

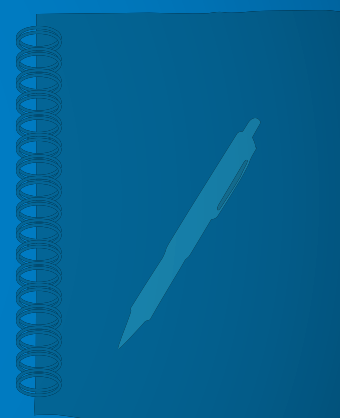
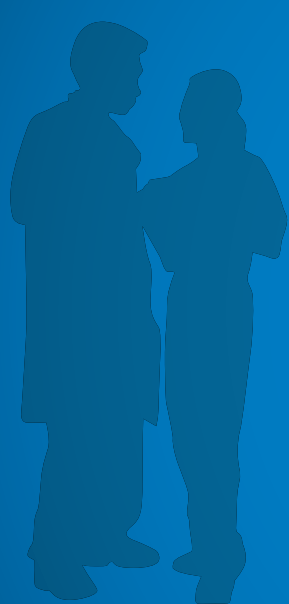
# LocumLife™

DEDICATED TO LOCUM TENENS PHYSICIANS

Official Publication  
**NALTO**

National Association  
of Locum Tenens  
Organizations

**MAR/APR 2012**  
VOL. 7 NO. 2 | [LOCUMLIFE.COM](http://LOCUMLIFE.COM)



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## EDITOR'S CORNER: USING SOCIAL MEDIA



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## THE BASICS: OPTIMIZING YOUR MARKETABILITY

How to become more  
attractive to facilities  
and recruiters



+++++

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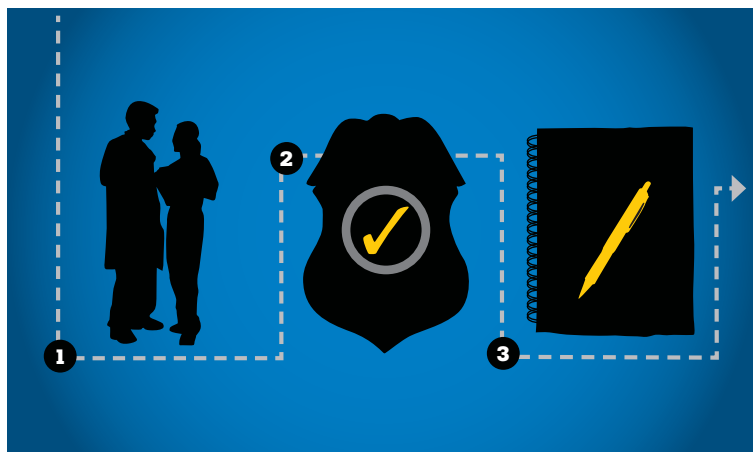
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Optimizing your marketability

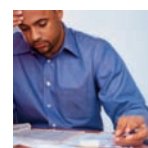
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Lisa Daggett



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# USING SOCIAL MEDIA

In our last issue, I discussed—quite literally, in a voice-over—our new digital format. I also told you that [LocumLife](#) would bring you the latest news and trends through social networking and web-based technologies. To that end, on our website, we are introducing a comprehensive video blog that will include insights from locum tenens physicians, industry experts, and our editorial team. We are also implementing an interactive community scrapbook, and connecting with you in real time through both [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



Without a doubt, social media has become a central method for communicating and sharing information. In fact, its relevance to the healthcare industry has been the subject of recent coverage and debate, as has the issue of what constitutes professional social media activity for clinicians.

A few months ago, [QuantiaMD](#), an online physician-to-physician learning collaborative, and the [Care Continuum](#)

[Alliance](#) joined forces to determine a meaningful picture of how doctors engage in social media. Their study revealed roughly two-thirds of physicians use it in some form for professional purposes. The findings also demonstrated that the majority of the 4,033 physicians who took part in the research are interested in how it can be applied to improve patient care.

Social media will likely have a significant impact on the delivery of healthcare in the years to come. Some of the challenges facing the medical community regarding its use are regulation of content and maintenance of physician-patient confidentiality. While social media is here to stay, those who utilize it professionally should use their best judgment and proceed with caution until clear parameters are established. **LL**

*Bobbi Harrison*

**Bobbi Harrison**, Editor  
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# LAUNCHING A CAREER

Experienced professionals and staffing industry experts offer helpful guidelines for entering into the practice alternative.

MARK S. KUJAR

**I**t is easy to see why many physicians dream about transitioning from private to locum tenens practice. In addition to presenting occasions to work in different settings and locations, it offers increased flexibility, new challenges, freedom from hospital politics, and other attractive benefits. Here, two company representatives and two physicians put you on the inside track with valuable suggestions for kicking off a successful locum tenens career.





### 1 SELECTING AN AGENCY

Now that you have decided to travel down this exciting path, you will have to start assessing staffing companies and determine the one you will register with for your first engagement. This process entails establishing relationships with competent recruiters.

William Yeaton, MD, a family practice physician with 17 years of experience in locum tenens, works with several agencies—including

CompHealth Locum Tenens, headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. “I recommend signing up with a few companies and then figuring out which ones work best for you. Since I practice through multiple staffing firms, I am able to take contracts based on location and the type of opportunity I want to explore.”

Building a rapport with dedicated staffing company representatives is critical in the eyes of Cofi Jordan,

Director and the founder of West Palm Beach, Fla.-based Anthem Associates. “Physicians are loyal to good recruiters, and good recruiters work hard for the physicians they represent,” she says. “I recommend that locum tenens professionals choose those who are responsive and have plenty of experience.”

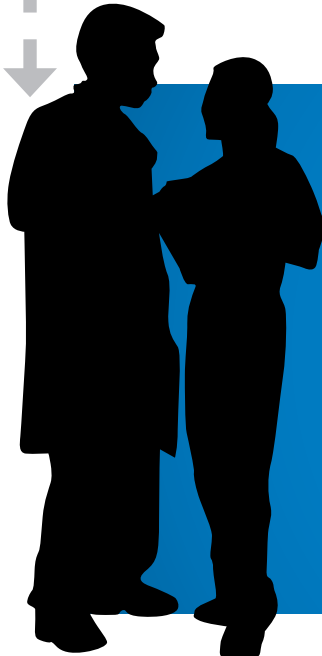
### 2 VERIFICATION/ CREDENTIALING PROCESS

Before you set off for your first work engagement, your agency will have to verify your background, education, and licensure, and create an employment history profile. “It does take time, as the process is comprehensive and necessary” according to Duane Gainsburg, MD, a surgeon who has practiced locum tenens for the past 8 years and accepts contracts with several companies, including Weatherby Healthcare, a locum company based in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

“The locum company researches your medical school and specialty training, and questions any gaps in your employment history. It has to confirm that you are properly trained and have the requisite experience in hospital-based medicine.”

The first thing you can expect to do is to fill out a registration form. “These vary by company, but ours is two-and-a-half pages,” says Frank Phillips, Vice President of Quality Assurance for Interim Physicians, a staffing agency located in St. Louis, Mo. “We ask for basic information, including a social security number. We need it to run an American Medical Association profile and state medical board search, which tells us if there have been any past license issues in any state where a candidate has practiced medicine.”

In today’s litigious society, it is not uncommon for a doctor to have some sort of “malpractice history” in his or her background, according to



**Duane Gainsburg, MD**—a surgeon who accepts contracts with a number of companies, including Weatherby Healthcare—and **Frank Phillips**, Vice President of Quality Assurance for Interim Physicians, share their thoughts on selecting a company.

**PHYSICIAN'S POINTER**  
**STAFFING COMPANY'S TIP**





**William Yeaton, MD**—a family practice physician who takes locum tenens contracts with several agencies, including CompHealth Locum Tenens—and

**Cofi Jordan**, Director and the founder of Anthem Associates, discuss the verification/credentialing process.

## PHYSICIAN'S POINTER STAFFING COMPANY'S TIP



Phillips. But it does not have to be a deal breaker. “We ask physicians to do a self-query of the National Practitioner Data Bank,” he states. “It contains information about doctors and other healthcare practitioners who have had medical malpractice suits filed or adverse action taken against them.”

After completing the verification process to its satisfaction, a staffing company licenses the physician to work in the state(s) where he or she wishes to have an opportunity. The next step? Putting pen to paper.

### 3 CONTRACT FUNDAMENTALS

After choosing an agency, and

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## MISSION STATEMENT

*LocumLife* uniquely serves the needs of the locum tenens community. Current and prospective locum tenens physicians can explore the freedom, control, and flexibility of this rewarding practice alternative via our innovative digital format and website. Staffing firms can more efficiently identify, recruit, and serve these professionals. Industry trends, available opportunities, and success stories further encourage independent physicians to connect with staffing companies.

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completing the verification/credentialing process, you will have to navigate the complexities of signing a contract before heading off on your first locum tenens adventure. While contracts consisting of a base agreement and an engagement-specific addendum are fairly standard, there are a few things to keep in mind.

“Some staffing agencies require their practitioners to sign a contract before each locum tenens opportunity,” says Phillips. “But individual company policies can differ. For instance, we use an auto-renewing contract. Once a physician signs our agreement, he or she does not have to worry again about who is going to cover housing or transportation. We do not, however, get pay-rate specific in the contract. Each locum tenens engagement comes with an addendum that specifies a pay rate and duration, because these factors vary from

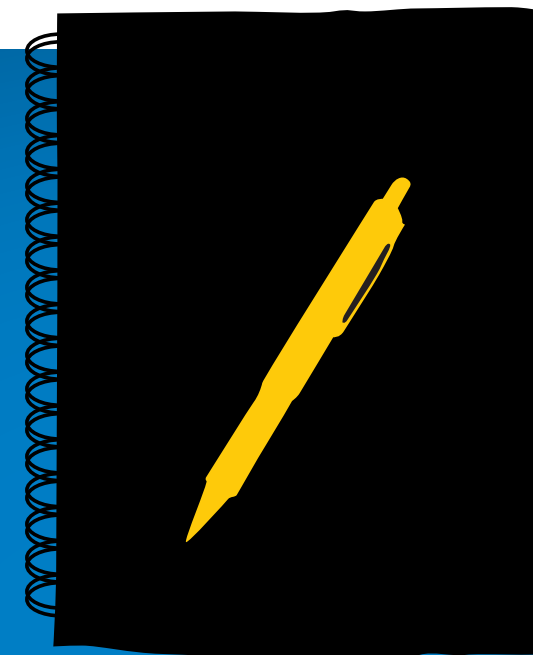
one opportunity to the next.”

According to Jordan, a typical contract is a global agreement that will be in effect for a year and automatically renew. “It specifies that the physician is an independent contractor,” she says. “So taxes will not be taken out, and it allows for airfare, lodging, and transportation, and that the provider will be covered under the agency’s liability insurance.”

A common clause in contracts: If a physician accepts a locum tenens opportunity/is presented to a practice through an agency, he or she cannot work with that practice again—independently or through any other company—for up to 2 years after completing an engagement.

“This is fair, as the agency finds the opportunity and makes arrangements,” says Dr. Yeaton. “But it is imperative to make sure a staffing company does not make

# 5



## CONTRACT FACTS

- A typical contract consists of a base agreement and an opportunity-specific addendum.
- Contracts are usually signed once, although some agencies insist on a new one for every engagement.
- Opportunity-specific addendums differ from facility to facility.
- Contracts contain time-specific, non-compete, and exclusivity clauses.
- Some hospitals add incentives, such as extra pay for taking call.



that time period indefinite or any longer than 2 years. Also, it should not apply if the agency no longer represents the given client facility. This is especially important with regard to military and government contracts, which are based on bids. If the original staffing agency does not win the bid, that type of contract would prevent a provider from practicing at the facility in the future. A physician should be able to work again—or continue working—if the original staffing firm loses or relinquishes the contract.

“Moreover, many contracts contain a ‘30-day termination without cause’ provision,” adds Dr. Yeaton. “This stipulation cannot be changed on government contracts.”

No two contracts are alike, according to Dr. Gainsburg. “But in general, the document covers a standard number of hours at a specific rate, plus increments for extra hours worked, and reimbursements for travel

and housing. Malpractice premiums are typically paid by the hospital.”

### A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE

Whether you decide to try locum tenens straight out of residency, 20 years into your practice, at the end of your career, or as a way to semi-retire, understanding what to expect—before you even decide where your first opportunity will take you—will give you a distinct advantage. And the rewards you will enjoy are bound to inspire you to pursue the practice alternative for years to come. **LL**

*Mark S. Kuhar is a freelance writer living in Cleveland, Ohio.*

#### IN OUR NEXT ISSUE,

“LAUNCHING A LOCUM TENENS CAREER, PART 2” WILL EXPLORE OTHER IMPORTANT FACTORS—NAMESLY SCHEDULING, TIMESHEETS AND PAYMENTS, AND POST-ENGAGEMENT FOLLOW-UP—TO CONSIDER.

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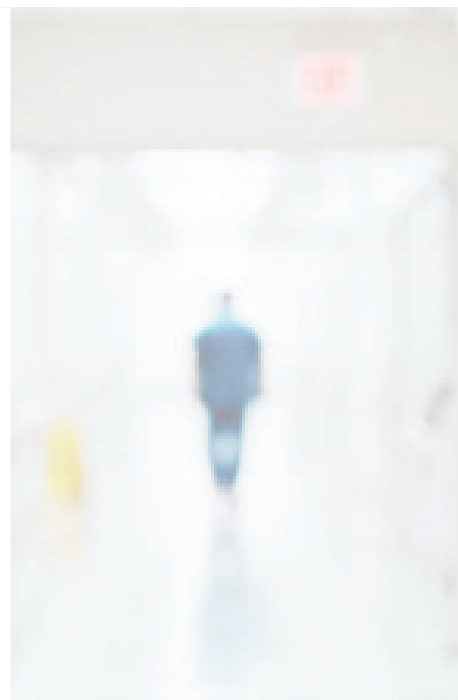
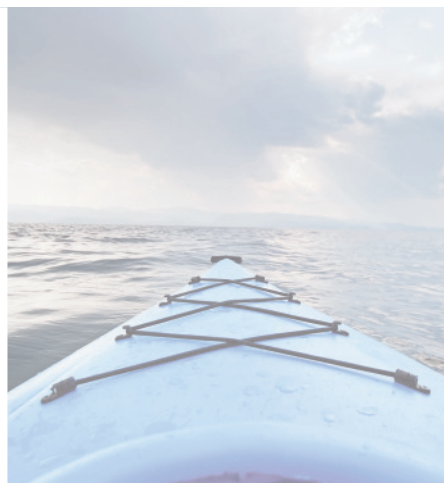
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Physicians agree to locum tenens opportunities for a variety of reasons, such as a means to supplement income, to keep clinical skills active while winding down professional commitments, or to escape administrative burdens inherent with running a private practice or being full-time hospital staff. In recent years, however, a greater percentage of individuals use locum tenens opportunities to experience different practice settings, geographic regions, and community personalities before signing on the dotted line for a permanent practice. Read on for insights from a company representative and three physicians who have an intimate understanding of this process.

## A MATTER OF TIME

Oftentimes, the traditional physician job interview entails a facility, private practice, or multi-specialty group



bringing in a candidate for a day or so, during which both parties evaluate each other. Questions are asked. Information is exchanged. Expectations are expressed. All in all, it is a lot to absorb in a short amount of time. Then again, because the process is fast-tracked, you could leave the interview with more questions than answers or feel like you still lack pertinent details.

“There are certain nuances to deciding whether to join a practice, and I think it’s invaluable to spend time there as a locum tenens physician first,” offers Hal Bowers, MD. Although he currently accepts mobile contracts via Whitaker Medical, a staffing firm headquartered in Houston, Texas, the interventional radiologist is not opposed to signing on permanently somewhere if he thinks the fit is right. “I have always done the traditional



HAL BOWERS, MD

interview-to-contract formula. But now that I have locum tenens experience, I feel strongly about the idea of using short-term contracts as a working interview. You get to slow down and look at what is going on around you.”

One of the advantages of entering an environment as supplemental staff is that you are there for an extended period, not just given a brief tour. What’s more, you are treating patients, so you can conduct real-time assessments of the management style and philosophy, and determine first-hand whether it matches your criteria for a permanent job.

### TRY...AND TRY AGAIN

Before Rodney Trotter, MD, PhD,



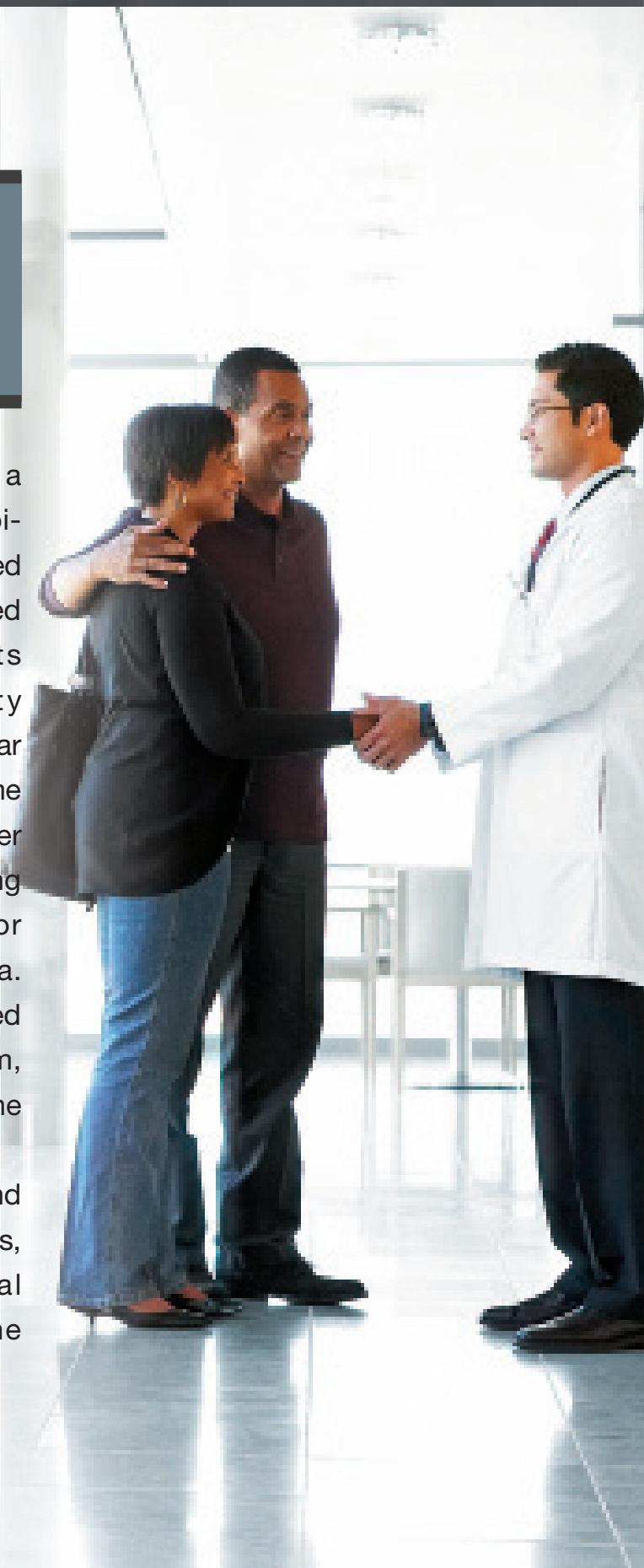
RODNEY TROTTER,  
MD, PhD, FAAP

FAAP, signed on as a staff pediatric hospitalist at a Texas-based facility, he had fulfilled multiple contracts at the community hospital over a 3-year period. During his years as a full-time locum tenens physician, Dr. Trotter partnered with a handful of staffing firms, including Medical Doctor Associates, based in Atlanta, Ga. On each repeat contract, he learned more and more about the system, staff, and patient population, and he liked what he saw.

“After a few years of coming and going on locum tenens opportunities, I was approached by hospital executives to join the staff,” he



**CLICK HERE** to hear Dr. Bowers’ thoughts on traditional interviews and why “try before you buy” is better.







**TRY BEFORE YOU BUY:** The Working Interview



**CLICK HERE** to hear whether Dr. Trotter would consider a permanent position without first trying it as a locum tenens practitioner.

says “They hoped to set up a Level II nursery. In order to do that, they needed 24/7 pediatric coverage and preferred to have someone in-house.”

Before he agreed, Dr. Trotter reflected on his experiences and whether he would enjoy settling in full-time. His comfort level needed to be met. After slightly more than a year on staff, though, the hospital shelved its plans to add the Level II nursery, and Dr.



COLETTE R. WHITBY,  
MD, FACS

Trotter’s contract was not renewed. “That’s the downside of contracting directly,” he comments. “Generally, you do not run into that kind of situation as a locum tenens physician.

You are in more control.” For now, Dr. Trotter has resumed his mobile career.

### LIKE COMING HOME

Colette R. Whitby, MD, FACS, also appreciated the chance to try out a practice setting. Last year, she and her husband wished to return to her New England roots. So instead of immediately seeking a new hospital position, the surgeon agreed to her first locum tenens opportunity at a facility in the Bay State. The contract was arranged by Barton Associates, a national locum tenens company headquartered in Peabody, Mass.

“I liked the idea that I could live in my home state taking care of a patient population I am familiar

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## TRY BEFORE YOU BUY: The Working Interview

with,” she remembers. “The contract arrangements were handled so quickly and efficiently. It was an excellent experience.”

Meanwhile Dr. Whitby was in contact with another hospital for a possible permanent placement. However, after spending several weeks at the acute care facility,

on staff, which was causing some women to go elsewhere. I thought the staff worked quite well together, and it had a good patient base with a lot of primary care physicians referring patients to the hospital, both of which were important factors to me. I felt like I had come home; I felt like this position was made for me.”



**CLICK HERE** to learn why Dr. Whitby decided to try locum tenens practice.

she changed her mind. “That other hospital was going through major changes within the administration, and the work here seemed more and more like something I fit well with.”

So when administrators inquired about her joining the staff permanently, Dr. Whitby readily agreed. “They had an opening and didn’t have a female general surgeon

After wrapping up her temporary contract, Dr. Whitby took a brief break to attend to her personal affairs and permanently relocate. But soon enough, she was back on duty. “It was as if I had not even left,” she says. “I had patients lined up for surgery and appointments set for follow-up. Nothing had changed from when I was a locum tenens doctor.”



## Editorial Advisory Boards

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## FUTURE FOCUS

Regardless of whether you hope to land a permanent job with your first locum tenens opportunity or are keeping your options open, one of the keys to making it work in your favor is to keep communication flowing with your company representatives. Do not let it come as a surprise that you decide to sign on full-time. Moreover, if your staffing firm knows you are looking for opportunities that present permanent potential, they can convey your intention to clients and perhaps initiate the working interview.



JOE WININGS,  
SENIOR DIRECTOR

“When consulting with physicians, we try to identify their long-term plans,” says Joe Winings, Senior

Director for Onward MD, a staffing company located in Englewood, Colo. “That way, we are able to represent them appropriately.”

Of course, circumstances evolve; you may not start off wishing to go permanent, but change your mind along the way. In that case, Winings suggests notifying all parties as soon as possible so the logistics of a temp-to-perm conversion can get underway. “A good staffing company will be consulting with their providers throughout the course of a contract, and it is important to let us know about changes.”

The demand created by the deepening physician shortage is bound to drive up the average number of offers doctors receive. At the same time, those exact circumstances will generate more



**CLICK HERE** to see what Winings has to say about the number of physicians who use locum tenens opportunities to try out different settings and locations before going permanent.

need for locum tenens services, and therefore, more opportunities to conduct working interviews. **LL**

---

*Anne Baye Ericksen is a freelance writer based in Simi Valley, Calif.*



**L**ocum tenens contracts are available in locales that range from tiny, one-doctor towns to big, bustling cities. But before you start saying “yes” to opportunities, determine what you most want from your locum tenens practice. Here, we suggest a four-step plan to help you achieve your professional objectives.

**CLARIFY.** What constitutes an ideal engagement is subjective. For one physician, it may be working nights in a busy emergency department in San Diego, and spending mornings learning to surf. And for another, it might be engaging with students and residents at a teaching facility. Make a list of the points your ideal engagements should include. Then, rate each item in order of importance, and refer to them when reviewing options with recruiters.

**COMMUNICATE.** Once you have a clear picture of what your ultimate opportunity entails, talk to recruiters. Be specific about what you are looking

for, what will not work for you, and areas open for compromise. In addition, speak with an administrator or medical director at the facility to confirm that the contract meets your expectations.

**COMMIT.** Once you know what you are after and have recruiters working on your behalf, be prepared to commit to offers in fairly short order when they are presented. This means, in part, keeping medical licenses and certifications up to date. Many recruiting firms will assist you with obtaining licenses. You will also need to be prompt in responding to requests for phone interviews, returning credentialing documents, and answering questions.

**COLLABORATE.** Once you have begun a contract, be prepared to work collaboratively. Patient care today often involves a multi-disciplinary approach.

Putting forth a “can do, team player” attitude goes a long way toward making a good impression. It also helps to ensure that you will receive positive evaluations and continue to get superlative opportunities.

Avoid hiccups down the road by mapping out a plan now to secure the locum tenens engagements best for you. If you need assistance with getting clear on what is most important for your goals, talk to trusted colleagues or your NALTO agency recruiter. **LL**

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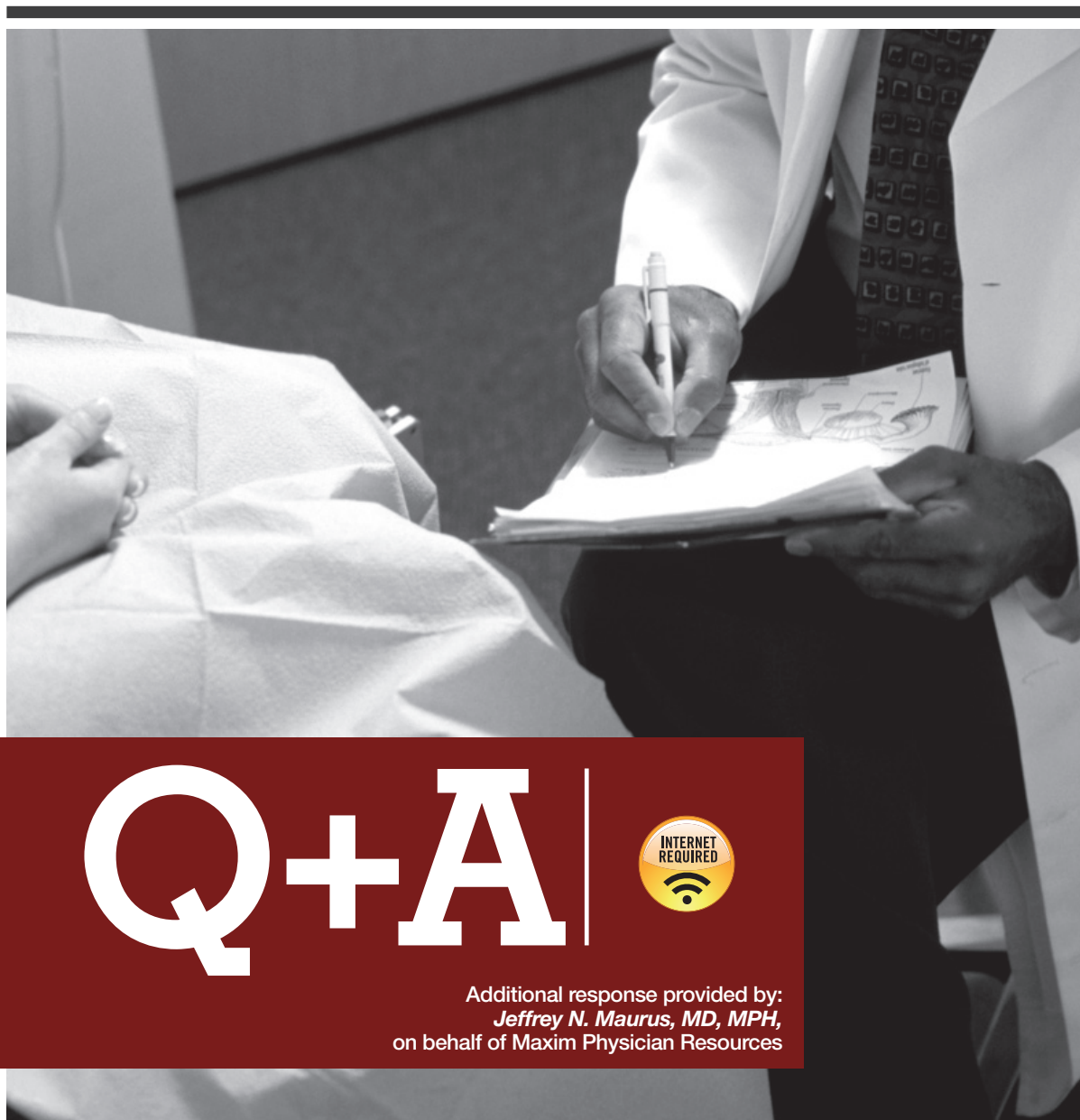
*Karen Childress is a Colo.-based freelance writer contributing a series of articles on behalf of NALTO.*



1

New adventures and experiences





# Q+A



Additional response provided by:  
**Jeffrey N. Maurus, MD, MPH,**  
on behalf of Maxim Physician Resources

**Do you have a question for a practicing locum tenens physician?** If so, please e-mail it to [bharrison@advanstar.com](mailto:bharrison@advanstar.com)—subject “Curbside Consult”—and it may be featured in an upcoming issue.

**Q.** How does an OB/GYN doing locum tenens keep up the surgical procedures volume to remain board certified and/or maintain the ability to do the procedures, as well as maintaining hospital privileges? Most OB/GYN work is for OB call coverage, so the opportunities for GYN surgery are few and far between. I am concerned about the risk of restricted hospital privileges followed by the inability to renew my boards’ certification as a result of the restrictions.

– Name Withheld

**A.** Keeping skills sharp can be a challenge for a career locum tenens physician, especially in gynecology. This may be especially true for younger OBs just out of residency who have yet to establish their own practice routines.

I have found that the best way to remain sharp is to take an occasional, longer term assignment in a larger facility with several other OBs in the group. Even though this might not be your preferred setting, you have to occasionally break outside of your comfort zone and force yourself to do it. You will be exposed to new developments in outpatient practice and get to perform office-based procedures. And you will have the opportunity to assist your colleagues on major cases and hopefully, post a few of your own.

To hone your skills, consider contracting with the military or taking an overseas assignment. You might learn a few things and will likely be more comfortable doing new procedures in the reduced-litigation environments.

– Robert Waer, MD, on behalf of Medical Doctor Associates





**H**ospital administrators seeking locum tenens services are not merely interested in finding qualified professionals to accept contracts at their facilities. They are looking for the most desirable candidates.

Recently, we spoke with Karl Sander, Director of Atlanta, Ga.-based Quest Healthcare Solutions about how practitioners can become more attractive to facilities and staffing companies alike. “We provide physicians with our ‘10 Pillars of Locum Tenens Success,’ which cover key points that can give a candidate the advantage,” he says. “It is a subject to which my colleagues and I have given a good deal of thought.” Here, we are pleased to share these tenets of marketability.

## PILLARS OF SUCCESS

**Keep your CV current.** Make sure it is up to date, providing both months and years, and distinguishing

permanent positions from locum tenens opportunities. This practice can also help to explain any gaps in your employment before your CV is presented to client facilities.

**Be flexible.** Remaining open to schedules and shift types broadens your options. For instance, some agencies are able to pay a premium—based on a facility's need—for physicians who can work non-daytime hours, such as nights and/or on call or weekends. If you are agreeable to such variables, you will automatically be more marketable—and more desirable.

**Maintain good/readily accessible records.** Keep them in an electronic format for quick turnaround. Additionally, prepare references in advance as they can be the lengthiest part of the credentialing process. Being proactive with this documentation is like hitting a fast forward button in terms of moving the process along more quickly.

**Be responsive.** Reply quickly and regularly during the presentation of opportunities. Be communicative with your recruiter when reviewing the possibilities and with the hospital administrator after the presentation, which will confirm your availability and sensitivity to the facility's needs.

**Leverage technology.** Be active on job boards, such as MDJobSite, DocCafe, and ReadyForLocums, to demonstrate your interest. Most boards will let you pre-register with specific variables, such as states and pay rates. You may even request to have job alerts e-mailed to you daily.

**Be up front with any possible issues.** For example, if you have a malpractice history, disclose it to your recruiter from the onset. It gives your company representative the chance to review concerns with a client facility in advance and obtain the credentialed documentation necessary to move forward.

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**WE ASKED KARL SANDER, DIRECTOR AT QUEST HEALTHCARE SOLUTIONS, IF HE HAD ANY ADDITIONAL ADVICE ON HOW A PHYSICIAN MIGHT BE MORE MARKETABLE. DO YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT HE TOLD US? [CLICK HERE AND FIND OUT.](#)**

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**Stay on top of paperwork.** Return requested paperwork in a timely manner. This is especially important when your company is looking for any supplemental information and/or during the privileging process.

**Be willing to get licensed.** In addition to keeping your current licenses active, be open to obtaining additional ones. Many agencies will absorb the cost of licensure if you agree to accept a contract in the given state.

**Keep your skills sharp.** Stay current on skills and procedures. The more you bring to the table, the more opportunities you will be qualified to accept.

**Be professional.** Maintain a good work ethic and a professional appearance. You are not only a spokesperson for your company but also a representative of the locum tenens industry.

### TOP OF THE LIST

Just as you consider engagements at different locations, facility representatives review their options for filling temporary opportunities. Regarding yourself as marketable and demonstrating valuable, sought-after qualities will put you at the top of everyone's list. **LL**

---

*Bobbi Harrison is editor of LocumLife.*

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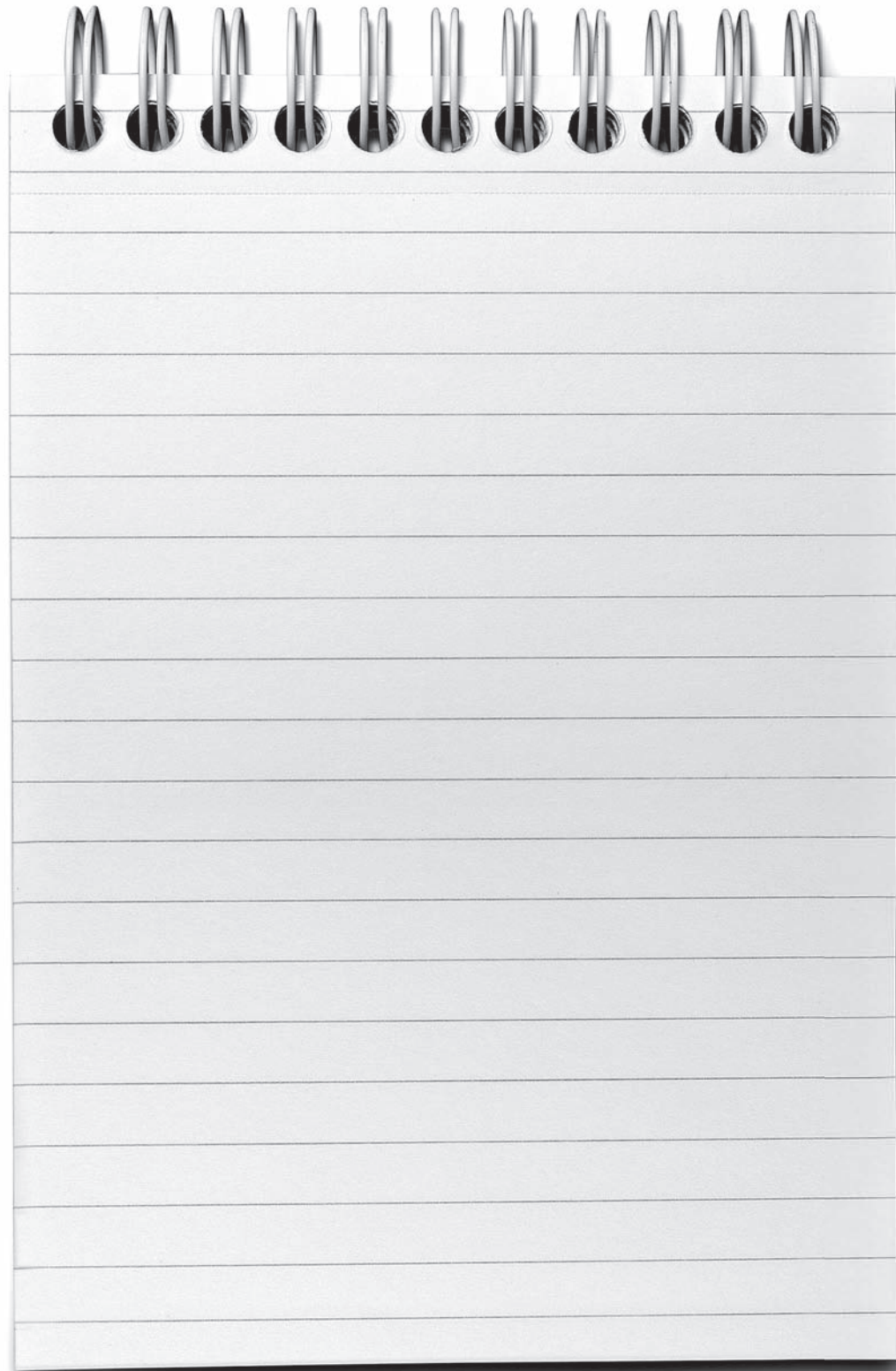




**T**he taxpayer—a locum tenens provider domiciled in Va.—worked in W. Va. during a temporary engagement in 2008. **On the advice of her tax professional, she did not pay taxes to W. Va. on the income earned there.** Why? Va. and W. Va. have an income tax reciprocity agreement that deems income earned in the latter by a resident of the former is only taxable in the Old Dominion State. But the W. Va. Tax Commissioner took issue with the position and prevailed.

### OBLIGATIONS FOR OUT-OF-STATE CONTRACTS

Most locum tenens practitioners have engagements in states outside of their resident states. When income is earned in two or more states, two primary rules apply. First, the home state will tax worldwide income regardless of where it was earned. The fact that no income was earned in the resident state does not change this arrangement. Second, the state where the income was earned will assess tax on those earnings. **In**



**a nutshell, taxes are applied at residence and at source.** To avoid double taxation, the state of residence is obligated to provide a credit for taxes paid to the work state.

## EXCEPTIONS

A number of states have reciprocity rules whereby income earned within their borders is deemed to be earned in the taxpayer's state of residence. **Reciprocity agreements are frequent among border states,** and there is at least one reciprocity arrangement between non-border states—such as the compact between Ind., Va., Calif., Ore., and Ariz. In a reciprocity agreement, the income earned in a non-resident state is simply taxed by the state of the taxpayer's residence. Any withholding on the non-resident income for state taxes for the non-resident state is refunded when a tax return is filed.

## WAGES VS. BUSINESS INCOME

In the case of the locum tenens

professional, there was a reciprocity agreement in effect between her home state (Va.) and her temporary work state (W. Va.). On first impression, her tax advisor was correct in that income earned by a Va. resident in W. Va. is only subject to tax in Va. However, **the tax advisor did not take into account that the provider's earnings would be paid as a contractor/self-employed.** State income tax reciprocity rules often distinguish between wages/salary and business income. A self-employed individual receives business income as opposed to wages or salary. For this reason, the W. Va. Tax Commission prevailed in its determination. **LL**

Reference: Decision No. 10-485P, Oct 27, 2011. W. Va. Office of Tax Appeals.



**Joseph Smith, EA,** is an enrolled agent and owner of Norfolk, Neb.-based TravelTax LLC ([TravelTax.com](http://TravelTax.com)), a tax practice specializing in tax preparation and

representation of domestic and international mobile professionals.





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**T**he first settlers arrived in Chicago in the 1770s. In 1803, an American fort was built and in 1816, the Treaty of St. Louis ceded the land from the Native Americans to the U.S. government.

Chicago was founded in 1833 and incorporated in 1837 with a population of just 350 residents. This growing metropolis quickly became the industrial, financial, and transportation center for the Midwest.

### Cultural pursuits

Founded in 1879, the **Art Institute of Chicago (AIC)** showcases a permanent collection of masterpieces that includes drawings and paintings. AIC has the most comprehensive collection of Impressionist and Postimpressionist works other than the Louvre in Paris.

The **Chicago History Museum**, founded in 1856, focuses on the past, present, and future of Chicago. The museum showcases millions of historic pieces highlighting U.S. history as well as the city's momentous past.

Founded in 1954, the **Lyric Opera of Chicago** is a world-renowned opera company that performs at the Civic Opera

House, the second-largest auditorium dedicated to this art in North America.

Since its incorporation in 1890, the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO)** has been a musical force locally and internationally. The CSO gives more than 150 performances each year, with local performances presented at the Symphony Center.

The **Joffrey Ballet** began in New York in 1956 and in 1995, moved to Chicago, where the unique company performs both original and classic works at the Auditorium Theatre at Roosevelt University.

## Around town

Chicago is an ideal place to broaden your horizons. Located on the lakefront is the Museum Campus, which is composed of three institutes: the Field Museum, the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, and the Shedd Aquarium. The **Field**

**Museum** is one of the most renowned natural history museums in the world. Visitors will find a fascinating collection of more than 20 million specimens, including one of its most popular displays, Sue, the largest T. rex ever found. The **Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum** is the only one of its kind featuring two large planetarium theaters. Opened in 1930, the **Shedd Aquarium** has nearly 22,000 aquatic species and exhibits, including its most prominent two, Oceanarium and the Caribbean Reef.

Founded in 1868, the **Lincoln Park Zoo** is the oldest free public zoo in the country and home to more than 1,000 birds, 80 species of mammals, numerous reptiles, and a children's zoo.

The **Museum of Science and Industry** proffers more than 800 exhibits, including a Boeing 727 airplane, a U-505 submarine,

and a fascinating interactive exhibit. It is the largest museum of its kind in the Western Hemisphere.

Chicago has 552 parks, 15 miles of beaches, and 26 miles of lakefront, which is the location of **Grant Park**. The park consists of bridges, an expansive lawn, and monuments and is a favorite place for joggers and bikers. The geometric design of the park is anchored by Buckingham Fountain, commissioned in 1927.

At **Millennium Park**, residents and visitors can enjoy everything from free music concerts, art displays, outdoor dining, and ice skating in the winter. A central feature of the park is the Crown Fountain, which has two fountain towers featuring video images, cascading water, and lights.

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### Sports time

Named Best Sports City in the United States by the *Sporting News* in 2006, Chicago is the only city in North America to have more than one Major League Baseball team since 1900. The National League **Chicago Cubs** play at Wrigley Field and the American League **Chicago White Sox** compete at U.S. Cellular Field. Winner of the 1986 Super Bowl, the **Chicago Bears** play home games at Soldier Field. The **Chicago Bulls**—winners of six NBA championships in the 1990s—and NHL's **Chicago Blackhawks** both play home games at the United Center, and the **Chicago Sky** (WNBA) compete at the UIC Pavillion. The **Chicago Fire** (Major League Soccer) play at Toyota Park, while the Arena Football League's **Chicago Rush** and the American Hockey League's **Chicago Wolves** both play home games at Allstate Arena.

### Second city, top choice

Chicago is a dynamic city located on a picturesque lakefront setting. Its distinctive architecture, rich culture, and top-notch facilities make it a wonderful place to explore a cornucopia of opportunities. 

*Karin Marcus is a freelance writer living in North Woodmere, N.Y.*

and quirky boutiques, top-notch department stores, and extraordinary discount stores—then throw in art, antiques, restaurants, a boardwalk, and even a ferris wheel. That is just a tip of the iceberg when it comes to the adventures in retail that await the happy shopper in Chicago. Shopping destinations such as the **Navy Pier** and the **State Street Retail Historic District's Jewelers Row** are just a few favorite spots for tourists and locals alike. Another well-known destination is the **Magnificent Mile**, where you will not only find big-name retailers like the Disney Store and Bloomingdale's, but also some of Chicago's significant landmarks such as the John Hancock Center and Tribune Tower.

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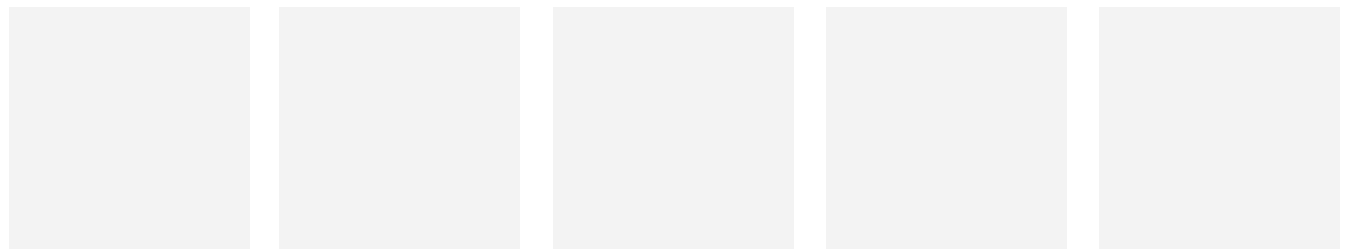
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Congratulations to **Jimmy Almond, MD**, of Orlando, Fla., winner of Jan/Feb's random prize drawing. We hope you enjoy the Amazon.com gift card!





# KEEPING IT INTERESTING

**A**fter nearly 50 years of private practice, Louis R. Zako, MD, decided to retire. A month later, the family medicine physician was bored with his new routine. “I spoke with some old colleagues about it,” he recalls. “They suggested I try locum tenens.” That was 5 years ago.

Recently, Dr. Zako began a 3-month contract in the Great Lakes Region through Irving, Texas-based Martin, Fletcher Locums. “Since the clinic is 4 hours from my home, I am able to travel back and forth every weekend.” The experience is markedly different from his previous engagement—in terms of distance and practice environment.

“Last October, through another staffing company, I accepted a 3-month

opportunity in the Pacific Northwest at a hospital for the criminally insane.”

Dr. Zako joined seven other family physicians and internists at the facility, where he served patients’ non-psychiatric needs. “All of the patients were there by court order,” he says. “I was fascinated

by the patient population, which included people convicted of murder, arson, and other violent crimes. While I have been around a long time, it was a new environment for me.”

In fact, he opted to extend his engagement.

“My son, Rob, lives in the

Pacific Northwest, so I often

look for opportunities there and bring my wife, Mary Jane, along. I was scheduled to finish in mid-December, but requested a 2-week extension.” Additionally, since Dr. Zako had



weekends off, he and his wife were able to enjoy much of what the region offers.

Upon the contract’s completion, Dr. and Mrs. Zako—along with their son and daughter-in-law—hopped a plane to Kaua’i for a week-long vacation. “That

is the beauty of the locum lifestyle. You can do a little of this, and a little of that. It keeps things interesting.” **LL**


*Lisa Daggett is a freelance writer based in Saugerties, N.Y.*





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