

120 MSSC NEWS

A Continuum of Care



OCTOBER
2023

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our community,
and our profession.*

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Kelly forms panel for new psychiatric hospital

Gov. Laura Kelly signed an executive order establishing the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital Advisory Panel. The 14-member panel, which includes local elected officials and health care administrators, is tasked with gathering public input and making recommendations on the operation, location and workforce development needs of the proposed psychiatric hospital in south central Kansas.

The panel, which held its first meeting earlier this month, is examining how a new state hospital would fit into existing or planned services in the region and identifying existing resources, gaps in services and opportunities to improve access to mental health services.

Discussions at this month's meeting included whether

the hospital should have 50 beds, start with 50 beds but have the option to expand, or have more than 100 beds. The panel is expected to complete an interim report by Jan. 15, 2024, and a final report by June 30.

"To achieve a healthier Kansas, we must make mental health services more accessible and affordable," Kelly said in a press release. "That's exactly what this advisory panel will achieve by laying the groundwork for a psychiatric hospital that offers care closer to home, cuts wait times, and expands the services offered and constituents served in south central Kansas."

The hospital project has received \$40 million in state funding commitments thus far. County officials estimate it would take about two years to build the hospital.

MSSC history includes major push against polio



Many diseases have motivated MSSC to community action over the past 120 years, from tuberculosis to smallpox to diphtheria to COVID-19. But no effort was bigger than the one targeting polio, the highly contagious

virus capable of causing paralysis.

In June 1955, a year after a testing trial involving area second-graders, 110 MSSC members and 220 nurses volunteered to administer the Salk polio vaccine to 25,000 area children from public and parochial schools.

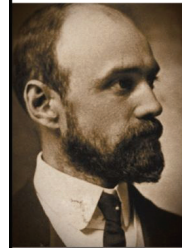
"Most of the city's youngsters walked right up to the needle, turned their heads from the doctor, gritted their teeth and got the job over with," the Wichita Beacon reported.

Then in late 1962 and early 1963, MSSC organized the campaign that immunized nearly 250,000 area residents with the three-dose Sabin vaccine. It took more than 2,000 volunteers working on three

PLEASE SEE **POLIO**, PAGE 2



SAVE THE DATE: DEC. 5



**MSSC Annual Meeting:
Past, Present, Future**



Mark your calendar to attend MSSC's Annual Meeting. We'll look back on the past 120 years, celebrate the present and learn more about the future, as WSU and KU leaders discuss their planned joint biomedical center.

WHAT: MSSC Annual Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6-8 p.m.

WHERE: The Vail, 210 N. Mosley St.

COST: FREE. Includes dinner and drinks. Spouses welcome.

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

Expanding Medicaid in Kansas is the right thing to do



Maurice Duggins, MD
October President's Message

Doing the right thing is not always the easiest thing to do. But expanding Medicaid in Kansas is the right thing to do for our patients, our community and our state's economy.

About 247,000 Kansans, or 8.6%, are uninsured, according to the Kansas Health Institute. That puts Kansas above the national average rate of uninsured citizens. By doing the right thing and expanding Medicaid, we could reduce the number of uninsured by more than 50% and allow more Kansans to go to work with a peace of mind.

The old adage warns that "care delayed too long is care denied." Not expanding Medicaid delays and denies care to thousands of Kansans. I have seen young patients die due to delayed care. For them and others, no insurance meant trying to ignore the signs and symptoms. No insurance meant trying to avoid debt by not going to see a doctor. No insurance meant showing up at the emergency room when hope was about lost.

Many of my fellow MSSC members were the ones telling these patients and their families that it's too late. We've told them that the breast cancer has gone too far. The prostate cancer has metastasized too much. The colon cancer damage is irreversible. We should reach out and speak to state lawmakers, who have the power to expand Medicaid, because it's the right thing to do.

Expanding Medicaid is not only the right thing to do for our patients, it also is economically sound. The federal government pays the vast majority of the cost of Medicaid expansion. That means expanding Medicaid brings a huge infusion of federal funds (our tax dollars) to Kansas, which provides a major economic boost that far outweighs the state costs.

That's one reason why 40 states, plus the District of Columbia, adopted Medicaid expansion. This includes all our surrounding states: Colorado, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

Expansion also helps hospitals, which must absorb the cost of uncompensated care. Expanding Medicaid would bring an

estimated 140,000 to 150,000 Kansans onto the insurance rolls. Those reimbursements would be especially critical to rural hospitals, many of which, like the recently closed hospital in Herington, are struggling to stay open. These hospitals employ administrators, physicians, nurses and supporting staff members. Withholding Medicaid funds is causing unnecessary job losses and displacements.

I work with the family medicine residency program, and we take care of a disproportionate number of Medicaid patients. As a former medical director of an FQHC, I am also fully aware of the burden our safety-net clinics carry taking care of both Medicaid and uninsured patients in our communities. MSSC's Project Access program also leverages millions of dollars in donated care for uninsured patients.

I have heard some of my colleagues say that Medicaid does not pay enough. That is true, and MSSC and the Kansas Medical Society have been advocating for payment increases. But if more of us would agree to share the load, we could make a big impact on our community.

When we go to the grocery store and we are asked to round up the cost to the next dollar for a good cause, many of us do it, because we know it's the right thing to do. Medicaid expansion is similar: It allows us to contribute a little so that everyone can thrive.

In 2010, CBS News reported a story about two parachutists that provides an illustrative metaphor for the morality underpinning Medicaid expansion. Shirley Dygert and instructor Dave Hartsock were on a tandem jump when the parachute malfunctioned. Hartsock made a couple maneuvers to take the brunt of the landing and, in so doing, protected Dygert.

"People keep telling me that it was a heroic thing to do," Hartsock said. "In my opinion it was just the right thing to do. I mean, I was the one who was completely responsible for her safety. What other choices were there?"

Hartsock decided to do the right thing even though it cost him. Kansas should follow his example and pay the comparatively small cost associated with saving thousands of lives by expanding Medicaid. It's the right thing to do.

POLIO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sunday afternoons at 60 sites.

Called STOP, for Sedgwick County's Triumph Over Polio, the drive mobilized police and sheriff's personnel as well as planes to deliver the vaccine to nearly 80% of the county's population. Another 12,000 residents had received the Sabin vaccine from their family physician earlier in 1962.

"This is not a handout from the Washington boys. This is the county at work as it should work," said MSSC President Dr. George Gsell in 1962 – citing the local campaign to counter those who would socialize medicine.

As each child and adult lined up to receive the Sabin serum on a sugar cube, organizers asked for a 25-cent donation. About \$93,000 was collected, paying for the vaccine vials and leaving \$25,000 to fund science scholarships at then-University of Wichita.

"By swallowing a cube of sugar, a Sedgwick County resident will contribute his individual part to the mosaic of total immunity necessary for the health of the county, and he may save his own life, or his child's or his grandchild's," Dr. G. Gayle Stephens, MSSC's STOP chairman, said before the first 1962 clinic.

The numbers of polio cases in Sedgwick County proved the value of vaccination: 266 in 1952, 28 in 1956, 42 in 1959, four in 1961, then none.

By 1970, as the community launched a rubella vaccination drive, pediatrician and future MSSC President Dr. Katherine Pennington could call polio a "forgotten" disease.

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Physician ENGAGEMENT

This month we feature MSSC physicians at the Project Access fundraiser on Sept. 21 at Dr. Donna Sweet's home.



▲ SHERYL BEARD, MD



▲ MEDICAL STUDENTS NADA JIBBE AND HASAN RAFFI



▲ KRISTIN CONSTANCE, MD



▲ JANE GITAU, MD, DONNA SWEET, MD, RICHARD MURAGA, MD, AND FELLOW FAZAL YAKUB, MD



▲ JOHN SCHLICHER, MD, RICK KLINGMAN AND DIANE KLINGMAN, MD



▲ KIPET KENY, MD, AND SAMUEL AKIDIVA, MD



▲ AMANDA VALLIANT, MD



▲ SHELDON PRESKORN, MD, AND BELINDA PRESKORN

In Brief ►►► New and noteworthy

MSSC physicians speaking at WSU

Brett Grizzell, MD, with Wichita Surgical Specialists and Bassem Chehab, MD, with Cardiovascular Consultants of Kansas will be speaking at Wichita State University on "Medicine in the Age of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation." The presentation, which is hosted by the WSU College of Health Professions, is at 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 27, at the CAC Theater and is open to the public.

MSSC docs slated to lead KMS

The top officers on the Kansas Medical Society Board of Directors next year are expected to be MSSC members. G. Aron Fast, MD, is slated to be KMS president, and Estephan N. Zayat, MD, is slated to be president elect. Also, Nicholas Brown, MD, currently serves as the secretary/treasurer of the KMS board and will continue in that role next year.

Fast went to medical school and did his residency in Wichita and now practices family medicine in Hesston. He recently joined MSSC. Zayat, a gastroenterologist, is a former MSSC president and currently serves as MSSC's representative on the KMS board. Brown, a general surgeon, is a former MSSC board member.

KMS elects its board officers from a slate of candidates, with members voting for or against the entire slate. Ballots must be returned to KMS by its annual meeting in January. The president's term lasts for two years.

Two KUSM-W faculty honored

Two University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita faculty members recently received national teaching awards from the American Academy of Family Physicians. Gretchen Irwin, MD, associate dean for graduate medical education at KUSM-W and an associate professor in the Department of Family & Community Medicine, was selected as the national 2023 AAFP Exemplary Teacher of the Year for full-time faculty. Mark Leiker, MD, who practices at Primary Care Associates, was chosen as the national 2023 AAFP Exemplary Teacher of the Year for volunteer faculty.

Health care a focus at conference

MSSC Executive Director Phillip Brownlee moderated a health care panel at the Kansas Economic Outlook Conference on Oct. 5 at Century II. The conference is put on each year by the Center for Economic Development and Business Research at Wichita State University.

Panel members were Lowell Ebersole, DO, chief medical officer at Wesley Healthcare; Claudio Ferraro, president of Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph; and Venus Lee, CEO of GraceMed Health Clinic. Discussion topics included staffing shortages, the impact of inflation on health care operations, mental health services, and public policies and regulations.

State leadership forum next month

The Kansas Medical Society and Kansas Hospital Association are co-sponsoring the Kansas Physician Leader Forum, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Nov. 3. The free event, held at the KMS offices at 623 SW 10th in Topeka, is aimed at fostering discussion on issues impacting health and health care. For more information and to register, go to kmonline.org.

In Brief ▶▶▶

New and noteworthy

Funds for disease projects

The Kansas Business Group on Health, an affiliate of MSSC, has grant funding available to support providers interested in improving the identification and treatment of individuals with diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia, as well as addressing social determinants of health. KBGH staff will assist in developing and implementing projects that address these issues.

Examples of past projects include:

- Developing a protocol to engage nurses and medical assistants in screening eligible adults for diabetes and automating referral or treatment follow-up.
- Completing a successful pilot of the Healthy Heart Ambassador Program with low-income patients to improve hypertension control rates.

Projects typically last four to six weeks with five hours or less of meeting time required by staff. Matt Thibault, executive director of KBGH, or Justin Moore, MD, KBGH medical director, are available to discuss the grant or share for five minutes at a staff meeting. Email Thibault at MattThibault@med-soc.org.

Gangadhar joins MSSC Board

Longtime MSSC member Dasa Gangadhar, MD, joined the MSSC Board of Directors in September as a nonvoting representative of the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Gangadhar is an assistant dean at KansasCOM and also an associate professor.



DR. Gangadhar

Young docs highlighted

MSSC members Alexandra Meloccaro, MD, Tessa Rohrberg, MD, and R. Joe Sliter, MD, were recently highlighted among the Wichita Business Journal's Young Professionals in Health Care.

In her Q&A, Meloccaro credited MSSC retired members Victoria Kindel, MD, and Debra Messamore, MD, as local trailblazers who guided her career and practice at Associates in Women's Health.

She also pointed to an urgent challenge in obstetrics and gynecology as well as health care generally: "In 2022, the CDC reported 80% of maternal deaths are preventable, and Black women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy related causes than white women ... We need to decrease barriers to care and inform our community of available resources to prevent lives lost."

Rohrberg, who practices and teaches family medicine at KUSM-Wichita, told the Business Journal that she was encouraged to take a CNA class in high school and worked in a rural hospital and nursing home even before college.

Sliter, a trauma and acute care surgeon with Kansas Surgical Consultants, credited his father's experience as a paramedic with guiding him into health care. Sliter also praised KU's Scholars in Rural Health program as "vital in expanding my understanding of the medical field, having a career in medicine, and setting me up for success in medical school."



DR. MELOCCARO



DR. ROHRBERG



DR. SLITER



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Dreams: Realized

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



Brandon R. Reid, MD

[BC] Family Medicine
Premier Hospitalists of Kansas
OFF: 316-755-0144
FAX: 844-274-1204
3515 W Central, 67203
NPI: 1710548680

Medical education obtained at Ross University School of Medicine, Dominica 9/2015-2/2019. Internship in General Surgery at Ascension Saint Agnes Hospital, Baltimore 7/2019-6/2020. Residency in Family Medicine at Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency, Salina 7/2020-6/2023.



Lauren N. Wilding, MD

[R] Obstetrics & Gynecology
Heartland Women's Group
OFF: 316-858-7100
FAX: 316-858-7103
551 N Hillside S-101, 67214
NPI: 1376109694

Medical education obtained at Texas A&M University College of Medicine, College Station 7/2015-5/2019. Residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at Methodist Dallas Medical Center 7/2019-6/2023.

CHANGES

Lauren E. Haag, MD, MPH

[BC] Family Medicine
West Wichita Family Physicians, PA

Damen W. Hershberger, MD

Charis Noteboom, MD

Pearl OB/Gyn
Additional location:
Pearl Girl Clinics, LLC
OFF: 316-669-8082
FAX: 316-669-9688
1821 E Madison S-1100
Derby, KS 67037

Maha A. Mohamad, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi Rheumatology

Edward Nola, MD

[BC] Family Medicine
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi East 21st

Peter Joseph Seiler, DO

[BC] Psychiatry
Ridge Family Psychiatry
OFF: 316-665-0610
FAX: 316-260-3009
4013 N Ridge Rd S-220, 67205

Ana Stark, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine
Kansas Nephrology Physicians, PA

Kelly Winter, MD

[BC] Surgery
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi Founders Cir

RETIRING

Abdul Wadud, MD – 11/10/23

DROPPING

Yonatan Kurland, MD – Practicing out of state

Joshua D. Linnell, MD – Moving out of state

In Remembrance

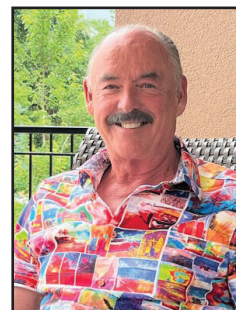
MSSC extends its condolences to the families of Drs. Staats and Tatpati.

Rose Hill resident and retired emergency physician **Rodney M. Staats, MD**, died Sept. 21. He was 68.

Staats, who was born in Liberal, attended the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Kansas City and Wichita for his graduate and postgraduate work. He spent three years as a resident at KU School of Medicine. After he became board certified in internal medicine, he spent two years serving the Liberal community. Later, he obtained board certification in Emergency Medicine and made a significant impact as an emergency physician at Wesley Medical Center's Hillside ER for 30 years, most recently in the Pediatric ER, his family said. He retired in 2015 due to health reasons.

"Rod was known for his unwavering commitment to helping others. He generously contributed his time and talents to various clinics and nonprofit organizations, always putting the well-being of people at the forefront," his family said.

Staats is survived by his brother, Brent; sisters, Connie Moore and Sharon Nolde; and many nieces and nephews.



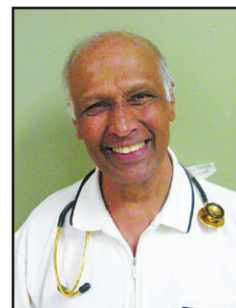
Thoracic and vascular surgeon **Daniel Tatpati, MD**, who founded the Guadalupe Clinic, died Sept. 25. He was 79.

Tatpati was recognized by the Wichita Business Journal in 2014 for his dedication to helping people with no health care coverage – even after he retired from private practice in 2011.

"At age 70, a successful practice behind him and at a spot in his life to focus on traveling and relaxation, Tatpati instead is the medical director and practicing physician — chief of staff — for the clinic he founded in 1985, supervising a volunteer base of more than 100 doctors and nurses, plus a handful of paid staff," the article said.

Born in Dharwar, India, Tatpati completed an internship and residency in surgery at University of Connecticut and a residency in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery at State University of New York Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse. He joined Wichita Cardiac Clinic in April 1978.

Tatpati is survived by his wife, Olga Tatpati, MD; daughters, Krupa Limaye and Sheila Neese; son, Abraham Tatpati, MD, and his wife, Laura Tatpati, MD; sister, Suvina Palanna; and nine grandchildren.



MSSC NEWS

MEDICAL SOCIETY of
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Managing Editor: Phillip Brownlee, Executive Director

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