

# Bulletin

SEP/OCT 2013

MEMBER MAGAZINE FOR THE POLK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

A photograph of a large hay bale sitting on a wooden trailer in a grassy field. Several children are playing on the hay bale. One boy is standing on top, another is climbing, and others are sitting or standing on the sides. A red tractor is partially visible on the right side of the trailer. The background shows trees and a clear blue sky.

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IN D.C.**

**KATHIE J. LYMAN  
SCHOLARSHIP  
CHARITY EVENT**

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# Bulletin

SEP/OCT 2013

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Cover Photo: 1st Kathie J. Lyman Scholarship recipient  
Mack Worthington, D.O. and his cousins baling hay on the family farm.

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# KATHIE J. LYMAN SCHOLARSHIP

## 3rd Annual Charity Golf Event



**Kathie Lyman, PCMS Executive Director presents prizes to 2nd place winners Kyle Galles, M.D., Bernie Feldman, D.O. Not pictured team mates Phil Bear, D.O. & Scott Meyer, M.D.**

Thanks to PCMS members and guests for their generous support of the 3rd Annual Kathie J. Lyman Scholarship Golf tournament held September 30th at Wakonda Club. Everyone had a great time.

The PCMS Golf tournament proceeds assist in providing a financial scholarship annually to a medical student from Des Moines University and University of Iowa Medical School.

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# EMR,

## Love/Hate, Cost/Benefit?



**Philip J. Colletier, M.D.**

My home institution has done an amazing job in rolling out our official EMR of late. Over the last few months, there have been a dizzying amount of meetings, mailbox-busting emails, posters, flyers and training sessions. Ultimately everything seems to be going very smoothly. I'm sure healthcare.gov could learn a few lessons from a hospital go-live!

I was interested to learn that much of the drive toward nationwide EMR adoption had its genesis when the RAND Corporation, one of our esteemed think tanks, calculated that widespread use of the EMR model would result in an annual \$81,000,000.00 savings by virtue of improved efficiency. Of course, Washington prioritized this as an essential urgent initiative. After the passing of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act (HITECH) in 2009, the race was on, as financial incentivization (and we docs do love incentivization) was defined. The catch is that payment adjustments are pending

if one was brazen enough to eschew the EMR, and promotion of meaningful use. The enforcement of payment adjustments for not adopting certified HER technology does not take effect until 2015.

But alas, the RAND folks have recently admitted that the huge savings promise of the EMR has not been realized – in part because of the obvious technical challenges of having many systems which don't speak to one another, and cost of acquisition which can be tens of thousands for practitioners, hundreds of millions for hospital systems. Surprisingly, one of the main factors limiting the realization of financial savings is the fact that the increased documentation and coding expertise has led to financial benefit for the hospitals – increased revenue from optimization of code capture. Leave it to us docs to make lemonade out of a lemon! I have watched with amusement and disdain as the impersonal EMR documents have rolled in for the last several years. As a radiation oncologist, I am in a field that lends itself perfectly to an EMR. In fact, the oncology-specific EMR which we utilize today, MOSAIQ, was in beta-testing at my

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# A Special Thank You

## to the Kathie J. Lyman Scholarship Charity Golf Sponsors

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institution when I was a resident 16 years ago, so EMR is nothing new here. We have been "paperless" for over 8 years, and the EMR provides critical safety checks and balances by communication directly with our complex linear accelerators, so overall EMR is a huge benefit. However, it has saddened me to hear, over the years, of senior PCMS physicians who felt this intrusion was the last straw – the combination of costs, inconvenience, and impersonal nature of the EMR drove some to an early retirement. When one reviews today's autpopulated EMR consult, I can understand the senior docs sentiments. I have reviewed many 5-6 page consults, replete with an amazingly complete computer generated 97 organ system ROS. After getting callouses with the scroll button, the bottom of the page often contains only a cursory free-text comment from support staff, rather than a well thought-out impression and plan from the attending physician ... sigh. Last week, I reviewed records of a lady who was documented as G0 P0000, imagine my surprise when I entered the room to meet

her 3 biological children accompanying her. I was a victim of the EMR default! We all have seen similar gaffes, a completely "normal" exam in a patient who has had a mastectomy, liver masses, cranial nerve asymmetry.

Sadly, Iowa is a collage of Epic (based on 1960s software developed at Massachusetts General Hospital and the company founded by an employee of the Psychiatry Department at the University of Wisconsin, thus the EMR mind games), Cerner, Allscripts, MOSAIQ, etc. These EMR firms, of course, have benefitted magnificently from the initiative. The promise of interoperability and communication between these systems is far from realized. If one practices in an area which is all-Epic, San Francisco Bay Area, for example, crosstalk is a breeze. In Iowa, not so much.

I am looking forward to a review of this issue in 5 years. Hopefully, the title will be EMR Love/Benefit, rather than Love/Hate, Cost/ Benefit.

## Nominations for 2014 Officers

**The Polk County Medical Society is seeking nominations from members interested in serving as a 2014 officer. PCMS Board Members determine the direction of the Society on advocacy issues, and promote the medical profession.**

*Please send Nominations to the PCMS at [pcms@pcms.org](mailto:pcms@pcms.org) or call 288-0172.*

# Washington D.C.

## FLY-IN



**L-R: Joel From, M.D., Nancy Kane, M.D., Representative Tom Latham, PCMS President Philip Colletier, M.D., Craig Mahoney, M.D. and PCMS Executive Director Kathie Lyman discussed access issues for Iowans if CMS reduces payments to surgeons on some surgical procedures.**

The Polk County Medical Society held their annual Washington, D.C. Fly-In September 17th and 18th when both the Senate and the House were in session. 2013 is a very important year to advocate on behalf of all the doctors and their patients as there

is already movement on repealing the SGR payments to doctors. PCMS Board Members and the Executive Director met personally with each of our Iowa Congressional Delegation.

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# You Helped a Dream Become a Reality

Kathie J. Lyman



**Mackenzie Worthington, D.O. receives his medical degree from Des Moines University.**

Doctors are asked almost daily during this time of the year for donations to organizations. The Polk County Medical Society is one of the nonprofit organizations that asks you to donate annually to the Kathie J. Lyman Scholarship fund. This fund grants a medical student from Des Moines University and the University of Iowa a scholarship to assist funding their medical education. Therefore, we thought we would share with you how your dollars helped Mack Worthington our first Kathie J. Lyman Scholarship recipient turn his dream into a reality.

Mackenzie (Mack) Worthington wanted to be a doctor from the time he was 6 years old. His decision to pursue a degree in the medical field was driven by many experiences that began on the family farm in Central Iowa. Through this experience Mack learned a love of the land, animals, and the need for neighbors to help one another. Determined to become a doctor he asked his mother for a Doctor's Bag which he carried around with him wherever he went to help with the animals.

Mack's interest in caring for animals and his love for learning, led him to excel in education. He learned the connection between science and the people in need in his community. He was driven to find out why and understand how he could help fight his grandfather's lung cancer. This taught

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him about the challenges in health care in the United States and around the world.

The pursuit to improve the health care of his community led him to volunteer for 3 medical missions. He experienced health conditions that made him feel very humble. He treated the indigenous people of Panama and Costa Rica, learned the consequences of not having clean or boiling water, and unsanitary medical practices. He still remembers the woman in labor with the roof falling in. Namibia, Africa, placed several nursing home patients in one bed. It was his first true attempt at patient education and experiencing noncompliance with cultural patients.

Mack's global experiences along with learning from his childhood, family health battles, and volunteering at a Des Moines Hospital and his love of family and home, convinced him he needed to apply to Des Moines University(DMU) Medical School. The financial burdens made it difficult for him. However, as luck would have it, that year the Polk County Medical Society started the Kathie J. Lyman Scholarship for medical students. Mack became the first DMU recipient which helped to bridge his financial obligations with his medical education. He was most grateful for the scholarship and continued at DMU and their excellent medical program while continuing

to farm throughout the 4 years. His dream was achieved as Mack Worthington, D.O. received his Medical Degree from Des Moines University in 2012.

Mack's goal to remain in Iowa for a residency became a reality when he was accepted to Iowa Lutheran Family Practice Residency for the 3 year program. His future plans are to practice in rural Iowa. Mack respects the small town and the quality of life they have to offer. He knows the people will appreciate having their own town doctor and will trust him as he helps them to maintain a healthy quality life. For Mack, country living gives him tranquility and the peace he knows he will find living his dream as a small town doctor.

So does your contribution to the PCMS Scholarship fund help further your commitment to medical education? Yes, Mack's story says it all...PCMS Members do make a difference! This young man has had a dream, and has been able to stay in Iowa, and will practice in Iowa in part through the generosity and commitment of PCMS members. Your contributions whether through your participation at the Kathie J Lyman Scholarship golf tournament or your contribution directly to the Scholarship fund is appreciated. Thank You for making the dreams of the next generation of Iowa doctors come true.





**Mack treating patients on his medical mission in Thailand.**



**1st year resident Dr. Mack Worthington with Dr. Rehmann (far left) and residents, rounding at Iowa Lutheran Hospital. "Mack is hard-working and soft-spoken. He is a thorough resident with a Midwest work ethic." Says Corrine Ganskey, M.D., Program Director.**

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**Congratulations to Philip Colletier, M.D.** who was featured in the **Des Moines Register August 26, 2013** for urging providers to educate patients and encourage parents with preteens to strongly consider the HPV vaccine.



**Congratulations to Stephen Eckstat, D.O.** who delivered the summer 2013 commencement address to the class of 2013 for Mercy College of Health Sciences.



**Congratulations to Andrea McGuire, M.D.** who was a panelist for the Iowa Press October 5th, 2013. She was one of several experts discussing the Affordable Care Act and its implementation in Iowa.

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**Shot Gun Start at the 3rd Annual Kathie J. Lyman Scholarship Golf Tournament.**



**L-R: Doctor Dale and Joanie Steinmetz, Doctor Donny and Susan Suh, Kevin and Rhonda Ward, Susan and Doctor Michael Gainer accepting the golf challenge from their colleagues.**



**L-R: Eric Barp, D.P.M., Rip Secory, Adam Secory, D.O., and Jon Secory are committed to raising funds for medical students through the Kathie J. Lyman Scholarship Golf Tournament.**



**Phil Bear, D.O. ready to roll.**



**Susan Suh having fun on the course.**

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**PCMS President Philip Colletier, M.D. and Kathie Lyman present one of the Golf Tournament prizes to Dale Steinmetz, M.D.**



**L-R: Angie Hopkins and Valerie Kounkel, D.O. enjoying the BBQ luncheon.**



**Kathie Lyman presents longest drive prize to Mark Sundet, D.O.**





**L-R: Ryan Bakke, M.D., Don Junge, D.O., and Mark Sundet, D.O. watching Jason Stecker, D.O. golf and having a fun day supporting Medical Education.**



**PCMS Young Physician members Andrew Steffensmeier, M.D. and Theresa La Masters, M.D. enjoying a beverage courtesy of the PCMS sponsors of the beverage cart.**

# Not What I Expected

## PART III



**Robert Shires, M.D.**

About time I rethink the plan  
To practice as long as I can  
My, how things have changed  
The goals rearranged  
More carrots and sticks for the Man

Technical skills I've achieved  
When computer goes down I'm quite peeved  
The updates won't stop  
We need a tech cop  
For more simple days we've all grieved

Medicare holds all the strings  
Payment reform never brings  
It threatens less pay  
Then saves us last day  
Ethics aside it just stings

Insurance continues to roll  
Exchanges it wants to control  
Won't give up a dime  
Just waiting for time  
Then over the weaker will bowl

Our quality care remains goal  
But teach labor puts us in hole  
The date immense  
Up to the sky fence  
Too many "clicks" for the soul

Some Colleagues have chosen to quit  
Multiple tongues have been bit  
Your heart has to know  
If good time to go  
Closing the door has to fit

For now I'll keep plugging along  
Technician just singing his song  
Ann ACO near  
Dilemma I fear  
US is broke. Now that's wrong!



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Philip J. Colletier M.D.	12 Jim P. Duong M.D. Loran F Parker M.D.	22 Roy Molina M.D.
2 Peter T. Hetherington D.O.	13 Mark D. Woiwood M.D.	24 Rodrigo Azuero M.D. Jeffrey Merryman M.D. Stephen J. Mooradian M.D. Louis D. Rodgers M.D.
4 Steven R. Adelman D.O. David G. Stilley M.D.	14 Thomas E. Murphy M.D. Edward A. Steinmann D.O.	26 Andrea H. Mcguire M.D. Ronald A. Shirk D.O. Kurt A. Smith D.O.
5 Jon C. Gehrke M.D. Stephanie Stitt Cox M.D.	15 Hijinio Carreon D.O. Larry Severidt M.D. Mark K. Zlab M.D.	27 Margaret W. Hsieh M.D. Mark C. Menadue D.O.
6 Nuha Shash-Barazanji M.D.	16 Kevin J. Koch M.D.	28 Delwin E. Quenzer M.D. David Thornton D.O. Dennis Whitmer D.O.
7 Jean B. Spencer M.D.	17 Bart P. Jenson M.D.	29 Jan Franko M.D. Willie Mc Clairen M.D. James S. Roloff M.D.
8 Dennis M. Fry M.D.	18 Michael A. Disbro M.D. Bruce L. Hughes M.D. Robert Jerstad D.O. Bret Mcfarlin D.O.	30 Gary S. Bremen D.O. Patrick M. Sullivan M.D.
9 Brahmananda P. Makkapti M.D. Chinedu C. Nwosa M.D. Matthew Spitzenberger D.O.	19 Gregory J. Recker D.O.	
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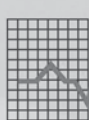
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**L-R: Joel From, M.D., Nick Bath, and Senator Tom Harkin discussing concerns with the RAC audit systems.**



**L-R: Representative Bruce Braley addresses physicians concerns on proposed CMS rules for physician supervision for outpatient therapies at Critical Access Hospitals with Kathie Lyman, and Doctors Philip Colletier, Joel From, Craig Mahoney, and Nancy Kane.**

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Polk County Medical Society met with Senator Grassley Tuesday, September 17th to advocate on Health Care issues affecting doctors and patients in Iowa.

The PCMS Board Members and Executive Director wished the Senator a Happy 80th Birthday along with Mrs. Grassley, Senators, and friends. The Senator tweets messages daily. Therefore, his birthday cake was presented with a happy birthday message in tweet form.



**L-R: Senator Charles Grassley talking with PCMS President Philip Colletier, M.D. on a permanent repeal for the Sustainable Growth Rate.**



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