



PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY News

August 2023

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

2023 Freshman Orientation Luncheon

The Pulaski County Medical Society hosted lunch on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 during freshman orientation at the school of medicine. Executive Director Derek Rudkin, IOM, CAE gave a brief presentation about the society and its rich history with the medical college. Freshman Edward Morris was the winner of the Littman Classic III stethoscope that the society gave away on Friday, August 4, 2023.



2023 PCMS Carolyn Clayton Scholarship Awarded

The 2023 PCMS Carolyn Clayton Scholarship was awarded on August 1, 2023 to Jason Muka during freshman orientation week at UAMS. Mr. Muka was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, and his upbringing took him across continents, with experiences in both Europe and South Africa. He recently graduated from Philander Smith University, holding a dual degree in Biology and Chemistry. Jason's ultimate goal is to earn a medical degree and specialize in surgery, channeling his determination and empathy to directly contribute to the well-being of individuals.



*M1 Student Jason Muka receives
PCMS Carolyn Clayton Scholarship*

The Hazards of Using Foreign Medical Scribes

STEPHEN A. DICKENS, JD, VICE PRESIDENT, MEDICAL PRACTICE SERVICES, SVMIC;
REPRINTED FROM THE SVMIC SENTINEL

Scribes have long been employed in medical practices as a tool to increase the productivity of physicians and practitioners by lessening the demand on their time for documentation in an electronic health record (EHR). A well trained and competent scribe does exactly that. Given the staffing challenges of recent years, practices are struggling to hire staff for all positions. One of the emerging trends to combat staff shortages is the use of foreign virtual scribes who "observe" the physician and participate in the patient encounter remotely. These services are generally available at a lower cost than a full-time, in-house staff member. While this may seem like the solution to a problem, practices should be aware of the risks associated with this type of relationship.

While the potential for an incorrect entry exists with all scribes, it is heightened in this scenario. English may not always be the first language of a foreign scribe. Even if it is, American colloquialisms vary by region and can be confusing for those not familiar with them. This presents a serious risk to patient safety. Physicians and practitioners are responsible to review and validate the scribe's documentation. Failure to catch and correct a mistranslation could result in irrevocable patient harm.

One of the greatest risks is the potential HIPAA threat arising from access to the electronic health record. Practices are responsible for ensuring the safety and security of patients' electronic Protected Health Information (ePHI). That can be difficult to do when all employees are under one roof. Granting access remotely around the globe, given the increasing cybersecurity incidents, requires an even higher level of due diligence. Speaking of cybersecurity, another consideration is the threat to the service provider which may be greater based on their location. The practice must take the relationship and potential threats to the service provider into consideration when conducting the practice's security risk analysis. Health and Human Services specifically addresses the need for this when utilizing a foreign communication service provider (CSP) and the risk to ePHI in a FAQ found at www.hhs.gov.

A virtual medical scribe and the company for which they work are considered a business associate to the practice's role as a covered entity. This means they too have an obligation to safeguard ePHI. Should they fail to implement adequate administrative, physical, and technical safeguards as required by the HIPAA Security Rule, they could face penalties. While they may willingly sign a business associate agreement, the issue becomes one of enforcement of penalties should they fail to meet their obligations. At this point, guidance is not available from the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) regarding how they will manage a foreign actor for violating HIPAA. The OCR's authority does not extend beyond the United States, and it seems unlikely they would pursue these organizations. The practice, however, is within the OCR's authority making it much easier to seek recovery from them. Unless the business associate voluntarily pays any imposed fines, the practice may be left responsible even if it was compliant.

SVMIC recommends extreme caution before entering into any agreement that places a practice's system and information at risk. The agreement should clearly outline the responsibilities and obligations of both parties. For those groups considering a foreign CSP, practices should at least consider the following:

- Determine what the service has done to become HIPAA compliant and how they monitor compliance of their employees. They should be able and eager to provide details.
- Secure a signed Business Associate Agreement (BAA). This is a HIPAA requirement for all covered entities. The BAA must be signed by either the service provider or the individual scribes. Health and Human Services (HHS) requires a BAA to contain the following:
 - A description of the permitted and required uses of ePHI;
 - A provision that the business associate will not use or further disclose the ePHI other than as permitted or required by the contract or as required by law; and
 - A requirement that the business associate use appropriate safeguards to prevent the use or disclosure of ePHI other than as provided for by the contract.
- Conduct and document your own HIPAA training for the virtual scribe(s). Even if the service provides its own staff education, this ensures the appropriate information is conveyed and adds a level of documentation for your records.
- Limit access to the ePHI. Scribes should be able to access only what is absolutely necessary to perform their function. Assign unique usernames and passwords. If possible, control access from the practice's end to allow EHR system access only when you are actively engaging the scribes. Routinely monitor system access and be prepared to suspend it if anything seems amiss. Prohibit any download of data from your system.

Beyond the risk issues outlined, all scribes, whether in person or virtual, must be qualified and properly trained to perform the job. The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) provides excellent guidance on those requirements and best practices here. Regardless of the situation, practices should ensure they are using scribes appropriately which requires review and authentication of the information.

Practices must weigh the perceived benefit of these arrangements against the significant risks associated with these services, understanding they will almost certainly be held responsible for any breaches and penalties arising from these relationships. Given the uncertainty of how a breach, or any legal issue for that matter, might be handled given the lack of US jurisdiction over a foreign actor, SVMIC cannot recommend or suggest the use of a foreign based entity.



CHI St. Vincent Expands Access to Radiology Services in West Little Rock with Imaging Center Reopening

[CHI St. Vincent](#) announced the reopening of its radiology imaging center in West Little Rock on July 5, 2023. The [CHI St. Vincent Imaging Center - West](#) creates access to a multitude of imaging services, including CT, MRI, ultrasound and X-Ray services. [Radiology Associates, P.A. \(RAPA\)](#) will manage the new facility in partnership with CHI St. Vincent. It is part of CHI St. Vincent's wider commitment to superior patient care by offering increased accessibility to medical diagnostics within the area.

"Greater access to diagnostic tools like imaging is essential to provide patients with faster diagnosis and improved treatment plans," CHI St. Vincent Market CEO Chad Aduddell said. "Our new West Little Rock imaging center will allow us to continue to provide exceptional care for more individuals at a location within reach."

The CHI St. Vincent Imaging Center - West will be staffed by RAPA's fellowship-trained radiologists to provide the highest quality diagnostic services and patient care. The center will be equipped with state-of-the-art, high-resolution imaging technology, allowing doctors to view and diagnose any specific area of the human body, whether cardiac, gastrointestinal, vascular, soft tissue, or bone.

"Both RAPA and CHI St. Vincent share the same mission to provide first-rate patient care and services," RAPA Chief Administrative Officer Tony Carozza said. "We are



excited to continue our collaborative relationship with the reopening of the imaging center in West Little Rock while expanding access to the latest, most comprehensive and accurate diagnostic imaging services."

The reopening of the CHI St. Vincent Imaging Center - West on July 5 marks the transition of imaging services and procedures from RAPA's Doctor's Building location to the new facility at 16115 St. Vincent Way. RAPA will continue to offer MRI services at the Doctor's Building. Appointments for radiology services in West Little Rock are available Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Cardiologist Dr. Stephen Broughton Joins CHI St. Vincent Cardiology and Medicine Clinic in Little Rock



Dr. Stephen Broughton

CHI St. Vincent announces that cardiologist Dr. Stephen Broughton has joined the team of specialists at the CHI St. Vincent Cardiology and Medicine Clinic in Little Rock. Dr. Broughton is now seeing patients at the clinic, located at 5315 West 12th Street.

After attending medical school at the University of Arkansas for Medical

Sciences in Little Rock, Dr. Broughton completed his residency in internal medicine at Wake Forest Baptist

Medical Center in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Most recently, Dr. Broughton completed his interventional cardiology fellowship training immediately following his cardiology fellowship program at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Broughton is certified in cardiovascular medicine and interventional cardiology by the American Board of Internal Medicine and is a member of the National Medical Association, the American Heart Association and the Association of Black Cardiologists.

The team of specialists at the CHI St. Vincent Cardiology and Medicine Clinic focuses on diagnosing patients and developing personalized treatment plans for diseases and conditions of the heart and vascular systems

Baptist Health Named to Newsweek's America's Greatest Workplaces for Women 2023

Baptist Health announced May 11, 2023 that it has been recognized as one of America's Greatest Workplaces for Women 2023 by Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group.

"We are thrilled to be honored as a supportive environment where women within our healing ministry can thrive," said Chief Human Resources Officer Cathy Dickinson. "Women, who make up 77% of our workforce at Baptist Health, bring a unique perspective and their talents are invaluable. We celebrate them and their contributions to our patients and communities."

Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group teamed up to conduct a large-scale employer study based on over 224,000 company reviews and survey results from more than 37,000 female employees. From their research, 600 large American companies, including Baptist Health, were found to rank the highest on criteria such as "compensation and benefits," "work-life balance" and



"proactive management of a diverse workforce."

Over the past nine years, Baptist Health has made a concerted effort to increase the number of women in leadership roles. Baptist Health has increased the number of women serving in vice president or above roles by 375%. Leadership has grown to be more representative of the employee population with 51% of the leadership team of directors and above being women.

Baptist Health has a long-standing tradition of supporting women in the workplace through initiatives such as a preschool, tuition assistance, an employee assistance program, a credit union, financial wellness including a student loan forgiveness program, a fitness center, flexible scheduling, career development, an employee emergency fund, executive coaching, a diversity and inclusion committee, and maternity and breastfeeding resources.

Cardiologist Dr. Mohammad Al-Sarie Joins CHI St. Vincent Heart Clinic Arkansas - North Little Rock

CHI St. Vincent announces that cardiologist Dr. Mohammad Al-Sarie has joined the team of specialists at the [CHI St. Vincent Heart Clinic Arkansas - North Little Rock](#). Dr. Al-Sarie is now seeing patients at the clinic, located at 4000 Richards Road, Suite A.

Dr. Al-Sarie most recently completed his Interventional Cardiology Fellowship through the Einstein Healthcare Network in Philadelphia. After attending medical school at the University of Jordan College of Medicine in Amman, Jordan, he completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Toledo in Ohio and served as Chief Cardiology Fellow during his final year in the cardiology fellowship training program through the Einstein Healthcare Network in Philadelphia. Dr. Al-Sarie is a member of the American Heart Association,

the American College of Cardiology, the Society for Cardiovascular Angiography and Interventions as well as the American Medical Association.

The CHI St. Vincent Heart Clinic Arkansas - North Little Rock is a subspecialty cardiology clinic which focuses on diagnosing patients and developing personalized treatment plans for diseases and conditions of the heart and vascular systems, including arrhythmia, angina, hypertension, chest pain, atrial fibrillation and low blood pressure.



Dr. Mohammad Al-Sarie

UAMS Opens New Orthopaedic & Spine Hospital

A number of dignitaries and other visitors gathered on May 8, 2023 to celebrate the opening of the Orthopaedic & Spine Hospital at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

Located southwest of the main hospital, the four-story building includes more than 158,000 square feet dedicated to orthopaedic surgery, spine care and pain management. It has 24 private rooms for overnight observation and inpatient stays; 12 examination rooms for orthopaedic trauma, orthopaedic oncology, and physical medicine and rehabilitation; 12 operating rooms; eight exam rooms and two procedure suites for use by the pain management team; educational space for orthopaedic surgery residents; and offices for faculty and administrators.

"We are thrilled to be ushering in a new era of providing comprehensive specialized care available under one roof for orthopaedic and spine patients across the state," said UAMS Health CEO and UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA. "This facility was designed to support the state-of-the-art equipment and world-class care that we are famous for, while providing easy access for patients." The surgical facility will welcome its first patients in June.

"The Orthopaedic & Spine Hospital puts Little Rock right at the helm of medical research and will attract droves of new talent to our state," said Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders. "I'm glad to be here to inaugurate this new facility and am thankful to everyone who made it possible. I know this project will pay dividends for our state far into the future."

"Our nationally recognized experts look forward to the enhanced ability this building provides to combine their multidisciplinary skills while using the latest cutting-edge



technology," said C. Lowry Barnes, M.D., chair of the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery in the UAMS College of Medicine. "Perhaps more importantly, we know that patients and their family members will appreciate the ways this allows us to streamline services in a comfortable, easy-to-navigate environment."

The innovative surgical facility was designed with versatility in mind, to accommodate a wide range of procedures including complex orthopaedic surgery, orthopaedic trauma and orthopaedic oncology, as well as pain management, physical medicine and rehabilitation. It will complement and not replace off-campus UAMS orthopaedic clinics throughout Little Rock.

Monday's ribbon-cutting ceremony came just over two years after ground was broken April 12, 2021, to cheers from a crowd that included several UAMS leaders; local, state and federal dignitaries; representatives of the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce and the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees; architect Willie Stokes with Davis Stokes Collaborative Architects; and Greg Williams, CEO of Nabholz Construction, the general contractor.

The project was paid for by a bond issue approved by the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees.

Visible from Interstate 630 and from across the Little Rock campus, the new surgical hospital was designed to be easily accessible from anywhere in the state.

UAMS Graduates 1,096 Health Care Professionals

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), on May 20, 2023, conferred degrees and certificates to 1,096 students in its five colleges and graduate school.

Degrees and certificates were awarded to 157 students in the College of Medicine, 210 in the College of Nursing, 524 in the College of Health Professions, 76 in the College of Pharmacy, 74 in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health and 55 in the UAMS Graduate School.

Degrees and certificates conferred include the doctor of philosophy; doctor of medicine; doctor of pharmacy;

doctor of nursing practice; master of science; master of nursing science; bachelor of science in nursing; master of public health; doctor of public health; master of health administration; postbaccalaureate certificate in public health; master of science in health care analytics; and a variety in allied health disciplines, including bachelor of science degrees, master of physician assistant studies and master of science degrees, and doctor of audiology and doctor of physical therapy degrees.

Baptist Health Urgent Care Opens Additional Locations in Hot Springs, Russellville

Baptist Health Urgent Care has opened additional locations in Hot Springs at Central Ave. and Franklin St. and in Russellville by First State Bank. The new centers complement existing clinics in Hot Springs and Russellville.

With 20 walk-in urgent care centers in Arkansas, Baptist Health recognizes the increasing on-demand healthcare needs in growing communities. "Our goal is to meet and exceed the increasing need for quality care delivered in a convenient location at an affordable price," said Mike Dupuis, Vice President of Baptist Health Urgent Care.

Baptist Health Urgent Care provides urgent care, family care, wellness services, and occupational health services on a walk-in basis. With onsite X-ray and lab tests, the healthcare staff treats patients with medical needs, such as:

- Asthma and allergies
- Broken bones, sprains, strains



- COVID-19 testing
- Diarrhea, nausea, and vomiting
- Ear and eye injuries
- Flu, colds, viral illnesses
- Immunizations and vaccinations
- Occupational health services
- School, sports, wellness, and DOT physicals
- Skin conditions, including burns
- Stitches
- Urinary tract infections

The centers are open seven days a week: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Most insurance plans, including TRICARE and VA, Medicare and Medicaid, as well as cash and credit card are accepted. ARKids requires a physician referral in advance of the visit.

Dr. Bassam "Sammy" Shukrallah Seeing Patients at Baptist Health Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic



Dr. "Sammy" Shukrallah

Bassam "Sammy" Shukrallah, MD, is now providing quality, compassionate care to patients at Baptist Health Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic with the support of Arkansas' most comprehensive health care organization. Dr. Shukrallah specializes in thoracic surgery/transplants.

Dr. Shukrallah earned his Bachelor of Science from

the University of Houston and his medical degree from St. Matthews University School of Medicine in the Cayman Islands, British West Indies. Before completing his residency at the University of South Alabama, Dr. Shukrallah served as a resident and research resident at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

Following medical school, Shukrallah served as a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Infectious Diseases at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Dr. Shukrallah completed advanced fellowship training in cardiothoracic surgery at the University of Minnesota Medical Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Prior to joining Baptist Health, Dr. Shukrallah served as assistant professor at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Department of Cardiac Surgery and as a cardiothoracic surgeon in the Section of Cardiac Surgery at Minneapolis Heart Institute for over three years.

Dr. Shukrallah was also an assistant professor of cardiothoracic surgery in The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center Department of Cardiac Surgery, where he also served as surgical director of the ECMO Program. Dr. Shukrallah is a member of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation, The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and Extracorporeal Life Support Organization (ELSO).

Baptist Health Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic is conveniently located in Suite 200 of Medical Towers I on the campus of Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock. The clinic offers comprehensive surgical options from bypass surgery to a heart transplant.

UAMS, Baptist Health Celebrate Opening of New Cancer Clinic in Little Rock; Infusion Center to Open This Fall

Baptist Health and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) on Thursday, May 18, held a ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the opening of a new cancer clinic and infusion center on the campus of Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock.

UAMS Baptist Health Cancer Clinic-Little Rock, in Suite 500 of the Hickingbotham Outpatient Center, manages the full spectrum of options for cancer patients such as prescribing the appropriate chemotherapy and leading a multidisciplinary approach to address all of a cancer patient's health needs.

"Both Baptist Health and UAMS understand that cancer care is a critical part of providing quality health care to our community," said Troy Wells, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "That's why we are committed to expanding cancer services and resources together so that Arkansans can receive the care they need as close to home as possible. We remain committed to helping those who are fighting this difficult battle and ensuring they receive the best possible outcomes. It is our mission to provide Arkansans with compassionate care that meets the highest standards of quality."

"Today marks the next step in our partnership with Baptist Health as we work together to expand access to the most advanced cancer care to every corner of our state," said UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA. "Our vision is for Baptist Health patients to be able to receive the novel treatments provided by our UAMS cancer experts, including innovative clinical trials, at their Baptist Health clinic or hospital. The more entry points we can give patients to exceptional care, the better chance they have of being diagnosed early and surviving this disease that is impacting Arkansans so significantly."

UAMS Baptist Health Cancer Clinic-Little Rock will be staffed by an experienced team of hematology/oncology, gynecologic oncology, and neuro-oncology specialists from the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, as well as a variety of other surgical and non-surgical oncology specialists.

With disease specific expertise in more than 35 cancer types, UAMS medical oncologists are trained to manage a patient's overall care and treatment plan, which may involve a combination of surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, immunotherapy and other interventions. Specialists from all areas of cancer care work together to develop a personalized treatment plan for each patient.

In addition to providing treatment, medical oncologists may also manage the side effects of cancer and its

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treatments, provide supportive care to patients and their families, and coordinate care with other health care providers. They may also conduct clinical research and participate in the development of new cancer treatments.

"This is the second and largest cancer clinic to open in the UAMS Baptist Health Cancer Network and continues our mission to bring cutting-edge treatment to patients where they need it," said Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D., vice chancellor and director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at UAMS. "Our cancer experts at the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute who staff these cancer clinics are uniquely trained to provide a more sophisticated level of care enhanced by the latest research, cutting edge treatments and clinical trials available nowhere else."

"UAMS Baptist Health Cancer Clinic-Little Rock is one more way Baptist Health and UAMS are bringing exceptional and unmatched cancer care options to Arkansans," said UAMS medical oncologist Anusha Jillella, M.D. "This collaboration simplifies oncology and allows therapy options to be more personalized for each patient, including through clinical trials. Through our partnership, we are also leveraging Baptist Health's network of 11 hospitals and 100 clinics to bridge the gaps in the state's cancer care network."

A 32-bay infusion center is also set to open in the Hickingbotham Outpatient Center this September. Services will include therapies for both cancer and non-cancerous conditions.

Additionally, the infusion center will have a blend of patient treatment areas to accommodate specific needs (open pods versus isolation/private) and eventually an embedded urgent care clinic specifically designed for cancer patients.

In 2020, the University of Arkansas System Board of Trustees approved a joint venture between the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute and Baptist Health to expand comprehensive cancer care, allowing two of Arkansas' most trusted names in health care to deliver state-of-the-art treatments with the most innovative technology available in Arkansas.

UAMS Baptist Health Cancer Clinic-Little Rock furthers the partnership's goal of leveraging Baptist Health facilities across the state to expand cancer care and elevate the level of care that Arkansans have come to expect from both long-standing names in health care.

The clinic, at 9500 Kanis Road in Little Rock, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Baptist Health Caregivers Again Make List of 'Great 100 Nurses'

Registered nurses from Baptist Health have once again been recognized by the Great 100 Nurses Foundation for their exemplary nursing care, contributions to the profession of nursing and mentoring of others. The 10 nurses from Baptist Health are:

- **Sharon Aureli**, system neurology program line manager, of Little Rock
- **Kristie Brockett**, assistant director of Med Surg services and house supervisors, of Little Rock
- **Shelley Elton**, occupational health nurse, of Little Rock
- **Kasey Grimmett**, stroke nurse coordinator, of Little Rock
- **Ann Marie Mahan**, flex team RN in 3A-North Med Surg, of Little Rock
- **Kristin Phillips**, nurse manager in the Emergency Department, of Little Rock
- **Shannon Smith**, nurse retention navigator, of Fort Smith
- **Shiquita Stewart**, flex team RN in Med/Surg-Pulmonary 7B, of Little Rock
- **Norman Swope**, nurse manager in 10 A-Oncology, of Little Rock
- **Chengjie Zhao**, specialty RN in 10 A-Oncology, of Little Rock



**Sharon
Aureli**



**Kristie
Brockett**



**Shelley
Elton**



**Kasey
Grimmett**



**Ann Marie
Mahan**



**Kristin
Phillips**



**Shannon
Smith**



**Shiquita
Stewart**



**Norman
Swope**



**Chengjie
Zhao**

For the past 37 years, thousands of nurses from across Louisiana, Oklahoma, North Carolina, Texas and Arkansas have been recognized through the Great 100 Nurses Foundation program. Funds raised through the awards event support nursing advocacy, nursing scholarships and nursing research.

All the Arkansas recipients from across the state, including those from Baptist Health, will be celebrated at an awards dinner in October at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock.

PCMS Sponsors Incoming Freshmen event at Northshore Golf Range

The Pulaski County Medical Society helped sponsor a social event for the new M1 students at the Northshore Golf Range on Tuesday, August 1, 2023. The event was planned by the officers of the M2 class led by M2 Student Lindsey Herberger, Class of 2026 Vice President.



L-R, M1 students Weston Northington, Sara Ottinger, Devin Whiteside, Rachna Paruchuri, and Alaina Baggett



L-R, M2 student Will Strickland, and M1 students Davis Lee, Bennett Perkins and Matthew Mangan



L-R, M2 Students Bliss Jagers and Gabby Agcaoili at the driving range