Save the dates and join us!

A key role of our medical society is to bring people together, and DCMS hosts events almost every month. The get-togethers are lots of fun and always a bargain. I encourage you to see how many you can attend.

I remember clearly my first DCMS event on a Sunday evening in late August 1977; we were starting medical school the next day. DCMS had invited freshmen medical students to dinner to meet with physician members. Our table in the medical school cafeteria was hosted by Dr. Marks, a balding pediatrician with a large salt-and-pepper beard. But what stuck with me was meeting an experienced doctor who cared about the next generation of physicians and was willing to share his time.

Like many, school and residency consumed my time, and I did not go to another DCMS social event for 20 years. But, like a friend of mine says, “Life is a series of stages and phases,” and now I try to go to all the DCMS social events. They truly have enriched my life, so I want to tell you about them. I hope you’ll consider going and will enjoy them as much as I do.

In February we had a networking social at Cantina Laredo. If you missed it, join us next time and be sure to ask a colleague to come along. Members can touch base with friends and meet new colleagues in a relaxed setting. We meet at various venues to accommodate physicians throughout our membership area; let us know if you have a recommendation.

On Tuesday, March 19, join us for Speed Networking at the Park City Club. We start the evening by enjoying appetizers and adult beverages, and then ask everyone to pair off standing at small tables. During these face-to-face round-robin interactions, DCMS members try to learn all they can about each other in three minutes. Take your business cards because you’ll invariably make new contacts and friends.

Saturday, April 6, is our annual Member Roundup at the Dallas Zoo. This wonderful family event is one of the best ways to experience our zoo, where entire exhibits are reserved for us! We used to have this get-together in October but have switched dates with our annual picnic (the Spring Picnic now is the Fall Picnic). All DCMS members and their families are invited for a fun evening with exclusive wildlife exhibitions and entertainment. In addition to an excellent barbecue dinner, artful face-painters will transform young and old alike into cheetahs, snakes or princesses. And for the physicians, DCMS Circle of Friends will provide door prizes that have ranged from gift cards to drones. Even my teenage daughter has enjoyed the evening, and I was glad she met some of my colleagues and their families.

Baseball season is around the corner, and on Friday, May 3, DCMS members and guests will meet at Globe Life Park to see the Texas Rangers face the Toronto Blue Jays. We’ll reserve a party suite for dinner, and game tickets are included. This is the last year to see a game at this ballpark; the new park with its retractable roof will be ready for the 2020 season. Join your friends for a fun night.

Beat the summer heat in a wonderfully air-conditioned movie theater on Saturday, June 22. Catch up with Buzz and Woody when “ReelDocs” shows “Toy Story 4” for DCMS members and families. For a nominal charge, you’ll enjoy a matinée at Studio Movie Grill, plus lunch, drinks and popcorn. What a great way to cool off on a hot afternoon and enjoy an outing with your family.
Our resident members will want to save **Thursday, June 27**, for a happy hour just for them. At the one I attended last year at Sonny Bryan’s, an attorney kept the residents’ attention with a discussion on the ins and outs of contract negotiations when starting a practice. Coupled with excellent barbecue, this was time well-spent!

After a July break, we’ll host an event that no other medical society in the country duplicates! Plan to attend the Annual DCMS Medical Student Dinner on **Sunday, Aug. 18**, at the Frontiers of Flight Museum near Love Field. On the Sunday night before the start of regular classes, DCMS welcomes the freshmen students at UT Southwestern and third-year Texas A&M students starting at Baylor University Medical Center. We expect about 300 students. At each table, one or two DCMS physicians will lead conversation with eight students about enduring medical school, choosing a specialty, opening a practice, or wherever the conversation leads. I find it totally engaging and thrilling to interact with these bright, young, enthusiastic students who want to follow in our footsteps. A group of my classmates (UTSW Class of ’81) regularly attends the dinner, and it’s great to see them year after year. This is an event the students likely will never forget. If my math is correct, this is the 44th year of a tradition started by DCMS and Bryan Williams, MD, the Dean of Student Affairs. For me, this is the most meaningful event of the year, and I encourage you to attend.

Building on the 2018 success of our “Women in Medicine” networking social, on **Thursday, Sept. 26**, we’ll host another such event. All female DCMS members are welcome. No formal program is planned, just the opportunity for DCMS women members to enjoy visiting with their peers. The first event was greeted with much enthusiasm, and we expect that excitement to flourish.

Our picnic at the Dallas Arboretum will be **Saturday, Nov. 9**. We moved this event from the spring due to the unpredictable inclement weather the past few picnics. (Remember being bundled up in coats while eating ice cream on the lawn by the white-capped lake?) Bring your family to explore the Arboretum in a different season, and view the pumpkins and autumn displays. For a nominal cost per family, guests will receive admission to the Arboretum, parking, lunch, and activities for adults and children. We’ll offer free photos of your family, face painting and door prizes. What a deal!

We’re organizing a holiday concert on **Sunday, Dec. 8**, at the Meyerson Symphony Center. DCMS members can take one guest to the concert. Tickets are discounted and in limited supply, so don’t delay signing up (as I have done).

Your DCMS staff member in charge of events is Cara Jaggers. She is wonderful to work with and available for suggestions and comments (cara@dallas-cms.org or 214-413-1423). Please let us know what we can do better.

I hope to see you soon!  

**DMJ**