



Brown County
Medical Society



For Immediate Release

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Green Bay Healthcare Forum Set for September 1

Public invited, Meyer Theatre, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Green Bay (August 27, 2009) — The two entities most closely connected to the healthcare system—physicians and businesses—want their say in what could be a monumental change in how we receive medical care. To that end, the Brown County Medical Society and the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce will co-host a healthcare forum at **Green Bay's Meyer Theatre, 117 S. Washington St., September 1 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.** The free public event, **which requires tickets**, will feature a panel of physicians and business leaders who will address several critical health issues not currently getting much, if any, discussion at previously held forums around the country. A Q/A session from the audience will follow the formal panel discussion.

“We, as physicians, feel a responsibility to lead before the nation goes forward with a major overhaul of our healthcare system,” said Thomas Wilkins, MD, president of the Brown County Medical Society. “So whatever our country decides regarding health reform, we want to make sure our congressional leaders know that the patient/doctor relationship must remain sacrosanct,” added Dr. Wilkins, a Green Bay physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist. Representatives from BayCare Clinic, Bellin, Aurora, and Prevea, will participate, as well.

The local business community is also intensely interested in how health reform plays out, in that our system is based on an employer-provided model. “Whatever form this new health

system takes, we must make certain it doesn't erode the quality of care provided nor the ability to pay for it," says Paul Jadin, president of the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce.

The focus of the 90-minute forum will revolve around the following issue areas:

- Cover the uninsured
- Adequately fund Medicare
- Reduce bureaucracy
- Enact legal reform
- Maintain patient/doctor relationship

Members of the panel will include Paul Jadin, Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Jeff Mason, CEO, BayCare Clinic, Saied Assef, MD, Bellin, Ashok Rai, MD, President/CEO, Prevea Health, Paul Scott, DO, family medicine, John Gallagher, MD, Vice- President, Medical Operations, Northern region, Aurora Medical Group, Nicky Plementosh, MD, Ob/Gyn and Thomas Wilkins, MD, president, Brown County Medical Society. Former Wisconsin Public Radio Medical reporter and author, Steve Busalacchi, will serve as moderator.

Congressman Steve Kagen, Governor Doyle, U.S. Senators Feingold and Kohl and local government leaders have all been invited to attend.

To reserve tickets for the healthcare forum, please call 920-560-5629, or info@bcmedicalsociety.org.

The Brown County Medical Society was founded in 1841, and is a charter member of the Wisconsin Medical Society. With more than 400 members, the Society works to improve the health of the people of Brown County by supporting and strengthening physicians' ability to practice high-quality patient care in a changing environment. Working together, Brown County physicians lead efforts with other health care partners to optimize health care delivery and ensure accessible, efficient, patient-centered quality care for everyone.

Since 1882, the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce has been helping area businesses and residents enjoy business growth and a higher quality of life. Our programs centered in education, professional development, economic development, government affairs, small business assistance, and leadership offer opportunities for professional development, community support, and business assistance.

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