



# Bulletin

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE KENT COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY & THE KENT COUNTY OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

SPRING 2020



## COVID-19 Resource Guide

PAGE 10

**PAGE 8**

KCMS 117th Annual Meeting

**PAGE 17**

Thank You Holiday Card Donors

**PAGE 20**

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# BULLETIN

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# Contents



## Note from the Editor

**In the midst of a serious COVID-19 pandemic, we are working with this issue to bring together important resources for all physicians and their staff on page 10. First though, we must thank you for your hard work and dedication to your patients and the safety of the community during these difficult weeks.**

You are well aware that most events and meetings have been postponed or virtualized, with information about changes and future schedules available at the respective organization event websites. While we observed Doctor's Day on March 30 and World Health Worker week a week later, it is more significant that our patients and communities recognize that physicians and healthcare professionals are truly heroes who are dedicated to heal and comfort patients and their families while working continuously against all odds. **Thank you for all that you do.**

### KCMS

- In Memoriam **4**
- Meetings of Interest **5**
- President's Message **6**

### COLLABORATION

- COVID-19 Resource Guide **10**

### KCOA

- Meetings of Interest **13**
- President's Message **14**

### CONTRIBUTORS

- 15** Kent Medical Foundation
- 18** Alliance Heartbeat
- 22** Kent County Health Department
- 23** MSU - College of Human Medicine



# In Memoriam

## **JAMES UPJOHN COLLINS, MD**

Dr. James Upjohn Collins passed away on February 3, 2020. He graduated from the University of Michigan and received his medical degree from Wayne State University School of Medicine. Dr. Collins served his country as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, serving as a doctor and Chief of ICU for the Marines in Vietnam. After being honorably discharged, he practiced as an anesthesiologist at Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids until his early retirement in 1987. Dr. James Collins was a member of the Kent County Medical Society since 1972.

## **CURTIS D. EDHOLM, MD**

Dr. Curtis Edholm passed away January 23, 2020. He earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Michigan and his medical degree from Wayne University College of Medicine. Dr. Edholm completed his internship at Saint Mary's Hospital after which he entered the United States Army from 1953 to 1955. Dr. Edholm practiced as an orthopedic surgeon at St. Mary's Hospital where he served on and chaired most of the major committees during his 25 years. Dr. Curtis Edholm was a member of the Kent County Medical Society since 1960.

## **OLIVER D.W. GRIN, MD**

Dr. Oliver Grin passed away on April 2, 2020. He was a graduate of Delta Community College, Michigan State University, and the University of Michigan Medical School. Dr. Grin completed his neurosurgical residency at the University of Iowa. Well recognized for his career as a neurosurgeon, Dr. Grin was also an avid sportsman. His many sailing accomplishments include top finishes in national and international sailing competitions. One month prior to his death, his dream became a reality when his inspirational memoir, "Blue Eyes", was published on Amazon. Dr. Oliver Grin was a member of the Kent County Medical Society since 1974.

## **WILLIAM E. KINCAID, MD**

Dr. William E. "Bill" Kincaid passed away on March 7, 2020. He attended West Virginia University and earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia. After interning at Ohio Valley General Hospital, he enlisted in the US Army Medical Corp and was stationed in Salzburg, Austria until 1953. Upon his return, Dr. Kincaid completed a residency in radiology at Case Western Reserve Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio. He practiced medicine in the Radiology Department of Butterworth Hospital where he remained until his retirement in 1990. Dr. William Kincaid was a member of the Kent County Medical Society since 1959.

## **DONALD E. SIKKEMA, MD**

Dr. Donald "Don" Sikkema, of Grand Haven, passed away on February 25, 2020. Dr. Sikkema graduated from Calvin College and received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical School. He served as a Captain in the US Army (1957-1960) and as a medical missionary to Nigeria (1960-1963). He returned to the U of M Medical School to specialize in internal medicine and cardiology. He practiced medicine in Grand Haven from 1967 until he retired in 2001. Dr. Donald Sikkema was a member of the Ottawa County Medical Society.

## **RANDALL J. TELMAN, MD**

Dr. Randall Telman passed away on January 8, 2020. Dr. Telman graduated from Hope College and received his medical degree from the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine. He trained in plastic surgery at Bronson/Borgess in Kalamazoo and Butterworth Hospital in Grand Rapids. He practiced plastic and reconstructive surgery in the Grand Rapids area until his retirement in 2008. Dr. Randall Telman was a member of the Kent County Medical Society since 1983.

## Check Your Referral Guide Information

Have you updated your West Michigan Doctor Referral Guide listing? Thank you to those who have turned in their update forms! If you have yet to do so, please visit [www.westmichigandoctors.com](http://www.westmichigandoctors.com) and check to be sure your listing information is up to date.

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### OUR MISSION:

*The Kent County Medical Society is a professional association, uniting the physicians in Kent County into a mutual, neutral organization; preserving and promoting the health of the citizens of Kent County, the physician/patient relationship, the medical profession, and the interests of physicians.*

## Visit us

For event details, check out our website [kcms.org](http://kcms.org)







Sandy Dettmann, MD,  
DABAM, FASAM  
2020 KCMS President,  
Board of Directors

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Words Matter

In order for you to better understand where I'm coming from, I preface this article with my mission statement — I have made my life, my career, and my passion about caring for and protecting the rights of individuals who have been marginalized, shamed, blamed, and even punished in our society for their diseases — alcoholism, mental health disease, and drug dependence/addiction.

It has been my passion for several years now to help the public, the judicial system, and the medical community to accept substance use disorders as the **diseases** that they are. Evidence-based medical treatment, for both opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder, exists.

I have garnered board-certification by the American Board of Addiction Medicine and the American Board of Preventive Medicine. I established and ran a private practice in addiction medicine, am a provider at Arbor Circle Corporation for the underserved Medicaid patients to receive quality medical treatment, practiced telemedicine in yet another rural, underserved community, worked at an FQHC, and now have landed a job as Mercy Health's first full time addiction medicine specialist.

You would think that my efforts would have demonstrated that addiction truly is a medical disease and that effective, evidence-based medical care is the gold standard.

Yet, here we are in the midst of the largest man-made epidemic in the history of the United

States — the tragic opioid epidemic. And while we are making some progress, our babies continue to die of a medical illness which some of us refuse to even consider could be the disease process that causes the suffering of the dead and dying. Many still consider addiction to be a choice, chosen by bad people who make bad decisions. To me, it is a horrific disease that afflicts good people.

Persons who suffer from the disease of addiction continue to be referred to as "drug addicts," or "drug abusers." The continued use of this verbiage conjures up somewhat of a horrific image in the minds of most. Whereas, in reality, addiction is an "equal opportunity destroyer."

Unfortunately, the disease of addiction has unsavory symptoms — lying, cheating, stealing, manipulating, and committing crimes. I maintain that if the disease process is treated and controlled, the symptoms simply disappear. How do I know this? I know this because I get to witness the miracle of recovery in my office on a daily basis.

In spite of my efforts, my biggest obstacle remains the stigma associated with the disease of addiction — in the community, in the legal system, and sadly enough, even in my own profession of medicine.

Persons who suffer from the disease of addiction continue to be referred to as "drug addicts,"

or “drug abusers.” The continued use of this verbiage conjures up somewhat of a horrific image in the minds of most. Whereas, in reality, addiction is an “equal opportunity destroyer.” After all, we all breathe the same air. Quality educations and powerful jobs do not render us nor our children immune from **any** disease process.

We don’t refer to smokers as “nicotine addicts,” nor do we refer to people with obesity as “fat and sugar addicts.” Yet, when it comes to the disease I treat, we are not so kind.

As leaders in this community and respected medical professionals, I believe that the onus is on us to use correct, medical terminology and put the person before the disease. For example, correct terminology would be “**person** with the disease of addiction.”

Moreover, I also happen to believe that the answer to this opioid epidemic lies in community. Truth be told, the only reason I don’t use drugs is that I have enough dopamine in my life. I have a career I love in a community full of people whom I adore. In other words, I have strong psychosocial supports. I’m not looking for more dopamine to sustain me or to make me happy.

I used to hear that saying, “throw kindness around like confetti,” and thought it was silly. I don’t think that anymore. I finally “get it.” To simplify the neurobiology, dopamine is the pleasure chemical. What raises dopamine levels is different for every individual. However, it is clear, at least to me, that some behaviors that are free and easy for all of us to give, universally deliver dopamine boosts. These behaviors include a smile, kind words, listening ears, eye contact with strangers, and warm embraces.

It remains my opinion that it is how we treat one another and members of this community that is the key to curbing substance use disorders, both locally, and beyond.

I implore you to try it out in your own inner circles. I suspect that not only will you pour dopamine into the lives of those around you, but you, too, will feel better, simply by your display of random acts of love and kindness.

No matter what field of medicine is being practiced, you will encounter patients with the disease of addiction. All I ask is that you treat them with caring and compassion, and afford them appropriate referral for medical treatment of their disease.

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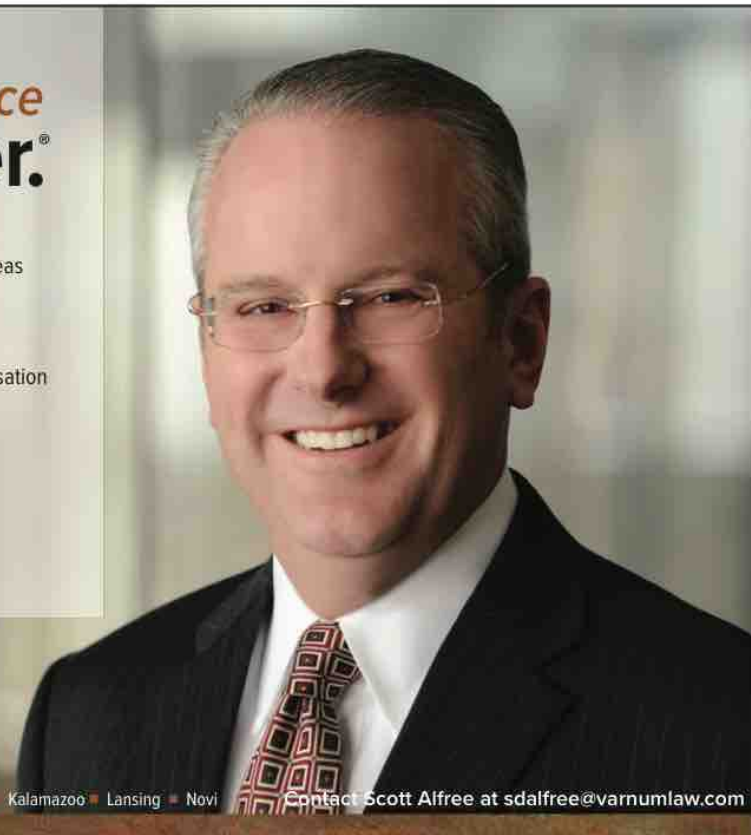
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# KCMS Holds 117th Annual Meeting of the Membership



On January 22, the KCMS gavel passed from 2019 Board President, Megan Edison, MD (right), to 2020 Board President Sandy Dettmann, MD (left).

Dr. Megan Edison, 2019 President of the KCMS welcomed KCMS Members and Guests to the 117th Annual Meeting of the Kent County Medical Society. Dr. Edison gave a review of the Kent County Medical Society Board in 2019 for its Members. The program featured many of the member events, and legislative work and advocacy done on behalf of Members and local medical practices.

OCMS member, Dr. Ned Fody and wife, Nancy Fody, visit with 2019 MSMS Alliance President Karen Begrow.



## 2019 Year in Review

### By the numbers

- 56 new active and reinstated members
- 28 new medical student members
- 13 resolutions submitted by Kent County were submitted to MSMS House of Delegates
- 1 Kent County resolution recently approved by the AMA House of Delegates

### Advocacy Issues

- Maintenance of Certification
- Health Can't Wait/Prior Authorization
- Surprise/Out of Network Billing

### Activities

- Socials - IV League Breakfasts, Physician Citizenship Award with local Boy Scouts, Financial Health Sessions with Merrill Lynch/Bank of America
- Partnering with Kent Medical Foundation, KCMS Alliance, Michigan State Medical Society, MSU-CHM, Kent County Osteopathic Association, Ottawa County Medical Society and other event partners



KCMS Past President Anita Avery, MD, visits with members.



Paul Nicholson, Board Chair of the Kent Medical Foundation provided a financial review of the KMF and grants made in 2019.



Rose Ramirez, MD, MSMS Past President and Delegate to the AMA, gives an update from the American Medical Association.





2020 KCMS Board President Sandy Dettmann, MD (center), with daughter Kailey Dettmann and Dr. Scott Stehouwer.

**Excerpt of 2020 KCMS  
President's Inaugural Address**


I would like to thank you for your trust in my leadership and dedication to this professional organization. I have served on this Board during good times and challenging times, and I feel that while there may be "change in the air of health care," physicians need an association, a camaraderie, representation, and advocacy. Thank you in advance for your support in electing me to this position.

Not only did this society take me under their wing and support me, they celebrated my continued growth and my mission. I came in going 100 miles an hour with my hair on fire talking about drugs, mental health disease, homelessness, and the like, fully expecting to be shunned. Again, to my surprise I was met with opportunities for editorials, contributions to causes important to me, and a whole new team eager to make a difference in this tragic opioid epidemic. You walked with me and you made both me, and my voice, stronger. You added legitimacy to my chosen field of addiction medicine. Being part of KCMS connected me to MSMS which added further support and a voice with MSMS across the entire state of Michigan. The recipe to save lives began to coalesce and come to fruition.

When people ask me what the Kent County Medical Society does, my typical answer is that they support doctors enabling them to deliver better medical care to the citizens of Michigan. You in this audience, members of this society, are truly the embodiment of such a characterization. For without your support, I am doubtful that I would have been able to make such a dramatic impact on this Grand Rapids community, the state of Michigan and now, even our country. And I am but one of the many doctors touched by this organization. When you lay your heads on your pillows tonight, I ask that you remember that your support of Dr. Sandy Dettmann over the years has led to the saving of many lives in the state of Michigan! I thank you, my patients thank you, and the families of my patients thank you.


–Sandy Dettmann, MD

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# COVID-19 Resource Guide

In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, information has changed daily, even hourly. Staff of the Kent County Medical Society and Kent County Osteopathic Association have worked to provide the following links to create a Resource Guide to COVID-19 resources for physicians and their offices. The KCMS.org and KCOA-mi.org websites will be updated routinely in hopes of sharing the most current assistance available for physicians.

## Prepare Your Practice for COVID-19

- [Resources for clinics and health care facilities](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\) Guide: Preventing the spread of COVID-19 in your practice or health care facility](#)
- [CDC Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Q&A](#)
- [AMA COVID-19: FAQ](#)
- [AOA COVID-19 FAQ for osteopathic physicians](#)

## Tracking COVID-19

- [Johns Hopkins COVID-19 Case Tracker](#)
- [Kent County COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)
- [Ottawa County COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#)
- [Muskegon County](#)
- [Allegan County](#)
- [Barry and Eaton Counties](#)
- [Ionia County](#)

## Taking Care of Your Mental and Emotional Health

- [Pine Rest: Coping with COVID-19](#)
- [Michigan Warmline](#)
- [Managing mental health during COVID-19](#)
- [Supporting the emotional health of the health care workforce](#)
- [Support for first responders during COVID-19](#)
- [Wellness apps offering free access during COVID-19:](#)
  - [Headspace is currently offering all healthcare providers free access to premium content, including guided exercises to reduce stress, increase movement and promote sleep.](#)
  - [Ten Percent Happier is offering health care workers unlimited access to app content, including live events, podcasts and personal coaching.](#)
  - [Sanvello has opened all premium content to the public, including modules on self-care, peer support, coaching and therapy.](#)

## Patient Communication

- [Common myths that you should be ready to debunk](#)
- [Advice to give patients who have suspected or confirmed COVID-19](#)



- [CDC Travel Health Notices](#)

## Medicare and Medicaid Coverage information

- [Medicare providers](#)
- [Medicaid coverage and benefits related to COVID-19](#)
- [Fact Sheet: COVID-19 individual and small group market insurance coverage](#)

## Patient Care

- [COVID-19 Practice Management Resources](#)
- [Infectious Diseases Society of America Guidelines on the Treatment and Management of Patients with COVID-19](#)
- [CMS recommendations for limiting all non-essential planned surgeries and procedures, including dental until further notice](#)
- [American Society of Addiction Medicine \(ASAM\) Addiction Medicine Resources – Patient care during COVID-19](#)
- [American Osteopathic Association \(AOA\) Addiction Medicine Resources - Caring for patients with substance use disorder, chronic pain, or mental illness during COVID-19](#)
- [Prior Authorization \(PA\) policy changes related to COVID-19](#)

## Telemedicine

- [AMA Quick Guide to Telemedicine in Practice](#)
- [Medicare Telemedicine Health Care Fact Sheet](#)



- [For osteopathic physicians - Tools, resources and know-how information you need to implement telehealth in your practice](#)

#### Physician Practice Financial Relief

- [Financial Assistance for Physician Medical Practices](#)
- [CARES Act – Key takeaways: What physicians need to know about the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act \(CARES Act\)](#)
- [Tips for keeping your practice in business during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Financial & business operations during COVID-19: Guidance for physicians](#)
- [Physician practices: Learn how to get help under CARES Act](#)

#### Senior Physicians and Other COVID-19 Volunteers

- [Retired doctors hear COVID-19 battle call to rejoin the health care workforce](#)
- [Senior physician COVID-19 resource guide](#)
- [COVID-19 volunteer guide for health care professionals](#)

#### Medical Education

- [AMA Medical Education COVID-19 Resource Guide](#)
- [CME for COVID-19 available through Michigan State Medical Society](#)
- [CME for COVID-19 available through Michigan State University CHM](#)
- [CME for COVID-19 available through American College of Physicians](#)
- [ACCME accredited continuing education \(CE\) activities and additional resources](#)
- [For osteopathic physicians – CME Available: Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine \(OMM\) Techniques Addressing Respiratory Symptoms of COVID-19](#)

#### Advocacy

- [Press Release: AMA, leading physician organizations urge additional COVID-19 legislative steps](#)
- [AMA COVID-19 Advocacy Progress Report](#)
- [AOA Letter to Congress addressing shortage of PPE for physicians](#)
- [Take action and contact your lawmakers today - AOA COVID-19 Social Media Advocacy Toolkit](#)

Updated as of April 15, 2020

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Adam Wolfe, DO  
2020 KCOA President,  
Board of Directors

## Calling All Members Interested in Advocacy

The Kent County Osteopathic Association is building the Delegation to represent Kent County at the Michigan Osteopathic Association Delegation. Due to the pandemic, the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates and the House of Delegates were postponed and plans were made to meet electronically.

**APRIL 19-25**

### Celebrating National Osteopathic Medicine Week (NOM)

Thank you Osteopathic Physicians for all you do!



**JEFFERY D. POSTLEWAITE, DO**

Known to many Osteopathic physicians in West Michigan, Dr. Postlewaite brings more than 21 years of private practice experience to administrative roles at Metro Health. At Metro, he implemented a hospital-based laborist program in OB/GYN and developed and implemented a sustained Interdisciplinary High Fidelity

### West Michigan Physician Nominated for President of the Michigan Osteopathic Association

Jeffery D. Postlewaite, DO, FACOOG (DIST.), Vice President, Medical Administration and Medical Education at Metro Health University of Michigan Hospital is Nominated for the President of the MOA.

Simulation Curriculum. He has created supportive learning environments for medical residents and students while expecting excellence from both learners and professional colleagues.

He also contributes his administrative expertise to various committees and organizations locally and in Lansing with the MOA Board. He has served as the former President and Board of Trustees member of the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists and President of the Medical Staff.

The KCOA Board of Directors is proud to support Dr. Postlewaite and appreciate his interest in sharing his experience and leadership with all Osteopathic physicians in Michigan.





KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION



Brian Janssen  
2020 Kent Medical  
Foundation, Board Chair

# Defining a Clear Vision for 2020

The Kent Medical Foundation Board held its Annual Meeting for 2020. President for 2019, Paul Nicholson was recognized for his leadership and dedication to Kent Medical Foundation. He installed incoming President Brian Janssen to serve as President for 2020. Doctor Kathleen Howard and KCMS Alliance Member, Irene Betz were both recognized for their many years of service to the KMF Board. All were recognized with a plaque recognizing their years of service to the Kent Medical Foundation Board.



As the Board transitions into 2020, they are hopeful to fill vacancies on the Board which will contribute to fundraising and friend-raising efforts, as well as the enjoyable task of granting funds to local non-profit organizations.

The KMF Board is focused on its work with the vaping education program — nicoTEAM. The upcoming Annual nicoTEAM Poster Contest is a peer-education campaign in partnership with local middle school art classes to educate teens on the hazards of vaping, smoking and peer pressure. Local physicians from Kent County Medical Society and Kent County Osteopathic Association participate in the jury portion of the Poster Contest as well as the Award Ceremony. If you are interested in learning more about becoming involved, please feel free to contact the KCMS Office at 458-4157.



Kathleen Howard, MD (left), and KCMS Alliance Member Irene Betz (right).

Thank you to the many donors who helped the KMF raise more than \$8,500 with the 2019 Holiday Greetings campaign. This brings the campaign's 48-year total to \$244,370. The project was begun by the KCMS Alliance and through the years has continued to be a favorite of physician families and offices. The funds assist the KMF Board in supporting grants for programs in the community.



2019 Board Chair  
Paul Nicholson



**BRIAN JANSSEN**

## Meet Brian Janssen, President of the Kent Medical Foundation

Brian Janssen has been a member of the Kent Medical Foundation Board since 2016. He represents the business community, representing Chemical Bank in Grand Rapids as Senior

Vice President of Business Banking Group Manager. He leads a team that supports western Michigan. He has a bachelor's degree in economics from Western Michigan University and holds an MBA from the University of Tennessee.

Brian looks forward to continuing with the KMF Board of Trustees and participating in partnering with KCMS and KCOA Physicians and local organizations that can benefit from KMF support.

He and Lori have two sons; Ryan is a junior at Michigan State University and Jake is a senior at Rockford High School and has plans to attend Ferris State University next year. Lori and he are both very proud and active supporters of the Rockford Rowing team and he has served on the Board in the past and is currently filling a couple of committee member roles for the team.

They also are very supportive of the local Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ABVI) program. The KMF Board was able to learn more about the ABVI program and service to low-income residents of West Michigan. The Board was able to learn of the program's need for updated testing equipment for its vision screening work with Cherry Health Services, which resulted in the KMF Grant for new screening equipment for low-income patients.

KMF

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## KMF supports Deaf and Hard of Hearing Training

Kent Medical Foundation Board Members were proud to sponsor the 10th Annual Silent Weekend, a two-day training seminar conducted by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services. The program training covered various topics and skills for medical, dental and advocacy staff in West Michigan wanting to upgrade their ability to help those in the deaf and hard of hearing communities. The program featured all deaf presenters who are well experienced and professionals in their fields for 150 participants.





# KENT MEDICAL FOUNDATION

WOULD LIKE TO THANK THOSE WHO GENEROUSLY SUPPORTED OUR HOLIDAY CARD CAMPAIGN!

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# KENT COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE

Connecting  
and growing  
for a healthier  
Kent County.



# heartbeat

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT



*The KCMSA alliance has begun the new decade with a number of activities that are both fun and charitable. We recently hosted our first ever euchre tournament,*

*and in the process have learned much about this beloved Midwest game. Planning for our Lab Coats and Libations event on April 30th is underway, with opportunities available for sponsorship. This will be a great social event with a beer tasting. We hope to see you there! Please keep in mind that these events provide the funding for our Foundation's mini grant program.*

*As a reminder, if you haven't renewed your membership or would like to join, please do so now! You can go to our webpage [www.kcmsalliance.org](http://www.kcmsalliance.org) and click the "Join" tab. If you have any questions, please email us at [president@kcmsalliance.org](mailto:president@kcmsalliance.org).*

*Sincerely,*

*Blesie Beaumier & Eileen Brader,  
KCMSA Co-Presidents*

## Membership in the Kent County Medical Society Alliance

Spouses and partners of physicians, residents and medical students are encouraged to join the KCMS Alliance. You may pay membership dues for the 2019-20 year instantly at [kcmsalliance.org/join](http://kcmsalliance.org/join). Our membership year is July 1-June 30. We would love for you to be on board this year.

*All current and prospective members are welcome to attend any calendar event! For more information please use our website [KCMSAlliance.org](http://KCMSAlliance.org) or email [president@kcmsalliance.org](mailto:president@kcmsalliance.org)*

## spring calendar

Please check our website calendar, at [KCMSAlliance.org](http://KCMSAlliance.org), for the latest details on event dates and times.



## AMA Alliance Peanut Butter Challenge

*We participated in the AMA Alliance Peanut Butter Challenge by partnering with KCMS, KCOA, Saladin Shriners, and Mercantile Bank.*

*The community was challenged to come together and donate peanut butter during the holiday season. A holiday tree was created at Mercantile Bank Cascade with the peanut butter that was collected, totaling 579 lbs/182 jars, which is enough for 9,200 sandwiches! Once collected, the peanut butter was distributed to local pantries by Feeding America.*

We want to connect with you!

Join the Alliance online today at:  
[kcmsalliance.org](http://kcmsalliance.org)

 Find us on  
Facebook

## Event Recap winter 2019

### December

#### Holiday Open House

*This year, our Holiday Open House was hosted by Kathy Kendall. All was fun and festive while members brought items to donate to Safe Haven Ministries and Baxter Child Development Center.*

### January

#### Euchre meets Gourmet Club

*Friends gathered at the home of Beth and Joe Junewick for our Euchre meets Gourmet Club gathering.*

#### Not Your Mother's Knitting Club

*Not Your Mother's Knitting Club met at the Michigan Fibre Studio to work on their projects.*

#### Mah Jongg

*Mah Jongg has become a favorite for some of our members. It's social, yet mentally challenging.*

#### Book Club

*Our very own member, Margaret Henry, spoke about her book *An Imposing Life* Altering Event at Schuler Books.*



### February

#### Membership Meeting

*A membership meeting and tour was held at the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County. A previous grant recipient of our Foundation, they provide a safe space where children can receive all the services they may need after being sexually abused. We learned about their programs that empower children and adults to recognize, report and prevent the abuse. More than 7,000 cases are reported each year in Kent County. It is estimated that 66% of childhood sexual abuse is never reported or treated.*



#### Euchre Tournament

*First Euchre Tournament to benefit our Foundation's mini grant program.*



# Focus on Population Health: Kent County Lead Action Team

BY BRIAN HARTL, MPH

Population health provides an opportunity for health care systems, agencies and organizations to work together to improve the health outcomes of the communities they serve. For nearly two decades, local government entities and community organizations in Kent County have partnered to address the complex problem of lead poisoning among our community's children.

KCHD

While progress has been made to reduce the number of children with elevated blood lead levels (EBLs) through the remediation of properties identified as having lead hazards, lead poisoning continues to plague some of the youngest and most vulnerable members of our community.

## **Kent County Lead Action Team**

In an effort to coordinate resources and hold community partners accountable, government leaders from the City of Grand Rapids and Kent County announced the formation of the Kent County Lead Action Team (KCLAT) at a news conference on February 25, 2020. The KCLAT has defined specific goals and priorities to reduce the impact of lead poisoning in the community. In the true spirit of population health, health care providers are uniquely positioned to make valuable contributions to the success of the initiative.

## **Recent Trends**

Over the past decade, the dedicated efforts of community partners have resulted in a more than two-fold decrease in the percentage of Kent County children diagnosed with an EBL. Data from the Kent County Health Department (Figure 1) reveals that:

- The percentage of children with an EBL decreased from 14.2% in 2010 to 6.3% in 2018 within the City of Grand Rapids and from 7.9% to 3.5% across the entire county.

- Within the City of Grand Rapids, children living in the 49507 zip code are at the highest risk for exposure to lead due to housing stock that still contains lead-based paint.
- Nearly one of every thirteen children living in 49507 below the age of six who were tested in 2018 were identified as having an EBL.
- Outside of Grand Rapids, cities having above-average percentages of children diagnosed with EBLs include Wyoming (5.6%), Kentwood (2.1%) and Grandville (1.2%).

By achieving goals in the areas of clinical care, environmental health and social support, the KCLAT will continue the downward progression of elevated blood lead level rates in all areas of the county, with an emphasis on reducing disparity in the areas most significantly impacted.

## **The Role of Physicians in Addressing Lead**

The physician community will play a key role in achieving the clinical care goal of ensuring that all children are tested and connected with case management resources when needed.

Data from the 2018 Kent County Lead Surveillance Reports indicated that of the nearly 18,000 one and two-year old children in Kent County, less than 50% of them were tested for blood lead levels.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 22



# Notifiable Disease Report

Kent County Health Department  
700 Fuller N.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503  
www.accesskent.com/health

Communicable Disease Section  
Phone (616) 632-7228  
Fax (616) 632-7085

## 2019 Summary

Notifiable diseases reported for Kent County residents through end of month listed above.

DISEASE	NUMBER REPORTED		MEDIAN CUMULATIVE
	This Month	Cumulative 2019	Through December 2014-2018
AIDS	0	10	13
HIV	1	41	N/A
CAMPYLOBACTER	14	104	96
CHICKEN POX <sup>a</sup>	1	20	24
CHLAMYDIA	271	3576	3823
CRYPTOSPORIDIOSIS	1	19	24
Shiga Toxin Producing E. Coli	1	22	15
GIARDIASIS	1	28	43
GONORRHEA	92	1269	856
H. INFLUENZAE DISEASE, INV	1	12	11
HEPATITIS A	0	4	1
HEPATITIS B (Acute)	0	0	1
HEPATITIS C (Acute)	1	8	2
HEPATITIS C (Chronic/Unknown)	11	196	265
INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS <sup>b</sup>	5546	39755	45715
LEGIONELLOSIS	1	29	6
LYME DISEASE	1	16	8
MENINGITIS, ASEPTIC	1	8	36
MENINGITIS, BACTERIAL, OTHER <sup>c</sup>	1	5	17
MENINGOCOCCAL DISEASE, INV	0	0	1
MUMPS	0	0	0
PERTUSSIS	0	6	20
SALMONELLOSIS	2	64	66
SHIGELLOSIS	1	16	20
STREP, GRP A, INV	5	19	32
STREP PNEUMO, INV	3	49	60
SYPHILIS (Primary & Secondary)	0	0	18
TUBERCULOSIS	1	12	12
WEST NILE VIRUS	0	0	1

### NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OF LOW FREQUENCY

DISEASE	NUMBER REPORTED Cumulative 2019	DISEASE	NUMBER REPORTED Cumulative 2019
Kawasaki Syndrome	10	Toxic Shock	2
Streptococcal Toxic Shock	1	Cyclosporiasis	3
Carbapenemase Producing CRE	4	Malaria	4
Guillain-Barre Syndrome	2	Listeriosis	1
Vibriosis-Non Cholera	1		

a. Chickenpox cases are reported primarily from schools. Confirmed and probable cases are included.

b. Includes "Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)" and lab-confirmed influenza. ILI cases have flu-like symptoms and are reported primarily by schools.

c. "Meningitis, Bacterial, Other" includes meningitis and bacteremia caused by bacteria OTHER THAN H. influenzae, N. meningitidis, or S. pneumoniae.

**Except for Chickenpox, Campylobacter, Cryptosporidiosis, Shiga-Toxin Producing E. Coli, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis & Influenza-Like Illness,** only confirmed cases (as defined by National Surveillance Case Definitions: <http://www.cdc.gov/nndss/script/casedef/Default.aspx>) are included. Reports are considered provisional and subject to updating when more specific information becomes available.

KCHD



# KENT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

KCHD

- While not all Kent County children are at high risk for lead poisoning, we can strive to increase this percentage by screening all children for risk of exposure to lead and testing those who meet high risk criteria (see Box).
- Physicians can help increase the number of confirmatory tests by ensuring that those patients who show evidence of EBL upon initial testing with a capillary test follow up and receive a venous blood draw.
- Providers can help achieve the goal that 100% of families identified to have a child with an EBL receive appropriate case management by referring them to contacting the Kent County Health Department Lead Program community resources that provide these services by phone

at 616-632-7063 or 616-632-7087. In 2018, despite the proven effectiveness of case management on reducing blood lead levels, more than 60% of EBL cases confirmed by a venous test did not enter case management.

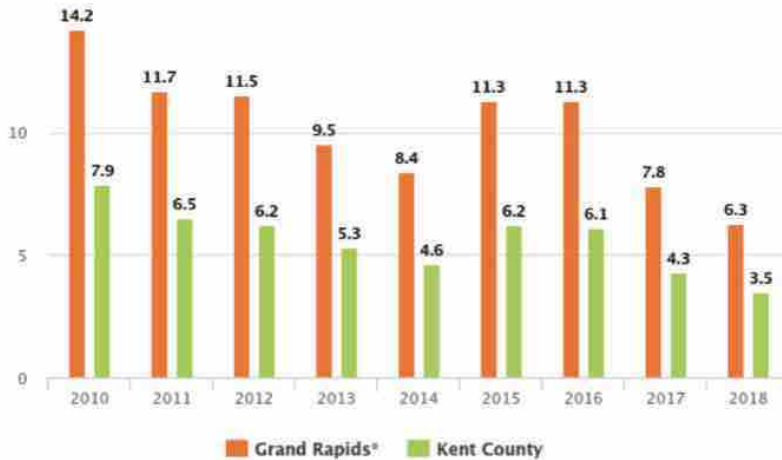
### Additional Resources

Additional information about the KCLAT, including the full strategic plan, 2018 surveillance report and local educational resources to share with patients ([www.dontplayaround.org](http://www.dontplayaround.org)) can be found at the following link: <https://www.accesskent.com/Stories/lead-action-team.htm>. If you are interested in becoming involved in the initiative, please contact Adam London by e-mail at [Adam.London@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Adam.London@kentcountymi.gov).

### QUESTIONS FOR ASSESSING RISK OF LEAD POISONING IN CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 6

- Does the child live in or regularly visit a home built before 1978? (Note: Recent of planned renovations greatly increase risk of lead exposure in homes built before 1978)
- Does the child live in or regularly visit a home that had a water test with high lead levels?
- Does the child have a brother, sister, or friend that has an elevated blood lead level?
- Does the child come in contact with an adult whose job or hobby involves exposure to lead (e.g. smelting, indoor shooting/firing ranges, pottery, stained glass, refinishing old furniture)?
- Does the child's caregiver use home remedies that may contain lead (e.g. babaw-san, daw tway, greta, azarcon, balguti kesaria, ghasard)?
- Is the child in a special population such as foreign adoptee, refugee, migrant, immigrant, or foster?
- Does the child's caregiver have reason to believe the child is at risk for lead exposure (e.g. exhibiting pica behavior, developmental delays)?

**FIGURE 1**  
Proportion of Children<sup>†</sup> < 6 Years Old with Elevated Blood Lead Level



<sup>†</sup> Each child is represented by one test result per year. If there was more than one test per child per year, the test with the highest venous BLL was kept. If there was no venous BLL, the test with the highest capillary BLL was kept.  
\* Grand Rapids is defined as census tracts 1-46 in Kent County (restrictive)



Angela Thompson-Busch, MD, PhD  
Assistant Dean, Michigan State  
University College of Human  
Medicine Grand Rapids Campus

# Assessing the Success of Medical Students

You may have heard that as early as January 2022, the USMLE Step 1 exam for medical students will be pass/fail. Presently, the Step 1 score (taken after the second or third year of medical school) is the most important factor in a student's residency application. The higher the score, the more likely one is to match into a competitive residency.

It has long been questioned whether being able to answer questions on a standardized science exam should be the main factor signifying that one is going to be an excellent medical doctor. This movement to pass/fail is likely the first of many big changes that will occur in an effort to create an improved way of assessing the success of medical students.

Michigan State University College of Human Medicine is completing its sixth and final year as part of a pilot program for the AAMC investigating another proposed medical school assessment change. We (along with Columbia University, Florida International University, New York University, Oregon Health and Science University, Vanderbilt University, Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Illinois, University of Texas/Houston, and Yale University) are working to determine if we can find medical students entrustable to perform 13 Core Professional Activities (EPAs) without direct supervision.

These activities are all necessary for a resident to be able to perform on day 1 of residency. This is a competency-based model of assessment in which an earlier student would still require a great deal of supervision but over time would become increasingly more autonomous. You may have had a student from our institution ask you to fill out an assessment for an EPA on the hand-held device. If you have, thank you! You are helping with our data collection.

While the verdict is still out as to whether these 13 professional activities are all necessary, and we are in the data gathering stage of whether we can find students

entrustable, it does seem likely that a more competency-based model of assessments (taking place in the workplace and in simulation) will be a part of future student graduation requirements.

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KENT COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE 

 PERRIN

SPECTRUM HEALTH 

The poster features a teal background with a faint image of a lab coat and a stethoscope. The text is centered and uses a mix of bold, sans-serif and elegant, serif fonts. The event details and sponsor logos are located at the bottom of the poster.