



Bulletin

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE KENT COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY & THE KENT COUNTY OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION WINTER 2025

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



2025

year in review

Kent County Medical Society

Kent County Osteopathic Association

Ottawa County Medical Society

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Kent Medical Foundation
Holiday Card Campaign

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Cover Photo

Footprints through the snow that long moved together could be separated, symbolizing MSMS and county medical societies assessing their *divided* future paths. **Be sure your voice has been heard.**

CONTRIBUTORS

- 15** Kent Medical Foundation
- 16** Alliance Heartbeat
- 22** Kent County Health Department Foundation
- 23** Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

GET INVOLVED:

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

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



BULLETIN

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Join Us

KCMS MEETINGS OF INTEREST

JANUARY 14, 2026

2026 KCMS ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

6pm: Social time | 6:30pm: Meeting | Hybrid event
Watermark Country Club
1600 Galbraith Ave SE, Grand Rapids

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

WEST MICHIGAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES' LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Noon | Virtual Meeting

MSMS HOUSE OF DELEGATES

2026 SCHEDULE

The MSMS House of Delegates will be fully virtual and online in 2026.

- **Resolutions Due:** February 23, 2026
- **Online Written Forum:** March 13-24, 2026
- **Ways and Means and Officer Speeches:** March 19, 2026
- **Reference Committee on Internal Affairs:** March 25, 2026
- **Blue Report:** April 10, 2026
- **House of Delegates:** April 18, 2026

MAY 4, 2026

WEST MICHIGAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES' LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Noon | Virtual Meeting

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



2025

year in review

Warren F. Lanphear, MD, FACEP
2025 KCMS President

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Working to Address Challenges

I know that this is a challenging time for organized medicine. Past presidents and boards had to deal with difficult issues as well. The current KCMS Board is examining critical changes to the state and county relationship.

An MSMS Task Force has been created to consider options for our future state to best address our declining membership and revenue. The most radical change would be to separate the state society from the various county societies. This would mean separate dues and the end of the requirement to be members of both organizations.

Hopefully you have read our recent communications, and you are contemplating the discussions about de-unification. The MSMS Task Force (made up of Members and Board Members of MSMS) plans to meet at least one more time. We are facing unprecedented challenges related to our state and county societies' future. While we don't have all the answers today, I can assure you that we are hopeful to know more soon, and our direction forward depends on member input. Our next update will be at the 2026 KCMS Annual Member Meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

In the meantime, we need your input as to what services, events, advocacy, and more you would like from your local medical society. What does KCMS provide that is helpful to you and your team? What would you like KCMS to provide in the future? Should there be more live events? Where should we focus and what benefits you and your office the most? These suggestions will help our KCMS Board determine how to proceed in 2026 and beyond.

The New Year will bring change and there are numerous possibilities. Our goal is to continue providing valuable resources, connections, and fun opportunities for our society. Your suggestions and comments will give us direction so that we can better serve you. We look forward to the great things we will accomplish

together in the months and years ahead.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting. Happy Holidays and all the best for a rewarding future ahead!

YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join us for
the Annual Meeting
of the KCMS Membership
on January 14, 2026
at the Watermark Country
Club in Grand Rapids
or join us online for
this hybrid event. Email
patricia@kcms.org to RSVP
or for more information.

Have You Shared Your Voice?

As reported in the previous Bulletin issue, and in subsequent email invitations, the Kent County Medical Society reported on the progress of the MSMS Board's creating of a Task Force to consider a de-unification of the state and county societies. This Resolution was approved by the House of Delegates by approval of the 2025:

RESOLUTION 16-25 COUNTY AND STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE

RESOLVED: That MSMS create a task force of physicians across the state, in both county and state society leadership, to do the following:

1. Examine the history, finances, and bylaws of our county and state societies.
2. Be bold and creative in offering a unified solution to solve this historical issue, and future-proof our organizations so we can focus on our mission together;
3. Utilize MSMS legal counsel to aid in this effort by examining county medical society and state medical society bylaws and offering a clear plan on how to update county and state medical society bylaws to achieve the mutual goals; and
4. Present recommendations to county and state medical societies prior to the 2026 House of Delegates, with any MSMS bylaws changes presented for a first vote at that time.

TASK FORCE UPDATE

In the fall Bulletin, the KCMS reported the MSMS Board of Directors created a Task Force whose purpose was to address this issues related to this and other similar Resolutions that were approved in April 2025. Task Force Members' names were shown in the issue.

- To date, the Task Force reports having held three meetings and is planning a fourth meeting.
- The Task Force will share its recommendations with the MSMS Board at their meeting in late January.

- The MSMS Board has voted to hold the House of Delegates 2026 as a virtual meeting.
- The proposed MSMS Bylaw amendments (Approved after first reading in April 2025 HOD), will be re-reviewed at the April 2026 Virtual HOD meeting.

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU

Your input is still important to the process.

"I was unable to join the town hall as previously noted. I can sum up my position on this issue in one phrase: not in support of de-unification.

I do not see where de-coupling strengthens the argumentative sway of physicians at the corporate and legislative levels. As the health systems get larger, so must the representative societies. Remaining as a couplet (state and local) provides a certain girth needed in amplifying our voices at those levels. From my point of view, I see de-unification as a variation of divide and conquer."

Herman C Sullivan, MD
2017 KCMS President

Please contact us via the KCMS office at (616) 560-5336 or via email at patricia@kcms.org.



123RD ANNIVERSARY

Annual Meeting

of the KCMS Membership

agenda

6:00pm **Mix and mingle**

6:30pm **Dinner and business** *including:*
2025 Year in review; Election of new Officers; and Appointment of Delegates and Alternate Delegates.

Please note this is a hybrid event.
Members and spouses/guests welcome.

you're invited

JANUARY 14, 2026

Watermark Country Club
1600 Galbraith Ave SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

RSVP TODAY!



patricia@kcms.org



(616) 560-5336

In Memoriam

The Kent County Medical Society remembers physician colleagues lost recently. Their contributions to the community, the society and the profession are greatly appreciated.

Cathy Smith Baker, MD

Charles Hodgkinson, MD

Charles Newton, MD

Steven R. Baker, MD

Richard Horvitz, MD

Leon Oostendorp, MD

Michael Bodley, MD

Brian Lane, MD, PhD

Mervyn Smith, MD

John Colwill, MD

Daniel Mankoff, MD

Harold Stinson, MD

Frederick (Rob) Deane, MD

Myrtle McClain, MD

Emmanuel Tendero, MD

Wallace Duffin, MD

Daniel McNeil, MD

George Trowbridge, MD

Jens Goebel, MD

Judith Meyer, MD

Frank Gould, MD

John Mulder, MD

Michigan Senate Passes Youth Tobacco Legislation

The Michigan Senate passed bipartisan legislation to combat youth tobacco use across the state. Spearheaded by Senate Majority Floor Leader Sam Singh (D-East Lansing) and cosponsored by Sen. Joseph Bellino (R-Monroe), Senate Bills [462](#) and [465](#) would require tobacco retailers to be licensed, like the majority of states around the country.

“As the leading cause of preventable death in Michigan and across the nation, tobacco use amongst our youth is a grave and growing public health concern that we must act on immediately,” said Sen. Singh. “By establishing a clear regulatory framework to hold our retailers accountable, we can ensure our kids here in Michigan are afforded the same protections as kids in nearly every other state in the country. I’m grateful to see this legislation pass the Senate today with bipartisan support, and want to extend a special appreciation to the many educators and community partners who have long been advocating for this issue at the Capitol on behalf of our young people. It’s time we get this done.”

Michigan is one of only nine states that do not require the licensure of tobacco establishments, which has been proven to be an effective tobacco control measure. To tackle this public health crisis head-on, this legislation would create stronger enforcement and accountability measures for tobacco retailers through a statewide regulatory system. In addition to the licensure requirement, key components of the bill package include:

- Regular inspections of tobacco establishments to ensure compliance;
- Boosted penalties for retailers that sell tobacco products to minors;
- Regulation of online and delivery tobacco sales;
- Ban on flash sales for tobacco products;
- Creation of a fund within the state treasury for the administration and enforcement of new regulations; and more.

These bills head to the House for further consideration, where similar legislation with bipartisan sponsorship, House Bills [5368](#)–[5372](#), were recently introduced.

New Resolution Submission Process

Kent County Medical Society Members interested in serving as Delegates or Alternate Delegates for the Kent County Delegation are asked to contact Patricia Dalton at patricia@kcms.org to be included on the Ballot for the 2026 KCMS Annual Meeting on Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at Watermark Country Club.

For anyone interested in submitting a Resolution to the Kent Delegation for consideration, a new editable resolution template has been uploaded to the MSMS [HOD website](#) for your use. Samples of your draft Resolution are shared with the Kent Delegation in January and early February for review and any recommendations. You may submit that to Patricia Dalton and it will be shared.

To draft your own Resolution using the new online submission process, simply use the MSMS template when drafting or finalizing your resolution(s), save your

resolution(s), and submit as an attachment(s) via email. To email, do either of the following:

- Click on “Submit a Resolution” under Additional House of Delegates Resources
- Send directly to MSMSHODResolutions@msms.org and copy patricia@kcms.org to confirm inclusion with the other Kent County Resolutions

Resolutions must be received by MSMS before 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, February 23, 2026, in the template format to be considered on-time. Please note that all submissions MUST be correctly formatted using the template. Those that are incorrectly formatted will be returned for editing.

You will also find new detailed instructions on how to use the template, as well as updated guidance on How to Write a Resolution guidance on the [MSMS HOD website](#).

KCMS Member, Cara Poland, MD is Honored

Cara Poland, MD was honored recently by two national organizations. The awards were provided in recognition of Addiction Medicine by the American Society of Addiction Medicine’s Annual Award and the AMERSA Betty Ford Award.

Dr. Poland humbly reflects on the collective work that physicians do every day in clinics, classrooms, and communities to reduce stigma and improve care for people with substance use disorders.

She noted “Addiction medicine is, at its core, about humanity. It is about showing up for our patients at their most vulnerable moments and believing, sometimes before they do, that recovery is possible.”



She also received The Betty Ford Award, presented by AMERSA, which recognizes contributions to addiction education. That award holds special meaning to her as education has been the throughline of her career.

Congratulations Dr. Poland and thank you for all you do!

Deunification on the Horizon?

WHAT IT COULD MEAN FOR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETIES



This article provides a balanced, verifiable analysis of the implications of deunifying state and county medical societies. It outlines documented advantages such as increased local autonomy while identifying structural risks such as financial instability, administrative burden, and fragmented advocacy. It also examines the unique consequences when deunification is initiated by the state society, including impacts on revenue, operations, and political influence. Expanded analysis help county leaders evaluate how this structural shift may affect membership, services, and long-term sustainability.

1. Deunification on the Horizon? WHAT IT COULD MEAN FOR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETIES
2. Benefits of Deunification: LOCAL AUTONOMY AND CONTROL
3. Risk and Challenges of Deunification: LOSS OF UNIFIED VOICE IN STATE ADVOCACY
4. Learning From Others: WHAT MICHIGAN CAN EXPECT

Let's address each of these areas individually.

Introduction

Across the country, state and county medical societies have traditionally operated within a unified structure sharing membership, dues collection, advocacy priorities, and core administrative functions. Recently, following the submission of several resolutions to the House of Delegates (HOD), *47-25 To Study Medical Society Structures*, *16-25 To Examine the History, Finance, and Bylaws of the Societies*, and *14-25 Rotation of MSMS House of Delegates Meeting Location*, Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) began evaluating a potential shift toward deunification. This would separate state and county membership structures and redistribute operational responsibilities. **The state is exploring this model to streamline statewide operations and convened a task force to review the materials presented on the model.**

What Deunification Means

Deunification refers to ending the automatic link between membership in a county medical society and the state medical society. Under a deunified model:

- Physicians may join the county society without being required to join the state society.
- The county society controls its own dues and membership processes.
- The state society no longer receives dues from county members unless they voluntarily join.
- Local governance, programming, and administrative decisions become fully independent.

This structural model already exists in several states, including Ohio, Iowa, and Florida, where county societies operate independently from their state associations.



Key Fact

The state society believes deunification gives physicians a membership choice, reduces duplication and improves policy responsiveness, but the county medical societies may inherit substantial administrative and financial responsibilities.

Benefits of Deunification

LOCAL AUTONOMY AND CONTROL

Deunification grants county societies full authority over membership categories, dues levels, budgeting, and local programming. Counties can tailor services specifically to their local physician community.

WHAT IS AT STAKE: Increased autonomy may create operational gaps. Counties must assume full responsibility for financial management, technology systems, and compliance. Evidence from association management literature shows that smaller organizations often struggle with economies of scale, increasing administrative burden and cost per member.

Ability to Create Locally Relevant Programs

Under deunification, counties can design education, practice support, and advocacy initiatives that directly reflect their community's needs without needing state-level approval.

WHAT IS AT STAKE: Risk of duplicating state-level functions. Without careful coordination, counties may spend limited resources recreating services the state already provides (e.g., legal updates, regulatory guidance, credentialing support). Public reports from county societies in large states indicate that fragmentation can lead to inconsistent resources across counties.

Flexible and Independent Membership Models

Counties can restructure dues to attract more physicians (e.g., lower rates, specialty categories, resident options). They can also create value propositions that differ from the state society.

WHAT IS AT STAKE: Loss of unified purchasing power. State-wide membership declines have historically led to reduced funding for legislative advocacy and specialty society partnerships. Voluntary membership often sees lower participation unless paired with highly compelling benefits.

Enhanced Local Advocacy

Counties can engage directly with their local delegations,

“Deunification is neither inherently positive nor negative, it is a structural shift that demands careful planning, financial modeling, and transparent communication.”



health systems, and community partners without filtering through state leadership.

WHAT IS AT STAKE: Fragmented advocacy reduces statewide influence. Research from state medical societies that have experienced declining membership shows that policymakers tend to prioritize larger, consolidated groups. County-only advocacy may have limited impact without state-level alignment.

County Identity and Community Building

Some county medical societies report stronger engagement when physicians feel a direct local connection. Counties may brand themselves more effectively to reflect the community's health landscape.

WHAT IS AT STAKE: Branding challenges remain. Local identity alone does not guarantee physician engagement. Surveys from multiple state societies document that time constraints and perceived lack of value, not branding, are the primary barriers to membership.



What Counties Could Gain

- Faster Decision-Making
- Direct Engagement
- Flexible Services

Risk and Challenges of Deunification

LOSS OF UNIFIED VOICE IN STATE ADVOCACY

State medical societies are the primary entities recognized by legislatures for statewide issues such as scope of practice, liability reform, Medicaid policy, and insurance regulation.

Deunification can:

- Reduce collective bargaining power.
- Fragment messaging.
- Decrease the total number of physicians represented.

This effect is noted in states where county-only membership models correlate with lower overall physician participation at the state level.

Financial Instability for County Societies

Without automatic dual membership, county societies must independently generate revenue. Several counties that are separated from the state medical society reported:

- Decreased dues revenue after deunification.
- Higher per-member administrative costs.
- Difficulty sustaining staff without state subsidies.

Small counties are at higher risk of financial strain.

Increased Administrative Burden

Counties take on:

- Full membership database management.
- Advocacy communications infrastructure.

States typically maintain infrastructure counties rely on. Replacing these systems requires investment.

Potential Decline in Physician Engagement

While counties may initially see more autonomy, actual participation often depends on:

- Time availability.
- Perceived member value.
- Ability to provide relevant benefits.

States often have greater capacity to deliver CME, legal updates, and regulatory alerts. County-only structures may struggle to compete.



Disruption of Existing Shared Services

Many unified states provide counties with:

- Legal support or discounts
- Membership billing services
- Legislative tracking systems
- Centralized membership accounting and auditing

Deunification requires counties to replace or rebuild these services independently.

Confusion for Physicians

Physicians may be uncertain about:

- Whether they must join both organizations
- Which benefits belong to which society
- How dues are allocated

Confusion can lead to lower membership or unintentional lapses.



What to Watch

Counties with limited reserves may struggle to sustain services post-deunification.

Learning From Others

WHAT MICHIGAN CAN EXPECT

While the impact of deunification varies, several trends are consistently reported in documents and association governance analyses:

- **State membership declines** causing initial financial strain.
- **County capacity becomes uneven**, with larger counties thriving while smaller ones struggle.
- **Advocacy becomes more fragmented**, requiring new coordination agreements.
- **Administrative costs rise** because counties lose shared infrastructure.
- **Local programming improves** when counties have strong leadership and funding.

Conclusion

Deunification is neither inherently positive nor negative, it is a structural shift that demands careful planning, financial modeling, and transparent communication. While it offers counties autonomy and opportunities for local innovation, it also introduces financial, operational, and advocacy challenges.



Your Voice, Your Future

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

Please contact the KCMS office at (616) 458-4157 or patricia@kcms.org to share your suggestions and concerns.

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Join Us

KCOA MEETINGS OF INTEREST

JANUARY 15, 2026

OSTEOPATHIC RESIDENT CONNECTION

6-8pm | Coopers Hawk Winery and Restaurant
4515 28th St. SE, Kentwood

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

**WEST MICHIGAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES'
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Noon | Virtual Meeting

APRIL 25, 2026

MICHIGAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

9am-2pm | MOA Office Atrium Room
2112 University Park Dr., Suite 100, Okemos

MAY 4, 2026

**WEST MICHIGAN MEDICAL SOCIETIES'
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

Noon | Virtual Meeting

ONLINE CALENDAR

GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON KCOA EVENTS

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

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.

Visit us

For event details, check out our website kcoa-mi.org



2025

year in review

William Sanders, DO
2025 KCOA President,
Board of Directors

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Action Amplifies Our Voices

As we bid farewell to a very busy 2025, I would like to thank the Kent County Osteopathic Association members for their continued membership and participation.

The dues notices for KCOA 2026 Membership Campaign were sent recently and we sincerely hope you will renew your membership and be an essential part of our Association. We know that your time is valuable and that we compete for your time and resources with many other efforts.

Our Board sincerely hopes that you will continue to lean on KCOA for professional growth opportunities, including CME focused on whole-person approach to health and wellness, state-mandated training, and social events and advocacy updates and opportunities. We hope you will be proactive and vocal in the Michigan Osteopathic Association House of Delegates, an extension of Osteopathic visibility.

To begin the new year, the KCOA will be hosting a Resident Connection event—specifically designed to allow Residents to connect with other Resident Physicians and KCOA Board Members.

Thank you for renewing your membership to maintain a powerful voice for osteopathic medicine and healthcare in West Michigan. You are an essential part of our regional Osteopathic community.

On behalf of the KCOA Board of Directors, we wish you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

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2025

year in review



KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION



Jayne Courts, MD
2025 Kent Medical
Foundation, Board Chair

KMF Thanks You!

Established in 1961, the Kent Medical Foundation exists to provide 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 community service projects and youth health education.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Kent Medical Foundation, I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation for your dedication and commitment throughout 2025. Your involvement and generous support have been instrumental in allowing us to further our mission in Kent County.

The KMF Board approved several grants this year, made possible by your support. Grants were made to two camp programs: Calvin University's HEALTH Camp for Boys and Special Days Camp. The two camp programs were profiled in previous *Bulletin* magazines.

HELPING LOCAL WOMEN NAVIGATE CANCER TREATMENT

The KMF Board recently approved a grant to *Beautiful You Mondays*, and I am happy to share some information about this amazing community resource. *Beautiful You by Profile* is a program of a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to help women and girls who are undergoing active cancer treatment to look and feel beautiful, provide a community of support, share resource awareness, and engage with in ongoing wellness through their *Beautiful You Mondays* program.

The *Beautiful You Mondays* program offers private consultations with each client to try and best meet the needs of each woman who qualifies for the program.

Complimentary wigs and headcovers are provided to clients, along with salon and spa services and techniques to help develop their style while undergoing treatment. All services are by appointment only to respect the privacy of each individual client.

CONNECTING WOMEN WITH THE CARE OFFERED THROUGH BEAUTIFUL YOU MONDAYS

If you would like to refer someone for this program, please access a client application at <https://beautifulyoubyprofile.org/new-client-application-form/>

Your ongoing generosity ensures that the Kent Medical Foundation remains financially strong and able to assist programs that focus on health education and community service projects. Through the Annual KMF Holiday Card fundraising drive, we are able to raise funds while physicians' families exchange holiday greetings.

Thank you once again for your generous support. We are profoundly grateful for your contributions. We look forward to seeking new grant opportunities for community programs in the year ahead. The KMF Board is also seeking new Board Members. Please let us know if you are interested; email patricia@kcms.org.

Happy Holidays!



heartbeat

Strengthening Physician Families Through Engagement, Connection

KCMSA is the go-to organization for physician spouses and partners in Kent County. We share a special bond, and we show it in our social and community projects. We



welcome the spouses and partners of medical students, residents, practicing physicians, retired physicians, and deceased physicians.

Our goals are to connect and grow through camaraderie, education, philanthropy (KCMSA Foundation has

already funded \$24,490 this fall in mini-grants to community organizations) and community

engagement. We also support KCMS in their advocacy efforts. KCMSA is always accepting new members! If you or someone you know is interested, please visit our website.

Not only can you become involved with the Kent County Medical Society Alliance but also consider being part of the Michigan State Medical Society Alliance, a great resource for projects and advocacy around the state, and the AMA Alliance. The AMAA offers leadership training, mentorship, monthly zoom seminars and the opportunity to get to know people like you from all around the country.

We'd love to get to know you! Reach out anytime at president@kcmsalliance.org for more information.

kcmsa Calendar

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

Alliance Book Club

The Alliance Book Club meets on the 3rd Tuesday monthly at Schuler Books on 28th Street in Grand Rapids. All readers are welcome.

12 | 16 **West With Giraffes**
by Lynda Rutledge

1 | 20 **Tell Me Everything**
by Elizabeth Strout

2 | 17 **The Physician**
by Noah Gordon

4 | 23

2026 KCMSA Trivia Night FUNdraiser

Join your KCMSA friends at the Corner Bar in Rockford for a fun, fast-paced event with great food and community connection—all while raising funds for the KCMSA Foundation mini-grant program. Our goal is \$25,000 this year! Sponsorships are available; contact president@kcmsalliance.org for details. Don't miss it!

5 | 29-31

MSMSA Annual Meeting

The Michigan State Medical Society Alliance is celebrating 100 years. Don't miss the 100th Anniversary Annual Meeting May 29 to 31, 2026 at the Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island--where it all began 100 years ago.

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www.kcmsalliance.org

Event Recap fall 2025



September 9: General meeting and tour of WKTV

In recognition of National Suicide Prevention Month, KCMSA met at WKTV September 9th. WKTV produced a suicide prevention podcast in conjunction with BeNice. A KCMSA Foundation mini-grant helped fund the podcast.



September 7: Physician Family Day Pool Party

Our last summer splash! KCMSA members and their families enjoyed swimming, connecting, and barbecue at the KCMSA Physician Family Day at the Pool. It was a little cool and windy for the adults, but the kids loved it.



October 16 and November 18: Walks for Health & Fitness,
Members met at Roselle Park to walk on the trails



November 21: MSMSA Fall Focus
KCMSA members joined Alliance colleagues from across the state at the new KRESA Career Connect Campus in Kalamazoo to hear Digital Safety Specialist Michele Lothschutz discuss how to create safe, balanced digital environments for youth. As mobile technology becomes nearly unavoidable, stress, depression, and anxiety continue to rise among children in the U.S.



October 29: General meeting at Mary Free Bed
Members met at Mary Free Bed October 29 for a presentation on its mission and the new Joan Secchia Children's Rehabilitation Hospital. Mary Free Bed is a KCMSA Foundation mini-grant recipient.

2025

year in review



OTTAWA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY



Bryan Huffman, MD
2025 President
Ottawa County
Medical Society

YOUR Society Needs YOUR Input

Thank you for your continued investment and belief in Ottawa County Medical Society and the Michigan State Medical Society. It has also been my privilege to work for you at the county level and represent our small community of health professionals at the Michigan State Medical Society. I am now serving the MSMS as the Speaker of the House.

Many changes have occurred in our relationship with the county and state medical societies. Much of this is due to changes in how physicians practice medicine, membership numbers and the cost of “joint” membership with the state and counties. First a reminder of our OCMS history, which shows the link to neighboring physicians.

Like many other county societies, Medical Societies have had “starts and stops” before physicians could create a sustainable, organized society. The first Ottawa County Medical Society was formed in 1872, by a group of local physicians who met in Grand Haven. Initial Members included:

- **Dr. A. W. Allyn**
- **Dr. L. C. Boynton** (practiced in G.R.)
- **Dr. A. B. Chapel**
- **Dr. B. L. Cleveland**
- **Dr. J. Conklin**
- **Dr. Henry Conrey**
- **Dr. George Kinney Johnson** (from Kent County, instrumental in the formation; served as President of MSMS in 1879)
- **Dr. James T. McGarry**

- **Dr. Sylvester Leviticus. Morris** (Physician and Surgeon in Wyoming, and later Holland, and served on the Holland Board of Health)
- **Dr. Charles Shepard** (Obstetrician from Kent County, served briefly as Mayor of Grand Rapids)

The MSMS itself was reorganized and formally established on June 5, 1866. This formation was part of a broader push to elevate medical education standards, advance medical science, and adopt a unified code of ethics across Michigan following the Civil War.

Fast forward 150 plus-years, and we are faced with significant questions:

- Is a new model of county or regional society long-overdue?
- Can we operate better if the House of Delegates supports separation?
- What should future objectives be for our Members?
- What do our Members want in their representation from state and local associations?

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19

YOUR INPUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

- How can physician voices be heard by legislators (individually and as a group)?

We are looking for ideas as to how the county or regional medical society can better serve local physicians. If you have ideas for events you would like to see locally, we would love to hear about them. Our goal is and has always been to be relevant to local physicians and offer events or services you will find to be beneficial. Please reach out to me/us via patricia@kcms.org or by contacting me personally with your input.

Finally, as I look back at the “founding physicians” of our society, I am also aware of the many physicians who work daily for our communities. Sadly, Ottawa County has lost several recently and I would like to pay tribute to them and their families who made sacrifices to improve the health and well-being of Ottawa County families. Ottawa County Physicians lost in 2025:

- **Bruce A. Masselink, MD**
General Surgery
1943-2025
- **George Daniel (Dan) McNeil, MD**
Internal Medicine
1948-2025
- **Myrtle McClain, MD**
Emergency Medicine
1931-2025
- **John Mulder, MD**
Hospice Care
1952-2025
- **John Rufus Scott, MD**
Internal Medicine/General Practice
1949-2025
- **Jerry Evart VanKuiken, MD**
Pediatrics
1946-2025
- **Matthew David Veil, MD**
Family Physician
1973-2025

Thank you again for your interest and support from Ottawa County Medical Society. I hope you and your family have a Happy Holiday Season!

S E R V I N G H E A L T H C A R E P R O V I D E R S F O R O V E R 3 0 Y E A R S

Your

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KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Holiday Card CAMPAIGN

SHARE YOUR HOLIDAY WISHES

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

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

CONTRIBUTIONS

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



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

STEP 2
Complete the donor

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

QUESTIONS?

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

Contributions are tax deductible.



FOR REGISTRATION

Supporting The Kent Medical
each and health-promotion
ing contribution:

Donation anonymous
 Check enclosed
and insert.

KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Holiday Card CAMPAIGN

\$1,000 \$750

Please print your name(s) _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Last-Minute
CONTRIBUTION

It is not too late to support Kent Medical Foundation for 2025. 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 first Bulletin magazine of 2026. All donations will be recognized for the 2025 tax year in the month of December.
Thank you for your generous support!

**CONTACT PATRICIA DALTON
AT 616.560.5336 IF YOU HAVE
ANY QUESTIONS.**

Return to: Kent Medical Foundation | 235 East _____ and Rapids, MI 49503 | patricia@kcms.org



KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION

Holiday Card CAMPAIGN

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN GRATITUDE

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

Calvin HEALTH Camp for Boys

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

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

Special Days Camp

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

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

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

Beautiful You Mondays

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

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

Jayne E. Courts, MD
President

Paul Nicholson
Vice President

Alexis Boyden
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Jennifer Baguley
Trustee

Ryan Duffy, JD
Trustee

Brian Janssen
Trustee/Past President

Warren Lanphear, MD
Trustee

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

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



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

**October
2025**

DISEASE	C=Confirmed P=Probable S=Suspect U=Unknown	This Month	October Cumulative YTD 2025	2020-2024 5-Year Median October
CAMPYLOBACTER	C,P	7	121	101
CANDIDA AURIS	C	1	6	0
CARBAPENEMASE PRODUCING ORGANISM	C	1	10	3
CHICKEN POX ^a	C,P	1	15	13
CHLAMYDIA	C,P,S,U	131	2319	3087
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	C,P	1	21	21
CORONAVIRUS NOVEL, COVID-19	C,P,S	348	6864	16521
HIV	C	3	36	33
SHIGA TOXIN PRODUCING E. COLI	C,P,S	2	25	24
GIARDIASIS	C,P	2	30	34
GONORRHEA	C,P,S,U	33	679	1098
H. INFLUENZAE DISEASE, INV	C,P	0	11	7
HEPATITIS A	C	0	0	1
HEPATITIS B (Acute)	C	4	6	0
HEPATITIS C (Acute)	C	2	3	2
HEPATITIS C (Chronic/Unknown)	C	3	50	105
HISTOPLASMOSIS	C,P	4	46	38
INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS ^b	C,P,S	495	34924	14785
LEGIONELLOSIS	C	0	15	14
LYME DISEASE	C,P,S	10	227	57
MEASLES	C,P	0	4	0
MENINGITIS, ASEPTIC	C	1	5	9
MENINGITIS, BACTERIAL, OTHER ^c	C	0	5	11
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, INV	C,P,S	0	3	0
MUMPS	C,P,S	0	1	0
PERTUSSIS	C,P	0	57	0
SALMONELLOSIS	C,P	2	61	62
SHIGELLOSIS	C,P	1	23	18
STREP, GRP A, INV	C	1	38	24
STREP PNEUMO, INV	C,P	2	49	21
STREPTOCOCCAL TOXIC SHOCK	C,P	0	0	0
SYPHILIS (Congenital)	C,P,S	0	3	2
SYPHILIS (Primary & Secondary)	C,P,S	1	49	46
TOXIC SHOCK	C,P	0	0	0
TUBERCULOSIS	C	1	12	11
WEST NILE VIRUS	C,P	2	13	1
YERSINIA ENTERITIS	C,P	0	12	11

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.



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

Introduction of Interim Dean

While I recognize that change is as inevitable as the transition from fall to winter, it was very much with mixed emotions that I processed the news of Dean Aron Sousa's departure from the College of Human Medicine.

I'm sure many of you have heard this news, but for those who have not, Dr. Sousa announced on September 10 that he was retiring from the College of Human Medicine after 29 years with the college and accepting a new role as president and chief executive officer of Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. While I was happy to see Aron taking on an exciting new role, he has been a trusted and admired colleague for me and so many others for many years. He'll be deeply missed.

We do, however, have an interim dean who is also trusted and admired for good reason. I'll let Aron make the introduction by sharing his eloquent words about the transition below:

"The provost has announced that Supratik Rayamajhi, MD, will be the interim starting October 1, 2025. I am so pleased with her choice. I have known and worked with Dr. Rayamajhi since 2008, and he is a remarkable man. He was interim chair of medicine for two and a half years, is a successful hypertension researcher who is core to NIH-funded projects, is the long-time Internal Medicine residency director, and spent years as a clerkship director. Of late, he has been the associate dean for clinical affairs working to help our faculty and departments in the clinical wilds. He, like every dean in the past and the future, will have much to learn and will need your support. Most importantly to me, Supratik has the attributes of a dean and leader—he lives the mission, and, in my experience, he always works to make a



Dr. Supratik Rayamajhi and Dr. Aron Sosa.

situation better. He is surrounded by what I believe is the best group of senior associate and associate deans the college has had. Granted, I am a bit biased, but I am convinced the college is in good hands."

I'll close by wishing all our valued colleagues at the Kent County Medical Society a joyous and restful holiday season.

Merry & bright

As winter settles in, the cardinal's bright presence reminds us of resilience and purpose. Thank you for bringing those same qualities to our community.

We wish you a restful holiday season and a healthy start to the New Year.

