

MSSC NEWS

Free teletherapy, resources for MSSC members

Early in the pandemic, MSSC organized a list of local therapists and psychiatrists willing to see physicians and their staff members. It is now expanding those resources by adding a teletherapy option.

MSSC is partnering with The Battle Within and Frontline Therapy Network to offer teletherapy services to physicians. MSSC members can receive up to six free, confidential teletherapy sessions with a vetted therapist.

MSSC also is partnering with Work-Well KS to provide free resources for other health care team members.

"Being a physician is always challenging, but the past two-plus years have been extraordinarily difficult," MSSC Executive Director Phillip Brownlee said. "We hope these expanded resources make it easier for physicians to access support."

The teletherapy option could be more convenient to the hectic schedules of some physicians. It also can be more private.

"Therapy sessions are confidential and considered privileged communications," Brownlee said. "And with



teletherapy, physicians also don't need to worry about a patient or trial lawyer seeing them in a therapist waiting room."

The U.S. surgeon general issued an advisory on May 23 sounding the alarm on health worker burnout, including physicians. His recommendations included ensuring "on-demand counseling and after work hours care are more accessible."

The Battle Within is an Olathe-based organization that was formed to serve veterans. During the pandemic, it realized frontline health care workers also were experiencing trauma and high stress and needed support. Working with the University of Kansas Health System and other partners, the organization expanded to offer teletherapy to health care workers.

All therapists are licensed and vetted by The Battle Within. The organization said it will not make referrals unless it feels confident the therapist is well prepared to provide the care a physician needs. If therapists believe a physician may benefit from medication, they will

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MAY
2022

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*Physicians
who care for ...
our patients,
our community,
and our profession.*

MSSC
MEDICAL SOCIETY of
SEDGWICK COUNTY

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

Tornado ravages doctor's home



Internist Lamont Bloom, MD, thought maybe the April 29 tornado missed them as his family huddled in their safe room. "It was a puff of dust under the door," he told MSSC. Instead, the Blooms lost their Andover home and four vehicles.

Now, he has some advice for his MSSC colleagues:

PLEASE SEE **TORNADO**, PAGE 4

Mark your calendars

WD<40
Wichita Docs Under 40

Who: Wichita Docs Under 40

What: Bradley Fair Summer Concert Series, followed by fireworks

When: 7 pm Thursday, June 30

Where: Hilton Garden Inn at Bradley Fair, outdoor patio

September at KansasCOM

Who: MSSC membership meeting

When: Sept. 13

Where: Kansas Health Science Center's Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Tour the school and learn about its programs.

Why does the death certificate say that?



E. Jeanne Kroeker, MD
May President's Message

In 1977 my father, a chemistry professor at Rutgers University, developed central neurologic symptoms that were baffling and confounding. There was no obvious explanation for his symptoms of personality changes, mood lability, micrographia, headaches and short-term memory deficits.

A neighboring town had a new, advanced imaging machine – a “CT machine” – and he was referred there for brain imaging. In the grainy images of the 1970s CT films, abnormalities were identified.

My father was ultimately diagnosed with reticuline cell lymphoma/sarcoma of the brain, now known as primary central nervous system lymphoma (PCNSL). He was referred to Columbia Presbyterian Hospital for oncology treatment and became the 11th patient they had ever documented with this particular cancer.

We think his cancer was a consequence of repeated accidental exposure to radioactive cobalt isotopes that he experimented with in the 1960s and 1970s. Ironically, cobalt radiation was a key part of his treatment protocol.

Chemotherapy and radiation treatments in the 1970s were brutal and non-specific. The tissue destruction from his tumor and the treatment damage left him with devastating neurologic deficits. He would never work again and died two years later from long-term complications of his tumor and its treatments.

While the cancer did not kill him, it was the primary contributor to his death. His death certificate lists sepsis as the primary cause of death and “brain cancer” as the contributing cause. If he had not had this cancer, he would not have had sepsis at age 43, so cancer was appropriately included on his death certificate.

This concept of “incident to” cause of death is something that is not always understood by people who do not fill out death certificates. The COVID-19 pandemic actually helped unveil this lack of understanding, as more than a million death certificates have listed COVID.

Virtually every primary care doctor in the United States has had at least one patient die from COVID-related illness in the past two years; more than one million Americans have died from COVID since 2020. More than 250,000 children in America have lost a parent or a caregiver to COVID.

These are real statistics. These are horrifically tragic statistics. They include hundreds of thousands of people who did not die from direct action of the virus, but from the many complications of their COVID infection.

Early in the pandemic, there was much discussion about conflated death certificates, about fraudulent death certificates and about COVID being “listed on every death certificate.” There are many in this country who still discuss such things.

Americans seem reluctant to admit the toll of this pandemic. Questioning the validity of death certificates can be an easy way to deny the statistics, and this questioning typically comes from ignorance about the process of certification of death.

A healthy young adult does not typically develop a fatal pulmonary embolism, but COVID infection is frequently associated with DVTs and PEs. The COVID+ patient who dies as the result of a spontaneous PE will have a death certificate that lists PE as the primary cause of death as a consequence of COVID infection.

In this current era, community-acquired pneumonia does not often lead to death, even in the elderly. But multifocal pulmonary infiltrates leading to respiratory failure is a hallmark of COVID and is especially fatal in the elderly. The cause of death should then be listed as pneumonia, as a consequence of COVID infection.

Profound hypoxia caused by COVID can lead to heart failure or myocardial infarction, and that MI would not have occurred without that COVID infection. Here, the death certificate would list MI as a consequence of, or secondary to, COVID.

In early 2020, when COVID was first identified in the United States, we never expected it to cause one million deaths, especially not in fewer than 28 months.

Disputing COVID's inclusion on a death certificate does not mask or eliminate the tragedy of this devastating illness and the permanent impact this pandemic has had on our society.

TELETHERAPY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

help connect the physician with a psychiatrist.

Physicians who are interested in teletherapy can complete an application at www.thebattlewithin.org/frontline-therapy-network. A psychotherapist will respond, usually the same business day, and conduct a basic assessment in order to connect the physician with the network therapist most ideal to support his or her needs. The physician and therapist will then coordinate and schedule the first free session.

If a physician wants to continue seeing the therapist beyond the initial six sessions, it may be possible to extend the free sessions. If not, the physician can arrange to pay using insurance or cash.

MSSC's partnership with WorkWell KS offers help to other health care team members. The program, which is based at KUSM-W, will offer evidence-based services to medical practices, at no cost, aimed at improving employee well-being. Free resources include training for employees on mindfulness and stress management. For more information, email workwellks@kumc.edu or visit workwellks.com.

A closer look at the license application and what it asks about mental health

One concern of physicians is whether mental health can impact their medical license. This can cause some physicians not to seek care.

To help reduce this barrier, MSSC worked with the Kansas Medical Society three years ago to eliminate several questions on the licensure and renewal application forms.

The old questions were overly broad in scope and asked applicants to speculate on whether they presented a future risk to patients. The application also asked for information so remote in time as to be irrelevant to the applicant's current fitness to practice safely.

In advocating for the changes, KMS suggested alternative language consistent with recommendations made by the Federation of State Medical Boards. In all, the Kansas Board of Healing Arts eliminated four questions related to mental health and impairment and replaced them with the following question:

“Do you have any physical or mental health condition (including alcohol or substance use) that currently impairs your ability to practice your profession in a competent, ethical, and professional manner?”

MSSC recruitment initiative named after Brown family

In honor of Val Brown Sr., MD, who died in April at age 98, and in recognition of his family's three generations of physicians serving Wichita, the MSSC Board of Directors is naming its Black physician initiative after the Brown family.

The Brown Family Fund for Black Physician Recruitment will focus on recruiting and retaining more Black physicians in Wichita. MSSC will donate \$10,000 to help launch the fund. Others who want to help support the initiative can make a tax-deductible donation to the fund via MSSC.

"The Brown family has been a pillar in our community for more than 100 years," MSSC President E. Jeanne Kroeker, MD, said. "Dr. G.G. Brown joined the MSSC soon after he moved to Wichita in 1908, and Drs. Val Brown, Sr., and Val Brown, Jr., were career-long MSSC members who cared deeply for our community."

The primary focus of the initiative is recruiting and retaining more Black residents and medical students. But the initiative also will reach out to younger students. For example, MSSC recently sent physicians to 17 different USD 259 classrooms to talk about the medical profession.

The initiative is part of an effort to reduce health disparities facing African Americans. Research shows that Black patients, particularly Black men, tend to have better health outcomes when they are seen by Black physicians.

Currently, only about 2.5% of MSSC members are Black. Nationally, only 2% of U.S. doctors are Black men.

The Brown family has a long history of breaking barriers. In addition to G.G. Brown being one of the earliest members of MSSC,



► RELATED

• VAL BROWN SR., MD, OBITUARY, **PAGE 7**

Val Brown, Sr., was the first Black physician to have privileges at Wesley Medical Center, and Val Brown, Jr., was one of the first two African Americans to graduate from KUSM-Wichita.

The physicians served many Black patients. At the funeral of Val Brown, Sr., several speakers remarked how Dr. Brown cared for most of the people in attendance, and even delivered many of them.

Val Brown, Jr., told MSSC that his family is proud to be part of this initiative.

In Brief ►►► New and noteworthy

Prime time to join MSSC

Summer brings new physicians to the Wichita medical community and new members to MSSC.

If you know of MDs and DOs joining Sedgwick County practices and groups in the coming weeks, ensure they will be included in the MSSC membership and the 2023 MSSC Roster by contacting membership coordinator Rhonda Welch at rhondawelch@med-soc.org or at (316) 683-7557.

Physicians who wish to join MSSC and are not going through credentialing by affiliate Medical Provider Resources can download the MSSC membership application at <https://tinyurl.com/2022MSSC>.

Skin cancer clinic screens 269 patients

Wichita-area dermatologists conducted a free skin cancer screening clinic on May 7 at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Dermatologists and their staff screened 269 patients and found nine cases of possible melanoma, nine possible squamous cell carcinoma, 22 possible basal cell carcinoma, 14 dysplastic/atypical nevi, 54 actinic keratosis and 178 benign lesions.

According to the Skin Cancer Foundation, one in five Americans will develop skin cancer by the age of 70. More than two people die of skin cancer in the U.S. every hour. Having five or more sunburns doubles your risk for melanoma. But when detected early, the 5-year survival rate for melanoma is 99 percent.

MSSC approves 2023 board

MSSC members approved the slate of officers for the 2023 Board of Directors, and elected three new board members. MSSC appreciates all the candidates who ran for board positions.



Howard Y. Chang, MD
President-elect



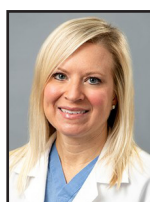
Diane L. Hunt, MD
Secretary



Barry T. Bloom, MD
Treasurer



Shauna M. Kern, DO
Board of Directors



Christina M. Nicholas, MD
Board of Directors



Ashley S. Robbins, MD
Board of Directors

Physician ENGAGEMENT

This month we mingled with physicians and guests at Koch Arena with WSU President Rick Muma and basketball Coach Isaac Brown

Rick Muma became the 15th president of Wichita State University one year ago this month. A longtime health care practitioner, Muma said he is working hard to balance the priorities of a public research university, which is similar to managing better outcomes in health care: boosting access for minorities, helping ensure there is a talent pipeline for graduates, and increasing the prosperity and health of the community.

"One of the things we decided a long time ago is we need to reach new people to our campus, people not currently in the system," said Muma, PhD, MPH, PA-C, who said WSU is on track to becoming a Hispanic-serving institute by the end of the decade. "We've been doing a fantastic job raising extra funds for these individuals for need-based aid." He said WSU is one of the few universities right now that is actually growing, in large part due to initiatives that attract minority students.

WSU basketball Coach Isaac Brown thanked MSSC mem-

ber Maurice Duggins, MD, for his help last year in talking to his players and helping convince them to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

"He was a great comfort, helped our team tremendously," Brown said. "He helped our other sports too. Our guys talked to the other sports and those guys were willing to go out and get the shot."

Brown, a Mississippi native, talked about his journey from a small town to becoming the first Black coach to helm the men's basketball program in WSU history – and the first to lead a Division I men's basketball program in Kansas.

He then took questions from the audience, talked about this season's new players and how the transfer portal works.

"Please continue to support our basketball program," he said. "It's not built in one-two years. I've been here two years, one championship. Keep backing us up and we'll continue to grow."



▲ ASHLEY ROBBINS, MD, AND LAURA TATPATI, MD



▲ BARRY BLOOM, MD, AND ALICE BLOOM



▲ KIM KROHN, MD, AND RICK KELLERMAN, MD



▲ MAURICE DUGGINS, MD, AND GWEN DUGGINS



▲ ANTHONY POLLOCK, MD, AND P.J. REDDY, MD



▲ STEPHEN GRINDEL, DO, AND PHILLIP BROWNLEE

TORNADO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"They need to build a safe room, because if it wasn't for a safe room, I don't think my family would be here."

The Blooms didn't own the home at the time of the 1991 tornado, an evening he recalls spending on the eighth floor of St. Francis Hospital. But "we knew it was kind of a preferred path," he said, so they invested in a safe room when they made the move. Bloom said he plans to rebuild on the beloved property.

Asked how MSSC members can help, Bloom said he and his family don't need anything. But he recommended donations to the tornado recovery fund, which is being coordinated by United Way of the Plains. Text "teamwork" to 41444, or go to <https://tinyurl.com/ICT-Tornado-Help>

"I really wish to express 'thank you' to all the MSSC members" who have reached out to share their concern, Bloom said.

It was the first encounter with a tornado for the native Kansan and 40-year MSSC member. "I hope it's my last," he said.



▲ STEPHANIE KUHLMANN, DO



▲ JOHN LASAK, MD



▲ CHADY SARRAF, MD, FADI JOUDI, MD, AND SAMER ANTONIOS, MD



▲ JENNIFER THUENER, MD

Legislative session saw expansion of APRN practice

This year's Kansas Legislative session was challenging and frustrating, as lawmakers approved a scope of practice expansion for APRNs and pursued several measures reacting to COVID-19 policies.

The biggest disappointment was a bill enabling APRNs to prescribe drugs without a collaborative practice agreement with physicians. It was approved and signed into law despite the opposition from physicians throughout the state. The measure requires APRNs to purchase malpractice insurance, although they won't be part of the Health Care Stabilization Fund.

The Kansas Medical Society "believes that education and training matter when it comes to patient care, and that a physician-directed care team is the best way to ensure high quality, safe patient care," Executive Director Rachelle Colombo said in an update to members. "Unfortunately, the politically potent business community that is driving this issue in the legislature doesn't see it that way, even though by overwhelming majorities Kansans believe it is important to have their care provided by physician-directed teams."

The Kansas Chamber and Americans for Prosperity applied their financial resources and political pressure to push the bill through. One positive is that the measure was a significantly pared-down version of earlier bills introduced over the past several years by nursing groups.

Other bills that cleared the Legislature include:

- The drug management therapy committee consisting of pharmacists and physicians has been authorized to establish statewide protocols for the independent treatment of influenza, strep throat and urinary tract infections.

- The Legislature attempted to extend until Jan. 20, 2023, liability immunity protections against pandemic-related lawsuits for businesses and health care providers. However, the governor vetoed the bill over expanded liability protections for health care providers. The Legislature did not override the veto.
- The governor vetoed a bill that would have prohibited any government official from requiring the wearing of masks in response to an infectious disease. The bill also would have barred schools from requiring any vaccination that the CDC has not fully approved. The Legislature did not override the veto.

Issues that cleared at least one chamber of the Legislature but didn't become law include medical marijuana and several measures related to COVID-19, including bills about prescribing ivermectin. The Legislature also continued to oppose efforts by Gov. Laura Kelly to expand Medicaid, but it extended the state's Medicaid postpartum coverage from the current 60 days following birth to 12 months.

Despite the challenging outcome of this year's session, MSSC and KMS appreciate the support and engagement of physicians.

"Though this session was disappointing in a number of ways, it was encouraging to see the number of MSSC members that were engaged and active in contacting their legislators," said Kevin Hoppock, MD, MSSC and KMS legislative committee chairman.

"We will continue to do all we can to help our legislators make Kansas a great place to provide and receive medical care. Thanks to all of you who contacted legislators and shared their opinions on the APRN bill and other measures."

In Brief ▶▶▶ New and noteworthy

MSSC docs earn Good Apple Award



Wichita USD 259 Superintendent Dr. Alicia Thompson recently presented the Good Apple Award to the Kansas COVID Workgroup for Kids, which includes several MSSC members. The award was presented to group members who worked directly with the district, helping it navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Award recipients included Paul Teran, MD, Amy Seery, MD, Stephanie Kuhlmann, DO, Kari Harris, MD, and Rebecca Reddy, MD. Also recognized were Kelli Netson, PhD, as well as district nurse Kimber Kasitz.



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Dreams: Realized

In Brief ▶▶▶

New and noteworthy

Strecker to helm Ascension Kansas



Kevin Strecker was named Ascension Kansas ministry market executive and senior vice president for Ascension, bringing more than two decades of health care leadership experience to his new role, the health system announced April 29.

Strecker, who is currently hospital president and chief operating officer for Ascension Via Christi, is taking over the lead from Don King, who is moving to Ascension's Florida and Gulf Coast ministry market effective July 1.

Strecker joined Ascension Via Christi in 1994, serving at what today is Ascension Via Christi Rehabilitation Hospital. After a brief stint in Chicago with HealthSouth, he moved back to Wichita in 2002 and rejoined Ascension Via Christi as director of Radiology. He subsequently was promoted to vice president of Imaging and Laboratory Services.

In 2009, Strecker was named vice president of Operations for Ascension Via Christi's Wichita hospitals and the following year was selected to lead newly constructed Ascension Via Christi St. Teresa. In 2016, he took on the role of senior administrator for Ascension Medical Group Via Christi. Two years later, he was chosen to serve as interim regional hospital president and in 2019 he moved to his role as the operational leader for Ascension Via Christi's Kansas hospitals.

In Kansas, Ascension operates seven hospitals and 75 other health care sites, employing nearly 6,400 people.

Three selected for sports fellowship

The KUSM-W Sports Medicine Fellowship announced its fellows for the 2022-23 academic year. Caleb Holder, DO, is completing his training at the KUSM-W Family Medicine Residency Program at Ascension Via Christi. Aaron Sinclair, MD, is currently a faculty member at KUSM-W Family Medicine Residency Program at Wesley Medical Center. Lt. Col. Amy Thompson, DO, is the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) surgeon at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Last year, the program noted out of 202 sports medicine fellowships in the United States, the KUSM-Wichita Sports Medicine Fellowship ranked #8 in program performance on the American Board of Family Medicine Certificate of Added Qualifications (CAQ) examination for the past five years.

Dockings endow faculty development

Bill and Judy Docking have endowed a fund to support development opportunities for new and young faculty of the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita Department of Family and Community Medicine.

The Dockings created the Bill and Judy Docking Faculty Development Fund during the "One Day. One KU." day of giving organized by KU Endowment on Feb. 17, KUSM-Wichita reported.

"Bill and Judy Docking are friends of family medicine," said Rick Kellerman, MD. "They recognize the importance of family physicians who care for patients in both rural and urban Kansas communities. Their financial commitment and philosophic support should encourage all of us to do the best we can to educate the next generation of family physicians for Kansas."

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



Jeffrey D. Bell, MD

[BC] Anesthesiology
Anesthesia Consulting Services (7/1/22)
OFF: 304-926-0427
FAX: 866-413-9233
PO Box 2897, 67201
NPI: 1770963761

Medical education obtained at UT Health Science Center at San Antonio 8/2011-5/2015. Residency in Anesthesiology at KUSM-Wichita 7/2015-6/2019.



Kara A. Ehlers, MD

[BC] Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility
[BC] Obstetrics & Gynecology
Center for Reproductive Medicine
OFF: 316-687-2112
FAX: 316-687-1260
9300 E 29th St N S-102, 67226
NPI: 1497070239

Medical education obtained at MU School of Medicine, Columbia 8/2006-5/2010. Residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas 7/2010-6/2014. Fellowship in Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility at University of Louisville School of Medicine 7/2014-6/2017.



Christopher S. Havey, DO

[R] Anesthesiology
Anesthesia Consulting Services (7/1/22)
OFF: 304-926-0427
FAX: 866-413-9233
PO Box 2897, 67201
NPI: 1336644194

Medical education obtained at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kansas City, MO 7/2014-5/2018. Residency in Anesthesiology at Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, IL 7/2018-6/2022.



Maxwell D. Jolly, MD

[BC] Anesthesiology
[F*] Regional Anesthesiology & Acute Pain Medicine
Wichita Anesthesiology, Chtd (7/1/22)
OFF: 316-686-7327
FAX: 316-686-1557
8080 E Central S-250, 67206
NPI: 1184158438

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Wichita 8/2013-5/2017. Residency in Anesthesiology at OU Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City 7/2017-6/2021. Fellowship in Regional Anesthesiology & Acute Pain Medicine at UNC Medical Center, Chapel Hill 7/2021-6/2022.



Vinh K. Pham, MD

[BC] Anesthesiology
[F] Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology
Wichita Anesthesiology, Chtd (7/1/22)
OFF: 316-686-7327
FAX: 316-686-1557
8080 E Central S-250, 67206
NPI: 1265813166

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Kansas City 7/2010-5/2015. Residency in Anesthesiology at KUSM-Wichita 7/2015-6/2019. Fellowship in Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center - Temple, TX 7/2019-7/2020.

ROSTER UPDATE *continued*

Keep your 2022 roster current with this information.

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



Jack H. Staddon, MD, PhD

[BC] Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
[BC] Pediatrics
KUSM-Wichita Pediatrics
OFF: 316-962-2080
FAX: 316-962-2079
3243 E Murdock S-510, 67208
NPI: 1952500415

Medical education and PhD obtained at University of Minnesota Medical School, Minneapolis 9/1997-5/2007. Residency in Pediatrics at Loma Linda University School of Medicine, CA 7/2007-5/2011. Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City 7/2011-6/2014.

REINSTATE TO ACTIVE



Elizabeth D. Cox, MD

[BC] Obstetrics & Gynecology
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi OB/GYN (6/1/22)
OFF: 316-274-1550
FAX: 316-274-1569
1515 S Clifton S-400, 67218
NPI: 1316956493
MSSC member 2007-2015.

CHANGES

Marc Olivier Duverseau, MD

[BC] Surgery
NMC Health Surgical Specialists

Traditions Health (formerly Serenity Home Health and Serenity Hospice Care)
traditionshealth.com
Same addresses, phone & fax numbers

Cameron E. West, MD

[BC] Dermatology
[BC] Dermatopathology
U.S. Dermatology Partners (6/13/22)
OFF: 316-500-7207
FAX: 316-500-7208
3730 N Ridge Rd S-600, 67205

DROPPED

Iskandar Barakat, MD – Moved out of state
John D. Knudtson, MD – Moved out of state
Andrew I. Lauronilla, MD – Moved out of area
Thuy Thu Thi Means, MD – Moving out of state 7/1/22
Michael L. Su, MD – Moving out of state 6/30/22
Whitney Williams, DO – 4/22/22

In Remembrance

MSSC extends its condolences to the family of Dr. Brown.

Longtime family physician Val Brown Sr., MD, who practiced medicine in Wichita from 1948 until 1994, died April 20. He was 98.

Brown's family spanned three generations of medical doctors. His father, G.G. Brown, moved to Wichita from his home town of Atchison and was one of the first Black physicians in Wichita.

Brown Sr., who, like his father, earned his medical degree from Howard University, began practicing in Wichita in 1948, the same year he joined MSSC.

Hospitals were segregated when Brown began his practice, and he and his family were not welcome to eat in certain Wichita restaurants. But society slowly changed, and Brown became the first Black physician to have privileges at Wesley Medical Center. His wife, Jo, also became the first woman of color elected to the Wichita School Board.

And his legacy continues. His son, Val Brown Jr., MD, graduated from the KUSM-Wichita in 1979, one of the first two African Americans to do so.

Brown's retirement in 1994 earned a front-page article in the Wichita Eagle, which called him a "quiet hero" who was known for never turning away someone in need. "Oh, no, he doesn't turn people away," his youngest daughter, Martienne Brown, said at the time. "The man is truly a selfless giver."



DR. BROWN SR.

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UPDATE

May 2022

Central Plains Health Care Partnership

From the executive director



SHELLEY DUNCAN

Project Access

Project Access remains busy enrolling clients in the Project Access program. Due to staffing issues at some of the Federally Qualified Health Centers, there was a slow down in referrals earlier this year. However, it appears referrals are returning to normal. Project Access continues to work diligently to ensure all clients have the medications they need corresponding to their medical condition for which they are referred. Project Access Prescription Assistance Coordinator Fern McGehee works closely with local pharmacies, as well as pharmaceutical companies to access pharmaceuticals at the lowest cost possible. Hundreds of thousands of dollars in prescription medication is donated each year through the pharmaceutical companies, thanks to Fern.

The Project Access Affordable Care Act (ACA) Patient Navigator has achieved the goals set by the THRIVE Allen County grant. It is likely this program will continue in 2023. Patient Navigator Shant'e Walker continues to provide outreach in the community to educate and enroll adults in the ACA marketplace.

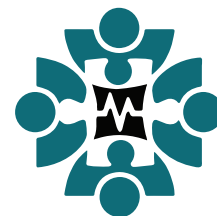
Through a generous donation from the Beach Foundation, Project Access was able to purchase 100 Self-Monitor Blood Pressure kits to help clients on hypertensive medications. Project Access is working with the University of Kansas Medical School Mid-Town Clinic, which is distributing and training clients to use these monitors. In addition, Project Access is working with the Evergreen Community Center and community health workers trained as Healthy Heart Ambassadors. The Healthy Heart program is a six-month program for adults with hypertension and utilizes self-monitored blood pressure measures, along with education on nutrition and other healthy lifestyle choices.

Kansas Business Group on Health

KBGH 2021 Benchmarking Survey and Annual Report have been completed and sent to all members. KBGH continues offering monthly webinars, typically the second Tuesday of each month. In addition, KBGH will be hosting its Annual Healthcare Roundtable on July 12 at the Wichita Boathouse. This event will be a hybrid with virtual and in-person attendance. This year's event will focus on ways employers can positively disrupt their health care benefit plans and improve outcomes while reducing costs.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) of 2021 is a law that KBGH is helping employers better understand. There are several provisions of this law that will impact employers as health plan sponsors and the responsible fiduciary for these plans. KBGH works with the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions to provide resources to increase awareness and understanding of this law. A focus of the CAA is on transparency related to consultants, providers, and pharmaceuticals. While the law has become effective, it is unclear if the dates outlined in the law will be enforced.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



**Kansas Business Group
on Health**

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Why you matter

Project Access Patient Testimonial

Frank Project Access patient

GraceMed referred Frank to Project Access for cataract surgery, as his employer at that time did not offer insurance. Frank drives a box truck and was relieved that he would be able to continue to drive once he had the surgery.

But while Frank was enrolled and waiting for his cataract surgery, he began having difficulty breathing. He was referred to a donating cardiologist who discovered the need for a double bypass. Another specialist, a thoracic surgeon, donated the bypass surgery.

As months passed, Frank noticed a concern when using the restroom and took an at-home colon screening. The test revealed he needed to see yet

another specialist and was referred to a general surgeon for a colonoscopy. Frank was diagnosed with rectal cancer and began treatment with a donating oncologist. His prognosis is good and he will have a surgery soon to remove the tumors that were shrunk by the radiation.

Frank said he is grateful Project Access has restored his vision, mended his heart and halted the cancer. Project Access provided the opportunity for Frank to see every specialist he needed, thus saving his life.

Frank also knows Project Access has saved him financially. Project Access tracks the amount of donated care a patient receives and Frank's medical claims totaled \$657,326 – an amount that would have devastated everything he has worked for his entire life.



About Project Access

In 1999, Project Access began coordinating access to donated medical care for uninsured, low-income residents of Sedgwick County. Thanks to our founding funders – United Way of the Plains, the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County – Project Access is still able to serve the community today. This is who participates in Project Access:

- 640 physicians • Eight hospital systems • 14 dentists • 85 pharmacies
- Other allied health care services, such as physical therapy and hospice care

Eligible uninsured patients are enrolled for limited periods of time to address immediate medical needs. Once enrolled, patients have access to a variety of specialists, as well as prescription medication, durable medical equipment and diabetic supplies. Since 1999:

- 14,843 patients served
- \$56,694,234 physician contributions
- \$188,083,365 hospital contributions
- \$132,177 dentist contributions
- \$5,772,772 purchased medications and durable medical equipment
- \$6,017,430 donated medications
- 38,670 tests utilized through the Coalition Test Project

Update on community programs

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Some dates have already been postponed. For more information about this law contact Shelley Duncan at shelleyduncan@cphcp.com.

In collaboration with the Health and Wellness Coalition, KBGH is hosting a Vendor Showcase on June 21 from 10-11:30 a.m. Four companies offering unique products and services specific to employers will be presenting. This is the second collaborative effort with the Health and Wellness Coalition.

KBGH continues to offer services that are proven to reduce costs and improve quality. One such service, currently being used by one KBGH member, has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings on pharmaceuticals. The program ECRx is available to members of KBGH. ECRx is a pass-through transparent Pharmacy Benefit Management (PBM) company that provides a more transparent option than more traditional PBMs.

Health ICT

Health ICT has assisted a local pharmacy with starting a Diabetes Self-Management Education & Support program by supporting them going through a DSMES "bootcamp" where they learned reimbursement and other program strategies, and completed everything needed to be certified. The staff at Health ICT have been trained as "Healthy Heart Ambassadors," a program that assists patients with high blood pressure to better manage their condition through at-home blood pressure monitoring. Health ICT assisted a local clinic with a large population of low-income patients with creating a process for screening expectant mothers for gestational diabetes and referring them to the diabetes prevention program. Work is being done to enhance medical "apps" to better engage patients with chronic health conditions.

Shelley Duncan
Executive Director

MSSC NEWS

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