



PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY News

March 2023

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

PCME Receives \$766,100 Judgment in Federal Court

by Arkansas Business Staff February 27, 2023

A federal judge in February awarded \$766,100 to Pulaski County Medical Exchange of Little Rock after its pending sale turned into a federal court battle that included a racketeering claim.



If you recall, last year [PCME sued the would-be buyer MedCom Medical Messaging Inc.](#) of Dallas, and its CEO, Chase Wright, along with a Ronald Ray Brock, over allegations that they never intended on paying \$5.9 million for PCME.

PCME said in its court filings that Wright is actually Brock, and Brock is a “known hijacker of telephone answer service business.” PCME was represented by the Little Rock law firm of Cross Gunter Witherspoon & Galchus.

PCME is an answering service business that serves doctors, hospitals and patients in central Arkansas. Only Pulaski County Medical Society members are eligible for exchange privileges.

PCME said the defendants were supposed to pay for the assets on Dec. 31, 2021, but never did.

Making matters worse, on Jan. 11, 2022, Wright ordered the firing of some employees and removed every file from PCME’s computer system, according to an order from Judge Billy Roy Wilson filed last week.

PCME then decided to cancel the sale to MedCom. But MedCom continued to interfere with the business, even after Wilson entered a temporary restraining order against it, according to Wilson’s order.

PCME filed a lawsuit against the defendants and accused them of fraud.

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PCME Receives \$766,100 Judgment in Federal Court

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PCME later added a civil Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations Act claim.

The defendants didn't bother to answer the complaint, resulting in a default judgment against them in January. All PCME had to do next was prove its damages, which it said includes credits provided to customers and lost revenue. PCME said it was entitled to up to three times the amount of damages under the RICO statute.

Wilson agreed. "The facts in the Amended Complaint demonstrate a common purpose among Defendants of illegally enriching themselves instead of operating legitimate businesses," Wilson wrote. "The undisputed facts also show there is an ongoing organization with Defendants functioning for this common purpose."

Wilson found that PCME sustained damages of \$236,073, but because of the anti-racketeering claim, that bumped the damages up to \$708,220. He also awarded \$56,373 in attorneys' fees and \$1,511 in court costs for a total judgment of \$766,103.

"We are pleased with the Court's director, Derek Rudkin, said in an email statement to Whispers. PCME "is committed to protecting the doctors and patients that use our services, and we are hopeful this case will help prevent future business hijackings in our industry. We are currently operating without interruption and will continue our mission of supporting Arkansas providers and the patients they serve."

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Hosts Third 'Be a Part of the Cure' Walk on May 6

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute will hold its third Be A Part of the Cure Walk to support cancer patients, survivors and families at 8 a.m., May 6, at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock. Gates open at 6:30 a.m.



Fox 16 news anchor, Donna Terrell, will emcee the event.

Walkers can choose a 1K or 5K route, both of which are wheelchair and stroller accessible. The 1K route is conveniently located adjacent to War Memorial Stadium. The 5K route goes through War Memorial Stadium and outdoor golf course. Now through March 31, early-bird registration costs \$25 for adults and includes an event T-shirt. Youth and student registration is \$10. Children 13 and under are free. After March 31, adult registration is \$30.

To register, donate or learn more, visit beapartofthecure.com.

"Thousands of our friends and family are battling cancer right now," said Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D., director of the pulaskicms.org

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. "It's more important than ever to bring our cancer community together to support patients and families and the work

we're doing at UAMS to bring advanced treatments to the state."

Last year's event drew more than 1,000 walkers and raised more than \$240,000, which went to support cancer research, clinical trials and long-term survival studies.

"We want to build on the tremendous success we had in the first two years of the walk. We hope that even more Arkansans will come out to support their friends and family members who have been impacted by cancer," said Birrer.

The Be A Part of the Cure Walk founding sponsor is Hickingbotham Investments, Inc.

The Cancer Institute is seeking additional sponsors who would like to support the Cancer Institute's research and treatment programs. Visit <https://cancer.uams.edu/cure/sponsor/> for more information.

Sanders to Appoint Dr. Kay Chandler as Arkansas Surgeon General

Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced February 27th that she will appoint Dr. Kay Chandler to serve as the Arkansas Surgeon General.

"I am pleased to announce that Dr. Kay Chandler will serve as Arkansas' next Surgeon General, bringing strong leadership and years of medical expertise to the Department of Health," Sanders said. "Dr. Chandler is a skilled, qualified OB-GYN who has spent decades serving women across Arkansas. I promised that when I was elected governor, Arkansas would not have mask mandates or vaccine mandates and we would not shut down churches and schools because we believe in personal freedom and responsibility. I look forward to working together to protect the health, well-being, and individual freedoms of Arkansans."

"I am incredibly honored to be given this opportunity by Governor Sanders to serve the people of the great state of Arkansas as their Surgeon General. I was inspired when I heard our Governor say in her inaugural address that even though she did not want to dismiss the significance of being the first woman to serve as governor of Arkansas, she ran to make Arkansas first in everything. I consider it a tremendous privilege to be called on to serve in Governor Sanders' administration and I am committed to working alongside her and the people of Arkansas towards achieving this – especially as related to the health and wellness of all Arkansans."

Dr. Kay Chandler Bio:

Dr. Kay Chandler has served as an OB-GYN at Cornerstone Clinic in Little Rock since 1997 and has been named Best OB-GYN by Little Rock Family Magazine and AY Magazine.



Dr. Kay Chandler

She graduated with her Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Hendrix College, received her M.D. from University of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, Texas, and completed her residency training at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Dr. Chandler has been included on the national Best Doctors, Inc. list since 2005. She is dedicated to promoting health and wellness through true lifestyle change and has served as Medical Director of Ideal Health NOW! since 2011. She shares new women's health care information on the Medical Monday segment on THV11's morning show, "THV This Morning."

She has also served on the board for the Pulaski County Medical Society and on the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Medical Society. She is married to her husband of 30 years, Jeffrey K. Chandler DDS, who serves the Little Rock area at Chandler Family Dentistry.



Jordan Marsh

M1 Student, Jordan Marsh, elected by students to represent them on the PCMS board

Jordan Marsh, an M1 medical student at UAMS, was elected as the new student representative to the Pulaski County Medical Society (PCMS) board of directors. Marsh said "As the PCMS Student representative, I will work to better understand the important issues facing local physicians and connect them to students in meaningful ways".

Marsh will serve in this position until his final semester in medical school. Marsh is replacing Julianne Thomas, a current M4 student, who will be graduating this year.

Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock Opens New Critical Care Unit



[Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock](#) on Wednesday, March 1st, held a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of a new 10-bed critical care unit, bringing the total number of critical care beds to 44.

"At Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock, we continue to increase access to life-saving care for those in greatest need," said Cody Walker, president of Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock. "The addition of this state-of-the-art ICU is an embodiment of our organizational mission to improve the health of Arkansans by changing the way health care is delivered."

The medical intensive care unit (ICU) on the hospital's ground floor, across from the Emergency Department, is equipped to care for an assortment of complex patients. CDI Contractors completed construction and

Nashville-based Earl Swensson Associates Inc. was the architect on the project.

The experienced physicians at Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock are dedicated to providing high-quality, patient-centered care for emergency medical conditions including heart attack, stroke, injuries, major illness and more.

Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock's Emergency Department employs APRNs in triage areas for faster screening, easier access and providing prompt assessment for patients. As a Level III trauma hospital, it provides emergent services for: surgical, cardiac, neurosurgical, orthopedic and intensive care patients in the stabilization of injured patients.



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Jim Wallis Pledges More Than \$100,000 to Elevate UAMS' Bates Professorship to Endowed Chair

Jim Wallis, former president and CEO of ExOK Inc., pledged \$102,948 towards the Joseph H. Bates III, M.D., M.S., Chair in Academic Public Health Practice at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS). Wallis' gift helped elevate the professorship to a fully endowed chair.

UAMS created the professorship in 2017 to recognize the accomplishments of Joseph H. Bates, M.D., M.S., and his dedication to public health in Arkansas. Wallis' gift will expand the impact of the Dr. Bates' significant work and legacy.

The chair's work stems from the need for physicians to be educated in the discipline of public health to enable them to assume leadership roles in academic public health practice. The chair will support the teaching, research, service and other activities of an academic public health practice leader in the UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health in furtherance of developing a model of public health practice.

An endowed chair is among the highest academic honors a university can bestow on a faculty member. An endowed chair is established with gifts of at least \$1 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.

"Mr. Wallis' gift to the Joseph H. Bates Chair in Public Health Practice is not only generous but also transforming," said Mark Williams, Ph.D., dean of the College of Public Health. "The chair will support the research of a nationally recognized scholar on how to best provide public health services in efficient and meaningful ways. As we encounter greater public health challenges, developing public health practices for diseases will be increasingly urgent. Mr. Wallis' gift and the gifts of the other contributors to the Joseph H. Bates chair will transform how this research is conducted in Arkansas."

Bates, a graduate of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and UAMS, is nationally recognized as a pioneer of public health. He has served as a physician,



scientist, leader and researcher, with a reputation of being a trailblazer focused on building networks that encourage academic and public health practice collaborations. He is known for recruiting health care practitioners to both policy and public health practice. He has strengthened the professionalism of public health practice and its leadership in Arkansas by working with public health practitioners, health care service providers, academics and communities. Bates was part of the group that campaigned for the inclusion of public health efforts in the Arkansas Tobaccos Settlement Act of 2001, which led to the creation of the UAMS Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health. He worked for the Arkansas Department of Health from 2005-2017 and has since served at UAMS as a professor and the associate dean for Public Health Practice.

"Joe Bates is certainly a great Arkansan, a true pioneer for public health not just in Arkansas but the U.S.," said Wallis. "I am honored to contribute to the Joseph H. Bates Chair knowing that it will contribute to the improvement of health care in Arkansas."

Wallis, a Little Rock native, attended the University of Tulsa and received a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering and later a law degree. He worked for several oil companies in Oklahoma before establishing ExOK Inc., in 1979, serving as chairman, president and CEO. He was also a founding member of Western National Bank where he served as director, later selling his stake in the company. He also served as a University of Tulsa Trustee from 2001-2017. Upon retirement in 2017, Wallis returned to Arkansas with his wife Patricia.

"Jim Wallis, a dedicated Arkansan, is concerned that the health of Arkansans ranks near the bottom in state health rankings," said Bates. "Being aware that the most effective measures to improve Arkansans' health are to reduce tobacco use, promote moderate exercise for people of all ages and ensure that people with high blood pressure have it controlled. The holder of this endowed chair will lead the effort to secure these goals."

Baptist Health Medical Center-Heber Springs Implements MRI Known For Calming Care Experience

[Baptist Health Medical Center-Heber Springs](#) recently implemented an enhanced, state-of-the-art [MRI](#) technology that is shown to create a more calming experience for patients.

"We are dedicated to investing in technology like the Philips Ambient Experience in the rural areas of Arkansas," said Kevin Storey, president of Baptist Health Medical Center-Heber Springs. "This MRI is yet another way for us to transform the care experience and better serve our patients."

The Philips Ambient Experience MRI integrates dynamic lighting, video projection and audio components to soothe anxiousness. The relaxation techniques delivered by the technology in turn contribute to a more smooth completion of MRI examinations.



Medical scans can be scary for anyone, but for children in particular, they may be traumatic. The Ambient Experience distracts children using these components to reassure, coach and relax them when they are about to undergo a medical treatment.

A survey of the MRI technology showed an 80 percent reduction in sedation and 70 percent reduction in rescans. Of the respondents, 83 percent rated the Ambient Experience as impactful in alleviating patient anxiety.

Since its opening in 1968, Baptist Health Medical Center-Heber Springs has remained committed to serving Heber Springs and surrounding communities with a complete range of medical services and support groups.

Baptist Health Holds Ribbon Cutting, Grand Opening for New Behavioral Services Clinic in North Little Rock

Baptist Health on Tuesday, Feb. 14, held a ribbon cutting and ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of [Baptist Health Behavioral Health Clinic-North Little Rock](#), near [Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock](#).

The clinic is staffed by faculty and residents from the Baptist Health-University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Medical Education Program:

Dr. [Jane Kang](#): core faculty for the Baptist Health-UAMS Psychiatry Residency Program and medical director of Baptist Health Behavioral Health Clinic-North Little Rock. She is also a board-certified psychiatrist with 17 years clinical experience in adult psychiatry.

[Kristen McGrew](#), Ed.D, LPC, NCC, BC-TMH: therapist faculty who has practiced psychotherapy for over 14 years, providing individual, family, and marital counseling to patients of all ages and diagnoses.



Amanda Thompson, LCSW: outpatient therapist and licensed clinical social worker of more than 17 years who provides psychotherapy for individuals and couples using

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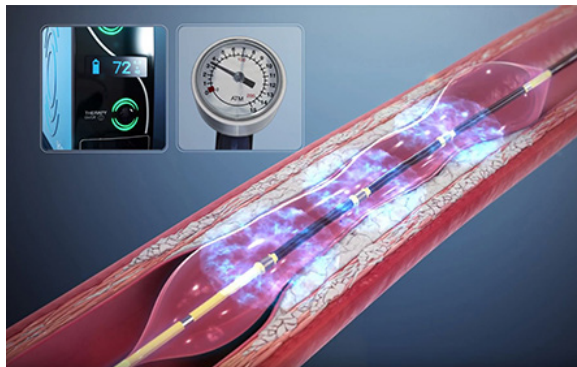
Baptist Health Offering Sonic Pressure Wave Treatment for Patients Suffering from Peripheral Artery Disease

Baptist Health is now offering a treatment option for those suffering from an advanced form of peripheral artery disease (PAD) in which the plaque blockage also includes the presence of calcium.

The treatment from Shockwave Medical Inc. is available at the health care organization's campuses in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Conway and Fort Smith.

Intravascular Lithotripsy is an innovative advanced technology that uses sonic pressure waves to modify problematic calcium so that blockage can be alleviated, and blood flow can be restored. The therapy uses a similar minimally invasive approach that has been embraced by physicians for decades to treat kidney stones, which are also made up of calcium.

PAD affects nearly nine million people in the United States by preventing blood flow to the legs and feet, causing significant pain and limited mobility, and potentially leading to surgery or even amputation in severe cases.



However, general awareness of PAD is estimated at only 25 percent based on prior studies. As the U.S. population continues to live longer, the incidence of calcium within these blockages is rising.

Calcium slowly develops and progresses to its hardened, bone-like state over the course of

several decades of cellular growth and death in diseased plaque within the vessel walls. While it is slow to develop, its impact is immediately encountered when performing procedures to repair calcified plaques in the vessel.

The calcium's hardened structure restricts normal vessel movement and makes the rigid vascular tissue resistant to traditional balloon therapies that have been designed to compress the plaque within the vessel wall to restore normal blood flow.

For these reasons, the presence of calcium increases the complexity of most cases and decreases the effectiveness of most treatments.

Baptist Health Holds Ribbon Cutting, Grand Opening for New Behavioral Services Clinic in North Little Rock

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cognitive behavioral therapy, supportive therapy, and acceptance and commitment therapy.

Resident physicians are Dr. Preetam Reddy who went to medical school at Aureus University School of Medicine in Oranjestad, Aruba, and Thomas Fister, D.O., who went to medical school at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic in Medicine Erie, Pennsylvania.

Arkansas has greater shortages of psychiatrists than the national average, and the COVID-19 pandemic worsened the situation. The Psychiatry Residency Program offered through Baptist Health and UAMS is focused on retaining well-rounded psychiatrists in the state. It is additionally committed to caring for patients of all needs and to

working well with other mental health professionals and integrated behavioral health settings.

Services at Baptist Health Behavioral Health Clinic-North Little Rock include personal and family grief/bereavement; addictions/substance abuse; conflict management/resolution, work and career issues; stress management; and psychiatric care.

Baptist Health's outpatient mental health clinics provide care to individuals and families throughout Arkansas. Our licensed and accredited psychiatrists and therapists currently provide care to adults, but will be expanding in the near future to include children and adolescents.