



**BUILDING HEALTHCARE IN SOUTHERN NEVADA  
WITH THE CLARK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY**

# FROM THE GROUND UP



**STANDING** | Lesley Dickson, MD · Joseph Iser, MD · Loretta Moses, CCMS Executive Director · Warren Evins, MD · Jacqueline Nguyen-Lee, CCMS Alliance Co-President  
Daniel Burkhead, MD · Michael Edwards, MD · Andrew Eisen, MD · Howard Baron, MD · Jeffrey Roth, MD · George Alexander, MD · Mitchell Forman, DO · Joseph Adashek, MD  
Bonnie Ng, CCMS Alliance Past Co-President · Weldon Havins, MD, Esq. · Florence Jameson, MD · Karen Schroeder, CCMS Alliance Incoming Co-President  
**SITTING** | Barbara Atkinson, MD · Staci McHale, MD · Souzan El-Eid, MD FACS · Marcia Turner, PhD · Miriam Bar-on, MD · Deborah Kuhls, MD

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# KIRILL V. MIKHAYLOV

**MR. MIKHAYLOV** is an associate at Hall Prangle and Schoonveld, LLC where he concentrates his practice in the defense of hospitals, medical professionals, long-term care and other healthcare providers against claims of medical negligence. He has successfully defended a variety of medical malpractice cases and other types of claims against healthcare providers. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Finance from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and received his Juris Doctorate from St. Thomas University School of Law. Hall Prangle & Schoonveld, LLC (HPS) is a national litigation firm with eight offices across the country. HPS has tried more cases to verdict than any other healthcare defense firm of its size in Nevada and has prevailed in numerous high-stakes lawsuits. The attorneys at HPS are committed to finding solutions to the challenges facing their clients, whether through trial, focused motion practice, alternative dispute resolution, or pretrial settlements.

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**THIS** year marks a very special year for the Clark County Medical Society (CCMS). After 30 years in the same building, the Society is upgrading and building a new facility on the grounds of the current location. This growth is significant as it allows CCMS to better serve as a hub for members, healthcare stakeholders and the public and will enable us all to better work towards building quality healthcare for our community.

The following pages highlight more about the organization and how we're working to not just build a new facility, but also to build healthcare in Southern Nevada and connect the community with the medical professionals that care for it. CCMS members consist of physicians, physician assistants, residents and fellows and medical students, all of whom want to see better healthcare thrive in Clark County.

The organization is a voice for both physicians and patients and works alongside the Nevada State Medical Association to advocate for Southern Nevadans. We also collaborate with area medical schools and industry stakeholders to serve as a bridge between healthcare and the community. CCMS is run by a Board of Trustees that consists of doctors in a variety of specialties, from family medicine, urology and pediatrics to gynecology, radiology and psychiatry. Additionally, many of our board members serve in leadership positions within their given specialties, expanding their reach across the world.

CCMS is focused on improving healthcare in a variety of ways. The Board's annual strategic planning retreat, which will be held this year in August, will focus on identifying programs and activities that advocate for quality health education and wellness for medical professionals, as well as the public. In addition, at the retreat, the Board will work to address common health problems and concerns, improve communications both internally and externally, promote CCMS leadership and build strong professional networks.

As we work to identify new ways we can serve the community in which we live and work, CCMS will continue to grow the many programs we already have in place. The Annual Residents and Fellows Job Fair works to keep doctors in Nevada. The Junior Mini Med Internship Program and our work with graduate medical education both help grow physicians from within Southern Nevada. We also have the "Ask them Back" program which encourages physicians who have left for their residencies to return to Nevada to practice.

For physicians that are already established in Southern Nevada, CCMS offers continuing medical education credits through the Physician Education and Wellness Series. And, for patients, we're working with the Southern Nevada Health District this fall to present a Patient Education Series.

Healthcare is a universal issue that affects us in so many ways. The Clark County Medical Society serves as a resource for patients and medical professionals and works to improve healthcare access, quality and efficiency for all Southern Nevadans. As president-elect, I'm honored to be a part of CCMS during this exciting time and help the organization build a better future.

Best Wishes,

Souzan El-Eid, MD, FACS  
President-Elect  
Clark County Medical Society



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# FROM THE GROUND UP

## BUILDING HEALTHCARE IN SOUTHERN NEVADA WITH THE CLARK COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

*By Jennifer Rachel Baumer*

**STATED** right in the vision statement of Clark County Medical Society (CCMS) is the fact that the organization is as much an advocacy and education group for patients as for physicians and professionals working in the healthcare field.

Chartered in 1955, CCMS is dedicated to advocating for physicians, patients and community health; to preserving the physician/patient relationship while encouraging delivery of quality healthcare in the community; to representing its members in health and economic matters; and to serving as a resource for continuing medical education.

“It’s important to us as physicians not just to stand together, but to collaborate to make sure that patients and our colleagues have access to the best health information that we can get them,” said Dr. Andrew Eisen, CCMS president.

### Connections for Southern Nevadans

“When we look at community health needs, we have individual organizations, individual practitioners, trying to address what they see as needs of the community but each individual only sees what they see in scope of practice or volunteer work they do. [CCMS] allows both physicians to look at community needs and for the community to bring forth their needs in a forum where we can look at bigger picture rather than individual pieces,” said Dr. Deborah Kuhls, CCMS membership chair.

For example, with headlines tracking outbreaks of viruses like Zika, the public needs the best and newest information available and CCMS is a resource to help disseminate that information.



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"People see it on the news and are frightened," said Eisen. "So you talk to them and neither they nor anyone with whom they've been in contact have been to an area where Zika Virus is a problem, so then we can reassure them. On the other hand, if somebody is planning to travel, it's good for us to get them the information about what they need to do to protect themselves, the risk of being bitten by a mosquito and the risk of contracting [the virus]."

One of the primary ways CCMS connects to the Southern Nevada community is by providing medical education and information. "From an educational standpoint, one of the accomplishments this year was that our Community Health and Public Relations Committee, which is charged with getting information and education out [to the public], created subcommittees on education, one focused on professionals and another on the lay public," said Eisen.

The community outreach committee, chaired by Dr. Joseph Adashek, works on putting together medical education programs. CCMS members host town hall meetings, inviting people to come and talk about important subjects, said incoming CCMS president Dr. Souzan El-Eid, and for physicians, the society offers symposiums where they can earn continuing medical education credits. "We hosted a very successful marijuana symposium last year and right after a successful suicide prevention symposium," said El-Eid.

The Nevada Psychiatric Association presents an annual event that people come from around the country to attend, organized by Dr. Lesley Dickson, one of the current CCMS executive council members.

The process for offering such programs should be streamlined with the completion of the CCMS building. "We are rebuilding the building. It's going to have state-of-the-art telecommunications abilities, with video conferencing, so we'd be able to work with [colleagues in] Reno, for example, while holding meetings, educational meetings, political meetings, legislative meeting on all levels," said El-Eid.



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## Educating the Medical Community

Until recently Las Vegas was one of the largest metropolitan areas in the United States that didn't have its own medical school.

"It's been forever that the only state medical school was based in Reno," said Dr. Michael Edwards, CCMS past president. With a majority of the population in Southern Nevada, that meant residency rotations were often in the Las Vegas area. Now with three medical schools in the area, there's the hope that the advent of the UNLV School of Medicine will bring the medical community closer together and overall, improve the healthcare available in Las Vegas.

"It's good now," said Edwards, who serves on the community advisory board for the new medical school. "And it's going to get better."

When it comes to educating doctors, medical school is just the first step in the process, ac-

ording to Eisen. Doctors don't graduate from medical school and go into practice. There's further medical training, residencies and fellowships, and those are developing in Southern Nevada as well as the medical schools.

"In my day job, I'm the Chief Academic Officer for Valley Health System, and that's what we're doing, developing more of those opportunities," said Eisen.

When graduates of existing medical schools – University of Nevada School of Medicine in Reno, and Touro University, as well as the new schools, UNLV School of Medicine and Roseman University of Health Sciences – will be able to do their training in Nevada, we'll have a better shot at keeping bright, young, talented doctors in state.

Keeping medical school graduates in the state to do their residencies means offering opportunities for residencies, under the idea of "graduate and educate," according to Edwards. Because the first focus is on primary

care and family practice, both areas in which Nevada has a shortage of doctors, keeping residents in state is important.

"Studies have shown a graduating resident is 70 percent more likely to stay where they trained," said Edwards. "So one of our roles is to encourage doctors to stay in town. This is a great place to live, a great place to take care of patients, and there's definitely a need."

One of the reasons Nevada faces a shortage of doctors is because several years ago, before tort reform created a \$350,000 medical malpractice cap (upheld by the Nevada Supreme Court in October 2015), there was only one insurance company in the state providing malpractice insurance, and at prohibitively expensive rates. That's one of the ways CCMS helps Nevada doctors – through a government affairs committee that works on changes to legislation to help both patients and physicians, according to Adashek.

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While working toward offering residency opportunities in state, there's a need to look at the entire continuum of medical education. Medical school is step one. Residency follows and drives people toward where they're going to practice. Before medical school, there's undergraduate programs, premedical programs, programs for other healthcare professionals, and before that – high school and middle school.

CCMS works with schools to help identify students that have an interest and aptitude for the health professions, who might want to go into nursing, therapy, psychology or pursue the road to becoming a doctor. If those students can be identified early, there's a chance to create a continuum of education that will lead to not only more medical professionals in state, but to raise the standard of quality of Nevada medical care.

“One of the things the medical society does is to be a focal point for all of that,” said Eisen. “We have representation at all four venues from the Nevada System of Higher Education, from all four of the medical schools, from residency programs and its providers, all of those folks trying to come together to create that pathway and have all things fit together well to serve Nevada.”

Outreach programs for high school and college students give them some exposure to the healthcare field and an idea of the steps required to become a physician or a nurse or a physical therapist or anesthesiologist, all the various professions now that will be represented with the UNLV School of Medicine,” said Kuhls, who serves as associate dean, academic affairs, University of Nevada School of Medicine.

## Unifying the Medical World

Membership in the local medical society is important for doctors for reasons beyond that of advocacy and education. There's also considerations specific to physicians themselves.

“I was always taught when I was in training as a resident in New York, you join the local society wherever you go and you start now, and once you have your license you participate in the community and the community medical society will watch out for you as a physician,” said El-Eid. “So I do believe that all physicians should belong to their local society, that's how their voices are heard. The unity is very important. When we all belong, and we have the same voice, then our voice can be heard. We have many obstacles, especially in this day and age, in practicing what we went into medicine to practice. With the rules and regulations for the hospitals and the electronic medical records, sometimes we can't even afford our overhead. When we come together

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## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### CCMS ANNUAL MEETING

Presidential Installation  
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**June 18th, 6pm**  
Westgate Resort

### PUBLIC EDUCATION SERIES

Late Summer

### RESIDENT & FELLOWS JOB FAIR

**August 17** - Golden Nugget

### GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY FUNCTIONS

Meet the Candidates  
Legislative Mixer  
**September 29th**

### MINI-MED & JUNIOR MINI-MED INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

Spring and Fall  
**Oct. 10 - 20th** (Mini-Med)

### TOWN HALLS

Engaging physicians and the community on healthcare-related topics  
**Ongoing**

### CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME)

Programs for physicians to inform them on current topics  
**Ongoing**

### SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

**Ongoing**

### GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY THROUGH MEDPAC

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For more information on any of CCMS' great programs and events, visit the website at [ClarkCountyMedical.org](http://ClarkCountyMedical.org).

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# What Your Doctors Wish You Knew...

## DOCTORS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS

### The Internet Isn't As Good As Your Doctor

"First of all I very much like that my patients are educated. However, I'd much rather they learn their education from physicians than people who write and Google or chat room saying they are the best source of medical information. There's a whole group of physicians who want to teach and help the community."

—DR. JOSEPH ADASHEK  
Trustee

### Nevada Has Great Medical Care

"One thing I wish patients knew is that there's great medical care here and we need to do more of it. We need to improve access and we need to do a better job of coordinating that care between different providers, physicians and non-physicians alike. But, the quality of care that's available in Nevada is actually very, very good."

—DR. ANDREW EISEN  
Current President

"Las Vegas is a great place to have healthcare. There's an old joke and a bad joke about where to get the best healthcare in Las Vegas and it's at the airport. I don't think you need that. There's great healthcare in our town. It's just a matter of patients being able to know. I want to educate the public more on the doctors that are in town and the specialties here. You don't have to travel to Salt Lake City or Southern California or LA to get healthcare."

—DR. MICHAEL EDWARDS  
Leadership

"There are some fantastic physicians in Las Vegas. 'Get on an airplane' is really no longer valid in Las Vegas and Henderson. To go somewhere to see a physician outside the state of Nevada doesn't make sense."

—DR. JOSEPH ADASHEK  
Trustee

### Medicine Is A Team Sport

"This is not a doctor doing something to a patient. There's lots of folks involved. The most important member of any healthcare team is the patient."

—DR. ANDREW EISEN  
Current President

### Good Judgement Is Vital

"I wish my patients knew how much the small decisions in their life impacted their risk of being injured in a way that will change their life forever."

—DR. DEBORAH KUHLS  
Membership Committee

### Understand Your Insurance

"We have an issue with insurance companies in terms of transference to the public. If you look at your plan in terms of who's there, it can be very confusing to know who is in network, who is considered out of network and what specialists there are. We think that the insurance companies need to be very transparent with the population about who actually they're signing up for."

—DR. MICHAEL EDWARDS  
Leadership

### Doctors Are Human

"We're humans. We're not gods, we don't make miracles. We do our jobs to the best of our knowledge, we stay up-to-date with all the latest information, we provide the best care we can, but we cannot provide miracles. They have to do their part. They have to live the healthy life. Stop smoking. Cut down alcohol. Be physically active. Eat healthy."

—DR. SOUZAN EL-EID  
Incoming President

### Physicians Care About Your Well-Being

"Physicians really care about people that they don't even know, they just care about wellness of people, of the population at large."

—DR. DEBORAH KUHLS  
Membership Committee

"A lot of patients don't understand their benefits from their insurance and that would be something that would be drastically helpful. It would allow us to spend more time providing care for patients and not having to explain financial things that patients don't always understand."

—DR. STACI MCHALE  
Trustee

and address the issues and go to the administrative level and fight for physicians in our communities, that's how we're heard."

In addition to representing physicians and educating both healthcare workers and their patients, a medical society needs to educate providers about important topics in the community and give them a voice and an opportunity to provide their own expertise on such topics. "So our medical society executive director and staff always keep the president advised and try to get members out to certain functions and events, involved on councils and aware of what's going on [in the community]," said Edwards.

CCMS also makes it possible for members to be represented at functions they may not otherwise have the ability to participate in.

"Any medical society in any community, its job is to represent the physician whether it be political issues or whether it be for any type of issues, even social issues, social or media events," said Edwards. "So we have an elected president and an executive council behind them. When things come along that your average plastic surgeon just can't be a part of whether, it be about the medical school or something the mayor has going on, the medical society, in my opinion, is there to represent the physician and medical providers in general and to educate those providers about important things that are out there, in addition to educating the public. So our medical society executive director and staff always keep the president advised and try to get them out to certain functions and events and also involved with councils so they know what's going on in the community."

Along with being able to promote issues important for public health, members of CCMS are able to work together to provide the most current information available where there are media opportunities to help educate the community, said Dr. Staci McHale, CCMS treasurer.

## Standard of Care

Taking care of patients doesn't start and stop in the hospital or with an office visit. Out in the community laws are passed and regulations put in place that affect patients, their healthcare and their rights, and physicians need to be able to have a voice in those processes.

Being part of a medical society allows doctors to connect, to collaborate and to share information. "None of us knows everything," Eisen said. When issues rise outside of a physician's specialty, membership in a medical society means doctors already have relationships with other members of the medical society and can pick up the phone and consult with experts in other practices. "That means a better outcome for patients, and that's the ultimate goal," he added.

In terms of educating the Southern Nevada community, medical education programs available through CCMS offer physicians the ability to mix and match. Maybe no one knows everything, but it's possible to have multi-discipline education, like the 2016 robotic surgery symposium which will educate in all different fields that use robotic surgery and discuss all current applications.

It also helps to introduce physicians to specialties outside their own. "I'm a maternal fetal medicine specialist," said Adashek. "I go to maternal fetal risk specialty conferences, while CCMS has a much more board range of conferences to help out all physicians." Programs like the robotic surgery symposium offer doctors the chance to learn aspects of a subject they'd never experience at their own specialty conferences.

CCMS functions from a higher viewpoint, rather than getting lost in specialties. "It can act as a forum for physicians to not only communicate but raise concerns that should be resolved or could be addressed by an organization such as CCMS, so it's a venue for individual physicians in solo practice, in group practice or academia, to come together to address the healthcare needs of Nevadans, as well as some issues that relate to physicians being able to provide the best possible care, and gives them a body that can speak for them



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## Joseph P. Garin

### Practice Areas

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Joseph P. Garin is a partner at Lipson, Neilson, Cole, Seltzer & Garin, P.C. He is admitted to practice in Nevada, Michigan, Illinois, and Colorado and has represented more than 500 lawyers and law firms in his practice. He is regularly consulted by other attorneys on risk management and ethics issues and has testified as an expert witness. He serves as chair on the Ethics Committee of the Nevada State Bar. He is currently the co-chair of the Professional Liability Committee for the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance ("CLM") and is a Certified Litigation Management Professional ("CLMP"). He has been a featured speaker at CLE conferences on a national and state level. Joe is rated "AV-Preeminent" by Martindale-Hubbell® in both Nevada and Michigan and has been chosen to Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters since 2007.

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## Shaun Kriedeman

Mr. Kriedeman is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of The Mojave Group, LLC.

The Mojave Group is a real estate investment company specializing in the acquisition, development, leasing, and disposal of commercial real estate. Founded in 2010, The Mojave Group is a limited liability company formed and headquartered in Las Vegas, NV and is actively searching for investment opportunities in Las Vegas and throughout the Southwest US.

Mr. Kriedeman is responsible for overall firm strategy and management, seeking investments, funding structures, and overall investor relationships. Over the last 25 years, Mr. Kriedeman has been a key decision maker on numerous types of residential and commercial property development projects which total over 7 Million square feet and in excess of \$1.5 Billion.

Mr. Kriedeman is an active member of ULI, ICSC, and NAIOP. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from Minnesota State University Moorhead and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix.

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**PLAYING** an important role within the Clark County Medical Society, committees encourage members to be actively engaged in shaping the future of healthcare in Southern Nevada. Committee participation is open to any CCMS member in good standing and offers the opportunity to work with other physicians in influencing policies and issues. In addition to committee positions, CCMS elects members into its Board of Trustees who have two years or more of current membership in the organization.

## COMMITTEES

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## Stacy Rocheleau

### Practice Areas

- Divorce & Family Law
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Stacy is the founder and managing attorney of Right Lawyers. Stacy has been practicing law since 2001, and her practice focuses exclusively on divorce and child custody matters. One key to her success is her ability to negotiate a resolution, especially where a family business or medical practice is involved, thus saving the time and expense of litigation.

Stacy graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Whittier College in 1991. She went on to earn her law degree from the University Of San Diego School Of Law in 1996. Stacy is a board member for Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys and the Goodie Two Shoes Foundation. Stacy has three teenage daughters and a husband of 23 years.

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as well, and speak in the legislature, at public meetings and forums and community groups, and identify common themes in healthcare irrespective of specialty," said Kuhls.

## Looking Forward

Ei-Eid's wish list for her upcoming term as CCMS president is more education, all the way around: for physicians, healthcare workers and the public. She'd like to bring national and international conferences to Southern Nevada and have the society offer expert recommendations on healthcare issues and legislation.

"We're all in this together," said Ei-Eid. "We all want to make [healthcare] the best experience for everyone, for the community, for the society, not just taking care of patients during their diseases but also preventing their diseases and diagnosing them early." That means everyone working together, connecting the medical community with the Southern Nevada community and providing education.

"The Clark County Medical Society provides a voice for physicians on issues that are

important for us in terms of legislation being passed [about healthcare] as well as physicians being able to band together and work toward common goals," said McHale. "The medical society is supportive of us as we work together, trying to make medicine the strongest it can be and give it the strongest voice it can have. I hope CCMS will continue to grow and be the voice for physicians in Clark County and also for our patients, to be an advocate for them and to help provide educational opportunities so they are better informed about their healthcare choices."

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