

120 MSSC NEWS

A Continuum of Care



JULY
2023

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Prior-authorization reform gains traction

Though efforts to reduce the burden of prior authorization didn't advance in the Kansas Legislature this year, there is hope for reform at the federal level.



Sen. Marshall

U.S. Sen. Roger Marshall, MD, who will be speaking at an MSSC membership meeting on Aug. 22, is leading a bipartisan effort to improve the Medicare Advantage prior-authorization process. At

a Senate hearing in May, Marshall complained that prior authorization has "become a tool to delay care – hoping the patient dies so they don't have to give any more care, I guess."

An audit revealed that Medicare Advantage plans ultimately approved 75% of requests that were originally denied. Another report found that MA plans requested unnecessary documentation, made manual review efforts and system errors, and used clinical criteria that are not contained in Medicare coverage rules.

The Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act passed the U.S. House with over 300 cosponsors but has yet to reach the floor of the Senate. Among other provisions, the bill would:

- Establish an electronic prior-authorization process to streamline approvals and denials;
- Create national standards for clinical documents to reduce administrative burdens;
- Create a process for real-time decisions for certain items and services that are routinely approved;
- Increase transparency to improve communication channels and utilization between Medicare Advantage plans, health care providers and patients;
- Encourage MA plans to adopt policies that adhere to evidence-based guidelines.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services also is working on prior-authorization reform. Late last year, CMS proposed new rules that aligned with many of the key provisions of the congressional legislation. Marshall and other lawmakers are urging CMS to promptly finalize the proposed rule and expand its provisions.



► Health Care Forum

MSSC is holding a health care forum with Sen. Roger Marshall, MD. Hear updates on issues such as prior authorization, drug costs, fentanyl and Medicare payment reform.

WHEN: 6:15-8 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 22.

WHERE: Niche, 124 S. Broadway

COST: Free. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks provided. Spouses welcome.

RSVP: By Aug. 14. Call (316) 683-7558 or email denisephillips@med-soc.org.

Black docs initiative earns national award

The Medical Society of Sedgwick County received a national Profile of Excellence award this month for its work to increase the number of Black physicians practicing in the Wichita area. MSSC Executive Director Phillip Brownlee received the award at the annual conference of the American Association of Medical Society Executives, a membership organization of executives from county, state, national and international medical societies.



MSSC has been involved for many years in public health initiatives aimed at reducing health disparities. Its Project Access program coordinates donated health care to uninsured residents. MSSC is part of a coalition working to reduce maternal and infant deaths with a particular focus on communities of color. MSSC also has worked on food deserts and the prevention and management of chronic diseases among African Americans.

During the pandemic, MSSC decided another way it could help reduce health inequities was by working to increase the number of Black physicians. Research shows that Black patients, particularly

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

MSSC
MEDICAL SOCIETY OF
SEDGWICK COUNTY

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

What to do for patients concerned about TCE exposure



Maurice Duggins, MD
July President's Message

Trichloroethylene (TCE) is a chemical used to make refrigerants or a metal degreaser in many industries. The EPA lists it as a carcinogen because of the associated increase in kidney and liver cancer, as well as blood cancers such as lymphoma.

There was a TCE chemical spill by Union Pacific Railroad near 29th St. North and Grove Street in Wichita estimated to have occurred before the 1990s. The plume from the spill affected the soil and groundwater not only in the immediate area but extended just south of the KUSM-Wichita campus.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has been working with contracted parties to mitigate the movement and remove the TCE since KDHE discovered the spill in 1994. That's the good news.

The bad news is that many of the people living in this area were not informed about this spill until recently.

The community accepts the mitigation efforts but requests that more be done to inform those affected by the spill and to engage the community with appropriate screenings for the effects the spill may have caused. A recent report by KDHE demonstrated a greater amount of liver cancer in the affected community than in other populations in the region.

As we know, cancer screenings check for cancer or abnormal cells that may become cancer in people who have no symptoms. Several screening tests can detect cancer early and reduce the chance of dying from that cancer.

In addition to holding the responsible party accountable, efforts have begun to raise funding to allow people who lived or are living in the plume area to obtain screening tests.

MSSC members may be approached by concerned patients about getting screened for possible cancer-related matters from

TCE exposure. The current recommendation is for members to not initiate any screening at one's individual office but to refer these patients to a free screening program at GraceMed (see contact information below). Other entry points for screenings, such as other safety net clinics, may come on board in time.

This is still a work in progress, as other spill sites in or around Wichita have been discovered. However, the 29th and Grove spill is spurring our community to determine how it should care for those affected by spills and exposures.

Key takeaways

- There are no current standard recommendations for screening or caring for patients who have been exposed to TCE.
- Patients who are now aware of the known association between TCE and cancer may ask for screening assessment.
- Community members along with city and county officials, KDHE, the Sedgwick County Health Department and MSSC affiliate Project Access are working on the best approach to help those possibly affected.
- The initial process is:
 - ▶ Have patients screened at GraceMed;
 - ▶ Have longitudinal tracking of screening results/patient outcomes;
 - ▶ Avoid associating any costs with this effort to patients.

GraceMed contact information:

GraceMed Health Clinic, Inc.
1150 N. Broadway
Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 866-2000

More information:

- National Cancer Institute information on TCE: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8jny7n>
- Local reporting on plume: <https://tinyurl.com/5cfc29yd>
- KDHE Q&A: <https://tinyurl.com/ymhf3pww>

DIVERSITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Black men, tend to have better health outcomes if their physicians are Black.

MSSC began by raising awareness through articles in this newsletter. MSSC also hosted six screenings of the documentary "Black Men in White Coats," followed by discussion groups. MSSC then created a \$10,000 fund to help support the recruitment efforts, naming it after the Val Brown family and its three generations of Black physicians in Wichita.

MSSC also began connecting Black medical students and residents with practicing Black physicians – with the goal of both supporting them and helping connect them to our community. It sponsored a dinner for Black residents and medical students at the home of Drs. David and Caryn Bryant last fall. This February, it hosted a celebration of Black History Month and had 35 Black students, residents and physicians attend. MSSC President Maurice Duggins, MD, spoke at the event and is leading the outreach initiative.

As part of an outreach to younger students, MSSC physicians visited several local public schools with high populations of students of color. In April, MSSC partnered with the Family Medicine Interest Group at KUSM-Wichita to hold a "Doc for a Day" event for about 70 Black and Hispanic middle and high school students.

Because of how long it takes to become a physician, it could take many years to achieve MSSC's goals, but there have been early signs of progress. Since MSSC began the initiative, the percent of MSSC members who are Black has increased from 2.5% to 3%.

MSSC also has increased awareness and understanding in the community and among its members, Brownlee said.

"We've communicated that we know there is a problem and are committed to addressing it," he said. "And though we have a lot more work to do, our Black members, medical students and residents already feel more recognized and valued."



Phillip Brownlee, MSSC executive director, at the AAMSE conference



▲ HIEN TRAN, MD, PGY1, JOSEPH SPANIOL, MD, AND MARC DUVERSEAU, MD



▲ CHRISTINA MURPHY AND ROBERT MURPHY, MD



▲ WILLIAM REA, DO, PGY1, CHRIS BARNARD, DO, PGY1, AND CAITLIN CARR WITH SCHRECK FINANCIAL GROUP



▲ MSSC PRESIDENT MAURICE DUGGINS, MD, CHATS WITH A TABLE OF RESIDENTS



▲ BRANDON ALLEMAN, MD, PHD, AND GUSTAVO MORENO, MD



▲ BEN KHUC, DO, AND JOSH DAVIS, MD



▲ DANIELLE JONES, MD, PGY4, MADELINE HOCHWALT, MD, PGY3, AND VY LE, DO, PGY3



▲ NEERAJ 'RAJ' VIJ, MD, PGY1, AND ISAAC TALBERT, MD, PGY1



▲ MELISSA ONYEKURU, MD, PGY1, ETHAN WOODCOCK, MD, PGY1, AND HIEN TRAN, MD, PGY1



▲ GREG MORRISSEY, MD, PGY1

Physicians most likely to marry other physicians

A Washington Post columnist recently reported that, as a profession, physicians are the most likely to marry someone with the same occupation. According to U.S. Census Bureau surveys over the past decade, 18.5% of physicians are married to another physician.

MSSC physicians aren't far off that rate.

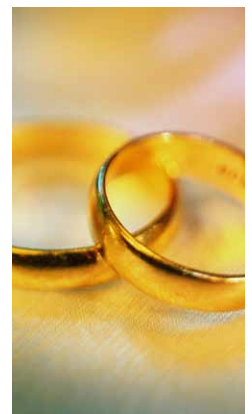
Among active MSSC members, 153 are married to another physician, or 15%. An additional 33 retired MSSC members are married to physicians.

According to the Census data, professors and restaurant, bar and hotel managers have the

next highest rate of marrying within their professions, both at 13.9%. Farmers and ranchers were next at 13.3%, followed by lawyers at 13%.

Why do physicians top the list? The columnist speculated that one reason might be that physicians are busy with medical school and residency during the time of their lives when most people get married.

"Could it be that the grueling hours and shared challenges of advanced study help form romantic bonds?" the columnist asked. "Or might those things crowd out other romantic opportunities and narrow the range of potential partners?"



Tuberculosis was an early challenge for MSSC

Tuberculosis was among the first diseases to spur the Medical Society of Sedgwick County to action. It turned out to be a long effort.

A Topeka-based "field agent" for tuberculosis prevention met with MSSC, city and county leaders in 1913, recommending measures such as school ventilation and condemning the local "spitting nuisance." She told the Wichita Beacon: "They tell me it is largely prevented here but I had to raise my skirts several times in the post office."

As the numbers of cases of the airborne bacterial disease rose to 22 in 1916, the society assisted the county in erecting a TB tent colony on a farm southeast of town. (No Wichitans wanted the patients to be cared for within city limits.)

For the more permanent sanatorium that opened on the farm Dec. 26, 1916, MSSC appointed a medical staff and saw to patients' treatment, donating both care and financial support.

The Wichita Eagle wrote in May 1917 of the first three patients treated successfully: "They are as strong and

healthy as they were before the white plague fastened its grip upon them" -- using the 19th-century nickname inspired by the victims' pallor.

The camp quickly grew from nine to 21 bungalows, plus an administration building. Nurses and attendants were challenged to care for patients, one per bungalow and 30 feet apart, in blizzard and other harsh conditions. The first year saw seven deaths, but most patients left either fully recovered or well enough to return home.

The county operated a TB sanatorium until 1952, with patient totals peaking at 60 in 1936 but down to eight by 1951.

The Medical Society partnered with the health department in the 1950s to screen for TB, and coordinated testing and free X-ray checks with the Wichita Tuberculosis Association through the 1960s. By then, the 45 cases a year could be treated successfully with antibiotics and without long hospital stays.

The county continues to see about 11 new clients diagnosed with TB each year, though state data show only 12 TB deaths in Sedgwick County from 2000 through 2020.



Sweet new president of Project Access



Donna Sweet, MD, is the new board president of Project Access, an MSSC-affiliated organization that coordinates donated health care to uninsured Sedgwick County residents. Sweet replaced Daniel Caliendo, MD, who stepped down as president.

Since it began in 1999, Project Access has served nearly 16,000 patients, and MSSC physicians and hospitals have donated more than \$250 million in care. Sweet is hosting a fundraising event for Project Access at her home on Sept. 21.

Meeting workforce needs

MSSC is helping the city's economic development group plan a workshop Aug. 1 designed for health care CEOs and HR leaders and leaders in education. The purpose is to align priorities that ensure our region has a workforce that meets its health care needs, both now and in the future.

The Greater Wichita Partnership is the economic development organization for the Greater Wichita region. The group works collaboratively with partners to apply holistic strategies and creative tactics in priority growth areas.

The free workshop is Tuesday, Aug. 1, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Niche, 124 S. Broadway.

RSVP to tami@greaterwichitapartnership.org.



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Dreams: *Realized*

In Brief ▶▶▶

New and noteworthy

MSSC members named 'Heroes'

Eleven MSSC members are among the "Health Care Heroes" honored in June by the Wichita Business Journal. **Dr. Rick Kellerman** of the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita and **Dr. Richard Steckley** of Cardiovascular Consultants of Kansas received lifetime achievement awards. **Dr. Donna Logan** and **Dr. James Walker Jr.**, both with KUSM-Wichita, were honored as Health Care Educators.

Other physicians among the honorees included **Dr. Andrew Hentzen** of Kansas Surgical Consultants, **Dr. Shauna Kern** of Sound Physicians, **Dr. Ransom Kilgore** of Ascension Medical Group Via Christi, **Dr. Adam McClure** of KUSM-Wichita, **Dr. Thomas Resch** of Wichita Surgical Specialists, **Dr. Quoc Truong** of the Cancer Center of Kansas, and **Dr. James Vayda** of Vituity.

Also of note, the Family Medicine Interest Group at KUSM-W and Ascension Via Christi's International Family Medicine Fellowship Program were recognized for community outreach, and K. James Kallail, PhD, associate dean for research at KUSM-W, received a lifetime achievement award.



HENTZEN



KERN



KILGORE



MCCLURE



RESCH



TRUONG



VAYDA



KELLERMAN



STECKLEY



LOGAN



WALKER JR.

▲ Lifetime Achievement

▲ Health Care Educators

Docs noted for excellence



BOLLINGER



COULSON



DUVERSEAU



FERNANDEZ



LOO-GROSS

Six MSSC members were recently highlighted in a Wichita Business Journal feature on excellence in health care. Drs. Alexander Bollinger, Alisha Coulson, Marc Olivier Duverseau, Justin Fernandez, Colleen Loo-Gross and Nazih Moufarrij were asked how they chose their career, their greatest professional achievement, biggest career challenge and most important mentor. Fernandez noted the advice his late father, MSSC member Dr. Hector Fernandez, gave him: "You will only be a good physician if you can learn to put yourself in the shoes of your patients."



MOUFARRIJ

Mental health resources for physicians

Physicians face many stresses and strains that can impact their mental health. MSSC offers free mental health resources to its members as one way to support them.

MSSC partnered with The Battle Within and Frontline Therapy to offer teletherapy services to physicians. MSSC members can receive up to six free, confidential teletherapy sessions with a vetted therapist. Physicians who are interested can complete an application at thebattlewithin.org/frontlinetherapynetwork.

MSSC also partnered with WorkWell Kansas to provide free resources for other health care team members. The program, which is based at KUSM-Wichita, offers evidence-based services aimed at improving employee well-being. For more information, email workwellks@kumc.edu or visit kumc.edu/workwell-ks.html.

The Kansas Medical Society also offers support through its Professionals' Health Program. The program works with physicians dealing with mental health issues, substance misuse, burnout and disruptive behavior. Visit kmsonline.org/php/php-services for more information.

Kansas Journal of Medicine editor and KUSM-W dean, professor retires

Physician mentor and teacher K. James Kallail, PhD, retired in June. He was the associate dean for research and a professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita.

He also was managing editor of the Kansas Journal of Medicine, which he helped establish initially to help resident physicians publish their manuscripts. Today, the online journal publishes original research, reviews, commentaries and case studies on all aspects of clinical medicine, health care delivery, health policy and medical education. Manuscripts are indexed in a national search engine and can be read and downloaded anywhere in the world where there is internet access.

Kallail came to KUSM-Wichita in 1987 to work with the Department of Family & Community Medicine and later moved to the Department of Internal Medicine, eventually overseeing the Office of Research as associate dean in 2014.

Retired docs tour Club Parkinson's



MSSC's RODEO group (Retired Older Docs Eating Out) toured Club Parkinson's as part of its June meeting. Club Parkinson's was established two years ago to fill the gap between a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and managing the disease for improved quality of life. The nonprofit, which is located at the Heskett Center at Wichita State University, utilizes research-based programs, provided by Parkinson's-certified therapists and wellness coaches, to meet the physical, nutritional and social needs of those with Parkinson's. Retired MSSC member Stephanie Oberhelman, DO, is a member of Club Parkinson's and is impressed by its comprehensiveness. "There is no other program like this in the country," she said.

Psychiatry fellows started July 1

Three fellows joined the new Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Fellowship Program at KUSM-Wichita. Sandhya Mainali, MD, Javanthi Theegala, MD, and David Matuszewski, MD, officially began July 1.

KUSM-W created the two-year fellowship to help address a severe shortage of child psychiatrists in Kansas. Based on demand, Kansas could use more than 400 child psychiatrists; however, there are currently only 60, working primarily in the northeast part of the state, according to KUSM-W.

"Studies show 50% of adult mental illness starts before age 14 and 75% starts before age 24," said Rachel Brown, MBBS, MPhil, chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. "If we can diagnose and treat these disorders early, it could have a significant, positive impact on their adult lives, the lives of their families and their communities."

The fellows will explore a variety of training experiences with a focus on collaborative care and serving rural and underserved populations. Associate Professor Cassie Karlsson, MD, directs the program.

Diversity rates in neurosurgery

Of all neurosurgeons in the United States, only 8% are female and just 1.8% are Black or African American, according to research by a group of residents and medical students from the University of Kansas School of Medicine.

The researchers analyzed two key transitions on the path to becoming a neurosurgeon in hopes the results could direct efforts to increase those percentages.

Jean-Luc Kabangu, MD, a resident in neurological surgery at KUSM-Kansas City, is the lead author of the study that was published in the journal *Neurosurgery*.

"This topic was important to our team because studying the representation of women and Black residents within neurosurgery is important for promoting equity, overcoming bias, improving patient care and driving innovation," Kabangu said.

ROSTER UPDATE

Keep your 2023 roster current with this information.

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

NEW MEMBERS



Amin Ahmed, MD

[BC] Surgery
[BC] Surgical Critical Care
[F] Vascular Surgery
Wichita Surgical Specialists, PA (9/1/23)
OFF: 316-858-5000 | FAX: 316-858-1026
9350 E 35th St N S-103, 67226
NPI: 1538546973

Medical education obtained at University of Khartoum Faculty of Medicine, Sudan 1/2004-12/2011. Residency in Surgery at University of Toledo, Ohio 7/2015-6/2021. Fellowship in Surgical Critical Care at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN 8/2018-7/2019. Fellowship in Vascular Surgery at Saint Louis University 8/2021-7/2023.



Yazan Alkawaleet, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine
[BC] Cardiovascular Disease
[F] Interventional Cardiology
[AT] Nuclear Cardiology
Heartland Cardiology
OFF: 316-686-5300 | FAX: 316-655-2660
3535 N Webb Rd, 67226
NPI: 1255781399

Medical education obtained at University of Jordan, Amman 9/2009-6/2015. Internship at King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia 7/2015-6/2016. Residency in Internal Medicine at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City 7/2016-6/2019. Fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease at Charleston Area Medical Center/West Virginia University 7/2019-6/2022. Fellowship in Interventional Cardiology at University of Wisconsin-Madison 7/2022-6/2023.



Derek A. Christensen, DO

[BC] Family Medicine
West Wichita Family Physicians, PA
OFF: 316-721-4544 | FAX: 316-721-8307
8200 W Central S-1, 67212
NPI: 1992327936

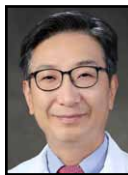
Medical education obtained at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of North Texas, Fort Worth 9/2016-5/2020. Residency in Family Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2020-6/2023.



Lauren E. Haag, MD, MPH

[R] Family Medicine
West Wichita Family Physicians, PA (9/18/23)
OFF: 316-721-4544
8200 W Central S-1, 67212
NPI: 1699397067

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Wichita 8/2015-5/2019. Master's in Public Health at KUSM-Wichita 2020. Residency in Family Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2020-6/2023.



Song-Chu "Arthur" Ko, MD, PhD

[BC] Radiation Oncology
Central Care Cancer Center
Heartland Cancer Center
OFF: 620-272-2579 | FAX: 620-272-2685
410 E Spruce St
Garden City, KS 67846
NPI: 1740205921

Medical education obtained at University of Texas Medical School at Houston 1992. PhD in Oncology and Cancer Biology at UT Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Houston 1998. Internal Medicine internship at Johns Hopkins University/Sinai Hospital, Baltimore 2000-01. Residency in Radiation Oncology at Columbia University, NYC 7/2002-6/2006.

ROSTER UPDATE *continued*

Keep your 2023 roster current with this information.

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



Audrik Perez Rodriguez, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine
[BC] Medical Oncology
[F] Hematology
Central Care Cancer Center
Heartland Cancer Center
OFF: 620-272-2579 | FAX: 620-272-2685
410 E Spruce St

Garden City, KS 67846

NPI: 1831573294

Medical education obtained at Autonomous University of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic 10/2010. Residency in Internal Medicine at Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY 7/2015-6/2019. Fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at Roger Williams Medical Center, Providence, RI 7/2019-6/2022.



Max N. Shapiro, MD

[BC] Surgery
[BC] Surgical Critical Care
[F] Acute Care Surgery
Wichita Surgical Specialists, PA (9/1/23)
OFF: 316-263-0296 | FAX: 316-300-2593
818 N Emporia S-200, 67214
NPI: 1881056943

Medical education obtained at Tulane University, New Orleans 8/2012-5/2016. Internship at Tulane 7/2016-6/2017. Residency in Surgery at Tulane 7/2017-6/2021. Fellowship in Acute Care Surgery at University of Nevada Las Vegas 8/2021-7/2023.



Ali Wazir, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine
[BC] Hematology
[BC] Medical Oncology
Central Care Cancer Center
OFF: 316-283-1141 | FAX: 316-283-1162
730 Medical Center Dr
Newton, KS 67114

OFF: 620-342-1117 | FAX: 855-774-5285

1401 W 12th Ave • Emporia, KS 66801

NPI: 1477936110

Medical education obtained at Aga Khan University, Karachi, Pakistan 2005-2010. Residency in Internal Medicine at Albany Medical College, NY 7/2015-6/2019. Fellowship in Hematology/Oncology at SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, NY 7/2019-6/2022.

REINSTATE TO ACTIVE



Eva L. Henry, MD

[BC] Neurology
Neurology Specialists
OFF: 316-260-5001 | FAX: 316-260-5424
9390 E Central S-102, 67206
NPI: 1801810312
Active MSSC member 2005-2008, 2009-2022.

CHANGES

Jennifer R. Callison, DO

Ascension Via Christi Concierge Clinic
OFF: 316-274-5800
4815 E 31st St S, 67210

Charles W. Coffey, MD

CAW Medical
Robert J Dole Veterans Medical Center
OFF: 316-685-2221
5500 E Kellogg Dr 67218

Alisha M. Coulson, MD

Prairie View, Inc
Medical Director
OFF: 316-284-6400 | FAX: 316-284-6491
1901 E 1st St • Newton, KS 67114

Maxwell D. Jolly, MD

Wichita Anesthesiology, Chtd
2nd affiliation: Kansas Pain Specialists
OFF: 316-686-1564 | FAX: 316-686-5312

Adam McClure, MD

[BC] Pediatric Hospital Medicine
KUSM-Wichita Pediatric Hospitalists

Jerry E. Niernberger, DO

Ascension Medical Group Via Christi St Teresa
OFF: 316-274-0142 | FAX: 316-719-1021
14700 W St Teresa S-300, 67213

RETIRING

Jerry D. Peterie, MD – 9/30/23

G. Whitney Reader, MD – 6/30/23

DROPPED

Sean R. Pyper, MD, PhD – Moved out of state



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MSSC NEWS

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