

ALLEGHENY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

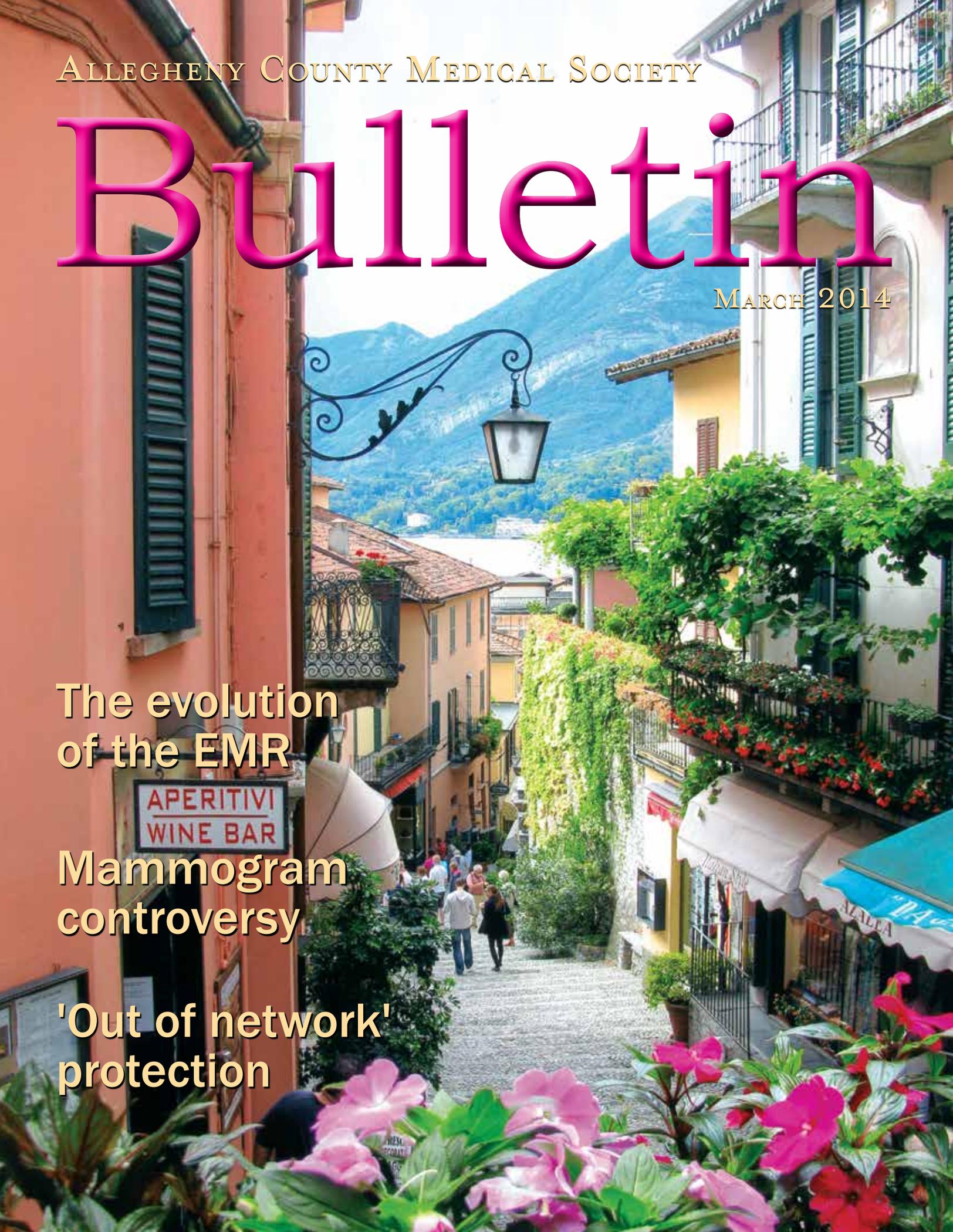
Bulletin

MARCH 2014

The evolution
of the EMR

Mammogram
controversy

'Out of network'
protection



CME program announced

On Wednesday, April 9, from 5:30-9 p.m., a Continuing Medical Education program will be offered at the Westin Convention Hotel featuring Michael Watson, PhD, executive director of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics, and other presenters discussing "Be Prepared! Genetics is going to change your office practice! Carrier Screening in the Genomic era!" This program is presented by the Pittsburgh Victor Center for the Prevention of **Jewish Genetic Diseases**.

The Pittsburgh Victor Center is a local program affiliated with the Einstein Health Network of Philadelphia and the **Jewish Healthcare Foundation** in Pittsburgh. The overarching goal of the Pittsburgh Victor Center is to provide

education about and access to Jewish genetic screening and to support physician practices in providing appropriate information. Carrier knowledge can prevent the tragic diseases of young children born to same carrier parents. The potential to eliminate many of these often fatal childhood diseases is hampered by two major barriers: expense and unprepared physician practices.

During a 3-year pilot project with college students, 460 people, approximately 10 percent of the target population, were screened. One in 3.6 students screened for 19 recessive Jewish genetic diseases were found to be carriers of at least one of these markers.

In January 2013, both Highmark

and the UPMC Health Plan agreed to cover a panel of 19 Jewish genetic diseases as a medical benefit, requiring only a physician prescription. With that barrier removed, the Pittsburgh Victor Center is focusing on streamlining the process for physician implementation of genetic screening prescription and counseling options.

Since the cost of screening has been greatly reduced, the message "Get Screened for 19" should have both the community and physicians poised to dramatically reduce the number of affected babies, much as was the result of the Tay-Sachs screening.

For more information on the CME program, please call Dodie Roskies, (412) 916-3989, or email roskiesd@hotmail.com.

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