



Dr. ES Edgerton



Dr. GG Brown

# MSSC NEWS

## HIGHLIGHTS 2023

A LOOK BACK AT THE 2023 NEWS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF SEDGWICK COUNTY AND ITS PROGRAMS UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT MAURICE DUGGINS, MD.

### Annual meeting looked to past, future

Nearly 200 people attended the MSSC annual meeting on Dec. 5. The event celebrated MSSC past and present but also looked to the future as Wichita State University President Rick Muma and KU Executive Vice Chancellor Robert Simari, MD, discussed plans for a joint biomedical campus in downtown Wichita.



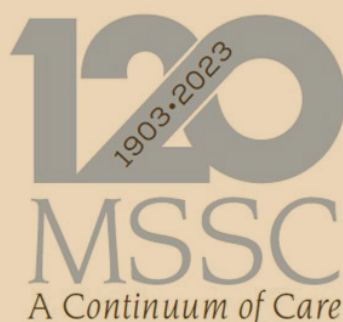
MSSC President Maurice Duggins, MD, reflected on the 120 years since MSSC's founding in 1903 and the similarities between the work of early physicians and MSSC physicians today. He also noted how current MSSC initiatives are building on those traditions while responding to a changing community.

MSSC President-Elect Howard Chang, MD, honored Duggins for his service to MSSC. He also recognized the 35 living MSSC past presidents, along with past MSSC executive directors and the past presidents of the MSSC Alliance, an organization of physician spouses that supported various causes and projects.

Though details of the planned 471,000-square-foot biomedical campus are still being finalized, Muma and Simari showed architectural renderings of the first phase of the project: a nine-story building that will be located at Broadway and William and is expected to be completed in 2026. A second building is planned for across the street at Topeka and William, where the Wichita Transit Center is currently located. Initially, about 3,000 students and 200 faculty and staff will be housed at the new facility.

### December 2023 Special Edition

Founded in 1903, MSSC today numbers more than 1,700 members, including residents and students, and is considered one of the most active county medical societies in the country.



### Celebrate and nurture MSSC's long history



#### Maurice Duggins, MD December President's Message

It's been a privilege to serve as MSSC president during the 120th anniversary of its founding in 1903. This long, rich history is important to celebrate but also to protect and nurture, so MSSC can continue its work of connecting, supporting and advocating for physicians.

MSSC recognized its anniversary throughout the year with historical articles in this newsletter. I've learned a lot about the formation of MSSC and some of the challenges and milestones in its past.

For example, I learned that MSSC wasn't the first medical society in Wichita. Pioneering physician Andrew H. Fabrique organized the Wichita Pathological Society in 1888. Various other societies formed soon thereafter, including the Wichita Academy of Medicine.

In 1903, an organizer for the American Medical Association came to Kansas to reorganize the Kansas Medical Society and county societies. He complained of Wichita Academy of Medicine infighting and disputes between physicians associated with the city's two hospitals at the time.

The academy decided to reorganize as MSSC. There were 25 charter members, and 19 new members joined during the first year.



Dr. JG Dorsey



Dr. George Purves

## DUGGINS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

After each weekly meeting during those early years, the members adjourned to a back room for “a smoker.” Meeting minutes showed approval for the keg of beer consumed at the previous meeting.

### **Times change, stay same**

Times have certainly changed – at least related to smoking. But it was also interesting to learn how the work and concerns of early physicians are similar to ours today.

During the early years and decades, MSSC physicians treated the sick and injured, built hospitals, initiated public health campaigns and stopped epidemics – work that continues today.

MSSC members were at the forefront in combating contagious diseases and viruses, including tuberculosis, smallpox, diphtheria and more recently AIDS. They also led vaccination efforts, including a massive campaign in the 1960s to combat polio.

MSSC physicians led efforts to combat the Spanish flu, and their public health responses were similar to those for COVID. Also like today, those early MSSC physicians contended with naysayers and anti-vaxxers.

Women physicians were involved in many of these efforts. The first woman to join MSSC appears to be Dr. Sarah Noble in 1910. Dr. Frances Schiltz is particularly noteworthy. She joined MSSC in 1924 and served as secretary for 1929-1931 and vice president in 1946. The first woman to be MSSC president was Dr. Katherine Pennington in 1985.

MSSC physicians and their spouses also led charitable efforts. The MSSC Auxiliary, which later became the MSSC Alliance, was founded in 1928 and spearheaded many initiatives and drives. MSSC physicians and others created the Medical Service Bureau in 1937 to address the medical needs of low-income individuals. That organization continues today as Cairn Health. MSSC also created Project Access in 1999 to provide specialized care to uninsured residents.

### **One thing new**

One thing that was new this year is that I’m the first Black physician to serve as MSSC president. Though it took a long time for this to happen, MSSC’s history on race is respectable overall.

Early records don’t indicate the races of MSSC members. However, we know MSSC had a Black member starting in at least 1909, which was when G.G. Brown joined. Brown was the father of deceased MSSC member Val Brown Sr., and the grandfather of retired member Val Brown Jr.

Not everything was enlightened. Some social events were segregated in the early

decades, and MSSC members tolerated other forms of discrimination. However, MSSC also helped lead efforts to change. For example, Val Brown Sr. credited MSSC for helping him and other Black physicians gain privileges at Wesley Medical Center in the 1950s.

### **Increasing diversity**

As part of ongoing efforts to change and meet the health needs of a diverse community, MSSC has been working to increase the number of Black physicians in the Wichita area – an initiative we named in honor of the Brown family and its three generations of physicians.

During this year, MSSC hosted social events aimed at connecting Black medical students and residents with practicing Black physicians. We also partnered with the Family Medicine Interest Group at KUSM-W to host a Doc for a Day event for Black and Hispanic middle and high school students.

I was proud when this initiative received a national Profile of Excellence award this year and was featured in TV, newspaper and radio news reports.

### **A noble profession**

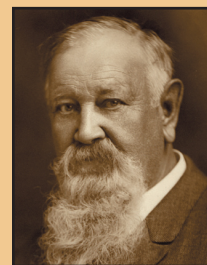
My first column this year in the MSSC News quoted from a speech MSSC’s first president, eye surgeon J.F. Gsell, gave at the end of his term of office. As with today, a concern at that time was the commercialization of medicine.

Gsell noted that he asked several MSSC physicians why they decided to study medicine. The answers were practically all the same: “Because we thought that the calling of a doctor was a noble and honorable one.”

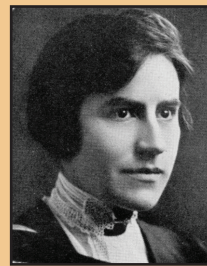
“As doctors, we have and are and ever will do our duty and fulfill our destiny,” Gsell said.

I’m proud to be a physician, and I’m proud of all our MSSC members who serve and care for our community. It has truly been an honor to represent so many outstanding physicians and lead an organization with such a distinguished history.

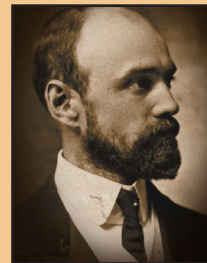
May we all continue to do our duty and fulfill our destiny.



DR. FABRIQUE



DR. SCHILTZ



DR. GSELL



# PHYSICIAN ENGAGEMENT

PHYSICIANS AND THEIR GUESTS GATHERED AT THE VAIL ON DEC. 5 FOR THE MSSC ANNUAL MEETING.



▲ JIHANE SFEIR, MD, CHADY SARRAF, MD, ALI RAFIQ, MD, AND VIKAS AGRAWAL, MD



▲ ANDREW HENTZEN, MD, CHRISTINA NICHOLAS, MD, ASHLEY ROBBINS, MD, TRESA EBERSOLE AND LOWELL EBERSOLE, DO



▲ ANNA UHLIG AND PAUL UHLIG, MD



▲ DAVID BRYANT, MD AND CARYN BRYANT, MD,



▲ DWIGHT ALLEN AND GEORGE RANDALL, MD



▲ JACK KELLOGG AND JOY DARRAH, MD



▲ COLE GILLENWATER, MD, MELISSA GILLENWATER AND GAROLD MINNS, MD



▲ KESHA CRICHLLOW, MD, KYLE VINCENT, MD, AND KEVIN HOPPOCK, MD



▲ LARRY MITNAUL, MD



▲ JAY GILBAUGH, MD, SUNEI MICKLE, BCBS-KS, KURT SCOTT, KAMMCO



▲ VAL BROWN JR., MD, AND TRISH BROWN



▲ SHAUNA KERN, DO, AND JENNIFER JACKSON, MD



▲ KATIE ROSELL, MD, LINDA DAVISON AND BART GRELINGER, MD



▲ SHERYL BEARD, MD, MELISSA PENNY, DO, AND DEVIN PENNY, DO



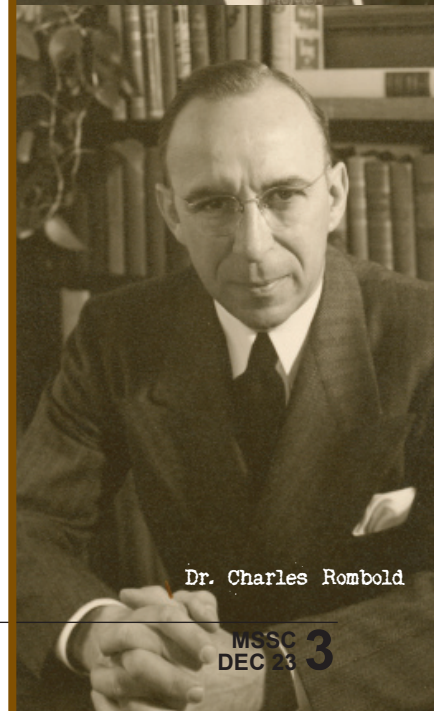
▲ TOM KRYZER, MD, AND JON ROSELL



Dr. JE Chipps



Dr. Val Brown Sr.



Dr. Charles Rombold





Dr. DW Basham



Dr. Katherine Pennington



## Newsworthy >>> Highlights from 2023

### Holly Allen Terrell receives young physician award

Holly Allen Terrell, MD, is the 2024 recipient of the Dr. Joe Meek Young Physician Leadership Award. Allen Terrell is the medical director for women's health at Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center. She also has served as medical director at HealthCore Clinic.

The award, which was named after the former longtime KUSM-Wichita dean, aims to foster leadership among practicing physicians age 40 or younger. Allen Terrell hopes to learn more about organized medicine and MSSC so she can have a greater impact on the community. Colleen Loo-Gross, MD, MPH, was the 2023 award recipient.



DR. ALLEN TERRELL

### Fentanyl impacting community; docs rise up

MSSC partnered with the Family Medicine Department at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita to hold a CME event in February on fentanyl, the leading cause of death for Americans ages 18 to 49. Kevin Brinker, DO, medical director of Sedgwick County EMS; Howard Chang, MD, medical director of the Ascension Via Christi St. Francis Emergency Department; and Heather Roe, DO, an addiction specialist, discussed their frontlines work combating fentanyl. The discussion was moderated by retired MSSC member Tim Scanlan, MD, an addiction specialist.

### Legislative session had wins, disappointments

The 2023 legislative session had mixed results on health care issues. On the positive side, the Legislature increased the penalties for violence against health care workers, legalized fentanyl test strips, approved the first increase in Medicaid physician reimbursements in nearly two decades, and expanded the medical student loan forgiveness program. Also, attempts to increase the scope of practice of CRNAs failed to advance. However, several worthwhile issues didn't advance, including prior authorization reform and Medicaid expansion.

### MSSC helping address chemical spill in Wichita

MSSC is helping respond to the trichlorethylene chemical spill in northeast Wichita. Though the spill occurred before 1990, many residents in the area didn't hear about it until earlier this year.

MSSC is helping spread the word that free cancer screening tests are available. MSSC's Project Access program also is working to arrange care for residents who test positive for liver cancer but don't have health insurance.

### Young physicians gather, connect through WD<40

MSSC's Wichita Docs Under 40 (WD<40) hosted two events this year for young physicians. In March, it held a Doctors' Day celebration at Topgolf. In June, it hosted a gathering to welcome new residents. The events help young physicians network and connect as they navigate the practice and business of medicine.



▲ JENNIFER THUENER, MD, AND TESSA ROHRBERG, MD



▲ THOMAS WOODARD, DO



▲ CHLOE MCBRIDE, MD



▲ HIEN TRAN, MD, JOSEPH SPANIOLE, MD, AND MARC DUVERSEAU, MD



## MSSC continues Black physician initiative

MSSC continued its efforts to attract and retain more Black physicians for the Wichita area. It held two mixers aimed at connecting Black medical students and residents with practicing Black physicians. It also partnered with the Family Medicine Interest Group at KUSM-W to host a Doc for a Day event for Black and Hispanic middle and high school students. The initiative garnered considerable media attention this year and received a national Profile of Excellence award.



▲ CLINTON NKENG, KUSM MS4, NICOLE UKOEFRESO, KSCOM MS2, AND TAYITA ABUDU, KUSM MS2



▲ KWAME EAGLETON, MD, PARTICIPATES IN DOC FOR A DAY WITH WICHITA-AREA STUDENTS

## MSSC hosts discussion on aging, end-of-life planning



MSSC co-hosted a physician panel discussion in April on aging, dementia and end-of-life planning. The online event featured Drs. Steven Davis, Donna Ewy and Barbara Coats and was part of Big Read Wichita, an annual program that encourages Wichita residents to read and discuss the same book.

## AI in medicine meeting addressed impact, concerns

MSSC explored the impact of artificial intelligence on society and medicine at its May membership meeting at NetApp's new office building at Wichita State University. Monica Coley, a health care IT expert with Amazon, was the keynote speaker. There was also a panel discussion featuring Sam Antonios, MD, chief clinical officer at Ascension Via Christi; Mallik Karamsetty, director of technical services at Pfizer; and Andy Lin, a vice president at Mark III Systems, a national IT and AI company.

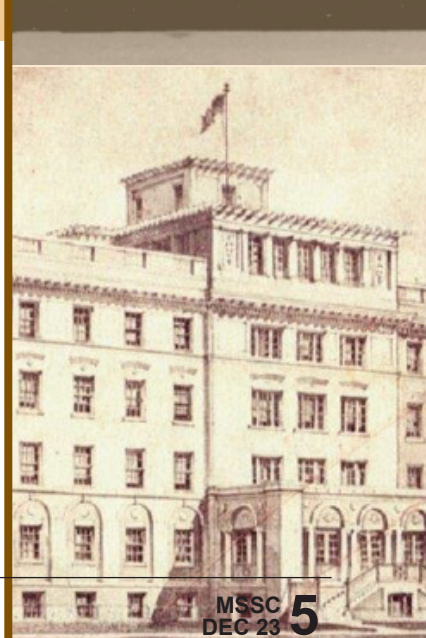
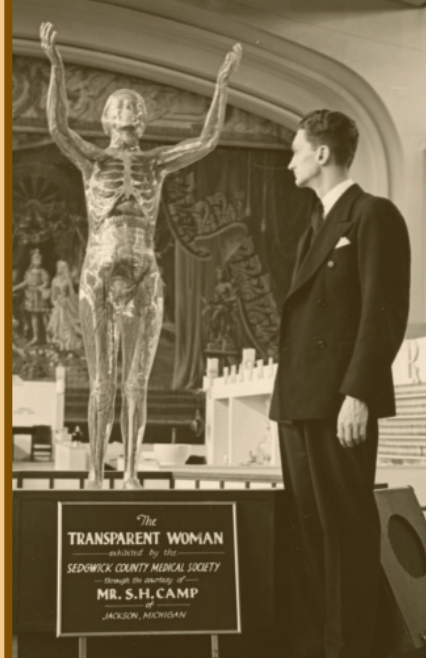


## Advocacy includes federal policies that impact care



▲ HOWARD CHANG, MD, AND MAURICE DUGGINS, MD, MEET WITH SEN. ROGER MARSHALL, MD, IN WASHINGTON, DC.

Though most of its advocacy work is focused on state and local policies, MSSC also is engaged at the federal level. MSSC President Maurice Duggins, MD, and President-Elect Howard Chang, MD, traveled to Washington, DC, in February to meet with members of Congress from Kansas. They discussed issues such as Medicare reimbursements, prior authorization, graduate medical education and fentanyl. Duggins and Colleen Loo-Gross, MD, MPH, attended the AMA annual meeting in June. MSSC also hosted a federal issues forum on health care in August with Sen. Roger Marshall, MD.



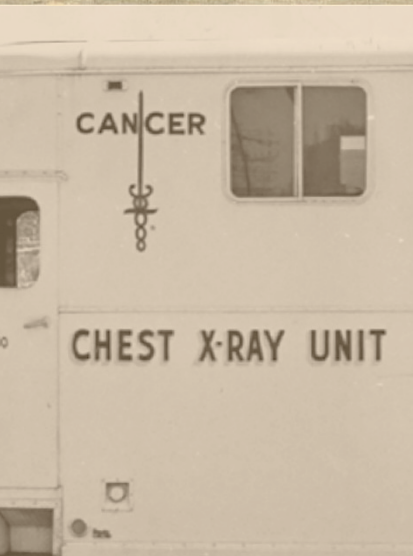




Dr. Andrew Fabrique



WICHITA HOSPITAL,  
WICHITA, KAN.  
1897



## Marshall discusses health care issues at MSSC forum



**M**SSC held a forum in August with Sen. Roger Marshall, MD, on health care issues before Congress. Marshall spoke about drug costs, prior authorization, fentanyl and other concerns. He also answered questions from MSSC members. The discussion was moderated by Kevin Hoppock, MD, chairman of the MSSC Legislative Committee.

## Workforce issues explored

MSSC has been involved in responding to workforce shortages. It helped arrange a speakers panel for a business forum in August on recruiting and retaining talent. MSSC Executive Director Phillip Brownlee also organized and moderated a health care panel at the Kansas Economic Outlook Conference in October. Topics discussed included staffing shortages, mental health services and public policies.

## Resources available to help prevent physician suicides

During Suicide Prevention Month in September, MSSC published in its monthly newsletter various resources for physicians needing support, including free teletherapy through Frontline Therapy Network and information on identifying physicians who may be struggling and tips on how to reach out to them.

## Funds for new hospital, joint biomedical campus



The planned joint biomedical campus of Wichita State University and the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita received a major funding boost from the state. The Kansas Legislature authorized \$190 million for the project, which will be located diagonally across Broadway from the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Construction on the first of two buildings will begin next year and be completed in 2026.

A proposed new mental health hospital received \$40 million in designated funding from the state. An advisory panel began meeting in October to discuss the hospital's size and how it would fit into existing or planned services in the region.

## MSSC hosts annual dinner for state lawmakers



▲ PAUL TERAN, MD, GRETCHEN HOMAN, MD, REP. SANDY PICKERT AND STEPHANIE KUHLMANN, DO

MSSC hosted a dinner in November for state lawmakers from Sedgwick County. Kevin Hoppock, MD, chairman of the MSSC Legislative Committee, led the meeting and thanked lawmakers for their service and their support of Project Access.

The meeting allowed lawmakers and physicians to get to know one another better and discuss health care issues.

## Two retired docs turn 100

Two retired MSSC members turned 100 years old this year. Former MSSC President Lew W. Purinton, MD, reached the century mark on Jan. 27, and Lueke B. Lueken, MD, marked his Oct. 27. MSSC's RODEO group (Retired Older Docs Eating Out) celebrated the two birthdays with a cake at its October meeting.

## Physician recommendations

MSSC receives calls nearly daily from people wanting assistance finding a physician. Recommendations are made based on patient criteria such as insurance plan and location of practice.

## Doc helps Ukrainian soldiers



MSSC member Nataliya Biskup, MD, performed plastic reconstructive surgery on Ukrainian soldiers during a 10-day mission trip to Ukraine in October. Biskup traveled with a scrub

tech, a nurse and a nurse practitioner.

"They really have hardly anything there, so we brought all our own instruments, our own sutures," she said.



**Chronic Disease Risk Reduction**

MSSC received CDRR (Chronic Disease Risk Reduction grant from KDHE) funding to work toward improving health outcomes and creating healthier environments in Wichita and Sedgwick County. This year's priority projects focused on improving tobacco-free training for early childhood home visitation staff, recruiting and training behavioral health and other health professionals to provide better tobacco-cessation treatment for patients, revamping retailer initiatives, and assisting the Health & Wellness Coalition with a successful first year of Wichita/Sedgwick County Food and Farm Council meetings.

**Health ICT**

Through CDC grants, Health ICT continues to support providers in improving the identification, treatment and referral of patients with certain metabolic conditions. A five-year grant was completed in June, and a new grant of the same duration started in July. In addition to continuing to support providers with developing team-based care approaches, there is an extra focus on proactively identifying and addressing social determinants of health. Three providers in Wichita will start a project in January 2024.

**Health & Wellness Coalition**

The Health & Wellness Coalition continues to collaborate and coordinate to promote physical activity and good nutrition for all generations living in the greater Wichita area. This work is promoted through monthly newsletters, partner emails and hosting 10 successful Coalition meetings. The 18th annual Working Well Conference shined the spotlight on worksite wellness rock stars and provided tangible ways to engage employees, reinforce best practices and improve the worksite wellness plan. The Coalition continues to connect the dots between the following local food initiatives: Wichita/Sedgwick County Food and Farm Council, Healthy Corner Store Initiative and Community Health Improvement Plan Food Access Workgroup. As the new year begins, the Health & Wellness Coalition will be working with a consultant to secure sustainable funding.

**Kansas Business Group on Health**

The Kansas Business Group on Health continued to support employers in enhancing the value of their health benefit plans through educational opportunities such as the Innovation Summit and Healthcare Roundtable conferences. Topics included mental health first aid, integrating DEI strategies into benefit design, learning about Wichita's new DO school, and more. Four employer-only forums were also facilitated that allowed for the sharing of successes and challenges in administering benefits. Matt Thibault stepped into the role of executive director in August.

**Medical Provider Resources**

MPR onboarded 21 new service agreements, 12 new provider enrollment agreements and seven primary source verification agreements. The new agreements have allowed MPR to move into Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma, creating a regional presence. The board of directors added two new members in 2023, Dr. Kwame Eagleton and Dr. Alexandra Meloccaro. The company has 24 employees and continues to experience a healthy employee engagement score and a low staff turnover rate.

With Wesley Healthcare and Ascension hospitals leaving MPR for corporate credentialing, the processes have become de-centralized. Because of this, the credentialing processes are transitioning from Centralized Verification Service (CVS) to Primary Source Verification (PSV). In October, the CEO announced plans to retire at the end of 2024. The board of directors will begin a selection process for the new CEO in 2024.

**MSSC Medical Careers Loan Fund**

MSSC provides subsidized low-interest student loans to local medical students and others seeking careers in the medical field. A committee reviews and approves the applications. No interest is charged on the loans while the students are in medical school. A small loan repayment begins during residency. MSSC also provides small, short-term emergency loans to students in need. More information about the loan program is available on the MSSC website, [mssconline.org](https://mssconline.org).

**Pharmacy Fraud Hotline**

MSSC operates a local hotline for fraudulent prescriptions. Physician offices or pharmacies contact MSSC about a fraudulent script, and MSSC faxes an alert to more than 100 area pharmacies. The program supplements the state K-TRACS monitoring program.

**Project Access**

Project Access has now served over 15,265 people who received more than \$258 million in medical care from our generous medical community. In 2023 it received a grant to help increase COVID vaccinations among targeted populations. It will soon be adding to its scope of services through a partnership with Wichita State University Psychology Department's Psychology Clinic. The clinic will be donating care to Project Access clients who need mental health treatment. Project Access also launched a new partnership with the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita's Department of Public Health and its Facts Not Fear-ICT project. This project provides tools for Project Access to screen for domestic violence and substance abuse and provides assessments to participating clients who will rate their experience with their provider.

**ProviDRs Care**

ProviDRs Care completed the first year for its new group health plan. Unified Health Plan provides integrated, level-funded and partially self-funded options for employers with two or more employees. ProviDRs Care also continues to grow NexUS, its value-based product. This year it began providing third-party administrative services. It also continues to expand its network footprint and has hospitals and providers throughout Kansas and in surrounding states.

**TPOPP**

The TPOPP program (Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences) is designed to improve the quality of care people receive at the end of life. The Steering Committee meets at the MSSC offices. Drs. Barbara Coats, Donna Ewy and Bobbie Loeffler are physician champions. Forms are available from the MSSC, and TPOPP information is available at [www.tpoppwichita.org](https://www.tpoppwichita.org).



# MSSC NEWS

Medical Society of Sedgwick County Physician Leadership Alliance, Inc.  
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Wichita, KS 67211

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## Thank you for your service

The Medical Society of Sedgwick County thanks the following physicians for serving on the MSSC Board of Directors in 2023:

**President: Maurice Duggins, MD**

**President-elect: Howard Chang, MD**

**Secretary: Diane Hunt, MD**

**Treasurer: Barry Bloom, MD**

**Board members:**

Megan Dingwall, MD

Mark Laudenschlager, MD

Jennifer Thuener, MD

Stephanie Kuhlmann, DO

Katie Rosell, MD

Wassim Shaheen, MD

Shauna Kern, DO

Christina Nicholas, MD

Ashley Robbins, MD

**MSSC also wants to congratulate incoming board members:** Jany Moussa, MD, president-elect; Apeksha Sathyaprasad, MD, secretary; Tuan Nguyen, MD, treasurer; and board members Rebecca Foster, DO, Mark Leiker, MD, and Lindsay Strader, DO.

