



AMEF

FOUNDATION

A Newsletter of The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation

Fall 2011

facts

2011 Foundation Events

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation Co-Sponsors Educational Seminar for Physicians and Attorneys

In April, the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO), the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) and the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) were pleased to co-sponsor a seminar titled "Medical Malpractice Issues for Physicians and Attorneys." The event was well-attended with both physicians and attorneys participating in the session. The AMCNO would like to thank the members of our Medical Legal Liaison Committee. In particular, committee member Mr. George Moscarino, for developing this seminar concept and for reaching out to the CMBA to partner with the AMCNO on this session. Presenters included James J. McMonagle, Esq., from Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP, John A. Lancione, Esq., from Lancione & Lancione, P.L.L., Kim F. Bixenstine, Esq., Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, University Hospitals of Cleveland, and Matthew J. Donnelly, Esq., Director of Litigation, The Cleveland Clinic Foundation.

Dr. Laura David, AMCNO President began the session with a welcome from the AMCNO and a special thanks to the CMBA for beginning a new relationship with the AMCNO. She stated that there are various issues where the medical and legal communities can work in partnership highlighting the various medical legal initiatives currently under review by the AMCNO including specialty courts and our work with the medical legal partnership. She noted that the AMCNO has traditionally had an educational course each spring dealing with medical legal topics, and we are pleased to start a new format this year with both physicians and lawyers represented in the audience. Mr. Michael Ungar, the President of the CMBA also welcomed the group and echoed Dr. David's comments noting that he hopes

that this event marks the beginning of what will be a renewed bond between the AMCNO and the CMBA.

Mr. McMonagle was asked to provide commentary on some of the common themes in medical malpractice cases. He stated that one of the most common things that can come up in a trial is the issue of appropriate charting. He cautioned the physicians in the audience that under no circumstances should they be in a situation where they are found to have altered or changed a medical chart. The chart should be complete without last-minute changes – late entries are absolutely frowned upon. He stated that physicians should always be cognizant of the fact that the electronic chart gives a road map as to what happened, when it happened, and who was there. He also noted that it is very important that physicians spend some time with their lawyers prior to a deposition because the lawyer will understand how these charts are going to be used. Remember – when a plaintiff's lawyer is asking you a question, they are not doing it to give you some benefit – so you must have the appropriate period of time to prepare for the deposition. And, if you are to be videotaped remember to look professional and look at the camera, not the person asking the questions. He cautioned the doctors in the audience that if you do end up in court don't forget a jury is sitting there. Remember it is not between you and the attorney – it is between you and the seated jury. Don't ever get to the point of forgetting who the audience is – because at the end of the day the audience is the jury so understand that you have to explain things to them and have a relationship with them.

Mr. Lancione was asked to provide his observations from the plaintiff's bar point of view. A major focus of his presentation covered the insurance claims filing data released by the Ohio Department of Insurance (ODI). He stated that since the

Please Consider AMEF in Your Charitable Giving Plans – look for more information inside this issue.



A capacity crowd of physicians and attorneys were on hand to learn more about medical malpractice issues at the AMCNO/CMBA co-sponsored seminar.

enactment of tort reform and the affidavit of merit laws in Ohio the number of medical malpractice claims reported by ODI has gone down. He stated that in reality plaintiff attorneys spend over half their time not suing doctors. Instead, a good deal of their time is spent looking at cases and telling people that their claim has no merit. He stated that it is also important to remember that in Ohio lawyers cannot sue doctors anymore without an affidavit of merit from another doctor. He stated that plaintiff lawyers do take this very seriously and they do feel that they all have a commitment to the bar, the court and to the medical profession, and they do not make decisions lightly. He also noted that there are ways that physicians could avoid getting sued. For example, there are proven studies from other states which show that if hospitals and doctors can answer questions forthrightly, they are open and honest about their mistakes, and they show they are taking steps to fix problems, that they are much more likely to avoid being named as part of a medical malpractice suit.

Scholarships

AMEF awards scholarships each year to third and fourth year medical students (MD/DO) who are or were residents of Cuyahoga, Summit, Lake, Geauga, Ashtabula, Lorain or Portage counties, and who demonstrated an interest in being involved in organized medicine and community activities. Applicants must also possess leadership skills and demonstrate academic achievement. AMEF scholarships will be awarded to third and fourth year medical students attending the following: Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of CWRU, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, and Ohio University College of Medicine.

Applications are due no later than January 31st of the year in which the student is to begin their third or fourth year of study. Scholarship recipients will receive their award at the annual meeting of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio in April of that same year.

A copy of the scholarship application is available on The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) web site under the AMEF link at www.amcnoma.org.

Donations/Contributions

Did you know that contributions made by December 31st of the year could reduce taxes on returns filed by April 15th of the following year and that missing that date delays tax savings for a full year? That is why charitable gifts should be made well before Christmas. Timing is everything where year-end tax donations are involved, so don't delay. Plan as if the year ends on December 15th.

The AMEF is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization dedicated to the improvement of health care. The AMEF touches the lives of physicians, medical school students and citizens across the region, through scholarships, community health projects and education. Please review the numerous opportunities to be involved in the Foundation's efforts and consider making a donation. All donations are fully tax-deductible. If you have any questions please e-mail Secretary-Treasurer Elayne Biddlestone at ebiddlestone@amcnoma.org or call her at 216-520-1000, ext. 100.

Cash Donations

To donate by check, simply send your gift by mail to AMEF, 6100 Oak Tree Blvd., Ste. 440, Independence, Ohio 44131. AMEF accepts donations made with payments through Visa or MasterCard, please call 216.520.1000 ext. 100 to make a credit card gift to the Foundation.

Stock Gifts

Gifts of appreciated stock are a convenient way to contribute to the AMEF. There are often many tax benefits for donors through tax deductions for the full fair market value of the contributed stock, and avoidance of taxes on capital gains. For more information about this type of giving please call AMEF at 216-520-1000, ext. 100.

Tribute Gifts

Remembering or honoring a family member, friend, loved one or colleague by making a gift to AMEF is a meaningful gesture. Any gift to the AMEF may be made "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone or some occasion. For information on this type of giving you may contact AMEF at 216-520-1000, ext. 100.

Planned Gifts

AMEF can help you learn more about planned giving. Planned gifts offer many benefits through tax deductions and/or reducing estate taxes. **For information on this type of charitable giving contact AMEF at 216-520-1000, or go to the AMCNO web site at www.amcnoma.org and click on the AMEF link.**

AMEF Scholarships

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) presented six local medical students with scholarships worth \$5,000 each at this year's AMCNO annual meeting. The scholarships were awarded to: George Assad, Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine, Stephanie Cizek, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Nida Degesys, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine, Hanhan Li, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Russell Stitzlein, Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine and Leandria Thomas, Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

This was the sixth year scholarship monies were presented to recipients as part of the program of the AMCNO's annual meeting and awards dinner, with students and their respective families in attendance.

AMEF enhances the philosophy of the AMCNO in its focus on health-oriented education for physicians, their staff and for patients by providing support for meaningful education and highlighting the value and quality of healthcare in our community.



The AMEF scholarship recipients gather at the podium with Dr. John Bastulli, AMEF President, after receiving their \$5,000 scholarship award. (left to right) Stephanie Cizek, George Assad, Dr. John Bastulli, Hanhan Li, Nida Degesys, Leandria Thomas, and Russell Stitzlein.

Year-End Planning Ideas

By Phil Moshier, CFP, CRPC, Sagemark Consulting

Much of 2011 has been focused on the debt ceiling and foreign affairs and there hasn't been sweeping tax reform as of this writing. However, there are a few items of note and a few year-end planning action ideas to consider.

The Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 that was signed into law on December 17, 2010 provided a welcome relief for many taxpayers by temporarily extending many of the provisions of the 2010 Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 (EGTRA) and the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003 (JGTRRA). The new law extended many provisions for an additional two years, through 2012. Some highlights include:

- Temporary extension of the 25%, 28%, 33% and 35% tax brackets.
- Temporary repeal of the Personal Exemption Phaseout and itemized deduction limitation.
- Temporary extension of the capital gains and dividend rates at 15% for taxpayers in the 25% tax bracket and above and 0% for taxpayers below the 25% tax bracket.
- Education incentives including expanded deductibility of student loan interest, expanded exclusion of employer-provided educational assistance and extension of the American Opportunity Tax Credit, among others.
- Temporary patch on the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) exemption amount.
- Estate tax exemptions of \$5 million per person and \$10 million per couple effective January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012.
- Temporary payroll tax cut on Social Security to 4.2% for 2011.

Energy efficiency continues to provide some tax incentives for individual taxpayers as well. Certain energy-efficient appliances are eligible for a credit in 2011. Credits are also available for energy efficient improvements to existing homes for such items as insulation and doors and windows.

Mileage rates also increased in 2011 as gas prices have escalated. The 2011 mileage rates are:

	<u>Before 7/1/2011</u>	<u>After 6/30/2011</u>
Business	51¢	55.5¢
Medical/Moving	19¢	23.5¢

With unemployment at high levels, there is some potential tax relief for job seekers. When seeking employment, taxpayers can deduct employment and outplacement agency fees, amounts spent for preparing and mailing resumes and travel expenses to another location when looking for a job in his or her current occupation. Expenses are subject to the 2% AGI limitation and receipts should be maintained to document and substantiate all expenses.

It's not too late for some tried and true year-end planning considerations for individuals.

- A review of contributions to 401(k) or other retirement plans should be completed to insure individuals are maximizing their pre-tax contributions. For 2011, individuals under 50 can contribute \$16,500 to 401(k) plans and those 50 and over can contribute \$22,000 with catch-up provisions. Individual Retirement Account (IRA) contributions can be maximized at \$5,000 for individuals under 50 and \$6,000 for individuals 50 and older.

- Instead of waiting for January 1 to start house cleaning, consider a review of household items in good condition and gift items to qualified charities before year-end.
- Gifts of appreciated securities have two benefits – no taxation to the individual on the sale of the stock and a current market value deduction for the charitable gift. Individuals should consider charities they commonly make gifts to and gift stock instead of cash, especially if one holds a concentrated position of one security.
- Sales of securities in loss positions can provide an offset of capital gains plus a reduction of up to \$3,000 of earned income. A year-end portfolio review is a great idea to either harvest capital gains at the current low rates (set to expire in 2012) or realize capital losses for a potential tax reduction.
- Bunching of deductions – for example paying two years of real estate taxes in one year – may be a planning technique for some taxpayers.

Individuals should contact their tax advisor before implementing any of the ideas above.

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Ms. Bixenstine and Mr. Donnelly were asked by the moderator, Mr. Moscarino, to respond to questions related to current trends in medical malpractice litigation from the hospital in-house counsel perspective.

Ms. Bixenstine stated that there has been increased regulatory action against pharmaceutical companies, device manufacturers and the health care industry. She stated that if a physician is serving as an expert or a speaker for pharmaceutical companies or device manufacturers they should be sure that they are writing their own speeches and that what they are saying on behalf of that pharmaceutical company is representative of their views. Also make sure you are scrupulously following the conflict of interest policies of universities, hospitals and employers. She commented on the ODI data noting that with respect to malpractice trends in Ohio, the number of claims closed in 2009 went up 8 percent over 2008 so there has been an uptick in the number of claims. Also, the average indemnity payment in 2009 was up 27 percent over 2008. She also noted that Northeast Ohio generated half of the claims and had the highest indemnity payments in the state.

Mr. Donnelly noted that he is seeing more cases pre-suit since it is expensive for the plaintiff attorneys to hire experts, and if there is agreement on resolving a matter early it is helpful. Ms. Bixenstine agreed noting that last year at least 72 percent of their claims were settled pre-suit without litigation.

In response to a question on what physicians can do to keep out of court, Mr. Donnelly noted that good communications is one of the best ways to avoid a malpractice claim. He stated that it is important to take the time to establish a good patient/physician relationship since it is much easier to spend time on the front end than years of litigation on the back end. Also, he recommended that physicians communicate expectations clearly. In the documentation be sure to clearly lay out a treatment plan, and explain your decision-making process. Ms. Bixenstine also noted that attending physicians need to remember that it is important to read a discharge summary that a resident has dictated. If your name is on it you are responsible for the contents and it does not get you out of liability if it says "dictated, but not read," so she encouraged physicians in the audience to carefully



The presenters pose for the camera following the session: (left to right) Mr. George Moscarino, Mr. John Lancione, Ms. Kim Bixenstine, Mr. Matthew Donnelly and Mr. Jim McMonagle.

review the discharge summaries and correct them in a timely way. She also noted that physicians should have a follow-up process in their office or practice to report test results since there have been cases where there has been a missed diagnosis because of a failure to follow up on test results.

Mr. Moscarino asked for their views on getting affidavits of merit on time and their thoughts on whether the courts enforce these. Ms. Bixenstine stated that generally the judges will give the plaintiff's counsel time to get the affidavit of merit within 60-90 days, but after that time if the affidavit of merit is not filed the case will be dismissed. So the affidavit of merit can provide some deterrent for filing frivolous cases.

In response to a question on how to best work with an outside attorney and defend a case Ms. Bixenstine noted that as soon as there is an adverse incident where there is an unexpected negative outcome or if a physician realizes that a mistake has been made they should immediately call their risk manager or law department. They can help you figure out how to deal with it and how to disclose the error or apologize. It can be helpful to try to resolve a case pre-suit. She also cautioned to never change or alter the records. Mr. Donnelly agreed and noted that physicians have to ask for advice and realize that in this situation they are not the expert anymore. Your whole life you have been the expert and in charge, but you are in foreign territory now. Trust your lawyer to know what they are doing – they have been there before, they are the experts now so work with them. It is also necessary to go through the records, review the depositions, pay attention and put the time in to talk to your lawyer. Also he cautioned physicians in the audience not to engage in communications about the event in the hallway with other people because these conversations are not privileged.



(left to right) Mr. Michael Ungar, CMBA President, Mr. George Moscarino and Mr. Jim McMonagle listen to the presentations at the medical legal event.

Both attorneys were asked to provide insight into the importance of the deposition. Mr. Donnelly stated that the deposition is more important than the trial because most cases do not go to trial. The deposition is usually the first time the plaintiff's lawyer gets a chance to size up the physician. The deposition makes the initial impression. You want the plaintiff's lawyer coming away from that deposition thinking about whether or not they should move forward with the case. Ms. Bixenstine echoed these comments and stressed the importance of looking professional during the deposition.

Both attorneys commented that social media and electronic communications are dramatically changing litigation because there is so much publicly available. Physicians need to recognize that if they are involved in litigation or called as a witness in a case it is more than likely the plaintiff's lawyer will have searched for information on you, so physicians need to be very sensitive to these issues and also remember that anything that could be embarrassing or used against you in litigation should never be posted on the internet. In addition, emails have changed the way physicians interact with their patients and physicians need to be very clear with their patients whether they will communicate with them via email and under what circumstances. Physicians need to be mindful of the fact that if you use

email you may create a physician/patient relationship even if you have not physically examined the patient. So if a patient emails you and you give medical advice by email arguably the patient/physician relationship has been established. That could then lead to a claim for medical negligence if some adverse outcome occurs as a result of that communication. It can also lead to patient dissatisfaction if a response to an email is not friendly, if it is deemed not responsive, or if it is a response from your staff. Also physicians were reminded that if you put it in an email, on Facebook or up on a blog, you may see it again in a courtroom.

The AMCNO, AMEF and the CMBA wish to thank all of the presenters for their participation in this session and the AMCNO looks forward to working with the CMBA in the coming year on other medical legal initiatives.

AMEF Funds Used to Sponsor Business Practice Session for Residents

Through the generous support of the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) and the William E. Lower Fund, the AMCNO provided the venue for a seminar geared toward resident physicians entitled "Preparing for the Business Aspects of Practicing Medicine." This seminar covered such topics as estate planning for young physicians, benefits available to physicians, legal issues for new physicians joining a medical practice, business opportunities for new physicians and disability programs and planning for the future. This session is always very well attended and provides valuable insights for residents about to enter the practice of medicine.

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) Co-Sponsors Statewide Immunization Conference

This May the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) was a proud co-sponsor of the the Consortium for Healthy and Immunized Communities, CHIC, 2011 Statewide Immunization Conference. This biennial conference presents nationally known speakers with expert knowledge in vaccines, coding, administration errors, anticipated vaccines and the anti-vaccine movement.

Presenters this year included; Paul Offit, MD, Chief, Section of Infectious Diseases at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania, JoEllen Wolicki, RN, BSN, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Steve Cochi, MD, MPH, Senior Advisor, Global Immunization Division, National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, CDC, and Litjen Tan, PhD, Director, Medicine and Public Health at the American Medical Association and Co-Chair of the National Influenza Vaccine Summit.

The one-day conference was held at Windows on the River in Cleveland. Two hundred thirty-two participants, including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses and office staff filled the ballroom. Participants traveled from over twenty-five Ohio counties and from as far away as Cincinnati and Dayton. Physicians were awarded 4.5 category 1 CME credits and nurses received 4.75 nursing contact hours.

Conference participants were presented with a signed copy of Dr. Offits' latest book



Ms. Cindy Modie, RN, BSN, Supervisor, Vaccine Services for the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and Dr. Paul Offit spend a moment at the CHIC event.



Over 200 participants, including physicians, nurses and office staff participated in the CHIC event.

Deadly Choices, How the Anti-Vaccine Movement Threatens Us All, and a conference notebook full of helpful vaccine information.

Support for this statewide immunization conference was provided by; The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation, OhioPace (supported by a grant from Pfizer, Inc.), Merck Vaccines, and Sanofi Pasteur, Inc.

Healthlines Radio Program – Segment on AMEF History Featured

AMEF provided co-sponsorship with the AMCNO of the well-established and award-winning *Healthlines* radio program, which provides healthcare related information from expert member physicians to the community. This sponsorship affords AMEF the opportunity to establish itself in the community. The *Healthlines* program is hosted by AMCNO past president Dr. Anthony Bacevice, Jr. Recordings of the 2009-2010 *Healthlines* program may be downloaded from the AMCNO web site at www.amcnoma.org.

Thank you to the following interviewees who appeared on *Healthlines* in 2009-2010 (list is current through November 2011):

Dr. Linda Bradley
Dr. Timothy Gilligan

Dr. Christopher McHenry
Dr. Aphrodite Papadakis
Dr. Michael Wojtanowski
Dr. Donald Ford
Dr. Julierut Tantibhedhyangkul
Dr. Steven Nissen
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Dr. Matthew Wayne
Dr. Linda Gross
Dr. Lynn Chrismer
Dr. Dawn Zacharias
Dr. Mehrun Elyaderani
Dr. Frank Papay
Dr. Beri Ridgeway
Dr. Molly McVoy
Dr. Kevin Stephans
Dr. Vaishali Flask

Annual AMEF fundraiser

Every year in August, AMEF sponsors an event designed specifically to raise funds for the foundation. A charitable golf outing in memory of Marissa Rose Biddlestone, daughter of the AMCNO Executive Vice President and CEO, who succumbed to leukemia in 2003. Now in its eighth year, this annual outing has raised more than \$250,000 for the foundation—funds that are utilized for local medical student scholarships and the aforementioned AMEF projects. (For an overview and pictures from this year's outstanding outing see page 7).



AMEF

Academy of Medicine Education Foundation

As the cost of medical education continually increases, financial assistance for medical students is more important than ever. And as you may know, a physician shortage is predicted in the next decade with studies showing there may not be enough qualified physicians to meet the medical needs of an aging population in coming years. AMEF needs funds to provide scholarships to medical students to assure that our medical schools continue training physicians to meet the needs of patients in the future. Your contribution to AMEF will help us with this laudable goal. In addition, your funds will be used to assist with other worthwhile foundation activities.

Contributors will be acknowledged on the AMCNO web site, in future newsletters and when the medical scholarships are awarded at our annual meeting. Included with this newsletter is a give envelope for AMEF. A separate mailing has also been sent out to all past scholarship recipients and all AMCNO members requesting donations/contributions to the AMEF. Please include AMEF in your charitable giving plans.

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation was formed by the physician leadership of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio. Original funding came from voluntary contributions as a result of a successful polio vaccination program sponsored by the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland in the years 1958 and 1962. The largest continuing commitment of the foundation is student scholarship grants to worthy students in the medical field. Since its inception, the foundation has granted more than \$1.3 million to such qualified students. The Foundation has historically initiated many programs of benefit to the community and has co-sponsored and funded various healthcare related seminars and programs across Northeast Ohio for decades.

The Purpose of AMEF

AMEF MAY APPLY FUNDS TO THE FOLLOWING CHARITABLE AND EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES:

- Promoting education and research in the field of medicine by the establishment or financing of fellowships, scholarships, lectures, projects and awards on such terms as the Trustees deem best;
- Providing and promoting educational programs on the science of medicine, including presentations on clinical care and new procedures;
- Providing and promoting health education for the welfare of the community, identifying public health issues and unmet community health care needs and make proposals for dealing with such issues and filling such needs for the benefit of the public;
- Maintaining and providing educational materials and publications concerning health care to the members, related public service organizations and citizens of the community;
- Supporting medical education at local medical schools by providing lectures and counseling services;
- Supporting local public health programs and initiatives;

- Sponsoring seminars on topics of medical education and public health issues;
- Assisting in the production of educational radio and television programs, telephone recordings, and computer and electronic programs and materials, designed in each case to educate members of the general public on matters of health care and public health issues;
- Making grants, donations, or contributions of funds or other property in the trust estate to other charitable, scientific, and educational trusts, organizations or institutions, organized and operated for any of the purposes set forth in subparagraphs above, or for uses that are in furtherance of any of the other purposes of this Trust, including for medical research and education, public health programs, and public and community education relating to health care and wellness programs, provided that no part of the net income of such trusts, organizations, or institutions inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual and that no substantial part of the activity of such trust, organization, or institution is the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, or participating or intervening in any political campaign.

2011 Golf Outing Highlights

Golfers enjoyed Mayfield Country Club on Monday, August 9, 2011, at the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation's (AMEF) eighth annual Marissa Rose Biddlestone Memorial golf outing. Foursomes competed in a shotgun start tournament that raised more than \$40,000 for AMEF. The funds will be utilized for medical student scholarships, annual CME seminars and the *Healthlines* radio program. The 2011 AMEF scholarship recipients were invited to join the group for dinner.

1st Place Team

James Kleinman, Dr. Richard Parker, Tom Pyle and Dr. William Seitz, Jr.

2nd Place Team

Kellison & Co.: Kevin Ellison, Larry Joseph, David Reddrop and David Reddrop

3rd Place Team

Wilson Beers, Mat Mark, Scott Platz and Dr. Matt Levy

Prizes were also awarded for the following:

Closest to the pin

Willie Austin, Anthony Bastulli, Larry Joseph, and Dr. Richard Parker

Longest Drive

Wilson Beers, Jason Oblander

Longest Putt Holed

Larry Joseph



AMEF Golf Committee

John Bastulli, MD

Victor Bello, MD

Kevin Geraci, MD

Michael Koehler, MD

Matthew Levy, MD

Phil Moshier

William Seitz, Jr., MD



A special thank you goes to all the event, hole and hole-in-one sponsors who helped make the day successful.

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Get your clubs ready for next year's event on **August 6, 2012** at **Chagrin Valley Country Club**.

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As the cost of medical education continually increases, financial assistance for medical students is more important than ever. And as you may know, a physician shortage is predicted in the next decade with studies showing there may not be enough qualified physicians to meet the medical needs of an aging population in coming years. AMEF needs funds to provide scholarships to medical students to assure that our medical schools continue training physicians to meet the needs of patients in the future. Your contribution to AMEF will help us with this laudable goal. In addition, your funds will be used to assist with other worthwhile foundation activities. Contributors will be acknowledged on the AMCNO Website, in future newsletters and when the medical scholarships are awarded at our annual meeting. Included with this newsletter is a give envelope for AMEF. A separate mailing has also been sent out to all past scholarship recipients and all AMCNO members requesting donations/contributions to the AMEF. Please include AMEF in your charitable giving plans.

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The mission of AMEF is to enhance healthcare through education of the medical profession and the community at large. The purpose of AMEF is to add a charitable component to the AMCNO and to partner with the AMCNO in implementing new initiatives for both physicians and the patient population through charitable, educational and scientific efforts. AMEF enhances the philosophy of the AMCNO in its focus on health oriented education for physicians, their staff and patients by providing support for meaningful education and highlighting the value and quality of healthcare. A showcase for a philanthropic spirit is provided through the Foundation for physicians who desire to give back to the community and the profession they serve.