



PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY News

October 2023

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Pulaski County Medical Society

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Pulaski County Medical Society

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2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pulaski County Medical Exchange

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Pulaski County Medical Society

500 S. University Ave., Suite A14

Little Rock, AR 72205

Phone: 501.687.0039

Email: derek@pulaskicms.org

Website: www.pulaskicms.org

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

2023 Annual Membership Meeting and Dinner Date set for November 9th

This is a reminder to make your Annual Meeting
reservations before the deadline
of October 31, 2023.

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

**Thursday, November 9, 2023
Robinson Center Ballroom**

**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:

- 2023 President's Award For a Lifetime of
Outstanding Contributions to Medicine Presentation
- Outstanding Student Award Presentation
- Outstanding Young Physician Award Presentation

Speaker, Dr. Kay Chandler, Arkansas Surgeon General

Pricing:

- \$70 per person (members and guests of members)
- \$80 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)

2023

Closed Claim Analysis: Medication Management Mistakes

STEPHANIE WALKLEY, JD, SENIOR CLAIMS ATTORNEY, SVMIC;
REPRINTED FROM THE SVMIC SENTINEL

Linda Powell¹, a 52-year-old woman, presented to the office of gynecologist Dr. Brenda Farmer for an annual exam in June. During the office visit, Ms. Powell complained of bloating and fluid retention associated with her menstrual cycle. For these complaints, Dr. Farmer prescribed Dyazide™, writing the prescription for one pill by mouth once a day with 30 pills; the prescription included six refills.

According to Dr. Farmer, she counseled the patient to use the Dyazide only as needed during her menstrual cycle. However, Dr. Farmer failed to record her instructions to the patient in the visit note or elsewhere in the medical record, and the label on the prescription did not reflect this instruction.

Approximately two weeks after receiving and filling the original prescription, Ms. Powell called Dr. Farmer's office, informing the nurse that the Dyazide had worked well for two weeks but requesting an increase in the dosage. Without consulting Dr. Farmer, the nurse "increased the Dyazide to 2 every other day."

One month after receiving the new dosing instruction from Dr. Farmer's nurse, Ms. Powell called the office and stated that her Dyazide prescription had been doubled and that she had run out of refills. Ms. Powell requested more Dyazide. Without any investigation regarding Ms. Powell's statement that she had run out of refills, Dr. Farmer authorized another prescription for Dyazide with instructions of one pill by mouth once a day with 30 pills and six refills.

Ms. Powell had the medication refilled three times before returning in October for an office visit. During the visit, Ms. Powell indicated that the Dyazide was not working well for her. Dr. Farmer told the patient to stop taking the Dyazide and prescribed spironolactone instead. Despite these verbal instructions, there is nothing in the medical record documenting that Dr. Farmer instructed Ms. Powell to stop the Dyazide. The record only reflects that spironolactone had been prescribed.

Pharmacy records indicate that Ms. Powell filled the spironolactone once following the October visit but never again. She began taking the Dyazide again in November without consulting Dr. Farmer. Over the

next eight months, Ms. Powell refilled the Dyazide six times.²

In July, over one year after the initial prescription, Ms. Powell called Dr. Farmer's office for another refill of Dyazide. A new nurse, without realizing Dr. Farmer had discontinued it, and without questioning the patient or consulting Dr. Farmer, called in a one-month supply.

Two weeks later Ms. Powell collapsed at home, and a family member called 911. Shortly before the EMTs arrived, Ms. Powell went into cardiac arrest. Upon arrival, the EMTs initiated resuscitation measures and transported Ms. Powell to the emergency room. After arriving at the hospital, the medical team succeeded with resuscitation.

Tragically, Ms. Powell suffered an anoxic brain injury. Initial lab work at the hospital revealed a potassium level of 2.1. After several days in the ICU, Ms. Powell was transferred to hospice care where she remained until her death a few days later. Ms. Powell's death certificate listed her cause of death as anoxic brain injury resulting from ventricular arrhythmia.

Less than one year after her death, Ms. Powell's family filed a wrongful death suit against Dr. Farmer and her practice. The complaint alleged that Dr. Farmer failed to meet the standard of care for managing and monitoring chronic diuretic therapy. More specifically, it alleged that failure to monitor Ms. Powell's potassium levels resulted in hypokalemia which led to cardiac arrhythmia and, ultimately, death.

The chasm between the medical records and the testimony of Dr. Farmer made a successful defense of this case very difficult. In her deposition, Dr. Farmer testified that she does not prescribe or oversee chronic diuretic therapy but only prescribes diuretics on an as-needed basis which does not require potassium monitoring. If a patient needs daily diuretics, then the patient is referred to their primary care physician for management. This was Dr. Farmer's testimony even though within the first two months of seeing Ms. Powell, she authorized prescriptions for fourteen months of daily Dyazide.

Similarly, Dr. Farmer testified in her deposition that she

instructed Ms. Powell at the initial June visit to take the Dyazide only as needed; however, the medical records did not support her testimony. In fact, her testimony conflicted with the actual instructions written for the prescription which read to take one pill daily. The discrepancy between her testimony and the medical records presented not only a standard of care challenge, but also a credibility issue.

In some cases, it is possible to prevail even when the standard of care is not met if the alleged negligence did not cause an injury to the patient. This was not one of those cases. Although the likelihood of hypokalemia from Dyazide is low, it is possible, and it provided a straightforward explanation for Ms. Powell's arrhythmia and subsequent death. Dr. Farmer admitted in her deposition that chronic diuretic therapy requires electrolyte monitoring, which was not done in this case. Furthermore, the defense experts conceded that Dyazide could have caused hypokalemia, arrhythmia, and death.

The defense experts could not provide an alternative explanation for the cause of Ms. Powell's cardiac arrest. Given the issues with the overall defensibility of the case, the parties settled several months prior to the scheduled trial date.

Unfortunately, Dr. Farmer and her staff missed numerous opportunities to recognize a problem with the patient's medication management. Some recommendations that can be drawn from this case:

1. develop and maintain a policy for prescribing and dispensing all medications that includes a clear direction that staff should not renew prescriptions without specific provider approval;
2. document important conversations with the patient regarding medication management;
3. make sure that verbal and written instructions are consistent;
4. review patients' prescription history carefully before authorizing refills;
5. question unusual refill requests; and
6. order appropriate tests for monitoring if needed.



www.svmic.com/arkansas

For more information about SVMIC, contact our Arkansas representative, Sharon Theriot.

Sharon.Theriot@svmic.com | 870.540.9161

¹Names have been changed.

²During the discovery process, the defense team learned that Ms. Powell had gone to her PCP in November for the same complaint of edema. Her PCP provided her with yet another prescription for Dyazide. The lawsuit did not name the PCP as a defendant.

12th Annual Arkansas Charity Clays Tournament is Set for Marksmen to Pull for Purpose on Oct. 27 in Jacksonville

The 12th annual Arkansas Charity Clays tournament, presented by CompleteCare, is set for Oct. 27, at the Arkansas Game & Fish Foundation Shooting Sports Complex, 2800 Graham Road, in Jacksonville.

Baptist Health Foundation board member Mike Shepard of First National Bank and Lynann Hill of CompleteCare are this year's event co-chairs.

The clay shooting tournament offers marksmen an entertaining day complete with lunch, auction, activities, prizes and of course, the chance to compete. First, second and third place awards are given to teams and individuals with the overall highest scores.

Proceeds raised from this year's event will support Baptist Health's team of specialists and the expansion and renovation needs of Baptist Health Breast Center-Little Rock.

The healing ministry cares for 40,000 women and their families annually at Baptist Health Breast Center-Little Rock, including Baptist Health High-Risk Breast & Hereditary Cancer Clinic.



Baptist Health's experts provide comprehensive and life-saving care for women and their families, and focus on delivering innovative and preventative care with breast imaging services and genetic counseling. If a patient receives the life-changing news that they have cancer, nurse navigation services will walk with them and guide them through the intense, personal journey of breast cancer care.

For more information about the Arkansas Charity Clays, visit the Baptist Health Foundation website at baptisthealthfoundation.org or call (501) 202-1839.

2023 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:

Kelly Burks, MD President
Ken Singleton, MD Vice President
Derek Rudkin, CAE Secretary/Treasurer
Nicholas Brucker, MD Immediate Past President

Nominees for Board of Directors (2-year term)

Bobby Kakati, MD
Leticia Jones, MD
Courtney Bundrick, MD

Pulaski County Medical Exchange Board Nominees:

Nominees for Board of Directors: (1 year term)

Marvin Ashford, MD
Jeffrey Hartsell, MHSA
Will Henson
Renee Moss, MD
Inge R. Carter, MD

Baptist Health Offering Free Flu Shots at Outreach Clinics in October

Baptist Health Community Outreach is offering free flu shots in October for individuals 12 years of age and older at the below locations:

Little Rock

- Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas, 6221 Colonel Glenn Road
- Thursday, Oct. 19, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Southwest Community Center, 6401 Baseline Road
- Friday, Oct. 20, from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Jericho Way, 3000 Springer Blvd.
- Monday, Oct. 23, from 10 a.m. to Noon at Immerse Arkansas, 5300 Asher Ave.
- Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at City Center, a ministry of Immanuel Baptist Church, 501 N. Shackelford Road
- Thursday, Oct. 26, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Dunbar Community Center, 1001 West 16th

Lonoke

- Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 9 to 11 a.m. at Lonoke Community Center, 1355 West Front St.

North Little Rock

- Tuesday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to Noon at Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center, 401 West Pershing

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that anyone 6 months of age and older receive the flu shot. If your child is between the ages of 6 months and 11 years old, making them ineligible for the Baptist Health Community Outreach flu shot clinics, there are other options available. Speak with your child's pediatrician about getting vaccinated.

Vaccination against the flu is particularly important for people who are at high risk for serious complications, including:

- Young children
- Pregnant women
- People with chronic health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease and lung disease
- People 65 years and older
- People who live with or care for anyone at high risk for serious flu complications

Flu shots are additionally available at Baptist Health's primary care and urgent care clinics across the state (insurance filed or nominal fee may apply).

To learn more, visit [Baptist-Health.com](https://www.baptist-health.com) or call 1-888-BAPTIST.

2023 UAMS College of Medicine House Olympics Held

The 2023 UAMS College of Medicine House Olympics took place on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at Riverfront Park. This is an annual event where the student houses compete for the House Cup honors for the next year. The 2023 winning house was Abernathy.





Meghan Breckling, Pharm.D.

UAMS Researcher Awarded \$1 Million for Statewide Naloxone Training Program

A \$1 million grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will allow the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) to create a statewide program that will educate and

train health care providers on ways to prevent death from opioid overdose.

The award funds a five-year project to create and maintain the UAMS Arkansas Naloxone Education Training (ANET) program, a train-the-trainers program that will provide opioid overdose education and training to Arkansas providers, including how to administer naloxone, patient counseling for its use, additional harm reduction resources and local treatment options for those struggling with misuse of opioids.

Naloxone is an opioid antagonist that reverses the effects of an opioid overdose.

Meghan Breckling, Pharm.D., an assistant professor in the College of Pharmacy's Center for Implementation Research, will serve as the program's director and primary investigator on the project. In addition to her work with the College of Pharmacy, she is also a clinical research pharmacist with the Center for Addiction Services and Treatment in the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute.

"Deaths from opioid overdose are increasing in Arkansas, creating an urgent need for access to the lifesaving medication naloxone," Breckling said. "This program will provide one-to-one training and support to state health care professionals about how to talk with patients and communities about harm-reduction resources available in Arkansas, particularly naloxone. I am excited to have this opportunity to help develop this program aimed to improve and save the lives of fellow Arkansans."

The program already has a number of committed collaborations statewide, including the Community Pharmacy Enhanced Services Network, East Arkansas Family Health Center, Central Arkansas Harm Reduction Project, College of Pharmacy residency programs and Metropolitan Emergency Medical Services in Pulaski

County to help recruit trainers in communities across Arkansas, with plans to add more in the future.

UAMS Health AR ConnectNow and the UAMS Center for Addiction Services and Treatment (CAST) have also committed to supporting the program by providing information and resources for the training curriculum.

"Dr. Breckling is a rising star in championing access to resources and information for health care providers in Arkansas to help prevent and treat opioid overdose," said Teresa Hudson, Pharm.D., Ph.D., the assistant dean for health services research in the UAMS College of Medicine and a co-investigator on the project.

"We're proud of Dr. Breckling for introducing this program to help empower our state health care providers with knowledge about naloxone use and help combat the opioid crisis," said Amit Tiwari, Ph.D., the College of Pharmacy's associate dean of research and graduate studies. "This project reflects our commitment to fostering a safer community. Gathering numerous organizations for a task of such significance is no small feat. Collective endeavors like these are pivotal in our mission to curb opioid overdose deaths and elevate patient outcomes in the state."

Trainers will target Arkansas populations likely to benefit from increased knowledge and access to naloxone, including individuals at high risk of opioid overdose. They will also aim to reach those who may be more vulnerable to accidental opioid poisonings, such as adolescents and older adults taking opioids acutely or chronically. Friends and family members of those struggling with misuse of opioids are also within the program's reach.

The program aims to train 125 naloxone-education trainers over five years. Each trainer will be expected to deliver two community-based naloxone education classes per year, using a 60-minute training module provided by the program. Trainers will receive materials and naloxone kits to deliver to class participants and will be compensated for their time in providing the training. The program's goal is for each trainer to train at least 10 or more individuals during each class, which would result in more than 7,500 Arkansans receiving naloxone education training through 2028.

Baptist Health First in Central Arkansas to Offer Light Adjustable Lens

Baptist Health recently implanted the healing ministry's first RxSight Light Adjustable Lens® (LAL). Baptist Health is the first in central Arkansas to offer the LAL to patients.

The state-of-the-art technology is the only intraocular lens implant that enables ophthalmologists to customize a patient's vision after cataract surgery.

"RxSight's Light Adjustable Lens allows ophthalmologists to give cataract patients even more precise vision than ever before," said Dr. Christian Hester, a board-certified surgeon at the Little Rock Eye Clinic who operates at Baptist Health Eye and Surgery Center. "We're always striving to provide the best care possible for our patients, and with the LAL, we have a powerful tool to help us do just that."

Cataract surgery is the most performed procedure in the United States and most commonly affects people older than 60 years of age. Cataracts form when the proteins and fibers in your eye's natural lens begin to break down, causing hazy or cloudy vision. During cataract surgery, a patient's natural lens is removed and replaced with a clear synthetic one. Until now, surgeons relied upon the accuracy of pre-surgery measurements to determine a patient's post-operative prescription power. RxSight's



Light Adjustable Lens is changing that with the ability to customize vision after surgery.

Studies show that patients who receive the LAL and the recommended post-surgery treatments were more likely to achieve 20/20 vision or better without glasses compared to all other control lenses.

The LAL is made of proprietary material that can be adjusted post-surgery using the RxSight Light Delivery Device to deliver targeted ultraviolet light treatments. The LAL can be adjusted to meet a patient's lifestyle and needs.

"Small variations in healing happen in most eyes. With the LAL, we have the opportunity to correct for those and to give patients vision customized for their eyes," Dr. Hester said.

For more information, visit [Baptist-Health.com](https://www.baptist-health.com) or call 1-888-BAPTIST.

RAPA Adds New Doctors

Radiology Associates, P.A. (RAPA) recently had 3 new hires that started July of 2023. RAPA is pleased to welcome Dr. Eric Bready, Dr. Blake Becker, and Dr. Jalal Itani.

Dr. Eric Bready completed his integrated Interventional Radiology residency at the University of Alabama in June 2023 and will be serving the Northwest Arkansas locations.

Dr. Jalal Itani completed his diagnostic radiology residency at the University of Oklahoma Health Science



Dr. Eric Bready



Dr. Blake Becker



Dr. Jalal Itani

Center in June 2023 and will be a nighthawk telemedicine radiologist reading remotely throughout the state.

Dr. Blake Becker completed his MSK and IR fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis in June 2023 and will be serving central Arkansas locations.

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute to Hold Oct. 27 Proton Symposium

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute will host the state's first symposium on proton therapy, October 27.

The free event, entitled "Proton Therapy: The Forefront of Cancer Treatment," will run from 8 a.m. to noon in the Walton Auditorium on the 10th floor of the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute. Guest speakers include James Metz, M.D., chair of Radiation Oncology at the Abramson Comprehensive Cancer Center, Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, and Nancy Mendenhall, M.D., radiation oncologist at the University of Florida Health Proton Center.

The symposium includes breakfast and lunch. Guests will have the option of touring the [Proton Center of Arkansas](#) in the afternoon. The Proton Center of Arkansas is a collaboration between UAMS, Arkansas Children's, Baptist Health and Proton International.

To register or to learn more about continuing education credits, visit [UAMS.Health/ProtonSymposium](#). The symposium will also be livestreamed on Zoom with the link sent to those who preregister for the event.

Proton therapy is an advanced form of radiation therapy to treat solid tumors in children and adults. The UAMS Radiation Oncology Center, part of the UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute, is home to the state's first proton therapy center, which opened September 27.

Baptist Health Named as One of 'America's Greatest Workplaces' by *Newsweek*

Baptist Health announced today that it is recognized by Newsweek as one of America's Greatest Workplaces.

"While we do not set out to earn awards, we are grateful to be nationally recognized as an organization that truly values and celebrates the unique contributions of our employees," said Cathy Dickinson, chief human resources officer for Baptist Health. "We are constantly working to create a supportive and welcoming environment for those who choose to join our healing ministry, which in turn results in a better overall experience for the patients we serve."

In addition to being named one of America's Greatest Workplaces, Baptist Health also earned a place in these Newsweek award categories:

- America's Greatest Workplaces for Job Starters
- America's Greatest Workplaces for Parents & Families
- America's Greatest Workplaces for Diversity
- America's Greatest Workplaces for Women

Baptist Health maintains a number of benefits to help parents and families, including onsite child care, tuition assistance, loan forgiveness, credit union, an employee

food pantry and an abundance of company-provided benefits and discounts. Baptist Health also offers many community programs such as immunizations, cooking events and classes for new and expecting parents. Also, our Baptist Health Mobile Health Unit reaches families throughout the state.

Baptist Health has a number of ongoing initiatives that are dedicated to celebrating the health care organization's diverse workforce. We survey our employees annually for valuable feedback and proudly celebrate Diversity Awareness Week. Leadership is trained in unconscious bias, creating an inclusive work environment.

The ranking of America's Greatest Workplaces 2023 identified the top 1,000 companies in the U.S. The list is based on a large employer survey and of a sample set of over 61,000 respondents living in the U.S. and working in the U.S. for companies that employ at least 1,000 employees. The study collected, in total, over 389,000 company reviews of companies in the U.S. that employ at least 1,000 employees across all industry sectors.

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute's Partners Card Celebrates 20 Years of Shopping, Dining Discounts

About 200 shops and restaurants in Central and Northwest Arkansas will offer discounts October 27 through Nov. 5 with Partners Card, a fundraising project of the volunteer auxiliary of the Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS).

This marks the 20th year for the Cancer Institute to offer Partners Card in Central Arkansas, the 16th year in Northwest Arkansas and the sixth year in Conway.

During that time, the fundraiser has raised more than \$3 million for programs and services benefiting cancer patients in Arkansas.

For 10 days, shoppers and diners who purchase the \$50 cards will receive a 20% discount at nearly 200 area stores and restaurants in Central Arkansas, Conway and Northwest Arkansas.

To purchase a Partners Card or view a complete list of participating shops and restaurants, visit uamspartnerscard.com.

Cards also may be purchased by calling 501-686-8286 or at participating locations indicated on the website. Digital cards are available this year.



Proceeds from Partners Card sales help cover the hidden costs of cancer care that patients often incur, such as transportation, nutritional support and housing assistance.

"Patient needs change from year to year, but we have seen a pretty consistent need for

transportation and housing assistance," said Susan Jones, assistant director of Volunteer Services for the Cancer Institute. "The funds raised through Partners Card really help take some of the burden off of patients so they can focus on their treatment."



Upcoming Dates to Remember

October 16th:	Bosses Day
October 31st:	Halloween
November 5th:	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 11th:	Veterans Day
November 23rd:	Thanksgiving Day