

# Progress Notes

NOVEMBER 2019

MSMA Reporting the Progress of Missouri's Medicine

www.msma.org

## Three MSMA Members Serve on MO HealthNet Oversight Committee

The MO HealthNet Oversight Committee met November 5 in Jefferson City to discuss program transformation and enrollment reforms. Bridgett McCandless, MD, an MSMA member since 2011, was elected Committee Co-Chair. State Rep. Jon Patterson, MD, an MSMA member since 2011, and Randall Williams, MD, an MSMA member since 2017, also serve on the committee.



## MSMA Member is Now President-Elect of World Medical Association

Congratulations MSMA and AMA Past President David Barbe, MD, on being elected President-Elect of the World Medical Association. Delegates from more than 100 countries approved his nomination during their annual convention in the eastern European city of Tbilisi, Georgia in October. Dr. Barbe has had 36 years of practice in Mountain Grove, Mo. The WMA, which has an official relationship with the World Health Organization, is an international organization representing more than nine million physicians. Its members include 114 national medication associations. Dr. Barbe will serve one year as president-elect and will be inaugurated as president of the WMA in October 2020 during the annual meeting in Córdoba, Spain.



## Professional Liability Rates Moving Up

After 15 years of steady decline, physician professional liability insurance rates are trending up. MSMA has made significant progress with tort reform issues and will continue during the 2020 Missouri legislative session. Please contact Ronnie Staggs at MSMA Insurance Agency (573-635-0320) if you need assistance with your professional liability insurance.



## Advocacy App Connect with Your Legislators

When there's an issue that impacts the medical profession and patient care, MSMA will notify you via text message. The message will contain a link that, when clicked, sends an email, a Tweet, or places a phone call to your state representative or senator.



## Legislative Report Moves to Email! Must Opt in for Print Copy

**IMPORTANT:** If you want to receive a paper copy of the *Legislative Report*, please email [cwilliams@msma.org](mailto:cwilliams@msma.org) or call 800-869-6762.

**Sign up to Start: Text MOMEDICAL to 52886**  
(message and data rates may apply)

- Watch for notifications on legislation or policy changes
- Act (click a link) to connect with your legislators



# Council Actions: Advocacy Efforts Ramp Up for 2020 Session

Demonstrating the value of membership through its upcoming advocacy efforts, MSMA announced its top priorities for medicine at the October Meeting in Jefferson City: making the credentialing process less of a headache, curbing vapor product usage by minors, and fighting the anti-vaccination movement.



Depending on where you practice, you are represented by up to three Councilors and Vice Councilors. Contact MSMA to find yours at 800-869-6762 or [cmartin@msma.org](mailto:cmartin@msma.org).

## Advocacy

Working on those three issues and many more begins with the 2020 legislative session on Wednesday, January 8. MSMA has held numerous statewide meetings to increase communication and advocacy this summer and fall, and has been meeting with lobbyists, discussing both old and new issues and anticipating an interesting year for public health. The October Legislative Report highlighted the importance of building relationships with elected officials before the legislative session convenes. Identify your state legislators and make contact with them. Phone2Action is a new tool to connect members to MSMA's legislative text alert network. Visit [www.msma.org/action](http://www.msma.org/action) to sign up.

An FAQ flyer on medical marijuana is being developed by MSMA, and physicians are encouraged to submit any questions they or their patients have to Jeff Howell at [jhowell@msma.org](mailto:jhowell@msma.org) so that those issues can be incorporated.

The Missouri Health Insurance Innovation Task Force has been established to look into a Section 1332 waiver in the ACA and will put in legislation to launch a re-insurance program similar to what other states have done. MSMA member Rep. Jonathan Patterson, MD, is on the committee.

Five MSMA members on the state's Opioid Prescriber Advisory Committee give MSMA great input into Medicaid opioid policies. An effort to expand the 12-month drawback period for HMO payments to physicians was turned back in the Governor's Medicaid Fraud Task Force.

The Council discussed the possibility of creating a Missouri Healthcare Collaborative to jointly pursue shared interests, as Iowa and Kansas hospital and medical associations have done.

## Events to sign up for:

Physician of the Day program [www.msma.org/physician-of-the-day](http://www.msma.org/physician-of-the-day)  
March 3, 2020 - White Coat Day [www.msma.org/white-coat-day](http://www.msma.org/white-coat-day)

## Annual Convention/CME

Programming is underway for the 162nd Annual Convention, April 3-5, 2020, Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel, reported Peggy Barjenbruch, MD. She said the CME Commission accredited Hannibal Regional Hospital for four years, and approved progress reports for North Kansas City and Lake Regional. The MSMA annual maintenance fee will increase due to an ACCME fee increase, and beginning in 2021, providers will pay the maintenance fee directly to the ACCME.

An ad hoc committee on the Annual Convention is reviewing possibilities for cost savings and ways to increase attendance among younger physicians. Other improvements include changes to the exhibit hall, CME, and registration fees. By 2022, the delegate handbook will be only available via MSMA's website.

## SHINE

SHINE is continuing with its existing policies and structures, and is working with MO HealthNet to determine how to distribute \$10 million in federal matching funds, which are intended to assist clinics with connection fees to HIEs; these fees remain the largest challenge to signing up. SHINE is now owned by the Kansas Health Information Network, rather than KAMMCO.

## MSMA Insurance Agency

Ronnie Staggs, Director, discussed the current market analysis, which showed that for the first time in many years, insurance companies are filing for rate increases across the board. Progress continues on the Association Health Plan. It was delayed due to a new ACA format allowing individual states to make more decisions on what they will allow for groups under 50.

continued on page 3



Right:  
Your Legislative  
Committee sorted  
through medical, legal,  
and public health issues  
during the October  
Council Meeting in  
Jefferson City.



## Council Actions, continued

### Services Update

MSMA will continue administration services in 2020 for Boone County Medical Society, and the Missouri organizations of the American College of OB-GYN, American College of Emergency Physicians, and American College of Physicians.

### Missouri Physicians Health

Lisa Thomas, MD, Medical Director for the Missouri Physicians Health Program, reported that educational presentations will continue in 2020, and asked all physicians to support their physicians' health program in their respective hospitals and practice settings. She reviewed the participation figures, which are mostly internal medicine and family practice physicians. Dr. Thomas also announced her candidacy for State Representative of House District 124 comprised of portions of Camden and Miller counties. She is a resident of Lake Ozark and has been involved in MSMA leadership since 2005. She is currently MSMA's District 5 Councillor.

### Actions and Recommendations

Resolution actions of the 2019 House of Delegates were approved and can be found at [www.msma.org/resolution-actions](http://www.msma.org/resolution-actions).

### Constitution and Bylaws

Two areas of the MSMA Constitution and Bylaws are to be updated through resolutions introduced at the January 2020 Council Meeting. First, the Women Physicians Section, established in April 2019, is crafting bylaws to amend MSMA's Constitution and Bylaws. Secondly, the bylaws that address the allocation of councillor positions based on membership will be updated to keep the allocations unchanged.

### Councillor District Report (selected)

Councillor John Memken, MD, Hannibal, District 2, reported that Patricia Herner, MD, presented the American College of

Surgeons "Stop the Bleed" program at a recent society meeting.

Councillor Inderjit Singh, MD, St. Louis, District 3, reported the annual Hippocrates lecture topic was "Healthcare in Crisis," presented by Dr. Ed Weisbart in September. Following the lecture, participants discussed the pros and cons of a "Medicare for All" single-payer program.

The partnership with the Midwest Health Initiative (MHI) and the St. Louis Business Health Coalition (BHC) continues to provide physician input for the Choosing Wisely initiative. A sub-group of four SLMMS physician members have joined with physicians from the MHI board to analyze areas of high cost and potential waste reduction in healthcare. Using payer-provided data, the physicians are identifying opportunities in the St. Louis market and will publish findings in 2020.

Councillor Kevin Weikart, MD, St. Charles, District 4, reported that St. Charles Lincoln County Medical Society will be awarding \$7,500 for their medical student scholarship.

Councillor George Hubbell, MD, Lake Ozark, District 5, reported that Boone Hospital in Columbia will no longer be a subsidiary of BJC, but instead will be managed by itself as a county hospital, led by long-time MSMA member Jerry Kennett, MD. The University of Missouri is in the process of buying out SSM-St. Mary's in Jefferson City and Mexico.

MU is expanding its family practice residency to include Bothwell Hospital in Sedalia. Amy Zguta, MD, Columbia, will become the District 5 Vice Councillor, due to the relocation of Clark Andelin, MD, Mexico. Boone County Medical Society held two events: a residency forum for directors and third-year medical students and an educational forum on medical marijuana.

Vice Councillor Amanda Turner, MD, Nevada, District 6, expressed her appreciation for Dr. Lovinger's efforts to effect the passing of a sales tax to keep the Nevada, Mo., hospital from closing. Dr. Turner thanked MSMA for its presentation on advocacy and communication at the West Central Society's meeting in August.



## Medicare Cards/MBI Needed

**MBI on new Medicare cards needed by **December 31** for most transactions**



Nearly all new Medicare cards have been distributed, and 75% of fee-for-service claims are being submitted with the new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) number.

If you aren't using the MBI for all Medicare patients, you must use it beginning **January 1, 2020**, or claims will be denied. If a Medicare patient has not received a new card, Social Security does not have a valid mailing address on file for them, and they need to contact Medicare (1-800-633-4227) to get the card mailed.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has heard from physician offices that some patients are refusing to provide their new MBI number for fear of having their information stolen. If a patient refuses to provide their MBI, you will need to process the claim as self-pay. Remember, you can start using the MBIs even if the other health care providers and hospitals who also treat your patients haven't.

When the transition period ends on **December 31, 2019**, you must use the MBI for most transactions.

Visit [www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE18006](http://www.cms.gov/Outreach-and-Education/Medicare-Learning-Network-MLN/MLNMattersArticles/Downloads/SE18006).

## Council Actions, continued

Vice Councilor Brian Curtis, MD, Joplin, District 8, reported the medical school in Joplin is now in its third year, so the original students are now in their third-year rotations.

Vice Councilor Omofolarin Fasuyi, MD, Rolla, District 9, thanked MSMA for its advocacy presentation and expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve on the MSMA Council as he will be moving to Georgia to continue his practice.

Councilor Sharon Wallace, MD, Cape Girardeau, District 10 has reached out to St. Francis Medical Center to address credentialing and contracting issues. St. Francis, along with Southeast Hospital, is the ACO for 16,000 people.

Medical Student Priya Jain, UMKC, encouraged members to reach out to the medical schools and be involved in their meetings. Mizzou and Washington U have had Pints and Policy meetings. KCU and UMKC had a combined meeting in which the AMA government relations staff addressed the students.

The Council accepted Jaren Lammert, MD, to fill a vacancy for the Resident and Fellows Section Vice Councilor position, and accepted Joanne Loethen, MD, as Councilor, and Frances Mei Hardin, MD, as Vice Councilor, for the Women Physicians Section. Dr. Loethen reported the WPS has held two organizational meetings to create vision and goals.

## AMA Report

Elie Azrak, MD, reported the AMA delegation is preparing for the 2019 AMA Interim meeting in San Diego, November 15-19.



## Medicare Open Enrollment Assistance

CLAIM is the Missouri State Health Insurance Assistance Program. Trained counselors provide free, unbiased advocacy, education, and assistance to people with Medicare, and those who help them make informed decisions about Medicare and related health insurance needs. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call CLAIM at 1-800-390-3330 or visit [www.missouricclaim.org](http://www.missouricclaim.org).

## Medicaid Warns of Claim Rejection

Medicaid has announced many dual eligible claims continue to be submitted without the Medicare Beneficiary Identification (MBI). The new Medicare card has the MBI number to replace the HICN which used the social security number. Beginning January 1, 2020, Missouri Medicaid will reject claims using the HICN, not the MBI, for dual eligible patients.

## Installing an HIE? Funding Available

Missouri is the recipient of the Physicians Foundation grant for getting interconnected through the Show Me Health Information Network (SHINE) Health Information Exchange. The grant assists with the interface costs for independent physician practices. There is still funding available. For more information, contact Jonathan Smith, MPH, at [jsmith@kammco.com](mailto:jsmith@kammco.com) or call 785-232-2224.

Resolutions and reports are on the website and can be viewed and commented upon ahead of the meeting. Dr. Loethen is running for an open delegate seat in the AMA Resident and Fellows Section, and Dr. Azrak has submitted his name for appointment to an open seat on the AMPAC board. The delegation chair, Edmond Cabbabe, MD, continues to serve on the AMA's Council for Long-Range Planning and Development.

Dr. Cabbabe reminded members that the AMA has many monetary awards. There is also the annual grant from the Missouri Honor Fund for a free, physician-led clinic. Go to the AMA Foundation website to nominate or apply.

Missouri for many years was part of the four-state Heart of America caucus at the AMA. Oklahoma and Arkansas decided to join the Southeast Caucus. Missouri remains aligned with Kansas.

## MSMA Alliance

Diana Corzine, MSMAA President-elect, encouraged participation in the Alliance's Holiday Sharing card campaign. The deadline to contribute is November 22. She announced the Foundation Fundraiser, the "Alliance Celebrates 50 Years of James Bond," is scheduled for Friday, April 3.

## Next Council Meeting

A one-day only meeting: Saturday, January 11, 2020, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Jefferson City.

## MSMA Reaching Out and Representing YOU!

Want MSMA to come to you? Email Haley Wansing at [hwansing@msma.org](mailto:hwansing@msma.org) or Stephen Foutes at [stephen@msma.org](mailto:stephen@msma.org) or call 800-869-6762.



MSMA President James DiRenna, DO, FAAFP, presented to students at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences on Oct. 15. They learned about organized medicine, MSMA's advocacy work, and how to get involved as members of MSMA.



Missouri State Medical Association Alliance President Gill Waltman (left) welcomes from left, Drs. Michael Bukstein, Patricia Hirner, and Erik Meidl to the MSMA Alliance's Fall Conference in Hannibal on Oct. 30. Drs. Bukstein and Hirner presented on the ASC program Stop the Bleed, while Dr. Meidl spoke on Obesity Management. The physician members of MSMA are all from the Hannibal Clinic.



Physician staff at Bothwell Regional Health Center in Sedalia welcomed MSMA President James DiRenna, DO, and MSMA Director of Legislative Affairs, Heidi Geisbuhler, for a presentation on Nov. 6. DiRenna (left) is pictured with Bothwell physicians Stuart Braverman, MD, (center) an MSMA member since 1992, and David Kuhlmann, MD, (right) an MSMA member since 2007.

### BCMS Hosts Annual Residency Forum

M3s from the MU School of the Medicine heard from residency directors, who gave a brief "pitch" of their programs during the Annual Residency forum, followed by a one-on-one networking event. BCMS and MSMA member since 2010 Geetha Davis, MD, a Mason Eye Institute physician and the Director of the Ophthalmology Residency Program, and BCMS/MSMA member since 1994, Mark Wakefield, MD, Chief of the Division of Urology and Program Director for the Urology Residency Program, were among presenters.

### MSMA Introduces New Staff at Headquarters

Kelli Clemens is MSMA's new Finance Manager, replacing Lisa Cassmeyer, who retired in October. Kelli manages all processes that encompass MSMA's finances, including posting and depositing local, state, and MMPAC income, maintaining files on investments and royalties, running credit card and online payments, paying bills, and preparing the annual budget and auditing reports. She administers MSMA's contracts with the Missouri Physicians Health Program and the MSMA Insurance Agency. She is also the human resource manager and oversees payroll and other employee issues. Contact Kelli: [kelli@msma.org](mailto:kelli@msma.org)



## 2020 WHITE COAT DAY



**TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2020**

[WWW.MSMA.ORG/WHITE-COAT-DAY](http://WWW.MSMA.ORG/WHITE-COAT-DAY)

# Member Spotlight



## Erik Meidl, MD, Hannibal, Missouri

Erik Meidl, MD, couldn't resist the allure of Mark Twain's hometown. That's one of the key reasons Meidl and his wife Susan, also an MD, have called Hannibal home for more than 20 years.

"We visited a number of places around the country and we really liked Hannibal the most," Erik Meidl says. "It's a beautiful city, with nice people, great partners to work with and a very vibrant medical community."

Dr. Meidl, a Wisconsin native, attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and completed his residency at Geisinger Medical Center. Meidl is an internal medicine specialist at the Hannibal Clinic and has been an MSMA member since 1996.

He says MSMA offers benefits for both patients and physicians.

"It's helpful in terms of trying to make sure medicine can be practiced in the best ways to benefit our patients," Meidl says. "It's also a great way to communicate with other colleagues to discuss new, interesting ideas."

One of Meidl's passion projects is working at the Hannibal Free Clinic, which provides medical care for underserved populations.

"There are a lot of patients in our area that just don't have the resources to see me or other physicians on a regular basis," Meidl says, noting there's a heavy demand on physicians when they work at the Free Clinic.

"There's usually a waiting list to get in," he adds. "And it's usually a pretty busy day when we go out there to see patients."

Whether it's a long day at the Free Clinic or his regular practice, Meidl has a very understanding partner in Susan, a dermatologist at the Hannibal Clinic and MSMA member since 1998.

"We know what we're going through," he says. "It's easy to talk about your day."



## Why MSMA Members are Renewing

*"I would encourage young physicians to stay in organized medicine. These are difficult times to practice medicine. I think it's more important now than ever for doctors to stay connected with each other, belong to MSMA, and be supportive of each other."*

- Sri Devi Kolli, MD / Member since 2006

*"Involvement in organized medicine helps the profession stay coherent. It also helps us move forward in ways that are beneficial to not only our profession but also to the patients we serve. And, it helps the public understand what we are striving to accomplish."*

- Michael O'Dell, MD / Member since 2010



*"We, as physicians, are very busy being physicians, with little time for extra-curricular activities and state-level advocacy in organized medicine. This is where MSMA comes in. The earlier you get involved with MSMA in your career, the easier it is to know how you can use your voice to help advocate for a topic in which you are really interested."*

- Amanda Turner, MD / Member since 2015

# Greet Your Physician Legislators



## Senator Bob Onder, MD (R)

State Senate District 2 (St. Charles) / Hometown: Lake Saint Louis

- Specialty: Allergy and Immunology
- MSMA Member since 1992
- Contact: bob.onder@senate.mo.gov

Serving his second term as Senator, Dr. Onder has been a tremendous friend to Missouri physicians throughout his tenure in the Senate. In 2018 he offered heaps of support while we duked it out with Anthem. Dr. Onder served as the Senate Health Committee chair in 2019, a great place for an ally like him.



## Representative Jim Neely, DO (R)

House District 8 (Cameron) / Hometown: Cameron

- Specialty: Family Medicine
- MSMA Member since 2013
- Contact: jim.neely@house.mo.gov

Dr. Neely is serving his fourth term and has had a seat on the House Health and Professional Registration committees for several years now. He's consistently been a friend to MSMA and we're excited to have him back for another term.



## Representative Jon Patterson, MD (R)

House District 30 (Lee's Summit, Blue Springs, Independence, Unity Village) / Hometown: Lee's Summit

- Specialty: General Surgery
- MSMA Member since 2011
- Contact: jon.patterson.md@gmail.com

Dr. Patterson, serving his first term, is a tireless physician advocate and MSMA is looking forward to working with him again on the MSMA agenda in 2020.

## St. Louis Free Health Clinic Receives Award From the AMA Foundation and Missouri Honor Fund

Thanks to the generous donations from Missouri physicians and other donors, the Missouri Honor Fund (MHF) granted more than \$40,000 to a clinic in St. Louis last year, and the MHF will support another clinic this year with a \$10,000 award. MHF was established three years ago, in conjunction with the AMAF Community Health Program.

Qualifying clinics can submit their application to the AMAF for both the general AMAF and the MHF as they may qualify for one or both awards. Although the MHF has been established and operational, larger annual awards can be granted. Please seek and/or make a designated donation to the MHF at the AMAF. Your dollars will help promote our goal of providing needed care to the underserved and the uninsured.

The AMA Foundation's Community Health Program provides financial support to innovative programs targeting the prevention and reduction of type 2 diabetes and hypertension. This funding opportunity is awarded to community-based organizations such as free health clinics that provide services to vulnerable and underserved populations. Committed to fostering focused and measurable health improvements, Community Health Grants will be awarded in amounts up to \$60K and are renewable for up to three years.

This grant fund opportunity is open to organizations that meet the following criteria:

- U.S. based Non-Profit Organization with 501(c)3 status\*
- In operation for over three years
- Annual organization operating budget less than \$3 million
- Provide services in the continental U.S.

The 2019-2020 Community Health Program Request for Proposals will open in late 2019 and can be found at [amafoundation.org/programs/community-health](http://amafoundation.org/programs/community-health). Organizations are not allowed to utilize third party foundations and/or fiscal agents to submit applications. This includes, but is not limited to, university and hospital foundations. Organizations with multiple sites are NOT allowed to submit for an individual site. The following organizations are ineligible to apply: medical student-led clinics, hospitals, universities, elementary and high schools, state and specialty medical societies, and local/city/state government entities.

\*National affiliated organizations (utilizing the same EIN/501(c)3 status)





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NOVEMBER 2019



## Advocate! Educate! Participate!

[www.msma.org/physician-of-the-day](http://www.msma.org/physician-of-the-day)

This excellent program is warmly received by the General Assembly and participating physicians. One physician per day is needed every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday between Jan. 8 and May 15, 2020.

Plan to spend a day in Jefferson City as MSMA's Physician of the Day in the Capitol. Arrive in the Capitol around 9:00 or 9:30 a.m., and stay until 2:00 or 3:00 in the afternoon (except Thursdays, when the House and Senate typically adjourn around noon). Sign up at [www.msma.org/physician-of-the-day](http://www.msma.org/physician-of-the-day).

