

The Bulletin

Saginaw County Medical Society

July/August 2025 | Volume 82 | No 1

REGISTER NOW!
9/16/25 Membership
Meeting - Dentists
and DOs invited!
SAVE THE DATE!

10/21/25
Membership Meeting
p. 4

MSMS Task Force
Examines Future
Relationship with County
Medical Societies
p. 9

JOIN US!
SCMS Health Expo
"The Doctor Is In!"
Saturday 9/13/25
p. 10



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The Bulletin can be viewed online at www.SaginawCountyMS.com under the Bulletin tab.

COVER PHOTO: (L-R) KARENNA MANSOUR, DR. FURHUT JANSSEN AND DR. CHRIS ALLEN

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All statements or comments in the Bulletin are those of the writers, and not necessarily the opinion of the Saginaw County Medical Society. Contributions are welcome. We publish committee reports, letters to the editor, public health activities of the members, and some personal items (birthdays, weddings, graduations and like events). The Editor determines which are accepted. Advertisements are accepted as space is available at our going rates. Members may advertise office information, professional services, skills, and procedures, also at our going rates. We do not accept advertisements from non-members, or non-Saginaw hospitals.

The Bulletin is mailed free of charge to SCMS members as part of their membership. Complimentary copies are sent to various other parties. Others may subscribe at the rate of \$50 per year.

Farewell Letter from the President

Christopher J. Allen, MD

Dear Members of the Saginaw County Medical Society,
Serving as the 119th President of the Saginaw County Medical Society has been one of the greatest honors of my professional life. As my term comes to a close, I want to reflect on what this year has meant to me and express my sincere gratitude to each of you.

From the very beginning, I was driven by a vision of connection—between members, between generations of physicians, and between medicine and community. I am proud of the work we've done to break down silos and remind one another that we are not alone in this journey. Together, we strengthened our Society by championing outreach, building a mentorship pipeline, and amplifying the voice of medicine in key legislative battles.

As a sleep medicine physician and pediatric neurologist, I've always believed in the power of rest and

renewal. That belief has extended into my leadership—supporting not just the health of our patients, but the wellbeing of our physicians. Whether through advocacy at the House of Delegates or championing issues within our own Board, I've sought to lead with compassion, purpose and transparency.

This year has not been without challenges, but it's also been filled with proud moments—witnessing your engagement, passing meaningful resolutions, and watching members step into new leadership roles. I'm especially thankful for the trust you placed in me during times when unexpected circumstances required quick pivots and flexibility. Your support made it possible to navigate those moments with confidence.

To Joan, thank you for your unwavering dedication and for being the heartbeat of this organization. Your behind-the-scenes work has carried us through more than many will ever realize. It was my privilege to step in whenever needed, and I am

forever grateful for your guidance and trust.

To my family—especially my wife, Dr. Dafina Allen, and our children, Anthony and Anaya—thank you for your constant support and for allowing me the space to serve. Every hour given to this Society was made possible by your love.

Although I am stepping down as President, I am not stepping away. As your Region 7 Representative, I look forward to continuing our work, lifting up member voices, and shaping policy that matters to our practices and patients. I encourage you all to stay involved, speak boldly, and remember that every voice in this Society matters.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to do my “something” this past year. I can't wait to see what we continue to build together.

With deep gratitude,
Dr. Christopher J. Allen
Past President, SCMS



“One of my favorite quotes remains:
“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. I will not refuse to do the something I can do.” – Helen Keller



MISSION STATEMENT

*Bringing physicians
together for the
common good*

VISION STATEMENT

*We aim to improve the
lives of physicians and the
patients we serve*

VALUES STATEMENT

Service
Advocacy
Genuine Health
Inclusive
Networking
Always Learning
We Lead

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR 2025-2026*

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Garber Courts, 1760 Fordney Street, Saginaw

SCMS Health Expo at Pulse3 Hearts and Paddles Pickleball Tournament

See pages 10-11 for information and to register

REGISTER NOW!

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Horizons Conference Center

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting - Social (cash bar) 6:30 p.m., Dinner, Meeting and Program at 7 p.m.

Joint with the Saginaw Valley Osteopathic Society and Saginaw Dental Society

Spouse/Significant Other Welcome (dinner fee applies)



Bobby Mukkamala, MD

Special Guest – Bobby Mukkamala, MD –

AMA President

Speaker – Saad Chaudhry, MD –

CMU Health Geriatrician

Topic – "Understanding Aging: The Gray Areas of Medicine"

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand that age causes changes in the body
2. Differentiate what is normal and what is abnormal (normal aging memory loss vs. dementia, etc.) and communicate this to patients and families
3. Identify psychosocial changes and ethical decisions that can impact an older adults' life, support and facilitate changes



Online reservations required by 9/10/25 –

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER or scan the QR code

See page 21 for more information

Online reservations required

Monday, October 6, 2025

Quarterly Physician and Legislative Forum via Zoom

from 8-9 a.m. Physicians and office/practice managers invited

Online reservations required – email meeting notice will be sent in September

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Horizons Conference Center

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.



Cheryl Sullivan, MD

Membership Meeting - Social (cash bar) 6:30 p.m., Dinner, Meeting and Program at 7 p.m.

Spouse/Significant Other Welcome (dinner fee applies)

Speaker – Cheryl Sullivan, MD – Brain Injury Association of America

Topic – "My 360° Perspective of TBI"

The SCMS would like to thank the Anna Dorr

Cresswell Memorial Fund administrated by the Saginaw Community Foundation for sponsoring Dr. Sullivan

Online reservations required – email meeting notices will be sent in September

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

CMU College of Medicine, 1632 Stone Street, Saginaw

Board Meeting/Annual Budget Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

CMU College of Medicine, Saginaw or Zoom (TBD)

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

CMU College of Medicine, Saginaw or Zoom (TBD)

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

Horizons Conference Center

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting - Social (cash bar) 6:30 p.m., Dinner, Meeting and Program at 7 p.m.

Speaker/Topic - TBD

Spouse/Significant Other of SCMS Members Welcome (dinner fee applies)

Online reservations required – email meeting notices will be sent in late March

Date TBD – 161st Annual MSMS House of Delegates via zoom

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Horizons Conference Center

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Annual Membership Meeting and Annual SCMS Foundation Membership Meeting - Social (cash bar) 6:30 p.m., Dinner, Meetings and Program at 7 p.m.

Spouse/Significant Other of SCMS Members Welcome (dinner fee applies)

Online reservations required – email meeting notices will be sent in late April



Read previous issues of *The Bulletin* at www.SaginawCountyMS.com under the Bulletin tab

RETIREES MEET FOR LUNCH!

Retired physicians meet for lunch every Wednesday at 12 noon at **IHOP**,

2255 Tittabawassee Road in Saginaw.

Those attending are responsible for their own lunch, and the informal gathering lasts about an hour.

Join your retired colleagues whenever you like!

THE GROUP ALWAYS MEETS IN THE BACK ROOM.

If you are told no one from the group is there, please go directly to the back room and check for yourself!

If you have questions, please contact Joan Cramer at (989) 284-8884 or Dr. Caroline Scott at (989) 295-2721.

S.A.G.I.N.A.W. Values: Genuine Health and Inclusiveness

By Louis L. Constan, MD

Note: To read Dr. Constan's previous articles on SCMS Mission, Vision and Values, [click HERE](#) or visit our website at www.SaginawCountyMS.com and click on the Mission, Vision and Values graphic on the home page

Genuine Health

Remember the old joke about the hapless physician who bemoans his unfortunate patient: "I don't understand why he died; I had his electrolytes perfectly balanced!" Getting over-involved in one small aspect of a patient's care risks missing the big picture. Life and death (and doctoring) are more complicated than we can ever imagine. A web of interconnected factors. No single factor determines life or death, just as no single factor determines genuine health. We cannot point to just one thing and say "that's what we're all about." Curing an infection or reaching a cancer remission may be just our first steps.

Perhaps this all goes without saying but, for the record, let's parse this a bit. What exactly do we mean when we say that we, as a Medical Society, promote genuine health?

Physical Health Of course. Body parts all working according to specifications. Check. Got that from the first day of med school.

Mental Health Sense of belonging, acceptance. What some minorities (and LGBTQ's) lack. A healthy mind gets us through the day. Eating, sleeping,

working, parenting...finding the time. Mental imbalance leads to increased stress hormones and strokes, heart attacks. The current wave of suicides, drug use, and dysfunctional health behaviors points to the need for more attention to mental health.

Spiritual Health Patient has a sense of purpose, meaning. Putting self in the bigger picture...perspective. People who are spiritually healthy are often happier, less stressed, more physically and mentally healthy.

Oh, let's not forget the health of those around us. We are social animals. We need to live our lives in the midst of supportive friends, family. We need their support when we are ill. They need us when they are ill. Without that, no cornucopia of miracle antibiotics and chemotherapy can be totally effective. When those around us are sick physically/mentally/spiritually, they cannot help us.

And, of course, there's the larger society. People we may not know, but whom we depend on for goods and services. Joblessness, homelessness and loneliness lead to social conflict, bad neighborhoods, inadequate social safety net, epidemics spread by people who, for whatever reason, don't get proper medical care. When one of these folks suffer, it affects us all.

It may seem frivolous, to some, concerning ourselves with issues that seem peripheral to the practice of medicine. But physical/mental/spiritual/

relationship/societal health has always been a goal in Medicine. Hippocrates himself said: "Wherever the Art of Medicine is loved, there is also the love of Humanity." Above all else, we serve Humanity.

That hapless physician in our first paragraph would not be so surprised if they were in the habit of looking at the whole patient rather than just a lab report. Asked different questions. Looked at different parameters. Why did this patient get sick in the first place? Is he "battling to get well" or has he given up? Who is his support group? Are they involved? Who will take care of him if and when the current problem resolves? Will he have the resources to eat right, exercise, pay for his medicine, and get transportation to doctor visits in the future?

And so, it is thoroughly natural and necessary that, just as we show our love of Medicine by our constant study, by keeping up, by giving good service to that patient who is in front of us; we show our love of Humanity by being good parents, good friends, helping each other; by supporting activities that make our community, state, nation and world a better place. We show that love in myriad ways: Working at the Soup Kitchen; doing missionary work; importuning the legislature to increase insurance coverage; serving on SCMS and hospital committees.

And we strive to reach that goal of Genuine Health for all. Love of Medicine; love of Humanity. They go hand in hand.

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In the SCMS community, we readily accept new doctors regardless of the color of their skin, how they worship, or where they are from.

Inclusiveness

Not to be confused with DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion), a multifaceted initiative introduced by business and educational establishments to fierce criticism by some, but which has demonstrably proved successful in improving the number of women and minorities in participating institutions. DEI, in general, is important but our discussion here is more focused on how doctors operate. DEI for doctors.

Also, not to be confused with Implicit Bias Training, which was introduced by the Michigan government in an attempt to rectify the dearth of quality healthcare for minorities. Bias, of course, is bad and, although it is hard to prove this effort has been effective, it certainly has been enlightening. We all have biases and need to consciously ameliorate their effect on our patients. It is hard to prove that such training has moved the bar much though. Clearly, other factors are in play, such as lack of health insurance, jobs, quality housing, and incomplete access to primary care. Getting rid of our biases is important for Inclusivity, but there is more involved.

Inclusiveness, as we are using it today, refers to several aspects of our professional life:

Collegiality Inclusiveness as a factor in collegiality. In the SCMS community, we readily accept new doctors regardless of the color of their skin, how they worship, or where they are from. In our day-to-day lives, we, as a matter of necessity, work with a wide array of different physicians...and develop short-term and long-term relationships with those doctors. Any given professional meeting can look like the United Nations Assembly. Without the disfunction.

Leadership Inclusiveness is how we select leaders for our Society. The SCMS has abundant opportunities for physicians to serve our Society. Prestigious positions such as our President are open to all members. SCMS has a well-traveled leadership track, and our leadership comes from all specialties, all races, all religions; men and women; town and gown. Such inclusiveness, it seems to me, has enabled us to be effective in our service to local, state, and national initiatives. Our deep and enduring value of Inclusiveness has shaped our organization. We should be proud of that.

Patient Care Inclusiveness is how we approach patients. We are there to help...in any way possible. No judgment zone.

Contrast all this with other organizations in American society. It is not the norm. Universities, many of whom have "legacy admissions" give primacy to alumni's children; thus, filling with members of the dominant cultural group and well-to-do families to the exclusion of worthy but socioeconomically

challenged students. Certainly not inclusive. And their leadership positions at the highest level: Presidents, board members, department heads, are often skewed towards one gender and one cultural group.

Attorneys, famous for their no-fee-too-big philosophy, brag about the small segment of their practices devoted to "pro-bono" work; this token scarcely making a dent in the huge segment of society who cannot afford and do not ever receive needed legal help. Not inclusive. (Doctors do not have a word for the free care they give...for doctors, it is simply "care.")

State legislatures, these days, legalize restrictive funding for and access to medical care when such care is for out-of-favor groups. Not inclusive.

Women's healthcare is routinely devalued by regressive politicians who don't appreciate the enormous contribution that women make (one politician recently stated that women who complained about their status should be "shut up" by their husbands). Not inclusive.

Churches (yes, even churches) discriminate. Only certain types of people are welcome to become clergy, get married, take communion, participate in the life of that faith community. Not inclusive.

Pharmacists in some areas can and do refuse to fill certain fully legal prescriptions for patients, inserting their own views into the medical care system and restricting medical care for one group or another.

Contrast all these painful prejudices with the way physicians approach their patients. Never "Who or what are you" but "what problem do you have and how can I help?"

That is what I call inclusive!

GUEST WRITERS WELCOME!

If you would like to write an article of interest to your colleagues for publication in a future issue of *The Bulletin*, please contact Joan Cramer at jmcramer@saginawcountymys.com for further information.

Articles are not designed for self-promotion, but rather as information for members.

SCMS Delegates Attend 2025 HOD

160th Annual House of Delegates

The 2025 House of Delegates (HOD) was held on May 3, 2025, in Lansing. Representing the SCMS were **Kai Anderson MD**, **Brittany Garza DO**, **Anushree Jagtap MD**, **Miriam T. Schteingart MD**, **Caroline G.M. Scott MD** and **Claudia C. Zacharek MD**. Also attending were **Joan Cramer**, **Magdalena (Madzia) Iannello M3**, **Mildred J. Willy MD**- Region 7 Rep and **Anthony M. Zacharek MD** representing the Michigan Academy of Plastic Surgeons.

Dr. Anderson served on Ref Com A- Medical Care Delivery and Dr. Tony Zacharek served as Chair of Ref Com D- Public Health. Congratulations to **Mildred J. Willy MD** who was elected as Vice Speaker and **Christopher J. Allen MD** who was elected to serve as Region 7 Rep.

Members of the SCMS submitted three resolutions:

- **09-25 Prohibition of Mandatory Requirement of Physicians to Disclose Mental Health Information-** APPROVED AS AMENDED- **Authored by Kai Anderson, MD and Magdalena Iannello M3**

RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate for policy reforms that eliminate mandatory disclosures of physician mental health diagnoses while ensuring the availability of confidential non-punitive health programs that allow physicians to seek care without fear of professional repercussions; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS support the implementation of alternative monitoring strategies that focus on physician function rather than diagnosis, ensuring that patient safety is maintained without unnecessarily penalizing physicians who proactively manage their mental health.

- **43-25 Post Suicide Intervention Teams-** APPROVED AS AMENDED- **Authored by Abishek Bala, MD, MPH, Ahmed Ftouni, MD, and Grace Greig M3**

RESOLVED: That MSMS support the state-wide expansion of post suicide support programs, to ensure that all counties in Michigan have access to trained crisis support personnel to assist families and communities in the aftermath of suicide, including training and program development; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS support the MDHHS exploring funding and resources for the development and expansion of support programs statewide, in alignment with national suicide prevention goals.

- **44-25 Standardization of Suicide Reporting-** DISAPPROVED- **Authored by Abishek Bala, MD, MPH, Ahmed Ftouni, MD, and Grace Greig**

RESOLVED: That MSMS advocate for the establishment of a standardized suicide reporting system across Michigan counties to improve data collection, documentation, and transmission between counties, ensuring accurate and timely reporting of suicide cases; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS support efforts to identify and address barriers to accurate suicide reporting at the county level, with an initial focus on counties such as Saginaw, Bay, and Midland



(l-r) Dr. Scott, Dr. Schteingart, Dr. Jagtap, Dr. Willy, Dr. Claudia Zacharek, Dr. Tony Zacharek, Madzia Iannello and Dr. Anderson



Dr. Willy



Dr. Allen

to serve as model for statewide implementation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That MSMS encourage collaboration with national initiatives, including the 2024 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention, to align Michigan's suicide reporting efforts with broader national goals for suicide-related data surveillance and prevention.

The Committee acknowledged the value of standardized reporting and the importance of reducing barriers that hinder timely and accurate data collection. During Ref Com testimony, there was discussion with the author about potential collaboration with other organizations engaged in this work, such as the Michigan Association of Medical Examiners, who noted concerns regarding the unclear scope and expectations of the proposed effort. The Committee agreed that further investigation may be beneficial and recommended returning with a more refined resolution that more clearly outlines the intended direction, objectives and potential outcomes.

THANK YOU to our members who devoted so much of their valuable time to represent the SCMS, and congratulations to Drs. Willy and Allen and their willingness to represent our Region on the MSMS Board.

MISSION STATEMENT

Bringing physicians together for the common good

VISION STATEMENT

We aim to improve the lives of physicians and the patients we serve

VALUES STATEMENT

Service
Advocacy
Genuine Health
Inclusive
Networking
Always Learning
We Lead



MSMS Task Force Examines Future Relationship with County Medical Societies

For over 120 years, the Saginaw County Medical Society (SCMS) has represented and advocated for its members. Regardless of the outcome of ongoing discussions at the state level, SCMS remains committed to serving local physicians and protecting the interests of its members.

Background: Why This Matters

For the third time in recent memory, the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) is evaluating a potential separation from county medical societies (CMS). The first two attempts were voted down by the House of Delegates (HOD). CMS, including SCMS, are chartered components of MSMS, with SCMS dating back to 1902.

In 2022, MSMS underwent internal restructuring to address financial and management challenges, resulting in staffing changes and reduced communication with CMS. One recent example- just four weeks before the 2024 dues billing cycle, MSMS announced it would begin charging a 10% processing fee for dues collection. SCMS determined it could not sustain this loss of revenue and opted to handle its own billing, as did several other counties. Remaining CMS negotiated a reduced 8% fee for three years.

Key Resolutions from the 2025 HOD

Three resolutions were approved, prompting the current review:

- **Resolution 16-25:** Creates a task force of county and state leaders to examine history, finances, and bylaws, and recommend a unified path forward for medical societies in Michigan.
- **Resolution 47-25:** Directs MSMS to study other state medical society structures and bylaws for potential improvements in efficiency and productivity.
- **Resolution 50-25:** Proposes extensive revisions to MSMS bylaws, including eliminating CMS authority to review and approve new members (Section 4.10). SCMS opposed this change, citing the importance of local oversight to ensure membership meets professional and ethical standards.

Bylaw changes require two readings before adoption. A second reading is expected at the 2026 HOD unless MSMS calls a special meeting before then.

MSMS Reorganization Task Force

Following HOD approval, MSMS formed a Reorganization Task Force composed of six MSMS Board members, six CMS representatives, and one CMS executive (non-voting). The Task Force is charged with reviewing:

- House of Delegates structure
- Organizational partnerships between MSMS, CMS and specialty societies
- Leadership and governance models for MSMS

Potential options under consideration include smaller boards, revised voting structures and a redefined membership model. Some discussions have referenced "engaging 12,000 members directly," though 2024 MSMS paid membership was reported to be fewer than 6,200.

Concerns have also been raised about variability among CMS in financial management, dues structure and member benefits. SCMS notes that some of these issues were identified years ago, with certain counties lacking functioning boards or nonprofit status yet still having dues collected on their behalf.

Questions Raised by CMS

County societies are seeking clarity on several issues:

- **Structure:** What models for state-county relationships are being considered?
- **Financial Impact:** How will separation affect dues collection and CMS budgets?
- **Representation:** Without CMS, how will local physicians have a voice at the state level?
- **Legal Concerns:** Could shared services or reforms strengthen CMS oversight instead of dismantling unified membership?
- **Process:** Will there be one or two HOD readings, and how will member feedback shape final recommendations?

Your Input Matters

The decisions made over the next year could significantly impact how Michigan physicians are represented and how membership dues are allocated. SCMS wants to hear your thoughts and concerns regarding a potential separation between MSMS and CMS. Please email Joan Cramer, Executive Director, at jmcramer@saginawcountymys.com with your feedback. Your input will help guide SCMS in advocating for what best serves local physicians and the profession statewide.

HEALTH EXPO VENDOR REGISTRATION

Saturday, September 13, 2025, 10 am – 1 pm
Garber Courts Parking Lot
1760 Fordney Street, Saginaw 48601



DEADLINE TO REGISTER- Friday, August 29, 2025 (*Space is limited, so please register early!*)
COST- \$50 per booth payable to **Central Michigan University** due Friday, September 5, 2025
TIME- Setup 9:15 am | Expo 10 am-1 pm | Tear down 1 pm

Please join the SCMS as we host our second **outdoor** Health Expo **“The Doctor Is In”** in connection with the **Pulse³ Foundation Hearts and Paddles Pickleball Tournament** on Saturday, September 13th at Garber Courts, 1740 Fordney Street in Saginaw from 10 am – 1 pm.

- Vendors will be provided one eight-foot table on an 18’x18’ site in the Garber Courts parking lot. **Vendors are responsible for bringing a canopy, chairs, table covering, etc.** Please do not request electricity unless you need it.
 - You are invited to bring swag for booth visitors- if offering snacks, please make sure they are heart healthy.
- If you would like to participate in the Health Expo, **please complete and return a separate form for each vendor table requested** by August 29, 2025, via email to jmcramer@saginawcountymys.com. Payment to CMU is due by September 5.

PLEASE PRINT

Name of Organization		
Contact Person/Title		
Address, City, State, Zip		
Office Phone	Cell/Mobile	Email
What is planned for your space?		Number of people working your booth
Will you provide a health screening? If so, what type? <i>Please make sure to bring chairs for those being screened and waiting to be screened.</i>		
Do you require electricity? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, we need electricity- you will need to bring an extension cord Please do not request electricity if you do not need it. Electrical outlets are very limited.		

PAYMENT INFORMATION

<input type="checkbox"/> Check enclosed (payable to Central Michigan University)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Charge my	<input type="checkbox"/> AmEx	<input type="checkbox"/> Discover	<input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard	<input type="checkbox"/> Visa
<input type="checkbox"/> Card #		<input type="checkbox"/> Exp __/__/__	<input type="checkbox"/> Security Code	
Cardholder name		Cardholder address		
Payment authorized signature				Date
Name (printed)				

- Please email completed form to jmcramer@saginawcountymys.com by August 29, 2025
- If paying by check, mail check to **CMU College of Medicine**, 1632 Stone Street, Saginaw, MI 48602 by September 5, 2025 CMUPulse3@cmich.edu
- Questions? Call Joan Cramer, SCMS Executive Director at (989) 284-8884

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2025 SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



We're counting on you!

The **3rd ANNUAL HEARTS AND PADDLES PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT** and **HEALTH EXPO** is hosted by the **Pulse³ Endowment for Cardiovascular Health** at Central Michigan University.

Your sponsorship makes an impact! Funds raised from last year's event have been used to support summer youth wellness programs and cardiac research scholarships. With your support, we will grow and expand these efforts! **HEARTS AND PADDLES** will bring together players of all skill levels to compete in the fastest growing sport in America.

New to the game? Instructional courts and demo equipment will be on site. This 2-day tournament will include women's, men's and mixed doubles divisions. [Click HERE to register!](#)

In addition to the thrilling competition, we are again joined this year by the **Saginaw County Medical Society** who will be leading the **Health Expo!** Numerous educational and health related activities will be available. We invite everyone in the Great Lakes Bay community to come out and join us for this exciting event!

2025 SPONSORSHIP COMMITMENT LEVEL

☒ ~~Powering Sponsor - \$5,000~~ (commitment received by **BCBSM**)

☐ Winners Podium Sponsor - \$2,500

☐ Championship Court Sponsor - \$2,000

☐ Tournament Ball Sponsor - \$1,500

☐ Player Hydration Station Sponsor - \$1,500

☐ Player Nutrition Station Sponsor - \$1,500

☐ Helping Hands Sponsor - \$1,000

☐ Teaching Court Sponsor - \$1,000

☐ Court Sponsor (12 needed) - \$250

☐ Other – Please indicate amount \$_____ (Gifts of all sizes are welcome!)

**Sponsorships of \$1,000 and above include registration for a two-player team*

DEADLINES

Commit by August 1, 2025, to be included in digital and print materials

TOTAL PAYMENT DUE BY: September 1, 2025

[Please click HERE for the complete Sponsorship Form with benefits, registration and payment information](#)

Please return completed form to:

CMU College of Medicine | 1632 Stone Street | Saginaw, MI 48602 | Email: CMUPulse3@cmich.edu



Help us bring Rx Kids to Saginaw!

Rx Kids is the nation's first prenatal and infant program that provides direct, unconditional cash to all mothers in a community. For many families, income plunges and expenses rise right before a child is born and remains high throughout the first year. This window of economic shock is the most critical period for child development and long-term success.

RX KIDS PROVIDES A ONE-TIME PRESCRIPTION OF \$1,500 DURING PREGNANCY, AND A MONTHLY PRESCRIPTION OF \$500 DURING THE CHILD'S FIRST 6-12 MONTHS OF LIFE.

Launched in Flint, Michigan in January 2024, Rx Kids has expanded to rural and urban areas across Michigan. To date, the program has prescribed over \$11 million to more than 2,800 families.

WHY SAGINAW?

In the City of Saginaw:

- 54% of children ≤ 5 yoa live in poverty
- Infant mortality rates are one of the highest in Michigan
- Infants are more likely to be born low birthweight and premature
- Black infants are 3x more likely to die before their first birthday than white infants
- Around \$1.4 million in funding from the State of Michigan is available to support the program. An additional \$1.2 million annually is necessary from private donors to bring the 6 month program to ALL moms in the City of Saginaw over the next two years.



DONATE TODAY

Donate online or send checks to the Saginaw Community Foundation – BWell Fund with a notation for RxKids. Mail to 1 Tuscola St., Suite 100B • Saginaw, MI 48607 P: (989) 755-0545

Rx Kids is a program of Michigan State University Pediatric Public Health Initiative, in collaboration with Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan, and administered by GiveDirectly. Local champions include the Saginaw County Health Department. Learn more at RxKids.org. Contact us at bwel@saginawcounty.com for more information.

Mission: To prevent suicide through education, advocacy, connection to resources, and support for those impacted by suicide.

Thank You from Barb Smith to SCMS

On behalf of the Network, I want to thank the SCMS for inviting myself and team to the SCMS Annual Membership Meeting on May 20. It has been a great partnership that keeps growing. It is so good to meet and greet many of you and offer our services to faculty and students. We appreciate the time that **Dr.**



Barb Smith and Dr. Abishek Bala

Abishek Bala has shared with our Network to work toward zero suicide and care for people impacted by suicide. He and his residents are truly making a difference in how we care for our community.

I would also like to thank the SCMS for their generous memorial donation honoring **Joan Cramer's** father, **Henry Lentner**, who passed after a brief battle with cancer in late March. Because of Joan's work with the Network, she and her siblings directed memorials in their dad's honor to us. In total, we received over \$3,000 in his memory.



Barb Smith, Lisa Sullivan, and Joan Cramer

Network Board Members

The Network would like to thank the following community leaders for serving on the Board of Directors:

Abishek Bala MD MPH – CMU Health, Psychiatry

Jenean Coughlin – STCS Board Member and owner of Bayne's Apple Valley Farm

Joan Cramer – Saginaw County Medical Society

Greg Dorrien, Co-Chair – Retired, West Midland Family Center

Julie Hart – MSA, Director of Programs ATC Healthcare

Jacqueline List – COO List Psychological Services, PLC

Donald Steele PhD – Performance Learning, Inc.

Lisa Sullivan, Secretary – CRNA, Covenant

Win Swieczkowski – W.L. Case and Company Funeral Directors

Craig Voorheis, Chair – Emil Rummel Agency

Staff Members:

Barb Smith, President barb.smith@srrn.net

Anne Kennelly, Director of Operations info@srrn.net

Holly Kelley, Program Director holly.kelley@srrn.net

Janel Riutta, Office Coordinator janel@srrn.net

Hope Starts Here – Sponsorships Needed

We invite you to join us for our Annual



Hope Starts Here event on Saturday, November 22, 2025, at the **Bavarian Inn Lodge** in Frankenmuth. The Saturday before Thanksgiving is recognized as **International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day**, a day to support those who have

been impacted by suicide. Details are being finalized and will be published in the next issue of **The Bulletin**. Sponsorships are greatly appreciated in order to keep the cost down for survivors to attend. **The Network would like to thank the Saginaw County Medical Society Foundation for generously donating to the 2025 event.** To sponsor, please contact the Network at info@srrn.net.

If you are interested in taking a training, [please visit our website](https://www.srrn.net) for more information and to register. Questions? Contact Holly at holly.kelley@srrn.net or call 989-781-5260 ext. 3.

Thank You Key Providers!

The SCMS would like to thank our dedicated Key Providers for continuing to provide support for SCMS Membership Meetings!



**Saginaw Valley
 Pediatrics**



**Quality Sleep &
 Neurology**

One Day You're a Resident, the Next You're an Attending

Brittany M. Garza, DO
Emergency Medicine

It's officially the time of year where residents transition from a learner role to being an attending physician. For most people, this moment is more than a decade in the making. It's an exciting feeling that you could work a shift as a resident one day, go to sleep, then wake up as an attending physician the next day. Just like many other transitional points in a physician's life (medical school acceptance, Match Day, your first moonlighting shift, the day you sign your attending physician contract), there can be a lot of excitement met with anxiety about the next step in the journey.

In preparation for this next step in the journey, I have received some excellent advice from new attendings on how to best manage being a new attending. I hope that in the coming months I am able to apply this excellent advice in my new position at the **Memorial Healthcare Emergency Department** in Owosso, Michigan.

When starting a new job as an attending, learning the names of your colleagues is very important. It helps create community and aids in better team communication, especially during a resuscitation. Learn the names of the phlebotomists, nurses, nursing care techs, and your fellow physicians. Working in healthcare can be challenging and emotionally exhausting, especially in the emergency department, and creating community can help combat this.

Another important piece of advice to institute early is to find a mentor. Seek out a mentor whose personal and professional habits reflect the doctor you want to be. Call on your mentor to receive advice that will set you up for success. As your time as a new attending grows, make certain to seek out new attendings and serve as their mentors. This is what helps grow our community of physicians for generations to come.

Further, when it comes to working autonomously and under your own medical license for the first time, it is important to trust your training. **Central Michigan University GME** does an excellent job at training all of their residents in every specialty. You will certainly learn something new every day, but you are prepared to take on this next step in the journey.

Once you have your bearings in your new practice setting, develop a plan to pass your certifying board exams. Make weekly goals for completing practice questions and reading material. It can be challenging to meet daily goals as life can frequently get in the way. Don't let that get you discouraged.



Weekly goals are much more manageable, especially on a long-term studying basis.

Through all the changes that being a new physician can bring, it is very important to take care of yourself mentally and physically. Enroll in your employer's mental health resources, schedule your yearly doctor and dentist visits, and schedule PTO for a yearly vacation- you've definitely earned it!

Congratulations on transitioning into your new role as an attending physician! You got this!

The SCMS Board and Members would like to congratulate Dr. Garza and all of the residents who completed training this year. We are pleased to announce Dr. Garza will remain a member of the SCMS, and will serve as an Alternate Delegate for 2025-26. Congratulations, Dr. Garza!

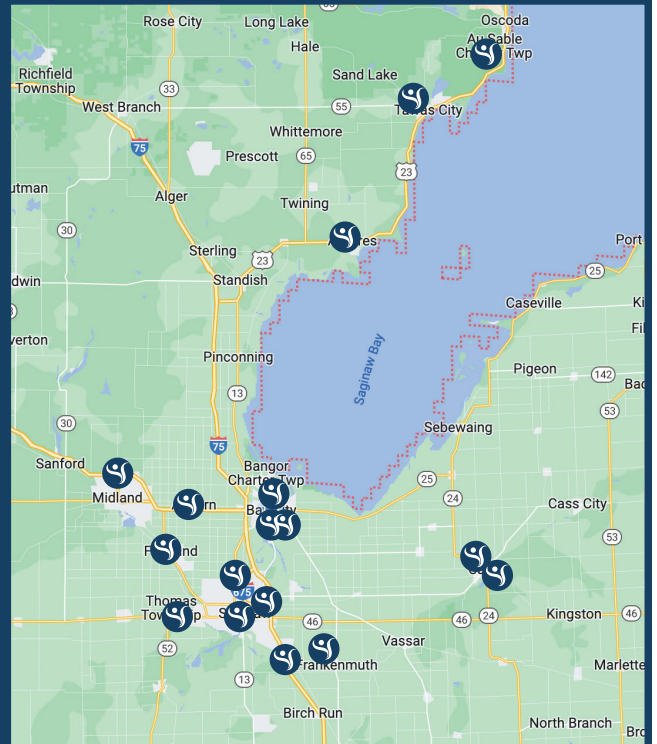
As your time as a new attending grows, make certain to seek out new attendings and serve as their mentors. This is what helps grow our community of physicians for generations to come.

WE'VE GOT MID-MICHIGAN COVERED.

17 convenient locations

There is a *difference* between going to therapy and truly getting healthy.

At Renue Physical Therapy, we don't rely on machines or equipment to do the work for us. Our patients benefit from hands-on, one-on-one treatment with the same therapy team throughout the treatment process.



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"I honestly did not think therapy would help. But I am amazed by the improvement I have experienced. The team has been wonderful and I enjoyed coming to my sessions. I am sad that I no longer need to come. Thank you all for helping heal and improve my range of motion."

(Noreen, Bridgeport)

"From the first time walking in the doors I was treated with nothing but respect. I felt very comfortable here and even told my friends and family how much I liked Renue and how well I have been treated. Very friendly place and cares how the patients feels and really listens."

(Chanda, Tawas)

"I found hope at Renue! The support is outstanding, therapy is effective with their positive and motivated, professional interventions. It has been many years of dealing with nagging pain and missing out on life. After Renue, I am where I need to be in my process and have the confidence it takes to continue living my life with less pain."

(Madeline, Bay City)



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May Meeting Minutes

The Saginaw County Medical Society Annual Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, at Horizons Conference Center. **Christopher J. Allen MD**, President, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Dr. Allen welcomed **Health Angel Award** winners and guests, **Essay Contest** winners and their families, **Karenn Mansour**- daughter of incoming President **Furhut R. Janssen DO**, **Samuel Shaheen MD**- President and CEO of **CMU Medical Education Partners**, **Barb Smith** and staff/board members of the **Barb Smith Suicide Resource & Response Network**, members, residents and medical students.

Dr. Allen thanked the following Key Providers in attendance for their ongoing support of SCMS programs:

- **Covenant HealthCare – Jayson B. Field MD**- Gynecologic Oncologist
- **HealthSource Saginaw – Katie McDonald**, Medical Rehab Executive; **Scott Taglauer**, Community Education Manager; and **Michelle Trevillian**, President and CEO
- **Healthway Compounding Pharmacy – Larry Greene** and **Eddie Wright, PharmD**
- **Quality Sleep and Neurology, PC – Christopher J. Allen MD** and staff
- **Renue Physical Therapy – Kim Barcalow PT DPT, Tom Hetzner** and **Mel Svorinic PT DPT OMPT**

Dr. Allen asked for a moment of silence for members, spouses and former members who passed since the last annual meeting:

- **Maxine Bernreuter**, wife of Dr. Edward Bernreuter 7/6/24
- **Frederick W. Foltz MD** 1/25/25
- **Lorraine Hughes**, wife of Dr. John Hughes 1/11/25
- **Grace Manning**, wife of Dr. J.E. Manning 9/9/24
- **Linda McNier**, wife of Dr. Robert McNier 7/10/24
- **Narciso D. Santiago MD** 4/19/25
- **Michael J. Slavin MD** 3/4/25
- **Betty Webb**, wife of Dr. Lester Webb 5/10/25
- **Daniel J. Wechter MD** 4/25/25
- **Jean Weiss**, wife of Dr. Arno Weiss Sr. 12/18/24

Dr. Allen introduced new members and recruits attending their first meeting:

- **Hazem M. Alhourani MD** – Recruit - Dialysis Associates of Michigan, PC - Nephrology
- **Steven D. Ater DO** – PGY-4 Ob/Gyn
- **Kenghia G. Billings MD** – CMU Health-Pediatrics

Dr. Allen then notified members of the following:

- **House Bill 4399- Nurse Practitioner Independent Practice:** Directed members to information attached to the agenda and asked they contact their lawmakers as soon as possible to oppose the proposed legislation
- **SCMS & GCMS Quarterly Physician & Legislative Forum:** Asked members to save the date for the next Forum on Monday, October 6, 2025, from 8-9 a.m. via Zoom
- **BCBSM Settlement:** Directed members to information attached to the agenda noting claims are due July 29, 2025

PRESENTATION OF MEDALLION AND INSTALLATION OF SCMS PRESIDENT

- Dr. Allen installed **Furhut R. Janssen DO** as the 120th President of the Saginaw County Medical Society.
- Dr. Janssen then presented a plaque to Dr. Allen and thanked him for serving in various positions on the SCMS Board, with the past year as President.
- Dr. Janssen welcomed **Tiffany K. Kim MD**, Past President and Chair of the Nominating Committee to the podium. Dr. Kim presented the Slate of Nominees for Officers, Directors, Delegates, Alternate Delegates and Peer Review Ethics Committee for 2025-2026 approved by the Board at their meeting immediately preceding the Annual Meeting. There were no nominations from the floor. **MOTION: Accept the Slate as presented by the Nominating Committee for 2025-2026. MOTION APPROVED.**
- The SCMS Annual Meeting was adjourned.

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L-R: Dr. Iris Marteja Manlapit and Alice Wilson; Drs. Furhut Janssen and Chris Allen; Dr. Iris Marteja Manlapit, Meredith Humm RN and Amy Geddings

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SCMS FOUNDATION

Dr. Janssen welcomed **Iris A. Marteja Manlapit MD**, President of the SCMS Foundation, to the podium.

- Dr. Marteja Manlapit gave an overview of the Foundation and its mission and purpose.
- She then presided over the awards for the 16th Annual Foundation Essay Contest. The contest is open to Saginaw County high school juniors and seniors interested in becoming a physician and practicing in Saginaw County. Dr. Marteja Manlapit asked Foundation Trustees attending to join her at the podium. The following awards were presented:
 - o **Jveen Murad**, a junior at Nouvel, was awarded \$100
 - o **Cheyenne West**, a junior at SASA, was awarded \$100
 - o **Hannah Thomas**, a junior at SASA, won third place and was awarded \$400
 - o **Elizabeth Garner**, a senior at Nouvel, won second place and was awarded \$600
 - o **Andrew Carlson**, a senior at Nouvel, won first place and was awarded \$1,000
 - o **Yuxin (Ryan) Yang**, a senior at Heritage, won the Zubeda S. Khan Memorial Scholarship and was awarded \$1,000
- Presentation of Health Angel Awards
 - o Dr. Marteja Manlapit reminded members that **Debasish Mridha MD** invested funds into the Foundation in 2009 for establishment of an award to a non-physician who lives and/or works in Saginaw County, and has added to the improvement of the health care field in Saginaw County.
 - o The following were named winners of the **2025 Health Angel Awards**:
 - **Meredith Humm RN** and **Amy Geddings** from CMU Infectious Disease nominated by Dr. Nicholas Haddad

- **Alice Wilson**, owner/operator of Senior Fitness Health Club nominated by Dr. Louis Constan

PROGRAM

- Dr. Janssen welcomed **Barb Smith** and **Abishek Bala MD** to the podium. Barb and Dr. Bala gave an update on the work they've done in the past year on the **Barb Smith Suicide Resource & Response Network**.
- Dr. Janssen then welcomed **Samuel Shaheen MD** of **CMU Medical Education Partners**. Dr. Shaheen presented a tribute to **Dean George E. Kikano MD**. Dr. Kikano retired after 10 years of service as Dean of the CMU College of Medicine.

Dr. Janssen thanked Barb, Dr. Bala and Dr. Shaheen for speaking, and congratulated the Essay Contest and Health Angel Award winners. She reminded the students to contact the SCMS Foundation for a loan once they are accepted into medical school.

The next Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at Horizons. **Saad Chaudhry MD** of CMU Health will speak on Geriatrics to SCMS members, and members of the Dental Society and Saginaw Valley Osteopathic Society.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan M. Cramer, Executive Director

Save the date for the Tuesday, September 16th
Membership Meeting. Dr. Saad Chaudhry,
Geriatrician with CMU Health will speak on
"Understanding Aging: The Gray Areas of Medicine."



L-R: Drs. Mike Sullivan, Steve Vance and Sanjay Talati; SCMS Foundation members and Essay Contest winners; 2025 Health Angel Awards

CMU's College of Medicine Celebrates Commencement for the Class of 2025

Author: [Kelly Belcher](#)

On Friday, May 9, the **CMU College of Medicine** celebrated Commencement for the Class of 2025. Nine classes and nearly 850 new physicians have graduated since the College was founded in 2010. This year, all 97 medical students matched in residency programs around the country, with just over 50% of them staying in Michigan to continue their training.

Graduate, **Max King**, was the featured student speaker. He shared the story of "finding his why" along his journey toward becoming a physician. During his time with the College, King dedicated countless hours to mentoring first- and second-year students, offering guidance and support when it was needed most. He founded the **CMU College of Medicine Study Table** review sessions, creating an environment where collaborative learning could thrive. As a student and a leader, King has displayed great professionalism and integrity, always lifting others as he climbed.

Nicolas Cozzi, MD, who graduated from CMU College of Medicine in 2018, was the featured alumni speaker. During his time in medical school, Dr. Cozzi worked with the **Mid Central Area Health Education Center** to create the **Health Careers Pipeline Program** and was instrumental in establishing the annual **Jack Furnari Memorial Stethoscope Program**. Nick now serves as the Medical Director of Emergency Services and an Assistant Professor for the Department of Emergency Medicine at **Rush Medical College** in Chicago. He is also the faculty advisor for a student group that teaches lifesaving skills at no cost to anyone in the Chicago area.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, **President Neil MacKinnon** and **Provost Paula Lancaster** presented **George E. Kikano, MD**, with a resolution approved by the **CMU Board of Trustees**. In this resolution, the board expressed appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Kikano for his significant contributions to the College during his tenure as Dean. These contributions include his efforts to earn accreditation and secure long-term affiliation agreements with hospitals and health care systems throughout Michigan, as well as, the work he has done to increase funding for research initiatives and provide



exceptional patient care in the region. For his outstanding service and leadership, Dr. Kikano was granted Dean Emeritus and Professor Emeritus status effective May 16, 2025.

Message from the Dean

Dear Colleagues, Learners and Friends,

After a decade of service as Dean of the **CMU College of Medicine**, the time has come for me to transition away from my role. While recent events have brought about difficult decisions, I am immensely proud of the journey we have shared and the remarkable transformation we have achieved together.

When I first arrived at CMU in 2015, I saw tremendous potential in the young College of Medicine and its bold mission to address the physician shortage and improve health access and equity in Michigan's rural and underserved areas. Together, we have turned that potential into purpose. We have secured accreditation milestones, expanded our programs and cultivated a learning environment that encourages innovation, compassion and excellence. Since our first commencement in 2017, it has been my profound privilege to have graduated nine classes of exemplary new physicians.

I want to take this moment to share my deep gratitude and appreciation for each of you. The past ten years have been some of the most meaningful of my professional life. We have accomplished so much. From welcoming new classes of future physicians to building impactful community partnerships and improving clinical training, we have earned national recognition for our College and laid a strong foundation for the future. None of this would have been possible without your dedication, support and shared commitment to what we do.

To our students, thank you for your curiosity, your ambition and your heart. You are the reason we do this work. To our faculty and staff, thank you for continuing to invest your time and energy into shaping and supporting the next generation of physicians. To our community partners, thank you for believing in our mission and working with us to improve medical education and health care delivery in our communities.

As I leave this role, know that I will always look back on the CMU College of Medicine with great pride. It has been my honor to serve alongside you. I invite all of you to stay in touch and I hope our paths will cross again in the future.

Most sincerely,
George E. Kikano, MD

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CMU College of Medicine Welcomes Tina Thompson, PhD as Interim Dean



Tina Thompson, PhD, has transitioned into her new role as Interim Dean for the **CMU College of Medicine**. She brings with her more than 25 years of experience in academic medicine that has centered around curriculum development, program growth and mentorship.

Thompson has direct, practical knowledge of a wide variety of medical school organizational models, including financial and governance structures that exist at LCME-accredited institutions. She has worked collaboratively with leaders across the undergraduate and graduate medical education continuum to create solutions to problems that impact learners across all disciplines.

Prior to her new role, Thompson has been serving as the College's Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs since 2017, and continues to act as the faculty accreditation lead. As she moves the College forward, Thompson is focused on strengthening partnerships, improving curriculum and expanding programs to best serve all current and upcoming learners.

CMU Medical Education Partners to Launch Critical Care Fellowship Program

CMU Medical Education Partners (CMEP) announced plans to launch a new Critical Care Fellowship program in July 2026. This two-year program will provide physicians with additional medical training following the completion of a three-year **Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME)** residency in Internal Medicine or Emergency Medicine.

"This is an incredible development for the Great Lakes Bay Region and the regional hospitals," said **CMEP's President and CEO Samuel Shaheen, MD**. "We will be educating the next generation of specialists who will care for severely ill patients in hospital intensive care units."

The program will offer eight fellowship positions, allowing fellows to train at CMEP's partner hospitals, **Covenant HealthCare** and **MyMichigan Health** in Saginaw, as well as, other possible health facilities. "MyMichigan Health is honored to be part of the collaboration with CMU Medical Education Partners and Covenant HealthCare on the launch of the new Critical Care Fellowship," said **Paul Berg, MD**, CMU Medical Education Partners board member, and Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of MyMichigan Health. "This is a great example of how these remarkable organizations can partner and create opportunities to train the next generation of physicians for our communities."

Amjad Nader, MD from Covenant HealthCare will serve as the Fellowship Director, and **Lokesh Dayal, MD** from MyMichigan Health will be the Assistant Fellowship Director for this program. "Covenant HealthCare is privileged to be a learning site for the new Critical Care Fellowship in Saginaw," said **Matthew D. Deibel, MD, MHA**, Chief Medical Executive/VP of Quality, Covenant HealthCare. "This collaboration with CMU Medical Education Partners and MyMichigan Health aligns seamlessly with our mission to provide extraordinary care for patients in the community."

In collaboration with **CMU College of Medicine**, CMEP is responsible for eight residency programs and one fellowship. The addition of the Critical Care Fellowship will bring the total number of fellowships to two. As a result, there will be a total of 181 physicians in residency training.

Symposium Highlights Innovative Research by CMU's College of Medicine and Medical Education Partners

Author: [Kelly Belcher](#)

The CMU College of Medicine, along with **CMU Medical Education Partners**, hosted the 10th annual **Research Symposium** at the **Dow Event Center** in Saginaw on Friday, April 25. This event highlights the research accomplishments of faculty, residents, fellows and students. Financial support for the awardees was generously provided by the **Saginaw County Medical Society Foundation** and the **College of Medicine Research Administration Department**.

In total, more than 160 research initiatives were featured, with over 150 posters and 15 oral presentations. Topics of study spanned multiple disciplines and included projects focused on case reports, basic translational research, clinical research, population health and quality improvement/medical education. All posters and oral presentations were evaluated by a panel of judges, and the winners in each category were announced at the end of the event.



Dr. Steve Vance Honored at 2025 BWell Saginaw Summit

Steven J. Vance, MD, Associate Dean of Clinical Education at **CMU College of Medicine**, was presented the **Richard Calley Distinguished Service Award** at the **2025 BWell Saginaw Summit** for making a lasting difference in public health and for leading, innovating and demonstrating deep commitment to the well-being of our community.

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During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Vance and his medical students were a driving force behind **SCHD's** vaccination efforts, often stepping in at a moment's notice. More recently, he has worked in partnership with the Health Department's school health resource advocates to support school districts in achieving **HEARTSafe** school certification.



Under his leadership with CMU College of Medicine and the **Pulse³ Endowment for Community Cardiovascular Health**, \$1 million has been raised through the **Shocks and Saves** hockey game- dollars that have helped provide AEDs and CPR training in county schools. He was also instrumental in creating the new **Hearts & Paddles** pickleball tournament.

Congratulations Dr. Vance!

CMU Health Expands Access to Pediatric Care

CMU Health is proud to announce the new clinic opening of **CMU Health Pediatrics**, furthering its commitment to enhancing pediatric health care in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The new clinic is located at 3875 Bay Road, Suite 1-S, in Saginaw.

This expansion complements the continued growth of CMU Health's pediatric services, following the successful opening of **CMU Health Women and Children's Center** in May 2023. **Thomas D. Schomaker, DO**, a board-certified pediatrician with more than 25 years of experience, and **Lisa Jean** and **Katie Londos**, certified pediatric nurse practitioners, will see patients at the pediatric-focused practice to better serve the needs of the community. CMU Health Pediatrics offers comprehensive care to patients from birth through 18 years of age and is currently accepting new patients. The opening of CMU Health Pediatrics reflects CMU Health's continued dedication to accessible, high-quality, and compassionate health care for families throughout the region.



CMU Health Welcomes Maternal-Fetal Specialist

CMU Health proudly welcomes the addition of board-certified Maternal Fetal Specialist, **Jennifer Caruso, DO**, and

Nurse Midwife **Ashley Brandt, MSN CNM**. They will deliver patient-centered care for expectant mothers, from routine pregnancies to complex high-risk cases at **CMU Health Women and Children's Center**, located at 1000 Houghton Ave. in Saginaw.

About Dr. Jennifer Caruso

With more than 15 years of experience in the medical field, Dr. Caruso specializes in high-risk pregnancy, 3D and 4D ultrasound, diabetes management and genetic counseling. She completed her obstetrics and gynecology residency at **St. John Macomb**, along with a fellowship in maternal-fetal medicine at **WellSpan York Hospital** in York, Pennsylvania. Patients can access Dr. Caruso's specialized services through a referral from



About Ashley Brandt, MSN, CNM

Ashley Brandt is a certified nurse midwife with nearly 15 years of experience in nursing. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the **University of Michigan-Flint** and a Master of Science in Nurse Midwifery from the **University of Michigan in Ann Arbor**. Ashley provides personalized care for low to moderate-risk pregnancies, with a focus on labor.



For more information, please call 989-746-7500 or visit www.cmuhealth.org

CMU Health Launches Pilot Food Pantry Initiative to Support Expectant Mothers

CMU Health launched a new food pantry initiative at its **Women and Children's Center** in Saginaw to combat food insecurity among expectant mothers participating in its **CenteringPregnancy®** program. This project, developed in

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partnership with the **Eastern Michigan Food Bank**, is funded by a \$5,000 grant from **Molina Healthcare**, aimed at improving maternal and infant health outcomes.

"With the cost of essential items on the rise, this pantry aims to alleviate financial burden on patients, allowing them to focus on their well-being during pregnancy," said **Kelly Ellis**, Women's Health Nurse Practitioner at CMU Health and CenteringPregnancy® Coordinator. "By providing access to healthy food, we hope to reduce risks associated with poor maternal nutrition, such as low birth weight and other complications."

The program responds to 2021 data from **Feeding America**, which reports that more than 13% or nearly 26,000 residents of Saginaw County cannot consistently afford or access enough food to live a healthy lifestyle. Patients attending a CenteringPregnancy® session, located at 1000 Houghton Ave., will receive a bag of healthy food items, designed to support their journey toward a healthier pregnancy and promote long-term health for their child.

"We understand healthy mothers lead to healthy babies and contribute to a thriving family and stronger community," said President and CEO **Samuel Shaheen, MD**, of **CMU Medical Education Partners**. "With this program, we're offering emergency food assistance that is available right at the patient's visit with us."

Ellis and the CMU Health team hope to secure additional funding to expand and sustain the initiative. For more information, contact the CenteringPregnancy® team at 989-746-7500.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW!

The Saginaw County Medical Society would like to invite all members, residents, CMU medical students, Saginaw Valley Osteopathic Society members and Saginaw Valley Dental Society members to our Tuesday, September 16, 2025 Membership Meeting

Speaker: Saad Chaudhry, MD – CMU Health Geriatrician

Topic: "Understanding Aging: The Gray Areas of Medicine"
Participants will be able to:

1. Understand that age causes changes in the body
2. Differentiate what is normal and what is abnormal (normal aging memory loss vs. dementia, etc.) and communicate this to patients and families
3. Identify psychosocial changes and ethical decisions that can impact an older adults' life, support and facilitate changes

Location: Horizons Conference Center, 6200 State Street, Saginaw

Time: Social (cash bar) 6:30 p.m., Dinner, Meeting and Program at 7 p.m.

Spouse/Significant Other Welcome (dinner fee applies)

Online reservations required by 9/10/25 –

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER or scan the QR code



Saad Chaudhry, MD is a board-certified Geriatrician. He received his medical degree from the American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine, St. Maarten. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency at Wayne State University School of Medicine, and a Geriatrics Fellowship at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York.

One question I commonly receive includes, "Why geriatrics?" The field entails caring for older adults, but it goes much deeper. The goal involves promoting healthy aging- this involves evaluation of memory loss, mobility, medications, co-morbidities, family dynamics, and ultimately knowing the goals of the patient. The field has sharpened my skills in communication in complex cases, advance care planning, and deprescribing. With people living longer lives, having this specialization allows for physicians to have more expertise in taking care of the aging population.

Special Guest: Bobby Mukkamala, MD –



Board certified Otolaryngologist in Flint and newly installed president of the AMA. Dr. Mukkamala received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School, and is past president of the Genesee County Medical Society and Michigan State Medical Society. Dr. Mukkamala will reflect on his personal and professional journey in medicine- as the child of immigrant parents from India, a private practice physician in Flint, and brain cancer patient- to highlight the need for systemic changes in health care. He calls on physicians to unite in demanding a more equitable, compassionate and sustainable health system to better serves the needs of patients and physicians.

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IN MEMORY

Following are members and spouses who passed away in the last year

Frederick W. Foltz MD

December 1, 1936 - January 25, 2025

Beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather passed away on January 25, 2025, at his home with his family by his side at the age of 88. Fred was born on December 1, 1936, in Morenci, Michigan, the son of the late Norman L. and Frances (Ruesink) Foltz. He was united in marriage to Betty Lou Johnson on September 14, 1958. They spent 66 wonderful years together full of love and laughter; she survives him.

Fred was an Ob-Gyn and worked for Valley OB-Gyn Clinic for 29 years. He served on the STCS Board for eight years and Saginaw County School Board for seven years. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Saginaw for 25 years. He was a Captain in the U.S. Army from 1963-65 at Fort Benning in Georgia. Fred enjoyed fishing, hunting and woodworking. Most of all, he loved his family and spending time with them at his beloved cabin.

Fred is survived by his loving wife, Betty Lou Johnson Foltz; son, Greg (Diane) Foltz; daughter, Susan Foltz Power; son, Jon Foltz; grandchildren, Anna Foltz, Kelly Power NyKamp (Andrew), Kyle Power, Robyn Power (Jason Meldau), Anders Foltz and Lars Foltz; great-grandchildren, Eloise NyKamp, Auden NyKamp, Jude NyKamp, and a great-granddaughter due in June of 2025.

In keeping with Fred's wishes, cremation has taken place and private family services were held. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to their favorite charity.

Lorraine M. Hughes

July 6, 1945 - January 11, 2025

Lorraine Margaret Hughes passed away peacefully in her home in the care of her family on January 11, 2025. She was born July 6, 1945, in Detroit to Leonard and Olga Walker. She attended the University of Detroit where she was the first in her family to graduate with a BA degree. She worked in social work before starting a family with her husband of 56 years, John C. Hughes MD. She was a warm and loving mother with a lively intellect and sense of humor.

Lorraine was a member of Tri-City Action for Peace. She went to Washington D.C. to march for equal rights for women in 1978, and for many years volunteered for the Saginaw Underground Railroad, supporting victims of domestic abuse. She cared deeply for the earth, reducing, reusing and recycling, and hiked regularly in Northern Michigan, Canada and Colorado well into her 70s. She was a Master Gardener that carefully planted and tended a large perennial garden that her family and wildlife continue to enjoy.

Once her children were in school, she began working as a Manager for HealthSource Saginaw Gift Shop where she volunteered for 28 years. She enjoyed the arts with her husband, regularly attending the Detroit Symphony Orchestra

and concerts at Hill Auditorium, and plays in Saginaw, Ann Arbor, Chicago and Stratford, ON. She was also a long-time parishioner at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Freeland, regularly volunteering her time.

Lorraine is survived by her husband, John C. Hughes MD, her children Jennifer Bellini, Caroline Hughes, Joe Hughes and Marianne Joiner-Hughes (Stubbs); grandchildren Joseph Bellini, Emma Bellini, Eli Hughes, Gabriel Joiner and Rhiannon Joiner; two sisters, three brothers and sisters-in-law and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers-in-law and her sister-in-law. The Hughes family would like to thank caregivers from A&D for their compassionate care of Lorraine.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorial donations to [The Little Traverse Conservancy](#), [Amnesty International USA](#) or their favorite charity.

Grace Emery Manning

October 16, 1934 - September 9, 2024

Grace Emery Manning of Saginaw passed away on September 9, 2024, at the age of 89. Grace was born October 16, 1934, in Saginaw to the late Rexford and Natalie (Spencer) Emery. She was married to the late J.E. Manning MD.

After a career of many years, Grace retired from the Saginaw Valley Blood Program and remained there for many more years as a volunteer. Her service to the Saginaw community continued throughout the active years of her life, volunteering over 600 hours for the Saginaw General Auxiliary and for 16 years at the Saginaw Children's Zoo. Grace was a lifelong member of the First Congregational Church where she served in many volunteer and leadership roles.

Grace was predeceased by her husband on July 7, 1991, following a lengthy illness. In that Grace had no children of her own, she had special relationships with her nieces and nephews, as well as, their spouses and children. She was a loving and attentive aunt who in return was loved and will be missed.

Private services were held with burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to [First Congregational Church of Saginaw](#) or the [Saginaw Children's Zoo](#).

Linda Kay McNier

November 10, 1947 - July 10, 2024

Our wonderful, generous, kind and loving wife and mother, Linda Kay McNier, passed away on July 10, 2024, at the age of 76. Linda was born November 10, 1947 in Saginaw to Edward and Kathleen (Maike) Bonjour. She spent her childhood in Chesaning. Following high school, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Central Michigan University. She then began a career as an educator, sculpting the minds of many elementary students in the Flint and Brighton areas, teaching them English along with other subjects. With a move

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to Saginaw, her primary focus became raising her children before embarking on a second career as an office manager for her husband's medical practice.

On May 15, 1970, Linda married Robert M. McNier MD, her loving husband of 54 years. Of infinite patience and grace, Linda was an amazing mother to her children, and remarkably motherly to her children's friends. Linda's generosity of spirit knew no bounds, and her dedication to help anyone around her extended well beyond friends and family. Enjoying time in Leelanau Peninsula was also a favorite pastime of hers, often ensuring others were also able to enjoy time spent lakeside.

Linda will be missed by more than we realize. Left with an abundance of uplifting and cherished memories seemingly too many for even a whole community of family and friends to hold in their hearts are her husband, Robert; one daughter, Melissa, and one son David; two grandchildren, Wyatt and Emily; one sister, Tammi; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Linda is joyfully reunited with her daughter, Rachel, and her sister, Mary Sue.

Honoring Linda's wishes, cremation took place. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to [Thomas Township Library](#).

Narciso D. Santiago MD

October 19, 1940 - April 19, 2025

A devoted husband, father, physician, and man of faith passed away on April 19, 2025, at the age of 84. He was known for his warm heart, sense of humor, and deep devotion to family and service. Born in the Philippines to the late Alejandro Santiago and Francisca Derayunan, he studied pre-med at Central Philippine University, and earned his medical degree from the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center.

In 1967, his life changed when his brother and sister-in-law introduced him to Zenaida, the love of his life. The two shared a first date at the movies, and were married in March 1970. The couple immigrated to the United States in November 1972, beginning a journey that would span decades of dedication to both family and career. After completing his internship in Taylor, Michigan, he moved to Pontiac in 1979 for his residency at Pontiac General Hospital. He eventually became a partner at a medical office in Columbiaville, Michigan, where he and his wife raised their children. The family later moved to Saginaw, where he worked for Blue Care Network from 1985 until its closure in 2004, and continued serving patients through the Visiting Nurse Association, Henry Ford Medical Center, and Blue Care of Midland until his retirement in 2010.

He is survived by his loving wife of 54 years, Zenaida; his children, Zenna (Jeffrey) Fisher, Christine (Scott) Drake, Narciso John (Maia) Santiago, and Mark (Amy) Santiago; his grandchildren, Christopher, Quinn, Weston and Bennett; his brother, Dr. Mario (Delilah) Santiago; and many nieces and nephews, all of whom he cherished deeply. He was preceded in death by his infant son Francis, his parents, and siblings Leah Zapata, Romeo Santiago, Dr. Alejandro Santiago Jr.,

Frances Tarrosa, Juan Santiago and Levi Santiago.

Private services were held. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to their favorite charity.

Galileo A. "Gal" Sarmiento MD

July 11, 1931 - June 11, 2025

Beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother passed away peacefully on June 11, 2025, at the age of 93. The son of the late Quintin and Natalia (Alfajara) Sarmiento, Galileo was born July 11, 1931, in Cebu, Philippines.

He graduated from the University of Santo Tomas, Manila, Philippines with his medical degree in 1955. Dr. Sarmiento came to the United States in 1957, and served his internship in New Jersey and two years of surgical residency at St. Francis Hospital in Trenton, New Jersey. From 1960-62, he served as a medical missionary in East Pakistan (Bangladesh). He returned to the United States in 1962 where he served his General Practice Residency at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw. He resumed his surgical residency at Saginaw General Hospital from 1963-65. In 1965, he served as staff surgeon at the Veteran's Hospital in Saginaw. Dr. Sarmiento started his surgical practice in 1967. In 1975, he became a fellow member of the American College of Surgeons. He retired from surgery in 1985, then serving five years at the Saginaw General Emergency Room and 15 years at Covenant Med Express, retiring in 2005.

Surviving to cherish his memory are his wife, Judy B. Sarmiento; two sons, Jeffrey (Joan) Sarmiento and Christopher (Linda) Sarmiento; grandsons, Cody (Edlira) Sarmiento, Nicholas Sarmiento, Eric and Ryan Clark; a great-granddaughter, Sophia Sarmiento; one sister, a brother-in-law, two sisters-in-law and several nieces and nephews including a dear nephew, Clovis (Elenette) Sarmiento and their three sons and their families, and niece Susan (Chris) Bannan. Dr. Sarmiento was preceded in death by four brothers, Themie, Eduardo, Alfonso and Nilo Sarmiento.

Funeral services took place at St. Thomas Aquinas with private burial at Eastlawn Memorial Gardens. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to the [Alzheimer's Association](#).

Michael J. Slavin MD

March 7, 1949 - March 4, 2025

Beloved husband, father, grandfather and brother passed away peacefully on March 4, 2025, with his family by his side at the age of 75. Son of the late Stanley and Eleanor (Schwedler) Slavin, Michael was born March 7, 1949, in Bad Axe, Michigan. He served proudly in the U.S. Air Force at Andrews Air Force Base. Michael married Mary T. Hensel, his loving wife of 53 years, on March 27, 1971. She survives him. Michael attended St. Paul Seminary, Wayne State University and Wayne State Medical School.

He completed his family practice residency at St. Luke's Hospital and founded Saginaw Family Physicians where he

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practiced medicine for over 40 years. During this time, he delivered over 1,000 babies in the Tri-City Area. He served as V.P., Medical Director and President of the Physician Hospital Organization, and Medical Director of the Physician Organization for over three decades. Michael was a member of St. John Vianney Catholic Church.

Besides being a wonderful physician, he enjoyed collecting ancient coins and fossils and Native American artifacts. He also had an extensive collection of classic books, enjoyed astronomy, genealogy and everything Celtic, but especially loved spending time with his family and friends.

Surviving besides his wife, Mary, are two daughters and two sons, Rebecca and Sean Cumming, Michael J. Slavin Jr. and his wife Anne, Katherine Manley, and Eric and Karrie Slavin; five grandchildren, Isla and Leah Cumming, Eleanor Manley, and David and Isabella Slavin; eight brothers and sisters and many nieces and nephews. Michael was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Eric M. Manley.

Funeral services with military honors were held at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church. Honoring Dr. Slavin's wishes, cremation followed. Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to [Aleda E. Lutz V.A. Medical Center](#).

Betty C. Webb

May 5, 1942 - May 10, 2025

Loving and beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend, Betty Cronin Webb died on May 10, 2025. In her last days, her family was camped out in the waiting room at the end of the hall, taking turns sitting with her, sharing final conversations, laughter, and expressions of love and gratitude.

Born on May 5, 1942, to Walter and Miriam Cronin, Betty enjoyed biking and roller skating down the hills in her childhood hometown of East Liverpool, Ohio. She talked about marching all the way from the high school to the football field for daily band practice during football season, a distance her family needed to verify in recent years. Betty graduated from East Liverpool High School in 1960 and headed off to Ohio State University (Go Buckeyes!!).

One month into her freshman year she met the love of her life, Les Webb, on a blind date. At the end of her freshman year, Les gave her his fraternity pin, at the end of her sophomore year they were engaged. At the beginning of what would have been her senior year, they were married after she graduated a year early. Betty worked in a lab at OSU while Les finished medical school.

After graduating from medical school, Les took an internship position at St. Luke's Hospital, which brought them to Saginaw where they would make their life and raise their family. Betty immediately made friends and got involved in the community. She and Les joined the First Congregational Church of Saginaw, and Betty was involved in the local Panhellenic organization, Alpha Xi Delta, various church activities, Junior League of Saginaw, and P.E.O. chapters AH and EQ. She was always willing

to serve as an officer and was not afraid of numbers, so Betty was frequently asked to be treasurer. She took a position on the Executive Board of the Michigan State Chapter of P.E.O. in 2001, completing six years of service culminating in the presidency. Each of Betty's various activities resulted in life-long friendships.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents and step-father, sister Patricia Ann Long, sister-in-law Emma Webb, and nephew Greg Long. Left to cherish her memory are her husband of 61 years, Lester E. Webb MD, daughter Susie with husband Paul and their daughters Annie with fiancé Eli, Jenny and Carrie; favorite son Michael; daughter Kathy with husband Badji and their children Christopher, Maddie and Sophie; brother-in-law Dave Webb; and sister- and brother-in-law Sandra and Randy Oldham. In addition, Betty was very close with her Long family nephews and their families and their Dad, John, who was her brother-in-law for almost 70 years. She will also be missed by her four exchange daughters and their families.

Family and friends will gather at Snow Funeral Home in Saginaw on Friday, August 15 from 2-7 p.m. to honor Betty and her husband, Les. Their joint memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 16 at First Congregational Church of Frankfort, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, Betty requested donations to organizations providing food and shelter to those in need. She particularly liked [World Central Kitchen](#), [Benzie Area Christian Neighbors](#) and the [East Side Soup Kitchen](#).

Lester E. Webb MD

May 22, 1941 - July 12, 2025

Loving and beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend, Lester Eugene Webb died on July 12, 2025. Born on May 22, 1941, to Walter and Lucile Webb, Les enjoyed playing sports and excelled in school, serving as valedictorian of his class at Solon High School. As a kid, he was taught to play sports by his left-handed brother, leading him to be a switch-hitter on the baseball team all through high school. Les graduated from Solon High School in 1959 and headed off to Ohio State University (Go Buckeyes!!).

One month into his sophomore year, a Sigma Pi fraternity brother set Les up on a blind date with Betty Cronin. After one year, he gave Betty his frat pin; after the second year, they were engaged; after the third year, they got married. At that time, OSU had a program that allowed Les to begin medical school after three years of undergrad, so he had already finished one year of med school before their marriage.

After graduating from medical school, Les took an internship position at St. Luke's Hospital, which brought them to Saginaw where they would make their life and raise their family. Les and Betty joined First Congregational Church of Saginaw and Les was involved in the Saginaw County Medical Society for 58 years. As a caring and dedicated family practice physician, Dr. Webb was loved by his patients, who would often greet him with delight when meeting by chance at a restaurant or

out and about. In retirement, Les enjoyed reading extensively, including the Irish Country Doctor series. He also loved watching his favorite teams, the Cleveland Guardians and the Ohio State Buckeyes, as well as, keeping up with current events on MSNBC.

When nephew Mark was stationed in Germany in the Air Force, Les and Betty took their first overseas trip. That trip kicked off a cascade of international travel through three generations. Les and Betty visited many countries, including Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, Austria, Finland, Czech Republic, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Senegal, Greece, Grand Cayman, the Bahamas, Ireland, Mexico, and multiple trips to our sovereign neighbor to the north, Canada. Their adventurous spirit has inspired their children and grandchildren to travel extensively with open minds and great curiosity.

Les was preceded in death by his wife of 61 years, Betty; his parents, Walter and Lucile Webb; mother-in-law, Miriam Dunn; stepfather-in-law, Albert Dunn; and sisters-in-law Patricia Ann Long and Emma Webb. Left to cherish his memory are daughter, Susie, with husband Paul and their daughters Annie with fiancé Eli, Jenny, and Carrie; favorite son Michael; daughter Kathy with husband Badji and their children Christopher, Maddie, and Sophie; brother Dave Webb, sister Sandra Oldham with husband Randy Oldham, and brother-in-law John Long, as well as, many nephews, a niece, and many grands. Additionally, four exchange daughters and

their families: Lindy Nziramasanga; Noriko Okano with husband Kikaku and daughter Honoka; Ina Fünér-Rentrop with husband Harry and sons Tim, Johann, and Martin; and Larissa Eldridge with husband Paul and daughters Rachael, Lauren, and Chloe.

Family and friends will gather at Snow Funeral Home in Saginaw on Friday, August 15 from 2-7 p.m. to honor Les and his wife, Betty. Their joint memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, August 16 at the First Congregational Church of Frankfort, Michigan.

In lieu of flowers, Les would appreciate donations to organizations providing health services to underserved populations, such as [Great Lakes Bay Health Centers](#) or [Doctors Without Borders](#).

Daniel J. Wechter MD
January 27, 1945 - April 25, 2025

Faithful husband, father, son, grandfather, brother, and physician serving God, his family, his patients, and his community all the days of his life passed on April 25, 2025, surrounded by his family.

Born January 27, 1945, Dr. Dan, our "Papa," lived more adventures in his 80 years than most have the privilege of experiencing in one lifetime. He was first and foremost a husband to Alyce, without which, the rest of his legacy would be a figment of our imagination. He met Alyce on Loyola's college campus in his mid-twenties; a set-up from a classmate who was roommates with Alyce.

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PHYSICIAN AND LEGISLATIVE FORUM

Saginaw County Medical Society | Genesee County Medical Society

The next quarterly SCMS/GCMS Physician and Legislative Forum will be held via Zoom on Monday, October 6 from 8-9 a.m.

Your participation is important! These meetings provide a forum for physician members and office/practice managers to voice their concerns with local lawmakers regarding legislation affecting the practice of medicine, reimbursement, etc. We welcome your input on issues you would like addressed. Lawmakers and representatives from SCMS, GCMS and MSMS will be in attendance. Watch your email and the homepage on our website www.SaginawCountyMS.com for online registration details about a month prior to the Forum.

The SCMS/GCMS would like to give special thanks to Rep. Matthew Bierlein who is serving his second term as 97th District State Rep which spans portions of Bay, Genesee, Saginaw and Tuscola counties. Rep. Bierlein serves as Vice Chair of the House Oversight Committee. He also chairs the House Oversight Subcommittee on Public Health and Food Security and serves on the House Oversight Subcommittee on Corporate Subsidies and State Investments, as well as, the House Health Policy Committee. Rep. Bierlein has been instrumental in getting our members in front of the Health Policy Committee to discuss scope of practice, behavioral health and other issues. He wrote an op-ed for Bridge Michigan "[It's time to address Michigan's behavioral health capacity nightmare](#)" that is worth reading.

Questions? Contact Joan Cramer at jmcramer@saginawcountymys.com



Ten birth children, two sets of twins which were lost along the way, and two adopted children later, the Wechter Family with Dan and Alyce at the helm became a prominent part of each community where they lived, following Dan's medical assignments from Illinois, to Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan. Dan worked as a family doctor in rural Owingsville, Kentucky while building an off-grid log cabin, complete with solar panels, long before it was the sustainably cool thing to do. He would travel to patients' homes, and return to his family to help his daughters, Amy and Mary, learn to ride horses, milk goats, and help to raise the growing number of younger siblings. As the family moved from place to place and Dan found his calling as a Maternal Fetal Medicine physician at Saginaw General Hospital, the Wechter's made Saginaw home. Dan and Alyce were fixtures of St. Thomas Aquinas parish and their children made their way through the elementary school followed by Nouvel Catholic Central High School.

He cared for his patients as much as he cared for his children, toting his trusty pager and taking calls from payphones and public spaces at all hours of the day (proudly never owning a cell phone of his own). He saved countless lives, both mother and child during his 40-year legacy and felt his life's calling was to advocate for every unborn life and provide care and shelter for many children born into poverty. Over the years, his patients have numbered in the thousands and the number of foster children, teenage mothers and

international exchange students housed under the Wechter household add dozens more to Dan and Alyce's generosity and care.

Our dad was a visionary, an artist, carpenter, a storyteller, and a comedian (he would remind us). Papa also pushed us to be the best version of ourselves possible. He held his children to the same standard with which he lived his own life- to be kind, generous, hard-working, well-studied, and passionate about our service to others, and to the world.

Ultimately, above all, Dr. Dan's faith and love for our mom were the guiding lights of his life. He always said meeting our Mom was the best thing that ever happened to him and would profoundly thank God daily for every blessing in his life. He lived a full life of joy and service to others and we find peace knowing he is with his heavenly Father, mother, brother, sister, and four children (James, Joseph, Peter and Francis).

He is survived by his wife Alyce, his children Amy, Mary, Chrissy, Clare, John, Rose, Elizabeth, Thomas, Annie, Michael, Matthew, Ana Clara, and his 27 beautiful grandchildren.

Following his wishes, Dan was cremated through the Catholic Church. Further details and inquiries can be made to the family through Annie Wechter at amwechter2@gmail.com. Those planning an expression of sympathy are asked to consider donations in Daniel's memory to one of his favorite charities [St. Joseph the Protector](#) or [St. Damien in Haiti](#).



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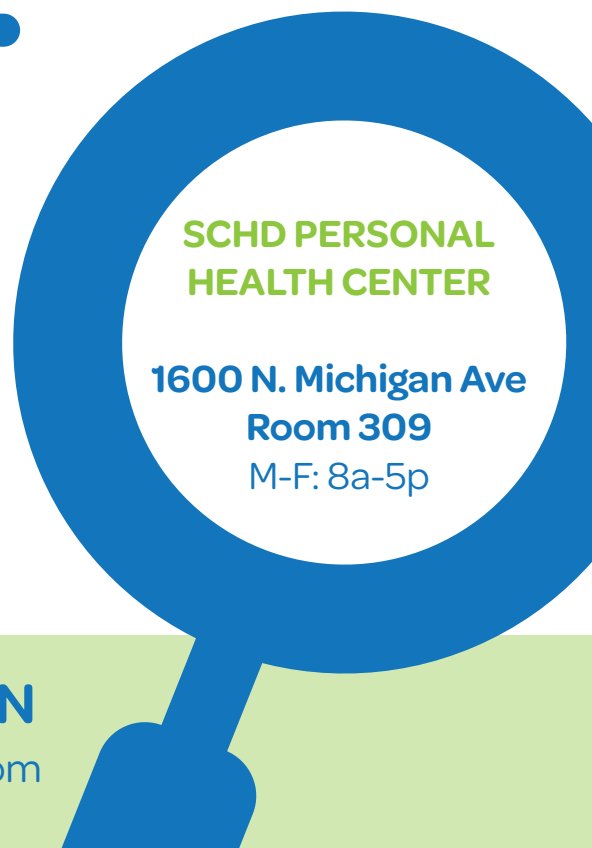
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Covenant HealthCare Becomes First Michigan Hospital Outside of Detroit to Offer Ultrasound Renal Denervation Therapy for Hypertension Patients

Covenant Cardiology interventional cardiologist, **Sunil Pathak MD**, has completed Michigan's first ultrasound renal denervation (uRDN) procedure performed outside of the metro Detroit area.



uRDN is a catheter-based therapy designed to reduce sympathetic nervous system activity in patients with uncontrolled or resistant hypertension. It specifically targets the renal sympathetic nerves located in the adventitial layer of the renal arteries, which contribute significantly to the development and persistence of elevated blood pressure.

How It Works

- The procedure is performed via **percutaneous femoral access**, under fluoroscopic guidance.
- A **balloon catheter** is advanced into each renal artery and positioned proximally.
- Once inflated with cooled fluid, the balloon centers the **ultrasound transducer** within the artery.
- The transducer delivers **circumferential, high-frequency ultrasound energy** (typically in the 6–7 MHz range) in several seven second bursts that penetrates the arterial wall and **ablates the surrounding sympathetic nerves** without damaging the endothelium.
- Real-time temperature monitoring and cooling help minimize risk to the arterial wall and help make the procedure more comfortable for the patient.

"Ultrasound renal denervation represents a **precise, efficient, and durable** option in the interventional hypertension toolkit- especially for patients in whom pharmacologic approaches have reached their limits," says Dr. Pathak. "The result is meaningful and long-lasting decrease in blood pressure, which can lower a patient's risk of heart attacks, stroke and kidney damage by 15-30%." He notes that uRDN is not a replacement for lifestyle modification or pharmacotherapy, but serves as an adjunctive treatment in selected populations. Some patients may be able to reduce the number or dosage of blood pressure medications after treatment.

Patient Selection Considerations

- Adults with **uncontrolled hypertension** despite adherence to ≥ 3 antihypertensive agents, including a diuretic.
- Patients with **medication intolerance or adherence challenges**.

- Not appropriate for patients with significant renal artery stenosis, prior renal artery stenting, or $\text{eGFR} < 40 \text{ mL/min/1.73 m}^2$ (depending on device protocol).

Benefits

- Patients with medication-resistant or intolerant hypertension may benefit, particularly when adherence is a challenge or polypharmacy is undesirable
- Minimally invasive; typically, same-day discharge
- No implant or device left in the body
- Durable effect with favorable safety profile

"As the evidence base grows and technology continues to evolve, Covenant remains committed to bringing our patients the latest in cardiovascular innovation- because long-term management of hypertension means better quality of life," says **Ron Hubble**, Director, Cardiovascular & Neuroscience Services.

For more information, please contact Covenant Cardiology at 989.583.4700.

Covenant HealthCare Introduces Robotic-Assisted Bronchoscopy to Region

Early detection is key to treating lung cancer, and Covenant HealthCare is now offering a groundbreaking diagnostic tool to make that possible- robotic-assisted bronchoscopy.



This state-of-the-art technology- first deployed by **Kahlid Al Efraij MD** in early March- enhances a physician's ability to obtain tissue samples from hard-to-reach areas of the lung, increasing precision and improving early-stage diagnoses for both malignant growths and other small lesions detected with imaging.

Additionally, a flexible ultrasound probe can be introduced during the same procedure to assess and biopsy lymph nodes, aiding in lung cancer staging without the need for a more invasive mediastinoscopy.

"Robotic-assisted bronchoscopy is a game changer for early detection and intervention," says Dr. Al Efraij. "With the new robotic bronchoscopy system, we can access and biopsy nodules in deeper regions of the lung than we can with traditional bronchoscopy. We can get tissue in the 95% and higher range for pathology, ultimately enabling earlier detection and intervention which enhances patient survival."

How Robotic-Assisted Bronchoscopy Works

This life-enhancing procedure utilizes an ultra-thin, highly maneuverable catheter that navigates through the lungs' smallest airways, reaching all 18 lung segments with

continued on page 29

exceptional dexterity. The catheter articulates 180° in any direction, allowing for precise access to pulmonary nodules. Once the target lesion is reached, the catheter locks in place, ensuring stability for biopsy sampling. Physicians can then advance a flexible biopsy needle through the catheter to obtain tissue samples for pathological evaluation.

Benefits for Physicians and Patients

Made possible by generous donations to the **Covenant HealthCare Foundation**, this advancement ensures that leading-edge care remains accessible to our region. Robotic-assisted bronchoscopy enhances procedural accuracy while reducing complications commonly associated with traditional bronchoscopy and CT guided biopsy techniques. As a minimally invasive approach, it offers significant benefits, including:

- Greater access to peripheral lung lesions
- Improved diagnostic yield
- Reduced risk of complications
- Shorter recovery times for patients

Multidisciplinary Collaboration and Comprehensive Care

John Koenig, Director of the Cancer Center at Covenant HealthCare, emphasizes the importance of this advancement in lung cancer care. "Our commitment to comprehensive cancer treatment involves integrating the latest technology with multidisciplinary collaboration," he explains. "Robotic-assisted bronchoscopy complements our full spectrum of oncology services, including diagnostic imaging, pulmonology, pathology, surgery, radiation oncology, and medical oncology, ensuring the best possible outcomes for our patients."

With this innovative technology, Covenant HealthCare continues to set the standard in advanced diagnostics, offering new hope for early lung cancer detection and improved patient care.

For more information, please contact the Covenant Pulmonology team at 989.583.7380.

Covenant Medical Group Welcomes



Jayson B. Field MD

Gynecologic Oncology,
Covenant Cancer
Care Center
5400 Mackinaw (5th Floor), Saginaw, MI 48604
989.583.5060



Donald Johnson, MD

Family Medicine

Covenant Medical Group Primary Care
3875 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603
989.583.5300



Megan Sharrow, DO

Family Medicine

Covenant Medical Group Primary Care
6614 Dixie Hwy. Bridgeport, MI 48722
989.583.0145



Nasser Suleiman, MD

Family Medicine

Covenant Medical Group Primary Care
3875 Bay Road, Saginaw, MI 48603
989.583.5300

Save the Dates

Covenant HealthCare Foundation: Red Carpet Events **Wednesday & Thursday, August 6 & 7, 2025**

Apple Mountain Resort, Freeland

www.CovenantHealthCare.com

Covenant HealthCare Comprehensive Obesity Care **Symposium**

Friday, September 12, 2025

Horizons Conference Center

www.CovenantHealthCare.com/Bariatric-Symposium

Covenant HealthCare Foundation: Covenant Kids Gala **Friday, October 10, 2025**

Horizons Conference Center

www.CovenantHealthCareFoundation.com



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PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE COVENANT HEALTHCARE

2025 Comprehensive Obesity Care Symposium

4.75 CME
Credits
Available

KEY PROVIDER OF THE MONTH

Date and Time:

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

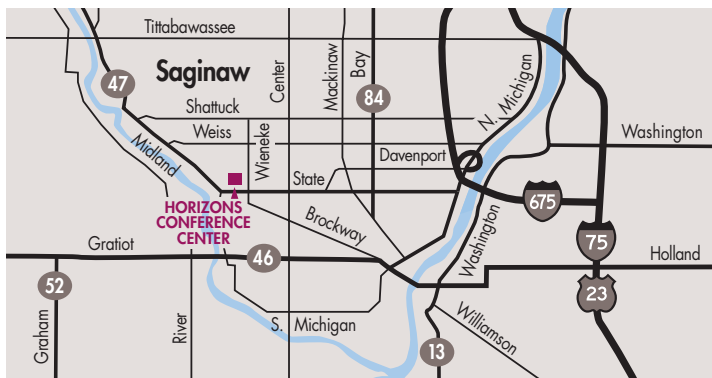
8:15 am-8:55 am • Registration & Exhibits

8:55 am-3:00 pm • Presentations

Location:

HORIZONS CONFERENCE CENTER

6200 State Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48603



Register Online at:

covenanthealthcare.com/bariatric-symposium
or scan the QR Code



Tuition Cost:

Physicians \$100/Non-physicians \$60

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION:

- Before August 12: Physicians \$75/Non-physicians \$40
- Before August 29: Physicians \$85/Non-physicians \$50

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION: September 10, 2025

Program Description:

This program offers up-to-date research, care guidelines and options for adolescents and adults afflicted with the disease of obesity and associated co-morbid conditions.

Target Audience:

Physicians, advanced practitioners, nurses and allied health professionals involved in the care of obese patients.

Program Objectives:

- Understand the effects of obesity on our current population in both the U.S. and our community.
- Review the pathophysiology of obesity and its effects on various organ systems.
- Describe current evidence-based surgical and non-surgical treatments for obesity.
- Understand the journey patients travel in managing their obesity and the barriers they face medically, emotionally, and socially.
- Provide evidence-based information about the various options that are available for patients seeking treatment for obesity.

For More Information:

Contact 989.583.4683 or
lpalmer@chs-mi.com

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2025 KEY PROVIDERS



These Area Businesses Support Saginaw County Medical Society Membership Meetings. When you have a need for a service, please consider our Key Providers.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR 2025-2026*

Saturday, September 13, 2025

Garber Courts, 1760 Fordney Street, Saginaw

SCMS Health Expo at Pulse3 Hearts and Paddles Pickleball Tournament

See pages 10-11 for information and to register

REGISTER NOW!

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Horizons Conference Center

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting - Social (cash bar) 6:30 p.m., Dinner, Meeting and Program at 7 p.m.

Joint with the Saginaw Valley Osteopathic Society and Saginaw Dental Society Spouse/Significant Other Welcome (dinner fee applies)

Special Guest – Bobby Mukkamala, MD –

AMA President

Speaker – Saad Chaudhry, MD –

CMU Health Geriatrician

Topic – "Understanding Aging: The Gray Areas of Medicine"

Participants will be able to:

1. Understand that age causes changes in the body
2. Differentiate what is normal and what is abnormal (normal aging memory loss vs. dementia, etc.) and communicate this to patients and families
3. Identify psychosocial changes and ethical decisions that can impact an older adults' life, support and facilitate changes

Online reservations required by 9/10/25 –

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER or scan the QR code

See page 21 for more information

Online reservations required



Monday, October 6, 2025

Quarterly Physician and Legislative Forum via Zoom

from 8-9 a.m. Physicians and office/practice managers invited

Online reservations required – email meeting notice will be sent in September

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Horizons Conference Center

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Membership Meeting - Social (cash bar) 6:30 p.m., Dinner, Meeting and Program at 7 p.m.

Spouse/Significant Other Welcome (dinner fee applies)

Speaker – Cheryle Sullivan, MD – Brain Injury Association of America

Topic – "My 360° Perspective of TBI"

The SCMS would like to thank the Anna Dorr Cresswell Memorial Fund administrated by the Saginaw Community Foundation for sponsoring Dr. Sullivan

Online reservations required – email meeting notices will be sent in September

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

CMU College of Medicine, 1632 Stone Street, Saginaw

Board Meeting/Annual Budget Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

CMU College of Medicine, Saginaw or Zoom (TBD)

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.