

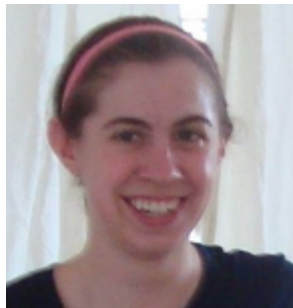


## **Catholic Physicians Guild of Dallas**

### **April 2014 Newsletter**

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#### **Next Meeting: Mission Trip to Haiti**



This coming meeting (May 1), Abigail Nitzchke MD will be sharing her experience when she traveled to Haiti for a medical mission trip this year. Four years after the earthquake, Haiti continues to struggle to rebuild. Infrastructure continues to be lacking, especially in rural areas. As a result, medicine in Haiti presents unique practical, moral and ethical challenges - yet it offers opportunities for great joy. She will present her perspectives and insights on these issues at our next meeting.

Abigail is currently a second year pediatric resident at Children's Medical Center of Dallas and is the resident liason to our Guild. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin for medical school and completed her undergraduate degree from Loyola University in Chicago.

The meeting will take place at Sweeney Lounge at St. Rita Catholic Church (12521 Inwood Road Dallas, Tx 75224). Please RSVP by replying to this email. For non-Guild members, we ask for a small contribution (\$5-10) to offset the cost of food.

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**Last meeting: Ethical Considerations in Medical Missionary Work**



This month Dr. Tom Zellers spoke on the topic of ethical issues encountered during medical missions. Dr. Zellers (pediatric cardiology) is involved in annual medical missionary trips to Honduras and works with a team of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide specialty care to an area where there is very little medical resources. His team that travels to Honduras is able to treat and provide surgical repair to many complex cardiac conditions. But during his work in missions, many ethical issues arise considering the level of care that his team is able to provide.

Which congenital heart diseases should be elected to fix (or to what level of palliation should be performed) considering the lack of follow up? Should non-FDA approved devices be used if the potential to cure outweighs unmeasured risks? How does one decide which patients are "more worthy" to treat when considering a patient's economic and clinical status? Who decides which patients are seen when the clinic is overwhelmed? Is the medical team actually fostering the government's reliance on missionary groups to avoid providing medical care for the public sector? These were a few of the questions posed, all of which have no concrete answers.

As always, Catholic physicians are encouraged to act with prudence in unclear situations to discern which choices are the best for our patients.

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## Guild attends Bishop's Pro Life Banquet



The Catholic Physicians Guild of Dallas hosted a table at the 21st Annual Bishop's Pro Life dinner. Congrats to the Dallas Catholic Pro Life Committee for again organizing a wonderful and meaningful event. Special thanks to two of our members - Doctors Jeff (nephrology) and Mayra (Ob-

Gyn) Thompson - who auctioned off a dinner at their house complete with a gourmet meal and live music. Their event raised \$11,000 and was the spotlight item of the live auction!

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## Pope Francis: Easter invites return to our first encounter with Jesus



In his homily for the Easter Vigil Pope Francis encouraged those present to remember the moment they first felt the love of God, saying that Jesus' resurrection is a time to relive this experience anew. "Returning to Galilee means treasuring in my heart the living memory of that call, when Jesus passed my way, gazed at me with mercy and asked me to follow him," the pontiff said during the April 19 evening vigil, held every year the night before Easter as a commemoration of Jesus' resurrection.

"It means reviving the memory of that moment when his eyes met mine, the moment when he made me realize that he loved me."

Read more from Catholic News Agency [here](#)

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*With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all - Acts 4:33*