

# THE **BULLETIN**

MAY 2023 VOLUME 100, NUMBER 5



***Real Bodies:***

***The Exhibition***

Opens July 7, 2023,  
at Sloan Museum  
of Discovery

**Letter from the  
U.S. Department of  
Justice**

**Drug Enforcement  
Administration**



GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

*Organized Medicine's Leading*

*THE BULLETIN is published monthly by:  
The Genesee County Medical Society*

**GCMS OFFICERS 2023**

Paul Kocheril , MD, President  
Macksood Aftab, DO , President Elect  
Khalid Ahmed, MD, Immediate Past Pres.  
Brenda Rogers-Grays, DO , Secretary

Ethiraj Raj, MD ,Treasurer

**MSMS OFFICERS 2023**

Pino Colone, MD  
Immediate Past President

John Waters, MD

Treasurer

**DISTRICT DIRECTOR VI**

Nita Kulkarni, MD

**DELEGATES**

Macksood Aftab, DO

Qazi Azher, MD

Ed Christy, MD

Pino Colone, MD

Paul Kocheril, MD

S. Bobby Mukkamala, MD

Venkat Rao, MD

**ALTERNATE DELEGATES**

Khalid Ahmed, MD

Mohammed Alasbahi, MD

Omar Habib, MD

John Hebert, III ,MD

Sunil Kaushal, MD

Shady Megala, MD

Ali Mohammad, MD

Rama Rao, MD

Sunilkumar Rao, DO

Omari Young, MD

Ehab Youssef, MD

**OTHER BOARD MEMBERS**

Michael Giacalone, Jr., MD

Pamela Hackert MD, JD, MPH

Gary Johnson, MD

Elhamadi Saeed, MD

John Waters, MD

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

David Hoff, MA, CCP

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Jennifer Sanders

**MAY 2023 VOLUME 100, NUMBER 5**

# **THE BULLETIN**

READ BY 96% OF GCMS MEMBERS

## **FEATURE ARTICLES**

AMA: DEA Extends Telehealth Flexibilities	15
Commit To Fit	20
COVID-19 Resources	22
GCMS Alliance	25
May 2022– April 2023	
Safe Haven: Physician and Provider Well Being Program	31

## **REGULARS**

President's Message	4
GCMS Meetings	6
Executive Director's Message:	7

**Our Vision**

That the Genesee County Medical Society maintain its position as the premier medical society by advocating on behalf of its physician members and patients.

**Our Mission**

The mission of the Genesee County Medical Society is leadership, advocacy, education, and service on behalf of its members and their patients.

**PLEASE NOTE**

The GCMS Nominating Committee seeks input from members for nominations for the GCMS Presidential Citation for Lifetime Community Service. The Committee would like to be made aware of candidates for consideration.

**THE BULLETIN**

Published by the Genesee County Medical Society Publication Office

4438 Oak Bridge Drive, Suite B, Flint, Michigan 48532

Phone (810) 733-9923

By subscription \$60 per year. Member subscription included with Society dues. Contributions to **THE BULLETIN** are always welcome. Forward news extracts or material of interest to the staff before the 1st of the month. All statements or comments in **THE BULLETIN** are the statements or opinions of the writers and are not necessarily the opinion of the Genesee County Medical Society .

Experience the **RMI** difference!

# CASH PRICING



**HIGH DEDUCTIBLE?  
NO PROBLEM.**

SCAN THE QR CODE TO ACCESS OUR  
TIME OF SERVICE PRICE SHEET



## Women's Services

- 3D UltimateMamm
- Rapid Breast MRI
- Breast Ultrasound
- 4D Diagnostic Breast MRI
- Breast Biopsy
- Contrast Enhanced Spectral Mammography (CESM)
- Breast Cancer (BRCA) Gene Testing



## Services

- Bone Densitometry DEXA
- Computed Tomography (CT)
- CT Lung Cancer Screening
- Coronary CT Angiography
- Drainage and Injections
- Fluoroscopy
- Interventional Pain Management
- MRI
- Nuclear Medicine
- PET/CT
- Ultrasound
- Vascular Access and Intervention
- X-Ray

# Schedule a **RMI** Exam Today!



**6 Offices in Mid-Michigan**

**2 Oakland County Offices**

**1 Wayne County Office**



**Genesee/Lapeer Area  
(810) 732-1919**

**Royal Oak Area  
(248) 543-7226**

**Novi Area  
(248) 536-0410**

**Southgate Area  
(734) 281-6600**

**Flint • Davison • Fenton • Grand Blanc • Lapeer • Novi • Royal Oak • Southgate**

**Evening and weekend appointments available!**

### Physician Advocacy - Help the patient and in turn treat the disease.

*“The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.”*

*-William Osler*

### Advocacy - what is it?

As physicians, we often find ourselves at the crossroads of a unique and sometimes intimate knowledge of patient needs, intersecting with the ability to leverage influence to change health care system delivery, social barriers, and even impact political policy. It is incumbent on physicians to be very familiar with the concept of seeing patient needs beyond a biomedical model and incorporating social factors of health into patient care, which forms the foundation of being an advocate. These factors may include education, income and employment, social support and housing, as well as early childhood experiences.

### Is physician advocacy important?

On an individual basis, the precursors of advocacy must first involve establishing a patient-provider relationship wherein the needs of the patient are understood and heard, followed by taking additional steps to ensure a patient receives the services they need to recover and thrive in society. It is essential to have the humility to recognize that many physicians come from a background of relative privilege, and thus may not be able to directly relate to how a person without social privilege experiences illness or need. Being educated professionals, physicians ought to be reflective, self-aware, and cautious in assuming they know or understand the socially disadvantaged patient's priorities which is very important in the communities we serve.

### What are the barriers to physician advocacy?

An important first barrier to having engaged physician advocates is the selection criteria of medical schools traditionally placing heavy emphasis on biomedical knowledge and predictors of achievement as a medical expert. If our medical communities and training institutions place a high value on advocacy, pre-medical school experiences that highlight awareness of social justice issues and a desire to intervene will be increasingly considered.

Traditionally, advocacy was something observed in predecessor physicians who were notable role models as advocates, then subsequent physicians began to experience and hone similar behaviors as independent practitioners. In more recent years, there is an increasing emphasis on service learning: engaging undergraduate medical students in community-based, hands-on projects to understand and become involved with social and societal health needs.



## How can we foster the skills of physician advocates?

With the assumption that there is consensus that advocacy is an essential skill for physicians and as such should be thoughtfully and specifically taught throughout medical training, the task becomes how to build an educational framework. We must begin by selecting future colleagues that have an interest in, and hopefully a passion for, the role of physician as advocate. Both trainees and “accomplished” physician advocates must constantly and humbly return to the person or group we are advocating with to ensure our priorities align and that we are indeed working alongside. This will require the ability to establish excellent therapeutic relationships built on trust, listening, and understanding. The ability to liaise with community organizations that do not necessarily have biomedical outcomes as their primary goal ought to be encouraged and modelled early during the formative training of future doctors.

Despite its diverse and broad definition, physicians often intuitively know when advocacy is required and that it is integrally important to the health of the individual and in caring for the greater community. Acquisition of advocacy skills is complex, longitudinal, inter-relational, and collaborative. The nature of the activity will necessarily mean it is harder to define, quantify, and assess than other traditional physician skills such as scholarship and technical medical expertise; hence, curricula are diverse and in evolution. Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, advocates must approach each patient as an individual and with a great deal of humility. Perception of need and how best to advocate is a lifelong challenge, which even the accomplished clinician advocate will find humbling and instructive.

Hope this resonates with you and your willingness to become a “true” patient advocate.



Paul Kocheril, MD

**Practice Managers**

June 8, 2023

9:00 a.m.

**Medical Society Foundation**

June 21, 2023

6:00 p.m.

**Board of Directors**

June 27, 2023

6:00 p.m.

\*All meetings are via Zoom unless otherwise noted

## *Announcement*

GCMS members now entitled  
to a 15% discount on automobile  
and homeowners insurance.

For details, contact:

**POTTER & ROOSE**  
**INSURANCE**

**810-767-8590**

Providers of insurance for the GCMS & its  
members for 50 years.

906 Mott Foundation Bld., Flint MI 48502

## *Your* **HEALTH CARE LAW FIRM**



Wachler & Associates represents healthcare providers, suppliers, and other individuals in Michigan and nationally in all areas of health care law, including:

- **Provider Contracting**
- **RAC, Medicare, Medicaid and Commercial Payor Audits**
- **Billing and Reimbursement**
- **Stark Law, Anti-Kickback Statute, and Fraud & Abuse Compliance**
- **Licensure, Staff Privilege and Credentialing**
- **Physician and Physician Group Issues**
- **Corporate and Transactional Matters**
- **Regulatory Compliance**
- **Healthcare Litigation**
- **Healthcare Investigations**
- **Fraud and False Claims Defense**
- **Provider Participation/Termination Matters**
- **HIPAA and HITECH Compliance**

**WACHLER**  
ASSOCIATES

SERVING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS FOR OVER 30 YEARS

248.544.0888 • [wachler.com](http://wachler.com)

### The Michigan State Medical Society House of Delegates

In April, the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) held its 158th annual House of Delegates, a significant event that serves as a platform for discussing policy changes and resolutions. During this yearly meeting, medical professionals gathered to present resolutions to a reference committee, which subsequently reviews and recommends these resolutions for voting or amendment. Once a resolution successfully passes the vote, it becomes official MSMS policy. The Genesee County Medical Society (GCMS) actively participated in this meeting. Members of GCMS were also panel members of the resolution committees.

As the Executive Director of the Genesee County Medical Society, I had the distinct honor of testifying in front of the MSMS reference committee during the 2023 House of Delegates. This opportunity was truly a career highlight for me, allowing me to advocate for the interests and concerns of our esteemed medical community. Being the first Executive Director within the current group of county executives to testify at the MSMS HOD made this experience all the more meaningful.

Having attended the past two live HOD meetings, I can attest to the significance of this event. It also serves as a platform for county executives from across the state of Michigan to convene, engaging in valuable discussions on various issues and member benefits. These gatherings provide an unparalleled opportunity for networking, collaboration, and the sharing of insights and best practices among professionals who are dedicated to advancing healthcare.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunities afforded to me by the GCMS and MSMS. Serving as the Executive Director in this role is truly a privilege, allowing me to work on behalf of physicians and the broader community of Genesee County. The Genesee County Medical Society stands as one of the most robust and dynamic medical societies in the state. I encourage all physicians in the county to consider becoming a member.

I invite you to join us for the next Town Hall meeting, scheduled for August 31 @6pm. This promises to be a unique and exciting event, welcoming not only physicians but also spouses, children and non-members. Stay tuned for the Town Hall flyer announcement, and mark your calendar to ensure you don't miss out on this unique opportunity to connect with colleagues, exchange ideas, and contribute to the growth, and development of our medical community.

Together, let us continue to shape the future of healthcare in Genesee County and beyond, fostering excellence, collaboration, education, and support in medicine.

For any comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at the following address:

[executivedirector@gcms.org](mailto:executivedirector@gcms.org)



DAVID HOFF, MA, CCP











Save the Date

GCMG/GCMSA

President's Ball

November 18, 2023



2337 Stonebridge Dr., Building F, Flint, MI 48532

Phone 810-733-6600

Fax 810-733-0262

fb.com/completewa

kendall@completewa.com

Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research Inc., a broker/dealer, member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisor services through Cambridge Investment Research Advisors Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor. Cambridge and Complete Wealth Advisors are not affiliated.

# REAL BODIES

THE EXHIBITION

PRESENTED BY



**REAL BODIES: The Exhibition opens July 7, 2023 at Sloan Museum of Discovery in partnership with Hurley Medical Center.**



If you'd like to partner with us in our mission to engage communities on a learning journey in history and science, please consider becoming a sponsor of REAL BODIES: The Exhibition. Sponsorship opportunities and benefits below:

**\$5,000 6-month Sponsorship Level**  
(19 FULL-BODY SPECIMENS AVAILABLE)

- Prominent Logo on Real Bodies exhibit entrance sign for duration of the exhibit
- Prominent Logo on plaque on large sponsored specimen for duration of the exhibit
- Prominent Logo on website with link in list of supporting sponsors for duration of the exhibit
- 5 Private Preview tickets for July 6, 2022

**\$2,000 6-month Sponsorship Level**

- Logo on Real Bodies exhibit entrance sign for duration of the exhibit.
- Mention on website for duration of the exhibit.
- Acknowledgment of sponsor inside at least one specimen case on approximately 3" x 5" plaques for duration of the exhibit.
- 2 Preview tickets for July 6, 2023.

**ALL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE ON FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS. FOR SPONSORSHIP DETAILS AND MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

Debbe Campbell, Development Director  
at (810) 237-7391 or DCampbell@SloanLongway.org  
Lauren Coney, Engagement Officer  
at (810) 237-7331 or LConey@SloanLongway.org



1221 E. KEARSLEY ST. FLINT, MI 48503  
**SloanMuseum.org**





# HURLEY

MEDICAL CENTER

## COMPREHENSIVE SURGICAL GROUP

### TEAM OF EXPERTS

At Hurley Medical Center, our acute care surgeons are board-certified in a range of surgical disciplines and can treat a broad spectrum of cases and complexities, including:

- Acute Care Surgery/Burn Surgery
- Adult & Pediatric Trauma & Surgical Critical Care
- Bariatric Surgery
- Emergency Surgery
- Gallbladder Surgery
- General Surgery
- Hernia Surgery
- Minimally Invasive/Robotic Surgery
- Reflux Surgery

To Refer a Patient to Hurley's Comprehensive Surgical Group, fax your referral form or

**CALL 810.262.6555**



Hurley Comprehensive Surgical Group  
1125 S. Linden Rd, Suite 100  
Flint, MI



**Patrick R Beer, DO**

- Adult & Pediatric Trauma & Surgical Critical Care
- Acute Care Surgery/Burn Surgery
- General Surgery
- Hernia Surgery/Hiatal & Giant/Complex Reconstruction
- Minimally Invasive/Robotic Surgery



**John N. Donkersloot, MD**

- Adult & Pediatric Trauma & Surgical Critical Care
- Acute Care Surgery/Burn Surgery
- General Surgery
- Minimally Invasive/Robotic Surgery



**Leo C. Mercer MD, FACS, FCCM**

- Adult & Pediatric Trauma & Surgical Critical Care
- Acute Care Surgery/Burn Surgery
- General Surgery
- Hernia Surgery/Hiatal & Giant/Complex Reconstruction
- Minimally Invasive/Robotic Surgery



**Gul Sachwani-Daswani DO, FACOS**

- Trauma Medical Director
- Adult & Pediatric Trauma & Surgical Critical Care
- Acute Care Surgery/Burn Surgery
- Bariatric Surgery
- General Surgery
- Hernia Surgery/Hiatal & Giant/Complex Reconstruction
- Minimally Invasive/Robotic Surgery



**Kristoffer Wong DO, FACOS**

- Director of Hurley Hernia Center of Excellence
- Director of Surgical Robotics
- Adult & Pediatric Trauma & Surgical Critical Care
- Acute Care Surgery/Burn Surgery
- Bariatric Surgery
- General Surgery
- Hernia Surgery/Hiatal & Giant/Complex Reconstruction
- Minimally Invasive/Robotic Surgery



**ATTENTION!**



**9:00 A.M.**  
**Via Zoom**

**ATTENTION: PRACTICE MANAGERS  
AND OFFICE STAFF!**

**Genesee County Medical Society addresses issues of concern  
for medical professionals!**

Please join GCMS and SOVITA in monthly meetings for  
practice managers and office staff of *all member physicians*.

*Please email [executivedirector@gcms.org](mailto:executivedirector@gcms.org) to RSVP,*

***YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZOOM INVITE***

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

**June 8, 2023 9:00 A.M.**

*You do not want your Practice Manager to miss out  
on these valuable meetings!*





# So easy!

New Members can earn up  
to **\$150** just for joining.



Sovita Credit Union is dedicated  
to those who devote their lives to  
education and healthcare  
including their immediate families.



Federally Insured  
by NCUA.

**Sovita**<sup>®</sup>  
CREDIT UNION



scan for details

**Become a member:** call 810.720.8300 • visit a branch office • go to [sovitacu.org](https://www.sovitacu.org)



**DAVID HOFF**  
CEO

(810) 407-4921  
hoffshealthybooks@gmail.com

hoffshealthybooks.com

Certified QuickBooks  
Online ProAdvisor

- Provide bookkeeping and general ledger entry input for QuickBooks Online.
- Generate income reports as needed.
- Perform budgeting and fixed cost analysis.
- Offer payroll services.
- Provide QuickBooks Online set up and consulting.

## Your Membership at Work

- ◆ GCMS hosts monthly Practice Manager's meeting discussing complicated insurance issues in round table discussions with various insurance companies. If you find on-going insurance issues, please reach out to GCMS staff at [executivedirector@gcms.org](mailto:executivedirector@gcms.org) and we can connect that insurance company representative with our hard working Practice Managers.
- ◆ GCMS staff helped Genesee County residents with contacts, resources and explanations.
- ◆ GCMS Membership Committee has collaborated and has a plan in place to reach out to and meet with various practices in Genesee County. If you have colleagues that are not yet GCMS members, please connect with them!  
\*\*\*\* A flyer of GCMS benefits can be provided to you.





## DEA Extends Telehealth Flexibilities

The ability to prescribe controlled substances based on telehealth patient visits was set to expire when the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency ends on Thursday, May 11<sup>th</sup>. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) initially issued two proposed rules establishing new policies for controlled substance prescriptions based on telehealth visits, one for buprenorphine and one for other controlled substances. The AMA weighed in on the policy with multiple arms of the Biden administration, including the DEA as well as Rahul Gupta, MD, the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. After receiving more than 38,000 comment letters, however, the DEA has [decided to extend](#) the same policies that have been in place during COVID for an additional 6 months, until November 11, 2023. The AMA has issued a statement welcoming this extension.

<https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-statement-dea-extending-telehealth-prescription-flexibilities>



**U. S. Department of Justice**  
Drug Enforcement Administration  
8701 Morrissette Drive  
Springfield, Virginia 22152

---

[www.dea.gov](http://www.dea.gov)

## DEA Registered-Practitioners

Dear Registrants:

On December 29, 2022, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 enacted a new **one-time**, eight-hour training requirement for all Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-registered practitioners on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders. Below is information on this new requirement.

### **Who is responsible for satisfying this new training requirement?**

- All DEA-registered practitioners, with the exception of practitioners that are solely veterinarians.

### **How will practitioners be asked to report satisfying this new training requirement?**

- Beginning on June 27, 2023, practitioners will be required to check a box on their online DEA registration form—regardless of whether a registrant is completing their initial registration application or renewing their registration—affirming that they have completed the new training requirement.

### **What is the deadline for satisfying this new training requirement?**

- The deadline for satisfying this new training requirement is the date of a practitioner's next scheduled DEA registration submission—regardless of whether it is an initial registration or a renewal registration—on or after June 27, 2023.
- This one-time training requirement affirmation will not be a part of future registration renewals.

### **How can practitioners satisfy this new training requirement?**

There are multiple ways that practitioners can satisfy this new training requirement.

- First, the following groups of practitioners are deemed to have satisfied this training:
  1. **Group 1:** All practitioners that are board certified in addiction medicine or addiction psychiatry from the American Board of Medical Specialties, the American Board of Addiction Medicine, or the American Osteopathic Association.
  2. **Group 2:** All practitioners that graduated in good standing from a medical (allopathic or osteopathic), dental, physician assistant, or advanced practice nursing school in the United States within five years of June 27, 2023, and successfully completed a comprehensive curriculum that included at least eight hours of training on:



- Treating and managing patients with opioid or other substance use disorders, including the appropriate clinical use of all drugs approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of a substance use disorder; or
  - Safe pharmacological management of dental pain and screening, brief intervention, and referral for appropriate treatment of patients with or at risk of developing opioid and other substance use disorders.
- Second, practitioners can satisfy this training by engaging in a total of eight hours of training on treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders from the groups listed below. A few key points related to this training:
    1. The training does not have to occur in one session. It can be cumulative across multiple sessions that equal eight hours of training.
    2. Past trainings on the treatment and management of patients with opioid or other substance use disorders can count towards a practitioner meeting this requirement. In other words, if you received a relevant training from one of the groups listed below—prior to the enactment of this new training obligation on December 29, 2022—that training counts towards the eight-hour requirement.
    3. Past DATA-Waived trainings count towards a DEA registrant’s 8-hour training requirement.
    4. Trainings can occur in a variety of formats, including classroom settings, seminars at professional society meetings, or virtual offerings.

#### **What accredited groups may provide trainings that meet this new requirement?**

- The American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)
- The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP)
- American Medical Association (AMA)
- The American Osteopathic Association (AOA), or any organizations accredited by the AOA to provide continuing medical education
- The American Dental Association (ADA)
- The American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (AAOMS)
- The American Psychiatric Association (APA)
- The American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
- The American Academy of Physician Associates (AAPA)
- The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)
- Any other organization accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (AACCME) or the Commission for Continuing Education Provider Recognition (CCEPR), whether directly or through an organization accredited by a State medical society that is recognized by the ACCME or CCEPR
- Any other organization approved or accredited by the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, the ACCME, or the CCEPR

We hope this information is helpful. For information regarding the DEA Diversion Control Division, please visit [www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov](http://www.DEAdiversion.usdoj.gov). If you have any additional questions on this issue, please contact the Diversion Control Division Policy Section at (571) 362-3260.

Sincerely,

THOMAS  
PREVOZNIK

Digitally signed by  
THOMAS PREVOZNIK  
Date: 2023.03.27  
16:37:23 -04'00'

Thomas W. Prevoznik  
Acting Assistant Administrator  
Diversion Control Division

## Government Relations & Physician Engagement Team

msms.org

msms.org



**Josiah Kissling**, Senior Director  
State and Federal Government Relations  
E: [jkissling@msms.org](mailto:jkissling@msms.org)  
P: 810/444-7149



**Joshua Richmond**, Senior Director  
Physician Engagement and  
Organizational Integration  
E: [jrichmond@msms.org](mailto:jrichmond@msms.org)  
P: 517/974-5331



**Stacey Hettiger**, Senior Director  
Medical and Regulatory Policy  
E: [shettiger@msms.org](mailto:shettiger@msms.org)  
P: 517/410-6366



**Scott Kempa**, Manager  
State and Federal Government Relations  
E: [skempa@msms.org](mailto:skempa@msms.org)  
P: 248/770-8378



**Kate Dorsey**, Manager  
State and Federal Government Relations  
E: [kdorsey@msms.org](mailto:kdorsey@msms.org)  
P: 313/525-0646



**Anne'ka Marzette**, Coordinator  
Medical and Regulatory Policy  
E: [amarzette@msms.org](mailto:amarzette@msms.org)  
P: 517/336-5736



**Mary Kate Barnauskas**, Specialist  
Medical and Regulatory Policy  
E: [mbarnauskas@msms.org](mailto:mbarnauskas@msms.org)  
P: 517/336-7575



## Legislative Platform & Priorities



MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY



MICHIGAN STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY

120 West Saginaw Street, East Lansing, Michigan 48823  
P: 517 / 337.1351 » E: [msms@msms.org](mailto:msms@msms.org)

# MSMS Legislative Platform & Priorities



## MSMS Legislative Priorities

Key priorities of the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) and its 15,000 physician and medical student members are as follows:

### COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken a devastating toll on the physical and mental health of Michigan citizens, as well as the economic health of our state. Additionally, many of Michigan's medical practices are trying to regroup from financial and staffing losses and increased costs to comply with regulatory mandates. By using scientific data to help inform decision-making, MSMS is committed to working collaboratively with stakeholders to end the COVID-19 pandemic, safely re-engage all economic sectors, provide efficient and equitable vaccine distribution, and ensure practice sustainability.

### Prior Authorization and Step Therapy Reform

The prior authorization process diverts valuable resources away from direct patient care, can delay the start or continuation of necessary treatment, and can negatively impact patient health outcomes. Step therapy, also known as fail first, is another practice that disrupts patient care by requiring patients to try other therapies before being approved for the treatment that their doctor originally prescribed. MSMS will work closely with the Legislature, regulators, and other stakeholders on ways to reform prior authorization and step therapy processes to ensure transparency, remove unnecessary and costly care delays, and support shared decision-making.

### Team-based Care

Patients are best served by a team-based approach to care that provides the maximum amount of choice while ensuring that they benefit from the additional training and expertise that comes from having a physician on the team. A highly functioning health care team is the best way to serve patients. MSMS will continue to promote the role of the physician as the leader of the health care team and oppose any efforts to expand allied health professionals scope of practice that may put patients at risk.

### Telemedicine

Telemedicine has proven to be an effective care delivery method that ensures convenient and timely access to patients. Before the outbreak of COVID-19, insurers covered telemedicine visits to varying extents; however, there were often obstacles such as low reimbursement and restrictions on site of care. Although payers removed some of the regulatory and administrative barriers during the pandemic, these policies are now reverting to pre-pandemic times. Moving forward, payment and service parity for the use of clinically appropriate telemedicine services is critical.

### Health Equity

Several events in 2020 brought to the forefront the need to prioritize advocacy addressing systemic policies and other contributing factors that deny historically marginalized groups equal and just opportunities to maximize quality of life and health outcomes. In order to improve the health of all populations, MSMS will work to advance policies that reduce disparities and improve health equity.

### Graduate Medical Education (GME)

Studies repeatedly demonstrate that one of the best ways to recruit and retain physicians is via local medical schools and residency programs. GME helps fill the gap in underserved areas by providing extremely low-cost care to those most in need. Michigan has been a leader in expanding medical school class sizes to address the projected demand for physician services, it is imperative that we continue to fund GME slots to allow these future physicians to learn here in Michigan, train here in Michigan, and stay here in Michigan.

## Legislative & Regulatory Platform

MSMS has long-standing positions and policies on numerous topics. Following is an overview of the top issues comprising the MSMS legislative and regulatory advocacy platform.

### Insurance and Regulatory Advocacy

- Support mental health and substance use disorder parity
- Ensure appropriate access to and payment for telemedicine
- Advocate for adequate and transparent physician networks
- Reduce unnecessary administrative costs

### Public Health and Prevention

- Strengthen public health infrastructure
- Support vaccine availability and oppose efforts to weaken Michigan's vaccine laws
- Improve health equity
- Ensure access to evidence-based non-opioid pain care and opioid use disorder treatment
- Reduce childhood environmental hazards
- Reduce gun violence through health screening, patient counseling and expanded access to mental health services

### Professional Liability

- Preserve existing tort reforms
- Support higher negligence thresholds in medical liability cases
- Eliminate the lost opportunity doctrine
- Maintain the legislative intent and enforceability of all medical liability tort reforms

### Medicaid

- Seek funding parity with Medicare
- Seek funding sources that are fair and sustainable
- Support state funding for the Healthy Michigan Plan
- Ensure access to physician-directed care

### Physician Supply and Training

- Increase graduate medical education funding at state level
- Minimize burden of medical school debt

### Insurance Contracting Reform

- Limit retroactive audit timeframes
- Support adequate disclosure of fee screens
- Support appeals process that includes independent reviews

### Scope of Practice

- Support physician-led, team-based health care
- Support education over legislation as the means of increasing scope of practice
- Oppose independent prescriptive authority by non-physicians
- Support patient right-to-know/health professional credentials disclosure

### For more information about MSMS legislative advocacy, please contact:

- Josiah Kissling, Senior Director, State and Federal Government Relations, at [jkissling@msms.org](mailto:jkissling@msms.org)
- Scott Kempa, Manager, State and Federal Government Relations, at [skempa@msms.org](mailto:skempa@msms.org)
- Kate Dorsey, Manager, State and Federal Government Relations, at [kdorsey@msms.org](mailto:kdorsey@msms.org)





# COMMIT TO FIT!

## Virtual Fitness Guide

### Commit to Fit!



Visit [commit2fit.com](https://commit2fit.com) to track all of your physical activity and keep track of your fitness goal!

### University of Michigan - Flint



Click [HERE](#) for daily workouts!

### Crim Fitness Foundation



Visit [crim.org](https://crim.org) for a variety of yoga and mindfulness practices!

### Ascension Genesys Athletic Club



Click [HERE](#) for intense & moderate workout videos!

### YMCA - 360



Visit [ymca360.org](https://ymca360.org) for fitness classes of all ages!

### Arthritis Foundation



Click [HERE](#) for arthritis exercises!





# COMMIT TO FIT WALK WITH EASE

## Free Walking Program

Whether you need relief from arthritis pain or just want to be active, the Arthritis Foundation's six week Walk With Ease program can teach you how to safely make physical activity part of your everyday life. Studies show that Walk With Ease is proven to:



- Reduce the pain and discomfort of arthritis
- Increase balance, strength, and walking pace
- Build confidence in your ability to be physically active
- Improve overall health

## UPCOMING SESSION:

**Max Brandon Park**

**Pasadena Ave. Side Entrance**

*Pavilion #1*

**Mondays & Wednesdays**

**from 9:00-10:00am**

**through September, 2023**

*\*weather permitting*

To register, call 810.232.2228 or online at  
[www.surveymonkey.com/r/C2FPrograms](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C2FPrograms)





 **CLICK HERE**


**For Daily Genesee County Covid-19 Numbers**

 **COVID-19 Summary for Genesee County, Michigan**

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Data Dashboard for Genesee County](#)

 **CLICK HERE**

**For Reporting**



**EMPLOYERS + SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS:**

Do you need to report a laboratory-confirmed positive COVID-19 case?

Click the button to email the Communicable Disease team at [GCHD-CD@gchd.us](mailto:GCHD-CD@gchd.us) or call (810) 257-1017

 **CLICK HERE**

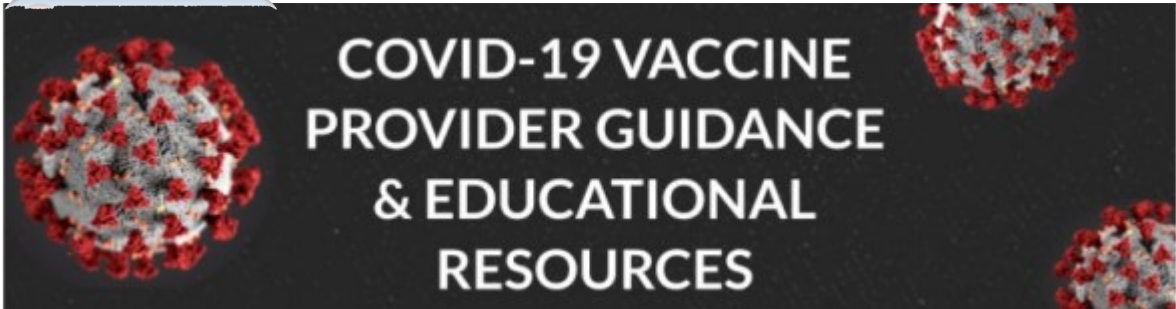
**For State of Michigan Covid-19 Information**







 [CLICK HERE](#)



## COVID-19 VACCINE

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates how diseases without vaccines can devastate economic and public health. Vaccines have reduced and, in some cases, eliminated many diseases. In the U.S., there is currently no approved vaccine to prevent COVID-19. MDHHS is working with the CDC and Michigan stakeholders to prepare and plan for when the vaccine is available. The initial draft of our state's plan is now available and will be updated often in the coming months. Visit regularly for the most recent information on the COVID-19 vaccine and Michigan's preparations.

[COVID-19 VACCINE PLAN](#)

 [CLICK HERE](#)

[COVID-19 VACCINE RESOURCES](#)

[IMMUNIZATIONS DURING COVID-19](#)

[CDC FAQs](#)

[PROVIDER GUIDANCE & EDUCATION](#)

NEW BENEFIT  
FOR  
MEMBERS!

*GCMS can help YOUR PRACTICE  
meet the ADA requirements*

*and provide impeccable services to your patients*

*at a DISCOUNTED price!*

*Genesee County Medical Society Members  
receive a discount for language services!*



#### Interpreting Services

- On-site Interpreting
- Virtual Interpreting
- Phone Interpreting
- Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)
- Conference & Event Interpreting

**LUNA**  
Language  
Services

To become a GCMS member,  
or to receive details about  
this discounted service

Please contact :

[ExecutiveDirector@GCMS.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@GCMS.org)

# THE ALLIANCE FOCUS

## Genesee County Medical Society Alliance

May 2022 ~ April 2023

The year began with our annual Geranium Luncheon at Warwick Hills Country Club where the new officers were installed for the upcoming year. In September we came together for our annual International Luncheon at the beautiful home of Vijay Sayal. This event is always well attended and very fun not to mention the amazing food! In October we were treated to a fun and informative tour of the new Sloan Museum of Discovery where we were so happy to be joined by our MSMSA State President, Beth Junewick! In December members gathered for a beautiful holiday lunch at Warwick CC to end the year. This spring members enjoyed an informative program on 'Women's Health Matters' by one of our own, Liesbeth Fernandez. The year will wrap up with the Geranium Luncheon at Warwick Hills on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We have two very active groups that meet regularly; one called the Friendship Group, open to all members, which meets for lunch at different local restaurants every month and our GCMSA book club which enjoys lively discussions from so many different world perspectives on a variety of books. Again, fun and fellowship is in the air anytime our GCMSA members get together!

The GCMSA also supported great causes such as the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan's Senior Grocery Box program, the YWCA SafeHouse Shelter and families in need at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Flint. We supported other great causes including a student essay writing contest for the annual Peace Day celebration in Flint as well as books for school children. There has been a long-standing relationship with the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic and the GCMSA supports the Healing Hands Run and members have personally supported the clinic by donating items that the clinic distributes to those in need.

How wonderful to make a difference in our community and have fun and fellowship at the same time with our wonderful GCMSA members!

Tinsi Kline

GCMSA President 2022-2023







## Dr. Purushottam Naik M.D.

Of Grand Blanc, age 72, died Thursday, May 11, 2023 at his residence. Visitation was held Monday, May 15, 2023 at the Swartz Funeral Home, 1225 West Hill Road, Flint. Contributions may be made to the American Heart Association in Dr. Naik's memory. Purushottam was born in Wai, India on July 7, 1950. He was the son of late Narayan Wakade and Mangala Dhekne. He graduated medical school from BJ Medical College in 1973, and married Chitra Saptarshi on July 23, 1978 in India. Together they welcomed two children into this world. He dedicated over 50 years of his life in medicine having the privilege of practicing in four different countries. His empathy, kindness, and intelligence not only made him a great doctor, but also a source of wisdom and comfort to those who knew him. He had a calm and caring personality, and was known for his ability to sense when people needed his help. He touched many lives with his generosity and passion for life. Besides spending time with his family and friends, he enjoyed golfing, skiing, and traveling the world. He was lucky to live such a fulfilling life. Surviving are wife Dr. Chitra DMD; daughter Aditi and husband Chance Crosno; son Dr. Amogh DDS and wife Jackie Naik; grandchildren Aarya and Brady; cousins Shekhar Wakade and wife Pranjali; Mohan Wakade and wife Swati; Arun Wakade; and many special friends and colleagues. Dr. Naik was also preceded in death by his brother Dilip Naik. Your condolences may be shared with the family at [swartzfuneralhomeinc.com](http://swartzfuneralhomeinc.com)



# Hope and health

in the community



*Supporting recovery,  
prevention, health,  
and wellness of the  
body, the mind, and  
the community.*

### Customer Services

Monday - Friday 8am-5pm

**(810) 257-3705**

Toll Free: 866-211-5455

TTY: (810) 257-1346

[www.genhs.org](http://www.genhs.org)

### Call us to begin services:

420 W. 5th Avenue • Flint, MI 48503

Monday - Friday 8am-5pm

**(810) 257-3740**

Toll Free: 877-346-3648 • TTY: (810) 232-6310

### 24 HOUR CRISIS LINE

7 days a week - 24 hours a day

**(810) 257-3740**

Toll Free: 877-346-3648 • TTY: (810) 232-6310

### BEHAVIORAL HEALTH URGENT CARE

422 W. 4th Avenue • Flint, MI 48503

**(810) 496-5500**

Toll Free: 877-346-3648 • TTY: (810) 232-6310

**Walk-In Services:** 7 days a week - extended hours

**Video Chat Services:** 7 days a week - 24 hours a day

**Children & Young Adult**

**Mobile Crisis Services:** 7 days a week - 8am - 7pm





# GHS Intensive Crisis Stabilization Services for Children and Young Adults



The **GHS Children's Intensive Crisis Stabilization Team (ICSS)** provides mobile crisis stabilization services, 7 days a week between 8:00am and 7:00pm to all children, youth, and young adults (ages 0-21) who reside in Genesee County. Calls during other hours are helped by our Crisis Line mental health professionals.

## Reasons to call GHS:

- If you feel your child/youth is in a crisis
- The child/youth may hurt themselves or others
- The child is experiencing overwhelming confusion, anger, or emotional unresponsiveness

If you aren't sure if ICSS is needed, give us a call and we can help to explore options.

## What happens when the GHS Intensive Crisis Team is called?

The team will provide an on-site intervention with the identified child or youth, and their support system. The team's main focus will be to help assess the crisis, utilize de-escalation techniques, help the child/youth and their family or support system to help with what is needed and to help determine next steps and long-term care.

## Other services include:

- Crisis and Safety Planning
- Referrals to needed services
- Education on resources, diagnosis and services
- Collaboration and problem solving

\* Psychiatric consults, as needed (does not include medication review for prescription)

\*\* Intensive Crisis Stabilization services cannot be provided to individuals who are currently residing in inpatient settings: Jail/detention centers or residential settings (i.e. child caring institutions, crisis residential, etc.).

## **GHS Intensive Crisis Stabilization Services for Children**

**810.257.3740 877.364.3648**

**420 W. Fifth Avenue, Flint 48503 • [www.genhs.org](http://www.genhs.org)**

Supported by funds from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Mental Health Services through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

## Easy Ways to Donate to the Medical Society Foundation:

The Medical Society Foundation is engaged in a Capitol Campaign. The purpose of the Campaign is to grow the corpus to support the charitable activities of the Genesee County Medical Society. Those activities include public and community health, support for the underserved, and wellness initiatives.

To continue its good work, the Medical Society Foundation is asking you to consider leaving a legacy gift to the Foundation. If all, or even a significant portion of our membership left just a small part of our estates to the Foundation, the Foundation could continue helping this community in so many ways, by supporting the Medical Society.

To make a gift, simply use these words:

In your Trust, "Grantor directs Trustee to distribute \_\_\_% of all assets then held in Trust or later added to this Trust to the Medical Society Foundation, to be held in an endowed fund and used in the discretion of its then existing board of directors in furtherance of the purposes of the Foundation."

In your Will, "I give, devise and bequeath \_\_\_% of my Estate to the Medical Society Foundation, to be held in an endowed fund and used in the discretion of its then existing Board of Directors in furtherance of the purposes of the Foundation."

While this is not a subject that is comfortable to broach, it is an opportunity to support the Foundation which supports the Medical Society's charitable activities on behalf of the membership. Please give. You can give via a trust or will. You can give from your IRA. You can give appreciated stock, and you can give cash. Please support the organization which does so much on behalf of the medical community and the patients we serve.



**Don't Forget!**  
Donations are tax deductible!

**Please contact GCMS at 733-9923 or email [executivedirector@gcms.org](mailto:executivedirector@gcms.org)**





## Do you have an advertising NEED?

- Are you a Physician **and** you are a member of GCMS and you have a new practice in Michigan?
- Do you have a medical practice **and** you are a member of GCMS and your office has relocated?
- Do you have a business that serves Michigan and business slow?

Let Genesee County Medical Society help!

## Genesee County Medical Society Bulletin

(ONLINE MAGAZINE)

**Your ad will be featured in the Genesee County Medical Society monthly bulletin that is provided to 1,500+ viewers. The Bulletin can also be found on the GCMS website, and is also published through Calameo virtual magazine. ([HTTPS://En.Calameo.com/](https://en.calameo.com/))**

1/2-page ad \$195/month

3/4-page ad \$290/month

Full page ad \$350/month

A link to the business website or email can be added for **NO** additional fee.

[Click here](#)

to connect with GCMS, we can provide your advertising needs!



\*\*all ads placed by Physicians or Medical Practices must have a GCMS membership.



**safe haven™**  
CONFIDENTIAL SUPPORT

# SAFEHAVEN™

## PHYSICIAN AND PROVIDER WELL BEING PROGRAM

Rediscover meaning, joy, and purpose in medicine.

SafeHaven™ ensures that physicians and health care providers can seek confidential assistance and support for burnout, career fatigue, and mental health reasons.



In-the-moment telephonic support by a licensed counselor, 24/7



Legal and financial consultations and resources, available 24/7



Peer Coaching—talk with someone who has walked in your shoes that can help you grow both personally and professionally

- Six sessions per incident
- Physician or provider chooses coach from a panel of coaches



Counseling, available in either face-to-face or virtual sessions; addressing stress, relationships, eldercare, grief, and more

- Six sessions per incident
- Available to all extended family members



WorkLife Concierge, a virtual assistant to help with every day and special occasion tasks, 24/7



VITAL WorkLife App—Mobile access to resources, well being assessments, insights, and more

### RESOURCES FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS

SafeHaven™ includes Well Being Resources from VITAL WorkLife—confidential and discreet resources designed to reduce stress and burnout, promote work/life integration and support well being for you and your family.

TO LEARN MORE, VISIT  
[www.MSMS.org/SafeHaven](http://www.MSMS.org/SafeHaven)

To support the needs of physicians and health care providers struggling with stress, burnout, and the effects of COVID-19, the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) and VITAL WorkLife have partnered to offer a comprehensive set of well being resources and confidential counseling services for their use, SafeHaven™.





120 West Saginaw Street | East Lansing, Michigan 48823  
517-337-1351 | [msms@msms.org](mailto:msms@msms.org) | [www.msms.org](http://www.msms.org)

Application Code: \_\_\_\_\_

# State and County Medical Society MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Join MSMS and your County Medical Society online at [www.joinmsms.org](http://www.joinmsms.org)



- I am in my first year of practice post-residency.
- I am in my second year of practice post-residency.
- I am in my third year of practice post-residency.
- I have moved into Michigan; this is my first year practicing in the state.
- I work 20 hours or less per week.
- I am currently in active military duty.
- I am in full, active practice.
- I am a resident/fellow.

Male     Female

First (legal) Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  MD  DO

Nickname or Preferred Form of Legal Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

W Phone \_\_\_\_\_ W Fax \_\_\_\_\_ H Phone \_\_\_\_\_ H Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Office Address  Preferred Mail  Preferred Bill  Preferred Mail and Bill

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address  Preferred Mail  Preferred Bill  Preferred Mail and Bill

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please base my county medical society membership on the county of my (if addresses are in different counties):  Office Address  Home Address

\*Birth Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Birth Country \_\_\_\_\_ MI Medical License #: \_\_\_\_\_ ME #: \_\_\_\_\_

Medical School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year: \_\_\_\_\_ ECFMG # (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Residency Program \_\_\_\_\_ Program Completion Year \_\_\_\_\_

Fellowship Program \_\_\_\_\_ Program Completion Year \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

• Primary Specialty \_\_\_\_\_ Board Certified:  Yes  No

• Secondary Specialty \_\_\_\_\_ Board Certified:  Yes  No

Marital Status:  Single  Married  Divorced Spouse's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your spouse a physician?:  Yes  No If yes, are they a member of MSMS?:  Yes  No

Within the last five years, have you been convicted of a felony crime?:  Yes  No If "yes," please provide full information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_