



PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY *News*

October 2020

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2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Pulaski County Medical Society
500 S. University Ave., Suite 311
Little Rock, AR 72205
Phone: 501.687.0039
Fax: 501.663.1737
Email: derek@pulaskicms.org
Website: www.pulaskicms.org

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When you think professional, ethical, quality healthcare,
think physicians of Pulaski County Medical Society.

Pioneering Black Physicians

by Tom Dillard

At the end of the Civil War in 1865, about 120,000 formerly enslaved Arkansans faced the incredibly daunting necessity of building new lives. Some means for making a living had to be found. Schools had to be established. Families separated by slavery needed reconstitution. No challenge facing the freedmen was more serious than finding medical care. Developing a cadre of professionally trained physicians would take decades, but by the turn of the 20th century Arkansas was home to an interesting variety of pioneering black physicians.

Professionally trained doctors of any race were scarce in Arkansas until well into the 20th century. For generations early Arkansans of both races were more likely to see self-trained herb doctors—often pronounced “yarb doctors.” Occasionally, black herb doctors gained recognition for their cures. Patience Brooks Trotter, who was born a slave in 1843 at Monticello, Drew County, developed a large herbal practice. White physicians were known to refer cases to Trotter.

The medical school in Little Rock did not accept black applicants until 1948, so aspiring black doctors had to go out of state for training. Between 1869 and 1907, eleven black medical colleges were founded, the first being at Howard University in Washington, D.C. Eventually, only Howard and Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tenn. would survive.

Established in 1876 by a gift of \$30,000 from the wealthy sons of an Irish immigrant family named Meharry, the Nashville institution educated the great majority of early black doctors in Arkansas.

One of the best known of those pioneering black doctors in Arkansas was Dr. D.B. Gaines of Little Rock. Gaines was born enslaved in South Carolina near the end of the Civil War. He was named for his owner’s brother, Dr. Bluford Gaines. As Gaines pointed out when interviewed by the WPA in the late 1930s, “My name is Doctor Bluford Gaines. Of course, I am a doctor, but my [first] name is Doctor.”

Gaines, who was a graduate of Philander Smith College in Little Rock, taught at Little Rock’s Union High School before entering Meharry in 1893.



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Pioneering Black Physicians

Continued from page 1

In 1900 Gaines became an ordained Baptist minister, serving for many years as pastor of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church in Little Rock.

Dr. G.W. Hayman of Little Rock was also a graduate of Meharry. Hayman, an Arkansas native, was well enough regarded that Republicans nominated him for a Federal pension examining board, but he was not appointed when white leaders in the Grand Army of the Republic raised objections.

Both Drs. Gaines and Hayman were active politically. In 1903, when the state legislature adopted a bill requiring the segregation of streetcars, Gaines and Hayman helped organize a spirited protest. They also helped organize a streetcar boycott in Little Rock, even forming a “We Walk League” to help enforce the boycott by charging a voluntary “fine” for those who broke the boycott. Black patronage of streetcars declined by 90 percent in Little Rock—but the law remained on the books.

Dr. R.A. Williams was born in 1879 in the newly created town of Forrest City in St. Francis County. In 1896 Williams graduated from Arkansas Baptist College in Little Rock, and he took his medical degree at Meharry in 1902. While practicing in Helena, Williams helped establish the Royal Circle of Friends in 1909. Fraternal organizations were important to black Americans, not only for their social component but because of their medical and insurance benefits. Dr. Williams moved to Chicago in 1915 to oversee the Royal Circle’s national headquarters.

Another Helena black doctor of note was Dr. Robert D. Miller. Born into a prominent, affluent, and high-achieving family in Helena in 1908, young Robert was sent to Cushing Academy in Boston following the devastating Elaine Race Massacre of 1919—in which Miller family members were murdered. Following his graduation from Howard University, Miller studied at Meharry, graduating in 1933. Dr. Miller’s son, Dr. Robert Dan Miller, Jr., would later serve as the first black mayor of Helena, and his grandson, Brian S. Miller is currently a Federal judge.

Pine Bluff has been home to a number of early black physicians. Dr. J.W. Rowland received his degree from

Meharry in 1887. Like a few other black doctors, Rowland established a drug business--the People’s Drug Store. Rowland died as a young man, passing away while on a house call.

One of the best educated black doctors in Little Rock was Dr. George William Stanley Ish. Born in 1883 to a family of Little Rock educators, Ish graduated from Talladega College in 1903, followed by taking a second bachelor’s degree from Yale University in 1905. He received his medical degree from Harvard in 1909.

Dr. Ish was one of the Little Rock physicians who established Bush Memorial Hospital in 1918. In 1953 Ish was among the first four black doctors to be accepted for membership in the Pulaski County Medical Society.

One of the more unusual black doctors in Arkansas was Dr. J. Z. Bargyh. He was described in the Arkansas Democrat in March 1920 as “the negro physician who was born among a tribe of wild Africans.” The newspaper explained in the racist manner of the times that “Dr. Bargyh was civilized by American missionaries and educated in the medical profession.” The write up on Dr. Bargyh was occasioned by his donation of \$500—a huge amount of money in 1920—to the campaign to build what would become the Baptist Hospital, an interesting gift since the hospital was for white patients only.

I must note that not all white doctors turned-away black patients, and some had treated enslaved blacks before the Civil War. Indeed, often owners of large plantations had contracts with white physicians to provide health care for their human property. Starting in 1899, Dr. T.E. Rhine practiced for more than 60 years at Thornton, on the border of Dallas and Calhoun counties, delivering more than 7,000 babies—a large percentage of whom were black. Despite the exceptions, the great majority of black Arkansans—especially in rural areas—received little health care until after World War II.

Tom Dillard is a historian and the founder of the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies in Little Rock. He lives in retirement near Glen Rose in rural Hot Spring County. Email him at Arktopia.td@gmail.com.

CHI ST. Vincent Infirmary Receives Mission: Lifeline Gold Plus Receiving Achievement Award

CHI St. Vincent Infirmary has received the Mission: Lifeline® Gold Plus Receiving Quality Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures outlined by the American Heart Association for the treatment of patients who suffer severe heart attacks.

Every year, more than 250,000 people experience an ST elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI), the deadliest type of heart attack, caused by a blockage of blood flow to the heart that requires timely treatment. To prevent death, it's critical to restore blood flow as quickly as possible, either by mechanically opening the blocked vessel or by providing clot-busting medication.

"It's an honor to be recognized by Mission: Lifeline for the dedication and commitment to excellence exhibited by

our CHI St. Vincent Heart Institute doctors and healthcare professionals," said Marcia Atkinson, president of the CHI St. Vincent Heart Institute. "We remain committed to constant improvement in our mission to deliver quality, compassionate care to all those we serve."

"We commend CHI St. Vincent Infirmary for this award in recognition for following evidence-based guidelines for timely heart attack treatment," said Tim Henry, M.D., Chair of the Mission: Lifeline Acute Coronary Syndrome Subcommittee. "We applaud the significant institutional commitment to their critical role in the system of care for quickly and appropriately treating heart attack patients."

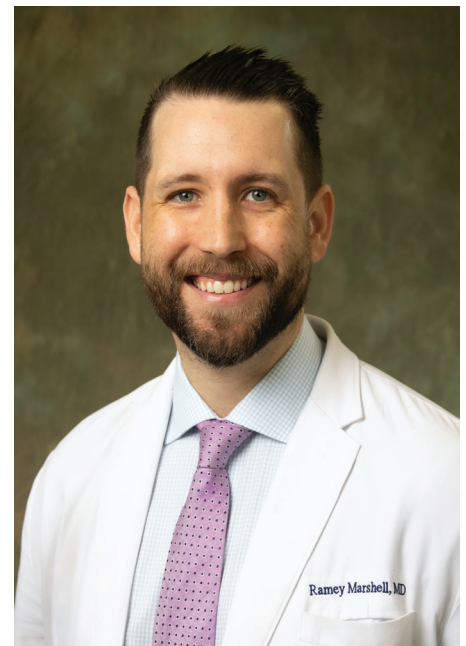
Dr. Ramey Marshall Joins Baptist Health Heart Institute/Arkansas Cardiology-Little Rock

Baptist Health Heart Institute/Arkansas Cardiology-Little Rock recently welcomed cardiologist Ramey Marshall, MD. Dr. Marshall, an Alma native, received his Doctorate of Medicine from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He completed residency training through the Tinsley Harrison Internal Medicine Residency Program at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where he also completed a fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease. "When a patient chooses to form a partnership with me, it is my intent to help guide them toward a better-quality life with reduced burden of cardiovascular disease," Dr. Marshall said.

Dr. Marshall reads and performs echocardiography, nuclear perfusion studies and diagnostic heart catheterizations. He additionally is one of the few level 3 cardiac/coronary computed tomography (CT) readers

(the highest level of distinction by the Society of Cardiovascular Computed Tomography) and cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) readers in the state.

Outside of medicine, Dr. Marshall enjoys spending time with his wife and two children as well as various types of sport/exercise including spin, rowing, weightlifting, tennis and golf. As an undergraduate alumnus of the University of Arkansas, he is also an avid Razorbacks fan.





Profiles in Excellence

Renee Montgomery, MD

What motivated you to choose medicine as a career?

My Father was a Pharmacist and my Mother was a Registered Nurse. Medicine was always a part of my life. Even as a small child I loved going to see Dr Wesley Ketz. I vividly remember him setting my broken collar bone when I was 3. He always explained things to me, let me help and hold things. He made a house call when I was sick and let me rumble through his sacred black bag, answering all my questions. That is when I decided I wanted to be just like him. I decided to choose nursing first as a career. While in nursing school I took extra classes that would help me on the MCAT if I decided to take it. I graduated nursing school in 1978. By 1980 I was back in school and working on a Zoology degree, had a 2 year old, and was working as a nurse at night. Blanton went to Montessori School in Jonesboro while I was in school. My last semester I took 24 hours, was working, and delivered my 2nd child 3 weeks after graduation. I waited a year before applying to Medical School at UAMS. I loved the challenge and passionately enjoyed caring for people.

Why did you choose your specialty?

While working as a Nurse, I worked mainly in Labor and Delivery in Newport, Ar. Although Surgery was what I thought I wanted to do, after working with Dr. Jabez Jackson, I became enraptured with Obstetrics/ Gynecology. You cared for all ages; there were a lot of procedures, and surgeries, but so much opportunity for patient education. I respected Dr. Jackson for his knowledge and unending dedication.

Who are the people who influenced you the most in your professional life and why?

First my parents, who instilled a sense of compassion for

people, strong work ethics, and a love for medicine. Next would be Dr Wesley Ketz who taught me medicine could be fun and educational to patients. But mostly Dr Jabez Jackson who taught me by example intense responsibility, dedication, constant learning, delayed gratification, and to never let your guard down. Dr Gerald Quirk was an incredible leader of our department and influenced my career. Dr Grosbeck Parham was very instrumental in teaching me surgical skills and post op care and will forever grateful for his time and expertise. Dr. Eddie Phillips and Dr. Allan McKnight taught me the most in surgery and patient office care. Working with them was the best part of residency.



What advice would you give current medical students?

First I would advise to enjoy and learn. Learn not just knowledge for tests and grades, but to learn how to be dedicated, honorable, ethical, how to be compassionate even when exhausted. Learn to make your children feel loved and important even with your limited time. Be sure of the specialty you choose as you can no longer do another later. Enjoy and learn from each rotation. Become involved in your State and County level. Stay close to your classmates-you will miss them later.

Name one interesting thing that most people would not know about you?

Aside from showing Tennessee Walking Horses and winning the Reserve Grand Champion Mares and Gelding at the Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration this year I am an avid hunter. I enjoy hunting White Tail Deer and Elk.

Profiles in Excellence is our way of spotlighting member physicians who are making a difference and changing our world. It is a chance to recognize doctors who have made outstanding contributions to medicine and local communities. Doctors may be recommended by fellow physicians or staff members by contacting the Pulaski County Medical Society office at 501-687-0039.

The following are proposed changes to the bylaws of the Pulaski County Medical Exchange. They will be voted on at the December 3, 2020 virtual membership meeting.

2020 Annual Business Meeting Notifications

PCMS Bylaws state "The slate of candidates shall be presented to the Board of Directors for approval and shall be mailed to all members prior to the Annual Business Meeting". It also says "bylaws may be amended by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members voting at a regular or special meeting of the Society. Proposed amendments shall be mailed to all members at least thirty days before the vote on such amendments is taken".

Pulaski County Medical Society Board Nominees:

Officer Nominees:

Brian Wayne, MD	President
Krishnappa Prasad, MD	President-Elect
Dana Abraham, MD	Vice President
	Secretary/Treasurer
Kay Chandler, MD	Immediate Past President

Nominees for Board of Directors (2 year term)

Kelly Burks, MD
Sayyadul Siddiqui, MD
M. Bruce Sanderson, MD

Pulaski County Medical Exchange Board Nominees:

Nominees for Board of Directors: (1 year term)

John T. Baber, MD
J. K. Buchman, MD
Melissa Graham, MD
Dr. Chandra Lingisetty
Renee Montgomery, MD
Marvin Ashford, MD
Angela Lovett, MD

PCME By Laws Changes for Publication:

Pulaski County Medical Exchange Bylaws state in section 13-D "Notices of all membership meetings shall be in writing given to each member in adequate manner before the meeting. All notices of any special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting."

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE BYLAWS OF THE PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL EXCHANGE

All highlighted areas in this column are words that have been omitted in the proposed wording	All highlighted areas in this column are words that have been added to the proposed change
Current Wording	Proposed Wording
8. Officers. The officers of the Corporation shall be elected from within the Board of Directors and shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting for a term of two years. Should any vacancy occur, on death, resignation or cancellation of service from the Exchange, the same shall be filled without undue delay by the Board of Directors to complete that term.	8. Officers. The officers of the Corporation shall be elected from within the Board of Directors and shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary/Treasurer, who shall be elected by the Board of Directors at its annual meeting for a term of two years. Should any vacancy occur, on death, resignation or cancellation of service from the Exchange, the same shall be filled without undue delay by the Board of Directors to complete that term.
NONE	7a- Electronic Voting The Corporation recognizes and approves the use of electronic media for board members to cast votes for or against any business that must be decided outside of a regularly scheduled board meeting. Electronic votes must be reported in the minutes of the next board meeting. If needed, electronic media may be used to facilitate a regularly scheduled board meeting rather than personal attendance.
Section 8: C. The Treasurer shall oversee all the funds and property of the Corporation. D. The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Corporation, issue notices, and keep minutes of all meetings of the Corporation, be custodian of the records, and keep the roll of all members.	Section 8: C. The Secretary/Treasurer shall oversee all the funds and property of the Corporation, as well as conduct the correspondence of the Corporation, issue notices, and keep minutes of all meetings of the Corporation, be custodian of the records, and keep the roll of all members.

Society to Honor Dr. Joseph M. Beck

Dr. Joseph M. Beck will be honored at the 2020 Annual Meeting and Dinner to be held virtually on Thursday, December 3, 2020. Dr. Beck will receive the 2020 President's Award For a Lifetime of Outstanding Contributions to Medicine. We invite you to attend and help us honor our recipient.



Please join us for the

Pulaski County Medical Society & Pulaski County Medical Exchange

2020 Annual Membership Meeting

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Virtual

Begins at 6:00 pm with Business Meeting & Elections
\$20.00 Registration Fee

The first 50 participants registered by November 19, 2020 will receive a meeting box with drinks, snacks and a variety of fun items.

2020 President's Award for a Lifetime of Outstanding Contributions to Medicine Recipient: Dr. Joseph M. Beck

Invited Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Nate Smith,
Former Arkansas Secretary of Health.

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2020 President's Award
for a
Lifetime of Outstanding
Contributions to Medicine
Recipient:
Dr. Joseph M. Beck

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Mission:

**Promote medical care,
professional growth, and
public health.**

Vision:

**To be a catalyst for change
in how healthcare is
viewed and implemented
in Central Arkansas**

Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021

1

Practice and Professional Viability

Maintain and enhance services,
professional staff and communications
to effectively implement the mission.

2

Community Voice and Outreach

Create and participate in events to
promote health; monitor and propose
government initiatives that affect public
health and safety; become the trusted
resource in the community for overseeing
the influencing of public health policy.

3

Leadership

Growing the number of active members
involved in the society's community
outreach and service, and take care of
the mental health of its members through
the foundation.

**If you would like to be involved in the
committee to help implement the
Strategic Plan please call 501-687-0039.**