

Progress Notes

SEPTEMBER 2020

MSMA Reporting the Progress of Missouri's Medicine

www.msma.org



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY

Saint Louis University Enrolls All Medical Students as MSMA Members

Student officers of the MSMA Medical Student Section (MSS) are working hard to recruit first-year students as free members of MSMA at their six chapters of the medical schools across the state. One such example is that of Saint Louis University School of Medicine (SLU) MSS, who successfully worked with their Dean's Office to provide auto-enrollment for MSMA memberships to their peers on the SLU Campus.

"We are thankful to have the support of our Office of Student Affairs in helping us enroll all of our students on the SLU Med Campus as members of MSMA. We look forward to expanding upon the collaborative advocacy efforts between our students and MSMA," said the officers of the SLU-MSS.

Serving on the SLU Chapter are Kate Lee, President; Ashish Samaddar, Vice President of Finance and Recruitment; Renee Gao, Vice President of Health Policy/Special Events; Sophie Xie and Prerana Jayanth, Co-Vice Presidents of Community Service; and Rebecca Zhang, Saint Louis Metropolitan Medical Society Representative.



Membership in MSMA is something medical students can take with them throughout their entire career. MSMA looks forward to continuing this valuable partnership with SLU and the other medical schools

Students may claim their free membership on MSMA's website at www.msma.org/students or email Haley Wansing at hwansing@msma.org for more information.

MSMA's Women Physicians Section Seeks Nominations

The MSMA Women Physicians Section will host a social media campaign in the month of September in honor of Women In Medicine Month. The #WomenForWomenMO campaign will celebrate the achievement, advancement, and leadership of Missouri's women physicians.

Female physicians from around the state will be featured on the WPS Twitter @WPSmsma. If you or a female colleague has had a recent promotion, a journal publication, holds a leadership position, or any other similar professional achievement, please nominate yourself or others to be featured during this campaign.

Anyone can submit an accomplishment of a woman colleague (or herself) using the Google form: <https://www.msma.org/women-physicians-section.html>. WPS will use each submission to feature the accomplishments of our members and all women physicians of Missouri. As women are featured, they'll be alerted to the feature and be requested to submit a name and accomplishment of a fellow colleague or acquaintance. This submission can then be used as a future feature to build a catalog of accomplishments.

If you have questions about this campaign or WPS, please contact Heidi Sutherland at heidi@msma.org.



MSMA Virtual Advocacy Meetings
All Districts - All Physicians Invited

Register at www.MSMA.org/VAM

Now thru Oct 1 / 6-7:00 pm





COVID-19 Updates

COVID Liability Protections Coming?

Rumor has it that Missouri Governor Parson may soon call the General Assembly into a special session to address COVID-19 liability. MSMA is closely monitoring this possibility. A number of states have granted COVID-19 immunity to physicians, and we are encouraged by the potential for such legislation in Missouri.

A comprehensive COVID-19 liability bill would not only include immunity for physicians but could also include protections for businesses and employers. The legislature has been struggling to conclude the current special session on crime. Even so, we would predict a COVID-related special session to take place in conjunction with the annual Veto Session in mid-September.

ActionPPE for MSMA Members

MSMA and ActionPPE are working together to offer Missouri physicians the opportunity to purchase Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).



Through this partnership formed by MSMA and ActionPPE,

Missouri physicians can obtain PPE through a dedicated distribution network, and at more reasonable prices. This effort is intended to provide physician practices with the PPE they need at this critical time. We want to keep your offices open, while providing a safe environment for you, your staff, and patients.

Please visit actionppe.org/3/msma to directly order certified PPE.

Flu Vaccine - Now is the Time

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services will soon begin a public relations campaign promoting flu shots. The current pandemic and public health emergency status makes this year's flu vaccine even more important in an attempt to avoid overtaxing already scarce healthcare resources. Missouri will be pushing to increase its current vaccination rate from 45%. Visit health.mo.gov/flu.

AMA Requests HHS to Update SARS-CoV-2 Guidelines

The American Medical Association (AMA) sent a letter to Health and Human Services (HHS) requesting HHS to update its SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic testing guidelines. Following the letter, the AMA staff generated documents for physicians and the general public addressing diagnostic testing and considerations for SARS-CoV-2 testing.

Visit <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/covid-19-2019-novel-coronavirus-resource-center-physicians>.

Missouri COVID-19 Dashboard

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has developed a Missouri COVID-19 Dashboard which tracks the spread of the disease in the state. The Dashboard displays total lab confirmed cases, number of new cases, positivity rate, deaths, and hospitalizations. It also tracks demographics, including age, gender, race, and ethnicity, cases by county, testing-PCR, testing-serology, and deaths.

Visit <http://health.mo.gov>.

Weekly MSMA/DHSS Calls Continue

MSMA member Randall Williams, MD, Director of the DHSS, is continuing his conference call updates to MSMA members on the status of COVID-19. Join us every Saturday at 8:00 a.m. Physicians, residents, and medical students can dial 888-330-9939, and enter #767288 when prompted.

FREE COVID-19 CME

MSMA and Rockpointe CME have partnered to bring physicians free CME/MOC-eligible courses on "Obesity and COVID-19" and "Lung Cancer and COVID-19" in September and October. Registration is open and CME is free.

Visit www.msma.org/cv19-education.

Provider Reimbursement for Counseling Patients to Self-Isolate

CMS and CDC announced they will begin payment to physicians that counsel patients at the time of COVID-19 testing about the importance of self-isolation after the patients are tested and prior to the onset of symptoms. CMS will use existing E/M payment codes to reimburse physicians who are eligible to bill Medicare for counseling services no matter where a test is administered, including physician's offices, urgent care clinics, hospitals, and community drive-thru or pharmacy testing sites.

Visit <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/counseling-checklist.pdf>.

2021 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule Released

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) released the 2021 proposed Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (MPFS), which includes proposed policy changes to the Quality Payment Program for 2021 and beyond. The proposed 2021 MPFS conversion factor is a decrease of 10.6 percent to \$32.2605 from 2020's \$36.0896. The reason for the decrease is the budget neutrality adjustment to account for changes in relative value units (RVUs).

More information at <https://www.cms.gov/apps/physician-fee-schedule/overview.aspx>.



MSMA Reaching Out and Representing YOU!

Want MSMA to come to you? Email Haley Wansing at hwansing@msma.org.



Above left and middle: The *Missouri Medicine* Publications Committee announces that David Fleming, MD, and Charles Van Way, III, MD, were the recipients of the Distinguished Editorial Service Award for 2020. They join Art Gale, MD, in this distinguished circle of esteemed, long-time contributors to our nationally-known medical journal. Together the three represent the longest serving members of our board. Dr. Fleming (shown on left with EVP Patrick Mills) has edited the book *Care of the Dying Patient* (University of Missouri Press) based on articles published in our Journal, served as a long-standing liaison with University of Missouri, and worked with us to create the first ever two theme issues in Nov/Dec 2002 and Jan/Feb 2003. This set the model of using our state medical schools to present theme issues which has insured both high quality and adequate volume for the past 17 years. Dr. Van Way (middle) has contributed numerous editorials and perspectives. He has been an excellent liaison with the University of Missouri - Kansas City School of Medicine and helped with faculty recruitment to MSMA. He is also a past President of MSMA and a Missouri Delegate to the American Medical Association. Above right: James DiRenna, DO, (left) receives the official MSMA Past Presidents commendation from current MSMA President George Hruza, MD, (right).

MSMA Launches Virtual Membership Community to Increase Interaction

In bringing more value to your membership experience, MSMA has recently launched a platform in which members can connect and discuss matters in a community-like setting. The technology is called Slack and msmaworkspace.slack.com is the URL. Interact with other physician members in the general MSMA workspace, or join one of the section communities for residents, students, and women physicians. To begin connecting virtually, simply email MSMA Director of Membership Haley Wansing at hwansing@msma.org and ask for a link inviting you to join the community.

MSMA “Honor” Membership Category Changes

MSMA Council approved an increase in Honor dues from \$25 to \$100 at its July Council Meeting. The cost of providing benefits to Honor members has exceeded \$25 for a number of years, and Council concluded that MSMA was no longer in a position to provide the journal and other benefits at such a steep loss. We understand this increase may come as a surprise but we sincerely hope that the benefits we provide warrant continued membership in MSMA.

Login to MSMA.org to Change Your Preferences or Update Email

Need to update your mailing or email information with MSMA? It's easy! Log into your account. There is a link on the righthand side to update your contact information and change preferences, then click the save and submit button.

Physicians Health Program Provides Recovery Services

The Missouri Physicians Health Program (MPHP) continues to provide important recovery services to Missouri physicians, residents, and students who need assistance.

In addition to payments made by clients, donations are accepted to help sustain the MPHP services provided for all Missouri physicians as the MPHP is operated within the MSMA Physicians Health Foundation, a 501c3.

You can learn more and subscribe to the MPHP newsletter at www.themphp.org.





Missouri State Medical Association

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protect what matters most

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MSMA Insurance Agency

INSURANCE CHANGES

UnitedHealthcare's Payment System

UnitedHealthcare (UHC) is eliminating all payments to physicians using a paper check. If you have received a paper check from UHC in the past two years you should have received a letter encouraging you to sign up for ACH/direct deposits. This change was being implemented in some locations as early as August 1. If you do not sign up for ACH/direct deposits you will begin receiving virtual credit cards.

For more information, or to sign up for ACH/direct deposits visit UHCprovider.com/payment.

Anthem Formulary List & E/M Codes

Anthem is making extensive changes to their formulary list as of October 1. We encourage you to review it and begin working with your patients to make the necessary changes. View the entire list of changes at https://www.anthem.com/health-insurance/nsecurepdf/pharmacy_ABC_Formulary_Update.pdf.

Beginning November 1, Anthem will begin reviewing E/M codes from physicians who are identified as coding at a higher E/M level as compared to their peers. Anthem states that all physicians should report E/M services in accordance with the AMA's CPT® Manual and the CMS guidelines for billing E/M service codes.

Visit <https://providernews.anthem.com/missouri/article/evaluation-and-management-services-correct-coding-professional>.

