

EMMS Foundation Works on Advance Directive Project

The East Metro Medical Society Foundation recently received support and a matching dollar for dollar financial commitment from the EMMS board of directors to be used for a project that has the potential to have a significant impact in the way that advance directives are carried out in the east metro. The goal of the project is to make accessible the wishes of the patients by coordinating across systems information that is needed in the course of a patient's treatment. Realizing that this would be a long-term commitment for EMMS, it would be the goal to start small, in the east metro, with pilot sites. These pilot

sites could serve as the training ground for a more impactful program.

This collaborative concept originated in La Crosse, Wisconsin in the mid-1990s and came together as a result of a community need. Their model is called "Respecting Choices" and it effectively takes the wishes of the patient and puts it in the hands of the health care workers who need the information.

Next steps...

The EMMS Foundation will work over the summer months to identify key stakeholders who may be interested in this type of collaborative effort. Key stakeholders include physicians,

hospitals, hospice programs, faith based organizations, nursing, social workers, and many others. The EMMS Foundation will then convene a conference in the late summer where key stakeholders can come together in a room where the issue can be discussed further with a goal of having the group come to a consensus as to next steps. If the conferees feel as though there is merit in pursuing a more formal collaborative, the EMMS Foundation will serve as the catalyst for making this happen.

The date for the conference is tentatively set for August 5, 2008 at the U of M Continuing Education Conference Center. ♦

East Metro Medical Society Foundation and HealthEast Care System, have jointly sponsored the "Caring Hearts for Homeless People," supply drive for 16 years. It was held this year from February 1 through February 28, 2008 and was very successful. We collected medication and personal hygiene items for St. Paul programs that offer services to homeless people. In addition to area clinics and HealthEast's staff, faith congregations and area schools participated in the drive.

This year 11 medical clinics, 20 congregations, the HealthEast Care System, and many volunteers from the former Ramsey Medical Society Alliance, Thrivent Corp., Boy Scout Troops, and Scandia Elementary pitched in to collect and sort over \$43,054 (5,058 lbs.) worth of hygiene and medical supplies. Supplies are distributed to Health Care for the Homeless, Listening House of St. Paul and SafeZone. In addition, over \$6,000 in cash contributions was collected. These organizations rely heavily on donated medications, hygiene supplies, toys, juice and monetary donations to help meet the physical, emotional and mental health needs of their clients. This drive contributes the majority of their supplies needed for the entire year.

Carole Nimlos coordinated the activities of the former RMS Alliance members who donated their time by picking up the donations from the 11 participating medical clinics and delivering items to the main drop-off site at St. Joseph's Hospital.



Organizations interested in participating in the February 1-29, 2009 supply drive should contact Doreen Hines at (612) 362-3705 or e-mail: dhines@metrodoctors.com.

Cash donations can be sent anytime to the EMMS Foundation, P.O. Box 131690, St. Paul, MN 55113. Please indicate that it is for Caring Hearts. ♦



Caring Hearts Planning Committee members help with the sorting of donated items. From left: Doreen Hines, East Metro Medical Society, Sister Marian Louwagie, HealthEast Care System, Helene Freint, program director, and Kali Aro, office coordinator, Health Care for the Homeless.

Thank you to the clinic managers, staff, and physicians of the following clinics that participated:

- Advanced Skin Care Institute
- Allina Medical Clinic—Shoreview
- Aspen Medical Group—Highland
- Associated Nephrology Consultants, P.A.
- Dermatology Consultants, P.A.
- Minnesota Medical Joint Services Organization (MMA, WMMS, EMMS)
- Partners Obstetrics and Gynecology, P.A.
- St. Croix Orthopaedics, P.A.
- St. Paul Infectious Disease Associates, Ltd.
- St. Paul Surgeons, Ltd.
- University Affiliated Family Physicians—Phalen Village Clinic



East Metro Medical Society Holds Caucus

The East Metro Medical Society held its caucus on Wednesday, May 21 at United Hospital in St. Paul. The resolutions discussed included efforts to educate physicians and patients about the Mental Health Parity Act of 2007; asking the MMA to explore their advocacy outreach efforts; asking the MMA to support, help develop and lobby for the use of high deductible health plans for applicable Medicaid populations and for other public sector programs; asking that the MMA work with the Minnesota Hospital Association, the Minnesota Department of Health and others to incorporate the collection of immunization historical information on physicians into the licensure process; asking the AMA to work

with the Joint Commission to clarify the low volume credentialing and privileging standards for physicians applying for privileges at hospitals; asking the AMA to lobby for federal legislation prohibiting contracts between physicians and insurance corporations in which clinic payments are contingent on underwriting the cost of patient services and referrals. These resolutions and others will be submitted to the MMA at their annual meeting September 19-21 in St. Paul. ♦



In Memoriam

JESSE E. EDWARDS, M.D., a physician who revolutionized cardiology by using pathology to identify heart disease, died of heart failure on May 18 at the age of 96. Dr. Edwards earned his medical degree from Tufts University Medical School. He commanded an Army medical lab unit in Europe during World War II and was part of a war crime team that surveyed the Dachau concentration camp three days after it was liberated. Dr. Edwards worked at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester from 1946 to 1960 and then at Miller (now United) Hospital in St. Paul. He started a registry (Jesse E. Edwards Registry of Cardiovascular Disease) of cadaver hearts in the 1960s, and the collection at the St. Paul Heart and Lung Center now includes 22,000 donated cardiac specimens. It is one of the largest collections in the world, and Edwards' organization made it one of the most useful. Dr. Edwards has written 16 books and nearly 800 medical journal articles. He retired in 1987, but doctors worldwide still consulted with him. Dr. Edwards was a past president of the American Heart Association. He joined EMMS in 1961.

RICHARD B. EDWARDS, M.D., age 76, died April 25. He graduated from the University of Manitoba Medical School, specializing in orthopedics at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Edwards joined his father in family practice and later practiced in orthopedics in the Twin Cities and Grantsburg, WI. He served as the medical director for Summit Orthopedics and was Chief of Surgery for HealthEast. Dr. Edwards joined EMMS in 1973.

LEONARD O. LANGER, M.D. died March 7 of complications from Alzheimer's disease at the age of 79. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School and trained in radiology at the University of Michigan. Dr. Langer's career included private practice with Suburban Radiologic Consultants and years spent in research and teaching at the Universities of Minnesota and Wisconsin. He achieved worldwide recognition for his expertise in bone deformities and co-authored the Atlas of Bony Dysplasias. Dr. Langer acted as a medical advisor for the Little People of America and was awarded L.P.A.'s first honorary life membership for his contributions to the understanding of dwarfism and the care of people with this condition. He also established a bone dysplasia registry at the University of Minnesota Hospital. ♦

Sr. Physicians Association

The EMMS Senior Physicians Association met in April to hear a presentation on "Public Health Issues and the Homeless Population" from Sue Grosse Macemon, CNP. Ms. Macemon works with Health Care for the Homeless and HouseCalls, which are programs sponsored by West Side Community Health Services. The group learned some of the reasons behind homelessness and the dif-



iculties that the population faces. Health Care for the Homeless served nearly 550,000 men, women and children in 2007 and partners with other community outreaches to provide excellent care and services with an ultimate goal of helping people find long-term solutions to homelessness. ♦



Meet Two New EMMS Board Members

KATHERINE CLINCH, M.D. joins the EMMS board as a director. She is an anesthesiologist practicing primarily at United Hospital in St. Paul. She's employed by Associated Anesthesiology, PA. Dr. Clinch received her medical degree from St. Louis University Medical School where she also completed her internship. She then moved to Minnesota and completed her residency at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Clinch lives in St. Paul.



MS. LINNEA ENGEL joins the EMMS board as our medical student representative replacing Kimberly Viskocil. Ms. Engel is a 2nd year medical student at the University of Minnesota—graduating in 2010. She is a Mounds View High School graduate and attended Carleton College in Northfield where she received her undergraduate degree. She also studied abroad for a semester at the University of Sydney in Sydney, Australia. ♦

