



**Tuesday,  
March 12,  
2013**

## Lung Cancer Works in Stealth Mode: Are Your Patients at Risk ?

Volume 174, Issue 1

**MARCH  
2013**



**Speaker:  
Tammy  
Gleeson, DO,  
General and  
Robotic Thoracic  
Surgeon**

*Honoring  
outstanding  
physicians  
who serve  
our commu-  
nity with  
compassion  
and  
excellence!  
Wednesday,  
March 13th  
National  
Doctor's  
Day*

***R.S.V.P.***  
***Diane***  
***269.660.0893***

**LOCATION:  
BATTLE CREEK  
COUNTRY CLUB**

**AGENDA:**

- \* **5:30 P.M. - CCMS Executive Committee (South Room)**
- \* **6:00 P.M. - 6:30 Social/Networking (Main Ballroom)**
- \* **6:30 P.M. Dinner/Presentation (1 CME) (Main Ballroom)**

**MENU:  
Buffet with vegetarian  
option**

**1-CME OBJECTIVES**

- ◆ Know lung cancer screening guidelines
- ◆ Know smoking cessation options for patients
- ◆ Understand diagnostic options/procedures for nodule detection

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER**

**Tammy L. Gleeson, DO** is owner and member of Thoracic Surgery Institute of Southwest Michigan, PLC. She is affiliated with Bronson Battle Creek, Oaklawn

Hospital, Borgess Medical Center, Bronson Select Specialty Hospital, and Hillsdale Community Health Center. Dr. Gleeson presently does general and robotic thoracic surgery, endobronchial ultrasound, and electromagnetic navigational guided bronchoscopy.

She is past Chair, Department of Surgery and in the employed physician group for the former Battle Creek Health System. Dr. Gleeson performed general thoracic, vascular, and endovascular surgery for the Vascular Health Center.

Her educational background includes a fellowship in thoracic cardiovascular surgery with the Bi-County Community Hospital in Warren, Michigan, a residency in general surgery at St. John – Detroit Riverview Hospital, and a traditional rotating internship with Bi-County Community Hospital with

affiliations with St. John/Ascension Health System, St. John – Oakland Hospital, Riverside Osteopathic Hospital, Sinai – Grace Hospital, Detroit Children’s Hospital, Detroit Riverview Hospital, and Henry Ford Health System. Dr. Gleeson received her DO from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in Kirksville, Missouri with a 93.02% GPA and a class rank of 2 of 135. She received her Bachelor of Science – Biology from the University of Michigan with a minor in chemistry, class honors, and a GPA of 3.644 magna cum laude.

**TARGET AUDIENCE**

The target audience for this program is ALL PHYSICIAN MEMBERS of Calhoun County Medical Society. One (1) hour CME will be offered at this meeting.

Bronson Battle Creek is accredited by the Michigan State Medical Society committee on CME Accreditation to provide continuing medical education for physicians. Bronson Battle Creek designates this educational activity for a maximum of one category 1 toward the AMA Physician’s Recognition Award. Each physician should claim only those credits that he/she

**CCMS  
EVENT  
CALENDAR**

**2013**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday,  
6:30pm Meeting  
Topics:**

Apr. 9 @ Cen-tra-Care	Geriatric Delirium, G. Wertz, MD (1 CME)
Apr. 26-28 @ Am-way Grnd	MSMS House of Delegates, The Henry, Dearborn
May 14 @ Oak-lawn	Afghanistan Wounds, M. Langworthy, MD (1 CME)!
Jun. 11 @ BBC	Executive Committee ONLY @ BBC OPC Board Room
Sep. 10	Cardiac Stress Testing, Dr. Eliuk (1 CME)
Oct. 8	S. Winslow, MD Lectureship @ BCCC

actually spent in the activity. This is a non-sponsored meeting. The speaker has no financial affiliations. A speaker disclosure form is on file in the Medical Staff Office at Bronson Battle Creek.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**William J. Comai,  
DO**

2013 President,  
Calhoun County  
Medical Society.  
Email: comai-  
farms@aol.com

If you have  
**COUNTY**  
suggestions,  
call me at my  
Battle Creek  
office phone  
(269) 704-3133

### New President/ New Year

With all the changes occurring in medicine, what should the role of the county medical society play? Certainly the last several years and upcoming decade will be rather eventful in terms of changes that are happening in medicine and what should our role be?

### Communication

One of the things that has happened with hospitals is the division of medical staff into hospital based and non-hospital based as we are all well aware. The Calhoun County Medical Society (CCMS) could serve as a useful tool at multiple levels.

One to create communication between hospital and non-hospital based physicians and offer a mechanism for socializing. Personally there are a number of office faces of primary care doctors that I haven't seen in years due to the fact that they simply don't go to the hospital terribly often.

The other element of this that may be helpful is getting the hospitalists introduced to the office-based staff to facilitate communications and also make the hospitalists feel like part of the community.

### Education

There are a multitude of roles in which CCMS may provide an educational tool. I think this is particularly important due to the fact that we have little connection to any teaching facilities or university-based hospital systems. An example would be a personal favorite of mine which is prevention of hip fracture in the Battle Creek population and the management of geriatric fractures. There are a great deal of things that could be done to educate not only physicians but the general public in management of these issues.

Here is to a new year and I look forward to working with all of you!

*Sincerely,*  
*William J. Comai,*  
**DO**

### STATE LEGISLATOR CONTACT INFO.:

Michigan 62nd District State Representative Kate Segal-D  
Phone toll free  
1-888-347-8062  
Email: [KateSegal@house.mi.gov](mailto:KateSegal@house.mi.gov)

Michigan 63rd District State Representative Jase Bolger-D  
Phone toll free  
1-877-265-4371  
Email: [JamesBolger@house.mi.gov](mailto:JamesBolger@house.mi.gov)

Michigan 19th District Senator Mike Nofs-R  
Phone  
269-441-1222  
Email: [ILikeMike@MikeNofs.com](mailto:ILikeMike@MikeNofs.com)

### FEDERAL LEGISLATOR CONTACT INFO.:

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow-R  
Phone  
1-616-975-0052  
Email: [senator@stabenow.senate.gov](mailto:senator@stabenow.senate.gov)

U.S. Representative 7th District Tim Walberg-D  
Phone  
1-517-780-9075  
Email: <http://walberg.house.gov>

### Another way to make your voice heard:

**Join MDPAC** (Medical Doctor Political Action Committee) **Today!**

- ◆ Contribute
- ◆ Engage
- ◆ Unite
- ◆ Lead at...

<http://www.mdpac.org>

**If you have questions, please contact Andrew R. Schepers at (517) 336-7579, or [aschepers@msms.org](mailto:aschepers@msms.org).**

**U**ndoubtedly, **Governor Rick Snyder** has made remarkable changes in the way Michigan works in relatively a very brief period of time since he has taken office. Most notably last September, he unveiled a plan to dramatically change the health insurance landscape in Michigan by changing the way Blue Cross/Blue shield does business. Blue Cross, by far the state's biggest health insurer, would no longer be required to provide insurance to people who couldn't get it anywhere else.

The governor's rationale is that **President Obama's** affordable care act will soon require all insurance companies to provide care to people with pre-existing conditions. Blue Cross would no longer get the hundred-million dollar tax exemption it now enjoys, but it would no longer be under the strict state scrutiny and oversight it now has. Currently, any rate increase the Blues request has to be scrutinized by the state attorney general.

The governor's plan will transfer that authority to the Office of Financial and Insurance Regulation, which regulates other health insurance companies. That would likely make it easier for Blue Cross to increase rates, and speed up the

time between any rate request and approval. Blue Cross would also be required to provide one-point-five billion dollars to a new independent non-profit healthcare organization, though it is not clear how that would work.

Last September, the governor's proposal may have seemed quite complex and raised a number of big questions. Among them: Would this be a good thing for Michigan? What happens if the Republicans win the national elections and repeal the affordable care act? And finally, will the legislature agreed to this? But a complex solution might just be the right fit for the complex Blue Cross as the only charity to pay its CEO more than three-million dollars a year.

By transforming, Blue Cross also would shed its charitable "social mission" and contribute up to \$1.5 billion over 18 years to a nonprofit foundation carrying on that work. The foundation would work to improve public health and health care access, particularly for children and the elderly. Critics fear the social mission will be diminished, and advocates for the elderly are worried about insurance rate hikes coming with less regulation.

Senate Insurance **Chairman Joe Hune**, a

sponsor of one bill, said by including a four-year rate freeze and a five-year subsidy of Medicaid—which fills the gap in Medicare coverage for seniors—legislators are protecting seniors for nine years. The governor says his proposal will get rid of "outdated regulations" and create a "modernized, efficient health care marketplace," which sounds like a good idea. There are concerns that this will pave the way for Blue Cross to become a for-profit company and start buying up other companies, maybe even diversifying. Blue Cross denies that. But it is clear that Blue Cross would be able to stop providing some subsidies now required.

Regardless, on January 31, 2013, the state Senate approved an operational overhaul of Blues of Michigan. The bills that won unanimous approval no longer include language that would prevent insurers and businesses from providing elective abortion coverage in employee health plans. The plan now heads to the House, where its future is up for debate.

*Best regards,*

*Marjaneh Rouhani,*

*MD,*

*Joe Schwarz, MD*

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT



**Marjaneh Rouhani, MD**  
CCMS Legislative Co-Chair  
Email: [mrouhani@doctor.com](mailto:mrouhani@doctor.com)  
Concerns?  
Office phone (269) 969-6108



**John J.H. Schwarz, MD**  
CCMS Legislative Co-Chair  
Email: [jschwarz@FHCB.com](mailto:jschwarz@FHCB.com)  
Concerns?  
Office phone (269) 965-8866

# MSMS THIRD DISTRICT REPORT



**Michigan State  
Medical Society**  
120 W Saginaw  
East Lansing, MI  
48823

**Main Phone:**  
(517) 337-1351

Website:  
[www.msms.org](http://www.msms.org)

**Email:**  
[msms@msms.org](mailto:msms@msms.org)

## Calhoun's MSMS

**Member**

**Consultant,**

**Gary A. Huyge,**

*will be pleased to  
meet with you to  
answer your MSMS  
membership  
questions.*

*To schedule  
a visit, please  
contact him at  
Phone  
616-826-4652*

*or*

*Email*

[GHuyge@msms.org](mailto:GHuyge@msms.org)

*—or— see him at  
our meetings.*

## The Michigan State Medical Society Foundation

*Presents...*

**Patient Centered Medi-  
cal Home: Coordinated  
Care, Optimal Outcomes**  
**Wednesday,  
March 13, 2013**  
**Somerset Inn, Troy**  
**9:00 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.**

*Featuring*

**Michael Hindmarsh,**  
President, Hindsight  
Healthcare Strategies

Information on the reorganization of health care delivery to implementing capabilities which strengthen patient care, safety and satisfaction, this conference will offer two tracks. Track 1 for practices exploring or just beginning to implement PCMH, and Track 2 for those practices needing more advanced information.

### **General Sessions:**

- ◆ **Strategies for Change,**  
**Michael Hindmarsh**
- ◆ **Using Social Media to Improve Patient Care,**  
**John Berg,** Executive Director, Strategic Market Development, Sparrow Health System and  
**Lorraine Buis, PhD,** Assistant Professor, Wayne State University College of Nursing
- ◆ **Community Resources – Partners in Care,**  
**Ruth E. Clark, RN, BSN, MPA,** Integrated Health Partners

### **Track 1**

- ◆ What is a Patient Cen-

tered Medical Home?  
**James Whelan, MD,**  
Cadillac Family Physi-  
cians

- ◆ Lean Thinking and the Patient Centered Medical Home, **Beau Keyte,** Lean Transformations Group

### **Track 2**

- ◆ **Provider-led Care Coordination,** **Cecelia Sauter, RD, CDE,** Director of Diabetes Education, University of Michigan
- ◆ **Transitions in Care,** **Christopher Beal, DO,** St. Johns Internal Medicine, PC

Who should attend: physicians, administrators, office managers and all other health care professionals.

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

Fees: MSMS & MMGMA Members - \$160, Non-Members, - \$200

Meals: Continental Breakfast and Lunch

It's Easy to Register – Sign up Today!

Telephone: MSMS Registrar 517-336-5785

Fax Registration Form to: 517-336-5797

Mail Registration Form to: MSMS Foundation, 120 W. Saginaw, East Lansing, MI 48823  
Continuing Medical Education:

Statement of Accreditation: The Michigan State Medical Society is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

AMA Credit Designation

Statement: The Michigan State Medical Society designates this live activity for a maximum of 5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Nurses: The ACCME is approved by the Board of Nursing as an acceptable provider of continuing education for license renewal and relicensure.

## **Prescription for a Healthier Practice: Streamline Your Overpayment Recovery Processes**

For this month's AMA practice checkup, streamline your overpayment recovery process by reducing manual workflows and creating efficiencies in your claims revenue cycle. Start with "[Questions to consider when addressing payer overpayment recovery requests on individual claims](#)," and look for upcoming resources in your AMA Practice Management Alerts to help even more.

This tip is a part of the AMA Practice Management Center's "Prescription for a healthier practice" series to help physicians and their staff examine how their practices are performing in key administrative processes.

## **Have You Been Audited by a RAC?**

Have you been audited by a Recovery Audit Contract

*Continued on page 5*

## CCMS REPORT

### PLEASE...

#### ...ADD CCMS TO YOUR OFFICE ADDRESS LISTS

for your important practice announcements and changes at P.O. Box 278, Battle Creek, MI 49016-0278.

#### ...ADD CCMS TO YOUR EMAIL CONTACT LISTS

at [calhouncms@yahoo.com](mailto:calhouncms@yahoo.com).

#### ...ADD CCMS TO YOUR WEBSITE FAVORITES

at [www.calhouncms.org](http://www.calhouncms.org) and MSMS at [www.msms.org](http://www.msms.org).

#### EMAILED MEETING FLYERS & NEWSLETTERS ARE RECEIVED FASTER!!!

Call the office or send an email request to Diane at [calhouncms@yahoo.com](mailto:calhouncms@yahoo.com).

### MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

As of 2/28/13, we have a total of 219 members.

#### Welcome New Members!!!

**Debra K. Beard, MD**, Internal Medicine, CentraCare

**Michael J. Langworthy, MD**, Orthopaedics, Southern Michigan Orthopaedics - North

**Tracie N. Rulewicz, DO**, OB/GYN, Mansion Street Women's Health

**Daryl Warder, MD**, Neurosurgery, Bronson Neuroscience Center

**Gary J. Wortz, MD**, Internal Medicine/ Geriatrics, CentraCare

#### No new 1st or 2nd Readings

*Keep in mind this is a membership-based organization. CCMS encourages all current*

*members to continue to recruit new members.*

### MEMBERSHIP DUES INFORMATION

MSMS mailed the first mailing of dues invoices for 2013 in September. After March, unpaid dues members are dropped and fall into the "non-paying dues" (NPD) members. We sincerely hope this line-item is an important part of your 2013 budget. Please note: County dues are 100% tax deductible; State dues are 85% tax deductible.

Multiple payment options include the easy GROUP BILL to the practice and/or monthly payments. \*The AMA is NOT part of CCMS/MSMS.\* As a convenience ONLY, **AMA dues are OPTIONAL** as a convenience to be paid on one invoice.

For your review, the Dues Rates are listed in the chart below.

2013 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES	Dual Membership Required		Optional
	Practice Status	CCMS	MSMS
Regular Full-time Active	\$275	\$495	\$420
Part-time/Spouse Dr.	\$137.50	\$247.50	\$420
1st Year Practice/Student/Resident	\$68.75	\$123.75	\$420
2nd Year Practice	\$137.50	\$247.50	\$420
3rd Year Practice	\$206.25	\$371.25	\$315
Retirees	\$50	0	0

## MSMS THIRD DISTRICT REPORT

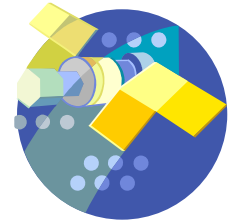
*Continued from page 4*

tor (RAC)? MSMS is putting together a number of resources to educate practices on RAC audits. To assist us in identifying needed resources, please share your experience with MSMS by contacting

**Stacie Saylor, CPC**, at 517-336-5722 or [ssaylor@msms.org](mailto:ssaylor@msms.org).

For more information about reimbursement issues, contact **Stacie Saylor, CPC**, at MSMS at 517-336-5722 or [ssaylor@msms.org](mailto:ssaylor@msms.org).

[lor@msms.org](mailto:lor@msms.org). For more news and information, visit [www.msms.org](http://www.msms.org) where you can read *Medigram* and *Michigan Medicine*.



## MSMS COMMITTEES

### Committees on...

- ◆ Aging
- ◆ Bioethics
- ◆ Annual Scientific Meeting
- ◆ CME Accreditation
- ◆ CME Programming
- ◆ Health Care Quality, Efficiency and Economics
- ◆ Information Technology
- ◆ Maternal and Perinatal Health
- ◆ Medical Licensure and Discipline
- ◆ Membership Recruitment and Retention
- ◆ State Legislation and Regulations

### Liaison Committees with...

- ◆ Michigan's Public Health
- ◆ Third Party Payers

### Task Forces on...

- ◆ A Patient Focused Compensation System
- ◆ Physician Extenders

## 2013 CCMS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

at the  
5:30  
meetings...

President - William J. Comai, DO

President-elect- Gunjana Bhandari, MD

Vice President - Satya B. Chaparala, MD

Secretary / Treasurer - Sridhar Chalasani, MD

Immediate Past President - Lokesh Edara, MD

3rd District Director - Joe Schwarz, MD

Legislative Chair—Marjaneh Rouhani, MD

Michigan Society of Hematology & Oncology - Stephen L. Smiley, MD

Trustees (3-Year Terms)

Zarius Drummond, MD, exp. 2013

Karl Loomis, MD, exp. 2013

Christopher M. Flynn, MD, exp. 2014

Patrick Sweeney, exp. 2014

Maddur Badarinath, MD, exp. 2015

Kari Formsma, MD, exp. 2015

MSMS Delegates (1-Year Term)

Raakesh C. Bhan, MD

B. Douglas Campbell, MD

James H. Timmons, MD, PhD

Paul A. Walk, MD

Alternate Delegates (1-Year Term)

Daniel C. Hood, MD

Jeff M. Jones, MD

Mahesh C. Karamchandani, MD

## Elkmoss Corner: “Residency Selection”

With the March 15th Match Day coming up, I was reflecting on how I along with other 4th year medical students decided on what and where they should do their residency.

I saw in the newspaper the other day statistics of a college that noted fifty percent of college students did not know what to major in, and fully eighty-five percent of those students that “knew” what they want to do, changed majors. On average, students at that college changed majors three times during their years in undergraduate school.

I have not seen the data for medical school students (Is there any?), but I imagine the statistics for specialty selection changes, at least mentally, are even more than major changes for those in undergraduate school. In the past, internships were not attached to residency positions as much as they are now, so there was at least a little more wiggle room for med students to explore possible specialties that might appeal to them before deciding which residency to apply.

I originally thought I would like to be a family practitioner, but for the first two weeks on clinical rotations my third year, I was exposed to the chair-

man of the neurology department, Dr. Brayn. Besides being brilliant and accomplished, he was an intense and focused attending whose major goal was to teach dumb medical students like me something about neurology. Even though he staffed patients only five times during that two weeks, it was enough to stimulate my interest in neurology. So at the start of my fourth year, my first rotations were on the neurology service for a month, and then family practice service to see which one I wanted to do. (I also did a neurosurgery rotation just to see if the life of surgery fitted my psyche—it did not.) Dr. Brayn was again my attending for the month, and I was hooked on that specialty.

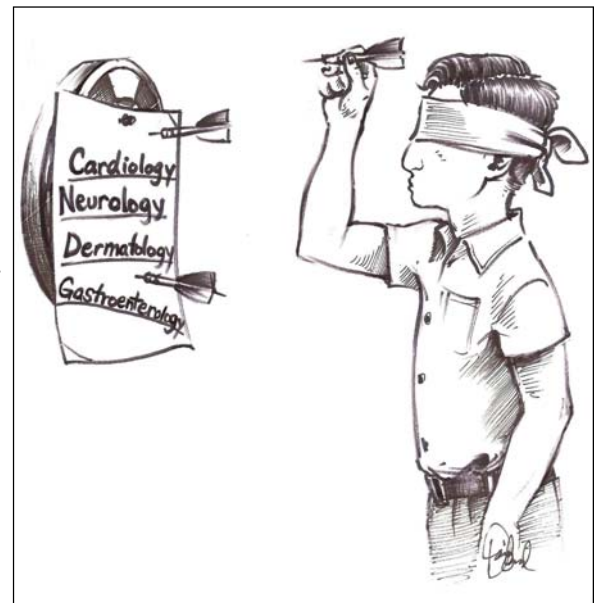
One day, we had two admissions to present. The first patient was one I had seen, but our team had completely blown the diagnosis. After chewing out everyone involved except me (I think he realized what a stupid medical student I was), we moved on to the next patient. After a subdued presentation, Brayn

went to the patient’s room, with all the team members following, to exam the patient. The bed was empty, an unforgivable sin since no patient was permitted off the ward until being staffed by the attending.

Brayn, with his entire entourage in tow, stormed off and accosted the charge nurse, a gorgeous young blond that I had been trying to get a date with for several weeks. She was new to being in charge and Dr. Brayn completely destroyed this lady, reducing her to tears in front of the whole service.

My fellow medical student on the service, Charley, who knew I had been trying to get a date with the destroyed nurse, whispered to me, “So much for you ever getting to take her out!”

And I never did. I had



## Elkmoss *(continued)*

enough trouble getting dates in medical school as it was and did not appreciate Dr. Brayn reducing my ability.

That day on our way back to the med center apartments with Charley, I turned to him and said, "I think neurology is what I want to go into."

He looked at me in amazement. "What do you mean? How could you possibly want to go into a specialty after dealing with the likes of Dr. Brayn? Did you see what he did to our service today?"

"Well," I said, "when I started college, I really wanted to be a chemical engineer, but was drafted before starting graduate school. I thought my world had come to an end, and it had. I got yelled at by drill sergeants in Basic and Advanced Individual Training, physically abused by TAC officers in OCS, and shot at and almost killed in Vietnam. On my return, I was fortunate to be accepted into medical school. Today for the first time, Dr. Brayn almost made me feel grateful for having that experience. I know I can handle anything he can throw at me!"



*Herman J.  
Elkmoss,  
MD*



**Roshan  
Karam-  
chandani ,  
CCMSA Co-**

As a spouse or partner of a medical society member (physician), you are eligible to become a member of the Calhoun County/ Michigan State/ AMA (optional) Alliance. The Alliance is the largest volunteer arm of the CCMSA/ MSMSA/ AMAA, supporting medical families through networking, advocacy, and education. It serves as a volunteer voice of healthy families in our communities. You can learn more about the rich opportunities available at [www.msmsa.org](http://www.msmsa.org) or [www.amaalliance.org](http://www.amaalliance.org).



## Calhoun County Medical Society Alliance Invitation

You are invited  
to a  
**Luncheon Meeting  
Tuesday, March  
5th, 12:00 p.m.**  
at  
**Lux Cafe  
2587 Capital Ave.  
SW  
Battle Creek**

On the Agenda:

- ☉ Approval of the gift basket for the silent auction at the MSMSA Meeting in April,
- ☉ Nomination of new officers for 2013-2014
- ☉ Future of the CCMSA

### Call for ANY information:

Roshan K. at...  
roshanmk@comcast.net  
—or—  
Jenny K. at...  
j.krauss.9435@gmail.com

## NOW TWO ELKMOSS BOOKS:

In June, **Further Adventures of Herman J. Elkmoss, MD**, was released.

The original book, **The Marvelous Adventures of Herman J. Elkmoss, MD**, can be purchased directly from PublishAmerica or through Amazon or Barnes & Noble online. (E-book versions will soon be available as well.)

Enjoy the antics, comedy, and physician education and experiences. Great as short reading or as a gift. Contact **Jeff Jones, MD**, to acquire your copies locally!



**William B. Comai, MD**  
**Radiologist**

**1978**  
**Calhoun**  
**County**  
**Medical**  
**Society**

## Honoring our CCMS Friend In Passing

### **William B. Comai, MD**

Battle Creek lost one of its healthcare legends with the passing of

### **William Bartley “Bill”**

**Comai, MD, 76**, of Battle Creek, who died Wednesday, January 23, 2013, at Bronson Battle Creek.

Dr. Comai was born in Detroit in 1936 to Mildred (Bucholz) and William C. Comai. He graduated from Detroit’s Redford High School in 1954 and Albion College in 1958. Dr. Comai earned his MD from the University of Michigan in 1961 and completed his internship and residency in orthopedic surgery at St. Mary’s Hospital in Grand Rapids.

He served as a Captain in the U.S. Army from 1966 to 1968 at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia.

Dr. Comai was a practicing surgeon for four decades. He joined Dr. Amos and Dr. Huntington in private practice in 1968 and was later joined by Dr. Morgan. In 1992 Dr. Comai’s son, William J. Comai, DO, joined the practice.

He had served as Chief of Staff at both Battle Creek Health System and Southwest Regional

Rehabilitation Center (SRRC) and was a hospital trustee when Leila and Community Hospitals merged in 1988.

He and Barbara were recipients of the Dale G. Griffin Health Care Leadership Award in 2008 and Dr. Comai was inducted into the Bronson Battle Creek Physician Hall of Fame in 2012.

He was past president of the Calhoun County Medical Society. He had served on the Calhoun County Department of Human Services Board, Board of Trustees for the Southwest Rehabilitation Foundation, and board member of the Kingman Museum of Natural History.

He was a passionate Detroit Tiger baseball and University of Michigan football fan. He was devoted to his family, wife Barbara of 52 years, four children and ten grandchildren.

He was an accomplished gardener, hunter, and fisherman. Dr. Comai was often heard to say, “Keep your rod tip up,” and “Keep your powder dry.”

Dr. Comai’s other passion for natural history and his enjoyment in sharing the wonders of nature with our young people motivated his continual volunteer service at Kingman Museum. Thanks to his hard work and dedication, the museum acquired non-profit status ensuring it will be around for future generations.

**Mark Crawford and Thomas Ignaczak, MD** described Dr. Comai in the Battle Creek Enquirer as “a longtime community leader, an exceptional orthopedic surgeon, a devoted family man, a booster of our community and its high quality of life, and a gentleman who lived his life with passion and a drive for excellence.”

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials go to Calhoun County Medical Care Facility or Kingman Museum. The family was served by Shaw Funeral Home.

*Published in Battle Creek Shopper Guide on January 31, 2013.*





## Honoring our CCMS Friend In Passing

### **Thomas M. Dobbins, MD**

**Thomas Mark Dobbins, MD**, age 55, of Marshall, died in the loving care of his family at his home he loved after a courageous battle with cancer on Tuesday, February 5, 2013.

Dr. Tom was born on June 12, 1957 in Albion to Richard H. and Marion (Vonk) Dobbins. He grew up on the family farm near Concord (where he and his siblings had solid life long work ethics instilled in them) and was a 1975 graduate of Concord High School. He then attended Albion College from where he graduated in 1979 with a B.A. in Biology.

His education continued at the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine from where he graduated in 1983. He began serving his residency in Family Practice at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids in 1983 and finished it in 1986.

Dr. Tom was a Board Certified Family Practice Physician. He moved to Marshall and joined his brothers **Dr. Jim Dobbins** and **Dr. Bill Dobbins** at their medical practice, caring for the Marshall and Albion communities. The practice became Mar-

shall Medical Associates and continues to serve the community today.

Dr. Tom retired due to his health on October 31, 2012. While serving his residency he met Marikay Westra, a nursing student, in the cafeteria line at Blodgett Hospital on a rotation there. They struck it off well, fell in love and were married on October 12, 1985 in Grand Rapids.

Dr. Tom was a devout Catholic and a member of St. Mary Catholic Church. He was a member of the American Board of Family Practice and was a past board member and board president of the Integrated Health Partners of Battle Creek. He was an alumni member of Delta Tau Delta.

Dr. Tom and Marikay enjoyed collecting wine. He served as a member of Schuler's Pub Advisory Board. Vacations with his wife and daughters were very special times in his life. Tom enjoyed sipping a good Irish whiskey and a good red wine.

Surviving Dr. Tom are his wife Marikay, their daughters Khevren Dobbins and Elizabeth Dobbins both of Marshall, his brothers and sister-in-laws, Richard L. and Mar-

tha Dobbins of Concord, Dr. James and Sandra Dobbins of Marshall, and Dr. William and Karen Dobbins of Albion, his sister and her partner Martha Dobbins and Shirley Knaack of Marshall, his step-mother Nancy Dobbins of Mt. Pleasant, many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Marion Dobbins and his sister, Mary Elizabeth Dobbins. Funeral services were conducted privately for his family at St. John Catholic Church in Albion. His sister Martha Dobbins, and brothers Dr. James Dobbins, Dr. William Dobbins and Richard Dobbins served as his pall bearers. Interment was in West Eckford Cemetery.

The family suggests that you remember Dr. Tom with a memorial gift to the Fountain Clinic. Assistance with memorials is available at Kempf Funeral Home, Marshall. To sign the on-line guest register and leave a message for the family visit [www.kempffuneralhome.com](http://www.kempffuneralhome.com).

Published in *Jackson Citizen Patriot* on February 17, 2013.



**Thomas M. Dobbins, MD**  
**Family Practice**





**Rob Covert**  
Retired President  
& CEO of  
Oaklawn Hospital



**Ginger Williams,  
MD**  
New President &  
CEO of Oaklawn  
Hospital

## OAKLAWN HOSPITAL BOARD NAMES NEXT PRESIDENT AND CEO

The Oaklawn Hospital Board of Directors has named Chief Medical Officer **Dr. Ginger Williams** to serve as the next President and Chief Executive Officer of the hospital. Following 40 years of service to Oaklawn, current President and CEO **Rob Covert** retired in January.

Dr. Williams joined the Oaklawn medical staff in 1995 as an Emergency Medicine physician and became the hospital's first CMO in 2005. Her new title will be President; and in January 2013 she will become President and CEO.

"Our culture is what makes Oaklawn special, and preserving that is our most critical task. Ginger has tremendous experience with Oaklawn and, just as importantly, she knows Marshall very well and has been an active part of the community for many years. Her credentials were solid and compelling and we saw no benefit in considering an outside candidate." Board Chair **Bruce Rasher** said the Board is

convinced Dr. Williams is the right person to propel Oaklawn along its path of sustainable and responsible growth. "Beyond the more technical skills, Ginger has the outstanding leadership traits we were looking for," Rasher said. "Her grasp of patient care issues will be critically important for Oaklawn Hospital in the future as we continue our quest for new heights of clinical excellence."

Covert stated, "Ginger has been an incredibly dedicated servant to this hospital and she has the tremendous respect as a leader from me, the Board, and her peers. I know she will do an outstanding job in guiding Oaklawn into the future. I have the greatest possible confidence in her exceptional talents, and I believe the Marshall community as a whole will be better place because of her leadership in the years ahead. Dr. Williams' expertise with clinical systems and issues is a big reason for her selection, as health-care re-

form will require an abundance of these skills in the future."

Dr. Williams commented, "At the heart of it, Oaklawn has an employee force of nearly 1,000 men and women who are second to none in skill and compassion, a medical staff of 150 of the most talented and dedicated physicians anyone could ever entrust with their care, and a volunteer corps of more than 200 people with servant hearts. That will be the basis for the successful future of Oaklawn. It is what defines Oaklawn."

Dr. Williams earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin and her medical degree at Medical College of Wisconsin. She completed her residency in emergency medicine at Michigan State University. She also holds a master's degree in medical management from Carnegie Mellon University. A fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, Dr. Williams is a fellow of the Ameri-

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**SSG Kevin Ressler**  
1-877-662-3256, or  
Kevin.j.ressler2.mil@mail.mil

## AGING WELL SERIES - MARCH LUNCH-N-LEARN: PREVENTING COLORECTAL CANCER & ADVANCEMENTS IN SURGICAL TREATMENT

**Wednesday, March 20,  
2013**

**11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.  
at Burnham Brook**

**Dr. Sridhar Chalasani**

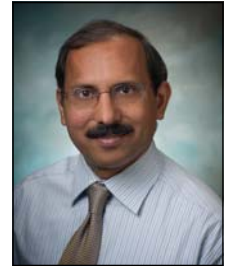
In addition to preventative health measures Dr. Chalasani will review the daVinci®

surgical robotic applications in colon surgery and transanal endoscopic microsurgery (TEMs). Bronson Battle Creek is the only hospital in the south central and southwest Michigan regions that offers the TEMs procedure

as a minimally invasive option for rectal cancer.

*A light lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. followed by the presentation at noon.*

*Seating is limited.*



**Sri Chalasani,  
MD**  
Colo-Rectal  
Surgeon

## COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE CONNECTIONS HELPS 'CONNECT' UNINSURED RESIDENTS



Community HealthCare Connections is a county-wide non-profit organization which serves as a health resource for the uninsured and underinsured residents of Calhoun County.

While the last year has brought many new challenges, the organization is proud to have held true to their mission to connect uninsured and underinsured, vulnerable individuals to urgent medical care and basic health, navigation, referral, and advocacy services. In fact, *last year they did so in record numbers, but not without the help and support of hundreds of community members.*

With the expansion of clinic services being provided in the mobile clinic as well as the home clinic, Community HealthCare Connections increased patient medical encounters from 4,255 in 2011 to more than 8,000 in 2012.

Below is a snapshot of

2012 Community HealthCare Connections/Nursing Clinic Services:

- ◆ 14 volunteer providers in the Nursing Clinic
- ◆ 43 dentists participating in the Dentists' Partnership
- ◆ 7 volunteer Chiropractors
- ◆ 2,129 patient encounters on the Mobile Clinic
- ◆ 11,473 prescriptions distributed at no-cost through the Prescription Drug Access Program
- ◆ 15,302 hours of community service provided by clients
- ◆ Medical transportation assistance provided more than 1,100 times.

"Community HealthCare Connections is very grateful for the support we receive from many organizations and individuals in the community that make our work possible," said **Teresa Osborne**, director of community partnerships. "From volunteer providers in the Nurs-

ing Clinic to the dentists who donate care in their offices; from volunteers to donors and referral partners, this work cannot be done alone."

Community HealthCare Connections connects residents of Calhoun County to health services including: *free clinic, mobile clinic, prescription access, medical transportation, urgent dental care, dental cleanings and screenings, patient advocacy and community referral*, to name a few.

If you are in need of services or are in a position to make a donation to **The Nursing Clinic**, please visit **the CHC website at [www.CHCconnections.org](http://www.CHCconnections.org) or call 269.969.6494.**

Community HealthCare Connections' core values are to treat all individuals with dignity and respect. We develop and implement strategies that respect and support patients, providers and the community.

**Contact:**  
**Teresa Osborne,**  
*Director of Community Partnerships*

*Community HealthCare Connections*

**269) 969-6862; cell (269) 209-8389**

*[tosborne@chcconnections.org](mailto:tosborne@chcconnections.org)*

# CALHOUN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

Since 1839

PO Box 278  
Battle Creek, MI 49016-2078

Phone Messages / Fax:  
269-660-0893  
Email: calhouncms@yahoo.com  
Diane Cummins, Executive Director

Articles submitted and opinions expressed in *The Bulletin* are **views of the writer and not necessarily those of Calhoun County Medical Society**. Articles must have author's signature, address and phone. They can be sent to Calhoun County Medical Society at the address above.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:**  
*The 20th day of each month prior to published month.*

## A Nonprofit Physician's Professional Organization

**BIOGRAPHY:** A Society is a group of professionals with a common trade that offers networking and referrals, professional development and educational opportunities. The medical society offers enhanced services at the county level, guided by the professional state level. Calhoun County formed one of the earliest medical societies in the state of Michigan in 1839; Michigan State Medical Society formed in 1866.

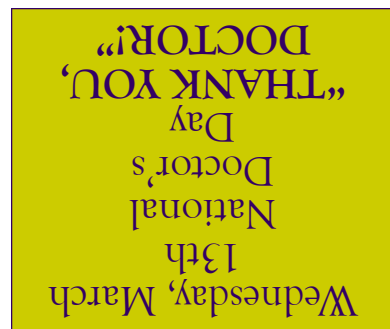
**MISSION STATEMENT:** The purpose of the Calhoun County Medical Society / Michigan State Medical Society is to offer opportunities for networking, leadership and mentoring, grassroots medical legislative involvement, continuing medical educational needs along with personal and professional support services at the county, state, or national levels.

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE...  
www.calhouncms.org**

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### OTHER RELATED WEBSITES:

- <http://www.msms.org>
- <http://www.mdpac.org>
- <http://www.michmgma.org>
- <http://www.bronsonbattlecreek.com>
- <http://www.oaklawnhospital.org>
- <http://www.sw-rehab.org>
- <http://www.hclfonline.com>
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P.O. Box 278  
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**CALHOUN COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY**



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