



# PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY News

November 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.



You and a Guest  
are Cordially Invited to the  
Pulaski County Medical Society &  
Pulaski County Medical Exchange  
Annual Society Membership Meeting & Dinner

Thursday, December 1, 2022  
Hilton Garden Inn West

5:45 pm - 6:45 pm  
Reception

6:00 pm - 6:15 pm  
Membership Meeting

6:15 pm - 6:30 pm  
Medical Exchange Meeting

Dinner and program begins at 7:00 pm

The program consists of the following:

PCMS Sponsored UAMS Student Project Reports  
Outstanding Student Award Presentation  
Speaker, Dr. Steve Magie

#### Pricing:

- ★ \$65 per person (members and guests of members)
- ★ \$75 per person (non-members and guests of non-members)

#### Credit card payments at:

<https://pulaskicms.org/event-registration/>  
(be sure to list the names of the  
people you are paying for)

2022



Get a quote at [www.svmic.com](http://www.svmic.com)

# 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.





## 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 at that time.

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 as early as November.

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

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

The Pulaski County Medical Exchange (PCME) has been housed in the Doctors Building at 500 S. University Avenue since 1964. PCME operators will soon 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.

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, 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).**

## Pediatrician Dr. Ulriche McCurdy Joins CHI St. Vincent Primary and Convenient Care – Chenal



*Dr. Ulriche McCurdy*

CHI St. Vincent announced that pediatrician [Dr. Ulriche McCurdy](#) has joined the team of physicians at [CHI St. Vincent Primary and Convenient Care - Chenal](#), providing compassionate care to patients in West Little Rock. The clinic is located at 16221 St. Vincent Way.

Upon completing medical school at the Ross University School of Medicine in the Commonwealth of Dominica, Dr. McCurdy completed a pediatric physician residency program at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and Arkansas Children's Hospital. She is a board eligible member of the American Board of Pediatrics.

The team of healthcare professionals at CHI St. Vincent Primary and Convenient Care - Chenal specialize in assisting and treating minor ailments such as colds, coughs, infections, minor burns and allergies.

## Dr. Peter Emanuel to Serve as Vice-President of Oncology for National CommonSpirit Health System



*Dr. Peter Emanuel*

[CHI St. Vincent](#) Director of Oncology Services [Dr. Peter Emanuel](#) has been appointed as Vice-President of Oncology for the entire [CommonSpirit Health](#) system. Dr. Emanuel will continue in his leadership role growing the oncology program at CHI St. Vincent, which is part of CommonSpirit Health, while also serving as lead physician

for CommonSpirit Health as it launches its first nationwide Oncology Clinical Institute.

"This is an incredible opportunity to positively impact the lives and improve the health of so many people, both here in Arkansas and around the country," said Dr. Emanuel. "I'm honored to pursue that great work while also continuing to care for my patients and build this important program here in Central Arkansas."

Dr. Emanuel, who is an internationally renowned oncologist and leading researcher of adult and pediatric forms of leukemia, joined CHI St. Vincent in 2018 to grow the healing ministry's oncology program and expand cancer treatment options for its Arkansas communities. He previously worked with the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where he was director of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. His research has been consistently funded by the National Institutes of Health for more than 25 years and he is routinely named to the Castle Connolly "Best Doctors in America" list.

A Wisconsin native, Dr. Emanuel attended medical school at the University of Wisconsin and completed his internship and residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital. After a fellowship in hematology/oncology at UAB, he worked as a professor in the Department of Medicine, Genetics and Biochemistry at UAB. He was acting director of UAB's Comprehensive Cancer Institute before going to UAMS in 2007.

## CHI St. Vincent Appoints Joshua Szostek as Vice President of Operations for the Nonprofit Health System



*Joshua Szostek*

[CHI St. Vincent](#) names Joshua Szostek as the nonprofit health system's new Vice President of Operations. In addition to championing operational improvements and workflow efficiencies across the health system, Szostek will also oversee CHI St. Vincent's finance department, ensuring that the healing ministry has the strong financial foundation

and necessary systems in place to continue serving its Arkansas communities.

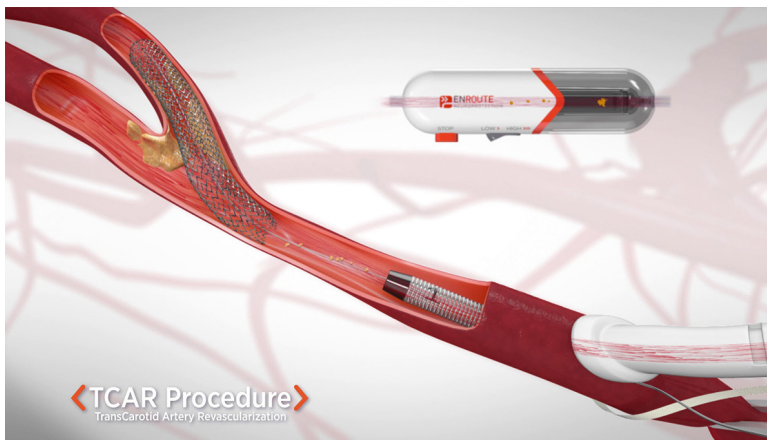
"Healthcare is at a critical moment, facing not only public health challenges but also economic ones that threaten to limit the ability to deliver compassionate care to our

communities. This is a moment that requires thoughtful, practiced leaders like Joshua" said CHI St. Vincent CEO Chad Aduddell. "We are thankful to have the opportunity to welcome him to the CHI St. Vincent family as we all work together to ensure our patients have access to the exceptional healthcare resources and providers they deserve."

Szostek also serves as an adjunct professor for Davenport University's School of Business teaching graduate coursework in health care management. Prior to joining CHI St. Vincent, he served as chief financial officer for Broward Health North in Deerfield Beach, Florida and HCA Houston Healthcare – Medical Center & Specialty Hospital, Acute Care. Szostek earned his MBA from Keller University in Chicago and is an adjunct professor in Davenport University's - School of Business, Health Care Management program.

## Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock Offers Innovative Procedure for Carotid Artery Disease

Baptist Health Medical Center-North Little Rock is treating carotid artery disease and preventing future strokes using an innovative procedure called TransCarotid Artery Revascularization (TCAR). TCAR is a clinically proven and minimally invasive approach for patients who need carotid artery treatment.



Carotid artery disease is a form of atherosclerosis, or a build-up of plaque, in the two main arteries of the neck. The carotid arteries are vital as they feed oxygen-rich blood to the brain. If left untreated, carotid artery disease can often lead to stroke.

"TCAR is an important option in the fight against stroke and is now available to our eligible patients, regardless of their surgical risk status," said general surgeon Dr. John DeLoach, who performs this procedure at BHMC-North Little Rock. "Not only is TCAR less invasive than open surgery, but there is also less chance of heart attack and nerve injury."

Every 40 seconds, someone in the U.S. has a stroke. Worldwide, nearly 5 million people die from a stroke, and another 5 million are left permanently disabled every year.

With up to a third of strokes caused by carotid artery disease, the TCAR procedure at BHMC-North Little Rock helps to prevent future strokes with a faster recovery time and an increased chance of being discharged to home.

TCAR is unique in that blood flow is temporarily reversed during the procedure so that any small bits of plaque that may break off are diverted away from the brain, preventing a stroke from happening. A stent is then placed inside the artery to stabilize the plaque, minimizing the risk of a future stroke.

"We are proud to offer this procedure as a clinically proven alternative with better outcomes, including reducing the risk for stroke," said Cody Walker, president of BHMC-North Little Rock. "TCAR is a great

tool in Baptist Health's continued fight against stroke, and is becoming a preferred way to treat carotid artery disease."

Prior to TCAR, the main treatment option for severe carotid artery disease was an open surgical procedure called carotid endarterectomy (CEA). CEA removes plaque from inside the

carotid artery to restore normal blood flow to the brain, but the large incision leaves a visible scar the length of the neck and carries risks of surgical complications, including bleeding, infection, heart attack and cranial nerve injuries that can cause issues with swallowing, speaking and sensation in the face.

It is important to talk to your primary care provider about your risk of having a stroke and if you should be screened, especially if you have a family history of vascular disease. Early diagnosis and treatment of a narrowed carotid artery can decrease stroke risk. Your doctor can listen to the arteries in your neck with a stethoscope or refer you for a carotid ultrasound.

One or more of these risk factors puts people at risk for carotid artery disease:

- High blood pressure
- High cholesterol
- Obesity
- Diabetes
- Older age
- History of smoking
- Lack of physical activity
- Clogged arteries

The TCAR system was developed by Sunnyvale, California-based Silk Road Medical, Inc. and includes the ENROUTE Transcarotid Neuroprotection (N.P.S.) and Stent System – the first devices designed and FDA-approved specifically for TCAR. Over 40,000 TCAR procedures have been performed worldwide through clinical trial and commercial use.

## Dr. Linnea LeBaron Joins Baptist Health Heart Failure and Transplant Institute in Little Rock



*Dr. Linnea LeBaron*

Baptist Health Heart Failure and Transplant Institute recently welcomed Linnea LeBaron, DO. She specializes in advanced heart failure and transplant cardiology.

Dr. LeBaron, a native of Gilbert, Arizona, received her medical degree from Lincoln Memorial University DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine in Harrogate, Tennessee.

She later completed residency training in internal medicine at Corpus Christi Medical Center in Corpus

Christi, Texas. Dr. LeBaron then went on to complete fellowships in general cardiology at Magnolia Regional Medical Center in Corinth, Mississippi, and advanced heart failure at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

"I love educating my patients about their disease and helping them understand the 'why' of the treatment plan," said Dr. LeBaron. "I believe every patient deserves the best care, and I believe the best care comes when we work together as a team."

In her spare time, Dr. LeBaron enjoys spending time with her husband and four children, whether it be traveling, spending time outdoors or participating in unique family traditions.

## John Spollen, M.D., to Assume Lead Role at UAMS College of Medicine in Northwest Arkansas



*Dr. John Spollen*

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) College of Medicine named John Spollen, M.D., as the new regional associate dean for the college in Northwest Arkansas, effective Jan. 1, 2023.

Spollen, professor and vice chair for education in the UAMS Department of Psychiatry, will succeed Linda L.M. Worley, M.D., professor of

psychiatry, who has served as regional associate dean in Northwest Arkansas since 2018. Worley is stepping into a new role as chief wellness officer for the college.

The UAMS College of Medicine has 62 students in Northwest Arkansas and recently added an accelerated three-year medical program in the region.

"As an award-winning educational leader and world-class clinician, Dr. Spollen will provide strong leadership for the growing, robust medical education programs in Northwest Arkansas," said Susan S. Smyth, M.D., Ph.D., UAMS executive vice chancellor and dean of the College

of Medicine. "Dr. Spollen's leadership was a tremendous asset to our college during his service as interim chair of the Department of Psychiatry from June 2021 to February 2022, and he has held numerous other leadership roles since joining the faculty in 1999."

Spollen has earned extensive recognition for his teaching, mentoring and other work with students throughout his years with UAMS. These include the COM Educational Innovation Award, two Educational Research Awards, the Master Teacher Award, student-selected Red Sash awards annually since 2008 and the Gold Sash Award.

Spollen currently practices at the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System, where he has held several clinical and administrative roles including director of the Psychiatric Consultation-Liaison Service and the Electroconvulsive therapy (ECT) and Ketamine Program for treatment-resistant depression. Spollen received his medical degree from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He completed his residency in psychiatry at the Medical University of South Carolina.

"I'm excited for this leadership opportunity with the College of Medicine at the UAMS Northwest Regional

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## Cyclotron for State's First Proton Center Arrives at UAMS

Completion of a \$65 million expanded University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Radiation Oncology Center that will house Arkansas' first Proton Center marked an important milestone Oct. 20 with the arrival and installation of the Proton Center's cyclotron, a type of particle accelerator that serves as a key piece of equipment.

"UAMS is proud to partner with Arkansas Children's, Baptist Health and Proton International to bring this groundbreaking technology to Arkansas," said UAMS Chancellor Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA. "Arkansans will no longer need to travel out of state to receive this innovative treatment."

Under construction at 3900 W. Capitol Ave., the Proton Center of Arkansas will offer an advanced form of radiation treatment that uses precisely focused protons to target tumors, rather than photons used in standard X-ray radiation.

While both forms of radiation kill cancer cells, proton radiation is more effective in treating some cancers, particularly those in close vicinity of critical organs for which conventional radiation can be too toxic. Proton beams can be precisely conformed to target and release most of their energy directly into a tumor with minimal damages to surrounding healthy tissue. For patients, that means fewer and less severe side effects, faster recovery time and an overall better quality of life.

"The realization of proton therapy in Arkansas demonstrates our commitment to bringing the most advanced cancer treatments to Arkansas," said Michael Birrer, M.D., Ph.D., director of the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute and UAMS vice chancellor.

"For patients with tumors that are difficult to treat with conventional radiation, proton therapy could be life changing."

Proton radiation is ideal for pediatric patients with certain cancers because it limits total radiation exposure to healthy, growing tissues. UAMS' Radiation Oncology Center is the only one in the state that treats children.

"This collaboration advances health care delivery and will provide Arkansas Children's pediatric cancer patients with proton therapy in their home state," said Marcy Doderer, FACHE, president and CEO of Arkansas Children's. "This is another exciting step toward state-of-the-art care close to home for the children of Arkansas."

Including UAMS, proton centers exist in only 41 locations in the United States.

The 55-ton cyclotron that powers the proton radiation beam made an eight-week cross country journey to Little Rock. The highly sophisticated apparatus, which includes the center's 75-ton gantry, departed Brussels, Belgium, Aug. 25 and was at sea for five weeks before making land at the Port of Houston on Sept. 26. The equipment is so massive that it required a police escort and a convoy of six semi-tractor trailers to transport safely to Little Rock. Installation is expected to take 10 months.

Construction began in May 2021. The Proton Center is expected to begin treating patients in September 2023.

"This is another example of how strategic collaboration with other leading health care providers can improve the health of Arkansans," said Troy Wells, president and CEO of Baptist Health. "We're happy to be bringing this

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## John Spollen, M.D., to Assume Lead Role at UAMS College of Medicine...

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Campus," Spollen said. "It has been my dream since residency to have a career in medical student education. I was in charge of developing the initial curriculum for the campus in 2008, and it has been amazing to see the growth of the program over the years. I look forward to working with the entire team at UAMS to continue to improve the education of our students, the future physicians of Arkansas."

"Dr. Spollen's expertise and leadership will be invaluable as we work to educate more medical students in the Northwest Arkansas region," said Amy Wenger, MHSA, vice chancellor of the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus. "I worked with Dr. Spollen in the UAMS Psychiatry Research Institute a number of years ago, and I am excited to have him here in Northwest Arkansas and on our campus."

## Cyclotron for State's First Proton Center Arrives at UAMS

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therapy to the state, and this delivery of the cyclotron puts us one step closer to providing the best cancer care right here in Arkansas."

"The Proton International team is pleased to be working with such distinguished partners to bring proton therapy to the citizens of Arkansas and beyond. It is imperative that certain patients have access to this lifesaving technology close to home," said Chris Chandler, CEO of Proton International.

The Radiation Oncology Center, part of the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, already offers cutting-edge technologies to provide the latest radiation treatments. It will continue to provide those services, as well as new ones using the expanded capabilities of three new linear accelerators, as it relocates in 2023 to a new 52,249 square-foot-building.

"With the addition of the cutting-edge proton therapy and most importantly, our compassionate and experienced clinical team, we will offer the most advanced and comprehensive care to our cancer patients in the state of Arkansas," said Fen Xia, M.D., Ph.D., the chair of the UAMS Department of Radiation Oncology.

The three new linear accelerators — machines that customize high-energy X-rays — provide edge

radiosurgery, a specialized nonsurgical technique used to destroy tumors in the brain and spine with end-to-end accuracy of less than 1 millimeter; radiotherapy with motion management, which controls radiation directed at tumors that move as patients breathe; and adaptive therapy, the most advanced form of cancer treatment, which allows clinicians to adapt to daily changes in the tumors' shape and position over the course of treatment to better target the cancer and spare normal tissues.

The first floor of the new building will include a consultation room, a computerized tomography (CT) room, treatment rooms, clinical rooms, an exam area, a staff lounge and a conference room, as well as several physician offices in the clinical space.

The proton machine will be housed on the second floor, as will a CT room to prepare patients for proton therapy, a high-dose radiation (HDR) room, gowning rooms, recovery rooms, an anesthesia room, work rooms, eight exam rooms, a large work room for physics staff and more physician offices.

The third floor will house a cooling room for the proton machine, as well as mechanical and storage areas. It will include some extra space for future needs. An enclosed heated and cooled skywalk will connect the building to UAMS' Parking Deck 3.

