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September | 2011

PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

NEWS

When you think professional, ethical, quality healthcare, think physicians of Pulaski County Medical Society.

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Who's Making Money in Medicine? It's not the Doctors!

If you're a physician, chances are you're not the one making out from all the money going into medical care. Only eight percent of the total yearly healthcare costs in the U.S. go to pay physicians, according to Jackson Healthcare, an Atlanta-based healthcare staffing and technology company.

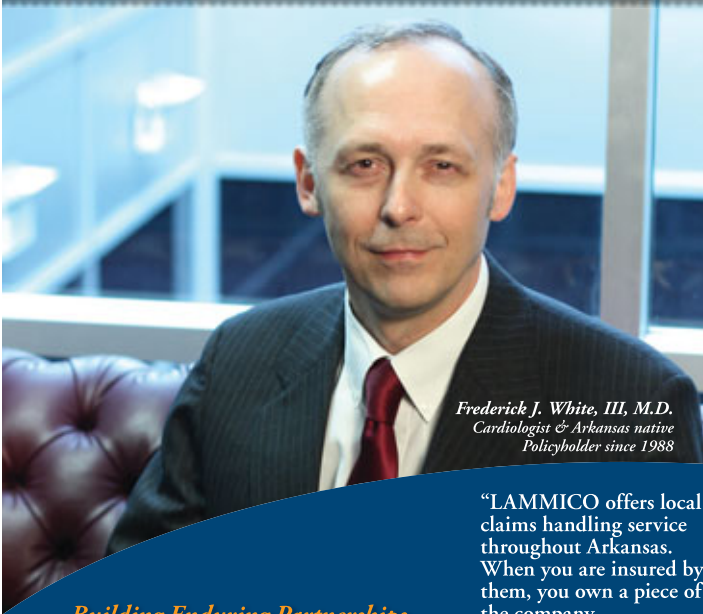
Using the most recent statistics on the number of practicing physicians in the U.S. from the American Medical Association, and salary figures from Medical Group Management Association (MGMA), physician salaries total \$216 billion, or 8.6 percent of total U.S.

healthcare costs, according to MGMA. The MGMA statistics were obtained from a 2010 report using 2009 data.

"At eight percent of total healthcare costs, if physicians worked for free we would still have a serious cost problem," said Richard Jackson, chairman and chief executive officer of Jackson Healthcare, in a press release. "What this figure shows is that physician pay is not the primary contributor to healthcare costs."



Many physicians worry that their income will decrease even more if the U.S. winds up going to a national healthcare system like Canada. However, on the basis of the Canadian experience under national health insurance, average physician incomes have changed very little, according to Physicians for

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VNA of Arkansas *Celebrates* Seven Decades

The Visiting Nurse Association is celebrating 73 years of service to Arkansans. "The association was enthusiastically supported by the Pulaski County Medical Society which elected a Medical Advisory Board from its members to review any medical issues that came before the board," according to a VNA brochure. From a seed of caring concern for their fellow man, a lot of planning and hard work, a vision became a reality when the VNA opened its doors for business in 1938.

Final Rule on 2012 Medicare E-Prescribing Penalty Program

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released the final regulation on the 2012 Medicare e-prescribing penalty program. As a result of the AMA discussions, CMS took the unusual step of issuing a proposed rule modifying the final e-prescribing penalty program to make it more fair.

The final rule does provide more flexibility under the exemption categories so that more physicians can be eligible for an exemption to avoid the 2012 e-prescribing penalty. Physicians can also apply for more than one exemption category if a combination of the categories apply to their particular hardship. In addition, CMS extended the deadline to apply for an exemption to November 1, 2011, but strongly encourages physicians to apply for an exemption as soon as the Web-based portal is available to avoid claims reprocessing. The AMA will alert the Federation as soon as the Web-based portal is available.

For more information go to <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/physician-resources/health-information-technology/incentive-programs/cms-eprescribing-incentive-program.page>

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Who's Making Money...

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a National Healthcare Program (PNHP). But income disparities between specialties is likely to shrink, according to PNHP.

It's estimated that overall U.S. healthcare spending in 2009 was \$2.5 trillion, according to the most recent estimate from The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

CMS reports that only \$505 billion of that money went to doctors. According to data from MGMA, physician compensation accounts for 37 percent of total collections, or \$186B. MGMA found that physicians did not see more money because their earnings were outpaced by inflation.

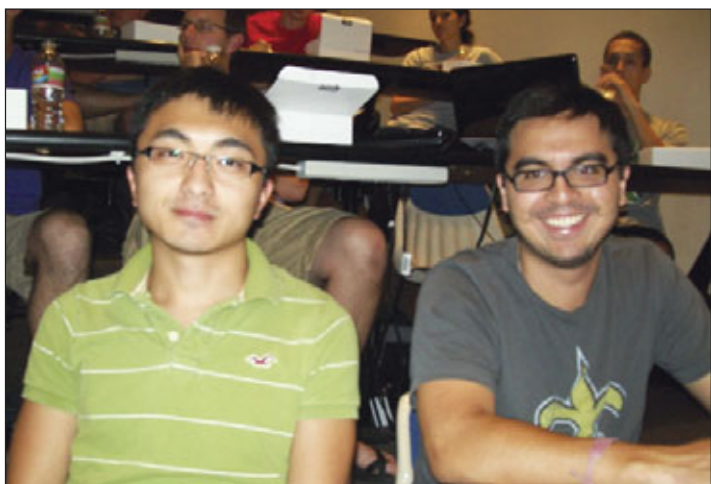
In fact, the study found that primary care compensation increased a measly 2.04 percent to \$186,044 in 2009, an inflation-adjusted decrease of 1.73 percent. Specialty care physicians' pay performed only slightly better, with an overall increase of 2.19 percent to \$339,751, a 1.59 percent decrease when adjusted for inflation. The only specialties to see increases of more than 10 percent in the last five years were anesthesiology and pulmonary medicine, according to the study.

Freshmen Med Students Attend PCMS Luncheon

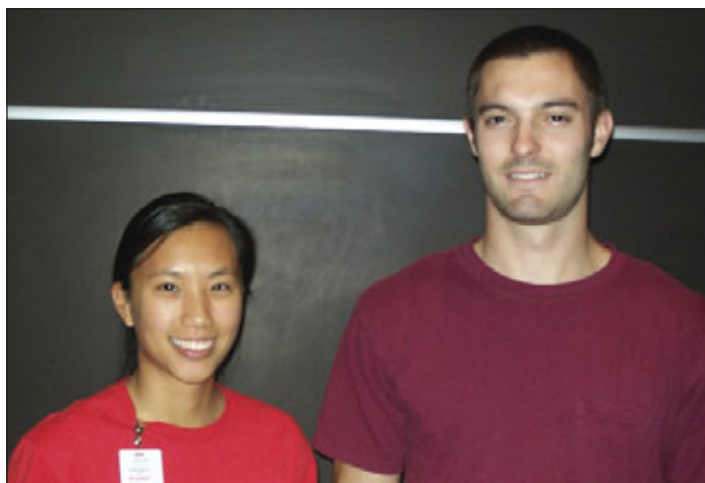
UAMS College of Medicine freshmen gathered for a PCMS-sponsored lunch on August 10, 2011. More than 170 incoming students met in Education Bldg. II on the UAMS campus where they picked up box lunches and learned the value of organized medicine at the grassroots level. PCMS President, Ashley Deed, MD welcomed the students. Other board members included immediate past president, Chad Rodgers, MD; vice president, Danny Wilkerson, MD; and Gary Wheeler. Tiffany Pierson, medical student representative to the PCMS Board of Directors, also attended.



Kaleb Smithson & Ashley Deed, MD, PCMS President



Edward Yang & Timothy Tellez



Franchesia Lau & Duston Hoover

Welcome New Physicians

David E. Anderson, MD	Jennifer McCallum, MD
Michael Z. Chesser, MD	Troy G. Moore, MD
Kyler Crary, MD	Pranitha Nallu, MD
Mahammed Daaif, MD	Elizabeth Nestrud, MD
Gregory J. Engstrom, MD	P. Allan Smith, MD
Robt. Garrison, MD	Stephen C. Sorsby, MD
Samer Homsy, MD	Aaron C. Strong, MD
Abul Kawsar Kamal, MD	John D. Terrell, MD
Dan G. Lister, MD	Thomas W. Wallace, MD
James T. May, IV, MD	



Matthew Neoh & Caitlin King

2011 Calendar of Meetings and Events

- Sept. 20** PCMS Board of
Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m.,
Doctors Bldg.
- Oct. 18** PCMS Board of
Directors Meeting
6:00 p.m.,
Doctors Bldg.
- Nov. 21** Annual Meeting,
The Capital Hotel
- Dec.** TBD

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unknowns coming our way...

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