



Bulletin

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE KENT COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY & THE KENT COUNTY OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

FALL 2025

— *Serving Physicians in Kent, Ottawa, Barry, Ionia, and Montcalm counties* —

A photograph showing two hands holding two large, dark puzzle pieces against a bright sunset background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The puzzle pieces are positioned as if they are about to be joined together.

Reshaping ORGANIZED MEDICINE *in Michigan* PAGE 6

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Exploring a Reorganization
of MSMS and County Relationships

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Annual Autumn CME Event
in Grand Rapids

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KMF Grants Funds
to New Programs

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Conversations are underway about how the Michigan State Medical Society and County societies fit together moving forward.

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Cover Photo

Learn about recent plans to review how MSMS works with County societies. This Bulletin highlights the history of County societies in Michigan.

CONTRIBUTORS

15	Kent Medical Foundation
18	Alliance Heartbeat
20	Kent County Health Department Foundation
23	Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

GET INVOLVED:

Learn more about the Kent County Medical Society at www.kcms.org.

Learn more about the Kent County Osteopathic Association at www.kcoa-mi.org.



BULLETIN

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KCMS MEETINGS OF INTEREST

NOVEMBER 3, 2025

KCMS/KCOA WEST MICHIGAN COUNTIES
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Noon | Virtual meeting

ONLINE CALENDAR

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON KCMS EVENTS

Please check out the events page at kcms.org.

A Powerful Voice for Physicians, A Stronger Future for Health Care

Your continued membership in the Kent County Medical Society empowers our Board to address critical health care issues at the local, regional, and national levels. Now more than ever, your voice matters in shaping the future of medicine and strengthening the health of our communities.

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY OF YOUR DUES AS A BUSINESS EXPENSE

- **KCMS:** If you pay your 2026 KCMS dues by December 31, 2025, up to 98% may be deducted as a business expense.
- **MSMS:** If paid by December 31, 2025, up to 84% may be deducted as a business expense.

*2026 membership qualifies
you for free CME programs!*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Warren F. Lanphear, MD, FACEP
2025 KCMS President

Statewide Discussions

As we approach the fall, I am reminded of this being “dues season.” Like many organizations that you may be a member of, the Kent County Medical Society and Michigan State Medical Society are hoping you will remain an active and engaged member and support these organizations through your dues.

Thank you for your continued investment of Membership in the Michigan State and Kent County Medical Societies. We hope you have been happy with the information and opportunities provided in your membership. MSMS continues to be a leader in representing physicians at the state level.

STATEWIDE DEVELOPMENTS

The MSMS has undergone many changes over the last few years to better represent physicians in Lansing. At the request of the House of Delegates, the MSMS Board was asked to form a Task Force to discuss options for state and county medical societies to improve membership and participation in activities associated with organized medicine. One idea is to consider what other states have tried, de-unification of the state society and county societies. A three-page summary of these ideas is outlined in this issue.

This is the first of many methods of communication with our members. We do anticipate the MSMS Task Force to accomplish their three meetings and make recommendations to the House of Delegates. Their timeline requests a recommendation and summary to be presented at the April 18, 2026 House of Delegates meeting. The House of Delegates meeting will now be a virtual meeting.

LOCAL CONNECTIONS AND NEW IDEAS

Like the state society, county medical societies are changing. As you know, many of the member benefits we provide to our members have been acquired by hospital employers. In the last decade, especially since COVID affected years, regular county meetings and events were

well attended, but interest waned, making them less affordable to produce.

Many associations across the state and country are experiencing similar changes, as younger members increasingly prefer electronic communication, online meetings, and greater flexibility in how they spend their free time. This shift challenges us to provide offerings that are both meaningful and relevant—balancing accessible education and timely information with the in-person events that remain invaluable for helping physicians relax, recharge, and restore their energy to meet the demands of the profession.

We have been investigating regional options to replace the current system of individual counties. We are looking for ideas as to how the county or regional medical society can better serve local physicians. If you have ideas for events you would like to see locally, we would love to hear about them. Our goal is to be relevant to local physicians and offer events or services you will find to be beneficial. Would you be interested in a social hour at a local pub or new restaurant in Grand Rapids? Would a night of live music at the Meijer Gardens or at a stage in the round interest you? Should the county medical society sponsor an annual event for new physicians and spouses (or families)?

Are there other things you would like to see the county medical society doing for local physicians? We are open to your ideas, and want to make the county medical society relevant to you. Please share your ideas with the KCMS Board by emailing patricia@KCMS.org or calling (616) 560-5336. Thank you and please stay tuned.

In Memoriam

FRANK R. GOULD, MD

Dr. Frank R. Gould, was born in 1941 in St. Charles Michigan. He passed away on July 31, 2025. Dr. Gould attended Albion College on an athletic scholarship. His accomplishments on the field were matched by his academic excellence—he was named the 1963 Scholar Athlete of the Year by the Detroit Free Press, received the Albion College Fellow Award, and was later inducted into the Albion College Athletic Hall of Fame.

He continued his education at the University of Michigan Medical School, earning his medical degree and specializing in Urology. He completed his residency in Grand Rapids and in 1975 joined Urology Associates of Grand Rapids, where he practiced medicine for 27 years.

From 1969 to 1972, Dr. Gould served our country with honor as a Captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, earning the Army Certificate of Achievement during his service as a Surgeon General.

MYRTLE BERNICE SUNDBERG MCLAIN, MD

Dr. Myrtle McLain was born in 1931 and passed away in July 2025. As a child, Myrtle skipped a grade, walked to a one-room schoolhouse, and once lamented the injustice of an A-minus. She was elected class president at Rapid River High School, foreshadowing a lifetime of leadership.

Myrtle began her professional journey at the Mayo Clinic before enrolling at the University of Michigan, where she studied chemistry. She worked multiple jobs to pay her tuition, determined to pursue her calling in medicine. In 1966, Myrtle earned her M.D., becoming a pioneer in emergency medicine at a time when few women held such roles. She interned at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids and later served as Medical Director of the Emergency Department and later the first Chair of its Department of Emergency Medicine. She was part of the inaugural class to be board-certified in the specialty. She also served as Deputy Medical Examiner for Kent and Newaygo counties and held faculty appointments at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine.

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The Split That Could Reshape Medicine in Michigan

MSMS Restructuring Sparks Debate on the Future of Physician Representation

Physician advocacy in Michigan is at a crossroads. The Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) is evaluating structural changes that could lead to de-unification between the state organization and County Medical Societies. These potential shifts could dramatically reshape how physicians connect, collaborate, and advocate for their profession.

For decades, Michigan's state and local medical societies have operated under a unified structure—physicians joining both their county and state societies through a single, connected membership model. This alignment ensures seamless advocacy from the exam room to the state legislature.

But in recent years, MSMS has faced challenges in funding, membership retention, and perceived value, prompting their leadership to re-examine this model. For the third time in recent memory, MSMS is evaluating a potential de-unification from County Medical Societies. **The 2017, 2018 and 2019 House of Delegates (HOD) strongly opposed these attempts.**

Resolutions adopted at the 2025 HOD directed MSMS leaders to explore structure and partnerships:

Resolution 16-25: Creates a task force of county and state leaders to examine history, finances, and bylaws, and recommend a unified path forward for medical societies in Michigan.

Resolution 47-25: Directs MSMS to study other state medical society structures and bylaws for potential improvements in efficiency and productivity.

MSMS leadership has utilized these directives to form a Reorganization Task Force to focus on major, structural and bylaws changes. This task force is comprised of six MSMS leaders and six County Medical Society Leaders (**determined by and invited by MSMS leadership versus being chosen by the County Medical Societies to equally represent them**) and a single County Medical Society executive director to serve as a non-voting advisor (**also chosen by MSMS leadership**).

This task force is only scheduled to meet for three, 90-minute sessions in order to review bylaws and consider restructuring the long-standing, MSMS-County Medical Society unified membership.



At this writing, MSMS leadership has only reached out to County Medical Society leadership once—a 90-minute meeting set by MSMS in July where the agenda was largely focused on MSMS leaders presenting proposed Task Force recommendations prior to the Task Force being named or having met:

- Revisiting how county and state memberships are linked.
- Exploring alternative membership models.
- Restructuring bylaws to allow more flexibility in future decision-making.

County Medical Society leaders had to digest this information in real time and had to work within the time constraints to provide on-the-spot feedback.

County Medical Societies—and the physicians they represent—face uncertain but important decisions about the future of organized medicine in Michigan. These decisions must be made with equal state and County Medical Society input and must be communicated transparently with our unified membership to receive robust feedback prior to adoption. ***The question isn't just about structure – it's about ensuring physicians have a strong and coordinated voice.***

Task Force Members

Brian Stork, MD— MSMS/Muskegon
Paul Bozyk, MD— MSMS/Oakland
Mark Komorowski, MD— MSMS/Bay
Eric Larson, MD— MSMS/Kent
Brad Uren, MD— MSMS/Washtenaw
John Waters, MD— MSMS/Genesee
Nick Fletcher, MD— Wayne/Resident
Gary Sarafa, MD— Oakland
Richard Schultz, MD— Grand Traverse
Salim Siddiqui, MD— Wayne/MSMS President 2023-2024
David Whalen, MD— Kent
Claudia Zacharek, MD— Saginaw
Romy Shubitowski— Oakland County Medical Society Executive Director

What Happens Next & How to Stay Involved

Proposed Changes & Potential Pitfalls

With major structural changes to the future of physician representation in Michigan being considered in such a limited time frame, the County Medical Societies are still seeking clarity on several issues:

Structure: What models for membership and the state-county relationship are being considered? Will there be an effort to solicit robust, widespread member feedback to help shape final recommendations? Are innovative membership ideas being investigated or has de-unification already been recognized as the goal with task force activities focused on the ramifications and implementation?

Financial Impact: How could de-unification affect dues collection and County Medical Society budgets?

Representation: If de-unification goes forward, how will physicians joining only their County Medical Society have a voice at the state level? How will MSMS provide a local voice for their members who don't join their County Medical Society?

Legal Concerns: Could shared services or reforms strengthen MSMS and County Medical Society structures instead of dismantling unified membership?

Implementation Process:

The MSMS Board approved just this July to move the 2026 HOD to a virtual platform vs. an in-person meeting, citing cost containment.

- Will there be one or two HOD readings to approve changes to the MSMS bylaws?
- Will the final recommendations be presented at the next regular HOD meeting or will the MSMS speaker and Board call special meetings of the House?



This time presents an opportunity for physicians across Michigan to weigh in on how they prefer to advocate for their patients and their profession. Whether unified or de-unified, the future of organized medicine in Michigan will depend on physicians making their voices heard now.

MSMS has stated that the task force will present its final recommendations in early 2026. Any structural changes, including de-unification, would ultimately be decided by HOD delegates through the amendment process. A proposed amendment is typically laid on the table until the next session, unless 75 percent of delegates present agree to waive the waiting period for an immediate vote.

Stay informed: Follow updates from County Medical Society and MSMS newsletters.

Engage in task force surveys: Direct input will shape the recommendations moving forward.

Attend forums and information sessions: Counties will host discussions for members to share feedback.

Contact your delegates: Submit written feedback to your County Medical Society to ensure your concerns and ideas are represented at the HOD.

Unified Model	De-Unified Model
Membership in one requires membership in the other	Separate, distinct memberships for County Medical Society (CMS) and MSMS
Shared funding and administrative support	CMS bill their own dues separately from MSMS– CMS will have more autonomy to set their own rates but may face financial uncertainty if they are reliant on bundled dues
Sharing of programs and member services reduces duplicative staff time and cost for both MSMS and CMS	Opportunity for CMS to offer more tailored programs and member services
Strong, collective advocacy at the state and local levels	Potential for CMS to attract physicians who feel disconnected from state-level advocacy but reduced unified lobbying strength could lead to fragmentation of physician voice at either the state or local level or both

Key Milestones in Michigan's Physician Advocacy Structure

1819- Michigan Medical Society formed under Territorial laws. This original society limited itself largely to the execution of state laws regulating the practice of medicine.

Licensed physicians in any county were granted the right to form a local, county medical society which, within the limits of the county, had the same rights as the territorial society:

June 1827- Washtenaw County

June 1831- Oakland County

July 1835- St. Joseph County

January 1836- Macomb County & Monroe County

June 1837- Branch County

April 1849- Wayne County

March 1853- March 1860- Peninsular Medical Society formed to advance medical science, promote the AMA code of ethics, publish the Peninsular Medical Journal, and help the University of Michigan medical department improve its scholastic program.

1866- Michigan State Medical Society formed.

1902- MSMS reorganized along the lines of a delegate body.

1969-1970- MSMS begins offering management services to specialty groups and, later, County Medical Societies.

1974- MSMS begins to collect dues for county medical societies (optional at first but later became mandatory).

1994- The County Medical Society Executives group formed to address issues similarly affecting all county medical societies.

Over the years, MSMS convened a series of task forces to examine membership structure and governance:

1981- Taskforce on MSMS Structure

1997- Governance Task Force

2002- Task Force on Regionalization of County Medical Societies

2003- Task Force on Regionalization of County Medical Societies in West Michigan

2006- Task Force on Federation Issues

2011: Governance Task Force

2015- MSMS ceases association management services to specialty and county medical societies.

2017-2019- MSMS works with consulting groups to study membership structure and governance. **Delegates at the in-person 2017, 2018 and 2019 House of Delegates meetings strongly oppose de-unification.**

2019- Changes to MSMS Board of Directors governance approved.

2025- Task Force on Membership and Sustainability created to explore future options for membership and governance structures.

2025- MSMS Board of Directors vote to make 2026 House of Delegates Virtual.

Your Voice, Your Future

This is your chance to voice your preference in how MSMS and the County Medical Societies continue to advocate for patients and the profession. Whether unified or de-unified, the future of organized medicine in Michigan will depend on physicians making their voices heard now.

Please contact Romy Shubitowski at rshubitowski@ocms-mi.org to share your suggestions and concerns.





If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, call **1-800-950-NAMI (6264)** or text **NAMI** to **62640** or email message to **helpline@nami.org**. You can also chat with the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at **988lifeline.org**.

RESOURCES

[Know the Warning Signs and Risk Factors of Suicide](#)

[Being Prepared for a Crisis](#)

[Read our guide: "Navigating a Mental Health Crisis"](#)

[What You Need to Know About Youth Suicide](#)

For more information, contact Steve Bergman, DO, Executive Director NAMI West Michigan

info@namiwestmi.org
namiclasses@gmail.com



National Physician Suicide Awareness Day

SEPTEMBER
IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

SEPTEMBER 17
IS NATIONAL PHYSICIAN SUICIDE AWARENESS DAY



The day is dedicated to honoring the memory of colleagues who have died by suicide and to continue to raise awareness and discussion on how to prevent it. It also serves as a reminder that suicide can affect us, our friends and our colleagues.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, more than 41,000 individuals die each year by suicide. The Council of Residency Directors in Emergency Medicine estimates that up to 400 physicians take their own lives per year. While estimates of the actual number of physician suicides vary, the relative risk for suicide is 2.27 times greater among women and 1.41 times higher among men versus the general population.





Join Us

KCOA MEETINGS OF INTEREST

OCTOBER 24-26

MICHIGAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION AUTUMN CONFERENCE
L.V. Eberhard Center | Grand Valley State University - Grand Rapids
City Campus

NOVEMBER 3, 2025

**KCMS/KCOA WEST MICHIGAN COUNTIES
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**
Noon | Virtual meeting

ONLINE CALENDAR

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON KCOA EVENTS
Please check out the events page at www.kcoa-mi.org.

KCOA Honors Michigan Leader

On July 19, 2025, Robert G.G. Piccinini, DO, D.FACN, was inaugurated



as President of the American Osteopathic Association. He is both the first psychiatrist in AOA history and the first graduate of the

Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (MSUCOM) to hold this honor. A board-certified osteopathic psychiatrist, Dr. Piccinini maintains a private practice.

Dr. Piccinini has a long record of leadership in organized medicine. He is a past president of the Michigan Osteopathic Association, the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists, the Macomb County Osteopathic Medical Association, and

the Michigan Osteopathic Service Corporation.

After earning his osteopathic medical degree from MSUCOM, Dr. Piccinini completed an internship at Genesys Regional Medical Center and a psychiatry residency at Henry Ford Health System. He later studied geriatrics at the University of Rome, Italy, and completed a forensic psychiatry fellowship at the Medical College of Wisconsin, where he worked with patients in a maximum-security unit. In 2007, he became the youngest member of his specialty college to receive the Distinguished Fellow Award from the American College of Osteopathic Neurologists and Psychiatrists. He has also delivered numerous presentations on domestic violence, workplace violence, and physician wellness.

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KCOA Membership Has Its Privileges



William Sanders, DO
2025 KCOA President,
Board of Directors

As I write this, I am carving out family time before the family begins the fall routine of back to school. And in that busy time, knowing that this issue will remind all of us to recognize the struggles that many physicians have endured. I am a firm believer in all of the support systems available to help me manage schedules, and chaos.

There is tremendous value in the networking and learning available in organized medicine. The KCOA and Michigan Osteopathic Association are here for you and fellow members. Joining a professional organization of your peers provides benefits to assist and support you.

Your membership helps you to:

EXPAND YOUR NETWORK AND SUPPORT SYSTEM

- Putting a face to a name of a referring physician or make new connections in patient care management
- Collaboration—on medical issues, treatment or even research.
- Mentoring younger physicians who can benefit from your experience and insight.

ADVOCACY—FOR PHYSICIANS AND OUR PROFESSION

- Be alerted to important news on medicine
- Lobby for important legislation that can positively affect physicians and patients
- Connections with West Michigan legislators to address issues facing our profession.
- Newsletters and email alerts to keep you up to speed on new developments
- Be part of a unified voice of Osteopathic physicians in Michigan.

EDUCATION

- Continuing education to meet your busy schedule—on-demand or in person
- Resources for your reference—whether for patients, families coping with illness or self care.
- Take time to learn about industry trends

MEET AND GREET COLLEAGUES

- Gain the opportunity to learn from others, and build meaningful connections that can lead to collaborations, mentorship opportunities, and long-term friendships.
- Be a part of this professional organization—to collaborate with other professionals and share experiences (professional AND personal) to enhance the experience of being a physician.

By actively participating in a professional organization, you not only gain the opportunity to learn from others, you get a chance to share your own insights and build meaningful connections that can lead to collaborations, mentorship opportunities, and long-term friendships.

The KCOA Board of Directors appreciates knowing your thoughts on membership with us. Thank you for renewing your dues and connecting with other Osteopathic physicians in West Michigan.

Build meaningful connections that can lead to collaborations, mentorship opportunities, and long-term friendships.

MICHIGAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

Autumn Conference



Grand Valley State University
 L.V. Eberhard Center 2nd Floor-Downtown Campus
 301 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI
 October 24-26, 2025
www.domoa.org/autumn
 Tentative agenda, subject to change.

Friday, October 24 (8-9 credits)		
Registration Hours 7:30 am-6 pm		
Exhibitor Hours 8:30 am-6 pm		
Welcome Reception 6-7 pm		
8:30 am-1:30 pm	Morning Sessions	Moderator: Anthony Ognjan, DO, FACP
8:30-9:30 am	Dermatology Update	Kristi Hawley, DO, FAAD
9:30-11:30 am (break included)	OMT without a Treatment Table	Jay Danto, DO
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Sports Medicine Update	Michael Fitzgerald, DO
12:30-1:30 pm	Luncheon Session (Topic TBD)	Moderator: Anthony Ognjan, DO, FACP Speaker: TBD
1:30-1:45 pm	Break, visit with exhibitors	
1:45-6 pm	Afternoon Sessions	Moderator: Jasper Yung, DO
1:45-2:45 pm	Spinal Cord Management	Jonathan Vandenberg, DO
2:45-3:45 pm	OMT Lymphatics Update	Mary Goldman, DO
3:45-4 pm	Break, visit with exhibitors	
4-6 pm (break included)	Medical Leadership Topics & Panel Discussion	Stephen Bell, DO, FACOI; Aarthi Chandarana, DipABLM; Karen Nichols, DO, MA, MACOI; Anthony Ognjan, DO, FACP; Kyra Powers, MPH, OMS III; MSUCOM Student Leaders
Saturday, October 25 (9-10 credits)		
Registration Hours 6:30 am-5:45 pm		
Exhibitor Hours 7 am-5:45 pm		
OMM Treatment Center 8 am-5 pm		
7 am-1:15 pm	Morning Sessions	Moderator: R Taylor Scott, DO
7-8 am	Breakfast & CME: Oral Health Update	Jeffrey Johnston, DDS, MS
8-9 am	Sleep Apnea Update	Denice Logan, DO
9-10 am	Define NAFLD (Now MASLD) and Its Different Stages, Including Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (Now MASH) & Fibrosis	Michael Valitutto, DO
10-10:15 am	Break, visit with exhibitors	
10:15-11:15 am	Hepatitis B for Primary Care	Peter Gulick, DO, FACP, FIDSA, FACOI

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Approved for up to 25 AOA Category 1-A Credits
 25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM anticipated

Tentative agenda, subject to change.
 Contact mbudd@domoa.org with questions.

MICHIGAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION



Grand Valley State University
 L.V. Eberhard Center 2nd Floor-Downtown Campus
 301 W. Fulton St., Grand Rapids, MI
 October 24-26, 2025

www.domoa.org/autumn

Tentative agenda, subject to change.

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11:15 am-12:15 pm	Reducing Readmissions by Improving Transitions of Care: Putting the Pieces Together	Ewa Matuszewski, CEO MedNetOne
12:15-1:15 pm	Luncheon Session (Topic TBD)	Moderator: R Taylor Scott, DO Speaker: TBD
1:15-1:30 pm	Break, visit with exhibitors	
1:30-5:45 pm	Afternoon Sessions	Moderator: Elizabeth Swenor, DO, FACLM, DipACLM, FAAMFM
1:30-2:30 pm	Childhood Obesity	Christina Lucas-Vougiouklakis, DO, DipALM, FACLM
2:30-3:30 pm	Nutraceuticals Update	Ramona Wallace, DO, IFMCP
3:30-3:45 pm	Break, visit with exhibitors	
3:45-4:45 pm	Shared Medical Office Visits	Aarathi Chandarana, DO, DipACLM
4:45-5:45 pm	Whole Person Care	Elizabeth Swenor, DO, FACLM, DipACLM, FAAMFM
Sunday, October 26 (6 credits)		
Registration Hours 7:30 am-2:30 pm		
Lunch Break 12:15-12:30 pm		
8 am-12:15 pm	Morning Sessions	Moderator: Mary Goldman, DO
8-9 am	Breakfast Session (topic, speaker TBD)	Speaker: TBD
9-10 am	Neurology/Sleep Medicine	Aubrey Kuehnel, DO
10-10:15 am	Break	
10:15 am-12:15 pm	OMT: FPMSS Importance of Linkage and Diaphragms	M. Shane Patterson, DO; Mary Goldman, DO
12:15-12:30 pm	Break, pick up lunch	
12:30-2:30 pm	Afternoon Sessions	Moderator: Mary Goldman, DO
12:30-1:30 pm	Pain & Symptom Management (meets 1 hour MI LARA)	David Neff, DO
1:30-2:30 pm	Cardiac Rehabilitation	Eldon Graham, DPT
2:30 pm	Conference Concludes	
On demand CME included at www.cmelearningcenter.com (watch at your leisure)		Speaker
Implicit Bias Training (meets 1 hour MI LARA requirement, includes pre/posttests)		Nya Todd, MI Health Council
Cardiology Topic TBD		Speaker TBD

Approved for up to 25 AOA Category 1-A Credits
 25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM anticipated

Tentative agenda, subject to change.
 Contact mbudd@domoa.org with questions.

Meet MOA President, Kevin Beyer, DO

Dr. Beyer served as the President of the Southwest Michigan Osteopathic Association (SMOA) for 20 years leading up to this position, and has been an active member of the Michigan Osteopathic Political Action Committee and Membership Committee.



After completing a clinical gastroenterology fellowship at the University of Missouri, Dr. Beyer proudly served a three-year tour of duty as a Lt.

Commander in the Gastroenterology Division at the Naval Hospital in Jacksonville, FL. He is Board certified in both Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology as well as being the author of multiple research journal publications. His contributions to the medical community include the education of physicians and students as he is a Clinical Instructor and Clinical Assistant Professor for both Schools of Medicine at Michigan State University.

In Memoriam

LEE ANTHONY REA, DO

Lee Anthony Rea, DO was born in 1937 and passed away on June 21, 2025. Dr. Rea was born in Chicago, Illinois in September 1937. Dr. Rea attended undergrad at Loyola and medical school at Chicago Osteopathic College of Medicine. As a practicing surgeon for more than 40 years, his career took him to Chicago, Detroit, Kansas City, Phoenix, and finally to Grand Rapids where he had a successful surgical practice and became the Director of a Wound Care Clinic at Metro Health Hospital. Lee was an avid self-taught woodworker and learned boat building while living in Grand Rapids. He was forced into an early retirement when he suffered a brain aneurysm. The last fifteen years of his life were spent under the care of others.

JOHN K. EDLEMAN, D.O

Doctor John Kallman Edleman Sr., known as “Doc” to his friends and “Papa” to his grandchildren, passed away surrounded by loved ones on August 18, 2025. His last view was of his beloved Lake Bellaire, with a Michigan flag blowing in the breeze. Born August 21, 1935, he was a proud Eagle Scout who graduated from Duluth (MN) East High School before attending the University of Michigan, preparing him for a lifetime as a leader and teacher. After Ann Arbor, John served in the U.S. Army Medical Service Corp at Brooke Medical Center in San Antonio, TX. He then attended the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery and moved to Grand Rapids, MI, for his internship—where he began 37 years of solo family and sports medicine practice.

John loved activities that brought family together. He was a founding member of the U of M Victors Club and proudly organized Chi Psi reunions, later receiving the Chi Psi Distinguished Service Award for his efforts to keep brothers connected. For more than 40 years, “Doc” served as team physician at Ottawa Hills High School and, in recognition of his dedication, was inducted into the OHHS Athletics Hall of Fame in winter 2025.

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KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION



Jayne Courts, MD
2025 Kent Medical
Foundation, Board Chair

A Summer of Healing: Special Days Camp Marks 46 Years

The year is moving quickly! Summer is officially over, and the new school year has started. While summer often means family fun, including camping trips, some children and their families do not have the opportunity to enjoy summer activities in the same way.

Health concerns may affect their day-to-day lives, making summer camp impossible and limiting activities for the child, siblings, and family. I mentioned the Kent Medical Foundation's support of two summer camps in my last column. Recently, the Foundation provided a \$5,000 grant for Special Days Camp. Patricia Dalton, KMF Executive Director, and I had the opportunity to meet with Lynne Royer-Willoughby, MSN, NP, daughter of the camp's founder, to learn more about this special program.

A CAMP WITH A LEGACY

Special Days Camp is a 46-year-old program with an incredible legacy. Dr. George Royer, MD, a pediatric oncologist in Kalamazoo, founded it in 1978 when a young patient recovering from leukemia was unable to attend summer camp. The first pediatric oncology camp was in Chicago, offering children in treatment a safe camp experience. A second followed in Florida, and then Special Days Camp in Michigan. Today, it is the second longest-running pediatric oncology camp in the U.S. and part of COCA, the Children's Oncology Camping Association, which accredits camps and requires a referral center connection (Detroit Medical Center for Special Days). Lynne's mother, Carole, helped form CCOA, which later became COCA-International, now representing camps across the U.S. and Canada.

MEETING CHILDREN'S NEEDS

For its first five years, Special Days Camp was a single summer program. Over time, it expanded to include a week for siblings, a winter session for children and

siblings together, and a family cabin program. About 80% of staff are volunteers, often former campers. More than 200 children attend each year, half from Detroit and others from across the state, including Kent County. Campers range from ages 5 to 17, with graduates eligible for staff training. Some are survivors, some in treatment, others in palliative or hospice care, with activities adapted to all needs.

Families are never asked for financial information—only a referral from a physician or parent. Most of the budget goes to camp rental and supplies, supported by volunteers. Transportation is provided with pickup in Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Lansing. Lynne noted that 95% of donations directly fund camp expenses, with no full-time staff. Even the on-site medical center is staffed by volunteer physicians, advanced practice professionals, and nurses who provide 24/7 care each summer.

THE FOUNDATION'S ROLE

Through your generous donations, the Kent Medical Foundation was able to provide a \$5,000 grant to Special Days Camp, helping ensure children across Michigan can benefit from this experience. Thank you for giving generously.

Our annual Holiday Card fundraiser (our only fundraiser, though we always accept donations) is beginning. Please consider supporting the Kent Medical Foundation so we may continue backing health-related programs that serve our community. Thank you for your ongoing support.



KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Holiday Card CAMPAIGN

SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY WISHES

WHILE HELPING THE KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

Contribute to this annual campaign and your name will be listed among other donors who have helped make the annual Holiday Card possible!

CONTRIBUTIONS

Holiday Card Campaign Gifts received by December 1 will be included in the annual Holiday Card, which will be mailed in early December. Here's how you can contribute:



STEP 1
Scan the QR code or go to
kentmedicalfoundation.org.

STEP 2
Complete the donor
registration form at the right and return it to the
Kent Medical Foundation by mail or email.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Kent Medical Foundation at (616) 458-4157
or email patricia@kcms.org.

Contributions are tax deductible.



KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Holiday Card CAMPAIGN

DONOR REGISTRATION

YES! Count me/us in to continue supporting The Kent Medical Foundation's mission in community outreach and health-promotion projects. I/We would like to make the following contribution:

\$1,000 \$750 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$_____ Please keep my donation anonymous
 Online donation Check enclosed

Please print your name(s) below exactly as you would like to be presented on the Holiday Card insert.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Return to: Kent Medical Foundation | 233 East Fulton, Suite 224, Grand Rapids, MI 49503 | patricia@kcms.org



KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Holiday Card CAMPAIGN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN GRATITUDE

Thank you to our donors for allowing the Kent Medical Foundation Board of Trustees the opportunity to support community programs. The following grants were made to date in 2025:

Calvin HEALTH Camp for Boys

Calvin University's Health Education And Leadership Training for a Hopeful Future (HEALTH) Camp is a five-day summer program for boys ages 9-15 from underserved and diverse racial backgrounds in Grand Rapids. The camp encourages healthy living while introducing participants to health careers and role models outside of a clinical setting. Sessions cover a wide range of topics—nutrition, exercise, reproductive health, mental health, chronic disease, genetics, and cancer—while also building skills in teamwork, conflict resolution, and self-esteem. For many participants, it is a rare opportunity to openly discuss sensitive health topics with professionals in a safe and supportive environment, and to experience a college campus firsthand.

Kent Medical Foundation granted \$6,000 to this program.

Special Days Camp

Special Days Camps, founded in 1979 by pediatric oncologist Dr. George Royer and Bob Lemieux, the father of a child with leukemia, provides children with cancer—and their siblings—a place to have fun, build friendships, and feel “like normal kids” outside of the hospital. The sibling program, unique in Michigan, recognizes that cancer impacts the entire family. Throughout the year, campers connect with others who share their experiences, supported by partnerships with local

hospitals and volunteer physicians and nurses who donate their time and even use PTO to serve. Community partners, including Trinity Health Pharmacy and Community Health Network, donate medications and supplies, ensuring families never bear a financial burden to attend.

Kent Medical Foundation granted \$5,000 to this program.

Beautiful You Mondays

Beautiful You by Profile is a local nonprofit dedicated to restoring confidence, dignity, and hope for women and girls undergoing cancer treatment. Its “Beautiful You Mondays” provide exclusive salon and spa days where volunteer stylists and estheticians can focus entirely on these clients’ unique needs. Services include haircuts, wig fittings, nail and skin care, and makeup consultations, all offered in a safe, welcoming space designed to bring comfort during a difficult journey. Each participant receives a high-quality bamboo headcover and three complimentary sessions for ongoing adjustments and support. By creating a nurturing environment, Beautiful You Mondays help clients feel seen, cared for, and uplifted throughout their treatment.

Kent Medical Foundation granted \$10,000 to this program.

Jayne E. Courts, MD
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Warren Lanphear, MD
Trustee

The Trustees of the Kent Medical Foundation Board know there is competition for your generosity. It is hoped that you will continue to support the efforts of the Kent Medical Foundation and its grant-making efforts. Thank You!

The Kent Medical Foundation welcomes grant applications from local non-profits and health organizations that work to improve the health and wellbeing of our community. Contact Executive Director for more information and granting timelines at patricia@kcms.org.



heartbeat

Stronger Together: Connecting Physician Families in Kent County

Autumn has arrived and another year for the Kent County Medical Society Alliance is beginning. You've seen the pictures of Alliance members having fun and supporting the community, but what is the Alliance really? Who are we? The KCMS Alliance is the physician family organization of Kent County. We are the spouses and partners of medical students, fellows, residents, practicing and retired physicians. We get it! The joys, the privileges, the stress and work-life balance are something we understand. We work to support one another through all seasons of life and have fun doing it! We engage with the community through education, advocacy, volunteer activities and philanthropy. Our Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit that provides grants for health needs. (\$41,800 in grants last year alone.) **We make a difference!**

This year we will continue our work of connecting and growing a healthier Kent County, while remaining an important support network for our members and their families through all seasons of their lives.

If you are not already an Alliance member or if you know of someone who would benefit from membership, please check out our website kcmsalliance.org or contact president@kcmsalliance.org for more information. We understand your experiences and look forward to getting to know you better.

We hope to see you at our next event.

kcmsa mini grants

The KCMSA Foundation offers mini-grants to support local nonprofits working to improve health and well-being in greater Grand Rapids. Eligible 501(c)(3) organizations can apply for up to \$3,000 in funding to bring their projects to life. Mini-grant Application Deadlines:

October 15 **April 15**
February 15 **August 15**

Applications are available online at www.kcmsalliance.org/apply-for-a-grant. Consideration is given to requests that meet the following criteria:

- Provide health education, medical services, medical supplies;
- Promote social welfare;
- Demonstrate a relationship between the proposal and the goal of the KCMSA Foundation;
- Are located in greater Grand Rapids;
- Are \$3,000 or less;
- Are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization;
- Meet reporting requirements as stated on the application;
- Plan to spend grant dollars within one calendar year of receipt.

kcmsa Calendar

For the most up-to-date information on events and activities, follow us on Facebook, or contact president@kcmsalliance.org.

Alliance Book Club

The Alliance Book Club meets on the third Tuesday monthly at Schuler Books on 28th Street in Grand Rapids. All readers are welcome.

September 16

James by Percival Everett and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

We want to connect with you!

Join the Alliance online today at:
kcmsalliance.org

Find us on
Facebook

Event Recap summer 2025



May 7: KCMSA Luncheon



June 10 & July 9: Mahjong & Margaritas



May 16: Past Presidents Luncheon



June 9: Olive's Restaurant Dine & Donate Fundraiser





Kristin Oldenberg,
MD, FACOG
Kent County
Health Department
Medical Director

Air Quality Alerts: What Clinicians Need to Know

Kristin Oldenberg, MD, FACOG and Hannah Napolillo, MPH

In recent years, the U.S. has faced an increasing number of poor air quality days driven by both local pollution sources and long-range smoke from large-scale wildfires. Wildfire smoke events have become a recurring seasonal health hazard in Michigan, affecting communities across the state.¹ Two of the most important air pollutants of concern are particulate matter and ground-level ozone.

While wildfire smoke is made up of many pollutants (carbon monoxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, etc.), particulate matter 2.5 (PM_{2.5}) is the main pollutant and the leading concern for public health. PM_{2.5} consists of fine particles carried in smoke that can penetrate deep into the lungs and bloodstream, increasing risk for respiratory distress, cardiovascular events, and worsening of chronic conditions.²

Health Effects of PM_{2.5}³

- Worsened asthma and COPD
- Asthma attacks
- Irregular heartbeat
- Heart attack
- Lung cancer
- Poor birth outcomes, such as low birth weight
- Premature death

GROUND-LEVEL OZONE

Ground-level ozone (different from good ozone that is naturally occurring 10-30 miles above the Earth's surface and shields us from ultraviolet rays) is created by chemical reactions at the Earth's surface, such as when fuel burned in vehicles, power plants, or factories reacts with heat and sunlight. Weather conditions and sunlight intensity can impact ozone concentrations and lead to elevated levels typically occurring on hot sunny days in urban areas.⁴

Health Effects of Ground-Level Ozone³

- Worsened asthma, bronchitis, and emphysema
- Respiratory illness such as pneumonia or bronchitis
- Lung and throat irritation



Smoke from a Canadian wildfire covers Chicago's skyline.

- Coughing and pain when taking a deep breath
- Wheezing and breathing difficulties during exercise or outdoor activities

AIR QUALITY INDEX

The U.S. Air Quality Index (AQI) is a tool for communicating about outdoor air quality and health. The AQI includes 6 color-coded categories representing a range of values (Figure 1). The higher the AQI, the greater the level of air pollution and health concern.

SENSITIVE GROUPS AT INCREASED RISK³

- People with asthma or other lung disease
- People with heart disease
- Infants and children

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21

AIR QUALITY ALERT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

- Older adults
- Active people of all ages who exercise or work outside

MINIMIZING HEALTH EFFECTS FROM POOR OUTDOOR AIR QUALITY

As these events grow in frequency and severity, physicians and healthcare professionals can play a critical role in guiding patients, especially those at greatest risk for health complications due to poor air quality, on protective measures to reduce their risk⁵:

- Check the AQI regularly to assess daily and predicted air quality.
- Take activities indoors, especially exercise. Limit time outdoors and encourage children to play inside. If spending time outdoors, choose a less intense activity and take more frequent breaks.
- Keep windows closed and use the “re-circulate” setting on your heating, ventilation, and air condition system (HVAC) to reduce outdoor air from entering your home.
- Install a filter in your HVAC and replace the filter as recommended by the manufacturer.

- Avoid additional pollution exposure sources, such as bonfires/wood stoves, use of gas-powered lawn and garden equipment, tobacco smoke, and burning leaves, trash, or other materials.

For more information about the AQI, visit: www.AirNow.gov. To sign up for air quality notifications, visit: EnviroFlash.info.

RESOURCES

1. American Lung Association. State of the Air 2025 Report. <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/5d8035e5-4e86-4205-b408-865550860783/State-of-the-Air-2025.pdf>
2. US EPA. (2025). Why Wildfire Smoke is a Health Concern. <https://www.epa.gov/wildfire-smoke-course/why-wildfire-smoke-health-concern>
3. MDHHS. Air Quality. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/safety-injury-prev/environmental-health/topics/mitracking/air>
4. US EPA. Ground-Level Ozone Basics. <https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/ground-level-ozone-basics>
5. MDHHS. Your Health and Wildfire Smoke. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/safety-injury-prev/environmental-health/your-health-and-wildfire-smoke>

TABLE 1
Air Quality Index Basics for Ozone and Particulate Pollution

	<i>Levels of Concern</i>	<i>Values of Index</i>	<i>Description of Air Quality</i>	
DAILY AIR QUALITY INDEX COLOR	Green	Good	0 to 50	Air quality is satisfactory, and air pollution poses little or no risk.
	Yellow	Moderate	51 to 100	Air quality is acceptable. However, there may be a risk for some people, particularly those who are unusually sensitive to air pollution.
	Orange	Unhealthy for sensitive groups	101 to 150	Members of sensitive groups may experience health effects. The general public is less likely to be affected.
	Red	Unhealthy	151 to 200	Some members of the general public may experience health effects; members of sensitive groups may experience more serious health effects.
	Purple	Very unhealthy	201 to 300	Health alert: The risk of health effects is increased for everyone.
	Maroon	Hazardous	301 and higher	Health warning of emergency conditions: everyone is more likely to be affected.



Notifiable Disease Report

Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller N.E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

Communicable Disease Section
Phone (616) 632-7228
Fax (616) 632-7085

**July
2025**

DISEASE	C=Confirmed P=Probable S=Suspect U=Unknown	This Month	July Cumulative YTD 2025	2020-2024 5-Year Median July
CAMPYLOBACTER	C,P	30	86	57
CANDIDA AURIS	C	0	4	0
CARBAPENEMASE PRODUCING ORGANISM	C	0	8	1
CHICKEN POX ^a	C,P	1	9	7
CHLAMYDIA	C,P,S,U	246	1705	2111
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	C,P	2	15	14
CORONAVIRUS NOVEL, COVID-19	C,P,S	211	5005	11364
HIV	C	6	27	17
SHIGA TOXIN PRODUCING E. COLI	C,P,S	6	20	13
GIARDIASIS	C,P	7	19	19
GONORRHEA	C,P,S,U	81	508	742
H. INFLUENZAE DISEASE, INV	C,P	0	10	4
HEPATITIS A	C	0	0	0
HEPATITIS B (Acute)	C	0	2	0
HEPATITIS C (Acute)	C	0	1	1
HEPATITIS C (Chronic/Unknown)	C	4	38	48
HISTOPLASMOSIS	C,P	2	35	24
INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS(ILI) ^b	C,P,S	189	32341	10347
LEGIONELLOSIS	C	2	12	9
LYME DISEASE	C,P,S	80	160	35
MEASLES	C,P	2	4	0
MENINGITIS, ASEPTIC	C	0	2	5
MENINGITIS, BACTERIAL, OTHER ^c	C	1	5	9
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, INV	C,P,S	0	2	0
MUMPS	C,P,S	0	1	0
PERTUSSIS	C,P	6	51	1
SALMONELLOSIS	C,P	16	39	40
SHIGELLOSIS	C,P	4	16	11
STREP, GRP A, INV	C	4	33	15
STREP PNEUMO, INV	C,P	1	43	20
STREPTOCOCCAL TOXIC SHOCK	C,P	0	0	0
SYPHILIS(Congenital)	C,P,S	1	3	1
SYPHILIS (Primary & Secondary)	C,P,S	4	36	34
TOXIC SHOCK	C,P	0	0	0
TUBERCULOSIS	C	1	8	8
WEST NILE VIRUS	C,P	0	0	0
YERSINIA ENTERITIS	C,P	2	12	8

a. Primarily school reported cases b. Includes ILI and lab-confirmed influenza. ILI cases exhibit flu-like symptoms and are primarily school reported. c. Meningitis, Bacterial, Other" includes meningitis and bacteremia caused by bacteria OTHER THAN H. influenzae, N. meningitidis, or S. pneumoniae, based on CDC surveillance case definitions.

KCHD



Matthew Emery, MD
Community Assistant Dean
Michigan State University
College of Human Medicine

Celebrating the Secchia Center

The College of Human Medicine proudly welcomed the incoming Class of 2029 in August at DeVos Performance Hall, in Grand Rapids.

It was my great privilege to be a part of the Admissions Committee this year and witness firsthand how much thought and effort the college puts into the process of selecting applicants. We can take great pride in this process and take equal pride in an amazing group of students who will be joining us this year.

WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2029

The Class of 2029 includes 190 new students matriculating this year, with 97 assigned to the Grand Rapids campus and 93 to the East Lansing campus. Among the incoming class, we welcome 138 Michigan residents and 52 non-Michigan residents. There are 11 students who completed the Advanced Baccalaureate Learning Experience, 14 students from the Early Assurance Admission and 165 from the regular MD admission pathway. We will have 14 students who are part of the Leadership in Medicine for the Underserved Certificate Program, as well as 30 students in the Leadership in Rural Medicine Certificate Program. Two students are part of the Medical Partners in Public Health Certificate Program.

The incoming students range in age from 21 to 38 years old. Prior highest educational achievement ranges from a bachelor's degree (190 students), a master's degree (28 students) and one student has a PhD.

MARKING 15 YEARS

We take pride as well in celebrating the 15th anniversary of the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine's Secchia Center! The \$90 million, privately funded and LEED

Silver-certified Secchia Center opened in 2010. This 184,000-square-foot, eight-story medical education facility, completed in spring 2010, is a key component of Grand Rapids' renowned Medical Mile. The Secchia Center was a 100% donor-funded construction project, made possible with support from Corewell Health, Van Andel Institute and Trinity Health Saint Mary's, as well as other community organizations and partners. The Secchia Center accommodates a first- and second-year student class of 96 students each, while also serving 130 to 140 third- and fourth-year students. This site includes the Dean's headquarters, a state-of-the-art simulation suite taking up the entire fifth floor and is a parallel program with the existing East Lansing campus.

The Secchia Center 15th celebration will take place on September 24.



The Secchia Center on Grand Rapids' Medical Mile recently marked 15 years of advancing medical education.

NURTURING WELLNESS

As the season changes, we're reminded of the importance of renewal, connection, and gratitude. Just as harvest brings abundance, your dedication brings health and healing to our community. Together, we look forward to a season of growth, support, and shared purpose.

