

# MSSC NEWS

## Staff shortages and capacity crises challenge hospitals

Recently, hospital Chief Medical Officer Lowell Ebersole, DO, grabbed some trash bags, PPE and other supplies and began emptying trash cans and restocking shelves in patient rooms in the medical intensive care unit at Wesley Medical Center.

He and other hospital leaders have begun helping with some of the more menial tasks on the hospital's busiest units, taking some of the burden off overtaxed and understaffed departments as hospitals battle the latest COVID-19 surge.

The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita arranged some volunteer opportunities for its first-through fourth-year students at the behest of Ascension Via Christi to help with anything from screening at the front doors to emptying trash or administering vaccines.

Hospital systems in Sedgwick County are struggling with staffing shortages and a continuing stream of COVID-19 patients – more than 95% of whom are unvaccinated – wreaking havoc in crowded emergency departments, straining resources and sidelining hundreds of health care workers who are falling ill with the latest virulent strain.



**LENDING A HAND:** WESLEY HEALTHCARE CMO LOWELL EBERSOLE, DO, PREPARES TO EMPTY TRASH AND RESTOCK SUPPLIES IN PATIENT ROOMS TO ASSIST OVERSTRESSED UNITS.

Hospital leaders are working tirelessly and creatively to keep units staffed and patient flow moving while omicron spreads like wildfire across the state.

"Hospital capacity across Kansas is razor thin," said Sam Antonio, MD, chief clinical officer for Ascension Via Christi. "The number of COVID-19 cases in our communities have exploded, driven by the overlapping waves of the delta and omicron variants. As a result, our emergency rooms and urgent and primary care clinics are busier than ever with cases of COVID-19."

PLEASE SEE **STAFFING CRISIS**, PAGE 2

## Legislative issues impacting physicians carry into 2022

The 2022 Kansas Legislature convened on Jan. 10 for its annual session as physician advocates gear up to continue their vigilance on hot-button issues that impact doctors around the state.

Major bills that support the practice of medicine by non-physicians (without appropriate physician oversight), medical marijuana and Medicaid expansion are expected to carry over this year and possibly could receive action fairly quickly.

But a number of administrative requirements and a slew of tax-related bills and general requests are taking up much of the schedule in the early weeks and may slow down the movement of medical-related bills.

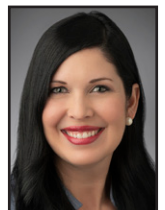
The Kansas Medical Society notes the Legislature is constitutionally required to redraw districts for state political offices based on new U.S. Census data. It must also pass a new state budget, and House of Representative and statewide officeholders are up for elections this year.

"These three factors will dominate the legislative

environment and pace, likely yielding a lot of early activity and hopefully a shortened overall schedule not dominated by other controversial or divisive issues (like many of ours tend to be)," Executive Director Rachelle Colombo wrote to KMS legislative committee members.

Here is a summary of three issues from last year that are expected to return this session:

- **Non-physician practice of medicine** – Bills allowing APRNs to practice independently without physician oversight were not passed by either health committee nor debated on the floor of the House or Senate last session, but APRN advocates are expected to keep the issue alive. A related issue likely to resurface this year is pharmacists seeking to independently initiate therapy with patients, which KMS also opposes as a threat to patient safety and



COLOMBO

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JANUARY  
2022

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our community,  
and our profession.*

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SEDGWICK COUNTY

www.mssconline.org  
1102 S. Hillside  
Wichita, KS 67211  
(316) 683-7557

# Doctors need to be able to change their minds



**E. Jeanne Kroeker, MD**  
January President's Message

"I guess a lady's allowed to change her mind!"

A grizzled engineering contractor said that to me, almost 30 years ago, as I made changes in a piping plan for a chemical plant process – changes that were needed because R&D had just sent new details about the process. He said it with exaggerated politeness and thick condescension, and I bristled immediately.

An indignant 24-year-old, I quickly pointed out that my being a lady had nothing to do with the need for a change in the plan. But I think his statement really bothered me because I was anticipating a pretty significant career change, and this statement cut to the heart of my anxiety. Not long after that conversation, I signed up for the MCAT and applied to medical school. Two years later, I left my fledgling engineering career and enrolled at the KU School of Medicine, pursuing a lifelong career plan I thought I had abandoned. I have thought about that statement a lot in the past two years but with a twist: "I guess doctors are allowed to change their minds."

Our past two years of medical practice have been disrupted by one change after another due to the COVID pandemic. How and when we see patients, how we treat them, and how we prioritize their care have all been affected. And in this time, the society around us has frequently demonstrated intolerance of medical professionals changing their minds about treatments, even when these changes are based on evolving and newly acquired knowledge. The outrage and vitriol from sectors of the public every time

a new public health guideline is issued demonstrate this intolerance.

I am not unaware of our community's worry, consternation and fear of COVID. I am not unaware that frequent changes in medical direction and published best practices can cause confusion and frustration. But it is a relatively new phenomenon that changes in medical advice, evolving with data, are being interpreted as incompetence or fraudulence.

As the COVID pandemic has evolved, we have been learning on the fly. We have had to change our minds, over and over, about what is best prevention, best treatment, best education, best focus, best anything. But we are not changing our minds capriciously; we are learning and adjusting based on mounting data.

With human cognition and understanding come learning, indecision and the ability to change our mind. If we lose our mental flexibility, we become rigid and unyielding. In science (including medicine), as new facts, observations and theories evolve, conclusions are edited or even abandoned.

As physicians, if we are unable to change our practice patterns, to learn with new advances, or if we refuse to let go of old methods, our patients suffer. Previous patterns of practice are replaced with new treatments as knowledge increases.

One of the goals of MSSC is to facilitate public health education in Sedgwick County. In 2022, MSSC will continue to reach out to the public through newspaper commentaries, media interviews and other avenues. I am hoping that we can each continue to reach out to our patients and help them understand why COVID management keeps changing, and help them appreciate our willingness to change our minds when it is appropriate.

## STAFFING CRISIS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The current surge in COVID-19 patients continues to strain available staffing and resources. The shortage of qualified health care workers nationwide, coupled with an exponentially growing demand for care, is stretching hospitals' capabilities to the limit, frontline doctors say.

By mid-January, Wesley and Ascension had reached record numbers of COVID-19 patients. Sedgwick County's 14-day average positive test rate also reached the highest level since the start of the pandemic.

Pulmonary and critical care physician Chloe Steinshouer, MD, paints a bleak picture. She regularly writes a COVID blog on social media, where she beseeches readers to "flatten the curve" by getting vaccinated, wearing a mask in public and engaging in social distancing.



**DR. STEINSHOUE**

"The hospital staff are overwhelmed, EMS services can't keep up, schools are swamped with cases/exposures, and multiple industries are being crippled by a lack of healthy workers," Steinshouer wrote on Jan. 13. "We are still seeing exponential growth in cases with increasing hospitalizations. ... We don't have the space or staff to take the tsunami of patients in the hospitals. This affects all health care and the system can no longer bend. It is breaking. People will die of preventable and treatable disease because of deluge."

Hospital and health care workers have been on the front lines battling COVID-19 for nearly two years, and the pandemic has placed a significant toll on them, the American Hospital Association reported.

The staffing crisis is exacerbated by health care workers getting lured away for high-paying traveler jobs in other crisis states. Then there is the emotional toll. A year ago, health care workers were hailed as heroes. Today, many are fielding mistrust and even abuse by patients or their families.

"You're putting yourself and your family in danger to take care of these people every day, and you have somebody questioning whether you're trying hard enough to take care of them," Steinshouer said in a Wichita Eagle story on Jan. 1. "And you're working 12-, 14-, 20-, 24-hour days consistently and constantly for nearly two years."

These health care workforce challenges are threatening hospitals' ability to care for patients, the AHA reported. A Kaiser Family Foundation/Washington Post poll found that about 3 in 10 health care workers considered leaving their profession, and about 6 in 10 said pandemic-related stress had harmed their mental health.

"Some health care providers have had about all they can take and feel like they need to take a break for their own mental health," said Garold Minns, MD, KUSM-W dean. "It's been a very intense, long, drawn-out process, and I just think all of us have a breaking point."

Hospital leaders say they are grateful for the continued collaboration among Wichita hospitals, physicians and other health care providers, and the grace they have shown one another that has become "one of the few bright spots during these extremely challenging times," Antonios said.

"I could not be any prouder of our medical staff and everyone's above-and-beyond contributions."



**DR. ANTONIOS**

### New health sciences center on horizon

Wichita State University and the University of Kansas are moving forward with plans to establish a joint WSU/KU Healthcare Sciences Educational Center (HSEC) in Wichita.

The center – which is a combined effort among WSU, WSU Tech, the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, and the KU School of Pharmacy in Wichita – will centralize health care programs from each institution to provide state-of-the-art health care education that would ultimately improve the quality of health and health outcomes for Kansans, university officials said.

“Not only is this new center important to improving the health outcomes for Kansans, any city that’s growing or wants to grow has this type of facility at its core,” said WSU President Rick Muma. “Building an academic hub to educate a proficient and highly skilled medical workforce is critical to increasing health care access and outcomes for everyone in our region.”

A grant from the Kansas Health Foundation will supplement the universities’ funds to commission services of an architect and other professionals to integrate the vision for the project, affirm space needs, explore ways to create efficiencies, validate site information and location, and create a conceptual plan for pricing the facility, officials said.

### KHSC approved for pre-accreditation

The Kansas Health Science Center – Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine has received approval from the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation to begin recruiting students for the 2022 academic year after receiving pre-accreditation status last month.

“Achieving pre-accreditation for our Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine allows us to begin to address the state’s physician shortage while simultaneously addressing other issues affecting population health,” said Tiffany Masson, PsyD, president of KHSC. “It’s an exciting time to be part of the growth and development happening in Wichita and Kansas, and we are beyond thrilled to now have the green light to open the doors of Kansas-COM for physicians-in-training in August 2022.”

The anticipated size of the inaugural class is 85, with 170 projected when the school is fully operational.

### KBGH Innovation Summit this month

The Kansas Business Group on Health, an affiliate of MSSC, is hosting its annual Innovation Summit virtually on Tuesday, Jan. 25, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The summit will share information on local and regional initiatives related to employer-sponsored health benefits. Speakers and topics include:

- Celia Llopis-Jepsen, a reporter with the Kansas News Service, will share what she found through her investigations into prescription drug and medical prices in Kansas.
- MSSC member Dr. Justin Moore will discuss the public health issue of social isolation and the effects COVID-19 has had on it.
- Jason Lacey, an attorney at Foulston Siefkin LLP, will provide a legal update on employer-sponsored health benefits, particularly as it relates to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021.

The summit costs \$50 for KGGH members and \$75 for non-members. Register at [ksbgh.org](https://ksbgh.org).

### Revised tobacco cessation training

Patients are often motivated to quit tobacco during the new year, making it a good time for practices to consider how to help them. MSSC and the Kansas Department of Health



and Environment are leading efforts to assist physicians and nursing staff in providing best practice tobacco dependence care.

The Kansas Tobacco Cessation Help is a free, newly revised tobacco cessation online training developed by KDHE and National Jewish Health. A self-paced course guides staff through seven modules, each 15-30 minutes. The registrant can print a certificate of completion after each module. The training offers CME, CNE and CPE credits for health care professionals.

The modules cover enhanced Quitline services ([www.KSquit.org](https://www.KSquit.org) or 1-800-QUIT-NOW), Kansas Medicaid cessation benefits, vaping, teen tobacco use, behavioral health and Quitline counseling call samples. To review a summary of each module or register for the training, visit [quitlogixeducation.org/kansas/](https://quitlogixeducation.org/kansas/).

### LEGISLATIVE ISSUES CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

physician oversight.

- **Medical marijuana** – The House last session approved a bill that would permit the manufacture of marijuana and its use for medical purposes when recommended by a physician after a six-month period to establish the patient-physician relationship. However, leadership in the Senate is firmly opposed to the measure, as is KMS.
- **Medicaid expansion** – Medicaid expansion saw little movement last year with no hearings or votes. Leadership in both chambers appears likely to oppose expansion going forward.

New issues on which KMS does not have an established position are not likely to emerge immediately, Colombo said.

The Medical Society of Sedgwick County’s Legislative Committee holds its first meeting of 2022 virtually at noon on Jan. 28. It meets every other Friday as needed during the session. Contact Denise Phillips at MSSC if you would like to be part of this committee.

“We will continue to affirm the need to expand access through physician-led health care teams, which remains the best way to provide high-quality, safe and cost-effective care,” committee Chairman Kevin Hoppock, MD, said.



DR. HOPPOCK



# ROSTER UPDATE

Keep your 2022 roster current with this information.

Key: [BC] Board Certified [F] Accredited Fellowship [R] Residency [AT] Additional Training [F\*] Unaccredited Fellowship

## NEW MEMBERS



**Hibah Ismail, MD** (hospitalist)

[BC] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

OFF: 316-268-6976

FAX: 316-291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1659725877

Medical education obtained at American University of Beirut 8/2011-6/2015. Residency in Internal Medicine at Wayne State University/Detroit Medical Center 7/2016-6/2019.



**Nicholas P. Knighton, DO** (hospitalist)

[BC] Internal Medicine

[R] Pediatrics

FreeState Connect

OFF: 800-924-8140

FAX: 316-789-6210

4704 E Oakland St, 67218

NPI: 1588983449

Medical education obtained at Touro University Nevada, Henderson 8/2006-6/2010. Residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics at KUSM-Wichita 7/2010-6/2014.



**Mark Riola, MD** (hospitalist)

[BC] Family Medicine

Sound Physicians

OFF: 316-268-6976

FAX: 316-291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1134652191

Medical education obtained at Ross University School of Medicine, Portsmouth, Dominica 9/2011-4/2016. Residency in Family Medicine at Valley Baptist Medical Center, Harlingen, TX 7/2017-6/2020.

## REINSTATE TO ACTIVE

**James A. Manry, MD**

[BC] Anesthesiology

Wichita Anesthesiology, Chtd

OFF: 316-686-7327

FAX: 316-686-1557

8080 E Central S-250, 67206

NPI: 1154392033

Active MSSC member 2005-06.

## CHANGES

**Maisam Al Patty, MD**

[BC] Internal Medicine

CarePoint Healthcare



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**Dreams: Realized**

# ROSTER UPDATE *continued*

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## **Anna O. Dagg, MD**

[BC] Family Medicine

KUSM-Wichita Family Medicine Residency at Wesley

## **Aaron Divanne, MD**

[BC] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

## **Spencer G. Duncan, DO**

### **Russell R. Horn, DO**

NMC Health Family Medicine - Valley Center

(formerly Medical Plaza of Valley Center)

Same address, phone and fax

## **Jennifer J. Halabi, MD**

### **Lynnette S. Jacobsen, MD**

Wichita Direct Primary Care

8100 E 22nd St N Bldg 2200 S-4, 67226

Same phone, fax

## **Ashley M.R. Haynes, MD**

Addiction Toxicology of Kansas

OFF: 316-361-6322

Same address

## **Thomas C. Kryzer, MD**

### **John M. Lasak, MD**

Wichita Ear Clinic

Website: [www.wichitaear.com](http://www.wichitaear.com)

## **Gamal M. Marey, MD**

[BC] Thoracic Surgery

Cedar Surgical, LLC

## **Holly E. Montgomery, MD**

[BC] Obstetrics & Gynecology

Associates in Women's Health, PA

## **Bryan Pierce, MD**

[BC] Family Medicine

NMC Health Family Medicine - North Amidon

## **Jared M. Regehr, MD**

[BC] Family Medicine

Ascension Medical Group Via Christi St Joseph Family Medicine

## **Stephanie H. Shields, MD**

Robert J. Dole Veterans Medical Center

OFF: 316-685-2221

5500 E Kellogg Dr, 67218

## **Frederick Wolfe, MD**

Arthritis Research Center Foundation Inc

727 N Waco S-200, 67203

Same phone, fax

## **Cairn Health**

1514 N Broadway, 67214

Same phone, fax

## CORRECTIONS

### **Caryn N. Bryant, MD**

HealthCore Clinic

FAX: 866-514-0974

### **Ronald R. Manasco, MD**

Delete group name and fax number

### **P. James Seberger, MD, PhD**

Cognitive Performance & Health

S-106 at 10111 E 21st St N, 67206

## DROPPED

**Tasneem S. Alaqzam, MD** – Moved out of area

**Veerayyagari Annapurna, MD** – Moved out of area

**Daniel N. Dang, MD** – Moved out of state

**Tara L. Richardson, MD** – 1/12/22

**Patrick E. Roach, MD** – 12/31/21

**John-Michael Watson, MD** – Moved out of state

## RETIRED

**Michael W. Cannon, MD** – 12/31/21

**Glen J. Misko, MD** – 10/29/21

**Scott E. Moser, MD** – 1/3/22

**Gregory D. Nanney, MD** – 12/30/21

**Jaime L. Oeberst, MD** – 12/31/21

**Padala J. (P.J.) Reddy, MD** – 12/31/21

**Bruce L. Tjaden, DO** – 9/17/21

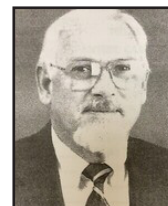
## In Remembrance

### Remembering two longtime physicians

*MSSC extends its condolences to the families of Drs. Lee and Jehan.*

Family physician and surgeon **Robert Rex Lee, MD**, died Dec. 22. Born in Protection, Kan., on Aug. 27, 1929, he was 92. Lee graduated in 1951 from Southwestern State College in Weatherford, Okla., (now Southwestern Oklahoma State University). His medical education was from the University of Oklahoma and he interned at Wichita-St. Joseph Hospital (1955-56). Lee was active in the MSSC for many years beginning in 1959, and he was very involved with numerous MSSC committees.

**Sayed Jehan, MD**, who worked as a psychiatrist for 45 years in Wichita and who led the Sedgwick County Mental Health Department (now known as COMCARE), died Dec. 26. He was 88. Born in a rural village in what is now Pakistan, Jehan went on to become a well-respected and successful physician, father, philanthropist and businessman, his family said. Jehan also practiced at El Dorado and Hutchinson correctional facilities and Larned State Hospital. His psychiatric services were called upon in several high-profile incidents, including the downtown Holiday Inn sniper shootings in 1976, the Carr brothers' murder spree in 2000, and later working with serial killer Dennis Rader, aka BTK, his family said.



DR. LEE



DR. JEHAN

# MSSC NEWS

MEDICAL SOCIETY of  
SEDGWICK COUNTY 1102 South Hillside • Wichita, KS 67211  
www.mssconline.org • (316) 683-7557

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