

# WAUKESHA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

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## Board of Directors Meetings

Waukesha CMS Board Meetings are open to all members.

**Board Meetings occur on the 3rd Thursday of each month** (NO meetings are held in June, July or December).

Visit the WCMS website for details.

## Contact Information

Waukesha County Medical Society  
[WaukeshaCMS@badgerbay.co](mailto:WaukeshaCMS@badgerbay.co)  
Phone: 920-560-5641  
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## President's Message

*Nameeta Dookeran, MD*



Dear Colleagues,

It was great to see many of you at our annual Town Hall dinner and panel discussion with local legislators in September. Many of you expressed an appreciation of the opportunity for social networking with peers and legislators. We hope that such events not only create more

physician awareness, but open up doors for interested WCMS members to individually build further relationship with legislators so more of our voices can be heard on issues impacting our lives, the lives of our patients, the communities in which we live and serve, and the broader health systems in which we work.

We hope to see many of you at our [WCMS annual holiday party](#) on December 6th at Thunder Bar Grille in Pewaukee. There will be music, nice vittles and good company (but I confess, we may be biased). Take a break and unwind after a busy 2017 and before we march forward bravely into a new year. The fun doesn't really get started until you join us!

On another front, one big area of emphasis for 2017-2018 is creating more opportunities for trainees and early/mid career physician members to interact with more "seasoned" physician members - to connect socially, learn more about how our State and County Medical Societies serve you and how you can get more involved, and suggest other ways we can bring WCMS members together in advocacy, mentoring, professional networking, and just general sharing of life.

To that end, we are excited to share with you a new fun event we are planning for early 2018 for physicians and trainees to connect, support and learn from each other. Stay tuned for details and plan to participate. We hope this will also spawn other ideas for what you would like to see us do more of in the future, be it in the areas of career or life "developmental" mentoring, building of professional networking databases, or otherwise.

As always, I welcome your comments and suggestions. You may reach me through the [WCMS office](#). Thanks for your membership.

-Nameeta

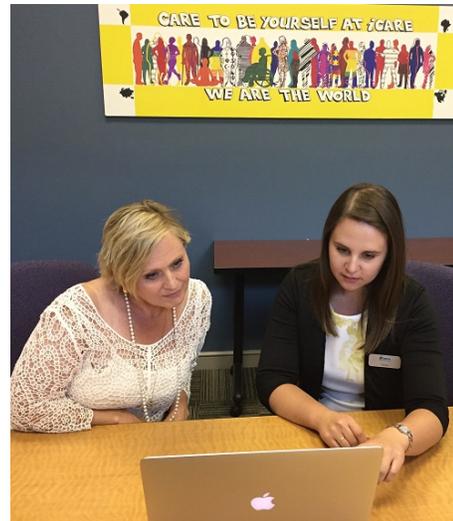
## Summer Fellowship Report from

## WCMS-Sponsored Student

*Editor's Note: Lauren Engel, a student at the Medical College of Wisconsin, was awarded a 2017 WMS-Foundation Summer Fellowship, sponsored by Waukesha CMS, for her research on comparing treatment offered to patients on government funded healthcare plans.*

### **Discrepancies in care for patients receiving health insurance benefits from government-funded programs: A retrospective study of genetic testing** Lauren Engel, BS, MLS(ASCP)CM, Linda Ellis, MD, MJ

Disparities in healthcare are a well-documented issue in this country. Health disparities are defined as "a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion."<sup>1</sup> The greatest variation from standard healthcare can primarily be observed in communities of low income and poor education, and these individuals are classified as disadvantaged. Many disadvantaged individuals qualify for government funded healthcare coverage.<sup>2</sup>



This study retrospectively reviewed genetic testing records of patients served by iCare Independent Health Plan within the timeframe of January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017. Genetic testing is most commonly utilized to confirm or rule out a suspected disease state. However, genetic testing methodologies are highly complex and require training and expertise. This results in a smaller subset of laboratories having the ability to perform the testing, and the testing comes at a high cost. In addition, the results of genetic testing are difficult to interpret as not all genetic variants will cause disease and multiple genetic variants can cause the same disease.<sup>3</sup>

Due to high costs and limited clinical utility for some disease states, most genetic tests will undergo a pre-approval process to ensure testing is only completed when the results will be clinically useful in predicting outcomes and providing specific treatment. This study reviewed genetic testing records of chronic myelogenous leukemia (BCR ABL), acute myelogenous leukemia (FLT3, NPM1, and JAK2), coagulopathies (Factor II

and Factor V), and Lynch Syndrome (MSH1, MSH2, and MSH6). Selection of the cases reviewed focused on testing that provides results with clear clinical utility, a large number of records, and a varying clinical presentation and disease burden.

The records were divided first into the type of healthcare benefits the patient receives through the government and iCare: Medicare, Medicaid, Badgercare Plus, FCP SNP (Medicare plus supplemental coverage), FCP SSI (Medicaid plus supplemental coverage). The records were then further grouped by patient gender and race. The number of genetic testing records performed was compared to the current population of individuals expected to have the condition in Milwaukee's population based upon Milwaukee's demographics and national rates of affected individuals for each condition.

This study concluded that there is a discrepancy in the care being provided to patients on government-funded health plans in comparison to the general population. iCare patients receive less genetic testing and fewer new cases are discovered than what would be expected with the prevalence of the disease states in the general population.

The discrepancies observed within the studied data sets could be due to a variety of factors, not limited to asymptomatic patients, inability to access care, inability to afford care, or refusal of testing. A multi-factorial study approach would be required to draw a data-based conclusion as to the root-cause of the hypothesized decrease in genetic tests being performed on patients receiving government-funded insurance benefits. Subsequent studies should also utilize a larger data set to account for any statistical anomalies within localized populations and specific geographic areas as disease prevalence can change with population demographics.

#### Acknowledgements:

The researcher would like to thank Dr. Linda Ellis, MD, MJ for her support and guidance throughout this project, as well as the Waukesha County Medical Society for providing the fellowship funding to make this experience possible.

#### References:

1. "Disparities." Disparities | Healthy People 2020. Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, 2014. Web. 24 Jan. 2017.
2. Artiga, Samantha. "Disparities in Health and Health Care: Five Key Questions and Answers." Disparities Policy. Kaiser Family Foundation, 12 Aug. 2016. Web. 22 Jan. 2017.
3. McPherson, Elizabeth. "Genetic Diagnosis and Testing in Clinical Practice." Clinical Medicine and Research, Marshfield Clinic. 1 June 20016. [www.clinmedres.org/content/4/2/123.full](http://www.clinmedres.org/content/4/2/123.full). Accessed 12 July 2017.

**WCMS Holiday Party - Join us!**  
*December 6th at Thunder Bay Grille*

Waukesha County Medical Society members and their guests are invited to the WCMS Annual Holiday Party. Join us for an opportunity to mix & mingle with colleagues as we kick off the holiday season. Again this year, the event will include a holiday charity drive will benefit those in need this holiday season.

**Wednesday, December 6, 2017**

**6:30 - 9:00 pm**

**Thunder Bay Grille**

**N14W24130 Tower Place**

**Pewaukee, WI 53072**

Please bring one or more non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry of Waukesha County.

This event is complimentary for members, and \$50 for guests. [Register today](#)

Questions? Contact the WCMS office at 920-560-5641 or [WaukeshaCMS@badgerbay.co](mailto:WaukeshaCMS@badgerbay.co).

## Volunteers Sought at Free Clinic

The Lake Area Free Clinic in Oconomowoc has provided a Medical Home for low income, uninsured adult residents of Waukesha County since 2001. The LAFC provides a general medical clinic two nights a week and offers multiple specialty clinics, diabetic clinic and mental health services.

The clinic is currently looking for primary care physicians to volunteer at least one night a month from 5:00 to 8:00 pm on either a Tuesday or Thursday.

The clinic is staffed by three providers and will typically see approximately 25 patients each night. Malpractice coverage is provided by the State of Wisconsin. Flexible scheduling opportunities also exist for specialty physicians to volunteer in the specialty clinics.

To learn more about this opportunity, please call Peter Geiss MD or Mary Reich RN at 262-569-4990, or email [maryreich@lakeareafreeclinic.org](mailto:maryreich@lakeareafreeclinic.org).

## Doctor Day 2018 is January 30

*Learn about advocacy and help make a difference!*

Doctor Day 2018, scheduled to take place on Tuesday, January 30, 2018 in Madison. Learn more and register at [www.widoctorday.org](http://www.widoctorday.org).

The multi-specialty nature of Doctor Day has quickly become one of the largest state Advocacy Day events for physicians in the country. Plan to join an expected 500 physicians and medical students for Doctor Day 2018!

