

MSSSC NEWS

WSU seeks health solutions, innovations

Wichita State University is nationally known for aviation research. But it is also involved in medical-related work and is looking to expand and partner with local physicians.

That's the focus of MSSC's next membership meeting from 6-8 p.m. on April 30 at WSU's Marcus Welcome Center. WSU leaders will discuss their vision to create a National Institute for Health Solutions and Innovation.

NIHSI is a signature initiative of the Wichita Biomedical Campus, which is under construction in downtown Wichita. It will bring together world-class expertise from academia, government and industry, integrating advanced manufacturing and emerging technologies to accelerate health solutions, strengthen the health economy and improve lives throughout Kansas, the region and far beyond.

WSU looks forward to sharing more about NIHSI's mission, vision and planned phased launch.

MSSC at WSU on April 30

► MSSC membership meeting

WHEN: Thursday, April 30, 6-8 p.m.

WHERE: WSU Marcus Welcome Center, E 21st St N and Mike Oatman Drive

COST: Free to MSSC members and spouses. Drinks and dinner provided.

RSVP: Email denisephillips@med-soc.org or call (316) 683-7558.

Legislative session was positive overall

Though there were some disappointments, the 2026 Kansas legislative session was positive overall on bills impacting the practice of medicine.

Bills that passed, supported by the Kansas Medical Society and MSSC, included HB 2509, which added APRNs to the list of healthcare providers participating in the Health Care Stabilization Fund – important in maintaining the state's medical liability framework.

The Legislature also passed HB 2374, which creates a specialty medical practice student loan program, and Substitute for HB 2250, which authorizes expedited partner therapy to treat sexually transmitted diseases. Another positive was the Legislature included funding in its budget for Project Access, MSSC's affiliate that coordinates donated healthcare for uninsured residents of Sedgwick County.

Also positive, the Legislature passed HB 2702, which updates the licensure act for physician associates. And it didn't advance scope expansion bills for naturopaths and chiropractors, which KMS and MSSC opposed. Though it did pass HB 2068, which allows pharmacists to initiate some therapies, it is limited to minor and generally self-limiting therapies or patient emergencies.

A major disappointment this session was the passage of HB 2223, allowing optometrists to perform certain laser surgeries. Opposed by ophthalmologists, KMS and MSSC, it was heavily lobbied by optometrists.

This year's budget bill included language requiring Kansas to follow new CDC guidelines for vaccine schedules, which KMS and MSSC opposed. However, Gov. Laura Kelly vetoed the provision, and the Legislature did not override her.

Bills that failed to advance that KMS and MSSC supported included HB 2368, which allows for the licensure of anesthesiologist assistants; SB 413, which prohibits counsel from suggesting an amount of damages for noneconomic loss in civil actions; and SB 330, which creates more transparency in prior authorization.

April 2026

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What do local docs think of 'The Pitt'?



PHOTO CREDIT: WARRICK PAGE/HBO MAX

"The Pitt," an HBO Max drama following emergency department staff at the fictional Pittsburgh Trauma Medical Center, was the big winner at last year's Emmy Awards, taking the honors for outstanding drama series, outstanding actor and outstanding supporting actress. It just concluded its second season, with each episode covering one hour in a single 15-hour work shift.



Dr. Rockley

MSSC asked some local ED docs what they thought of the show. Is it medically accurate? Is it a realistic portrayal of an emergency department? **Brent Rockley, MD**, medical director at the Wesley Medical Center Emergency Department, said the show is "a great, somewhat dramatic

PLEASE SEE THE PITT, PAGE 4

Physicians who care for ... our patients, our community, and our profession.

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Emotional intelligence a key to preventing burnout



CHADY SARRAF, MD
April President's Message

In today's increasingly complex healthcare environment, physicians are asked to do more than ever before – clinically, administratively and emotionally. At the center of navigating these demands lies a critical but often underemphasized skill: emotional intelligence (EI).

Emotional intelligence is the ability to recognize, understand and manage our own emotions, while also being attuned to the emotions of others. It encompasses self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, motivation and social skills. In medicine, these are not “soft skills;” they are essential clinical and leadership competencies.

Physicians as everyday leaders

Every physician, regardless of title, serves as a leader. We lead patient encounters, guide families through uncertainty, coordinate multidisciplinary teams and influence the culture of care delivery. Whether in a busy inpatient unit or an outpatient clinic, physicians are constantly setting the emotional tone.

Emotional intelligence allows us to build trust with patients, communicate effectively and deliver compassionate care, especially during moments of vulnerability. With colleagues, nurses and staff, it fosters collaboration, reduces conflict and strengthens team cohesion. In essence, emotionally intelligent physicians create environments where both patients and teams can thrive.

The growing sources of burnout

Burnout among physicians continues to rise. The causes are multifactorial and increasingly systemic:

- Expanding documentation requirements that shift time away from meaningful patient care;
- The surge of misinformation, which challenges physician expertise and complicates patient conversations;
- Insurance delays, denials and prior-authorization burdens, which create frustration and moral distress;
- Operational inefficiencies that limit autonomy and increase cognitive load.

Beyond these external pressures, there is also an intrinsic burden to the profession. Physicians work at the intersection of human health, suffering and uncertainty. We are present at life's most critical moments, delivering hope, navigating loss and making high-stakes decisions daily. This emotional weight, while deeply meaningful, can also be exhausting over time.

Emotional intelligence as a protective factor

Emotional intelligence does not eliminate these stressors, but it profoundly shapes how we respond to them. For example:

- Self-awareness helps physicians recognize early signs of stress, fatigue and emotional overload.
- Self-regulation enables thoughtful responses rather than reactive ones, especially in high-pressure situations.
- Empathy strengthens patient relationships while also fostering deeper team connections.
- Social skills improve communication, reduce workplace friction and enhance collaboration.
- Physicians with higher emotional intelligence are better equipped to maintain perspective, navigate challenges constructively and preserve a sense of purpose in their work.

Can emotional intelligence be learned?

Emotional intelligence is not fixed; it can be developed and strengthened over time. Practical ways to nurture EI include:

- Mindful reflection – taking a few moments after challenging encounters to process emotions and reactions;
- Seeking feedback – engaging colleagues or mentors for honest insights into communication and leadership style;
- Coaching and training – participating in leadership development or EI-focused workshops;
- Intentional pauses – building small moments to reset during the day to prevent emotional accumulation;
- Peer connection – sharing experiences with colleagues to normalize challenges and foster support.

These small, intentional practices can gradually build resilience and emotional agility.

The impact on well-being, at work and beyond

Investing in emotional intelligence is not just about improving performance; it is about sustaining ourselves.

At work, emotionally intelligent physicians often experience:

- Greater job satisfaction;
- Improved team dynamics; and
- Reduced conflict and emotional exhaustion.

In personal life, these same skills translate into:

- Stronger relationships;
- Better stress management; and
- Greater overall well-being.

Ultimately, emotional intelligence helps bridge the gap between the demands of medicine and the sustainability of the physician behind the role.

A call to invest in ourselves

As we continue to advocate for systemic changes to reduce administrative burden, improve reimbursement structures and address workforce shortages, we must also invest in the human side of medicine.

Emotional intelligence is not a luxury; it is a necessity. By cultivating it, we not only protect ourselves from burnout but also elevate the care we provide and the teams we lead.

In a profession defined by service to others, emotional intelligence reminds us that caring for ourselves is part of caring for our patients.

In Brief ▶▶▶ New and noteworthy

Free skin cancer screening May 2

Local dermatologists are conducting the 36th Annual Wichita Area Skin Cancer Screening Clinic on Saturday, May 2, from 8 a.m. until noon.

The free clinic, which will be held at KUSM-Wichita, 1010 N. Kansas, is in accordance with the American Academy of Dermatology's “Spot Skin Cancer” program. Dermatologists and their staff members will screen patients for evidence of skin cancer.

No appointment is necessary, and the screening is open to all ages. No treatments will be provided at the screening event. If suspicious lesions are detected, patients will be referred to their primary care physician to obtain a referral for treatment.



MSSC Board 2027 Slate and Election Ballot | Candidate information

Vote up or down for the slate and please select three board members. Return instructions below.

President-Elect



Amanda M. Valliant, MD – Practicing with Wichita Nephrology Group. MSSC member since 2015. Board cert. in Nephrology and Internal Medicine KUSM-KC, 2009. Residency in Internal Medicine at KUSM-W, 2012. Fellowships in Nephrology and Interventional Nephrology at U. of Wisconsin from 2012-15.

Secretary



Charles W. Coffey, MD – Practice is CAW Medical, LLC. MSSC member since 2018. Board certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. Graduated from KUSM-Kansas City in 2013. Internship at KUSM-KC from 2013-2014. Residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at KUSM-Wichita in 2018.

Treasurer

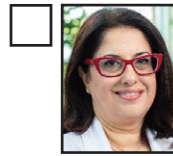


Jared M. Regehr, MD – Practicing with Ascension Via Christi Clinic Family Medicine on Clifton. MSSC member since 2021. Board certified in Family Medicine. Graduated from KUSM-Wichita in 2018. Residency in Family Medicine at KUSM-Wichita in 2021.

Board of Directors (select three)



Samer Antonios, MD – MSSC member since 2008. Board certified in Internal Medicine. Graduated from St. Joseph Univ. in Lebanon, 2003. ECFMG, 2004. Internship at Hotel-Dieu de France Hospital in Beirut 2005. Internship at KUSM-Wichita 2006. Residency in Internal Medicine at KUSM-Wichita, 2008.



Mouna Todorov, MD – Heartland Pathology. MSSC member c. 2007. Board cert. in Anatomic Path. Graduated: U. of Damascus, Syria, 1994. ECFMG, 1996. Residencies: Anatomical Path., U. of Damascus, 1997; Anatomic/Clinical Path., George Wash. U., 2001. Fellowships: Ortho. Path., NYU, 2002; Hematopath., Albert Einstein COM, 2003.



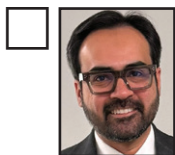
Samantha L. Beck, MD – Practicing at Wichita Surgical Specialists, PA. MSSC member since 2014. Board certified in Surgery. Graduated from University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in 2009. Residency in Surgery at KUSM-Wichita in 2014.



Kevin W. Brinker, DO – Medical director of Wichita/Sedgwick County EMS. MSSC member since 2021. Board cert. in Family Medicine; training in Emergency Medicine. Graduated from Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine, Kentucky, 2005. Residency in Family Medicine, Pikeville Medical Center, 2008.



Andrea B. McCarty, DO – Practicing with Ascension Medical Group Via Christi, Reflection Ridge. MSSC member since 2003. Board cert. in Family Medicine. Graduated from Oklahoma State U. College of Osteopathic Medicine, 2000. Residency in Family Medicine at Ascension Via Christi Riverside, 2003.



Ali Rafiq, MD – Practicing with Sound Physicians. MSSC member since 2020. Board cert. in Internal Med. Graduated from Dow Medical College, Karachi, Pakistan, 2013. Internship at Civil Hospital Karachi, 2014. ECFMG, 2015. Residency in Internal Med. at Jefferson Abington Hospital in Abington, Pa., 2019.



- I approve this slate.
 I do not approve this slate.

Submit your vote for the 2027 MSSC officers slate and select three for board of directors by **April 29, 2026**, or vote in person at the April 30 membership meeting. Choose one of the following options to send this page:

- Fax to (316) 683-1606
- Mail to: MSSC, ATTN: Denise Phillips, 1102 S Hillside, Wichita, KS 67211
- Scan and email to denisephillips@med-soc.org
- Phone Denise directly at (316) 683-7558

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

In Brief ▶▶▶

New and noteworthy

Match Day results

Fourth-year students at KU School of Medicine-Wichita and the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine learned where they would be doing their residencies at special Match Day celebrations.

Of the 72 KUSM-W students who matched, 33, or 45.8%, will stay in Kansas. Eight will attend KU Medical Center residencies; one will go to a KU Wichita residency in Salina; and 24, or 33.3%, will attend KUSM-W residencies. The remaining 39 students will travel to 20 other states.

Thirty, or 41.7%, of the KU students will go into a primary care field. Seven will go into general surgery. There are five each in anesthesiology and OB-GYN; four in emergency medicine; three each in neurology, psychiatry and surgery preliminary; two each in diagnostic radiology, orthopedic surgery, and physical medicine and rehabilitation; and one each in child and adolescent psychiatry, child neurology, dermatology, interventional radiology-integrated, urology and medicine preliminary.

KansasCOM had 73 students match from its first graduating class, 43% of whom will do their residencies in the Midwest. Forty students, or 55%, are in primary care residencies, and 19, or 26%, are in emergency medicine. Other residencies include two students each in pathology, physical medicine and rehab, psychiatry, radiation oncology, diagnostic radiology, general surgery and neurology.

THE PITT — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

portrayal of the emergency department.” He said the cases are realistic and the procedures are well thought out. “The cases they present are poignant and are the patients that keep us up at night,” he said.



Dr. Mattox

Trevor Mattox, MD, MSSC treasurer and an emergency medicine physician with Ascension Via Christi, also thought the cases and procedures were medically accurate. He attended an American College of Emergency Physicians meeting last November where lead actor Noah Wyle and two physicians who write and advise for the show talked about how they try to be as accurate as possible. What isn't as accurate, Mattox said, is the range and

volume of cases that occur within the fictional 15-hour shift. The show portrays “a lot of what we see, just a lot more frequent than we see it,” he said. “But the fidelity is there.”

In fact, the cases are so familiar that Mattox often predicts the diagnosis. “My wife keeps telling me to stop preempting what they are going to come up with,” he said. “Sure enough, 20 minutes later that is the diagnosis.”

Retired MSSC member **David Lehr, MD**, spent 30 years working in the EDs at St. Francis and St. Joseph hospitals. He also is a fan of the show. In addition to being medically accurate, the show accurately portrays the social dynamics with attending physicians, nurses and interns, he said.

“It is an intense, intense environment,” Lehr said.

Rockley said the show's flashback scenes to COVID caused him to experience some level of PTSD. But he also noted one way that the show was not accurate: the lack of charting.



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ROSTER UPDATE

Keep your 2026 roster current with this information.

Key: [BC] Board Certified [F] Accredited Fellowship [R] Residency [AT] Additional Training [F*] Unaccredited Fellowship

NEW MEMBERS



Eric Gish, DO

[BC] Family Medicine
[BC] Neuromusculoskeletal
Medicine & OMM
Kansas College of Osteopathic
Medicine
Dean, KansasCOM
OFF: 316-315-5450

217 E Douglas, 67202
NPI: 1609831031

Medical education obtained at Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, University of North Texas Health Science Center, Fort Worth 8/1993-6/1998. Residency in Family Medicine at Suncoast Hospital, Largo, FL 7/1998-6/2001.



Michael E. Ritchie, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine
[BC] Cardiovascular Disease
[BC] Interventional Cardiology
NMC Health Cardiology Specialists
OFF: 316-804-6000
FAX: 316-804-6125

800 Medical Center Dr
Newton, KS 67114
NPI: 1386717437

Medical education obtained at Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis 8/1982-6/1986. Residency in Internal Medicine at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Cleveland 7/1986-6/1989. Fellowships in Cardiology at Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis 7/1989-6/1993.

CHANGES

John F. Anderson, MD, PhD
Timothy C. Benning, MD
Bruce A. Bowser, MD
Thomas J. Flynn, MD
Larry C. Graham, MD
Adam T. Gregg, MD
David A. Gutschenritter, MD
Paul J. Hutsey, MD
Marcus A. Kater, MD
Scott J. McIntyre, MD
Clifton N. Molak, MD
Samuel Ornelas, MD, MPH
Suryakumar Reddy, MD
Robert A. Schmaltz, MD
Serge Srour, DO
Coaxion Radiology
No changes to addresses, phone and fax numbers

Samantha L. Beck, MD
Therese E. Cusick, MD
Breast Care Specialists
OFF: 316-263-2013
Toll Free: 866-242-4756
9350 E 35th St N S-103, 67226

Brian J. Goentzel, MD
[BC] Pain Medicine
[BC] Anesthesiology
Kansas Pain Consultants LLC (5/1/26)
OFF: 316-500-1223
FAX: 800-915-6113
2450 N Woodlawn, 67220

Jared L. Johnson, MD
CenterWell Senior Primary Care
OFF: 316-618-9555
961 S Glendale St, 67218

Paul W. Murphy, MD
[BC] Psychiatry
[AT] Geriatric Psychiatry
[AT] Forensic Psychiatry
Soma Therapy and Psychiatric Services
OFF: 316-201-6047
FAX: 316-330-3980
8623 E 32nd St N S-100, 67226

Rock Regional Hospital, Derby

(closed 1/7/26)

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<https://rrhosp.metalquest.com/>
Return completed forms by mail, fax or email.
By mail: MetalQuest, Attn: RRHOSP Release of Information, PO Box 46364, Cincinnati, Ohio 45246-0364
By fax: 513-242-5059
By email: Retrieve@MetalQuest.com
Customer service: 513-898-1022

Ascension Rx 1406 – Murdock

3311 E Murdock
Permanently closing 4/30/26; no electronic prescriptions as of 4/20/26

DROPPING

Joshua A. Blackwell, MD, MSPH –
Practicing out of state
Fidel E. Castro, MD – 3/13/26
Rajesh K. Sadasivuni, MD – 3/9/26
Peter Joseph Seiler, DO – 3/10/26

In Remembrance

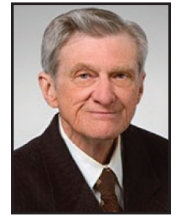
MSSC extends its condolences to the family of Dr. Kirk.

E. David Kirk, Jr., MD

Retired internist Earl David Kirk, Jr. died March 31. He was 92.

An MSSC member since 1968, Kirk retired in 2015. He served as MSSC

secretary in 1981 and MSSC board member from 1982-1986. Kirk also served on MSSC's Medical Services Commission, Public Health Commission and Medical Education Advisory Committee.



DR. KIRK

A Wichita native, Kirk was board certified in Internal Medicine and Geriatric Medicine. He earned his bachelor's degree at University of Wichita in 1958 and graduated from KUSM-Kansas City in 1962.

Kirk completed his internship and residency at Wesley Medical Center. He practiced at Sandia Base U.S. Army Hospital in Albuquerque, New Mexico, from 1963-1965. He opened his own practice and later practiced with Galichia Medical Group and Kansas Physician Group.

Kirk is survived by his wife, Barbara; sons, David Kirk, Dr. John Kirk and Dr. Kevin Kirk; and seven grandchildren.

In Brief ▶▶ New and noteworthy

Beware physician scams

Some MSSC physicians have been targeted by scammers. In one case, a person pretending to be a Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office deputy claimed the physician failed to appear as a medical witness in a court case. In another case, a person claimed DEA agents were investigating a narcotic shipment from Mexico. One physician reported being called this month by someone claiming to be with the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts, investigating a drug stop in Texas.

The BOHA will never request money or other financial remuneration in lieu of a full investigation. If you feel you have been contacted as part of a scam and wish to confirm, contact the board directly.

Other tips if you suspect a phone call is part of a scam:

- **Hang up.** Do not engage with caller.
- **Verify independently.** Do not use the phone number provided by the caller.
- **Do not pay.** Never provide money, bank details or credit card numbers.
- **Report.** Report the call to the DEA Scam Reporting, the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center or the Federal Trade Commission.

MSSC NEWS

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