

Having a Ball

West Michigan physicians and their families enjoy a night at the ballpark!



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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

- Gregory J. Forzley, MD — *Editor*
- Michelle M. Condon, MD
- Patrick J. Droste, MS, MD
- Herman C. Sullivan, MD

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AFFILIATED AGENCIES

- Barry County Medical Society
- Kent County Medical Society Alliance
- Kent Medical Foundation
- Ottawa County Medical Society



Thank you to all the West Michigan doctors who gathered with their families at LCMU Ballpark to enjoy the weather, RBIs, and music as the West Michigan Whitecaps played the Great Lakes Loons. The evening was topped off with a brilliant fireworks display under the light of the Harvest Moon!

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KCOA

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Cover Photo

Physicians from Kent, Ottawa, Barry, Kalamazoo, and Muskegon gathered for one of the final West Michigan Whitecaps baseball games of the 2022 season.

CONTRIBUTORS

- 18** Kent Medical Foundation
- 21** MSU - College of Human Medicine
- 22** Alliance Heartbeat
- 24** Kent County Health Department

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KCMS MEETINGS OF INTEREST

DECEMBER 1, 2022

RESOLUTION BRAINSTORMING SESSION

6:30pm | Virtual

DECEMBER 31, 2022

KCMS MEMBERSHIP DUES PAYMENT DUE

JANUARY 19, 2023

KCMS 120TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERSHIP

More details to follow

FEBRUARY 2023

KENT, BARRY, OTTAWA & KALAMAZOO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date pending

MARCH 1, 2023

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT RESOLUTIONS FOR HOUSE OF DELEGATES

MARCH 2023

REGIONAL DIRECTORS' BRIEFING

Date pending

APRIL 22-23, 2023

MSMS HOUSE OF DELEGATES

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OUR MISSION:

The Kent County Medical Society is a professional association, uniting the physicians in Kent County into a mutual, neutral organization; preserving and promoting the health of the citizens of Kent County, the physician/patient relationship, the medical profession, and the interests of physicians.

Visit us

For event details, check out our website kcms.org



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It's Time to Renew Your Membership for 2023

Member dues notices will be arriving in your email inbox or home mailbox soon. Your renewed membership in KCMS enables our Board to continue work to improve health care in our communities.

Did you know that you can save KCMS and MSMS valuable administrative resources by paying your dues promptly? Your 2023 membership dues are due by December 31.

RENEWING ONLINE IS EASY

Renew today by visiting MSMS.org/renew and following the prompts. As a thank you, all physicians who pay their 2023 dues in full by November 30 will receive a \$100 coupon good towards a CME course at an MSMS educational session.

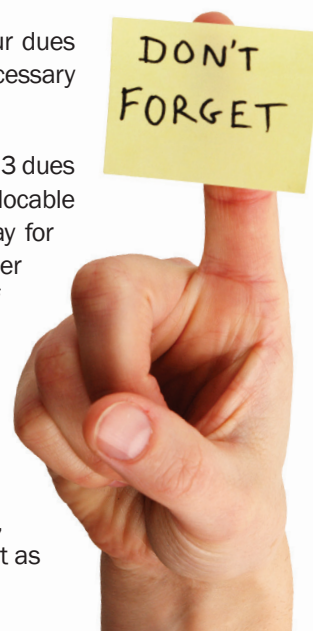
2023 DUES DEDUCTIBILITY

Contributions or gifts to the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) and Kent County Medical Society (KCMS) are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for federal income

tax purposes. However, a portion of your dues may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.

MSMS estimates that 18.9% of your 2023 dues will be nondeductible as this portion is allocable to lobbying as defined by law. If you pay for your 2023 MSMS dues prior to December 31, 2022, you may deduct up to 81.1% of that as a business expense.

KCMS estimates that 2% of your 2023 dues will be nondeductible as this portion is allocable to lobbying as defined by law. If you pay for your 2023 KCMS dues prior to December 31, 2022, you may deduct up to 98% of that as a business expense.



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- Professional/Medical Staff Issues
- Contractual Relations
- Managed Care/Integrated Delivery Systems
- Regulatory Enforcement
- Health Care Privacy
- Bond Financing
- Certificate of Need
- Reimbursement Issues
- Government/Legislative
- Accreditation, Licensing, Certification
- Antitrust Issues
- Patient Care Issues
- Quality Assurance and Risk Management

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2022

year in review

BARRY COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY



Belén Amat, MD
2022 KCMS President
& 2022 Barry County
Medical Society President

Fostering Relationships

I have enjoyed leading the Kent County Medical Society—meeting our goals to partner with Regional Societies in Barry County, Ottawa County, and Kalamazoo County.

Our work of collaboration with neighboring county societies has been successful in confirming that more physicians are able to receive the information on member benefits—whether this quarterly magazine; online email messages reminding you of deadlines, CME opportunities and other critical information for you and your practice team.

In the past few years, we have expanded the West Michigan Legislative Committee to include Kent County's neighboring Ottawa, Barry, Kalamazoo in addition to our Kent County Osteopathic Association colleagues. Led by Committee Chair, Jayne E. Courts, MD, the expansion to include regional input and education with legislators has been well received by an increased number of physicians attending this meeting. In addition, more medical disciplines are represented.

In case you are not aware, Kent County has many representatives on the Michigan State Medical Society Board, and physician members representing you and other regional physicians at the American Medical Association level.

This year at the House of Delegates, we focused our efforts on introducing resolutions that had been held behind due to Covid and the house being virtual. We also established new relationships with new members and other delegations from Grand Traverse, Muskegon, and Shiawassee counties. By fostering these relationships and tapping the expertise of our colleagues across county lines, we can hone our proposals and increase their chances for adoption.

Feel free to join in the KCMS Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 19, 2023. Details will be announced soon.

Plan to make time for the professional societies that work for you—physicians who guide patients and their families to healthy futures. Stay well!

Belén Amat, MD

*Kent County Medical Society President
& Barry County Medical Society President*



**KCMS 120TH
ANNUAL
MEETING**
OF THE MEMBERSHIP

Thursday, January 19, 2023 | 6:30-8:30pm

SAVE THE DATE! Stay tuned for location information and agenda details.



Prompt Payment of Your Dues is Appreciated

Member dues notices will be arriving in your inbox or mailbox soon. Did you know that you can save KCMS and MSMS valuable administrative resources by paying your dues promptly?

The KCMS and MSMS are the leading voices in Michigan on public and private policies affecting physician practice. Their mission is to support physicians in their calling to care for their patients and to enhance the health of Michigan citizens. The best support of the initiatives and priorities are driven by a diverse membership. Through members' input, the Society can provide opportunities for involvement, advocacy for members, and support for the health of Kent County and Michigan citizens.

Are You Curious About Serving as a Delegate or Alternate Delegate?

Positions are available on the Kent Delegation to participate in the 2023 House of Delegates to be held on Saturday, April 22 and Sunday, April 23 in Dearborn, Michigan. Join the conversation at the KCMS Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 19, and plan to attend the related meetings. Your participation is valued. **Contact Executive Director Patricia Dalton if you have questions at patricia@kcms.org.**

Check Your Referral Guide Information

Have you updated your West Michigan Doctor Referral Guide listing? If you have yet to do so, please visit www.WestMichiganDoctors.com and check to be sure your listing information is up to date. **Contact the office at (616) 458-4157 or kcmsoffice@kcms.org with any changes.**



Pay your dues before 2023 and get \$100 off a CME course!

Paying your dues before December 31, 2022 saves administrative resources and earns you a \$100 coupon good towards a CME course at an MSMS educational session!

Organized medicine makes it possible for physicians to have access to the tools and information necessary to stay in control of their career as a physician—whether managing their own practice, their career within a hospital setting or leading new physicians in their career path.

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KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES SEEKING COMMUNITY MEMBERS, PHYSICIANS

Your Leadership, Guidance is Needed

The Board provides leadership and direction to ensure Kent Medical Foundation (KMF) upholds its mission and vision. This may include providing direction in staff activities, operations, gift and/or grant seeking and advocacy for the organizational direction.

Primary responsibilities of each Board Member are to:

- Serve as a self-disciplining body that has the responsibility to set policy for KMF's overall guidance and operations.
- Attend 4 Board Meetings per year.
- Allocate funds toward projects and programs, appropriate grant applications.
- Assist in raising funds and awareness through networking with physicians and physician families.
- Promote public knowledge of KMF and its mission and goals.
- Understand and support the mission of KMF and be an advocate to what it represents.
- Interpret the needs of KMF and its leadership.
- Be informed about issues affecting health care, medical education, research programs, and philanthropy.
- Require accountability of the organization, its staff and its practices.

Kent County Medical Society

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Function: To review editorial content and to review the layout and design of the *Bulletin*. Assist the KCMS Staff with editing of the quarterly magazine, the *Bulletin*, via email and phone.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Function: To be patient advocates and to educate area legislators of the effects of proposed legislation on the practice of medicine. The committee meets at 12 noon on designated Mondays of selected months and welcomes involvement by elected officials. These are held virtually or via hybrid of in-person and virtual option meetings. Meetings usually are held quarterly but the committee of physicians and legislators at times may meet more frequently due to time-sensitive topics.

Legislators and physicians from Kent, Barry, Ottawa and Kalamazoo counties are invited to join these meetings.

PEER REVIEW COMMITTEE

Function: The Peer Review Committee shall hear and review all matters pertaining to problems between complainants and members of this Society which shall be brought before it in writing, or in person and subsequently reduced to writing. The committee meets as needed.

MSMS House of Delegates Delegation Guidelines

To give you an overview of the volunteer commitment to the Society, please review the outlined information. You will join more than 300 of your colleagues in discussing, debating and voting on the major policy issues facing Michigan physicians.

The following descriptions apply to the in-person meeting experience to share a sense of what to expect at the HOD weekend. Participants will be advised well in advance as to the meeting format, location of meetings, etc.

PRE-HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETINGS

These meetings may be in person or virtual meetings.

- In early January or at the KCMS Annual meeting in January, a brief meeting of the Kent Delegation will be convened to discuss the timing of a Resolution Brainstorming Session and the Regional Director's Briefing as well as other suggestions on areas that can be improved in medicine.
- Late Fall/Early Winter Brainstorming Session for potential resolutions (optional).
- Regional Directors' Briefing Dinner with Kent County's Delegation and Delegates from Ottawa, Barry, Ionia/Montcalm Counties (within our neighboring counties/region in Michigan). You are highly encouraged to attend this preparatory session with members of MSMS and the Delegation.

The Region 8 Delegation (Kent/Ottawa/Muskegon/Ionia/Montcalm) and Region 5 (Barry/Kalamazoo) meet, along with interested members, physicians, students and residents, Alliance representatives and medical office managers, to produce suggested Resolutions that could change legislation that affects physicians and their patients. Committees are formed to review Resolutions by West Michigan Resolution authors.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

YOUR LEADERSHIP, GUIDANCE IS NEEDED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

ATTENDANCE

Delegates are asked to make every effort to attend/participate in all meetings to best represent the County Delegation.

MEETING ONE OF THE HOUSE

Saturday morning begins with an 8:30am caucus breakfast meeting in the hotel; and the Region 5/Region 8 Delegates meet to review submitted resolutions. The Delegations and Reference Committees meet mid-morning until noon on Saturday. There may be optional CME and AMA update meetings in the afternoon. Delegates are encouraged to vote for MSMS officer/candidate positions mid-day.

The Delegates then proceed to Reference Committee meetings to listen to testimony and presentations by Resolution authors and Michigan Delegates. Reference Committees will meet to take testimony on the Resolutions and Board Action Reports.

- Reference Committee A: Medical Care Delivery
- Reference Committee B: Legislation
- Reference Committee C: Internal Affairs, Bylaws, and Rules
- Reference Committee D: Public Health
- Reference Committee E: Scientific and Educational Affairs

MEETING TWO OF THE HOUSE

Sunday morning begins early (6:45am) with a West Michigan Delegation breakfast meeting to update the status on Resolutions from Saturday's meetings. The entire House will consider recommendations of each Reference Committee. Sunday morning is dedicated to reviewing the activity of the Reference Committees and Delegations may choose to extract particular Resolutions to readdress the Reference Committee's decision. At that time, any individual Delegate/Alternate may speak for/or against any recommendation. The full House of Delegates will then vote to make the final decision on any extracted Resolutions. The meeting usually ends by 1:00pm.

Thank you for your interest. The above plans and times may vary, and Delegates and Alternates will be updated accordingly prior to the HOD weekend. Please contact Patricia Dalton if you have any questions at (616) 560-5336 or patricia@kcms.org.



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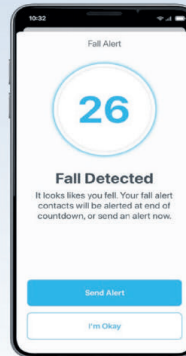
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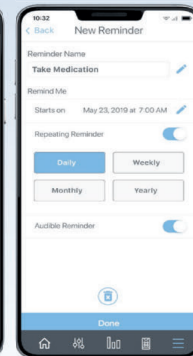


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Doctors Receive Return on Investment of Dues

Legislative Committee Chair, Jayne Courts, MD, is excited about the work of physicians representing Kent, Ottawa, Kalamazoo, Barry, and surrounding area counties. These physicians have represented their colleagues and have taken time from busy schedules during the pandemic to educate and engage local legislators regarding prior authorization.

Dr. Courts recently served as the Chair of the MSMS Committee on State Legislation and Regulations. Significant improvements in the Prior Authorization process will be in effect in June of 2023. Physician offices will be relieved of time-consuming phone calls, and patients will be relieved of waiting for the approval of insurance coverage for necessary care. Thank you to the physicians who placed calls to legislators, sent letters or e-mails, or attended meetings and provided examples of patient and office staff concerns.

As Dr. Courts' leadership term as Chair of the MSMS Committee on State Legislation and Regulations ended, she shared that she is honored to have served in this capacity on behalf of MSMS as well as Kent County, and she is grateful the Prior Authorization process has been significantly improved. She further noted her appreciation of the important work of Members and the investment of Members' dues that helps support legislative advocacy. Without the Prior Authorization changes, medical office staff would be continuing to wait on telephone lines instead of providing medical care and compassionate treatment for patients.

Senate Bill 247

Over the course of the last three and a half years, MSMS and the Health Can't Wait Coalition has worked closely with the legislature, regulators, and stakeholders on ways to streamline, standardize and make the prior authorization process more transparent, clinically appropriate, and evidence based.

Senate Bill 247 Prior Authorization Reforms

Require an insurer to make available, by June 1, 2023, a standardized electronic prior authorization request transaction process.

Require prior authorization requirements to be based on peer-reviewed clinical review criteria.

Require an insurer to post on its website if it implemented a new prior authorization requirement or restriction or amended an existing requirement or restriction.

Require an insurer to notify, on issuing a medical benefit denial, the health professional and insured or enrollee of certain information, including the right to appeal the adverse determination, and require an appeal of the denial to be reviewed by a health professional.

For a medical benefit that is not a prescription drug benefit, an insurer shall notify contracted health care providers via the insurer's provider portal of the new or amended requirement or restriction not less than 60 days before the requirement or restriction is implemented.

For a prescription drug benefit, an insurer shall notify contracted healthcare providers via the insurer's provider portal of the new or amended requirement or restriction not less than 45 days before the requirement or restriction is implemented.

Prohibits an insurer or its designee utilization review organization from affirming the denial of an appeal unless the appeal was reviewed by a licensed physician.

For urgent requests, beginning June 1, 2023, the prior authorization is considered granted if the insurer fails to act within 72 hours of the original submission. For non-urgent requests, beginning June 1, 2023, the prior authorization is considered granted if the insurer fails to act within 9 calendar days of the original submission. After May 31, 2024, a non-urgent prior authorization is considered granted if the insurer fails to act within 7 calendar days of the original submission.

Requires an insurer to adopt a program that promotes the modification of prior authorization requirements of certain prescription drugs, medical care, or related benefits, based on the performance of the healthcare providers with respect to adherence to nationally recognized evidence-based medical guidelines and other quality criteria (i.e., BCBSM "gold carding" program).

In Memoriam

KCMS

ANDREW J. MEHOLIC, MD

Dr. Andrew Meholic Jr. passed away on October 7, 2022. He earned his medical degree from Marquette University Medical School in Milwaukee, WI. Dr. Meholic completed an internship at St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Rapids and was then drafted for service into the United States Army. He completed a tour of duty in Vietnam, where he received a Bronze Star. After being honorably discharged at the rank of Captain, Dr. Meholic continued his medical studies as a radiology resident at the University of Chicago. He then returned to Grand Rapids, at St. Mary's Hospital, before moving to Big Rapids and Mecosta County General Hospital, where he became the Department Head of Radiology. Dr. Meholic transitioned from private practice to academia, completing a fellowship at Michigan State University. Moving to Albuquerque, he joined the staff at University of New Mexico Radiology Department to teach radiology residents where he was also on the staff at the VA Hospital. Dr. Meholic retired in 2012 and returned to Michigan to live full time.

PHILLIP L. ROSLANIEC, MD

Dr. Phillip Roslaniec passed away on October 10, 2022. A native of Grand Rapids, MI, he practiced Internal Medicine in Grand Rapids for 37 years. He earned his medical degree from Wayne State University and completed his internship and internal medicine residency at Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital. Dr. Roslaniec practiced internal medicine for a number of years at Internal Medicine of West Michigan practicing with Drs. John Marvin, Jon Gans, Mary Richardson, Elizabeth Kozak and David Listello.

KAM

JOHN E. FRANCIS, MD

Dr. John Francis, Jr., passed away on October 28, 2022. He graduated from Gonzaga College High School in 1958 and received his undergraduate and medical school degrees from Georgetown University in 1962 and 1966. Dr. Francis started his internal medicine internship at Bellevue Hospital in New York City but was called to serve in Vietnam in 1968. While he was serving in the Army, he attained the rank of Major,

and was awarded the Bronze Star. Upon his return, Dr. Francis moved to the Atlanta area, where he completed his internal medicine residency, and was a cardiology fellow at Emory University. In 1974, Dr. Francis moved to Kalamazoo, MI, where he co-founded the cardiology practice that would later become the Heart Institute of Michigan.

MARILYN MITTENTHAL, DO

Dr. Marilyn Mittenenthal passed away on October 16, 2022. She lived in Kalamazoo for 22 years, working most of that time as a psychiatrist in private practice. Dr. Mittenenthal received her bachelor's degree in psychology from Vassar College in upstate New York and then earned her medical degree from the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Michigan State University. Following her residency in psychiatry at the University of Michigan, Dr. Mittenenthal served patients for 38 years in Illinois, Kansas, and Michigan and was truly compassionate and dedicated to their well-being.

PAUL L. VANDENBRINK, MD

Dr. Paul VanDenBrink passed away on September 4, 2022. Dr. VanDenBrink was a veteran serving in the U.S. Army following the Korean War. A graduate of Hope College and the University of Michigan School of Medicine, he pursued his internship at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids and his Urological Residency at the Cleveland Clinic before entering his medical practice in Kalamazoo in 1966. He was a member of the Kalamazoo County Medical Society, Michigan State Medical Society, American Medical Association, and Fellow American College of Surgeons. During his medical career, Dr. VanDenBrink was elected as Chief of Staff of Bronson Hospital. He served the community for nearly 40 years until finally retiring in 2004. Dr. VanDenBrink also served as a Board Member of the Pine Rest Association, Heritage Community, and the Kalamazoo Symphony.

RONALD L. VANDERLUGT, MD

Dr. Ronald VanderLugt passed away on September 10, 2022. He graduated from Kalamazoo Christian High School, class of 1974, sought higher education at Calvin College, and received his medical degree from the University of Michigan. After completing a residency in ophthalmology at the University of Maryland, Dr. VanderLugt returned to Kalamazoo in 1989 and opened up a private practice at Borgess Medical Center.

Remembering

Dr. Margaret “Peggy” Elizabeth Thompson



Margaret “Peggy” Elizabeth Thompson, MD

Margaret “Peggy” Elizabeth Thompson, MD, passed away on September 24, 2022, surrounded by her loving family, husband David E. Thompson, MD, and their two daughters Margaret “Sarah” Thompson of Grand Rapids, and Stephanie Ruth Thompson, RN, of Ann Arbor.

Dr. Thompson was an integral part of the MSU College of Human Medicine community since 1990 when she began teaching medical students and residents as a family physician in Grand Rapids. She served as lead clerkship director for the family medicine clerkship, was instrumental in the expansion of the College of Human Medicine in Grand Rapids and served as the community associate dean of the Grand Rapids campus for ten years.

During her long and successful career, Dr. Thompson served in many leadership roles for the college including assistant dean for the clinical curriculum, associate dean for community academic programs, and interim associate dean for academic affairs. More than anything, she was always ready to step up to solve a problem, to help a student, or to create an opportunity for others. This career-defining trait allowed so many throughout the

college to benefit from her wisdom, grace, and kindness.

Dr. Thompson graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor of Science degree in biochemistry and molecular biology, and she received her medical degree from the University of Michigan medical school. She co-authored numerous medical articles on medical education and co-authored a chapter on nutrition in a leading Family Practice textbook. Dr. Thompson was the recipient of Outstanding Faculty awards and was a Fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

With a passion for teaching and working with medical students, Dr. Thompson approached each student encounter with extreme kindness and respect. During her illness she encountered several former students who became her physicians, and she was proud of each one.

MSU-CHM scholarship recognizes Thompson’s dedication to students

If you'd like to contribute to the Dr. Margaret Thompson Endowed Scholarship in Human Medicine, please click [here](#).

When she retired in 2022, Dr. Thompson’s colleagues established a tribute fund to recognize her deep commitment to supporting students. When Dr. Thompson learned about this special honor, she expressed her desire for the recipient of this fund be a student who demonstrates enthusiasm and aptitude for learning a variety of subjects and disciplines— all qualities that make a good primary care physician. It was also her preference for the scholarship recipient to exhibit a desire to practice medicine in Michigan, which reflects the passion she had for this state.

More than anything, she was always ready to step up to solve a problem, to help a student, or to create an opportunity for others. This career-defining trait allowed so many throughout the college to benefit from her wisdom, grace, and kindness.

CME Opportunities

Implicit Bias Training

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) now requires implicit bias training for physicians (and other health care professionals), effective June 1, 2022. The requirements apply to both new applicants as well as those renewing their existing licenses or registrations.

An applicant for license renewal shall have completed a minimum of 1 hour of implicit bias training for each year of the applicant's license or registration cycle. An applicant for new licensure, both limited and medical, shall have completed a minimum of 2 hours of implicit bias training within the 5 years immediately preceding issuance of the license or registration.

Physicians will need to report implicit bias credits when they renew their license. Those who renewed in January 2022, needed no training. Training that was taken prior to June 1, 2021, and within the license cycle that is up for renewal, qualifies toward the requirement for renewals.

Renewal time frame	Training hours needed
June 1, 2021–May 31, 2022	None
June 1, 2022–May 31, 2023	1 hour
June 1, 2023–May 31, 2024	2 hours
June 1, 2024–May 31, 2025	3 hours

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEDICINE: IMPLICIT BIAS

November 30, 2022

Live virtual | 2 hours Implicit Bias

REDUCING UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

November 30, 2022

Live virtual | 2 hours Implicit Bias

GRAND ROUNDS LIVE WEBINAR

MDHHS Year in Review from Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian

December 14, 2022 | Noon–12:45pm

THE HEALTH CAN'T WAIT ACT

New Changes to the Prior Authorization Process

December 14, 2022 | 1-2pm

MSMS On-Demand Webinars

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- **Decision-Making Capacity**
- **Just Caring: Physicians and Non-Adherent Patients**
- **Reclaiming the Borders of Medicine: Futility, Non-Beneficial Treatment, and Physician Autonomy**
- **Research Ethics**

PAIN AND SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT

- **Naloxone Prescribing**

\$50 members/\$75 non-members

CME: .75

- **Balancing Pain Treatment and Legal Responsibilities** (Meets the new one hour minimum of controlled substance prescribing training)

\$100 members/\$150 non-members

CME: 3

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Join Us

KCOA MEETINGS OF INTEREST

FEBRUARY 2023

**KENT, BARRY, OTTAWA & KALAMAZOO
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

Date pending

MOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES RESOLUTIONS DUE

Date pending

APRIL 29, 2023

MOA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

9am | Virtual

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023

MOA 2023 AUTUMN CONVENTION

Amway Grand Plaza Hotel | Grand Rapids, MI



Tax Deductibility of Your Dues as a Business Expense

Kent County Osteopathic Association estimates that 1% of your 2023 paid membership dues will be nondeductible as this portion is related to lobbying (as defined by law). If you pay your 2023 KCOA dues prior to December 31, 2022, you may deduct up to 99% of that amount as a business expense.

2022

year in review

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Adam Wolfe, DO
2022 KCOA President,
Board of Directors

Working for You

Today's weather indicates a lot of snow is headed our way—which, as a long-time resident of the state of Michigan, is not a surprise, especially in November.

The changes in seasons and schedules cause us to look back at how the weeks, months and (eventually the year) pass so quickly. We recognize the good and the bad—and we become hopeful that good things can continue for 2023 and that we may learn from what can be improved upon.

With many concerns highlighting physician happiness, there are articles that highlight consistently noted challenges that physicians deal with, which cause dissatisfaction:

- **Less time with patients—the electronic medical record**
- **Regulatory requirements**
- **Medical staffing—finding enough physicians**
- **Ethical dilemmas**
- **Physician wellbeing**
- **Pandemic fallout and ongoing supply chain**
- **Growing telemedicine emphasis**

While organized medicine cannot fix everything, I can assure you, your colleagues are working to resolve many of these issues or at least,

While organized medicine cannot fix everything, I can assure you, your colleagues are working to resolve many of these issues or at least, improve them for our members.

Through regional partnerships with the West Michigan Osteopathic Association, Michigan Osteopathic Association and Kent County Medical Society, the KCOA continues to work to improve these conditions, while also educating and enlightening our regional legislators on the importance of spending time with physicians—to clarify these concerns and assist in the resolutions or proposed options.

Our work to push back on some of the above issues is only strengthened by our members' support, attention, and energy. We appreciate the discussion and exchange in proposing options to improve the environment in which we all practice.

Collectively, Osteopathic and Allopathic physicians can join the conversation around the table and provide their personal suggestions for improvements to our profession.

Wishing you and yours a beautiful and safe holiday season.

Adam Wolfe, DO
KCOA President

Members Participate in MOA Autumn Scientific Convention

The 2022 MOA Autumn Scientific Convention was held once again at the beautiful Amway Grand Plaza in downtown Grand Rapids. It was great seeing our KCOA members participate in the different CME sessions and events.



Jim Mitton, DO, and MOA Speaker of the House Craig Bethune, DO.



Ken Kendall, DO



Thanks for visiting our exhibitor's table and for your continued support!

Edward Lee, DO, and Shelley Drew, DO

KCOA

Check Your Referral Guide Information

Have you updated your West Michigan Doctor Referral Guide listing?

If you have yet to do so, please visit www.WestMichiganDoctors.com and check to be sure your listing information is up to date.

Contact the office at (616) 458-4157 or kcmsoffice@kcms.org with any changes.

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2022

year in review



KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION



Jayne E. Courts, MD
2022 Kent Medical
Foundation, Board Chair

60 Years of Investing in a Healthy Community — *Thank You for Caring!*

I have been honored to serve as the President of the Kent Medical Foundation this past year. As 2022 draws to a close, I thought that a historical look back at KMF as we look ahead to 2023 might be interesting.

Kent Medical Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Kent County Medical Society that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of all people in Kent County. Established in 1961, the Kent Medical Foundation initially provided educational financial assistance to medical students and physicians in order to further the development of Kent County and West Michigan as an outstanding medical community. In 2009, the Kent Medical Foundation promoted a revised focus to enhance its support of the following areas: community service projects, youth health education, and research grants for academic presentations.

In the past 60 years, the Kent Medical Foundation has provided approximately \$1 million in medical school loans to physicians, many of whom have chosen West Michigan for their practice location. The Foundation has also given support to health-focused programs by partnering with local non-profit groups. Our focus has been to provide support to local non-profit groups who provide programs for low-income students and their families to help these students and families gain valuable knowledge about their health. The Foundation does its work with the guidance of a volunteer Board of Directors that raises funds and awareness for the Foundation and distributes grants annually.

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED IN 2022

Due to the generosity of physicians in Kent County, we were able to support the following organizations and healthy initiatives in 2022:

- **Calvin HEALTH Camp**
- **Comprehensive Therapy Center**
- **Exalta Health Childhood Obesity Initiative**
- **Gilda's Club Grand Rapids**
- **Grief Seminar: Preparing the Pathway to Healing for the Bereaved and the Professional**
- **Hand2Hand**

We hope you will show your support for physician colleagues and our local efforts to improve West Michigan through healthy initiatives. We are seeking donations through our annual holiday card fundraiser so that we can work together to support health and wellness in our community. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact us at (616) 458-4157 or at kcmsoffice@kcms.org.

Sincerely,

Jayne E. Courts, MD, FACP

President, Kent Medical Foundation Board of Trustees

In the past 60 years, Kent Medical Foundation has provided approximately \$1 million in medical school loans and supported programs that help students gain valuable knowledge about their health.

Consider Supporting KMF, KCMS Alliance with Donation

Charitable giving is an important part of the legacy you choose to leave. At this time of year, many of us are considering our year-end philanthropic support. Please consider one of the non-profit charitable organizations associated with Kent County Medical Society. Checks should be endorsed to the specific agency you wish to support:

Kent Medical Foundation

KCMS Alliance Foundation

MAIL YOUR DONATION TODAY

C/O Kent County Medical Society Office
233 East Fulton, Suite 224; Grand Rapids, MI 49503.
Organization specified in your donation will issue a charitable receipt.

**For more information on charitable giving,
please contact KCMS at (616) 458-4157.**

As 501(c)(3) organizations, your gift is tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Did you know that, making charitable contributions through your will allows you to support the organizations you care about, while maximizing the tax benefits to your estate. You may make a bequest to any of these charities as well. You may also do so by creating a new will, providing an amendment to your existing will or naming one of them in your living trust.

To include a charitable contribution in your will simply use the following sample language:

"I give, devise, and bequeath _____ [\$ amount] or [% of estate] _____ to _____ (charity)."

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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 November 28 will be included in the annual Holiday Card, which will be mailed the first week in December. You can contribute in two ways:

CHECK

Please make check payable to Kent Medical Foundation. Complete donor form at right and mail to:

Kent Medical Foundation

233 East Fulton, Suite 224
Grand Rapids, MI 49503



ONLINE VIA PAYPAL

Go to kentmedicalfoundation.org or simply scan this QR code.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact the Kent Medical Foundation at 616-458-4157.



KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Holiday Card CAMPAIGN

\$1,000 \$750

Please print your name(s) _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Please return to: Kent Medical Foundation | 233 East Fulton, Suite 224 | Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Last-Minute
CONTRIBUTION

It is not too late to support Kent Medical Foundation for 2022. While the holiday card, and list of donors will be mailed in early December, a full listing of all donors (including December donations) will be featured in the February 2023 Bulletin magazine. All donations will be recognized for the 2022 tax year in the month of December. Thank you for your generous support!

**CALL THE KCMS OFFICE
AT 616.458.4157 TO DONATE!**

FOR REGISTRATION

mission to assist The Kent endeavors and health enclosed for the following (listed on the card):

ation anonymous.

ert.

Contributions are tax deductible.

MSU-CHM Updates, Upcoming Events



Angela Thompson-Busch, MD, PhD
Community Assistant Dean,
Grand Rapids Campus
Michigan State University
College of Human Medicine

When people ask me what I do for a job, I am always proud to tell them that I work for Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. Often this is followed by the question, “Do you live in East Lansing, or do you commute?”

I respond, neither because we have a complete medical school right here in Grand Rapids at the west end of the Medical Mile in the Secchia Center. It reminds me that not everyone understands the presence of the College of Human Medicine in West Michigan.

The medical school here is home to 96 first-year students, 96 second-year students, 75 third-year students, and 75 fourth-year students. We have a full complement of basic science faculty and numerous clinicians who teach in small group settings. The exact same thing is happening in Lansing for students’ first two years, but all students disperse to do their training at one of eight community campuses in their third and fourth years (Traverse City, Southeast Michigan, Midland, Flint, Lansing, Detroit-Henry Ford Health System, Marquette, or Grand Rapids). Grand Rapids is the largest clinical campus. Many of the practicing clinicians in town are MSU faculty and teach our students during some time in the medical education journey.

MSU College of Human Medicine’s presence here in Grand Rapids aspires to be more than just a building and a lot of students. We are also here to be a collaborator, supporter, and educator within the community whenever possible. It occurs to me that we have several excellent webinar series that are available to the public but may not be widely disseminated.

Dr. Lisa Lowery is our Assistant Dean for Diversity and Cultural Initiatives. She has developed an outstanding webinar series, [Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Grand Rounds](#) that is presented every second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. Past recordings are available at the link above.

A second informative webinar series is a collaboration with other health systems called Your [Health Lecture Series](#). Please follow the link to find the calendar and past recordings.

Finally, for those interested in bioethics, we have the [Bioethics for Breakfast](#) series.

My final update for this issue is the sad news that [Dr. Margaret Thompson](#) died on September 24 surrounded by her husband, Dave Thompson, and daughters Sarah and Stephanie. Many of you might have known Peggy. She was the original family medicine clerkship director here at the Grand Rapids campus while practicing family medicine here in town. She went on to be the Community Assistant Dean until she passed that baton to me seven years ago. She subsequently had many senior leadership roles at the college until her retirement last summer. Her calm wisdom, quintessential professionalism, humor, and humility are missed terribly. A student scholarship fund has been started in her name. More information about that can be found within the memoriam in the above link.



heartbeat

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Recently, the Alliance toured Mary Free Bed Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Rapids. This was a chance for our members to see behind-the-scenes and appreciate our Foundation's grant dollars at work in the Aquatic Therapy Program. I'd been to Mary Free Bed before for my children's speech-therapy appointments, but I had no idea the incredible depth



and breadth of services provided there. We were honored to see the pediatric and adult rehab gyms filled with futuristic equipment and kind-hearted physical therapists. We marveled at the adaptive sports department and custom prosthetics workshop. We were moved by the many opportunities

for in-patients who might make use of art therapy, woodworking, gaming therapy and much more. Our tour guide emphasized that Mary Free Bed was trying to do more than just heal physical wounds; the healthcare workers there strive to restore "hope and freedom."

"Hope and freedom" are needed by so many these days. One of the greatest parts of being in our Alliance is the chance to learn about the many individuals and organizations working to restore the health and well-being of all West-Michigan. We've supported nutritional programs, provided translators for medical appointments, purchased batteries for pediatric wheelchairs, invested in a jobs program for disabled young adults, and so much more. We've toured women's shelters, addiction treatment facilities, educational centers, and countless other charitable institutions. There are so many incredible organizations throughout Kent County that are doing tangible good in the lives of so many. This is good news, and if you're like me, you need more good news in your life.

kcmsa Calendar

- 12 | 15 **Holiday Open House**
11am Jennifer Bruce's home
- 12 | 20 **Book Club**
noon "Before The Coffee Gets Cold"
by Toshikazu Kawaguchi
Schuler Books & Music
2660 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids
- 01 | 11 **KCMSA General Membership Meeting**
9am MSU College of Human Medicine-Secchia Center
Tour the new MSU building and learn about their important work educating the young doctors of tomorrow. After our tour we will meet to discuss upcoming events.
- 01 | 17 **Book Club**
noon "Dictionary of Lost Words"
by Pip Williams
Schuler Books & Music
2660 28th St. SE, Grand Rapids

ONLINE CALENDAR

Check our calendar for updates at www.kcmsalliance.org/get-involved/calendar.

I invite you to become part of that good news by getting out in our community and visiting or volunteering for a charity or non-profit that interests you. You might discover a passion for service. You are always welcome to join our Alliance initiatives, too. Together we can connect and grow a healthier West Michigan.

Sincerely,
Laura Kozminski

President

Event Recap fall 2022

September 22

Fall Focus: Mental Health Awareness Symposium

Many of our members attended the annual Michigan Medical Society Alliance's Fall Focus luncheon, as this year it was held in Grand Rapids and chaired by our very own Beth Junewick, who is also President of the MSMSA. Attendees learned how to recognize signs in youth who may be struggling with depression, suicidal thoughts or thoughts of harming others. Four tools will be shared to intervene and prevent future crises. Christy Buck, Executive Director of the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan and founder of the *be nice*, presented.



Alliance members from across Michigan and from as far as Nevada attended the MSMSA Fall Focus.



MSMSA President Beth Junewick and Christy Buck at ready facilities at Meijer Gardens for the event.

October 7

Membership Meeting

Mary Free Bed

Four times a year during our regular meetings, we hold special programs. This fall, we toured Mary Free Bed.



Alliance members tour Mary Free Bed.

October 14-16

Northcentral Alliance Regional Meeting

Members from the north central states gathered in Fort Wayne to network and learn about topics such as Cybersecurity (October is Cybersecurity month), Evolution of the American Healthcare System, Drugs in Today's Society, and Inside Indiana's Response to the Drug Epidemic.



Eileen Brader, Suhair Muallem, Karen Begow, and Kalamazoo Area Medical Alliance member Suzy Berndt attend the Regional Meeting.



Alliance members from Kentucky to Wisconsin gathered to connect and grow for a healthier nation.

Foundation Spotlight

We fundraise every year to provide generous support to the community through our Foundation. Our Foundation will meet in November to award mini-grants to applicants that meet the health-needs of Kent County. **Our next grant application deadline is February 15th.** If you are interested in giving, or know of an organization that might like to apply for a grant, please reach out to foundation.president@kcmsalliance.org.

Shiga Toxin Producing Escherichia Coli National Outbreak 2022



Nirali Bora, MD
Kent County
Health Department
Medical Director

Nirali Bora, MD and Brian Hartl, MPH

Shiga toxin producing Escherichia coli (STEC) are part of a group of bacteria called Escherichia coli (E. coli). Most forms of E. coli cause no harm to humans. However, STEC are harmful because they produce Shiga toxins causing illness in humans.

The most common strain is E. coli O157:H7. The onset of symptoms ranges from 1-10 days, but generally begins 3-4 days after consuming food or drink contaminated by STEC. Illness usually lasts 5-7 days. Symptoms differ from person to person but include severe stomach cramps, low grade fever, vomiting, and diarrhea—which can be bloody. Early illness is mild and gets worse as illness progresses. Many infections of STEC are mild, but some can become severe leading to complications including hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS).

CAUSES OF STEC

STEC is a bacteria found in the intestines of many different animals, including cattle. While a major source of illness is from cattle, leafy greens, such as spinach or leaf lettuces have been associated with many large multi-state outbreaks, often due to irrigation water contaminated with animal feces. STEC is spread through fecal oral transmission. Sources of human infection include consuming contaminated food and water, unpasteurized milk, or cider, and under cooked meats or unwashed produce. Contact with infected animals and contact with the feces of an infected individual are other sources of infection.

SUMMER 2022 NATIONAL OUTBREAK

During the STEC outbreak in the summer of 2022, 109 people became infected with the outbreak strain of E. coli O157:H7 in 6 states between July 26, 2022 and August 18, 2022. More detailed information was available for 97 of these individuals who ranged in age from 1 to 94

TABLE 1

Kent County STEC Epidemic Curve by Type of Case 2022

Date	Number of Cases
August 5, 2022	1
August 6, 2022	1
August 7, 2022	0
August 8, 2022	5
August 9, 2022	2
August 10, 2022	1
August 11, 2022	1
August 12, 2022	0
August 13, 2022	1
August 14, 2022	1
August 15, 2022	0
August 16, 2022	0
August 17, 2022	0
August 18, 2022	1

years. Of these people who were infected, 52 were hospitalized and 13 individuals developed HUS. No deaths were reported.

Detailed food histories were available for 82 individuals. Of those, 68 (83%) reported eating at a Wendy's restaurant in the seven days before their onset of illness and 46 of them (68%)

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

STEC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

reported eating romaine lettuce served on burgers and sandwiches. The states involved in the outbreak were Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Wendy's voluntarily removed romaine lettuce used on burgers and sandwiches as a precautionary measure, but the food source that led to the infections remains unknown.

KENT COUNTY STEC CASES

The Kent County Health Department identified a total of 14 confirmed cases of E. coli O157:H7 associated with this national outbreak. There were 10 males and 4 females ranging in age from 4 to 66 years old. Four people were hospitalized, and one was diagnosed with HUS. Wendy's restaurant exposure the week before onset of illness was identified in 11 food histories.

GUIDANCE FOR PHYSICIANS

If you suspect STEC infection in your patient, send stool samples for culture and for testing to detect Shiga toxins. Patients with Shiga toxin-positive diarrheal illness or HUS should be reported to the health department in the county where the patient resides.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- Call the Kent County Health Department communicable disease unit (616) 632-7228.
- Visit the CDC site at: <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/clinicians.html>

RESOURCES

- "E. coli Questions and Answers." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 Dec. 2014, www.cdc.gov/ecoli/general/index.html.
- "E. coli Symptoms." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2 Feb. 2021, www.cdc.gov/ecoli/ecoli-symptoms.html.
- "Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome." Johns Hopkins Medicine, www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/hemolytic-uremic-syndrome. Accessed 13 Oct. 2022.
- "Escherichia coli O157:H7." Johns Hopkins Medicine, www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/escherichia-coli-o157-h7. Accessed 14 Oct. 2022.
- "E. coli outbreak with unknown food source- Investigation Details." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 4 Oct. 2022 <https://www.cdc.gov/ecoli/2022/o157h7-08-22/details.html>.

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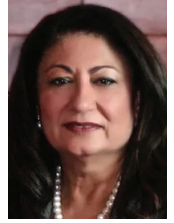
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2022

year in review



Shama Tareen, MD
2022 President
Kalamazoo Academy
of Medicine

An Update for KAM Members

As we approach the end of 2022, I personally look back with delight over the feeling of return to normal—enjoying beautiful West Michigan days dining al fresco, traveling freely with less fear and seeing friends and patients more comfortably.

While there is a familiar feeling of the way things used to be, there are new changes in other parts of our lives.

Like many industries affected by the pandemic in recent years, organized medicine and our Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine organization has had some changes, causing a need to change how we provide benefit to our members. As you know, we have been partnering with Kent County Medical Society (KCMS). KCMS also partners with other smaller regional societies—Barry, Ottawa and Ionia/Montcalm members, sharing benefits, CME opportunities and social events

for our Members. As our hospital systems cross county lines, so should our physician support organizations. The added numbers in collaborative meetings and events help all of the counties to continue offering interesting opportunities for our Members.

This Bulletin issue also recognizes the importance

of years of persistence by our physicians. Shaping the Prior Authorization legislation was no easy feat—taking repeated meetings by physician

members with Legislators to articulate the importance of taking care of our patients. Our physicians also called Legislators' offices or met with them in person to communicate how physician-lead teams serve patients better. Finally, physician wellbeing continues to be a critical concern. The future of health care in our community is only strengthened and secured when our physicians are satisfied in their roles as respected leaders.

As our hospital systems cross county lines, so should our physician support organizations. The added numbers in collaborative meetings and events help all of the counties to continue offering interesting opportunities for our Members.

Our organization and those we partner with have much work to do. I welcome your input, your ideas and your continued Membership with KAM. Wishing you and your family a happy and healthy year end and bright 2023.

Shama Tareen, MD
Kalamazoo Academy of Medicine President



Tom George, MD, Named MSMS Interim CEO

KALAMAZOO PHYSICIAN BRINGS UNIQUE EXPERTISE, EXPERIENCE

The Michigan State Medical Society has named Tom George, MD, as Interim CEO to replace Julie Novak, who recently announced the end of her 33 year working partnership with the organization.

As a long-time MSMS member, former state legislator, and practicing physician, Doctor George has the kind of unique expertise and experience that will make him an immediate and invaluable asset to the Michigan State Medical Society and its member physicians across the state. Poised to provide leadership and direction from day one of his tenure, Doctor George intends to focus a great deal of his efforts on ensuring the association is meeting the needs of its members.

“I’ve been a practicing physician and member of the Michigan State Medical Society for 37 years now,” said Doctor George. “And over the years, there’s been no question that MSMS has made a significant and positive difference in shaping our state’s health care landscape through its advocacy efforts on behalf of Michigan’s physicians and the patients they serve. I intend to see that this society continues to provide that same kind of value and service to its members. That effort will be rooted in building strong peer-to-peer, doctor-to-doctor relationships with current, prospective, and former MSMS members throughout the state.”

His leadership comes at a fortuitous time for the society. With sweeping changes coming to Lansing’s political landscape, Doctor George’s decade of experience serving as an elected member of Michigan’s legislature will prove invaluable as MSMS works to position itself to best advocate for its members and promote the public health of Michigan’s citizens.

“Changing leadership in Lansing presents new challenges, but also new opportunities for this society to make a real difference in the ongoing efforts to implement policies that will positively impact Michigan physicians and patients,” said Doctor George. “And while the political landscape may be shifting, our fundamental goal of working to promote the health of citizens of Michigan remains unchanged.”

In addition to being a practicing physician at Kalamazoo Anesthesiology P.C., Doctor George also serves as Co-Chairman of the Department of Anesthesiology at the Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine. He has previously served as president of the Kalamazoo County Medical Society, the Michigan Society of Anesthesiologists, and the Historical Society of Michigan. While serving as Interim CEO of MSMS, Doctor George will continue practicing on a limited, part-time basis.

“Changing leadership in Lansing presents new challenges, but also new opportunities for this society to make a real difference in the ongoing efforts to implement policies that will positively impact Michigan physicians and patients.”

2022

year in review



OTTAWA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

OCMS Continues to Work for Members



Bryan Huffman, MD,
2022 President
Ottawa County
Medical Society

As cooler weather finally, and sadly, becomes a reality in West Michigan, I write to you about the year in organized medicine.

In partnership with physicians in Kent and other regional counties, we are very busy representing Ottawa County physicians; and the work is very rewarding.

My Kent County colleague, Phillip Wise, MD and I work together at the Michigan State Medical Society House of Delegates. His leadership as Speaker of the House mentors my aspirations in managing the communication of the House. As Vice Speaker, I have an opportunity to manage challenging testimony, where House members debate and finalize the positions MSMS takes on the current issues in medicine.

Long time OCMS member, and Past President of OCMS, Todd VanHeest, MD served as an Ottawa County Alternate Delegate. OCMS Member, Edward Fody, MD serves on the Kent County Medical Society Board representing Ottawa County and

working on the MSMS Membership Committee as well. Dr. Fody personally reached out to legislators to discuss the importance of Prior Authorization repair and reform. There are always opportunities available for any members that wish to engage in guiding the future of medicine in Michigan. MSMS is still the main representative for physicians to the Michigan legislature. We need a strong voice in Lansing to represent the concerns of physicians and patients.

There are always opportunities available for any members that wish to engage in guiding the future of medicine in Michigan.

Once again, I cannot thank our Ottawa County members enough for their continued support of both the Ottawa County Medical Society and the Michigan State Medical Society. They remain the only organizations advocating for physicians at a local and state level.

Bryan Huffman, MD
Ottawa County Medical Society President