports measures to expand access to health care and human services. He spoke with the board about current legislation regarding nurse and staff ratios in hospitals, the importance of access to health care and working with Representative Arvind Venkat on his House Bill 78 that would establish a medical debt relief program for low-income Pennsylvanians. Vice Speaker, Andrew Lutzkanin, III, MD gave an update on what to expect for the 2023 House of Delegates Oct. 27 -28, which will again be hybrid to offer on-site and remote options. Dr. Lutzkanin spoke about the new addition of a Virtual Welcome Session on Wednesday, Sept. 13 where members can hear important remarks from leaders and updates about the upcoming HOD.

Additionally, PAMED Executive Vice President & CEO, Martin Raniowski, updated the board on PAMED's strategic plan initiative where staff are currently meeting on a regular basis to strategize and create work plans for items such as building job descriptions for volunteer positions within the organization and collaborating on how best to incorporate diversity, equity and inclusion into PAMED culture.

What PAMED is watching...

Among a number of legislative bills that PAMED is tracking, two new bills were introduced near the end of last session:

- Senate Bill 739, which would establish **telemedicine** in statute, was unanimously voted out of the Senate Banking and Finance Committee. Senate Bill 739 provides guidelines for all telemedicine services provided in the Commonwealth. PAMED is working to advocate for Senate Bill 739's passage.

Representative Venkat's House Bill 78, which would establish a **medical debt relief program** for low-income Pennsylvanians, passed the Pennsylvania House with a vote of 114-89. House Bill 78 now heads to the Senate for consideration.

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MEET THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR YCMS

Hello Everyone! My name is Jessica Koch and I will be taking over from Liz Torres as she leaves YCMS to enjoy her retirement. I hope you will all join me in wishing her well.

I am a veteran of the United States Navy where I served for 11 years as a Nuclear Machinist's Mate. After serving, I attended Penn State where I earned my Bachelor of Arts in English. I have an eclectic resume that will bring a varied skill set to the position of Executive Director.

During my personal time, my most passionate hobby is reading. As a patient, I am the one who never minds the wait, as I am always in the middle of a new book. At one point I owned (and read) over 2,000 books. I have since donated many of them to VA hospitals for others to enjoy.

My husband and I avail ourselves of local restaurant cuisine and love finding a new spot for a favorite night out. I also enjoy cooking and making as many meals from scratch as I can. I spent this past summer teaching my son to cook before he began his senior year of high school.

I look forward to aiding my community by serving the York County Medical Society. If you have anything you would like to discuss or would like me to relay to our Board of Directors, please don't hesitate to reach out via phone or e-mail.

—Jessica