The Florida Public Health Advocate

A publication of the Florida Public Health Association

From the President's Desk...

August is here, and so is another year in promoting and supporting public health and public health professionals. I am very excited to be able to call myself the President of this organization for the next year. We just finished our Annual Education Conference. I hope everyone who attended was able to learn about projects taking place in our state and how they can play a role in their own county. I was amazed at some of the partnerships that have been created throughout Florida. Meeting other FPHA members from different counties is one of the great things about this organization, but meeting them is just a start. Bringing together ideas and practices from around the state will help us make the most impact in public health. We need to stay connected as an organization and fuel ourselves with the talent we see each day while on the job or in the classroom.

My focus this year is on increasing member engagement. Having members is not enough. We need members who are active and are doing their part to support public health professionals and systems in the state of Florida. We have multiple interest groups and committees that are looking to grow and make an impact. Activities range from membership drives to conference planning to public health advocacy. If you or anyone you know is looking for a way to get involved please visit www.fpha.org to get program information or contact me at Jennifer.waskovich@flhealth.gov. I will put you in touch with the leaders of each of our interest groups and committees. We are looking for energetic, creative minds that understand the importance of what we all do for public health and its workforce.

-Jennifer Waskovich

FPHA
Florida Public Health Association

July/August 2017

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It was the middle of summer and time for our big event of the year, the Annual Education Conference (AEC) in July. I want to give many thanks to Jennifer Waskovich and the planning committee for putting together a terrific program.

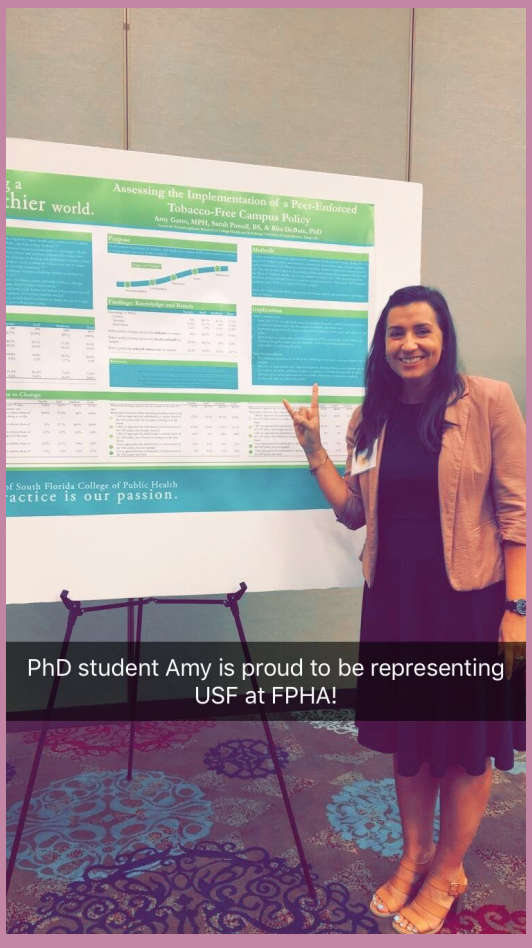
At the Annual Education Conference, as always, we had the transition to the next FPHA President. I became the Immediate Past President and Jennifer Waskovich became our new President for the 2017-2018 term. I know she will have a lot of good things in store coming up for FPHA.

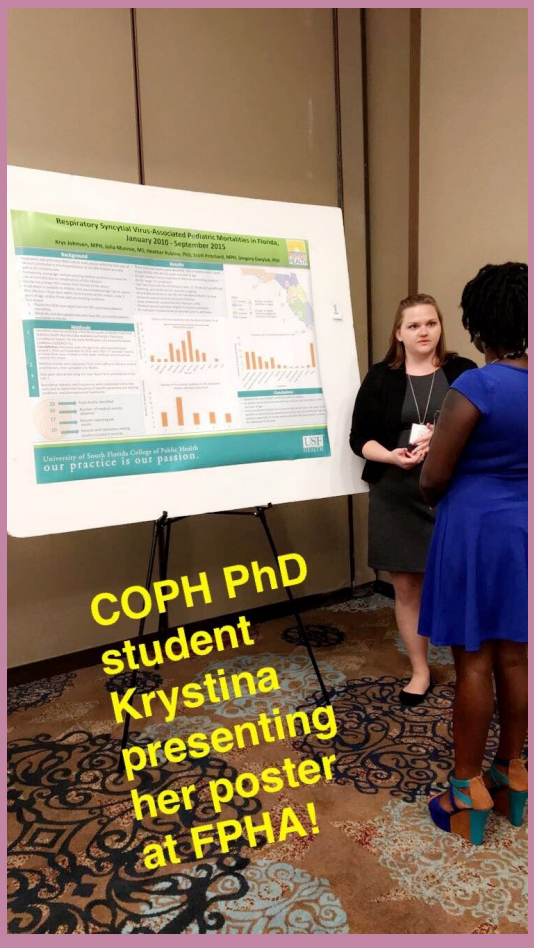
This had been a very full year for the Board of Directors. Probably the most significant event was the retirement of Sandy Magyar as FPHA's Executive Director. She has been in this crucial position for the last fourteen years. Thanks so much Sandy for all of your years of dedication. In Sandy's honor, the FPHA Awards and Scholarship Luncheon was dedicated to her. We have been very fortunate to have Sarah Catalanotto and the Suwannee River Area Health Education Center (SRAHEC) come on board to handle the numerous responsibilities as the Executive Director

I want to thank all the members for making my Presidency a wonderful experience. And special thanks to Alyssa Moffitt for taking over as our Newsletter Editor. She brings a lot of creative talent and has been able to get the newsletter out to our membership monthly. Without the newsletter, there is no *From the President's Desk.* I've enjoyed writing in this space while President and look forward to reading what the incoming President has to say.

-Dr. Rick France

2017 FPHA Annual Conference





USF COPH Students enjoying the Conference

Thank you Emily Kantrowitz for these photos.

Dear Friends,

I want to thank everyone who was involved in making the *Magyar Awards Luncheon* so special for me. What an honor for just doing something that I loved and for people I loved and respected. I was humbled by so many kind words. For those of you who have retired and made that trip for me – thank you so much. It was so special to see you in person. For all the past Presidents, Officers, Board Members and members, you made my job worthwhile. It has been a fun journey.

I joined FPHA while in college and cannot imagine not continuing to be involved in some way. So you will see me at the meetings. I encourage you to get involved if you have not done so yet. Ask those who are and they will tell you is really is rewarding and a wonderful way to meet your peers around the state.

The Board and new Management Group have really wonderful plans for 2017-18 and the future. Sarah Catalanatto and her team did a great job this year and I know they will make FPHA continue as the premier public health organization in the state. Join them.

-Sandy

The Florida Public Health Association (FPHA) honored two students from Florida International University Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work with awards at the statewide organization's annual education conference.

[Photo: Mr. Chintan Bhatt and Mr. Islam Khalil Receiving Award from FPHA]

Doctoral student Mr. Chintan Bhatt received the FPHA's Graduate Student Scholarship for his outstanding achievements at Florida International's Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. His research includes biomedical prevention of HIV/AIDS, substance abuse, adolescent and sexual health. He is actively involved in the FPHA and the American Public Health Association (APHA) through elected positions.

Master's student Mr. Islam Khalil won the FPHA's Most Informative Poster Presentation for his research work titled, "Pesticide Exposure in Farm Workers in Florida." Mr. Islam is in his second year at Florida International's Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention; he's performing his practicum with the U.S. Southern Command's Public Health Division, and plans to work for a federal agency like SOUTHCOM after graduation.

http://www.aspph.org/florida-international-students-honored-with-florida-public-health-association-awards/

Florida International Faculty Honored with Florida Public Health Association Award

[Photo: Dr. H. Virginia McCoy receiving the 2017 J.Y. Porter, MD Award]

The Florida Public Health Association (FPHA) awarded Dr. H. Virginia McCoy with the 2017 J.Y. Porter, MD Award for her exceptional impact on the field of health promotion at the statewide organization's recent annual education conference. Dr. McCoy is professor in the Department of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention at Florida International University Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work. With three decades of service to Florida International, her contributions to public health also include being a founding and current board member of the Florida Institute of Health Innovation and a member of the FPHA Board of Directors. Her research program focuses on disparities in HIV/AIDS and drug/alcohol abuse among minority and migrant populations, and she has published more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific articles on the subject.

http://www.aspph.org/florida-international-faculty-honored-with-florida-public-health-association-award/

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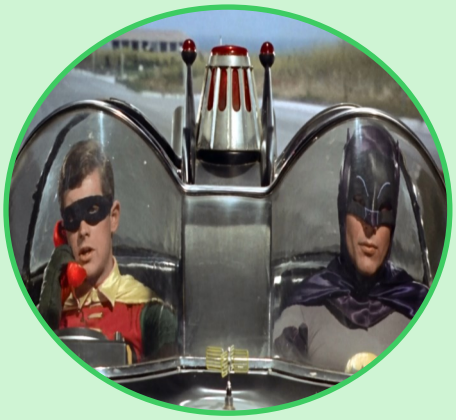

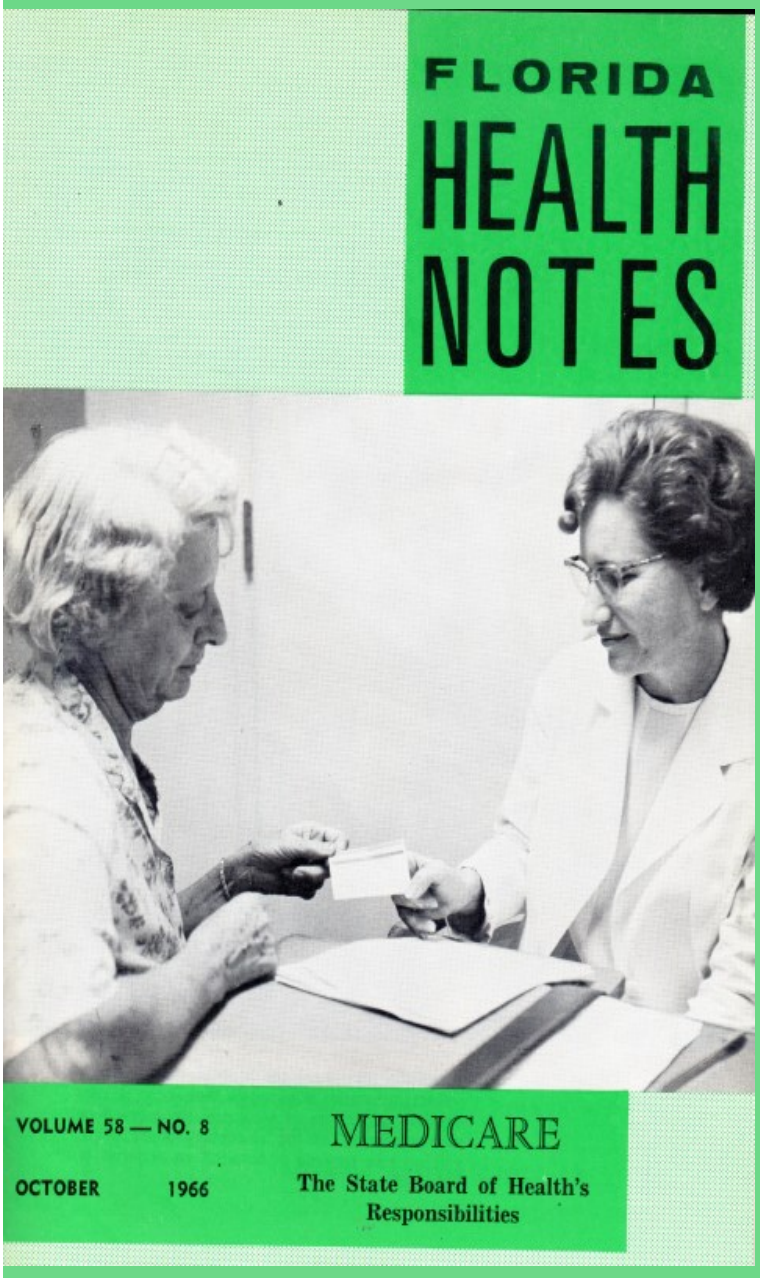

Hello FPHA readers!

My name is Alyssa Moffitt and I work at one of the three State Public Health labs. While the molecular virology team was undergoing some deep cleaning, they happened upon some, "Florida Health notes," some editions as early as the 1940's. I thought it could be nice to share this wonderful history with FPHA members.

This edition focused on Medicare, a new concept to America in 1966. It's wild for me to think about a time prior to these sorts of social programs. Even wilder to read about them in their inception.

To set the mood, gas prices were 0.32 cents/gallon, Star Trek first aired and the Vietnam War waged on.

A special thank you to Liz Kassens and Tiffany Stevenson-Yuen for organizing this history, making it easy for me to thumb through.

Medicare

1

The State Board of Health's Responsibilities

MRS. M, who admits to being 68 years of age and eligible for Medicare, was sent to the hospital by her physician for a minor operation. She was in the hospital 14 days at a cost of $32 a day — or $448. There were other fees for services and she also faced bills from her physician and surgeon.

When she left the hospital, Mrs. M paid $40 of the hospital bill. Medicare, which is actually a health insurance plan for the aged and became effective in the United States on July 1, 1966, paid the balance of certain charges on the bill. These included a semi-private room (a private room may be authorized if medically necessary), board, nursing service, the operating room costs, oxygen tent, diagnostic tests performed by the hospital and drugs furnished in the hospital. The insurance plan did not pay for the telephone she had installed in her room or the rental of a television set.

Her physician's and surgeon's bills, which were $100 and $200 respectively, were covered under Part B of the Medicare plan. The plan paid 80 per cent of the "reasonable" charges after Mrs. M paid the $50 deductible and 20 per cent of the balance or a total of $100.

* * * * * *

Medicare is not a medical program but a health insurance plan set up by Title XVIII of Public Law 89-97, which is known as Social Security Amendments of 1965. The plan has two parts.

(Cover Photo) When a patient is admitted to service under Medicare, it is necessary that she show her Health Insurance Card in order to receive the benefits of the health insurance program.

2

• **Part A** includes inpatient hospital care, extended care benefits in skilled nursing homes after hospitalization, home health services through visiting nurse associations and County Health Departments, and outpatient diagnostic benefits which are to determine the nature and severity of a patient's illness.

• **Part B** covers physicians' services, other medical services and supplies necessary in treatment of an illness or injury and furnished by a physician as part of his treatment or by an outpatient department of a hospital, and home health services which a doctor may decide that his patient needs and for which hospitalization is not required.

Part A (hospital insurance plan) is for everyone over 65 years of age and is financed by special Social Security tax deductions from the working public. Part B, the supplementary medical insurance plan, is only for those persons over 65 who elect to participate and is paid for by premium payments made by enrollees and federally-appropriated funds.

This issue of **Florida Health Notes** will discuss the role of the State Board of Health in Medicare and what is provided for those who are eligible to receive its benefits.

Background of Medicare in Florida

The State Board of Health was designated by the Governor on November 5, 1965, as the Florida agency to certify hospitals, extended health facilities, laboratories and home health services under Title XVIII of Medicare.

FLORIDA HEALTH NOTES

Published monthly except July and August by the Florida State Board of Health, Wilson T. Sowder, M.D., M.P.H., State Health Officer. Publication office, Box 210, Jacksonville, Florida 32201. Second class postage paid at Jacksonville, Florida. This publication is for individuals and institutions with an interest in the state's health programs. Permission is given to quote any story. Clippings of quotations or excerpts would be appreciated. Editor: Robert A. Schoonover, M.A., Division of Health Education.

VOLUME 58 — NO. 8 OCTOBER 1966

3

A contract between the State Board of Health and the Social Security Administration was drawn up and signed on December 16, 1965. As previously stated, the hospitalization and medical insurance plans became effective July 1, 1966, but the extended care facilities section of Part A will become effective on January 1, 1967.

There are several agencies and organizations, both governmental and private, responsible for carrying out the Medicare program. The State Board of Health is responsible for certifying those institutions that want to provide necessary medical care and are capable of caring for patients. The Social Security Administration is responsible for administering the program. Three private organizations, Blue Cross of Florida, The Travelers Insurance Company and Aetna Life and Casualty Company, are the approved fiscal intermediaries under Part A for hospitals, extended care facilities and home health agencies. Blue Shield of Florida is the approved carrier and responsible for making payments under Part B.