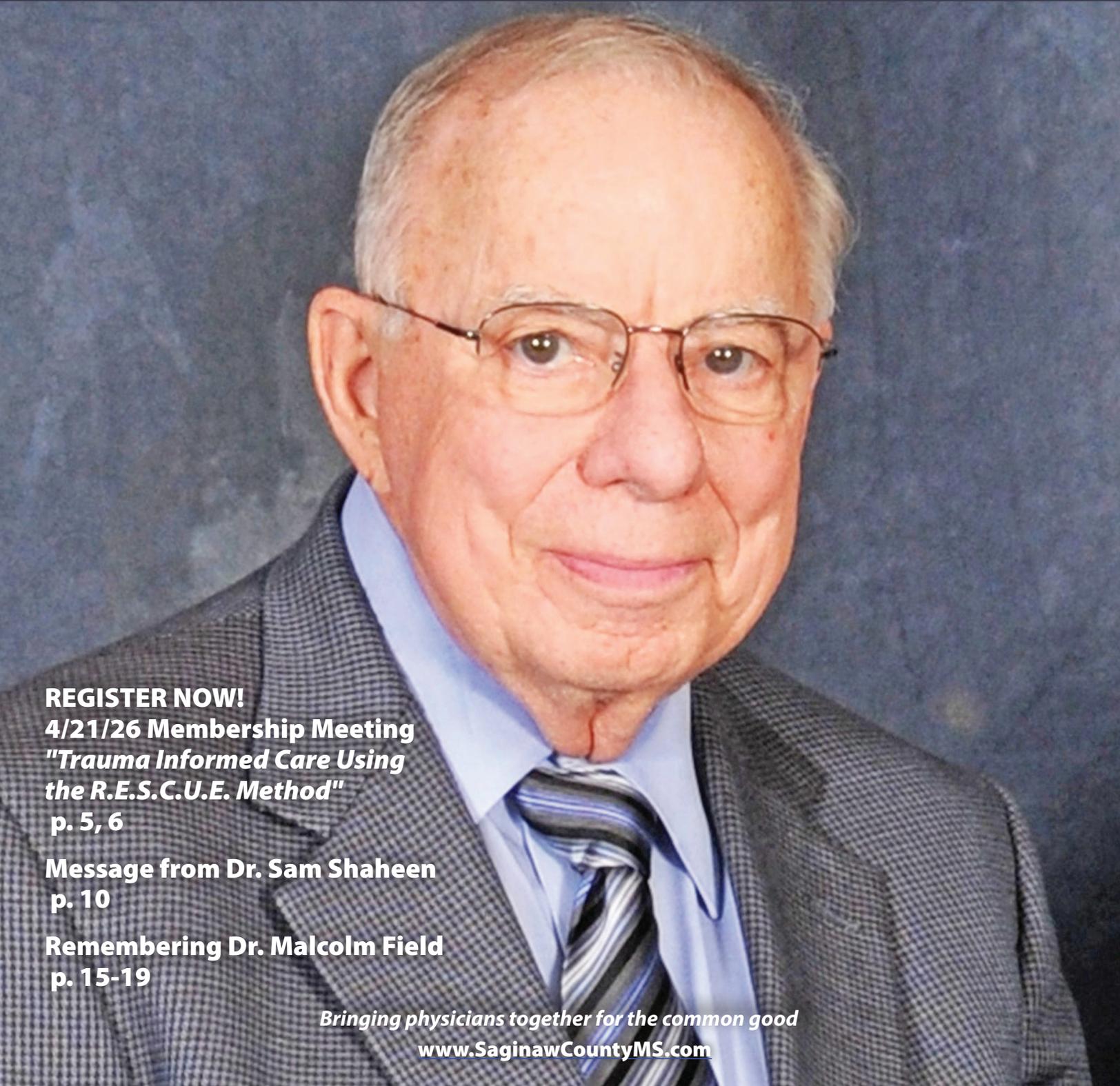


The Bulletin

Saginaw County Medical Society

March 2026 | Volume 82 | No 3



REGISTER NOW!

4/21/26 Membership Meeting
"Trauma Informed Care Using
the R.E.S.C.U.E. Method"

p. 5, 6

Message from Dr. Sam Shaheen

p. 10

Remembering Dr. Malcolm Field

p. 15-19

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contents

5	Happy Doctors' Day	15-19	Remembering E. Malcolm Field MD and Lois Jean Field
6	REGISTER NOW! Tuesday, April 21, 2026, Membership Meeting with FREE CME!	20	October Membership Meeting Minutes
10	Message from Samuel Shaheen MD FACS	26-27	2026 Pediatric Symposium Presented by Covenant Children's Hospital 5/8/26
14	Physicians from India in the Tri-Cities: How Calligraphy Led to Destiny		

4	President's Letter	21	CMU Health Pediatrics
4	Thank You Key Providers!	22	Covenant HealthCare College of Medicine at Central Michigan University CMU Health
5	Calendar of Meetings and Events for 2026	24	MyMichigan Health
7	From the Editor	28	Covenant HealthCare
8	Barb Smith SRRN	29	In Memory <i>Thomas M. Burkey MD</i> <i>Lois J. Greenwell</i> <i>Charles "Charlie" Eugene Jessup DO</i>
11	New Physician in Practice Corner	30	Advertiser index
11	Retirees Meet for Lunch	31	Peer Review Ethics Committee
11	SCMS Mission, Vision and Values	31	Remembering Our Colleagues and Spouses - 2025
12	Key Provider of the Month <i>Quality Sleep & Neurology</i>		
13	Member News <i>Joseph G. Adel MD</i> <i>Arshad Aqil MD</i>		

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

COVER PHOTO: E. Malcolm Field, MD

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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.

Update for SCMS Members: MSMS Reorganization Discussions

Furhut R. Janssen, DO FACN

SCMS remains focused on serving our local physicians while continuing to monitor the MSMS reorganization discussions

Over the past few months, many of you have seen communications and discussions related to the Michigan State Medical Society (MSMS) reorganization process. I wanted to take a moment to connect directly with our members and share a brief update from the Saginaw County Medical Society (SCMS).

County medical societies are independent organizations, each responsible for its own governance, financial stewardship, and required reporting. At SCMS, we remain committed to maintaining strong

financial oversight, following established reporting standards, and operating with the transparency our members expect.

As these broader conversations about structure and membership continue, our mission remains unchanged: Serving the physicians of Saginaw County, supporting our medical community, and ensuring that SCMS continues to operate with sound governance and accountability.

The SCMS Board will continue reviewing the information being shared by MSMS and participating in the ongoing discussions as members consider these proposals. We will keep members informed as additional information becomes available.

Please feel free to reach out if you have questions or would like to discuss these issues further. I always welcome the opportunity to hear from our members and truly appreciate your engagement.

MSMS Reorganization Task Force's Report and Recommendations Now Available

MSMS faces significant structural, financial, and membership challenges that threaten its long-term viability. The Reorganization Task Force, appointed by the MSMS Board of Directors following resolutions adopted by the 2025

continued on page 5



At SCMS, we remain committed to maintaining strong financial oversight, following established reporting standards, and operating with the transparency our members expect.

Thank You Key Providers!

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



continued from page 4

House of Delegates (HOD), was charged with developing recommendations to modernize governance, improve efficiency, and strengthen engagement across the organization.

After extensive review and deliberation, the Task Force and MSMS Board of Directors recommend a series of comprehensive structural changes designed to position MSMS for the next decade of success. As these recommendations require changes to MSMS's Bylaws, they will be submitted to the HOD via Board Action Reports for decision. They include:

- Replacing the HOD with an all-member, year-round policy forum
- **Eliminating mandatory dual membership and chartering of county medical societies**
- Eliminating the Judicial Commission and requirement that county medical societies maintain a peer review and ethics committee
- Reducing the size of the MSMS Board of Directors from 36 to 13 members, focusing on skill-based rather than representational governance

The MSMS Board of Directors also approved a second session of the HOD for the bylaw's changes associated with the Reorganization Report the afternoon of April 18, 2026, so MSMS's separation from the county medical societies could become effective on that day.

To learn more:

- [Read the Task Force's Report and Recommendations here](#)
- View a recording of the MSMS February 10, 2026, Member Forum at www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQo5Zt2dLoY
- View a recording of the MSMS March 3 2026, Member Forum at <https://youtu.be/rOLrz0M5F90>



HAPPY DOCTORS' DAY!
Thank You for Being a Member and Serving the Residents of Saginaw County for 124 Years!

Joan M. Cramer, Executive Director
jmcramer@saginawcountymms.com
Cell (989) 284-8884

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR 2026*

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.

Spouse/Significant Other Welcome (dinner fee applies)

DO's Welcome (dinner fee applies for non-members)

Speaker – Tina L. Tanner MD FAAFP DABFM



Tina L. Tanner MD FAAFP DABFM

Topic – "Trauma Informed Care Using the R.E.S.C.U.E. Method" The SCMS would like to thank the Anna Dorr Cresswell Memorial Fund administered by the Saginaw Community Foundation for sponsoring Dr. Tanner

See page 6 for information and to register <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SCMS42126>

Online reservations required

Online reservations required

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Horizons Conference Center

Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

Annual SCMS and SCMS Foundation Membership Meetings -

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

Spouse/Significant Other Welcome (dinner fee applies)

- Election of Officers for 2026-2027
- Health Angel Award
- SCMS Foundation Essay Awards
- Update on CMU Medical Education Partners
- Update on Barb Smith Suicide Resource & Response Network
- And more!

Online reservations required – invitations will be emailed in late April

Tuesday, September 15, 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.

Spouse/Significant Other Welcome (dinner fee applies)

DO's Welcome (dinner fee applies for non-members)

Speaker – Lourdes Morales-Dopico MD

Topic – Pediatric Endocrinology (tentative topic)

Online reservations required – invitations will be emailed in late August

Tuesday, October 20, 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.

Spouse/Significant Other Welcome (dinner fee applies)

Program – Candidates' Forum for the Mid-Term Election

Online reservations required – invitations will be emailed in late September

Tuesday, November 17, 2026

Board Meeting/Annual Budget Meeting – 6 p.m. via Zoom

*Subject to change

REGISTER NOW!



Tina L. Tanner MD FAAFP DABFM

Dr. Tanner is a board-certified family physician with Trinity Health Medical Group in Muskegon. She graduated from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and completed her family medicine residency in Saginaw. She partners with her patients to provide a holistic physical, mental and spiritual health care experience that is unique to each individual and says health care should always be about caring.

The SCMS would like to give special thanks to the Anna Dorr Cresswell Memorial Fund administered by the Saginaw Community Foundation for sponsoring Dr. Tanner.

The Saginaw County Medical Society would like to invite all members, residents, CMU medical students and Saginaw Valley Osteopathic Society members to our

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 Membership Meeting

Click [HERE](#) to register or scan the QR code



Speaker: Tina L. Tanner MD FAAFP DABFM

Topic: "Trauma Informed Care Using the R.E.S.C.U.E. Method"

Objectives:

1. Definitions of child abuse and neglect
2. Statistics of child abuse and neglect
3. Connection between ACEs and long-term health outcomes
4. Neurobiology, psychology, and social determinates affect brain development
5. R.E.S.C.U.E – Recognize, Empathy, Support, Counsel, Utilize, and Empower
6. Case studies – what questions to ask, how to support and walk with your patients
7. Resilience – what is it and how to foster it

Trauma Informed care using the R.E.S.C.U.E. method provides physicians with the neuropsychobiological background that alters neurologic development resulting in biologic and psychologic changes in individuals who have experienced significant trauma. Using this knowledge and the framework provided by the R.E.S.C.U.E. method we can develop a treatment program that addresses these changes and helps our patients heal physically, emotionally and psychologically.

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 – email meeting notice will be sent in late March- contact Joan Cramer at jmcramer@saginawcountymys.com to be added to the invitation list.

Financial Relationship Disclosure and Accreditation Statement

DISCLOSURE

The planner and speaker for this session have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

ACCREDITATION

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Covenant HealthCare College of Medicine at Central Michigan University and Saginaw County Medical Society. Covenant HealthCare College of Medicine at Central Michigan University is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Covenant HealthCare College of Medicine at Central Michigan University designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.25 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit.[™] Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

The SCMS would like to thank our Key Providers for their continued support



Quality Sleep & Neurology

Here We Go Again

By Louis L. Constan, MD

Ah, those good old days. It's common to remember a past that was better than the turbulent present. But sometimes those old days were anything but good. I think of the days when I first came to Saginaw and set up an office. I was shocked at the number of patients who were uninsured, and of the suffering they endured because they could not afford care. Of course, I, like most of my colleagues, tried to help them out by discounting or forgiving their office bills; but that didn't help much because, lacking insurance, they could not afford medicines, medical workups or healthful diets. Their experience taught us a thing or two about the bigger issues faced by the uninsured.

It seemed unassailable that no amount of altruism we can muster would substitute for a good insurance plan. We saw, over and over again, how sick people, without adequate medical care, would just keep getting sicker. Well, duh! And further they would eventually wind up in the emergency room or the hospital. And all that "award winning" care did not help in the long run. After discharge, they would rapidly revert to their previous condition because there were no resources to continue with appropriate follow-up care. The final straw was when they eventually became so sick that they could not work, and whatever meager financial resources they previously had to apply to their healthcare would disappear completely.

We know what comes next. A slow-motion trainwreck and painful to witness.

The scenario was so common, and so heart-wrenching, that even politicians took notice. Decades-long efforts resulted in more and more Americans finally becoming insured. Then recently, as we know, much of that work has been undone. So, are we suddenly going back to those bad old days? Maybe not. Maybe the situation will be worse. Why? Because of Burnout. In the intervening decades, we doctors have experienced being overworked, underappreciated, sued, told how to practice medicine by myriads of hospital executives, insurance companies, government bureaucrats and Google-ing patients. Fully half of U.S. physicians report one or more symptoms of burnout. Doctors are sorely in need of help themselves. If the politicians believe that we will step up and fill the holes they've dug in society's safety net, then they are sorely mistaken.

It's not only doctors who are in crisis; our hospital partners are as well. With declining reimbursements, they have less room in their budgets to provide some of the supports that we have become reliant on. Continuing education for ourselves, health education for our patients, recruiting of needed new doctors (both primary and specialists), venues for meetings, and the list goes on. Some hospitals, or hospital service areas, will close. How will we care for patients, even those with insurance, who need those services?

Yes, even our insured patients will suffer. Their insurance rates will increase because everyone will increase their charges in an effort to compensate for "indigent care." They'll pay more and wait longer to see a doctor who is burned out or attend a hospital that is cutting services. And this is what condescending and contemptible politicians call "reform?"

Meanwhile, those uninsured patients, afraid of incurring medical debt, become literally afraid to interact with the medical system because the simple act of asking for help in a life-threatening situation may impoverish themselves and their families. Envision a waiting room full of either insured patients angry about escalating costs, or of uninsured patients frightened that you will order a test or prescribe a medicine. Not a good situation for those who are suffering or for those who have dedicated their lives to alleviating suffering.

Burnout has been called a form of moral injury. The struggle, day in and day out, to reconcile what one is forced to do and what one knows is right. The disconnect between what patients need and what we can deliver for them. In this struggle, all physicians are in the fight to convince our society to do the right thing. Here we go again.

Note: Articles are also available for free (subscribing is not necessary) to read and share at louisconstan.substack.com



In the intervening decades, we doctors have experienced being overworked, underappreciated, sued, told how to practice medicine by myriads of hospital executives, insurance companies, government bureaucrats and Google-ing patients.

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

Kevin's Song 10th Anniversary

Barb Smith and Network staff, along with 300 educational and community organizations, health systems, and regional partners, gathered at the **Kevin's Song 10th Anniversary: A Legacy of Hope, A Future of Possibilities Suicide Prevention Education Summit** in Plymouth in January. The **CMU Rural Health Excellence Institute** team and the **PRISMM Initiative** were also present at the event. **Dr. Abishek Bala**, Network Board member and CMED Psychiatrist, presented "Bridging the Gap: Connecting Inpatient Psychiatry and Schools to Support Youth Recovery" during the Youth Mental Health & School Summit. The workshop explored how educators, mental health professionals, and community partners can collaborate to support adolescents following psychiatric hospitalization. Drawing from real-world experiences in inpatient child and adolescent psychiatry,



I-r Dr. Abishek Bala, Barb Smith, Anne Kennelly and Andrea Beatty, CMU-RHEI Program Manager

Dr. Bala described what inpatient care entails, including admission criteria, the therapeutic process, and discharge planning. The session highlighted common challenges during the transition back to the community and examined both the challenges and opportunities to improve communication, continuity of care, and shared responsibility between hospitals, families and schools. This year's sessions highlighted survivor led insights, best practices in postvention, culturally responsive care, and collaborative approaches that help Michigan communities build resilience and hope.

"What's on Barb's Mind?"

This month, like so many of you, I found myself inspired by the teamwork and determination on display at the recent USA Hockey victories. Watching our national teams rise to the occasion was a powerful reminder of what's possible when



Dr. Bala presents

individuals come together with a shared purpose, support one another and refuse to give up. Whether on the ice or in our communities, resilience and connection make all the difference.

At the USA Hockey championship wins, we saw more than just athletic excellence— we saw trust, communication, and the strength that comes from knowing you're not alone. In many ways, that mirrors the heart of our mission at our Network. Mental health challenges can feel isolating, but healing begins when we surround one another with support, compassion and hope.

Donations Welcome

Your donations to our non-profit organization are the lifeblood of our mission. They enable us to fund impactful training workshops, cover operational costs, and raise awareness about the vital cause we stand for. Every dollar you contribute directly empowers us to serve the community effectively and make a tangible difference. **Here's how your donation supports us:**

Funding Training Workshops:

- Your generosity allows us to organize transformative sessions like safeTALK (Suicide Alertness for Everyone) and ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training). These workshops save lives by equipping participants with critical intervention skills.
- Donations help us secure essential supplies, equipment, and materials, broadening our community outreach and creating lasting impact.

Covering Operational Costs:

- Contributions go toward sustaining the foundation of our operations- utilities, office supplies and salaries for our dedicated staff.

continued on page 9

The Barb Smith Suicide Resource & Response Network is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. EIN Number: 38-3400293

continued from page 8

- These funds ensure that we maintain a safe and welcoming environment for those seeking help, staying financially stable and mission-focused for the long haul.

Raising Awareness:

- Supporting fundraising campaigns with your donations helps us share our story and mission with a wider audience.
- Building stronger connections with potential donors and volunteers elevates our cause and nurtures a sense of shared purpose within the community.

Impacting Lives:

- Your donations directly touch lives, offering essential resources and unwavering support to individuals and families we serve.
- Your contribution fuels positive and lasting change, amplifying the hope and resilience of our community.

In essence, your donation is more than just financial aid- it's an investment in creating a better future. Thank you for standing with us and supporting the vital work we do. Together, we can continue making a difference.

To donate online:

<https://p2p.onecause.com/srrn/donate>

To donate by mail:

Barb Smith Suicide Resource & Response Network
PO Box 6712, Saginaw, MI 48608-6712



Network resources

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Flexible lease terms

Competitive price

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Contact: PHOENICIANXLLC@Gmail.com

Message from Samuel Shaheen, MD, FACS



Serving as a physician and surgeon in Saginaw has been one of the greatest privileges of my life.

In December 2025, after much reflection on where I have been and thoughtful consideration of what lies ahead, I tendered my resignation as President and CEO of CMU Medical Education Partners (CMEP). As my term ends on March 25, 2026, I want to pause, look back on nearly three decades in this community, and share my deepest gratitude with each of you.

Medicine has been part of my life for as long as I can remember, instilled in me early by my father. After completing medical school at the University of Michigan and a surgical residency at Northwestern University, returning home to Saginaw in 1998 felt less like a choice and more like a *calling*. This community shaped me, grounded me, and ultimately defined my career. After 15 years of private practice, I felt drawn into a broader conversation; one focused on education, collaboration, and the possibility of building something lasting for future generations of physicians and their patients.

That calling led me to academic medicine and to supporting the early, hopeful vision of establishing a College of Medicine at Central Michigan University (CMU), an idea made possible by the commitment of Saginaw Cooperative Hospitals, Inc. The relationship between Saginaw and CMU began in 2006, long before formal restructures and affiliations. I am grateful to President Michael Rao and Trustee Dr. Sam Kottamasu for inviting me to share this vision during an informal session of the CMU Board of Trustees. That opportunity stood on the shoulders of many dedicated members of the Saginaw medical community who believed in this dream well before it took shape. Following those early conversations, President Rao announced the formation of a vision committee in February 2008, led by Dr. Gary Shapiro. I was fortunate to then work alongside Mr. Spence Maidlow, whose vision for health care delivery and passion for medical education left a lasting impact on all of us.

While several consultants played a role, it was truly the people of Saginaw, Mount Pleasant, CMU, Saginaw Cooperative Hospitals, Inc. and the two hospital partners, Covenant HealthCare and St. Mary's, that brought this vision to life. I am deeply proud of what has been accomplished together. The December 3, 2025, announcement by President Neil MacKinnon of the *Advancing Health Together Initiative* establishing the Covenant Healthcare College of Medicine at CMU on the MyMichigan Saginaw Campus, stands as a testament to what collaboration, trust, and perseverance can achieve.

Welcoming approximately 150 medical students to Saginaw requires tremendous growth in clinical and education capacity,

work that continues today. This expansion was not always visible, but it was essential. It created the foundation needed to support learners at every level and to ensure the strength of medical education in our community for years to come.

In 2012, CMEP's budget totaled just over \$27 million, with \$16 million in federal funding supporting 90 resident physicians. Today, federal funding flowing into Saginaw doubled for graduate medical education and now exceeds \$31.7 million, and the organization's total budget has grown to \$77 million – that's a \$50-million-dollar increase. More importantly, CMEP now supports eight residency programs and two fellowships, with 179 resident and fellowship physicians, guided by 75 full-time faculty members all of whom are working to build educational infrastructure and a pipeline of future physicians. These numbers reflect not just growth, but the dedication, resilience, and teamwork of countless individuals, especially through the challenges of a global pandemic and economic uncertainty.

Winston Churchill once said, "Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning." That sentiment feels especially true today. While we achieved the win of consolidating four years of medical school in Saginaw, the work in both the medical setting and civil capacity is just beginning.

Another quote that resonates deeply with me comes from Mark Twain, "The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."

I once believed my "why" was private practice. Later, I thought it was advocating for a medical education enterprise at the cornerstone of Saginaw's Riverfront. But with reflection, I realize my **why** is deeper still – it is the mission to revive a city with talented individuals and extraordinary potential.

To my family, especially my wife and our children, thank you for your unwavering support, understanding, and sacrifices. Every hour spent caring for patients, mentoring learners, or building programs was made possible by your love.

To my patients, and to the physicians who entrusted me with the care of their patients, thank you for your belief and confidence in me. And to my colleagues and friends, thank you for walking this journey with me. And thank you to the SCMS members who have supported education in Saginaw for many decades.

As I step into the next chapter of my life, I will remain in Saginaw and welcome the opportunity to stay connected with any of you.

As I put the scalpel down, my mission is not over. As Churchill said, "perhaps it is the end of the beginning."

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Samuel Shaheen, MD, FACS

The Importance of Advocacy in Medicine: A Responsibility at Every Level of Training

Brittany M. Garza, DO
Emergency Medicine



Advocacy is a vital component of being a physician, extending far beyond patient care and clinical responsibilities. In today's complex healthcare environment, medical residents and physicians must also serve as advocates for their profession and their specialty. The ability to effectively advocate ensures that the voices of those delivering frontline care are heard, that patients receive equitable access to quality medical services, and that the integrity and sustainability of medical practice are preserved for future generations.

Physicians are uniquely positioned to understand the challenges within the healthcare system- from the burden of administrative requirements to the barriers patients face in accessing appropriate treatment. When physicians fail to engage in advocacy, decisions that profoundly affect clinical care, reimbursement, and resource allocation are left to policymakers, insurers, or administrators who may lack firsthand understanding of the realities of medicine. By contrast, when physicians and residents actively advocate, they bring evidence-based insights and practical perspectives to the table, influencing legislation, policy, and institutional change that align with the best interests of both providers and patients.

Advocacy also plays a critical role in protecting and advancing one's specialty. Each field of medicine faces unique

challenges related to funding, research priorities, scope of practice, and public perception. By participating in specialty societies, engaging with policymakers, or educating the public, physicians help ensure that their discipline continues to grow, innovate, and attract future professionals. This is particularly important as the healthcare landscape evolves, requiring specialists to articulate the distinct value and expertise they bring to multidisciplinary care.

Importantly, advocacy should begin early- at every stage of medical training. Residents, medical students, and early-career physicians are not only the future of the profession but also bring fresh perspectives and energy to issues such as graduate medical education funding, wellness, and workforce equity. By learning to advocate during training, physicians develop leadership skills, strengthen their professional identity, and contribute to a culture of engagement and accountability within medicine.

Ultimately, being an advocate is not an optional role- it is a professional duty. Physicians and residents alike must recognize that their participation in advocacy helps shape a healthcare system that supports both patients and practitioners. Through collective action, physicians ensure that medicine remains a profession grounded in compassion, science and service.



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.

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





KEY PROVIDER OF THE MONTH!

A place you can trust

Our dedicated physician and staff team believes in personalized care for every child. We specialize in neurology and sleep health, providing expert support to help your pediatric patient thrive - day and night!



**Quality Sleep &
Neurology**

2172 Hemmeter Rd.
Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: 989-558-0773
qualitysleepandneurology.com

MEMBER NEWS

Dr. Adel Selected as Next Neuroscience Service Line Chief for MyMichigan Health



Joseph G. Adel MD, has been selected as the next Neuroscience Service Line Chief for **MyMichigan Health**. Dr. Adel, a neurosurgeon at MyMichigan Medical Center in Saginaw, succeeds **Mark W. Jones MD**, who served in this leadership role for the past seven years.

Dr. Adel will partner with **Michael Wahoviak**, neuroscience service line director, to form the dyad leadership team. In his new role, Dr. Adel will provide direction and clinical guidance to further advance MyMichigan Health as the premier regional leader in neuroscience care, with a strong focus on quality improvement, patient safety and exceptional outcomes.

A board-certified neurosurgeon with more than 20 years of experience, Dr. Adel specializes in cerebrovascular, endovascular and skull base neurosurgery. He completed fellowship training in these subspecialties, earned his medical degree from American University of Beirut Medical Center in Lebanon and completed his neurosurgical residency at Northwestern University in Chicago. Dr. Adel has served the greater Saginaw region since 2014.

Congratulations, Dr. Adel!

MyMichigan Health. (2025, December 11). Joseph Adel, M.D., named Neuroscience Service Line Chief.

Dr. Aqil Celebrates 30 Years of Service



With over three decades of medical excellence since graduating from Dow Medical College, **Arshad Aqil MD** is celebrating a career defined by exceptional expertise and 30 years of unwavering service to his community.

Dr. Aqil has become a powerhouse in the field, holding multiple Board Certifications in Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, Hospice and Palliative Medicine, and Obesity Medicine. He has channeled this vast knowledge into his thriving independent practice, where he has maintained a personalized touch and steadfast continuity for local patients since 1996.

His leadership as a Medical Director at Tuscola County, Fishers, and Wellspring, paired with a Master's degree in Healthcare Administration, showcases a rare blend of clinical mastery and executive vision. From his early residency in New Jersey to his specialized fellowship in Kentucky, Dr. Aqil has consistently raised the bar for what it means to be a superior clinician, leader and mentor. We honor his 30-year legacy of dedication to the health and dignity of our community.

Dr. Aqil is a Saginaw resident and has been an active member of the Saginaw County Medical Society for over 18 years.

Congratulations, Dr. Aqil!



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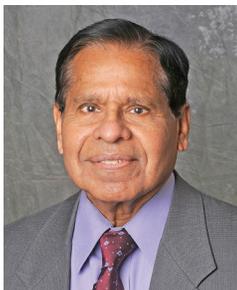
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Physicians from India in the Tri-Cities: How Calligraphy Led to Destiny

K.P. Karunakaran, MD (Dr. Karu)



It is well known that the U.S.A. is a country of immigrants from all corners of the world. Immigrants from India started arriving in the Tri-Cities (Saginaw, Midland, Bay City) in small numbers in the early 1970's- mostly in the medical and engineering fields. Their numbers grew gradually, and by the first decade of this century, there were a fair number

of Indian immigrants in the Tri-Cities.

The earliest physicians among them were Dr. Rao, a thoracic surgeon, and my brother, Dr. Sukumaran, an anesthesiologist who became widely and affectionately known as Dr. Suki (as opposed to Dr. Suku- details of this change will be shared later). Dr. Sukumaran is now retired and resides in Troy, Michigan, with his children and grandchildren. He served as a highly accomplished anesthesiologist at St. Mary's Hospital (now MyMichigan Saginaw) for nearly 50 years. He earned his medical degree in India and received advanced training in anesthesia in England, the United States, Sweden and Canada.

While working in Halifax, Nova Scotia, he sought an opportunity to migrate to the United States. He responded to a job advertisement from Dr. Foster at St. Mary's Hospital in Saginaw for an anesthesia position. Dr. Foster, having received numerous applications from well-qualified candidates, found it challenging to make a final selection. Among the applications was one handwritten in impeccable calligraphy- Dr. Sukumaran's. Impressed by the distinguished presentation, Dr. Foster selected Dr. Sukumaran for the position, and the rest is history.

For Dr. Sukumaran's colleagues and the hospital staff, he became known as "Dr. Suki," a name he used for more than 40 years. I, of course, joined the surgical staff at St. Mary's soon thereafter and enjoyed working side by side with my brother in the operating room. It is worth noting the cultural familiarity of the name "Suki" in the United States during that period. Many adults recognized the name from the popular children's book "Suki, the Saggy Baggy Elephant," which conveyed lessons in self-acceptance and confidence. In the story, Suki, an elephant, feels self-conscious and embarrassed about his "saggy baggy" skin. After being teased about his appearance, Suki tries various ways to change but is ultimately comforted by discovering others like him, culminating in a joyful celebration of acceptance.

The themes of self-confidence and acceptance resonated strongly with the staff and physicians at St. Mary's Hospital, evoking fond memories of a cherished childhood character and solidifying the use of the name Dr. Suki. Interestingly, the story

parallels the experiences faced by first-generation immigrants. Much like Suki, the elephant, immigrants often stand out because of differences in appearance and accent and must continually prove themselves. Their medical expertise and credentials are well established through rigorous training and examinations, and many have spent additional years honing their skills. Nonetheless, the challenges and expectations placed upon first-generation immigrants often exceed those faced by later generations.

I wish to emphasize here that this immigrant generation of physicians is ever grateful towards the Saginaw community of physicians, and are appreciative of the opportunity given to them and the welcome they have received.

Let us look at the profile of these immigrant physicians from India. We are sure that economics is not the reason they came here. Physicians make a good living in India. Most of them came from upper-middle-class families. They are intellectually smart, have stable families, and are not fleeing oppression. However, some are "academically frustrated"; the social structure and affirmative action prevalent in India have limited their advancement. The incentive for these immigrants is the spirit of adventure and the age-old human tendency to migrate, which is coded in their genes.

To get an idea of the approximate number of physicians from India, I reviewed the SCMS membership (2019 edition). Of about 528 names, 58 are of Indian origin (about 10%). They are spread across all specialties, and their contribution to the Tri-Cities community is not limited to medical services. They are involved in every aspect of the social fabric in this area. Their contributions in community service, interfaith activities, education and administration are substantial.

In addition, I want to mention how the second generation of these physicians is contributing and integrating into our society. They are rendering their share of community service and are thriving.

It is well recognized that a community is enriched by the integration of multiple cultures and lifestyles. It adds a new dynamism to the social setup, introducing new ideas and concepts. Though these ideas and concepts may initially appear strange and esoteric, they would later prove dynamic and socially acceptable. These transformations do not happen instantly. Time is essential for a bud to blossom into a flower.

As succeeding generations integrate and contribute to the tapestry of our community, we can expect the future of medicine in the Tri-Cities area to be exceptionally bright, undeniably talented and profoundly competent.

Remembering E. Malcolm Field MD April 10, 1930 — November 3, 2025

Dr. Field was a dedicated member of the SCMS for an impressive 63 years. Below is a brief synopsis of his remarkable life. His beloved wife, Lois, reunited with him on February 9, 2026.



It is with profound sadness that we recognize the passing of one of the world's kindest and most selfless individuals, the gifted neurosurgeon Dr. E. Malcolm Field, who passed away peacefully on Monday, November 3, 2025, at the age of 95. Dr. Field was a world-renowned neurosurgeon who

devoted his life to the people of Saginaw and the Mid-Michigan communities. He was dearly loved by his colleagues, patients, friends and family.

Born on April 10, 1930, in Brighton, Michigan, Dr. Field developed a strong sense of discipline, humility and compassion while growing up on his parents' farm, which instilled in him a lifelong work ethic. His motivation to become a physician arose from witnessing the disparity in medical care available to rural communities, where access to specialists was often limited.

After excelling in high school, Dr. Field attended the University of Michigan, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree and later his Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) in 1956. He completed his medical internship at Saginaw General Hospital in 1957, where he began his clinical and surgical training. In 1958, he entered a neurosurgical residency at Henry Ford Hospital, an experience he later described as "transformational." There, he learned to balance surgical innovation with the virtue of restraint and sound clinical judgment.

By 1961, Dr. Field earned his board certification in neurological surgery and returned to Saginaw to join a neurosurgical practice affiliated with St. Mary's Hospital, where he built an illustrious career spanning more than six decades. A pioneer in his field, Dr. Field was instrumental in introducing innovative neurosurgical procedures and advanced technology—including the CyberKnife—to improve patient care.

In 1974, Dr. Field married Lois Jean Datte, a nurse at St. Mary's Hospital. Together they shared a life devoted to service, family and faith. In 1988, Dr. Field and his brothers—Frank, Irving, and John—used proceeds from the sale of their family farm to establish the Field Neurosciences Institute (FNI), dedicated to excellence in clinical care, education, research and injury prevention. Dr. Field remained its guiding force for the rest of his life, helping countless patients and families through FNI's mission.

Dr. Field and Lois also supported numerous educational and research initiatives, including the Clifford H. Spicer Endowed Chair of Engineering, the E. Malcolm and Lois Field Endowed Chair of Neuroscience, the Roberts-Gilbertson Fellowship at Saginaw Valley State University, and the E. Malcolm Field and Gary Leo Dunbar Endowed Chair of Neuroscience at Central Michigan University. His contributions were recognized with numerous honors, including the Spirit of St. Vincent De Paul Award and Dr. Edgar Balcueva's Heart of Gold Award for his outstanding service to St. Mary's of Michigan. Dr. Field was a dedicated member of the SCMS for an impressive 63 years.

In the early 1990s, Dr. Field partnered with Demos Demosthenous to form Skyweb Networks, one of the region's first internet services aimed at connecting underserved, rural communities to the online world. Outside of medicine, Dr. Field cherished time spent at his cottage in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He had a lifelong love of music—often playing piano at FNI events and serving for many years as organist at the Free Methodist Church in Saginaw. A passionate student of history, he admired the leadership of Winston Churchill and frequently shared lessons drawn from Churchill's resilience and courage. A devout Christian, Dr. Field's life was guided by his faith, humility and selfless devotion to helping others.

Dr. Field is survived by his loving wife of 51 years, Lois, and was preceded in death by his parents, Irving and Alta Emma (Chamberlain) Field, his brothers Frank, Irving and John, as well as several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A public memorial service will take place at a date and time to be announced later.

In lieu of flowers, charitable donations may be made to **The Malcolm and Lois Field Foundation**, continuing Dr. Field's lifelong vision of advancing treatments for injuries and diseases of the brain and spinal cord.

Please share your memories of Dr. Field through www.casefuneralhome.com.

Lois Jean Field April 5, 1932 – February 9, 2026



Lois Jean Field, a beloved figure in her community, passed away peacefully at her home on February 9, 2026, at the age of 93. Lois was born on April 5, 1932, in Saginaw, Michigan, the daughter of the late Albert Datte and Theophilene (Niernberg) Datte.

She was a dedicated surgical nurse at St. Mary's Hospital, where she touched countless lives. It was there that she met her cherished husband, Dr. E. Malcolm Field. Lois and Malcolm were united in marriage in 1974.

continued on page 16

continued from page 15

Lois and Dr. Field supported numerous educational and research initiatives, including the Clifford H. Spicer Endowed Chair of Engineering, the E. Malcolm and Lois Field Endowed Chair of Neuroscience, the Roberts-Gilbertson Fellowship at Saginaw Valley State University, and the E. Malcolm Field and Gary Leo Dunbar Endowed Chair of Neuroscience at Central Michigan University. In their free time, they enjoyed spending time in the Upper Peninsula, which brought them immense joy and created lasting memories. She also enjoyed time on Wixom Lake, where her brother and sister had cottages. Lois was a life-long member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saginaw.

Lois is survived by her loving nieces and nephews: Linda (Dan) Boman, Karen (Larry Fike) Helm, Kenneth (Theresa) Datte, and Kevin (Susan) Datte, who will always remember her for her warmth and kindness. She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. E. Malcolm Field; her siblings, Warren Datte and Leona Burk;

one nephew and three nieces: Joan Burk, James Burk, Jane Monge and Judy Lindsey.

The family would like to extend their heart-felt appreciation to Demos and Jennifer Demosthenous, and the numerous home health aides for the loving care they gave to Lois and Malcolm throughout the years. Lois will be remembered fondly for the years shared with her beloved German Shepherds, who brought her great happiness. Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saginaw, followed by a graveside ceremony at Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, charitable donations may be made to **The Malcolm and Lois Field Foundation**, continuing Dr. Field's lifelong vision of advancing treatments for injuries and diseases of the brain and spinal cord.

Please share memories of Lois by visiting www.casefuneralhome.com.

Field Neurosciences Institute Mourns the Passing of Founding Medical Director, Dr. E. Malcolm Field

MyMichigan Health. (2025, November 4). [Field Neurosciences Institute Mourns the Passing of Founding Medical Director, Dr. E. Malcolm Field](#)

The Field Neurosciences Institute (FNI) and the entire medical community mourn the loss of **E. Malcolm Field, MD**, a nationally renowned neurosurgeon, physician and philanthropist whose remarkable career spanned more than 65 years. Dr. Field, a pioneer in neuroscience care and trauma medicine, passed away peacefully on Monday, November 3, 2025, at the age of 95. His vision, compassion and dedication to healing transformed the landscape of neurological care in mid-Michigan and beyond.

"Dr. Field is the founder of neurosurgery in mid and north Michigan," said **Joseph Adel, MD**, Medical Director, FNI. "His legacy will live through FNI which is dedicated to the prevention, early diagnosis, care and cure of neurological disease, disorders and other injuries. This legacy will be carried on by the exemplary [neurosurgery service](#) at **MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw** where he laid the foundation."

Born and raised on his family's farm in Brighton, Michigan, Dr. Field earned his medical degree from the **University of Michigan Medical School** in 1956 and completed his residency at the former **Saginaw General Hospital** (now **Covenant Medical Center Harrison**). In 1961, he joined **St. Mary's Hospital**

(now **MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw**), where he served as Chief of Staff and helped usher in an era of advanced neuroscience and trauma care.

Over his distinguished career, Dr. Field performed nearly 60,000 surgeries and treated more than 315,000 patients, holding affiliations with hospitals throughout Michigan, including Saginaw, Bay City, Midland, Flint, Alma, Tawas City, Alpena, West Branch and Standish. He was board-certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgery and maintained an active Michigan medical license through 2027.

A Legacy of Innovation and Compassion

In 1988, Dr. Field founded the [Field Neurosciences Institute](#) (FNI), a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis, care and cure of neurological diseases through research, education and clinical care. The institute, created through a generous gift from the Field family, was named in honor of his parents, **Irving E. and Alta Emma (Chamberlain) Field**, whose Brighton farm was sold by their children to fund the center in partnership with St. Mary's Hospital.

"Dr. Field created FNI on a foundation of compassion, innovation and faith," said **Shari Kosciuszko**, Executive Director, FNI. "He believed the true purpose of medicine is not only to treat illness, but to restore hope and dignity to every

continued from page 16

patient. His vision continues to guide our work each day as we advance research, education and clinical care to prevent and cure neurological disease. FNI stands as a living legacy to his lifelong commitment to helping others.”

Under Dr. Field’s leadership, FNI became a beacon of hope and scientific advancement, with programs spanning neuroscience education, injury prevention and cutting-edge research. **The FNI Laboratory at Central Michigan University’s Brain Research and Integrative Neuroscience (BRAIN) Center** continues this mission, focusing on potential treatments for Huntington’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease.

Dr. Field was known not only for his surgical excellence but also for his unwavering compassion. He often assisted patients with financial hardship, ensuring access to critical surgeries and medical care regardless of circumstance.

Philanthropy and Lasting Impact

Together with his wife, Dr. and Mrs. Lois Field, devoted much of their life to philanthropy and education. The couple’s

generous gifts have provided millions of dollars in scholarships to students at educational institutions across Michigan.

At **Saginaw Valley State University (SVSU)**, their generosity established several enduring endowments, including **The Clifford H. Spicer Endowed Chair in Engineering, The E. Malcolm Field Endowed Chair in Health Science and The Field Neurosciences Institute Scholarship in Neuroscience Nursing**, supporting nursing students pursuing advanced training in neuroscience care.

Dr. Field also honored his longtime colleague and surgical nurse, **Patricia A. Hansel**. On her passing, he established the **Patricia A. Hansel Memorial Scholarship** to encourage the advanced study necessary to develop and hone skills by providing assistance to students pursuing a graduate degree in nursing at Saginaw Valley State University.

A passionate musician, Dr. Field also supported the arts, inspiring the creation of the **Malcolm Field Theatre for Performing Arts** in Curtiss Hall at SVSU.

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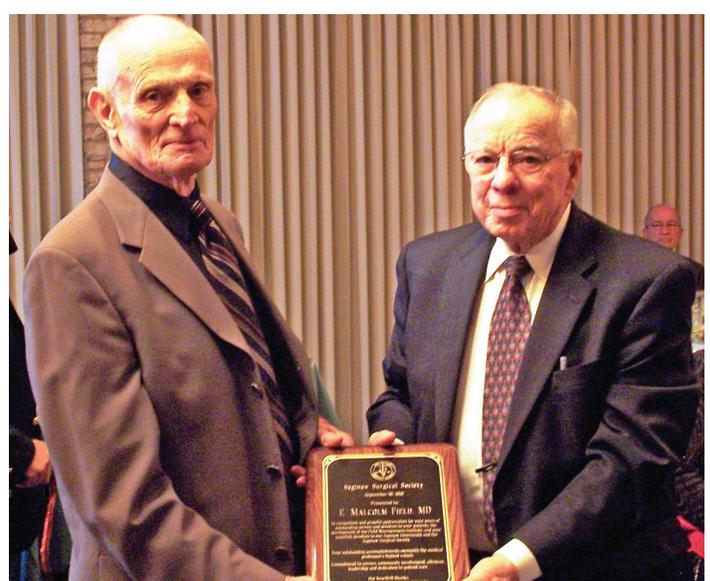
(l-r) Drs. Eddie Balcueva, Manuel Perea and Malcolm Field



(l-r) Drs. Bob Toteff, Hugh Sulfridge, Dennis Tibble, George Galsterer, Malcolm Field, Bill Engelman and Gerald Schell



(l-r) Dr. Malcolm and Lois Field, Dr. Waheed Akbar



(l-r) Drs. Bill Engelman and Malcolm Field

continued from page 17

A Life That Continues to Inspire

Dr. Field's life was guided by faith, compassion and a relentless pursuit of excellence in service to others. His enduring impact will continue to be felt through the countless patients he healed, the students he inspired and the institutions he strengthened.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Field Neurosciences Institute at <https://www.mymichigan.org/about/donations/field-neurosciences-institute/>.



The **Saginaw Surgical Society** honored **E. Malcolm Field, MD**, at their Membership Meeting held at the Saginaw Country Club on September 30, 2010. Dr. Field was presented with an award inscribed:

In recognition and grateful appreciation for your years of outstanding service and devotion to your patients, the development of the Field Neurosciences Institute, and your unselfish devotion to our Saginaw Community and the Saginaw Surgical Society.

Your outstanding accomplishments exemplify the medical profession's highest values:

Commitment to service, community involvement, altruism, leadership and dedication to patient care.

Our heartfelt thanks, Members of the Saginaw Surgical Society

Saginaw Neurosurgeon Dr. Malcolm Field, John F. Kennedy and the Real Stuff of Legends

McFarland, J. (2013, November 22). [Saginaw Neurosurgeon Dr. Malcolm Field, John F. Kennedy and the Real Stuff of Legends](#). MLive Saginaw.

There's the man E. Malcolm Field, and the myth of him, and surgical marvels that seem more miracle than medical.

"He's the neurosurgeon for neurosurgeons," as colleague Dr. Gary Dunbar calls him. "They ask him for advice on the special cases."

Field has turned down jobs at the Mayo Clinic, Henry Ford Hospital, the University of Michigan medical system.

His wife of 39 years, Lois, is the St. Mary's hospital surgical technician who put on his ring 39 years ago. Her Saginaw roots and his desire to stay close to the countryside keep him here.

Field turned 83 in April. On a recent day, he operated on two spines and a brain tumor, all after drinking a senior coffee with a straw from the State Street McDonald's in the 4 o'clock hour and before 1 p.m. at St. Mary's of Michigan hospital.

Reputation and longevity have blended to connect Saginaw's own Dr. Field with America's own stolen president, John F. Kennedy. Whispers suggest that Kennedy's doctors

that day, 50 years ago, consulted with the 33-year-old neurosurgeon in Saginaw, Michigan. The president was shot in Dallas, Texas, and lived out his last hours in the emergency room at Parkland Memorial Hospital. Did those doctors call Field?

"I don't know where that came from," says Field, who'd rather be called "Malcolm" than "doctor." "I really don't."

Maybe the idea was borne out of the transitive property of college roomies. White House physician William "Bill" Lukash and Field shared a dorm room during medical school at the University of Michigan. Perhaps the idea took hold when, "two or three times," Field received FBI calls in advance of presidential visits to Michigan, to "make certain that there were people available," he says.

Somehow the connection took hold. Field, not one to seek the spotlight, was wrapped up in the folklore, the way Jackie Kennedy said her husband became a legend when he would have preferred to be a man.

"If I would have been around Saginaw at that time, and someone said, 'They obviously called Malcolm Field,' who would be shocked?" Dunbar speculates. "He's certainly one of the best neurosurgeons in the world."

Field heard of the president's assassination from a radio playing in the radiology suite at the then-St. Luke's Hospital. By necessity, he kept working. It's what doctors in times of duress must do.

"I don't know how the American Association of Neurological Surgeons got a message to each one of us," Field says. "At that time there were only something like 403 neurosurgeons in the United States. They knew that every neurosurgeon was probably going to be asked something. I was."

Field didn't vote for Kennedy, or for Nixon. He was unable to get away from the hospital on election day.

Neurosurgery was nascent. Field knew Dr. Kemp Clark, one of Kennedy's doctors in the emergency room. Even with advances in the 50 years since the shooting, there could have been no other outcome than Kennedy's death, Field says.

In the past weeks, television documentaries, articles, radio reports about Kennedy are ubiquitous. Field, a lover of history and fan of Ken Follett's "Pillars of the Earth" and "Fall of Giants" series, hasn't partaken. "I didn't think I needed to relive it," Field says. "If you see this kind of injury, it stands out in your mind for the rest of your life. After you've seen loads of them, as I have through practice, it's pretty hard to talk about some of them."

For Field, time has fogged some Kennedy details. Dunbar has an idea why. Indelible memories are formed when great emotion helps to "activate the limbic system; that's the hippocampus part of the limbic system that's responsible for encoding memories," he says. For Field, a lifelong learner with

continued from page 18

what Dunbar calls an “innate capacity to learn and remember vast amounts of material,” a fuzzy memory is not characteristic.

“He is so focused,” Dunbar says. “Most of his cases are life and death. One false move, one slip of the knife. He has that ability. He has nerves of steel. He’s been through so many traumatic surgeries. He learned to keep calm in those situations. He can control his limbic system better than most of us.”

Dunbar, 64, recalls with vivid precision how he learned of the president’s assassination. “For people of my generation, it’s what we call a flashbulb memory,” says Dunbar, the executive director of the Field Neurosciences Institute who recently explained the concept to his Central Michigan University behavioral neuroscience students. “I was in ninth grade, and I remember it exactly as it happened.

“We got the news, and just, silence. And the teacher just sat at his desk, and he wept.” Perhaps Field and Kennedy became intertwined in local lore because there’s a magic to each of them that makes it feel right.

In Field lives the hopes of patients whose walking days are numbered, whose brain tumors have come back since he operated on them 25 years ago, who have taken the genetic test for Huntington’s disease and pray the stem cell advances at the Field Neurosciences Institute arrive before their symptoms do.

Their hopes take shape in bone marrow cells taken from rats, in centrifuges, in cryostats that expose paper-thin slices of brain matter and flow cytometers, in the minds of researchers. The institute is named not for its medical director, but for his parents, Irving E. and Alta Emma (Chamberlain) Field. Their children sold their inheritance, the family’s Brighton farm, to launch the research, education and clinical center with St. Mary’s of Michigan hospital in 1987.

Partnering with the University of California-Davis, the Field Neurosciences Institute’s breakthroughs have advanced work on Huntington’s. Human clinical trials are as close as four years away. “It’s his own life’s mission,” Dunbar says. “He wants to help all those patients that are suffering from diseases, treat disorders that right now are almost impossible to treat, like glioblastoma.”

Whether 50 years ago Saginaw’s neurosurgeon had links to Camelot is an asterisk, really. Field and his life’s work don’t come down to a single day five decades ago. A college wrestler who should have become a paraplegic today is walking. Alzheimer’s patients look to the Field Neurosciences Institute to change the future. Snowmobilers’ and motorcyclists’ lives roll on gurneys into Field’s extraordinary care.

That is the real stuff of legend.



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October Membership Meeting Minutes

The Saginaw County Medical Society Membership Meeting was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at Horizons Conference Center. **Furhut R. Janssen DO**, President, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Dr. Janssen welcomed speaker **Cheryle Sullivan MD**, new CMU Colon/Rectal Surgeon **Renee Cholyway MD**, members, residents and medical students.

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

- **HealthSource Saginaw – Leslie Collings and Kate McDonald**
- **Healthway Compounding Pharmacy – Larry Greene**
- **Mary Free Bed at Covenant HealthCare – Viola Hysa MD, Brain Injury Physiatrist**
- **MyMichigan Health – Cheri Hitchcock, Mark Kawiecki and Meic (Mike) H. Schmidt MD, Neurosurgeon**
- **Quality Sleep & Neurology – Ntokezia Coney and Stacy Gage**

Dr. Janssen then conducted business of the SCMS:

- The Minutes of the September 16, 2025, Membership Meeting were attached to the agenda. **MOTION: Approve the Meeting Minutes as presented. MOTION APPROVED.**
- Introduced new members attending the meeting:
 - o **Mary Attalla MD** – Internal Medicine PGY-1
 - o **Mashood Farooqi MD** – Internal Medicine PGY-2
 - o **Olubukola Faturoti MD** – CMU Pediatrician
 - o **Stephen Holihan MD** – Covenant Emergency Medicine
 - o **Nicholas Lettner-Knowlton MD** – CMU Internal Medicine
- Held Moment of Silence for **Jerry J. Evans MD**, pediatrician/neonatologist who passed away on October 21
- Encouraged members to contact their lawmakers to oppose **HB 4399 – NP scope of practice**
- Informed members of upcoming events for **CMU, Great Lakes Bay Regional Mental Health** and **Barb Smith Suicide Resource & Response Network**
- Welcomed **Toby Long MD**, Medical Director of the **Cathedral Free Clinic** who gave a short presentation on the Clinic.



l-r Jennifer Kabat, Dr. Cheryle Sullivan and Dr. Caroline Scott



l-r Drs. Toby Long, Kala Ramasamy, Kathleen Cowling, Steve Vance, Sanjay Talati and Wendy Biggs

PROGRAM

Cheryle Sullivan MD, Brain Injury Association of America, presented a CME accredited program on "My 360° Perspective of TBI." Dr. Janssen thanked the **Anna Dorr Cresswell Memorial Fund** for sponsoring Dr. Sullivan.

The next meeting of the SCMS will be held on **Tuesday, April 21, 2026**, at Horizons.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Cramer
Executive Director



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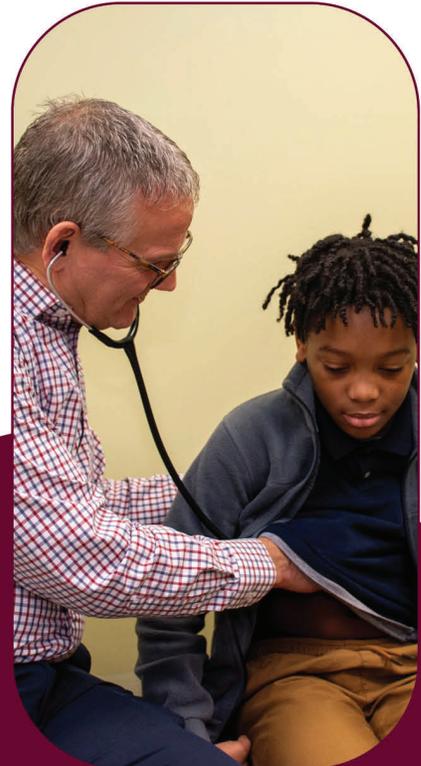
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CMU Receives \$80 Million in Commitments from Covenant HealthCare and MyMichigan Health

Gifts will name the College of Medicine and its new home in Saginaw, Michigan

November 21, 2025 | Author: [Ari Harris](#) | Media Contact: [Aaron Mills](#)

On November 21, 2025, **Central Michigan University's College of Medicine** announced it received two landmark philanthropic gifts from two of its health care partners, **Covenant HealthCare** and **MyMichigan Health**, in support of the College's **"Advancing Health Together"** initiative. The two systems each pledged \$40 million to support the development of a new medical education building in Saginaw.

The gifts are the two largest in the university's history and stand as a testament to a united partnership committed to profoundly impacting the healthcare challenges and economic aspirations of the communities each serves, said **CMU President Neil MacKinnon**. "We are thrilled to announce this extraordinary collaboration that brings two of our state's most respected health care systems together with our university to strengthen medical education, enhance the medical student experience, improve patient outcomes and expand healthcare access here in the Great Lakes Bay Region," MacKinnon said. "This tremendous partnership will have a positive effect on lives and communities for generations to come. Together, we are truly *Advancing Health Together* for our region and for the state of Michigan."

Moving forward, the College of Medicine will have a new name, the **Covenant HealthCare College of Medicine at Central Michigan University**, and a new home in Saginaw in the **CMU MyMichigan Health Medical Education Building**, located on the **MyMichigan Health** campus.

"As part of our decades-long commitment to medical education, Covenant HealthCare is proud to support the CMU College of Medicine and strengthen the training opportunities that shape the future of care in our region. Meeting our mission of extraordinary care for every generation starts with supporting education and training for the next generation of extraordinary physicians," said **Beth Charlton**, President and CEO of **Covenant HealthCare**. "Assurance of a strong medical talent pipeline is foundational and requires both collaboration and resources. Individuals and families across the Great Lakes Bay Region are experiencing an increasingly critical

need for well-educated medical professionals, and our mutual investment with CMU and MyMichigan Health reflects our collective belief in this partnership and our staunch commitment to keeping

exceptional care and care providers close to home. Through *Advancing Health Together*, we are collaborating to ensure patients across our communities and beyond continue to receive the high-quality, local care they deserve—now and for years to come."

"We are proud to be part of the *Advancing Health Together* initiative with Central Michigan University and Covenant HealthCare. It is one to which we are most proud as it allows our three organizations the honor to advance the future of medical education, and it will happen right here in the Great Lakes Bay Region. The collaboration will have a great impact on our communities, our region and our state now and long into the future," said **Lydia Watson, MD**, President and CEO of **MyMichigan Health**. "Since 2010, our partnership with CMU's College of Medicine has been pivotal in training future health care professionals. These students are not only equipped to deliver exceptional care but are also encouraged to serve in Michigan's most medically underserved areas, including our rural communities. This next chapter will not only help grow the volume of health care providers but also continue to pave the way for a future where health care is more accessible, equitable, and effective for all."

Across Michigan, and particularly within underserved areas such as the communities of the Great Lakes Bay Region, many individuals and families face persistent and profound barriers to healthcare. Currently, 74 of Michigan's 83 counties carry at least a partial designation as health professional shortage areas.

"The need for a strong, community-oriented medical education program and physician pipeline has never been greater," MacKinnon said.

CMU's College of Medicine was established in 2010 to help address these disparities and rapidly outgrew its home on the CMU Mount Pleasant campus – growing from its initial cohort size of 60 to more than 100 students per class year. As a result, currently all first- and second-year medical students are



L-R: Beth Charlton, President and CEO of Covenant HealthCare; Dr. Tina Thompson, interim dean of the College of Medicine; CMU President Neil MacKinnon; and Dr. Lydia Watson, President and CEO of MyMichigan Health.

continued on page 23

continued from page 22

educated in Mount Pleasant, while most third- and fourth-year students complete their education in Saginaw.

This separation of the class years has posed challenges for student engagement, while consolidating classes in one location has proven to be best practice in the training of medical students. Moving the college to the new location in the **Medical Diamond** in Saginaw will strengthen medical education at CMU, said **Dr. Tina Thompson**, Interim Dean of the CMU College of Medicine.

“Bringing the majority of our medical students together into a single geographic area will provide greater opportunities for peer-to-peer mentoring and student engagement,” Thompson said. “It will allow for more interaction between and among students and faculty and open doors for further collaboration in research and clinical education across the region.”

The Medical Diamond project, located in Saginaw, aims to become the state’s third bioscience hub and the only one serving the northern part of the state. The project brings together CMU’s College of Medicine, Covenant HealthCare, MyMichigan Health, and numerous other healthcare providers and educators. The diamond-shaped project sits alongside the riverfront in Saginaw and will also include a new riverfront park with public access and recreation.

With the confirmation of these two leadership gifts, CMU will move forward with the design and development of a new medical education facility in the Medical Diamond, MacKinnon said. The university hopes to break ground on its new site in 2026 and will continue to fundraise toward its \$100 million goal for the building.

The shift of the medical school to Saginaw will also provide opportunities for expansion of other health professional programs on CMU’s Mount Pleasant campus, MacKinnon said. Nurses are in high demand, and our new four-year nursing program has launched and is ready to grow, he said.

“CMU, Covenant HealthCare and MyMichigan Health have a shared commitment to improving the lives of patients and strengthening the communities we serve,” MacKinnon said. “This unique, collaborative partnership is a perfect alignment of our missions and visions and will benefit each organization and the people we serve.”

College of Medicine Connections Strengthen Pathways in Addiction Care

Juliette Perzhinsky, MD, Associate Professor with the College, and **John Hopper, MD**, Clinical Professor with CMU and Chair of Internal Medicine at **Trinity Health**, recently attended the annual fall chapter meeting of the **Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine** in Ann



L-R: Doctors Madoun, Hopper and Perzhinsky

Arbor. At the event, they reconnected with **Natalie Madoun, MD**, an alum from the College of Medicine’s Class of 2021.

Since graduating, Dr. Madoun completed her Family Medicine Residency Program at Beaumont Health Grosse Pointe and recently completed a fellowship in Addiction Medicine at Trinity Health, alongside Hopper. Dr. Madoun credits her experience in the Medication-Assisted Training session taught by Perzhinsky and Hopper during her third year of medical school as a pivotal influence in her decision to pursue addiction medicine after her residency.

Hopper continues to volunteer his time teaching during the **Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS) Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Training** held at the College of Medicine every semester for CMU Year 3 CCC medical students.

EXPERT THYROID CARE CLOSE TO HOME

Accepting Patient Referrals at CMU Health



Maheer Ghanem, MD



Christina Maser, MD

Our skilled **endocrine surgeons** at CMU Health specialize in the diagnosis and treatment of conditions affecting the **thyroid, parathyroid, endocrine pancreas, and adrenal glands**.

Refer your patient: 989-790-1001 or Epic Code REF221. Learn more at cmuhealth.org

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.

New Riverfront Lab in Saginaw Offers Patients Faster Access to MyMichigan Lab Services

MyMichigan Health has opened a new laboratory services draw station at **MyMichigan Health Park Riverfront, 1015 S. Washington Avenue** in



downtown Saginaw. Operating hours are Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Friday, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

This new location, owned and operated by **MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw**, offers convenient access and parking for routine and specialty lab tests that will be processed at the Medical Center. More advanced testing also is available at this location through a partnership with **University of Michigan's MLabs**.

MyMichigan's laboratory services are CLIA-certified and CAP- or TJC-accredited, providing the highest standards of accuracy and compliance with state and federal regulations.

MyMichigan's Riverfront lab is one of several Saginaw-area locations and more than 30 locations across the health system's service area. *Community members do not need to be current MyMichigan patients to use these labs, as all locations welcome walk-ins with orders from any provider or facility.* Many locations also allow patients to self-schedule appointments in advance and minimize their wait upon arrival. A directory of MyMichigan's lab locations is available at www.mymichigan.org/labs.

Wound Care Centers in Saginaw, Standish and Tawas Receive Honors

The **Wound Treatment Center at MyMichigan Medical Center Towne Centre** and **Wound Care at MyMichigan Medical Center Tawas** are recipients of **RestorixHealth's** highest achievement- the **Wound Center of Excellence Award**. The award recognizes wound centers that have demonstrated exceptional success by meeting or exceeding clinical, operational and patient satisfaction national benchmarks over a period of time.

Wound Care at MyMichigan Medical Center Standish was recognized with two achievement awards from **RestorixHealth**. The **Clinical Distinction Award** recognizes wound centers that have demonstrated exceptional success by meeting or exceeding clinical benchmarks while the **Excellence in Patient Satisfaction Award** recognizes wound centers that have demonstrated superior performance in overall patient satisfaction.

The Wound Care Centers in Saginaw, Standish and Tawas are dedicated to optimizing outcomes and preventing lower limb loss in patients with non-healing wounds. The approach

to wound care is aggressive and comprehensive, coordinating traditional and advanced therapies and techniques that are proven to reduce healing time and improve healing rates. Staffed with clinicians with advanced training in wound care, the Centers optimize patient care while offering the most advanced healing options. At the Towne Centre location, hyperbaric oxygen therapy is available for specialized treatment of problematic, non-healing wounds that meet criteria.

Learn more at www.mymichigan.org/wound.

MyMichigan Unifies Insurance Contracts to Improve Patient Experience

Insurance participation has gotten a lot simpler across MyMichigan Health providers and locations, according to **Paul Berg, MD, MHA**, Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer, MyMichigan Health.

Dr. Berg explained that as of January 1, 2026, MyMichigan Health no longer enrolls in separate provider networks. Instead, all MyMichigan-owned facilities and employed providers are participating in insurance plans through MyMichigan's own **Clinically Integrated Network (CIN), MyMichigan Collaborative Care Organization (MCCO)**.

Please visit www.mymichigan.org/insurance for 2026 Participating Insurance Plan updates as of March 16, 2026, and please note:

- Not all plans for a particular payer are in network and not all MyMichigan facilities and providers participate with all payers. Click the plus sign (+) to expand the accordion and check if your specific plan is in network.
- Plans that are in-network for All Medical Centers are also in-network for MyMichigan Home Care and MyMichigan's Long-Term Care facilities.
- Independent providers who are not directly employed or contracted by MyMichigan Health may or may not participate in the same plans as MyMichigan Health. Contact the provider's office to learn which insurance plans they participate in.
- Even if you choose an in-network provider, your plan may not cover all services. Check with your insurance plan to verify which services are covered under your plan.

Commercial

- Aetna • ASR • BeneSys • Blue Care Network
- Blue Cross Blue Shield • CIGNA Healthcare
- Claritev (formerly Multiplan) • Cofinity • First Health
- HAP • McLaren Health Plan • Meritain Health
- MyMichigan Health Connection • Priority Health
- United Behavioral Health (Optum) • UnitedHealthcare
- UMR (formerly United Medical Resources) • Veripro

Commercial Exchange (Marketplace)

- Ambetter Health by Meridian • Blue Care Network
- Blue Cross Blue Shield • McLaren Health Plan • Priority Health

Dual Eligible

- Longevity Health Plan • Molina Health Plan
- PACE (Central Michigan, Great Lakes, Northeast Michigan)
- Priority Health • UPHP • Wellcare by Meridian

Medicaid

- Blue Cross Complete • McLaren Health Plan
- Meridian Health Plan • Michigan Medicaid
- Molina Health Plan • UPHP

Medicare

- Medicare Parts A, B, C, D
- Medigap Supplemental Insurance

Medicare Advantage

- Blue Care Network • Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- HAP • Priority Health

Military

- TriCare East Humana Military
- United Behavioral Health (Optum)
- UnitedHealthcare • Veterans Affairs

Patients who have additional questions may contact **MyMichigan's Financial Counselors** Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at (844) 832-1956 or [email patient-financial-services@mymichigan.org](mailto:email_patient-financial-services@mymichigan.org).

Forbes Honors MyMichigan: Four Years of Outstanding Employer Recognition

For the fourth year in a row, MyMichigan Health has been named to **Forbes list of America's Best-In-State Employers 2025**. The award is presented in collaboration with **Statista**, the world-leading statistics portal and industry ranking provider. More than 300 hospitals and health systems were among the organizations recognized and, of the 75 Michigan organizations listed, MyMichigan ranked 23 and was third on the list of Michigan health care systems. "To be recognized for four consecutive years really speaks volumes," said **Lydia Watson, MD**, President and CEO of MyMichigan Health. "It underscores our dedication to leading the industry regionally and statewide in employee satisfaction, setting a new benchmark for workplace excellence. At MyMichigan Health, we have the privilege of nurturing a workplace where individuals feel valued, engaged and inspired to serve others. That commitment naturally extends to the excellent care we offer our patients and community."

Forbes and Statista selected America's Best-In-State Employers 2025 through an independent survey from a vast sample of more than 160,000 U.S. employees working for companies employing at least 500 people within the U.S. More than two million employer evaluations were considered. The final score is based on two types of employee evaluations: personal (those given by employees themselves) and public (those given by friends and family members of employees, or members of the public who work in the same industry).

Committed to providing employees with an excellent work environment that allows them to achieve personal and professional goals, MyMichigan offers employees continuing education and professional development activities, as well as, tuition assistance and reimbursement, including partnerships



with multiple universities for discounted tuition for both in-person and online degree programs at undergrad/graduate level. MyMichigan also offers new and enhanced voluntary benefit options, including identity theft protection, legal services, accident insurance, hospital indemnity, critical illness insurance, home insurance, auto insurance, pet insurance, life with long-term care insurance and purchasing power. Certain positions within the health system offer flexible scheduling, telehealth or remote (work from home) opportunities.

Those interested in more information on a career with MyMichigan Health may visit www.mymichigan.org/careers.

Dr. Tarek Taha Honored at 31st Annual Cornette Ball

MyMichigan Medical Center Saginaw Foundation named **Tarek A. Taha, MD, PhD**, as the 2025 recipient of the prestigious **Legacy of Care Award** (formerly known as the *Spirit of St. Vincent Award*). This award is presented annually to at least one highly respected physician who has rendered long and noteworthy service to the Great Lakes Bay community. Dr. Taha was celebrated at the **31st Annual Cornette Ball** on Saturday, November 22. The yearly event is held at **Horizons Conference Center** in Saginaw.



Dr. Taha has supported thousands of patients needing orthopedic support throughout the Great Lakes Bay Region since 2013. The dedication and compassion shown daily for patients, families, clinical and administrative colleagues is nothing short of exceptional. Dr. Taha is an orthopedic surgeon with specialized training in orthopedic trauma. He is dedicated to the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of injuries, disorders and diseases of the musculoskeletal system. As an orthopedic traumatologist, Dr. Taha specializes in managing complex upper and lower extremity trauma.

"Dr. Taha is more than deserving of this year's Legacy of Care Award," said **Mike Erickson**, President, MyMichigan Medical Centers Saginaw, Standish, Tawas and Towne Centre. "His top priority is helping patients improve their overall quality of life with the goal of enjoying daily life activities once again. Dr. Taha truly emulates MyMichigan Health's purpose of **Creating Healthy Communities- Together.**"

PLEASE JOIN US

2026 Pediatric Symposium presented by Covenant Children's Hospital

Vulnerable Voices

Confronting Modern Challenges in Pediatric Health & Safety



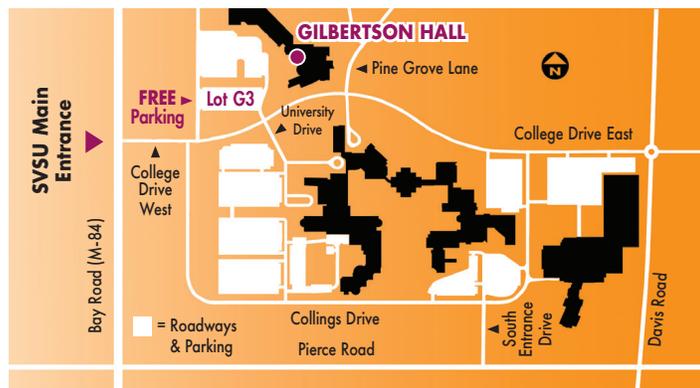
Date and Time:

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

7:30 am-8:00 am • Registration/Breakfast
8:00 am-3:30 pm • Presentations

Location:

SAGINAW VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY, Gilbertson Hall
7400 Bay Road, University Center, MI 48710



Register Online At:

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



Tuition Cost:

- **EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION before April 9:** \$75
- Registration April 10-April 30: \$85
- Registration May 1-May 6: \$100
- **DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION:** May 6, 2026

For More Information:

Contact covenantchildrenshospital@chs-mi.com

Program Description:

This program offers up-to-date research and interdisciplinary exploration of current challenges in pediatric care.

Target Audience:

Physicians, nurses and allied health professionals involved in the care of the pediatric population.

Disclosures:

The planner(s) and speaker(s) have no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies to disclose.

Program Objectives:

- Identify current updates pediatric type I and type II diabetes and advances in diabetes technology.
- Identify available resources for physicians and medical staff regarding breastfeeding medicine education.
- Identify one evidence-based communication strategy to address patient skepticism and misinformation about vaccination.
- Understand the role implicit biases may play in identifying and evaluating victims of child maltreatment.
- Define human trafficking and be able to identify red flags of human trafficking in the healthcare setting.

6.0 CME Credit Available
EMS Credit also Available



Vulnerable Voices 2026 Pediatric Symposium

AGENDA

TIME	TOPIC	SPEAKER	
7:30-8:00 am REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST			
8:00-8:15 am	Opening Remarks		Rebecca Schultz, RN, MSN, MA, JD Director, Women's & Children's Health Covenant Children's Hospital Covenant HealthCare
8:15-9:15 am	Advances in Pediatric Diabetes		Lourdes Morales-Dopico, MD Pediatric Endocrinology CMU Health, Saginaw, MI
9:15-10:15 am	Beyond the Latch: Navigating Breastfeeding in Today's World		Taylor Gaudard, MD, NABBLM-C, IBCLC Assistant Professor, Family Medicine Residency CMU Medical Education Partners, Saginaw, MI
10:15-10:30 am BREAK			
10:30-11:30 am	The Rise of Vaccine Hesitancy and a Patient-Centered Approach to Making Vaccination Recommendations		Catherine M. Bodnar, MD, MPH Medical Director Midland County Department of Public Health, Midland, MI
11:30 am-12:30 pm	Minimizing Bias in the Evaluation and Reporting of Suspected Child Maltreatment		Bethany Mohr, MD, FAAP Clinical Associate Professor Medical Director, Child Protection Team Michigan Medicine, Ann Arbor, MI
12:30-1:30 pm LUNCH			
1:30-3:30 pm	Human Trafficking in Healthcare		Jessica Keener, BSS, BSN, RN, SANE-A Registered Nurse Bay Area Women's Center, Bay City, MI

6.0 CME Available | EMS Credit also Available

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Central Michigan University College of Medicine and Covenant Children's Hospital. CMU College of Medicine is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Central Michigan University College of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of 6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Covenant HealthCare Recognized as Habitat for Humanity Michigan's 2025 Corporate Partner of the Year

Covenant HealthCare is proud to be named **Habitat for Humanity Michigan's 2025 Corporate Partner of the Year**. As a regional health system committed to advancing the well-being of the communities we serve, we recognize that health extends far beyond hospital walls. Safe, stable housing plays a critical role in supporting long-term health outcomes, family stability and community vitality.

Through our partnership with **Saginaw-Shiawassee Habitat for Humanity**, Covenant employees and volunteers from

throughout the community work alongside local families to build new homes and rehabilitate existing properties. These efforts not only expand access to quality housing, but also contribute to stronger, healthier neighborhoods in Saginaw.

We are grateful for this recognition and extend our thanks to Habitat for Humanity for their ongoing commitment to strengthening communities and improving lives. Covenant HealthCare is honored to support this mission and remains dedicated to helping build a healthier future- one home and one family at a time.

Learn more: covenanthealthcare.com/extraordinaryneighbors

Covenant Birth Center Earns Level III Verification for Advanced Maternal Care

Covenant HealthCare is proud to share that the Covenant Birth Center has achieved **Level III (Subspecialty Care) Maternal Levels of Care Verification from The Joint Commission**. This designation recognizes advanced capability and exceptional outcomes in caring for patients with complex maternal medical conditions and obstetric complications.

As Saginaw's maternity hospital, Covenant HealthCare is committed to providing comprehensive, high-acuity maternal services for families across the region. Level III verification affirms around-the-clock access to maternal-fetal medicine specialists, advanced technology, and critical care resources for both mother and baby- ensuring patients receive the right care, at the right time, close to home.

We extend heartfelt congratulations to the entire Covenant Birth Center team for this outstanding achievement and for their continued dedication to delivering safe, high-quality care to mothers and newborns in our community and beyond.

Covenant Nationally Recognized for Excellence in Stroke Care

In 2025, the **Covenant HealthCare Stroke Program**, once again, earned the prestigious **Gold Plus Get With**



The Guidelines® Stroke Quality Achievement Award from the **American Heart Association** and **American Stroke Association**. "This award reflects our Covenant Stroke Program team's dedication to provide extraordinary care to stroke patients and their families from the first moments of diagnosis through recovery," says **Ronald Hubble**, Director of Covenant HealthCare Cardiology/Neuroscience.

Learn more: covenanthealthcare.com/ch/covenantstrokeprogram

Covenant Medical Group Welcomes



Michael J. Gomez, MD

Emergency Medicine

Covenant HealthCare Emergency Care Center
900 Cooper Avenue, Saginaw, MI 48602



Mathew P. Kunz, MD

Hospital Medicine

1447 N. Harrison, Saginaw, MI 48602
989.583.4220



Joshua M. Bindon, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery

900 Cooper, Suite 3100, Saginaw, MI 48602
989.583.7450



Nicholas G. Blackstone, MD

Critical Care & Pulmonary Medicine

Critical Care: 1447 N. Harrison, Saginaw, MI 48602,
989.583.4220
Pulmonology: 3400 N. Center, Suite 300,
Saginaw, MI 48603, 989.583.7380



Joshua D. Forsyth, MD

Primary Care

2919 E. Wilder, Suite 150, Bay City, MI 48706
989.671.5775



Faris Haddadin, MD

Cardiac Electrophysiology

800 Cooper, Suite 4, Saginaw, MI 48602
989.583.4700



Brenda Ma, DO

Oncology

5400 Mackinaw, 5th Floor, Saginaw, MI 48604
989.583.5195



Elizabeth Ping, DO

Primary Care

600 N. Main, Suite 220B, Frankenmuth, MI 48734
989.652.1422



Alex Schmucker, MD

Orthopaedic Surgery

900 Cooper, Suite 3100, Saginaw, MI 48602
989.583.7450

IN MEMORY

Thomas M. Burkey MD

December 21, 1948 - January 18, 2026



Thomas M. Burkey MD passed away peacefully on Sunday morning, January 18, 2026, at Barton Woods Assisted Living in Freeland. He was 77 years old.

Dr. Burkey was born on December 21, 1948, in Bay City, Michigan, to Marshall R. and Theresa M. (Derosier) Burkey. He graduated from St. Peter High School in 1965 and continued his education at Aquinas College and Wayne State University, where he earned his Doctor of Medicine Degree. Dr. Burkey proudly served his country in the United States Navy, enlisting as an officer and being stationed in San Jose, California and Hawaii.

In 1992, Dr. Burkey returned to Saginaw, where he established a successful medical practice and faithfully served the community until his retirement in 2018. He was a proud supporter of the Saginaw community and was deeply committed to caring for his patients with compassion and dedication.

Surviving are his siblings, Mary Ann Burkey; Russell (Denise) Burkey; Randall (Sally) Burkey; Paul Burkey; Judy Burkey; and Joseph (Kellie) Burkey, along with many beloved nieces and nephews.

Dr. Burkey was preceded in death by his parents, Marshall and Theresa Burkey; brothers, John Burkey and Robert Burkey; and life partner, Johnathan Wilcox.

Funeral services were held on January 21, 2026, at Deisler Funeral Home in Saginaw, followed by a committal service at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#). Please share your thoughts and memories with the family at the funeral home or through www.deislerfuneralhome.com.

Lois J. Greenwell

Beloved wife of Mark G. Greenwell MD

June 29, 1954 - January 14, 2026



Our dear sweet **Lois Jean (Schuerman) Greenwell** departed to be with her Lord in the early morning hours of January 14, 2026. Lois fought a long courageous battle with cancer, initially diagnosed in 1999 when she had six children under 13 years old. God graciously granted her 26 more years to see her children all accept and serve the Lord, graduate from college, and several earn advanced degrees. Lois dedicated her life to her family as a devoted homemaker, wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and friend. Her gracious and loving spirit touched the lives of all she met. She will be dearly missed. We take comfort in knowing that she is in paradise with the Lord Jesus whom she loved and served her whole life.

Lois was born in Flint at Hurley Hospital on June 29, 1954, and was raised in Farmington, Michigan. She graduated from North Farmington High School in the class of 1972. She was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran church, Missouri Synod, at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Farmington. She graduated from Lenore Rhyne College in North Carolina with a degree in education of the hearing impaired in 1976. Lois went on to teach the hearing impaired in Virginia, Iowa, Michigan and Louisiana.

On June 15, 1985, she married Mark G. Greenwell MD at St. Paul's, officiated by Pastor Bert Eggers. Together they spent 40

years full of love and service to our Lord. Left to survive Lois is her husband, Mark G. Greenwell MD, along with her children Timothy J. Greenwell MD, Elizabeth A. Greenwell, John M. Greenwell, Abigail A. Greenwell MD and her husband, Ryan Sumpter MD, Mary P. Harris and her husband, Timothy Harris, and Stephen J. Greenwell MD and his wife, Meredith Greenwell, along with four grandchildren, Connor, Olivia, Cooper, and Peter.

Lois was predeceased by her dad and mom, Paul Herbert and Clydia Mae Schuerman, her grandparents, Mitchell and Maude Dobson, and Herbert and Lois Schuerman. She's also predeceased by her in-laws, Donald and Mary Ann Greenwell and Thomas J. Greenwell.

A special thank you to Ashlee RN of Wellspring Home and Hospice.

As we bid farewell to our beloved Lois, our hearts are filled with gratitude to our God in Heaven who allowed us to enjoy and learn from His beautiful godly woman.

Funeral services took place on January 19, 2026, at Peace Lutheran Church in Saginaw with burial on January 21, 2026, at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to [Peace Lutheran Church](#) or [Wellspring Home and Hospice](#).

[Cederberg Funeral Home of Frankenmuth](#)

Charles "Charlie" Eugene Jessup DO

February 11, 1938 - January 27, 2026



Dr. Charles Eugene Jessup (Charlie), age 87, of Bay City, Michigan, passed away at home on January 27, 2026, just shy of his 88th birthday, and not quite a year after his beloved wife Carol. Charles was a devoted husband, father and respected physician. He was creative and passionate with a gregarious and generous spirit, who charmed and charged his way through life.

Charles was born to Francis Eugene Jessup and Helen (Drushal) Jessup on February 11, 1938, in Midland, Michigan. Charles is survived by his two children, Thomas Charles (Tom) and his wife Toni, and Debbie Jessup MacDonald; three grandchildren: Garrett MacDonald and wife Gabrielle (Gabby) and first great-grand baby, Leighton MacDonald; Paige Jenna Sheffield and husband Dylan; and Charlie Parker Jessup and his fiancée Amanda Salgat. Charles was preceded in death by his wife, Carol Higgs Jessup on February 17, 2025; his eldest brother, David Jessup, on February 27, 2025 (only a little over a week after Carol passed); David's wife, Mary Frances Neller Jessup, in 2023, and his sister, Betty Ann Vasold. He is survived by his youngest brother, Jerry Jessup, and his wife, Doris.

"Since the age of four," Charles knew he wanted to be a physician. Charles earned a B.A. degree from Albion College in 1960 and a D.O. degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathy in 1964. He completed his internship at Lansing General Hospital in 1965. Dr. Jessup and Carol moved to Bay City, where Charles went into family practice from 1965-1972. He then moved on to work in the ER at Mercy Hospital in Bay City and subsequently at what was then called Bay Medical Center. Additionally, he served as medical director of EMS Services in

continued on page 30

Bay City, and was instrumental in implementing EMS services for the Tri-Counties.

Considered “a pioneer in the field of emergency medicine” by his peers, Dr. Jessup joined the staff of St. Mary’s of Michigan as an Emergency Physician in 1981. There, he co-founded Timberline Emergency Physicians in 1982, serving as its president from 1982 to 1993 and as vice president through 2007. Dr. Jessup served in numerous leadership roles at St. Mary’s and through his tenure with Timberline, including Chairman of the Department of Emergency Medicine and Chief of Staff from 2004-2006. He was appointed as Chairman of the Board of St. Mary’s in 2006, as well as Chairman of Quality and Patient Safety. He also served as EMS Medical Director for the Saginaw Medical Control Authority, as a Diplomate of the American Board of Emergency Medicine, as a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Physicians, and as an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at MSU-College of Human Medicine. One of his proudest honors was receiving the Michigan College of Emergency Physicians’ Emergency Medicine Physician of the Year award in 1999. He was also the team physician for the John Glenn Bobcats for a few years.

Charles’s son, Tom, says the staff at St. Mary’s and the Timberline group felt like family. For Tom, this was literal: he joined as a Physician’s Assistant in August 1995 and worked there for 13 years alongside his father. Staff shared mutual respect. Dr. Jessup was grateful for their collaboration and the opportunity to contribute to the welfare of his patients, those that were unfortunate enough to find themselves in the ER. The ER can be a stressful and intense environment. Dr. Jessup, known for his lively humor, would entertain the nurses and staff. Perhaps a bit too colorfully for all tastes, but always well-intended. He delighted in getting a reaction, which helped to lighten their shared responsibilities. In 2006, a year before he retired in 2007, Dr. Charles Jessup was honored by the St. Mary’s of Michigan Foundation with the Spirit of St. Vincent Award at their Cornette Ball.

An avid sailor and skier, Charles’ family enjoyed many sailing adventures and ski trips out west and up North, at Boyne Mountain, where they had a condominium on Disciples Ridge. Before purchasing the condo, Charlie would raise his family early for the drive North to be the first ones on the hill. Sailing was Charles’s passion and true escape. His love of sailing began in the Boy Scouts. He built a 16’ Lightning with his dad, Francis Jessup; the same boat Carol called Charles about collecting on a sailboat ride he had promised her that fateful day in the summer of 1960.

Charles and his family began sailing on a Cal 25. Next was a Tartan 30, named La Mouette (French for Seagull) and nicknamed the “Dirty Bird.” They then sailed Shakira, a racing J35, followed

by a cruising J35C, then an ill-fated Tri-hauled Telstar 27, and a Catalina 35 called Carol J. Currently, their boat is a 49-foot Hunter, the second Carol J. Son Tom has crewed with Charles since youth and recruited many friends. He will continue to sail and captain her. Charles and crew spent most Wednesday summer evenings buoy racing on Saginaw Bay and annually raced from Port Huron to Mackinaw and Chicago to Mackinaw. Charles’s last race from Port Huron to Mackinaw on the Hunter earned them 1st place in their K Division. “Fear the Bimini” became their rallying cry, as fellow sailors wondered how they won despite the Bimini’s drag. That was the July 2019 Bayview to Mackinaw Race, the sweetest of wins and Charles’s last race.

The Jessup’s often gathered as a family. The tradition of gathering for the annual Father’s Day picnic continues to this day. The family also met for Pedro card parties and celebrated many New Year’s together. Charles was especially close to his brothers, David and Jerry. Charlie’s eldest brother, Dave, was an outdoor enthusiast and organized a memorable Boundary Waters canoe trip, as well as, whitewater rafting trips on the Snake River and down the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. Every fall, they spent time together at deer camp. Charles resembled his mother, Helen, who was proud of her boys. They always teased her and made her laugh. Charles’ brothers towered over him, and he would joke that “he got the sperm with the short tail.”

In the last Chapter of Charles’s life, Charles found his voice again. He had a beautiful singing voice and sang in an acapella choir at Albion College. His professor thought he could make a career of it. He chose medicine, but music always filled his life. During the long days of COVID, his daughter Debbie got the idea that her Dad might enjoy polishing up his voice and give voice lessons a try. Suzanne Jackson, a professional singer and voice coach from Pennsylvania, agreed to work with Charlie. Technology was a definite challenge on both ends, but they persevered. Suzanne takes a holistic approach to her coaching. Through her background in Kundalini yoga, which emphasizes breathwork, she expertly helped Charles strengthen his vocal cords and retrain his voice. He made significant improvements over the time they worked together. He was preparing himself for an audition to sing the National Anthem at a Loons Minor League Baseball game opener when he passed.

Suzanne saw Charles as a mentor, father figure, and friend. In her eulogy, she described their work: “In singing, you share vibration. It’s a literal, physical vibration. Sound waves move through your body and theirs. In that resonance, something deeper passes between you.” She also said, “The shared vibration of singing together magnifies every moment.” Suzanne ended her

continued on page 31

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Quality Sleep & Neurology	12

eulogy: "Rest well, Charlie. You healed thousands through your work. I thank you for the healing you brought to my heart with each shared note."

Charles took great pleasure in singing for Carol, making her smile. He would sing "Oh, what a beautiful morning" almost every day, and "Zip-a-Dee-Doo-Dah." She loved sitting in on his lessons with Suzanne and would often join in. When Carol died, Charles lost his muse and his purpose, but now (as Carol's cousin Heidi Higgs said), "He decided he would join the choir of angels." He was struggling for a reason to stay. Now he is at peace, and his and Carol's spirits are joined together in the heavenly ethers.

The family plans to celebrate Charlie's life on Saturday, March 28, 2026, at 11 a.m. at W.H. Whales, 804 E. Midland St. in Bay City. The family will greet friends on March 28 from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider memorials to [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#).

[Penzien-Steele Funeral Home Inc. - In Bay City](#)



All statements or comments in *The Bulletin* are those of the writer, and not necessarily the opinion of the Saginaw County Medical Society.

PEER REVIEW ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Saginaw County Medical Society has a **Peer Review Ethics Committee ("Committee")** which is comprised of Caroline G.M. Scott, MD-Chair, Danielle C. Duncan, MD and Thomas J. Veverka, MD. Members of the Committee are elected by the membership.

The following is the definition of the Committee pursuant to Chapter IX Conduct and Discipline of Members of the SCMS Bylaws:

Section 5. **PEER REVIEW ETHICS COMMITTEE.** This Society shall have a standing committee designated the Peer Review Ethics Committee, charged with duties and powers concerning the maintenance of standards of conduct and discipline of members including the duties and powers specifically set forth in this chapter. Whenever any matter of alleged misconduct is referred to the Peer Review Ethics Committee, such Committee shall have the right to conduct investigations and hearings thereon, both informal and formal, and to make findings of fact and recommendations for discipline.

If you need to refer a matter to the Committee, please contact Drs. Scott, Duncan or Veverka, or Joan Cramer at the Saginaw County Medical Society office. All matters are confidential and are not to be disclosed to the Board or membership.

We remember our colleagues and spouses who passed in 2025:

Johanna E. Aquilina, wife of Joseph N. Aquilina MD
February 22, 1934 - August 18, 2025

Jerry J. Evans MD
July 23, 1937 - October 21, 2025

E. Malcolm Field MD
April 10, 1930 - November 3, 2025

Frederick W. Foltz MD
December 1, 1936 - January 25, 2025

Lorraine Margaret Hughes, wife of John C. Hughes MD
July 6, 1945 - January 11, 2025

Narciso D. Santiago MD
October 19, 1940 - April 19, 2025

Galileo A. "Gal" Sarmiento MD
July 11, 1931 - June 11, 2025

James F. Shetlar MD
December 26, 1944 - September 30, 2025

Michael J. Slavin MD
March 7, 1949 - March 4, 2025

Betty C. Webb
May 5, 1942 - May 10, 2025

Lester E. Webb MD
May 22, 1941 - July 12, 2025

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

Jean Marie Weiss, wife of Arno W. Weiss, Sr. MD
October 8, 1932 - December 18, 2024

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