



Bulletin

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE KENT COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY & THE KENT COUNTY OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION EARLY FALL 2026

— *Serving Physicians in Kent County and Beyond* —



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on Deunification Changes

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KMF President's Update
for Summer Fun

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EARLY FALL • Vol. 111, No. 2



Cover Photo

Beat the West Michigan heat and catch up with the KCMS/KCOA *Bulletin*!

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KCMS MEETINGS OF INTEREST

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

**WEST MICHIGAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES'
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Noon | Virtual Meeting

Contact patricia@KCMS.org for meeting link.

NOVEMBER 16, 2026

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ONLINE CALENDAR

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Please check out the events page at kcms.org.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Warren F. Lanphear, MD, FACEP
2026 KCMS President

What is The Past is Prologue?

These words are those of William Shakespeare from his play *The Tempest* but they are prominently engraved on the front of the National Archives and Records Administration Building in Washington, D.C. and many historical displays. The words symbolize the idea that history sets the context for the present. The Prologue may be written—but the future is ours to design.

As our country focuses on its 250 Year Anniversary as a Nation, the Kent County Medical Society Board reflects upon its own history. While the KCMS had several “beginnings” and eventual endings, this version, which was formalized in 1902, has served physicians for almost 125 years in our community (January 2027). For one half of our Nation’s existence, the KCMS has been organized and serving doctors who practice medicine in our community. As a small society being created by physicians and for physicians, to an organization that led the community through information and care to treat diseases, learn new medical procedures, creation of treatment modalities and equipment that shaped health care in our community.

Previous *Bulletins* have addressed the deunification of the Michigan State Medical Society and the County Medical Societies in Michigan. After much discussion and significant campaigning, the MSMS House of Delegates voted to deunify the state and county activities. This provides substantial freedom to the County Societies across Michigan to develop their own programs without the attachment of MSMS. The KCMS remains a 501(c)6 non-profit membership association, sanctioned nationally by the Internal Revenue Service and within the state of Michigan through its Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. A benefit to our Members is that now, as of April 18, 2026, there is no obligation or rule to be a member of both the county and state medical societies. Physicians and practices can choose a preference of local membership or state membership or both. I am choosing to be a member of both.

The Kent County Medical Society is focusing on celebrating its 125 years in service to local physicians. At the same time, our office location has changed, with a new mailing address, listed below. In reviewing boxes of KCMS history, our Board has felt that these important documents should be shared with researchers and curious readers.

REDUCED DUES. GREATER CHOICE.

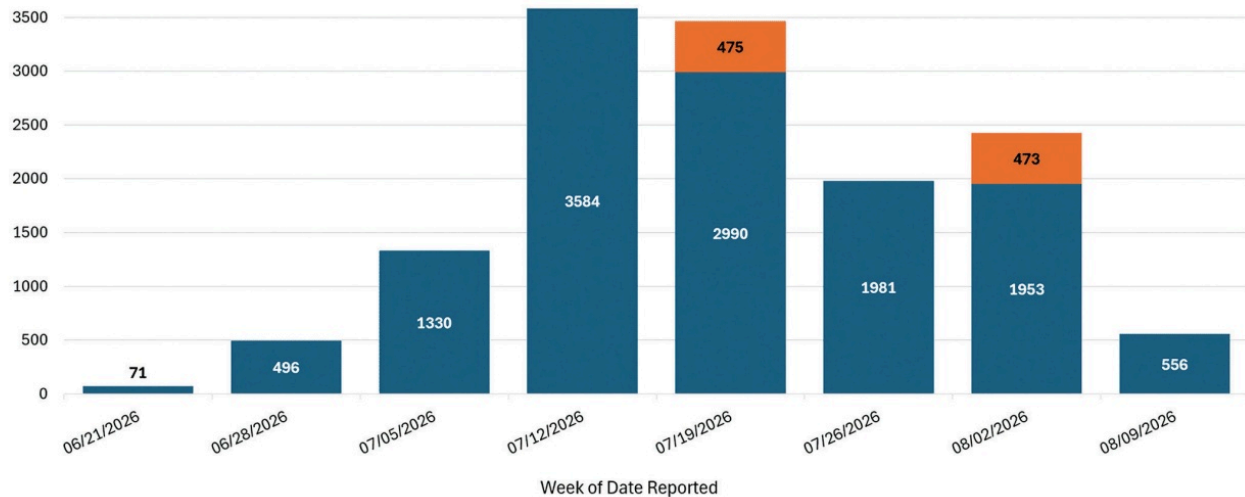
The KCMS Board is excited to announce the upcoming 125th Anniversary of the Kent County Medical Society in January 2027. In appreciation of our dedicated Members’ continued involvement in KCMS, the KCMS Board of Directors is proud to announce reduced membership dues from \$295 to \$220 for the year 2027. It is no longer mandatory to join the Michigan State Medical Society along with the county society.

Members may join or renew their Membership in KCMS for \$220 this fall and members will enjoy the benefits of Membership through December 2027. Details of upcoming events for fall 2026 to fall 2027 will be shared via email to Members’ email inboxes. It is greatly appreciated if members email us at kcmsoffice@kcms.org if you have a preferred email address.

We are also excited to officially move to electronic invoice billing, processing and receipting. Members offices will begin receiving invoices in late summer. With the input by office managers, we hope to reduce the paperwork and time for renewing members’ dues. We welcome your response and feedback in coordinating an easier dues process that benefits your office and data tracking.

Cyclosporiasis Outbreak Update

Number of Michigan Cyclosporiasis Cases by Date Reported by MDHHS



■ 475 cases reflected on the July 19 reported week and 473 cases reflected on the August 2 reported week due to delayed laboratory reporting.

Kristin Oldenberg, MD, FACOG

Kent County Health Department

The Kent County Health Department is following the Michigan Department Health and Human Services revised guidance that consumers no longer need to broadly avoid lettuce or salad greens, but consumers should continue to follow safe food handling practices (<https://www.cdc.gov/food-safety/index.html>) and avoid recalled products as the cyclosporiasis outbreak investigations continue.

MICHIGAN CASE COUNTS

- **Total Cases:** 13,909.
- **Hospitalizations:** As of August 13, 2026, 314 reported cases indicated they had been hospitalized.
- **Deaths:** 2.

According to medical records, the two individuals who died had significant underlying health conditions that may have been impacted by cyclosporiasis and dehydration.

For current information on the outbreak, visit MDHHS at <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/keep-mi-healthy/infectious-diseases/infectious-disease-outbreaks>.

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In Memoriam

BRUCE HENRY BAKER, MD

Bruce H. Baker, MD was born in 1953. He leaves behind a profound legacy of healing, innovation, and humanity.

Bruce began his medical career in anesthesiology following his residency at Duke University, where he served as Chief Resident. He went on to practice as an anesthesiologist in Grand Rapids, MI, serving as Chairman of Anesthesia at Ferguson Hospital and serving on the Medical Education Committee at Saint Mary's Hospital. A pioneer in the field, he became board-certified in addiction medicine and devoted his life to expanding access to treatment and recovery services.

Bruce founded West Brook Recovery Center, serving as its Medical Director and helped shape modern approaches to addiction recovery. He played a critical role in developing medication-assisted treatment programs, including methadone services, and serving Cherry Health and other West Michigan areas, including in Muskegon, Benzie and Manistee counties, and partners with Newaygo County Mental Health and Arbor Circle in Newaygo County. Dr. Baker passed away May 6, 2026 after a short illness.

RICHARD E. DEAN, MD

Richard Earl Dean, MD was born in Middleville, MI on August 21, 1934. Raised in humble beginnings, he went on to become a nationally prominent and well-respected surgeon. He graduated from Michigan State University, received his medical degree from Wayne State University, and completed his surgical training at the Detroit Receiving Hospital. After briefly practicing in La Porte, IN, he served his country as a surgeon with the Second Surgical Hospital in Vietnam. After being honorably discharged, he practiced in Cincinnati, OH, where he was Director of the surgical residency and started the hospital's kidney transplant program.

In 1973, he was recruited back to the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine where he led the affiliated surgical residency at Butterworth Hospital. Dr. Dean became Chairman of the Department of Surgery, a position he held until his retirement in 2001. While at MSU he conducted research into immunology, transplant science, and nutrition; he also played important roles in developing trauma centers across the state of Michigan. He was a founding member, and later the President of the Association of Program Directors in Surgery. Dr. Dean passed away on July 19, 2026.

CHARLES ROBERT HENRY, MD

Past President of the KCMS

Charles Henry, MD was born in 1941 in Iowa.

His family moved to Kalamazoo and Chuck quickly gained many lifelong friends. He developed his moral character through his participation in The Boy Scouts of America and became a proud Eagle Scout. Chuck earned scholarships to The University of Michigan where he was accepted into the marching band and honors college.

Chuck matriculated into medical school after just three years, and graduated from The University of Michigan medical school in 1966. He was accepted into the Otolaryngology residency at the University of California San Francisco. He served his intern year at Blodgett Hospital then served in the U.S. Coastguard for 2 years as a Lieutenant Commander.

He and his band, The Docs of Dixieland, while jamming to upbeat Dixieland tunes, played for various nursing homes and charitable causes, while contributing thousands of dollars annually.

He served as President and Trustee of the Kent County Medical Society from 1991-1994. He also served as a mentor as Associate Professor of Michigan State University. His contagious personality and talent as a musician led him to be a longtime member of the Bohemian Club. Chuck was fun, always on the go, interested in everything, and game to embrace all life had to offer. Dr. Henry passed away on April 26, 2026.

MARK STEVEN O'BRIEN, MD

Mark Steven O'Brien, MD was born in 1954 and passed away in Grand Rapids on May 21, 2026, in his home. Mark earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, a school he would cheer for with unwavering loyalty for the rest of his life—before going on to earn his Doctorate from Wayne State University. He further pursued a fellowship in Nephrology at Northwestern University in Chicago. He built his career as an internal medicine physician and was the proud owner of his own medical practice for over 20 years where he dedicated his life to the care of his patients.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

IN MEMORIAM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

G. JAY ROTTMAN, MD

G. Jay Rottman MD was born in 1933. He passed away on April 12, 2026. Dr. Rottman was born in Fremont, MI. He grew up in Portland, MI, and graduated from Portland High School in 1951, just after winning the regional tennis tournament. He then went on to attend and graduate from Calvin College in 1955, and from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1960. G. Jay had a busy general practice in Greenville, MI until 1973, and after completing a second specialty, he served as a Radiologist in Grand Rapids until retiring.

JAMES K. WATKINS, MD

Past President of the KCMS

James Watkins, MD was born in 1930 and died peacefully in his sleep at his beloved cottage on Stony Lake in Shelby, MI on June 17, 2026. Dr. Watkins was a three-sport star and class valedictorian at Milford High School and a member of the Milford High School Hall of Fame. He then matriculated at the University of Michigan where he lettered in basketball (1949) and majored in history, kindling a lifelong interest in the subject.

During the Korean War, he served with honor as a naval officer in the Mediterranean on the Admiral's ship honing his legal skills representing midshipmen charged with all manner of infractions and playing basketball against other ships' teams. He returned to attend University of Michigan's medical school, trained at the Cleveland Clinic and practiced urology in Grand Rapids for many years. Dr. Watkins served as President of the Kent County Medical Society in 1989, and also served on boards of many other non-profits.

He was proud to have been a part of the original kidney transplant team in West Michigan at St. Mary's Hospital, beginning in 1973. To celebrate his retirement in 1994, he rode his bike from Disneyland to Disney World raising money for Hospice of Grand Rapids. He was a scratch golfer, an ace handball player, nice tennis player and intrepid skier and even became an accomplished competitive rower.

CHARLES A. WILKINSON, MD

Charles Allan Wilkinson was born on April 27, 1930 in Bay City, MI. After graduating from Jackson High School

in 1947, he went on to Jackson Junior College, and on to the University of Michigan where he graduated in 1951. He then studied at the University of Michigan Medical School and graduated in 1954. He moved to Grand Rapids internship at St. Mary's Hospital.

Shortly after, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army as part of the Korean war effort serving as a general medical officer at the U.S. Naval air station in Pensacola, Florida where he trained as an aviation medical officer. He was then assigned as an Army Reserve active-duty flight officer at Fort Rucker, Alabama. Later returning to Grand Rapids Charles opened his own solo general medical practice. Initially, Charles performed medical staff duties at Blodgett, Butterworth and St. Mary's hospitals, subsequently focusing his practice at St. Mary's and as a civilian U.S. medical flight examiner. After ten years he chose to enter a radiology medical specialty residency at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids and went on to serve as a radiologist for 38 years at St. Mary's Hospital. Dr. Wilkinson passed away on July 18, 2026.

SANDRA MAY WISEBAKER, MD

Sandra "Sandy" Wisebaker, MD was born in Ohio, in 1954 to Meryl and Rosamond Wisebaker. She graduated School in 1972 before earning her undergraduate degree and beginning her career as an organic chemist with Libbey Glass. She later pursued a career in medicine, graduating from medical school in Toledo in 1993. She completed her residency at Butterworth Hospital before becoming one of the area's first female OB-GYNs. She later started one of Grand Rapids' first all-female OB-GYN practices, paving the way for generations of women in medicine.

Sandy devoted her life to the health and well-being of women and families. She volunteered at women's health clinics, administered vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, and spent decades providing compassionate care to her patients. By the time she retired in 2020, she had delivered an estimated 7,000 babies. One of her greatest joys was meeting those children years later and reminiscing with their families about the day they entered the world.

Retirement allowed Sandy to fully embrace another lifelong passion—gardening. She became a Master Gardener and generously volunteered in community gardens throughout the city. Possessing an extraordinary memory, she could recall the genus and species of nearly every plant she cultivated. Dr. Wisebaker passed away on June 28, 2026.

GR Urologist Named MSMS President

At the 2026 House of Delegates meeting, Phillip G. Wise, MD, FACS was elected as the 2026 President of Michigan State Medical Society. He previously served four terms as Speaker and four as Vice Speaker of the MSMS House of Delegates, and locally, served as President of the KCMS Board of Directors in 2013. Congratulations Dr. Wise.

“Thank you for your confidence in allowing me to lead the House of Delegates for the last eight years. I believe that all were allowed to be heard and we were respectful of your precious time. I look forward to guiding the medical society as I serve as the President of MSMS. Thank you for your support.”

—Phillip G. Wise, MD, FACS



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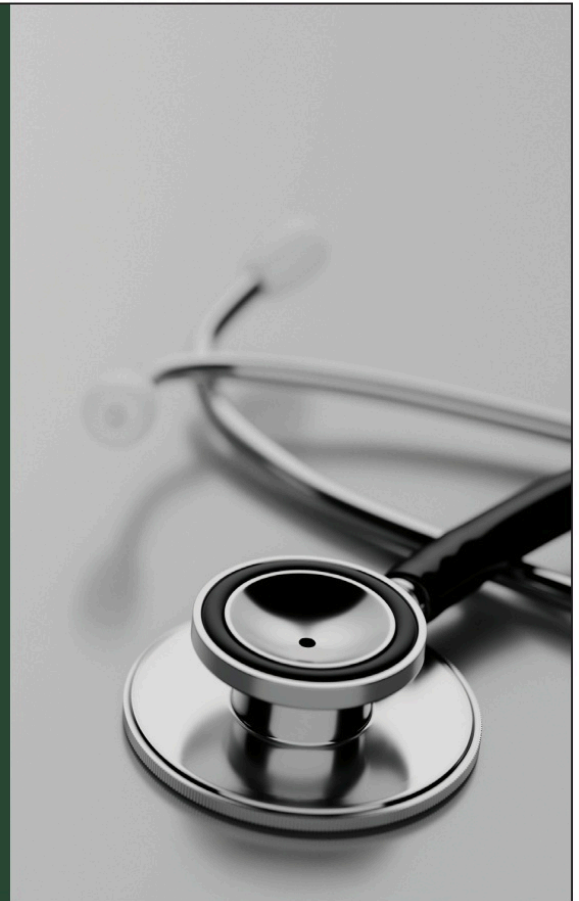
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Opioid Settlement Dollars Support Harm Reduction

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Director Elizabeth Hertel visited the Grand Rapids Red Project earlier this summer to learn about the organization's innovative harm reduction strategies, supported by opioid settlement fund dollars, as part of the state's broader effort to save lives by preventing opioid overdose deaths and reducing the spread of infectious disease.

"We are committed to supporting community partners who are meeting people where they are and providing compassionate, evidence-based care," said Hertel. "The Grand Rapids Red Project is an example of how innovative harm reduction programs can reduce overdose deaths, improve health and connect individuals with treatment and recovery services when they are ready."

[A recent modeling study by MDHHS](#) illustrates how harm reduction programs have led to significant reductions in overdose deaths, hospitalizations and cases of hepatitis C in Michigan.

MEETING PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

During the visit, Hertel met with staff, peers and clients to learn about the organization's approach to providing substance use disorder (SUD) treatment and resources. She also toured outreach spaces and a mobile health unit that brings life-saving services directly to people in the community.

This visit highlighted how local organizations are expanding harm reduction initiatives with support from opioid settlement funding and other state investments that are designed to save lives and improve health outcomes. Provisional data projects a 47% reduction in overdose death rates in 2025 compared to the 2021 peak, indicating overdose deaths have continued to decline for the fourth consecutive year. Current projections estimate fewer than 1,800 overdose deaths annually in 2025, down from more than 3,000 deaths in 2021, placing Michigan among the nation's best-performing states in reducing overdose deaths.

"Support from MDHHS and state leadership has vastly increased our ability to address negative outcomes from substance use in our community," said Steve Alsum, Grand Rapids Red Project executive director. "It's been a game

changer across our state. Evidence continues to show that harm reduction interventions like naloxone distribution, syringe access and drug checking are extremely cost-effective means to keep our communities safe."

GROWING A STATEWIDE NETWORK OF SERVICES

The FY 2026 budget includes more than \$131 million from the Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund to support harm reduction, treatment and recovery services. More than \$25 million is being used to support harm reduction agencies, diversion, law enforcement training and naloxone distribution.

MDHHS has supported the Grand Rapids Red Project's harm reduction work addressing SUD with \$4.2 million between FY 2024 and FY 2026.

Michigan is slated to receive more than \$1.8 billion from national opioid settlements by 2040, with half being distributed to the State of Michigan Opioid Healing and Recovery Fund and the other half being distributed directly to county, city and township governments across the state. The FY 2027 budget proposal includes more than \$117.7 million.

Harm reduction agencies now operate in more than 115 sites across the state, up from five in 2017, helping to reduce infectious disease spread and prevent overdoses through the support of opioid settlement funds.

Additional information about how funds are invested is available on the [opioids settlement website](#).

For more information on harm reduction agencies and the services they provide, please visit [Michigan.gov/SSP](#). For more information about SUD and opioid resources, visit [Michigan.gov/SUD](#).

NATIONAL PHYSICIAN SUICIDE AWARENESS DAY | SEPTEMBER 17

THE WRONG DIAGNOSIS

by Brooke Buckley, MD, MBA, FACS



Brooke M. Buckley, MD, MBA is a board-certified general surgeon, physician executive, and Diplomate of the American Board of Lifestyle Medicine.

Years ago, I thought I understood physician wellness.

Like many physicians, I had my first collision with exhaustion and assumed I knew what to do. I became more disciplined. I optimized my sleep. I paid closer attention to nutrition. I earned an MBA. Later I studied Lifestyle Medicine. I learned leadership. I became more efficient. I built systems. I budgeted every hour. I tried to become a better version of the physician who had become overwhelmed.

It worked.

Until it didn't.

I wasn't actually creating more margin.

I was becoming extraordinarily efficient at spending every ounce of it.

I left the operating room because I needed my nights back. It was one of the hardest decisions of my career. I thought administrative medicine would finally create the space I had been chasing.

Instead, I filled it.

Innovation.

Leadership.

Writing.

Speaking.

Committees.

Governance.

Another degree.

Another opportunity.

Another way to contribute.

Every hour I reclaimed, I reinvested.

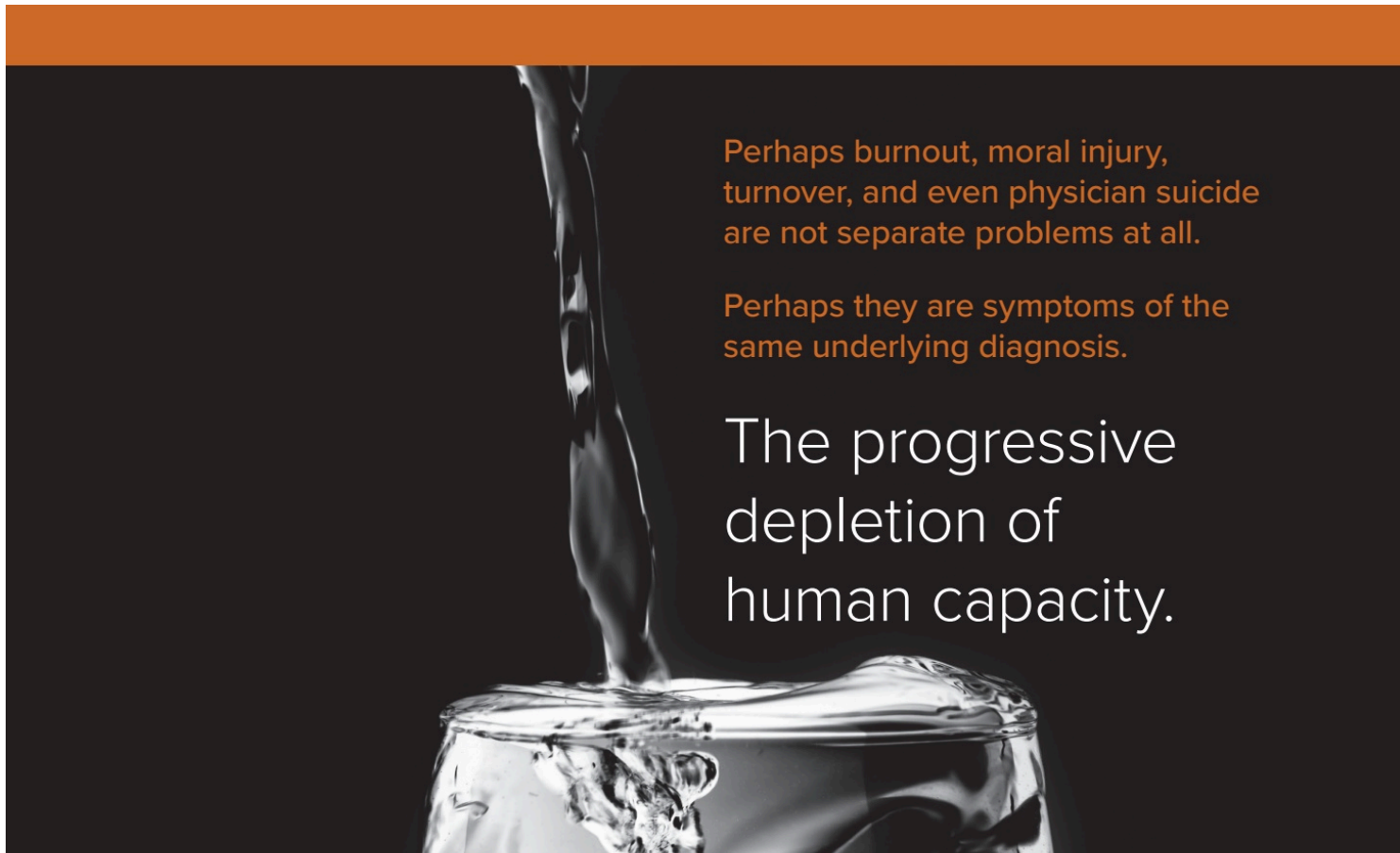
I wasn't recovering.

I was compounding.

As a physician leader, I began noticing something unsettling. Every quality initiative made us better. Every new safety standard reduced harm. Every measure taught us something important. Every innovation had a worthy purpose.

CONTINUED





Perhaps burnout, moral injury, turnover, and even physician suicide are not separate problems at all.

Perhaps they are symptoms of the same underlying diagnosis.

The progressive depletion of human capacity.

Yet every improvement also asked something of the people doing the work.

One more click.

One more dashboard.

One more meeting.

One more module.

One more expectation.

How could all of these things be true at the same time? How could medicine become safer while physicians became increasingly depleted?

That question changed everything.

Around the same time, I began studying stress physiology with my colleague, Dr. Ali Novitsky. The physiology was remarkably predictable. Under stress, our bodies don't simply become tired; they become different. I become louder, more factual, more directive. Those traits served me well as a surgeon. Others respond differently. Some become quieter, more resourceful, careful not to enter conflict. Neither response is a character flaw. They are physiologic adaptations to increasing demand. Predictable symptom patterns of stress overload.

Then I noticed something else.

As a physician executive, I spend much of my day looking at dashboards. Healthcare measures almost everything: quality, safety, finance, productivity, patient experience, turnover, infection rates, mortality.

Yet nowhere do we measure the thing every one of those out-

comes depends upon.

Human capacity.

We manage what we measure.

We celebrate every new initiative we add, but rarely measure the capacity it consumes. We reward financial margin while giving far less attention to human margin. We count clicks required, but almost never celebrate clicks removed. We measure burnout after it appears instead of measuring the conditions that quietly produce it.

Perhaps burnout, moral injury, turnover, and even physician suicide are not separate problems at all.

Perhaps they are symptoms of the same underlying diagnosis.

The progressive depletion of human capacity.

I no longer believe physician wellness is primarily about teaching physicians to become more resilient.

I believe our next frontier is learning how to design medicine that protects the human capacity required to care for others.

That is a ledger worth keeping.

Brooke M. Buckley, MD, MBA serves as Vice President of Medical Affairs for Henry Ford Health and is a member of The Joint Commission Board of Commissioners. Dr. Buckley writes and speaks nationally on physician leadership, professional identity, governance, and the role of human capacity in creating sustainable careers and healthier healthcare systems.

NATIONAL PHYSICIAN SUICIDE AWARENESS DAY | SEPTEMBER 17

THE WELLBEING CONVERSATION

Resources for exploring physician stress, burnout, resilience and sustainable practice

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- Krasner MS, Epstein RM, et. al. JAMA. 2009; 302: 1284-1293
- TED talks: "[How to make stress your friend](#)"
- TED talks: "[The Happy Secret to Better Work](#)"

SEPTEMBER 17 | #NPSADay

National Physician Suicide
Awareness Day is a reminder
and call to action. It's a time
to talk—and act—so physicians'
struggles don't become
mental health emergencies.

Learn more at NPSADay.org



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KCOA MEETINGS OF INTEREST

SEPTEMBER 28, 2026

WEST MICHIGAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES' LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Noon | Virtual Meeting

Contact patricia@KCMS.org for meeting link.

OCTOBER 16-18, 2026

MOA AUTUMN CONFERENCE

Grand Valley State University | Richard M. DeVos Center

See MOA.org to register for in-person or online attendance

NOVEMBER 16, 2026

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APRIL 24, 2027

MOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

More information to follow.

ONLINE CALENDAR

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON KCOA EVENTS

Please check out the events page at www.kcoa-mi.org.

OUR MISSION:

Kent County Osteopathic Association seeks to advocate for the physicians of Kent County, advance the science and practice of osteopathic medicine, and provide an arena of osteopathic physicians to support and educate each other and their community.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



William Sanders, DO
2026 KCOA President,
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Join In On Fall 2026

As we all look forward to spending summer days with family and friends, hoping to rejuvenate, we realize just how fast the summer days feel to us. The busy weeks seem to rush by and the preparation for fall quickly eliminates another month and then school schedules return. Enjoy these times while in the moment is the challenge.

The KCOA Board is working to provide opportunities this fall for our Members and new Resident Members. We hope you will take advantage of the upcoming educational events in Grand Rapids.

MOA AUTUMN CONFERENCE

October 16-18, 2026

Grand Valley State University
Richard M. DeVos Center

See MOA.org to register for in-person or online attendance.

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KCOA

In Memoriam

LONSON LEE BARR, DO

Lonson L. Barr, D.O. was born in 1938 in Waterloo, Iowa, and passed away on June 5, 2026 in Grand Rapids, MI. He was on staff at both Grand Rapids Osteopathic Hospital (U of M Health West) and Butterworth/Blodgett Hospitals (Corewell). He was always very civic-minded, giving back to his community, his profession, his church, and the arts.

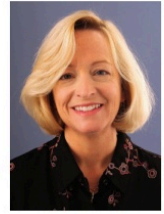
He was recruited to Grand Rapids by Michigan State University as Clinical Professor of Surgery in 1975. He practiced in Grand Rapids and lectured in East Lansing,

mentoring many students, interns, and residents from 1975 to 2013.

He maintained a deep sense of gratitude. He always said he was "born happy," led a charmed life, and would rather be lucky than smart. His luck and learning led him to many professional opportunities and a wide variety of life experiences. In his leisure time, he enjoyed gardening, playing tennis, walking the beach, reading, but most of all relaxing with his family. He loved music, art, politics, the news, and good conversation.



KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION



Jayne Courts, MD
2026 Kent Medical
Foundation, Board Chair

KMF's Newest Partner in FUN

One of the best benefits of serving on the Kent Medical Foundation Board of Trustees is learning about the unique non-profit organizations that help so many people in our West Michigan community. I have shared a bit of information about Gracious Spaces Farm in a previous issues of the *Bulletin*. I am excited to share more information about this special non-profit organization in this column.

The Gracious Spaces Farm provides a happy and carefree home for Friesian horses, cats, and an incredibly rare dog breed, Stabijhouns or Stabyhouns. This rare dog breed is a national treasure of the Netherlands. Thanks to their "sta mij bij" ("stand by me") nature, they make wonderfully patient and gentle family pets. These playful pups are ready to play and to provide some furry love with visitors at the farm's dog park.

Gracious Spaces Farm is located at 10388 Kalamazoo Avenue in Caledonia. This special location allows visitors to experience comfort and



Visitors at Gracious Spaces Farms enjoy making new furry friends.



joy while interacting with friendly animals, nature, and the arts in a safe and welcoming agricultural environment open to all people. People feel free to engage and interact with the animals in a natural setting, which facilitates physical movement (especially when helping with the farm chores) and enhances mental health. Scheduled events offer other opportunities to enhance health and wellness in this beautiful setting.

The Gracious Spaces Farm team of volunteers creates experiences for people of all abilities to participate in living, learning, and growing. By sharing their message of support to the community, the team has been able to partner

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17

PARTNER IN FUN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

with other organizations, as well as churches, schools, and businesses, to create new opportunities for the community, especially for those individuals who may have challenges in accessing other opportunities.

For 2026, the Kent Medical Foundation has sponsored a popular annual event—the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra Concert Series. This free outdoor concert series (including free and convenient parking) is open to the public. The season's final concert is scheduled for September 13. Feel free to bring a chair and a blanket, listen and dance, and support everything that is happening at Gracious Spaces Farm.

Visiting the Gracious Spaces Farm website (www.graciousspacesfarm.org/events-1) is a great way to obtain information about the Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra Concert Series and other special events with music, entertainment, and furry friends.

Key details to know before visiting:

- **Mission:** A non-profit focused on creating an inclusive community for individuals of all abilities and backgrounds.
- **Visit:** The farm operates primarily by appointment and during scheduled events.
- **Contact:** Reach out by phone at (616) 308-8493 or via email at graciousspacesfarm@gmail.com.

I encourage you to visit the Gracious Spaces Farm for some furry love!



KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Holiday Card CAMPAIGN

Thank you for your continued support of the Kent Medical Foundation. Your donations allow us to support nonprofit organizations focused on health and wellness throughout the West Michigan community.

At the suggestion of our dedicated donors, **KMF will discontinue the annual Holiday Card fundraising campaign** to save paper and postage. Instead, **donors can make tax-deductible online gifts using a QR code or link.** A list of donors will be shared in the *Bulletin* at the beginning of the following year, and an electronic receipt will be provided before year-end for tax purposes.

If you prefer to mail your donation, please note our new mailing address below. As always, donations are welcome throughout the year. Please contact Patricia Dalton, Executive Director, with any questions or concerns about this change. Thank you for your tremendous generosity and continued support.

KMF

WE HAVE
MOVED

Our phone numbers remain the same.

Phone: (616) 458-4157

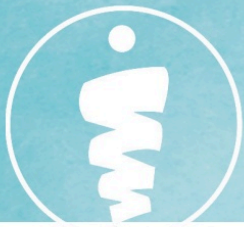
Cell: (616) 560-5336

OUR NEW MAILING ADDRESS

Kent Medical Foundation
3265 Walker Avenue NW, Suite G
Grand Rapids, MI 49544

KENT COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE

Connecting
and growing
for a healthier
Kent County.



heartbeat

What is The Kent County Medical Society Alliance?



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. We make a difference! Sound like a fit for you? We are always accepting new members! If you or someone you know is interested you can find us at kcmsalliance.org or on our Facebook page.

Trivia Night Success

Over 90 happy guests attended the KCMSA Trivia Night Event April 23, 2026 at the Corner Bar in Rockford. There was fun for all, tasty food, and a super FUNdraiser. **Our goal was \$25,000 but the event raised over \$28,000 to be used exclusively for Foundation mini-grants.** If you missed it, you missed a good one! If you would like to donate to the KCMSA Foundation mini-grant fund you can still do so at kcmsalliance.org/give The KCMSA Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization.



Thank You to Our Sponsors!

Platinum Sponsors

- Advanced Radiology Services, PC
- Pat & Blesie Beaumier
- Corewell Health
- Strategic Financial Group

Gold Sponsors

- Anonymous
- Kent County Medical Society
- Michigan State University College of Human Medicine Division of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging
- Trinity Health – Grand Rapids Medical Staff

Silver Sponsors

- Anonymous
- Ned & Nancy Fody
- Harvest Health Foods
- Legacy Trust
- Marcus & Suhair Muallem
- University of Michigan Health-West

We want to connect with you!

Join the Alliance online today at:
kcmsalliance.org

 Find us on
Facebook

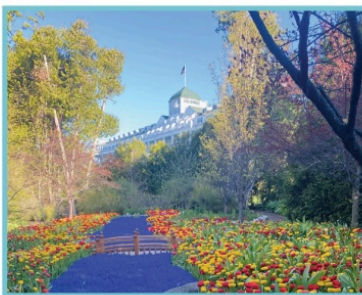
Event Recap spring 2025

May 14, 2026: Sip, Shop, and Support at the James

Members updated their wardrobes while benefitting the KCMSA Foundation. They also enjoyed refreshments and camaraderie. A percentage of the proceeds of the shopping event went to support KCMSA Foundation mini-grants.

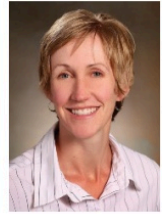
May 28-31, 2026: Michigan State Medical Society Alliance 100th Annual Meeting on Mackinac Island

KCMSA members joined Alliance members and their families from around the state for a weekend at the historic Grand Hotel for business meetings, excellent speakers, and fine dining. It was quite an event!



KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

KCHD Releases Interactive Reportable Disease Dashboard



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

Kristin Oldenberg, MD, FACOG

If you are a regular reader of the Kent County Health Department's contribution to the *Bulletin*, you've grown accustomed to the Notifiable Disease Report that accompanies our articles.

KCHD

The report provides data on the monthly incidence of 37 diseases that are required to be reported to local health departments by [Michigan's Communicable Disease Rules](#). In addition to the monthly case counts, the report includes the cumulative number of cases reported during the calendar year and the five-year median cumulative to offer a frame of comparison.

KCHD has recently made improvements to this monthly static report through the creation of an interactive Reportable Disease Dashboard. The new dashboard can be found on KCHD's website (www.kentcountymi.gov/260/Data-Reports) and contains several features that allow the user the opportunity to access more detailed information to meet their specific needs. This article provides some hints on how to navigate the dashboard, which contains three pages of information.

WHERE CAN I FIND THE NOTIFIABLE DISEASE REPORT?

The Notifiable Disease Report for the most recent full month can be found on the Previous Month page (Page 2 of 3). The report is like the one that has been routinely included in the Bulletin but includes a column on the 5-year monthly median, in addition to the 5-year cumulative year-to-date median.

The report can also be filtered by disease category (e.g., Foodborne, Vaccine Preventable) by clicking the Disease Group dropdown menu on the left side of the page and selecting the group(s) of interest. Archived files of past

monthly reports are available at the following link: www.kentcountymi.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=42

IS THERE INFORMATION ON DISEASE TRENDS?

The new dashboard enhances the static report by providing trend data on page 1 (Disease Trends). Like the Notifiable Disease Report on page 2, the trend data can also be filtered by disease category through the drop-down menu located above the chart legend. This drop-down allows data to be displayed by full categories (e.g., Foodborne) or selected individual diseases (e.g., Salmonellosis).

The table on the left side of the page displays aggregated monthly trend data for the selected disease or disease group for the current calendar year. If a disease group is selected, the second table provides current year case numbers for all diseases within that category.

The trend chart defaults to displaying 6 years of data; however, the display can be altered by using the Time Period Filter in the upper right corner to select the number of months or years to include in the chart.

WHAT IS THE DATA DICTIONARY PAGE?

While this page does not contain data, it provides information on common abbreviations and terms used throughout the dashboard and links to disease specific information from the Michigan Department of Health and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



DISEASE DASHBOARD CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Human Services and case definitions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

We hope this new dashboard proves to be useful for

health care providers throughout the county. If you have any questions or recommendations on how the dashboard could better serve your needs, please send an e-mail to CD_Epi@kentcountymi.gov.

KCHD

West Nile Detected; Prevention Remains Key

Through routine mosquito surveillance, the Kent County Health Department has confirmed the presence of West Nile virus in mosquito samples collected from two zip codes—49504 (Grand Rapids) and 49519 (Wyoming)—marking the first detections of the 2026 season.

“These findings reinforce that mosquitoes are active in our area and capable of spreading illness through their bites,” said Sara Simmonds, Director of the KCHD’s Environmental Health Division. “Simple precautions like applying insect repellent and getting rid of standing water around your home can go a long way in reducing your risk while still enjoying the outdoors.”

Transmitted to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes, WNV is the leading cause of mosquito-borne disease in the United States, [according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). Most people infected with the virus experience no symptoms, but

about one in five develop mild, flu-like illness—including fever, headache, body aches, or rash. In rare cases, WNV can lead to serious neurological complications.

Since there is no vaccine or specific treatment for WNV, the best way to protect yourself and your family when mosquitoes are present is by following these simple tips:

- Use insect repellent with 10-35% DEET
- Wear long sleeves and pants
- Avoid outdoor activity during dawn and dusk
- Eliminate standing water around your home
- Keep screens and gutters in good repair

KCHD’s Mosquito Surveillance Team will continue to monitor local mosquitoes for WNV, Eastern equine encephalitis virus, Jamestown Canyon virus, La Crosse virus, and St. Louis encephalitis virus through late September. To learn more about mosquitoes and the diseases they carry, please visit the [CDC’s website](#).

		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		June 2026
DISEASE	C=Confirmed P=Probable S=Suspect U=Unknown	This Month	June Cumulative YTD 2026	2021-2025 5-Year Median June
CAMPYLOBACTER	C,P	21	84	11
CANDIDA AURIS	C	0	1	0
CARBAPENEMASE PRODUCING ORGANISM	C	0	2	0
CHICKEN POX ^a	C,P	5	17	0
CHLAMYDIA	C,P,S,U	167	1,274	264
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	C,P	1	8	2
CORONAVIRUS NOVEL, COVID-19	C,P,S	20	3,155	414
HIV	C	4	25	4
SHIGA TOXIN PRODUCING E. COLI	C,P,S	2	17	2
GIARDIASIS	C,P	2	8	2
GONORRHEA	C,P,S,U	57	420	89
H. INFLUENZAE DISEASE, INV	C,P	1	7	0
HEPATITIS A	C	0	0	0
HEPATITIS B (Acute)	C	1	2	0
HEPATITIS C (Acute)	C	0	3	0
HEPATITIS C (Chronic/Unknown)	C	4	31	7
HISTOPLASMOSIS	C,P	1	12	5
INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS ^b	C,P,S	51	13,725	274
LEGIONELLOSIS	C	0	7	3
LYME DISEASE	C,P,S	38	58	28
MEASLES	C,P	0	0	0
MENINGITIS, ASEPTIC	C	0	5	0
MENINGITIS, BACTERIAL, OTHER ^c	C	0	4	0
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, INV	C,P,S	0	0	0
MUMPS	C,P,S	0	1	0
PERTUSSIS	C,P	4	11	0
SALMONELLOSIS	C,P	14	44	9
SHIGELLOSIS	C,P	0	10	2
STREP, GRP A, INV	C	2	27	3
STREP PNEUMO, INV	C,P	1	23	2
STREPTOCOCCAL TOXIC SHOCK	C,P	0	0	0
SYPHILIS (Congenital)	C,P,S	0	3	0
SYPHILIS (Primary & Secondary)	C,P,S	7	26	4
TOXIC SHOCK	C,P	0	0	0
TUBERCULOSIS	C	0	7	1
WEST NILE VIRUS	C,P	0	0	0
YERSINIA ENTERITIS	C,P	0	6	1

a. Chickenpox cases are reported primarily from schools. Confirmed and probable cases are included. b. Includes "Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)" and lab-confirmed influenza. ILI cases have flu-like symptoms and are reported primarily by schools. 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

Rabid Bat Detection Prompts Public Health Reminder

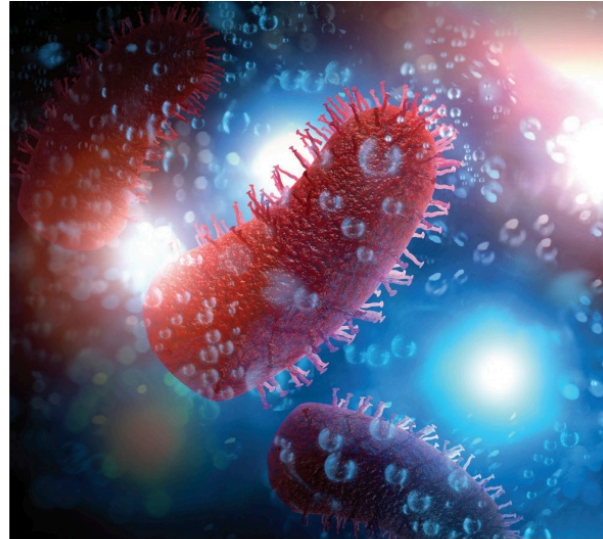
Kent County Health Department (KCHD) and Kent County Animal Shelter (KCAS) are urging residents to take precautions after confirming the county's first rabies-positive animal of the year—a bat. Rabies is a deadly but preventable disease that can spread to people and pets through the bite or scratch of an infected animal. Because bats can enter homes undetected, it's important for residents to understand the risks and take appropriate precautions.

“During the summer, bats can enter homes while seeking safe, warm places to give birth and raise their young. Young bats may also accidentally find their way inside as they learn to fly and navigate on their own,” said Cathy Armstrong, Communicable Disease Program Supervisor. “If it's unclear whether a person or pet may have had direct contact with a bat, testing the bat is the best way to rule out any risk of rabies exposure. Because bats have very small teeth, a bite may not always be obvious in situations such as when someone was sleeping.”

SAFE HANDLING AND TESTING PROCEDURES

Kent County residents should take the following steps if a bat enters their home:

1. Safely capture the bat for potential testing. Wearing thick gloves, long sleeves, and pants, use a container and piece of cardboard to secure the bat in a cool, quiet place.
2. Call the KCHD at (616) 632-7228 for a risk assessment to determine if the bat should be tested. Testing is only done if KCHD staff identifies a potential human risk.
3. If approved, [bring the bat to the KCAS](#) for testing. Bats arriving before 2:30 p.m. are typically sent for testing that same afternoon with results usually available by the next business day. Bats arriving after 2:30 p.m. or on Fridays may take an extra business day.
4. Wait for results. KCHD staff will call with test results and instructions if post-exposure treatment (PEP) is needed. In addition to these steps, residents can take proactive measures to reduce the risk of rabies in their homes and protect their family and pets:
 - Never touch or handle bats or other wild animals.
 - Do not keep wild animals as pets or attempt to



This 3D illustration depicts the rabies virus. A rabies-positive bat confirmed in Kent County earlier this summer underscores the importance of understanding potential exposure risks.

rehabilitate them yourself, as they can carry rabies without showing signs of illness.

- Keep pets' rabies vaccinations up to date.
- Secure living spaces to prevent wildlife from entering your home.
- Stay aware of potential encounters with bats or other wildlife.

“Even indoor cats and dogs can be at risk if a bat enters the home,” said Angela Hollinshead, Director, KCAS. “Keeping pets current on rabies vaccinations is the simplest and most effective way to protect them and the whole household.”

Over the past five years, there have been 16 rabies-positive animals reported in Kent County—including this year's and two in 2025. Statewide, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has confirmed [13 rabid animals](#) so far in 2026.

For more information about rabies and how to protect your family and pets, please visit the [MDHHS website](#).

MSU COLLEGE OF HUMAN MEDICINE

Celebrating Match Day and the Class of 2026



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

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine celebrated the commencement of our 2026 graduates on May 9 at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Graduation Day is always a joyous occasion, and this year was no different, including a wonderful human-interest story about one of our Grand Rapids campus graduates who matched to the Trinity Health Family Medicine Program.

Jacob Charron took the stage with his spouse (a College of Human Medicine graduate from the Class of 2025) and their twin boys, Matthew and Mark. It made for a heartwarming story that went “viral.” To view the video, click [here](#). The story surpassed 30 million views across the college’s social media channels and earned coverage both locally and nationally from *People* magazine, WZZM and many additional outlets.



Graduate Jacob Charron, center, celebrates with his wife, Dr. Alexandra Charron, and their twin sons.

MATCH DAY SUCCESS

We were once again very proud of our students’ overall success in the NRMP Match. There were a total of 178 seniors pursuing residency appointments in the 2026 class, and 173 (97%) secured residency appointments and their residency training on July 1.

The top specialty placements in rank order by percentage for 2026 are listed below.

- **Internal Medicine:** 19.1% (33 seniors)
- **Family Medicine:** 16.8% (29 seniors)
- **Emergency Medicine:** 12.7% (22 seniors)
- **Psychiatry:** 9.2% (16 seniors)
- **Surgery:** 7.5% (13 seniors)
- **Obstetrics & Gynecology:** 6.9% (12 seniors)
- **Anesthesiology:** 6.4% (11 seniors)

The College of Human Medicine continues to have graduates who help address the shortage of primary care physicians in the state.

- 39.3% of the 2026 seniors are entering a primary care residency (i.e., Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Medicine/Pediatrics, and Pediatrics). In 2025, 38.9% of

the graduates entered primary care residencies.

- 58% of the seniors will remain in Michigan for their residency training in 2026. Of those staying in Michigan—38% will be primary care.

ONE TEAM, ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE

President Kevin Guskiewicz released the final reports from the four task forces formed to explore a new vision for the MSU health colleges. Dr. Guskiewicz also announced his plan to move forward with this initiative, which envisions unifying the College of Human Medicine and the College of Osteopathic Medicine into a single, integrated college offering both MD and DO degrees. We anticipate that work will continue to move forward cautiously, with a timeline of 18-24 months for the implementation task force to complete its work. The two colleges will, however, continue to maintain their individual curricula, as required to maintain accreditation with different accrediting bodies. The College of Human Medicine does not, therefore, anticipate substantive changes to our relationships with affiliated healthcare providers and systems throughout the state.



A NEW SEASON OF MEMBERSHIP IS JUST AHEAD

*The KCMS and KCOA dues cycles begin soon.
Please make sure we have your current email address
so you receive your 2027 dues invoice, whether you
are an individual physician member or part of a group practice.*

**Your membership helps us to continue to provide local meetings,
social gatherings and CME opportunities throughout 2027.
Contact Patricia Dalton, Executive Director, at patricia@kcms.org
with questions or to update your contact information.**

*Thank you for your continued
membership and support!*