

## President's Perspective



Vincent Calamia, MD, *President*

Having been warned that the great ambitions one has when accepting the position of President of the Society are likely to be sobered by the difficulties in realizing those goals, the year has, nevertheless, passed more rapidly than I imagined; and, though hard fought, many goals were achieved.

Several points stand out during the year. The staff at the Medical Society are the life's blood of the organization and their devotion to their work, their professionalism and their loyalty to the physicians for whom they work cannot be adequately acknowledged; but my thanks must be sincerely extended.

The members of the *Comitia Minora* continue to inspire optimism as our younger, as well as our seasoned, colleagues continue to show their devotion to preserving the profession we cherish. These physicians give unselfishly of their time at a time during which we are all

under heavy pressure due to the increasing time commitments our profession requires. To them I offer gratitude and encouragement as the greatest risk to our ability to preserve the dignity of our profession is apathy and cynical pessimism that the current difficult environment can so easily engender.

I ask that those who have remained active continue the battle for the noble goal of preserving the traditional "physician-patient relationship". I encourage those whose frustrations have led to inactivity or worse, abandoning Medical Society membership to reconsider their decision. There could not be a worse time than now to allow our dissatisfaction with the health care system to prompt us to give up. There is much to be gained by working together and unfortunately much to be lost by allowing others to navigate the fate of our profession and the care of our patients.

For those who think there is nothing left to lose, be assured that without the vigilance and actions of our Medical Society matters could significantly worsen. Efforts abound to increase the scope of malpractice laws, increase the restrictions and mandates on our practices, increase the scope of practice of alternative providers and continue to more ominously scrutinize the way we practice.

We need to keep all Medical Society members energized to continue to protect against these measures and encourage non-members to join so they are not disproportionately burdening members to protect our mutual interests. A critical responsibility inherent in being a physician is to protect and preserve our mission for those who follow us.

Through the efforts of the Medical Society malpractice rates have been held constant. The efforts to allow for physicians to negotiate collectively with HMOs is in the form of bills in the Senate and Assembly. These local issues as well as national efforts to avoid Medicare cuts under the SGR formula are all due to our united efforts as a society.

I, whole-heartedly congratulate and look forward to the presidency of Dr. George Smith and I sincerely request all members to reach out to non-member colleagues to join our ranks. I ask all members to remain active and supportive of those attempting to protect our profession.

The Society will not always take positions that we can all agree upon, but without it none of our goals can be achieved and we leave our colleagues, successors and most importantly our patients in peril.

*Vincent Calamia, MD*  
*President 2009-2010*

The Members and Staff  
of The  
Richmond County  
Medical Society  
are grateful to

## Dr. Vincent Calamia

for his dedication to the Society during  
his Presidency  
2009-2010



At the same time, we  
congratulate and welcome

## Dr. George Smith

as President along with all the newly  
elected officers for  
2010-2011



## Opportunities with the S.I. Advance

### Is There a Doctor In The House?

Write an article for the Society and you may see it published in the local newspaper or on [www.RCMS.org](http://www.RCMS.org). The Society publishes an article each Monday in the Staten Island Advance in a section called "Doctor In The House" and any member may submit an article to be considered for publication. Articles should be submitted, via e-mail ([execrcms@aol.com](mailto:execrcms@aol.com)) to the Society office to be presented to the Editorial Review Board to ensure that it is between 700 and 800 words and is written for the lay public on timely issues of relevance to the community; is intended to enhance the image of the local physician in the community and demonstrates that the Richmond County Medical Society is anxious to reach out to the public on important health-related topics; is not self-promotional and not intended as a vehicle to market new products or services from any specific company or institution.

### Need Help Recovering Your Reimbursement Dollars?

In these trying times it is important to have a pro on your team that knows how to recover your reimbursement dollars from Medicare, Medicaid and private carriers, quickly. **Alyssa Langenhahn is that pro.** She has had excellent success in working with a large hospital and large physicians group in claims recovery. Alyssa has decided to start her own consulting practice and bring these same professional skills to the medical community of Staten Island.

If you are in need of this kind of valuable help please call Alyssa @ 347-522-7807

### Contact Us

Richmond County Medical Society  
Academy of Medicine of Richmond  
The Alliance with RCMS  
460 Brielle Avenue  
Administration Building  
Room 202  
Staten Island, NY 10314  
phone: 718-442-7267  
fax: 718-273-5306  
[www.rcms.org](http://www.rcms.org)

OR

Follow us on Facebook  
Search for

Richmond County Medical Society  
&/or  
Academy of Medicine of Richmond

### Have You Laughed today?



**Lamaze Class...**The instructor was teaching a room full of pregnant women how to breathe properly, along with informing the men how to help their partner. The teacher announced, "Ladies, exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. And, gentlemen, it wouldn't hurt you to take the time to go walking with your partner!" The room got very quiet for a while and then a man in the middle of the group raised his hand and asked... "Is it all right if she carries my golf bag while we walk?"

## The Award Goes To . . .



The Stanley Stilwell Memorial Award was presented to **Dr. Joseph Motta** and **Dr. Pankaj Patel** at the Jack Sipp Golf & Tennis Outing, which benefits Richmond University Medical Center.

**Dr. Theodore Strange** received the Camelot Counseling Center's Community Service Award for his leadership in the medical community to increase awareness of the prescription drug crisis on Staten Island.

**Dr. James G. Reilly** was among those physicians named as *Top Doctors for Women's Health* by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd.

**Dr. Jose Medrano** received the Dr. Anthony Moretti Community Service Award for his devotion and service to the people of Staten Island.

## MSSNY Grassroots Action Center

visit [www.MSSNY.org](http://www.MSSNY.org), click on **Grassroots Action Center** and follow the links till you see tabs like this

**TAKE ACTION**

then follow the simple step by step directions that will urge legislators to support the bills that will help physicians and oppose those that could devastate your practice.

## 2010 House of Delegates April 15 - April 18



*Vice Admiral Regina M. Benjamin, MD, MBA U.S. Surgeon General arrives at the HOD (left)*

*(right) Vice Admiral Dr. Regina M. Benjamin chats with Dr. Zoltan Brody*



## The Academy of Medicine's Annual Dinner & Resident Research Competition

*Dr. John Maese, President of the Academy with honorees Mr. Anthony Ferreri (left) & Mr. Richard Murphy (right)*



*Dr. Anthony Sgarlato (right) presents award to Dr. Vincent DeGennaro*



*(left to right) Honorees, Mr. Anthony Ferreri, Dr. Vincent DeGennaro and Mr. Richard Murphy*



*Dr. John Maese presents Master's Certificates to Dr. Allan Perel (left) & Dr. Janshad Wyne (right)*



*(left to right) Drs. Pietro Carpenito, George Ayyad, Janshad Wyne & Deeptha Nedunchezian*



*(from left to right) Dr. John Maese, President of the Academy of Medicine, Dr. Jordan Glaser, Co-Chairperson of the Research Competition Committee, Ylaine Rose Aldegner, MD, Aileen Novero, MD, Co-Authors of winning Case Report, Dr. Susan Grossman, Co-Chairperson of the Research Competition Committee, & Abir Abdo, MD, Author of winning Research Paper*



*(left to right) Dr. Jay Nfonoyim & Dr. Vincent DeGennaro*

**June 8, 2010**  
**Bocelli's Ristorante**

*(left to right) Dr. Donna Seminara, Dr. Anthony Sgarlato, Dr. Lina Merlino, Dr. Allan Perel & Dr. Vincent DeGennaro*



## FTC Extends Enforcement Deadline for Identity Theft Red Flags Rule

At the request of several Members of Congress, the Federal Trade Commission is further delaying enforcement of the “Red Flags” Rule through December 31, 2010, while Congress considers legislation that would affect the scope of entities covered by the Rule. Today’s announcement and the release of an Enforcement Policy Statement do not affect other federal agencies’ enforcement of the original November 1, 2008 deadline for institutions subject to their oversight to be in compliance.

“Congress needs to fix the unintended consequences of the legislation establishing the Red Flags Rule - and to fix this problem quickly. We appreciate the efforts of Congressmen Barney Frank and John Adler for getting a clarifying measure passed in the House, and hope action in the Senate will be swift,” FTC Chairman Jon Leibowitz said. “As an agency we’re charged with enforcing the law, and endless extensions delay enforcement.”

The Rule was developed under the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act, in which Congress directed the FTC and other agencies to develop regulations requiring “creditors” and “financial institutions” to address the risk of identity theft. The resulting Red Flags Rule requires all such entities that have “covered accounts” to develop and implement written identity theft prevention programs to help identify, detect, and respond to patterns, practices, or specific activities - known as “red flags” - that could indicate identity theft.

The Rule became effective on January 1, 2008, with full compliance for all covered entities originally required by November 1, 2008. The Commission has issued several Enforcement Policies delaying enforcement of the Rule. Most recently, the Commission announced in October 2009 that at the request of certain Members of Congress, it was delaying enforcement of the Rule until June 1, 2010, to allow Congress time to finalize legislation that would limit the scope of business covered by the Rule. Since then, the Commission has received another request from Members of Congress for another delay in enforcement of the Rule beyond June 1, 2010.

The Commission urges Congress to act quickly to pass legislation that will resolve any questions as to which entities are covered by the Rule and obviate the need for further enforcement delays. If Congress passes legislation limiting the scope of the Red Flags Rule with an effective date earlier than December 31, 2010, the Commission will begin enforcement as of that effective date.

In the interim, FTC staff has continued to provide guidance, both through materials posted on [www.ftc.gov/redflagsrule](http://www.ftc.gov/redflagsrule), and in speeches and participation in seminars, conferences and other training events to numerous groups. The FTC also published a compliance guide for business, and created a template that enables low risk entities to create an identity theft program with an easy-to-use online form ([www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/redflagsrule/get-started.shtm](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/redflagsrule/get-started.shtm)). The FTC staff also has published numerous general and industry-specific articles, released a video explaining the Rule, and continues to respond to inquiries from the public. To assist further with compliance, FTC staff has worked with a number of trade associations that have chosen to develop model policies or specialized guidance for their members.

As was the case previously, this enforcement delay is limited to the Red Flags Rule and does not extend to the rule regarding address discrepancies applicable to users of consumer reports (16 C.F.R. §641), or to the rule regarding changes of address applicable to card issuers (16 C.F.R. §681.2).

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## Maximum Period for Submission of Medicare Claims Reduced to Not More Than 12 Months

**REMINDER:** The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has released *MLN Matters Article #MM6960 — Systems Changes Necessary to Implement the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) Section 6404 – Maximum Period for Submission of Medicare Claims Reduced to Not More Than 12 Months* to advise providers who submit claims to Medicare contractors that, as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), claims with dates of service **on or after January 1, 2010**, received later than one calendar year beyond the date of service will be denied by Medicare. For more details, please read the article at <http://www.cms.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/MM6960.pdf> on the CMS website.

**RCMS**

**Welcomes New Members**

Dr. Danilo Sotelo-Garza  
Dr. Paula C. Brown

*Residents:*

Dr. Ramesh Babu Konduru  
Dr. Ylaine Aldeguer  
Dr. Ajay Nemade



**Nate's Specialty Pharmacy** is located in the heart of Staten Island. Our multifaceted compounding pharmacy keeps it's doors wide open for doctors with various specialties. The Customer service oriented multilingual staff works hard to meet the sophisticated demand of modern medicine. With **Nate's** you can always find solutions for many compliance related problems. Discontinued medications, medications temporarily unavailable, dosage forms that are nonexistent on the market but convenient and preferred by many patients – all of these you can find at **Nate's Specialty Pharmacy**. Physicians specializing in Pain Management, Pediatrics, Dermatology, Gastroenterology, Infectious Disease and other medical specialties depend on reliable compounding support provided by **Nate's Specialty Pharmacy**. At **Nate's** we offer **FREE** pick up and delivery and also accept e-prescribing at all the locations.



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**Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday, June 30**

Annual Dinner Meeting  
and  
Election of Officers  
**Dr. George Smith, President**  
7:00 PM  
SI Hilton Garden Inn  
1100 South Avenue

**Past President's Meeting  
Time, Date and Location  
to be announced**

Dr. George Smith will be hosting a meeting of Past President's of RCMS some time during the summer..

This meeting is most important as a way to share the collective experiences of Past Presidents and assist the new President in formulating his programs and agenda for the coming year. All Past Presidents will receive a formal invitation as soon as a date has been confirmed.

**Tuesday, September 7**

Comitia Minora Dinner Meeting  
7:30 PM  
SI Hilton Garden Inn  
1100 South Avenue  
**Dr. George Smith, President  
presiding**

**MARK YOUR CALANDER  
NOW!!!**

**Saturday, October 9**

The Alliance will host the Annual Scholarship Fundraiser  
**Honoring Dr. Vincent Calamia**,  
Immediate Past President of RCMS  
at the  
Staten Island Hilton Garden Inn  
1100 South Avenue  
Formal Inviation will Follow

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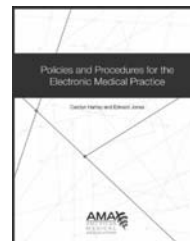
**405 Arden Avenue, Staten Island NY 10312**  
1200 sq feet; \$20 per sq foot; 6-8 car parking; fully furnished office; reception desk and counter; flat screen TV in waiting area; equipped with stereo system thru out office; short and long time lease available.

## 5010: The Next Version of the HIPAA Standard Transactions

### Version 5010 of the HIPAA standard transactions goes into effect January 1, 2012...Will you be ready?

Version 5010 of the HIPAA transactions will be required for use by physicians and other health care providers, payers and clearinghouses on Jan. 1, 2012. Version 5010 corrects technical issues, accommodates new business needs, and provides overall improvements from the current 4010 version. If you currently conduct electronic administrative transactions, such as checking a patient's eligibility, filing a claim, or receiving a remittance advice, either directly with a health plan payer or a clearinghouse, you will need to be prepared to send and receive only the 5010 version of the HIPAA transactions starting on the compliance deadline.

**The American Medical Association (AMA) can help!** The AMA has various resources to help you implement the 5010 HIPAA transactions. Start preparing today to prevent future cash flow interruptions and disruptions in transaction processing.



#### Complimentary AMA Web resources available:

[www.ama-assn.org/go/5010](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/5010)

- 7 Steps Practices Can Take Now to Prepare for 5010
- 5010 Project Plan Template – Helping Practices Prepare for the New HIPAA Standards
- 5010 Checklist
- 5010 Fact Sheet Series
  - #1 HIPAA 101: How It Started and What's New
  - #2 5010 Timeline: Getting the Work Done in Time for the Deadline
  - #3 The Language of HIPAA
  - #4 What's Different in the 5010 Transactions
  - #5 Testing Your Readiness for the 5010 Transactions
  - #6 Complying with the HIPAA Transactions and Code Sets

#### AMA Business Products publications and training available:

[www.amabookstore.com](http://www.amabookstore.com)

- AMA HIPAA School – an online training solution to achieve HIPAA and HITECH compliance. Visit [ama.hipaaschool.com](http://ama.hipaaschool.com)
- HIPAA Plain & Simple, second edition: A Health Care Professionals Guide to Achieve HIPAA and HITECH Compliance
- EHR Implementation: A Step-by-Step Guide for the Medical Practice
- Policies and Procedures for the Electronic Medical Office
- Tools for an Efficient Medical Practice



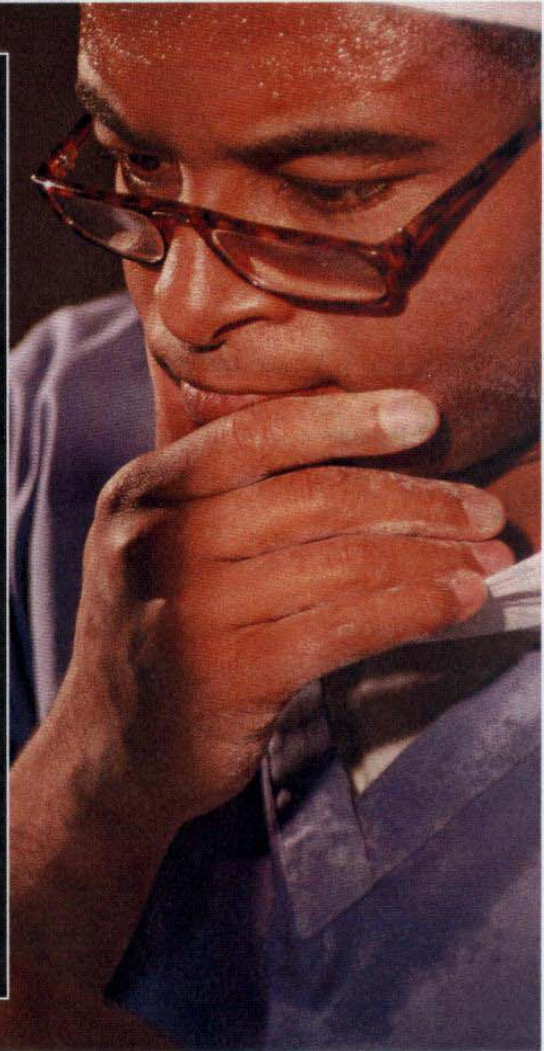
**In addition to the 5010 HIPAA transactions, practices also need to be implementing the ICD-10 code set to meet the Oct. 1, 2013 compliance deadline.**

Visit [www.ama-assn.org/go/ICD-10](http://www.ama-assn.org/go/ICD-10) to access various ICD-10 related resources.

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Dwight Ryan, President & CEO  
dryan@medtech4solutions.com  
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[www.medtech4solutions.com](http://www.medtech4solutions.com)

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**Financing** - in partnership with **Wells Fargo Leasing and Americorp Financial** we offer **specialized leasing and financing programs** designed for the needs of a physician practice.

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