



# North Coast Physician

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## In This Issue:

In My Opinion, Emily Dalton, M.D. ....	4
"Don't Bully Your Doctors"	
HumPet Update, Caroline Connor, M.D., MPH. ....	5
2021 Nominating Committee Report .....	6
Meet Our New Physician(s): Benjamin Bernstein, M.D.....	7
Calling All Photographers .....	7
Eureka Veterans Affairs Community Based Outpatient Clinic	8
Welcome New Members.....	10
Physician Recruitment Videos.....	10
Redwood Coast PACE Update, Jennifer Heidmann, M.D.....	11
New Prescribing & Reporting Rules for Controlled Substances	12
Open Forum, Corinne Frugoni, M.D.....	13
"Submitted As Testimony To The House of Delegates"	
2020 Legislative Wrap-Up, Janus L. Norman, VP Gov Rel.....	14
Sexual Harassment Prevention Training .....	15
Annual Membership & Awards Gala.....	16
HDN Tattler; Coming, Going & Moving Around.....	17
Health Law Library: Managed Care: Overview & Contracting	20
Continuing Medical Education/Grand Rounds Calendar.....	30
Classified Ads .....	31
Patient Information Insert - PLEASE POST .....	32
"Do I Need To Get Tested For COVID-19?"	

### Cover Photo

**"LONE STAR & MILKY WAY"**

Stephen Kamelgarn, M.D.

*The Editorial and Publications Committee encourages our member's comments for publication. Please submit electronically prior to the 15th of the month preceding publication. hdncms@sbcglobal.net*

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# Don't Bully Your Doctors

Emily Dalton, MD



By the time you read this the election will have been completed. We may not have a final result, but the voting will be over. Our country is extremely politically divided right now and tensions are at an all-time high, but when discord slips into threats towards physician leaders and bullying of medical organizations, things have gone too far.

I come from a family whose members have a variety of political opinions, as I imagine many of you do. Some are Democrats, but others are Republican, Libertarian, Green or something else altogether. If we only ever loved those who have identical ideologies, a lonely world ours would be. Our differences make us interesting, and diversity lends balance to society. As a county, we must remain civil and respectfully strive to reach sensible compromises. If families can disagree, but come together in ways that only families can, our country can do this as well.

However, right now, in the midst of a pandemic, things are happening that

have crossed a line. Unfortunately (and unbelievably), medical leaders and public health officers have come under fire during the pandemic for just doing their jobs. Revered medical organizations have been politicized. The CDC was influenced to make medically unsound recommendations (quickly reversed, thank goodness), pharmaceutical companies have been pushed to rush into production of medications and vaccines, and the FDA has been pressured to approve treatments and vaccines before appropriate testing has been done. Public health officers have been threatened for making unpopular recommendations. Many have resigned.

**IT IS NOT OKAY TO BULLY AND THREATEN PHYSICIAN LEADERS AND MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS FOR DOING THEIR JOBS TO PROTECT AND CARE FOR PEOPLE.**

Expression of this type of sentiment or action should be legally punished with severe penalties, whether one is a member

of an extremist group, or the president of the United States. Doctors and health organizations need to be free to make the best recommendations possible based on knowledge, science and concern for public health. Violence, hate speech and bullying of medical professionals have no place in any political party. Shame on those who have propagated this type of behavior, and shame on those who have condoned it. Turning a blind eye to threats aimed at caring, hard working medical professionals will have nothing but negative consequences in the future.

We must draw a line when it comes to manipulation, threats or abuse towards the doctors, practitioners, nurses and medical organizations that are tasked with protecting public health. Violence, hate speech, and bullying should not be tolerated under any circumstances, and such behavior merits severe consequences. **§**

**[Humboldt Health Alert:](https://humboldt.gov/2018/Humboldt-Health-Alert)**

<https://humboldt.gov/2018/Humboldt-Health-Alert>

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***via Zoom***

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***6-9 p.m.***

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