

# MSSC NEWS

## New med students hit the ground running

School has officially started for more than 100 brand-new medical students in Wichita, marking the beginning of their exciting, challenging and rewarding journeys to becoming physicians.

The excitement was palpable at Wichita's newest medical school, the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, the first DO school in the state of Kansas, which welcomed its inaugural class of 91 students for orientation the final week in July.

On the last day of orientation, Nicholas Palisch, PhD, director of student services and affairs, led students on a game-show style exercise to guess which student was being described based on their hobbies, family and other personalized facts.

The exercise was designed to draw students into a close, cohesive group that will work together over the next several years in a team-based learning approach both in and out of the classroom, Palisch said.

The campus is situated in the historic Finney State Office Building and features a clean, open design, state-of-the-art technology and spacious learning spaces with an osteopathic skills training center, standardized patient teaching rooms, large



▲ SCHOOL IS IN SESSION — STUDENT SERVICES AND AFFAIRS DIRECTOR NICHOLAS PALISCH LEADS NEW DO STUDENTS IN TEAM-BUILDING EXERCISES AT THE NEW KANSAS COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE ON JULY 29.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KUSM

▲ THE BEST DAY — GAROLD MINNS, MD, DEAN OF KUSM-WICHITA, WELCOMES A NEW MEDICAL STUDENT AT THE ANNUAL WHITE COAT CEREMONY ON JULY 22.

PLEASE SEE **STUDENTS**, PAGE 2

## As COVID-19 becomes endemic, medical community must persist

Relaxed guidelines released this month from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention essentially granted license to individuals to determine how to protect themselves and others from spreading COVID-19. But physicians and hospitals should continue to put safety first, health officials said.

"This year doesn't have to be like last year if we use what we have learned about stopping the spread and severity of illness — i.e., getting vaccinated and boosted in a timely manner," said Sam Antonios, MD, chief clinical officer for Ascension Via Christi. Both Ascension and Wesley Healthcare hospitals require masking and have other safety protocols in place.

"As physicians, we should be encouraging our patients to get vaccinated and boosted and to mask up as needed, and encourage our children to do the same," Antonios said.

As COVID-19 joins the ranks of other respiratory viruses seen every year, many people are eschewing masks and are mingling in restaurants, grocery stores and other public areas unprotected. Health officials acknowledge that most of the population has some degree of immunity, either from vaccination or infec-

tion. Local hospitals continue to see a fairly slow but consistent pace of positive COVID-19 cases. Many of those, hospital officials have said, are secondary cases — tested after the patient was admitted for something else.

"The country is in an endemic phase now and none of this comes as a surprise," said Lowell Ebersole, DO, chief medical officer for Wesley Healthcare.

The importance of vaccination and safety during flu season should not be underestimated, said Garold Minns, MD, Sedgwick County's public health officer. Vulnerable populations of people — those with immune deficiencies, cancer and the like — need to be extra careful.

"We were probably too lackadaisical about flu season," Minns said. "This flu season, we should all consider wearing masks when the season is at peak. There's no mandate, but it's a common-sense thing to consider; it's respectful of your neighbors."



Dr. Minns



AUGUST  
2022

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our patients,  
our community,  
and our profession.*

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MEDICAL SOCIETY of  
SEDGWICK COUNTY

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

# Welcome, new students, residents and working physicians



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

School is back in session. Local stores are generously stocked with classroom supplies, backpacks and lunch bags. Even Menards has a section of notebooks, pencils, paper and highlighters for shoppers to pick up when they are

looking for housewares and lumber.

Quietly, without nearly the same fanfare or attention, Wichita has welcomed new medical students and new medical residents in the past two months. New students at KUSM-Wichita and the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine are charging down the path of their medical education. For many, this will be a wonderful learning adventure. For others, this will be more of a challenge than they ever imagined. Wichita's multiple residency programs have launched their new residents into the first of many rotations, welcoming them into the hospitals and clinics where they are learning too many passwords, EMR programs, practice protocols and complex call schedules.

Also new in the community are those physicians who have just finished their residencies and fellowships and are the newly hired "attending" doctors. These new doctors are working independently for the first time. They may be launching their careers eagerly or with trepidation, without any supervising senior physicians overseeing their work and decisions. These newcomers just quietly show up on hospital and clinic rosters, approved by Medical Staff Committees. The rest of the medical community may not even know they are in town, unless the monthly MSSC newsletter new members section is read (assuming the new doctors join MSSC).

The transition from student and resident to working physician can be quite challenging for some doctors. After years of a focus-driven education and training path, the finish line has been reached. Grades, scores and activities in high school led to college. Good performance in college with appropriate extracurriculars and proof of being well-rounded individuals with good MCAT scores led to medical school. Grades, test scores, Step Scores and rotation evaluations all led to residency and fellowships. Interviews and residency evaluations then led to employment.

It can sometimes be difficult to settle into a permanent job at the end of this stairstep path. When you work and strive to achieve a "next step" for 11-plus years, what happens when there is no "next step" to conquer?

With employment, there are many significant transitions. Most doctors have to go through a process of learning to be "done." Not done learning, by any means; CME requirements and the ever-changing landscape of medical information require learning throughout our whole career. But new doctors are done planning for the next rotation and the next step in training.

They are also done scheduling their day around the attending physician's agenda and plans. They learn to set their own schedule and calendar of events and patient encounters. Now, work conflicts that interfere with family events are not because of the whims of an attending; these conflicts are of our own doing and prioritization.

As physicians out of training, outside of MIPS or HEDIS measures, we are rarely graded using standardized questions or specific metrics. Most often, we are graded and assessed using very soft, subjective measures: patient experience questionnaires, public opinion or social media mentions, the mood of our patients, the first impressions created by our offices and staff, the tone of our voices, our appearance, the actual and perceived amount of time spent with patients, our interactions with family members, communication with peers and team members, our information sharing methods, and our perceived medical knowledge. New physicians can be overwhelmed by these new rules and experiences, outside of the confines (and protection) of a training program.

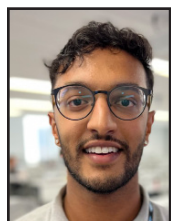
I would encourage you all to flip to the end of this newsletter. Look for the new doctors listed under Roster Update, then keep an eye out for these new colleagues and consider them for patient referrals or greet them and welcome them to our community. If you encounter or teach new residents, encourage them to attend MSSC events in the upcoming year where they can meet and talk with doctors who have made the transition out of training and who won't be "pimping them" for a few hours.

I also hope that all of you who have read this far will join me on Sept. 13 for an MSSC member tour of the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, which has welcomed its first class of medical students to the school and to our community.

## STUDENTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lecture halls and small-group study rooms.

Next year, KansasCOM expects to admit 137 students into its program, but many of the students who started Aug. 1 say they are thrilled to be part of the foundational class that will shape the future of the school, its culture and its environment.



**Avanthsa**

"It's such a great opportunity to be a part of something new and build it from the ground up," said Urvaksh Avanthsa, student government president. "We're here not just working to become physicians, but to help the school to succeed."

Meanwhile, the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita welcomed 28 first-year medical students this year, filling out its ranks of nearly 200 students. The Class of 2026 has 212 students from all three of KUSM's campuses in Kansas City, Salina and Wichita, school officials said. KUSM-Wichita also manages 298 residents in 14 programs. They speak 14 different languages, including English.

"We have the most diverse class we've ever had," said Garold

Minns, MD, dean of KUSM-Wichita. "The school has worked very hard in being open, creating a level playing field for applicants."

New medical students at KUSM participated in its annual White Coat Ceremony during orientation week on July 22, donning the traditional white coat as a symbol of their new journey to become health care professionals.

Michael Lane, a student at KUSM-Wichita, said on KUSM's website that he expected to be intellectually challenged.

"I look forward to acquiring the necessary knowledge and skills to become the competent, compassionate and empathetic physician that we want and need at our most vulnerable times."

### MSSC at KansasCOM

**WHEN:** 6-8 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 13

**PLACE:** Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine, Broadway and William in downtown Wichita

**COST:** Free appetizers and drinks. Spouses welcome.

**RSVP:** By Thursday, Sept. 8.

Email [denisephillips@med-soc.org](mailto:denisephillips@med-soc.org) or call (316) 683-7558.



# 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



### Parker E. Bohm, MD

[BC] Neurology [F\*] Neuro-Ophthalmology  
Neurology Consultants of Kansas, LLC (9/1/22)  
OFF: 316-261-3220 | FAX: 316-261-3299  
Toll Free: 866-855-8669  
2135 N Collective Ln, 67206  
NPI: 1598299935

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Kansas City 7/2012-6/2017. Residency in Neurology at Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL 7/2017-6/2021. Fellowship in Neuro-Ophthalmology at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis 7/2021-6/2022.



### Angela I. Carrick, DO

[BC] Emergency Medicine  
Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine  
Associate Dean of Pre-Clerkship Ed., Associate Prof. of Emergency Med  
OFF: 316-315-5454  
217 E Douglas, 67202  
NPI: 1508939729

Medical education obtained at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences 8/2001-5/2005. Internship and Residency in Emergency Medicine at Integris Southwest Medical Center, Oklahoma City 7/2005-6/2009.



### Kristine M. Casanova Torres, MD

[R] Pediatrics  
KUSM-Wichita Pediatric Hospitalists  
OFF: 316-962-6908 | FAX: 316-962-7943  
550 N Hillside, 67214  
NPI: 1144887605

Medical education obtained at Ponce Health Sciences University, Ponce, Puerto Rico 8/2015-5/2019. Residency in Pediatrics at KUSM-Wichita 7/2019-6/2022.



### Jeffrey D. Cotter, MD

[R] Family Medicine  
Northwest Family Physicians  
OFF: 316-462-6200 | FAX: 316-462-6201  
3730 N Ridge Rd S-100, 67205  
NPI: 1861811085

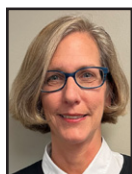
Medical education obtained at KUSM-Wichita 7/2010-5/2014. Residency in Family Medicine at Siouxland Medical Education Foundation, Sioux City, IA 1/2019-6/2022.



### Tanner B. Dean, DO

[R] Internal Medicine  
KUSM-Wichita Internal Medicine  
OFF: 316-293-2622 | FAX: 855-517-9494  
8533 E 32nd St N, 67226  
NPI: 1295393957

Medical education obtained at A.T. Still University, Kirksville, MO 7/2015-5/2019. Residency in Internal Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2019-6/2022.



### Marie M. Hand, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine  
Internal Medicine South, LLC  
OFF: 316-689-6005 | FAX: 316-691-6785  
1431 S Bluffview S-111, 67218  
NPI: 1396772943

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Kansas City and KUSM-Wichita 8/1986-5/1990. Internship at KUSM-Kansas City and KUSM-Wichita 6/1990-6/1991. Residency in Internal Medicine at KUSM-Kansas City 7/1991-5/1993.



### Bethany G. Harpole, MD

[R] Surgery  
[F] Thoracic Surgery  
Wichita Surgical Specialists, PA  
OFF: 316-858-5000  
FAX: 316-858-1026  
9350 E 35th St N S-103, 67226  
NPI: 1891175733

Medical education obtained at University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine, Iowa City 8/2011-5/2015. Residency in General Surgery at KUSM-Wichita 7/2015-6/2020. Fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine, Maywood, IL 8/2020-7/2022.



### Adam D. Keesling, MD

[BC] Family Medicine  
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi - Andover Rd  
OFF: 316-274-4976  
FAX: 316-274-4981  
612 N Andover Rd  
Andover, KS 67002  
NPI: 1881956001

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Wichita 8/2008-5/2012. Residency in Family Medicine at Fort Wayne Medical Education Program, Fort Wayne, IN 7/2012-6/2015.



### Elizabeth A. Lewis, MD

[BC] Family Medicine  
[F] Sports Medicine  
KUSM-Wichita Pediatrics  
OFF: 316-962-3100  
FAX: 316-962-3132  
620 N Carriage Parkway, 67208  
NPI: 1992291876

Medical education obtained at MU School of Medicine, Columbia 7/2014-5/2018. Residency in Family Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2018-6/2021. Fellowship in Sports Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2021-6/2022.



### Harsh R. Nathani, MD

[BC] Anesthesiology  
[F] Pediatric Anesthesiology  
Wichita Anesthesiology, Chtd  
OFF: 316-686-7327  
FAX: 316-686-1557  
8080 E Central S-250, 67206  
NPI: 1073034781

Medical education obtained at University of Sheffield Medical School, UK 9/2011-6/2016. Internship at Yorkshire & Humber Deanery, Sheffield, UK 7/2016-5/2017. Residency in Anesthesiology at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago 7/2017-6/2021. Fellowship in Pediatric Anesthesiology at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago 7/2021-6/2022.



### Thao T. Nguyen, DO

[BC] Internal Medicine  
[F] Gastroenterology  
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi - Founders Cir  
OFF: 316-274-4707  
FAX: 316-613-5396  
1947 Founders Cir, 67206  
NPI: 1972957488

Medical education obtained at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences 8/2012-5/2016. Residency in Internal Medicine at Medical City Fort Worth 7/2016-6/2019. Fellowship in Gastroenterology at Medical City Fort Worth 7/2019-6/2022.

## 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



### Joseph Saffold, MD

[R] Family Medicine  
KUSM-Wichita Family Medicine Residency at Wesley  
OFF: 316-962-3070  
FAX: 316-962-3136  
850 N Hillside, 67214  
NPI: 1285292482

Medical education obtained at Creighton University

School of Medicine, Omaha 8/2014-12/2018. Residency in Family Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2019-6/2022.



### Sarah Schippers, MD

[R] Orthopaedic Surgery  
[F] Hand Surgery  
Kansas Orthopaedic Center, PA  
Focus: Hand  
OFF: 316-838-2020  
FAX: 316-838-7574  
Toll Free: 800-937-2020

7550 W Village Cir S-1, 67205

NPI: 1588012868

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Kansas City 8/2012-5/2016.

Residency in Orthopaedic Surgery at University of Iowa Health Care, Iowa City 7/2016-6/2021. Fellowship in Hand Surgery at HealthPartners Institute/Regions Hospital, Saint Paul, MN 8/2021-7/2022.



### Taryn Schuknecht, DO

[R] Obstetrics & Gynecology  
Associates in Women's Health, PA  
OFF: 316-685-7234  
FAX: 316-685-0317  
3232 E Murdock, 67208  
OFF: 316-722-5141  
FAX: 316-722-6313

8710 W 13th St S-100, 67212

NPI: 1932692068

Medical education obtained at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences 7/2014-5/2018. Residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at KUSM-Wichita 7/2018-6/2022.



### Obada Tayyem, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine  
[F] Gastroenterology  
Kansas Gastroenterology, LLC  
OFF: 316-261-3130  
FAX: 316-261-3275  
3121 N Webb Rd, 67226  
NPI: 1487006672

Medical education obtained at University of Jordan, Amman 9/2008-6/2014. Internship at Ministry of Health, Amman, Jordan 7/2014-6/2015. Residency in Internal Medicine at UT Medical Branch, Galveston 7/2016-6/2019. Fellowship in Gastroenterology & Hepatology at UT Medical Branch, Galveston 7/2019-6/2022.



### Delane H. Vaughn, MD

[BC] Family Medicine  
WSU Student Health Services  
OFF: 316-978-4792  
FAX: 316-978-3517  
1845 N Fairmount, 67260  
NPI: 1871888248

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Wichita 8/2007-

5/2011. Internship and Residency at KUSM-Wichita 7/2011-6/2014.

## REINSTATE TO ACTIVE



### R. Kevin Bryant, MD

[BC] Family Medicine  
[AT] Geriatric Medicine  
Wichita Medical Associates, PA  
OFF: 316-686-7117  
FAX: 316-686-2679  
347 S Laura, 67211  
NPI: 1982654638

MSSC member 1989-2019.



### Stephen D. Clark, MD

[BC] Diagnostic Radiology  
Kansas Imaging Consultants, PA  
OFF: 316-689-5050  
FAX: 316-689-6192  
3600 E Harry, 67218  
NPI: 1881676286  
MSSC member 2000-2017.



### Justin L. Gooden, MD

[R] Pediatrics  
Mid-West Center for Wound Healing  
Focus: Wound Care  
OFF: 316-962-2239  
FAX: 316-962-2668  
550 N Hillside, 67214  
NPI: 1205127982  
MSSC member 2014-2020 and 2021-2022.



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Dreams: *Realized*

# 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



**Patrick E. Roach, MD**  
[BC] Anesthesiology  
Mid-Continent Anesthesiology,  
Chtd  
OFF: 316-789-8444  
FAX: 316-789-8444  
6505 E Central S-288, 67206  
NPI: 1710335112

MSSC member 2020-2021.

## CHANGES

**Sarab Alseoudi, MD**  
Neurology Specialists  
Same address, phone, fax

**Chad P. Ammar, MD**  
Wichita Surgical Specialists, PA  
OFF: 316-858-5000  
Toll Free: 866-858-5001  
9350 E 35th St N S-103, 67226  
Same fax

**Sheryl M. Beard, MD**  
Ascension Via Christi Hospitals Wichita  
OFF: 316-268-5865  
Same address, fax

**Bala Bhimavarapu, MD**  
**J. Elizabeth Heflin, MD**  
**Duygu Uzun, MD**  
**S. Eric Wadud, MD**  
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi - Pediatric  
Hospitalists  
OFF: 316-268-5000  
FAX: 316-268-1597  
Same address

**Erik A. Calderon, MD**  
**Elisha N. Yaghamai, MD**  
FreeState Healthcare  
OFF: 800-924-8140  
FAX: 316-789-6210  
4704 E Oakland St, 67218

**John P. Estivo, DO**  
Mid Continent Orthopedics, PA  
FAX: 316-330-3968  
Same address, phone

**Jerry G. Gaston, DO**  
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi - North  
Ridge Rd  
email: jerry.gaston@ascension.org

**Earl F. George, MD**  
General Practice  
OFF: 316-250-2144  
8 Via Verde, 67230  
email: earlgeo82@aol.com

**Greg G. Greer, MD**  
[BC] Family Medicine  
Primary Care Associates (9/26/22)  
OFF: 316-684-2851  
FAX: 316-683-5239  
7111 E 21st St N S-A, 67206

**Lana N. Hattar, MD**  
**Mayssa Zayat, MD**  
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi - Pediatric  
Gastroenterology  
FAX: 316-291-7993  
Same address, phone

**Penny E. Jeffery, MD**  
HealthCore Clinic  
FAX: 877-544-1063  
Same address, phone

**Umbur Z. Khan, MD**  
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi  
- Neurology  
848 N St Francis S-3949 (not S-3901), 67214  
Same phone, fax

**Terry D. Klein, MD**  
**Thomas C. Klein, MD**  
**Terry L. Poling, MD**  
AMR-Heartland Research  
Focus: Clinical Research  
OFF: 316-689-6635  
FAX: 316-689-6690  
1709 S Rock Rd, 67207

**Tracy Klein, MD**  
[BC] Family Medicine  
Wichita Family Medicine Specialists (9/12/22)  
OFF: 316-858-5800  
FAX: 316-858-5850  
800 N Carriage Parkway, 67208

**Sinisa Malinovic, MD**  
[BC] Anesthesiology  
Kansas Heart Hospital  
OFF: 316-630-5000  
FAX: 316-630-5050  
3601 N Webb Rd, 67226

**Priscilla E. Mieses-Llavat, MD**  
**Pedro A. Murati, MD**  
Midwest Physiatriests, PA  
9415 E Harry S-602 (not S-506),  
67207  
Same phone, fax

**Wyssem A. Ramdani, MD**  
[BC] Neurocritical Care  
Ascension Medical Group Via  
Christi - Neurology

**Billy D. Richardson, Jr., MD**  
GraceMed Health Clinic  
1905 S Laura, 67211  
Same phone, fax

**Yvonne L. Saunders-Teigeler, MD**  
[BC] Family Medicine  
Intermountain Healthcare  
OFF: 702-233-8855  
1700 N Buffalo Dr S-100  
Las Vegas, NV 89128

**Professional Pharmacy**  
New address:  
401 N Waco  
Wichita, KS 67202

## RETIRING

**R. Larry Beamer, MD** – 7/31/22  
**Timothy M. Koehler, DO** – 9/1/22  
**Debra L. Messamore, MD** – 9/1/22  
**Travis W. Stembridge, MD** – 9/16/22  
**Hai K. Truong, DO** – 8/12/22  
**Thanh N. Truong, DO** – 8/12/22

## DROPPED

Kelly D. Holloway, MD – Moved out of area  
Kimberly J. Hurd, DO – Moved out of area  
Ali A. Jamalallail, MD – Moved out of country  
Andrew J. Ormond, MD – Moved out of state  
George J. Philip, MD – Moved out of state  
Kyle P. Smith, DO – Moving out of state



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# UPDATE

August 2022

## Central Plains Health Care Partnership

From the executive director



SHELLEY DUNCAN

### Project Access

There has been a lot happening at Project Access these last few months, all of which is positive and allows our program to grow in our efforts to help further our reach to more individuals in need, including our clients. The first thing is we were funded by United Way to begin a new program called CARES (Compassionate Advancement of Resiliency, Equity, and Support). This program will add one full-time Community Health Worker (CHW) who will work with our clients who have one or more chronic diseases and are dealing with significant social determinants of health (SDOH). The goal of the CHW is to provide support, referral and direct service to those individuals in an effort to help control their disease(s), including pre-diabetes, diabetes, hypertension and hyperlipidemia. The CHW will be trained in the Healthy Heart Amba-

sador program, which focuses specifically on helping those with hypertension control their blood pressure through training on the use and distribution of self-monitored blood pressure cuffs and nutrition classes. We are still in the process of hiring for this position, which requires no degree but someone who is committed to our mission and can connect with the population to be served.

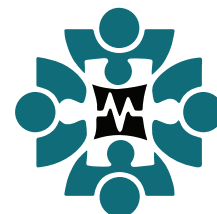
More positive news was received from THRIVE, a community health center in Iola, Kansas, and from which we received a contract last year to hire a Patient Navigator. Not only are we receiving our second year of funding for this position, but we also are receiving another contract for an additional grant entitled "Healthy Kids." This grant will focus on helping parents and children become enrolled in the Medicaid Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP), or Medicaid primarily for pregnant women. Our existing Patient Navigator will assume both roles.

Finally, you may recall we received funding from the state of Kansas along with the two other Project Access programs in state. This funding will be overseen by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. We are awaiting the sub-recipient agreement. These funds will ensure that we are able to continue our programming should any other funding be reduced. We did receive funding from United Way for our new CARES program as mentioned above, however, we received a reduction in funding for our regular Project Access program. Given our inability to bill for any of the services we provide, we must rely on governmental and philanthropic funding, for which we are eternally grateful.

Please mark your calendar for our second annual Altogether for Access event to be held at Dr. Donna Sweet's house on Thursday, Sept. 29, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Invitations will be coming soon. We expect another fun evening with a great turnout to help support our mission and our expanding care to those in need.

### Kansas Business Group on Health

Kansas Business Group on Health (KBGH) held its annual Healthcare Roundtable, which focused on disruptive methods for reducing costs for health care benefits. Employers and employees are spending more and more every year for health care, yet there are tools to help reduce costs and improve quality. This market seems hesitant to make many changes, but there are some efforts among a local physician and some other providers along with a broker/consultant, who are taking a different approach and have engaged at least one local employer to take a leap in doing something different.



**Kansas Business Group  
on Health**

### CONTACT US

1102 S. Hillside  
Wichita, KS 67211  
(316) 688-0600

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Why you matter

## Project Access Patient Testimonial

### Cherita – Project Access patient

Cherita had recently retired from work after leg pain made it increasingly difficult to perform her tasks as a CNA, a career she had for over 20 years. Shortly after retiring she received a diagnosis of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, a type of blood cancer. Without insurance, she was unclear how she was going to receive the care and treatment she needed. Interestingly, she struck up a conversation with a laundromat employee who shared her experience as a former Project Access patient.

Cherita said it was hard to ask for help, but Project Access made it easy. She said her service coordinator was truly kind and helpful, and her doctor was so good to her. Cherita sincerely thanks Project Access, as she doesn't know where she would be without our program. Her plan is to pay it forward and share her experience to anyone in need.

Recently, Cherita was approved for Medicaid and continues to see her doctor. Project Access wishes her continued success on her health journey.



### 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

Project Access and its community partners serve patients in many locations. 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:

- 14,916 patients served
- \$56,986,354 physician contributions
- \$190,052,087 hospital contributions
- \$132,177 dentist contributions
- \$5,786,650 purchased medications and durable medical equipment
- \$6,048,215 donated medications
- 39,492 tests utilized through the Coalition Test Project

## Update on community programs

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The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 has been a focus of KBGH in the attempt to help educate members regarding the new requirements for health care plan sponsors. While this law is very expansive, requirements for employers primarily address transparency, surprise billing and some other health plan-related requirements. It is important that any employer offering a health care benefit is responsible to ensure the requirements are in place. The dates for implementation are somewhat fluid for some requirements but others are firmly in place already. The Department of Labor is the primary federal agency responsible for oversight and is still figuring out how to monitor the requirements. There has been some movement on certain requirements, and financial penalties have been put in place for some carriers or employers. KBGH has several upcoming webinars, including a legal update for employers, understanding the drivers of health care costs, addressing health equity in benefit design, analyzing hospital safety and quality, and ways to address obesity.

KBGH has its 2021 Benchmarking Survey and Annual Report available. If interested, please contact Shelley Duncan at [shelleyduncan@cphcp.com](mailto:shelleyduncan@cphcp.com).

### Health ICT

The Kansas Business Group on Health/Health ICT continues to work with engaged partners to increase the availability and quality of resources for better prevention and management of chronic conditions, particularly diabetes and hypertension. We are supporting a health department in NE Kansas with developing and accrediting a Diabetes Self-Management Education & Support program that will be offered to residents of that county. We continue to support existing and recently established diabetes prevention and education programs in Wichita and across the state. As it relates to hypertension control, we are partnering with Project Access and Community Health Workers with Salud + Bienestar at the Evergreen Resource Center to offer the Healthy Heart Ambassador program to help improve blood pressure control of a select group of patients.

*Shelley Duncan*  
Executive Director

# MSSC NEWS

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