

From the COLLEGE

NEWS FROM THE ACR & THE ARHP

- > p. 13 Foundation Receives \$1 Million Donation for Physician-Driven Medical Research
- > p. 13 In Memoriam
- > p. 13 Practice Manager's Role in Managing Rheumatic Disease
- > p. 14 Former Foundation President Reflects on 30 Years of Research & Training
- > pp. 15 & 19 Coding Corner
- > p. 16 Advocating with You
- > p. 17 Calendar
- > p. 22 Practice Page

Foundation Receives **\$1 Million** Donation for Physician-Driven Medical Research

\$1,000,000⁰⁰
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DOLLARS

Security Features
Included
Details on Back

In Memoriam

The professional rheumatology community recently lost three exceptional individuals who contributed greatly to the specialty.

Stephen M. Krane, MD, of the Massachusetts General Hospital, died on Jan. 19. He was recognized as a Master of the ACR and was presented with the ACR Distinguished Basic Investigator Award in 1995.*

Nathan J. Zvaifler, MD, of University of California, San Diego, died on Jan. 28. He was a former editor of *Arthritis & Rheumatology* (1980–1985), as well as the 1999 ACR Presidential Gold Medal recipient. He also held the Master distinction of the ACR.

Franc Alexander "Andy" Barada Jr., MD, of Durham Rheumatology, died on Feb. 8. He was a former president of the North Carolina Rheumatology Association.

We extend our condolences to their families, friends and colleagues. Their devotion to their patients, their specialty and medicine as a whole will be missed.

Practice Manager's Role in Managing Rheumatic Disease

Successful management strategies for the busy rheumatology practice must evolve with the rapidly changing clinical environments of healthcare systems today. The complicated administrative and novel clinical demands of a thriving rheumatology practice increasingly require the expertise and skill of practice managers competent in managing budgets, person-

The Rheumatology Research Foundation has received a \$1 million donation from practicing rheumatologist Norman B. Gaylis, MD, to fund physician-driven medical research through the establishment of the Norman B. Gaylis, MD Research Award for Rheumatologists in Community Practice. This award will support research ideas from practicing rheumatologists.

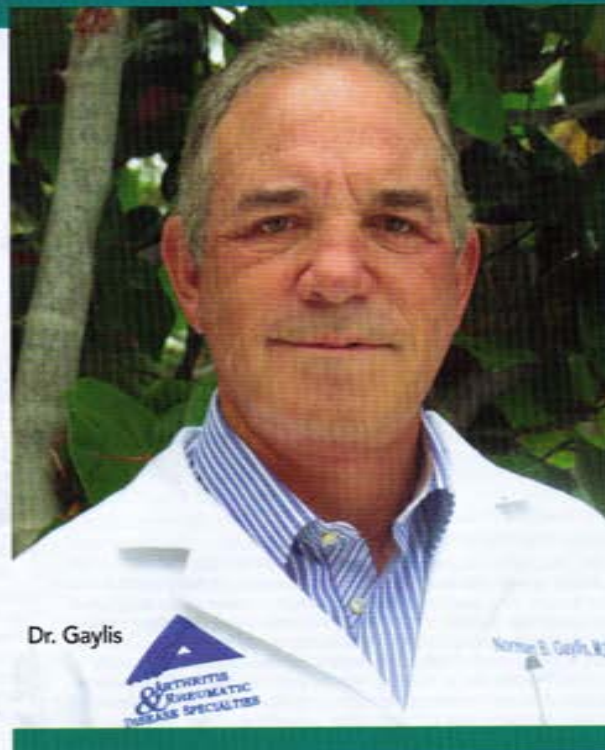
Dr. Gaylis has been practicing medicine in the greater Miami area for more than 34 years. He is also an active member of the Foundation and has served as an ambassador for the Campaign Leadership Council. He believes strongly in the benefits of clinicians conducting research and the importance of making an investment in the field of rheumatology.

The award will be used to support rheumatologists in community-based practices who, in addition to taking care of patients, want to test their own observations and ideas through innovative research. He says, "I created this award to benefit patients who suffer from rheumatic diseases. I feel very strongly that practicing rheumatologists have day-to-day exposure and relationships with patients that allow them to notice trends and nuances that regular researchers might not have, yet they usually don't have access to funding."

Dr. Gaylis says his desire to create the award was born out of his own experiences. "In my career, I have been both fortunate and frustrated: fortunate because I've been in practice for nearly 40 years; frustrated because I struggled to get support for ideas I had—not because they weren't worthwhile, but because funding wasn't available. So many rheumatologists deserve that opportunity, and I'm trying to stimulate new thought and creativity and attract some of the unsung heroes in rheumatology."

The Foundation will start accepting applications for the Norman B. Gaylis, MD Research Award for Rheumatologists in Community Practice next year. The first round of funding for research will be given out in 2017.

Dr. Gaylis hopes his investment serves as a message to colleagues to "give back to what's made you who you are." With this additional research funding, he hopes to influence rheumatology's future and, ultimately, improve the lives of patients around the world.



Dr. Gaylis

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Practice Manager's Role in Managing Rheumatic Disease

Successful management strategies for the busy rheumatology practice must evolve with the rapidly changing clinical environments of healthcare systems today. The complicated administrative and novel clinical demands of a thriving rheumatology practice increasingly require the expertise and skill of practice managers competent in managing budgets, personnel and day-to-day clinical operations. This allows for improved efficiency and efficacy in the delivery of care for patients with rheumatic disease.

The role of the practice manager may vary depending on the setting in which they work. In private practices, the practice manager may partner with and report directly to the rheumatologist(s) providing patient care. In this setting, the practice manager may need to be the expert in all of the business operational needs of the practice. In larger health systems, practice managers may be part of an administrative structure responsible for ensuring institutional and regulatory requirements for operations are met while optimal care is provided for patients, efficiently.

What does the practice manager do?

The three major areas of responsibility for all practice settings are operations, budget and finance and human resource management. The practice manager may be responsible for coordinating and managing each of these elements of the healthcare system they work in. Operational demands require management of the patient care environment (e.g., scheduling, the front desk, referral management, interoffice communications, ancillary services, etc.), process improvement tasks, facilities, health information technology systems, marketing and risk. Additionally, assurance of regulatory compliance (e.g., The Joint Commission, OSHA, etc.) may be the practice manager's responsibility.

The expectations of budget and finance management include oversight of billing/coding, collections, financial management and analysis, inventory management, purchasing, taxes and payer/regulatory agency interactions. Further, human resource

continued on page 14 ➔