



LEXINGTON MEDICAL SOCIETY

Physicians caring for the community since 1799

MARCH 2017

President's Message:



Robert P. Granacher, Jr., MD, MBA

On February 7, 2017, I had the opportunity to attend the annual Economic Outlook Conference for Kentucky presented by the Gatton College of Business and Economics at the University of Kentucky. The first lecture was a *National Economic Outlook and Monetary Policy* by Dr. Mark Schwitzer Senior Vice-president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Dr. Christopher Bollinger of the Gatton College drew a contrast between national and local relationships on the Kentucky economic outlook for 2017. Dr. Ana Herrera gave an excellent economic analysis of the effects of oil price shocks on the Kentucky economy. However, I was most interested in the offering by Ben Chandler, former Attorney General of Kentucky, and also formerly our US Representative before Andy Barr.

Ben had acquired a large settlement from an insurance company while serving as Attorney General for Kentucky and used the 45 million dollars received to fund the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. His presentation, *Kentucky Health: Moving the Needle*, provided stark analysis of the citizen health issues facing physicians who practice in this state. While a JAMA study revealed that cancer mortality declined 20% nationwide from 1980 to 2014, "...the highest rates of increase were observed in Kentucky and scattered across regions of the South." The statistics are truly stark for our state. We rank 46th in adult obesity, 50th in adult smoking, 43rd in heart disease, 47th in mental health, and 48th in drug-overdose deaths. When these rates are displayed on a US map, the southeastern portion of our state leads almost all counties in the United States in terms of poor health.

Mr. Chandler noted that his foundation and its focus on children, hopes to use specific policy to produce healthier newborns, develop safe places for children to walk, ride their bikes and play; improve healthy eating habits of children early in life, and reduce the risk that today's school-aged children will develop chronic diseases as they grow into adults. The focus for adults in the Foundation is for earlier diagnosis, treatment, and preventative services, enabling sound mental health programs, reducing chronic medical conditions, improving life expectancy and quality of life through greater financial security, and more health with less healthcare. He proposes that communities develop more walkable neighborhoods, focus on reducing infectious disease and lower medical spending, enable more funding for other purposes, improve employment opportunities, develop safe neighborhoods, and reduce crime rates.

Overall, Mr. Chandler's focus was pragmatic, based on empiric evidence of the current poor status of health in Kentucky, and hopeful that a more proactive focus on

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Article by Dr. Nancy
Swikert, KMA Pres.

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HB1 CME

Upcoming Events:

March 10
Senior Lunch

March 12
LMS Essay Deadline

March 14
KET Telethon

April 18-19
KMAA Annual Mtg

April 22
Business of Medicine

April 29
HB1 CME (see back
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August 23
LMS Golf

lifestyle and environmental changes in communities can improve the overall health of our state. The Foundation has now distributed by grants, more than 25 million investment return dollars toward those goals.



Mission:

The Lexington Medical Society is the principal voice & resource for Central Kentucky physicians to enhance their professional lives & improve the health of the community.

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