



PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

# News

October 2022

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Pulaski County Medical Society

Krishnappa Prasad – *President*

Nicholas Brucker, MD – *Vice President*

Brian Wayne, MD – *Immediate Past President*

Kelly Burks, MD

Leticia Jones, MD

Bobby Kakati, MD

Sayyadul Siddiqui, MD

Ken Singleton, MD

Julienne Daniel – *UAMS Student Representative*

## 2022 COMMITTEES

### Pulaski County Medical Society

Brian Wayne, MD

*Nominating & Credentialing Chair*

Anna-Clair Pilkington

*Social Media Committee*

## 2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Pulaski County Medical Exchange

John T. Baber, MD – *President*

Marvin Ashford, MD

Misti Harvey

Will Henson

Angela Lovett, MD

Renee Montgomery, MD

Priyantha Wijewardane, MD

### Pulaski County Medical Society

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

## NEW MAILING ADDRESS

for the Pulaski County Medical Society  
and Pulaski County Medical Exchange

There will soon be a new mailing address on your annual Society dues notices, as well as the Medical Exchange quarterly invoices. Beginning in November we will be using the new return address listed below. Please make a note of this and change it in your system now, or at that time.

**500 S. University Avenue, Suite A-14  
Little Rock, AR 72205**

All correspondence and payments, will need to be sent to this new address. Even though we will not officially be in that space until January 1, 2023, we have made arrangements to receive mail there beginning now.

## Pulaski County Medical Exchange Operators are Moving to a Remote Workplace

The Pulaski County Medical Exchange (PCME) has been housed in the Doctors Building since 1964, but soon our operators will be working from home. This change is being received positively by our operators who will not have to worry about gas money for driving to work, as well as driving risks associated with hazardous roads when there is snow and ice. The phone numbers will still stay the same, just the location of those answering your calls will change.

The PCME business office will still be in the Doctor's Building, but will be located in Suite A-14. If you are a customer who uses the Medical Exchange services, here are a few items to think about.

1. Please change our address in your contacts and billing software now, even before January 1, 2023.
2. Change the Medical Exchange address in your online banking for those of you who pay exchange fees in that manner.
3. Those who have a centralized accounts payable office, please notify them of this change as well.

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# Together, we go further.

The practice of medicine is full of unforeseen challenges, and an experienced, proactive partner will help navigate them. As a premier provider of medical malpractice insurance, our in-house attorneys and unique array of tailored services are always at the ready to help you be prepared for what lies ahead.





## 2022 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:

Nicholas Brucker, MD	President
Kelly Burks, MD	Vice President
Derek Rudkin, IOM, CAE	Secretary/Treasurer
Krishnappa Prasad, MD	Immediate Past President

#### Nominees for Board of Directors: (2-year term)

Diane Wilder, MD  
Yara Robertson, MD  
Richard Wirges, MD

### Pulaski County Medical Exchange Board Nominees:

#### Nominees for Board of Directors: (1 year term)

Marvin Ashford, MD  
Jeffrey Hartsell, MHSA  
Misti Harvey  
Will Henson  
Angela Lovett, MD  
Renee Montgomery, MD  
Priyantha Wijewardane, MD

### Proposed Medical Exchange By-Laws Changes

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
6. Number, Election and Terms of Office of Board of Directors. The affairs and business of this organization shall be managed by the Board of at least three (3) Directors, which shall be elected at the annual meeting by a plurality vote of the entire membership of the Corporation, and subscribe to at least one service of the Exchange. Such directors shall serve for the ensuing one year. Should any vacancy occur, the same shall be filled without undue delay by the Board of Directors to complete that term.	6. Number, Election and Terms of Office of Board of Directors. The affairs and business of this organization shall be managed by the Board of at least three (3) Directors, which shall be elected at the annual meeting by a plurality vote of the entire membership of the Corporation, and subscribe to at least one service of the Exchange. Board member may also be an administrator of a department or clinic where all doctors subscribe to at least one service of the Exchange. Such directors shall serve for the ensuing one year. Should any vacancy occur, the same shall be filled without undue delay by the Board of Directors to complete that term.

## Pulaski County Medical Exchange Operators are Moving to a Remote Workplace

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We feel this will provide the Medical Exchange with a more consistent number of operators ready to work on any given day regardless of sickness or road conditions. As with any change over, there may be some hiccups those first few days, but we will do our best to keep them to a minimum.

If you have any questions about this change please call or email Derek Rudkin at 501-687-0039 or [derek@pulaskicms.org](mailto:derek@pulaskicms.org).

## Arkansas Heart Hospital Earns 5-Star Rating for Patient Experience in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 'Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating'

### Receives 4-star Overall Rating

Arkansas Heart Hospital (AHH) announced September 15<sup>th</sup> its Little Rock facility received a 5-star rating for patient experience in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 'Overall Hospital Quality Star Rating.' Within its score, the hospital received the highest 5-star rating for patient experience. Additionally, the hospital received a 4-star overall rating, and off the 895 hospitals to receive four stars, AHH was the only one in Arkansas.

"With patient outcomes and experience as our top priority, we are incredibly proud of our 5-star rating in this particular measurement group," said Dr. Bruce Murphy, CEO of Arkansas Heart Hospital. "To receive this rating is a testament to the work of every team member



- from physicians and nurses to our environmental services department and more. We are committed to providing the highest level of care and service to our patients, their families and visitors."

CMS calculated the ratings based on how well each hospital performed on an identified set of quality measures compared to other hospitals in the U.S. The more stars, the better a hospital scored in the following measured groups: mortality; safety of care; readmission; patient experience; and timely and effective care. CMS used updated 2021 data for the Overall Hospital Quality Star Ratings, which are used on its Care Compare website and Provider Data Catalog.

## Dr. Moezullah Beg Joins Baptist Health Interventional Pulmonology and Critical Care Clinic

[Baptist Health Interventional Pulmonology and Critical Care Clinic](#) recently added [Moezullah Beg, MD](#), to its team of specialists in pulmonary and sleep medicine.

Dr. Beg will serve as an interventional pulmonologist providing services such as bronchoscopic lung volume reduction, rigid bronchoscopy, airway stenting and lung cancer screening, staging and diagnosis. In addition, he will also perform duties as a board certified critical care physician.

Dr. Beg, a native of Hunza, Pakistan, earned his medical degree from Rawalpindi Medical College in Rawalpindi, Punjab, Pakistan, and received residency training at Allegheny Health Network Medical Education Consortium in Pittsburgh. He has had fellowships in pulmonary and critical care at UT Health San Antonio and in interventional pulmonology at the University of Florida.

"My goal is to provide personalized and compassionate care to patients and their families with advanced diseases such as COPD, lung cancer and acutely life-threatening conditions requiring intensive care," says Dr. Beg.

Dr. Beg is board certified in critical care medicine, internal medicine and pulmonary disease by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

In his spare time, Dr. Beg likes to stay fit and enjoys running. He also spends time outdoors and goes fishing whenever he gets the opportunity.



*Moezullah Beg, MD*

## UAMS Invests Matthew A. Steliga, M.D., in Kent C. Westbrook, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Surgical Oncology

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine invested Matthew A. Steliga, M.D., chief of the Division of Thoracic Surgery in the UAMS Department of Surgery and a tenured professor of surgery in the UAMS College of Medicine, in the Kent C. Westbrook, M.D., Distinguished Chair in Surgical Oncology during a Sept. 7 ceremony.

"I want to thank the East family for establishing this endowment, Lynn and Julie Marshall for extending it further and to Dr. Kent Westbrook for being a pioneer and leading us forward in surgical oncology," said Steliga. "This endowed chair allows us to reflect on our past and all the great things that have come before us in a very humbling way, and I hope that we can push our work even further into the future."

Steliga is a recognized expert in lung cancer, cancer screening, smoking cessation and surgical education. He has represented UAMS globally, speaking throughout North America, Asia, Australia and Europe. Because of his expertise in cancer care and prevention, he has been selected to serve in advisory roles for the American Cancer Society and the Arkansas Department of Health. Further, he has chaired workshops with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the American Association for Cancer Research and the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer.

An endowed chair is among the highest academic honors a university can bestow on a faculty member. A distinguished chair is established with gifts of at least \$1.5 million, which are invested and the interest proceeds used to support the educational, research and clinical activities of the chair holder. Those named to a chair are among the most highly regarded scientists, physicians and professors in their fields.

James C. and Mary Kay East, longtime supporters of UAMS, established the chair through a \$1 million gift in 2015. Mary Kay East passed away in 2018. Kent C.



Westbrook, M.D., the inaugural chairholder, served from 1984-1999 as director of what is now the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. A distinguished professor in the Division of Surgical Oncology in the Department of Surgery, Westbrook also served in such roles as interim chair of the Department of Surgery, interim vice chancellor for development, and chair of the Department of Dermatology.

"Endowed chairs honor our most distinguished faculty members, and I want to congratulate Dr. Steliga for all that he has accomplished," said Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, UAMS chancellor and CEO of UAMS Health. "He has worked hard on behalf of his patients and the people he has helped educate, but he has also worked hard to advance scholarship that helps people across the globe."

"Dr. Matthew Steliga is a superb surgical oncologist who specializes in the cancer of the lungs and esophagus. He has built a great clinical program with treatment, prevention, detection and research components," said Westbrook. "I congratulate him on his accomplishments and look forward to his future role as the leader in surgical oncology at UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute."



## UAMS College of Public Health Researchers to Use \$4 Million Grant to Address Health Impact of Structural Racism, Discrimination on Middle-Aged Black Men

Researchers from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health's Southern Public Health and Criminal Justice Research Center will use a \$4 million grant from the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD) to study structural racism and discrimination. Specifically, the researchers are examining the persistent racial wealth gap between Black and white men.

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) defines structural racism and discrimination as "macro-level conditions (e.g. residential segregation and institutional policies) that limit opportunities, resources, power and well-being of individuals and populations based on race/ethnicity and other statuses." The NIMHD is funding research that studies these complexities and acknowledges that "achieving health equity for all in the U.S. will require dismantling this country's historical legacy of structural racism."

Brooke EE Montgomery, Ph.D., MPH, George Pro, Ph.D., and Nick Zaller, Ph.D., received a NIMHD Research Project Grant (R01) to study the relationship between the racial income gap and racial disparities in chronic diseases in a sample of low-income Black men recruited from central Arkansas.

"This form of structural racism and discrimination is of particular interest as it has multilevel implications that strengthen risk factors and weaken protective factors to the health of Black men", said Montgomery. "Temporarily reducing the gap through the provision of income supplementation is an innovative strategy to address this historic source of oppression and promote the health of Black men", she added.

"There's a lot of discussion about crime, violent acts and poverty, but we need to understand how to address the issues," Zaller said. "We'll conduct one of the first studies that will focus on the effects of universal basic income, guaranteed income and the health of a specific demographic in the South. We're happy to have received the grant and the opportunity to do the study."

Black men ages 45 and older will be the focus of the research. The study will include some participants who previously have been incarcerated. Each participant will be interviewed and surveyed three times during the 12-month study. Some of the men will be randomly selected to receive a financial stipend, which is downloaded onto a card, to use through the duration

of the study. They will also have to complete a weekly financial log of how they use the stipend.

"We'll study the health habits, commonalities and differences between the people who get the money and the ones who don't," Montgomery said.

The researchers will collaborate with long-standing community partners to carry out the project, which will be conducted exclusively in Pulaski County. "By focusing on Pulaski County, we can use both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods to thoroughly evaluate the importance of addressing the racial income gap and how it relates to health among men who are more likely to have a shared geographic and historical context. Our goal is to advance antiracist health research as well as to inform policies that promote health equity and dismantle structural racism and discrimination across multiple systems of oppression," Montgomery said.

"Through this grant, we'll also learn how income effects secondary measures related to their mental and physical health and how the men function in society.

"Are they going start engaging more in their communities? Will they be happier? How will the funding effect what they do with their children and families? Those are some examples of the questions we'll look to answer through this research grant."

Zaller noted that "having limited finances can force people to put their health on the backburner, especially individuals who are coming out of the criminal justice system."

This grant is the first of its kind in Arkansas and the first NIH grant that will focus on rigorously testing ways to dismantle structural racism.

"We've received the opportunity to wed the Southern Public Health and Criminal Justice Research Center's mission with research as a means to learn how we can promote racial justice," Montgomery said. "I envision this as a tool for supporting numerous endeavors in the participants' life. We are here to help people. That's what this research, this grant is all about."

The R01 grant and the forthcoming research project are a means to provide well-documented numerical solutions to issues that lead to other problems.

"With the grant, we're going to find out if just being financial stability is enough for people to prioritize their health," Zaller said.

## UAMS to Break Ground on Child Development Center



The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) broke ground on a \$10 million Child Development Center near the Hillary Rodham Clinton Children's Library and across Interstate 630 from the UAMS campus on September 14, 2022. The center will have the capacity to provide services for about 200 children, from infancy through prekindergarten, of UAMS employees and students.

Guests included UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson; Little Rock Mayor Frank Scott Jr.; State Rep. Tippi McCullough; Little Rock City Director Kathy Webb; Jay Chessir, president and CEO of the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce; Stephanie Gardner, UAMS provost; Jeannette "Jan" Shorey, UAMS professor emerita; and representatives of Fennell Purifoy Architects, CR Crawford Construction, Southern Bancorp and U.S. Bank.

## Baptist Health Announces Associate Vice President of Hospital Operations in North Little Rock

Callie Parks, who has worked in various roles at Baptist Health since 2018, was recently named associate vice president of hospital operations at Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock.

Parks' time with Baptist Health started with her serving as an administrative resident before she became an administrative fellow. In September 2020, she was named associate vice president of ambulatory innovation at Practice Plus and Baptist Health.

While in her associate vice president role, she had operational oversight of a number of clinics in central Arkansas, oversaw ambulatory projects with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and participated in innovative practice ideas and startups.

Most recently, she served as the interim vice president of operations for our Western Region, which includes Baptist Health's Fort Smith and Van Buren hospitals.

Parks received a Bachelor of Science in Biology at the University of Central Arkansas and Master of Health Administration at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. She is a member of the Medical Group Management Association and American College of Healthcare Executives.



*Callie Parks*

## AMA: Physician Burnout Rate Spikes to New Height

### New study concludes COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated long-standing system issues that drive burnout

The burnout rate among physicians in the United States spiked dramatically during the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a newly published study in [Mayo Clinic Proceedings](#). Researchers found that 2020 marked the end of a six-year period of decline in the overall rate of work-induced burnout among physicians. By the end of 2021, after 21-months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the physician burnout rate spiked to a new height that was greater than previously monitored by researchers.

"While the worst days of COVID-19 pandemic are hopefully behind us, there is an urgent need to attend to physicians who put everything into our nation's response to COVID-19, too often at the expense of their own well-being," said AMA President Jack Resneck Jr., M.D. "The sober findings from the new research demand urgent action as outlined in the [AMA's Recovery Plan for America's Physicians](#), which focuses on supporting physicians, removing obstacles and burdens that interfere with patient care, and prioritizing physician well-being as essential requirements to achieving national health goals."

The new physician burnout research builds on landmark studies conducted at regular intervals between 2011 and 2021 by researchers from the AMA, Mayo Clinic and Stanford Medicine. Together, these studies found the overall prevalence of burnout among U.S. physicians was 62.8% in 2021 compared with 38.2% in 2020, 43.9% in 2017, 54.4% in 2014, and 45.5% in 2011. Each study consistently demonstrated that the overall prevalence of occupational burnout among physicians were higher relative to the U.S. workforce.

Since 2012, the AMA has led the national conversation on solving the physician burnout crisis and advocated for new thinking and solutions that acknowledge physicians

need support, system reforms, and burden reduction. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated many of the drivers of physician burnout. Research has shown that due to COVID-related stress, 1 in 5 physicians intend to leave their current practice within 2 years.

The AMA's ongoing work to mitigate physician burnout, as exemplified by the Recovery Plan for America's Physicians, strives to attack the dysfunction in health care by removing the obstacles and burdens that interfere with patient care. The AMA [website](#) offers physicians and health systems a choice of cutting-edge tools, information and resources to help rekindle a joy in medicine, including:

- **STEPS Forward™** - a collection of more than 70 award-winning online toolkits offered by the AMA that help physicians and medical teams make transformative changes to their practices and covers everything from managing stress and preventing burnout to improving practice workflow.
- **Organization Biopsy™** - a set of measurement resources developed by the AMA that assess burnout levels within medical organizations to provide metrics that can guide solutions and interventions that mitigate system-level burnout rates and improve physician well-being.
- **International Conference on Physician Health** - a biennial meeting held this October in Orlando, Fla. that brings together the AMA, British Medical Association and Canadian Medical Association to support health and well-being in the ranks of physicians and medical students.
- **Joy in Medicine™ Health System Recognition Program** - an AMA distinction, now in its third year, that recognizes health systems with a demonstrated commitment to pursue proven strategies that reduce work-related burnout among care teams.
- **Debunking Regulatory Myths** - a series created by the AMA that provides physicians and their care teams with resources to reduce guesswork and administrative burdens and focus on streamlining clinical workflow processes, improving patient outcomes and increasing physician satisfaction.

The AMA continues to work on every [front](#) to address the physician burnout crisis. Through our research, collaborations, advocacy and leadership, the AMA is working to make the patient-physician relationship more valued than paperwork, preventive care the focus of the future, technology an asset and not a burden, and physician burnout a thing of the past.

### Upcoming Dates to Remember

<b>October 17<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Bosses Day</b>
<b>October 31<sup>st</sup>:</b>	<b>Halloween</b>
<b>November 6<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Daylight Savings Time Ends</b>
<b>November 8<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Election Day</b>
<b>November 11<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Veterans Day</b>
<b>November 24<sup>th</sup>:</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Day</b>