



NORTHERN OHIO PHYSICIAN

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The Voice of Physicians in Northern Ohio

www.amcno.org

The Next Generation of Physicians

In October, we hosted our annual Speed Mentoring events with Case Western Reserve University medical students. We were pleased to be able to safely hold these events in person this year, and at the Cleveland Clinic Health Education Campus, in the Sheila and Eric Samson Pavilion.

There is no question the past year has been one of the most challenging for physicians and students. Forced to face a pandemic and virtual learning while in the very earliest part of their medical careers, these students stepped up, and did what they needed to stay on the path of becoming our next generation of physicians. Their wherewithal was palpable, and the energy in the room helped remind me how, even in a year of great uncertainty, there is so much to look forward to.

Tomorrow's physicians are entering a new world of health care, one filled with both challenge and opportunity. Studies show these younger physicians enter the field more open to electronic medical records, coordinated and team-based care, and the use of artificial intelligence in medical practice. The next generation of physicians is also more diverse. According to the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC), in 2019, for the first time ever, women outnumbered men in medical school enrollment. Additionally, in 2019, medical students who were Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin increased 5.1%, Black or African American applicants rose 0.6%, and American Indian or Alaska Native applicants grew by 4.8%, compared to the previous year. And despite all the obstacles surrounding the pandemic, there was



AMCNO President Dr. Kristin Englund (third from right) and AMCNO President-Elect Dr. Gerard Isenberg (fourth from right) talk to medical students at the Speed Mentoring event.

a record-breaking 18% increase in medical school applications during the 2020 cycle. This growth in U.S. medical school applicants demonstrates that interest in medicine is even higher after a year in which physicians across the country rose to the occasion to save lives during the pandemic. This increased interest will be critical as the nation looks toward a projected physician shortage of up to 122,000 by the year 2032.

It has been a longstanding policy of the AMCNO to offer free membership to medical students and residents in our region. Throughout the next few

months, I will be working to expand our relationships with area medical schools to help better provide support to these students as they build their medical careers. Additionally, at the direction of the AMCNO Board of Directors, we will begin looking at creating a Medical Students and Residents Junior Board, to help provide leadership training to our newest physicians, and to help gain their feedback as to how we can best support them as they begin their medical careers here in Northern Ohio. ■

Jen Johns, MPH
*Executive Director, Academy of
Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio*

Academy Archives: Richard B. Fratianne, MD



Dr. Fratianne (left) receives the Mayor's Award for Volunteerism from Cleveland Mayor George Voinovich in 1984.

In this Academy Archives, we turn the spotlight onto Dr. Richard Fratianne.

Dr. Fratianne, 89, is a general surgeon who served as AMCNO President from 1983 - 1984. The founding Medical Director of the Comprehensive Burn Care Center at MetroHealth Medical Center in 1969—a position he held until his retirement in 2002—he continues to teach medical school students today and is actively involved in directing activities at the burn center.

During his AMCNO presidency, Dr. Fratianne said he is most proud of a program he established after receiving calls from the elderly who could not pay their Medicare medical bills (they were billed the difference in a practice that is now prohibited). He and the AMCNO Board thoroughly discussed not allowing this billing practice. A letter sent to membership received 3,500 signatures from physicians—almost every doctor at that time—who agreed to not bill beyond the Medicare payment.

Also during his presidency, Dr. Fratianne was invited to receive recognition at the White House by President Ronald Reagan for the Academy's "Project 83," an initiative where members gave free medical care to anyone who was verified as laid off from their job and lost their health insurance. Dr. Fratianne said he still has the tie clip with the presidential seal he received that day. He also served in other board positions and on the Ethics Committee for 10 years. We continue to seek his expertise, and we thank him for being an exemplary physician and member throughout all these years!

If you would like to see a physician member featured in Academy Archives, please email Editor in Chief Tara Camera, at tcamera@amcno.org, with the details.

AMCNO Partners with CMBA on “Hot Talks” Webinar on Vaccination for Organ Donation Patients

On November 3, the AMCNO partnered with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association (CMBA) on their “Hot Talks” series webinar about vaccination policies for organ donation patients. The panelists were AMCNO President Dr. Kristin Englund, an infectious disease physician at Cleveland Clinic; Professor Sharon Hoffman, JD, from Case Western Reserve University; and Bradley Reed, chair of the CMBA's law section and an attorney with Frantz Ward.

Mr. Reed kicked off the webinar by noting that the transplant patient vaccine mandate in place by area hospitals has generated a significant amount of media coverage and that the goal of the presentation was to provide answers on the medical and legal justifications for such a mandate.

Dr. Englund provided a detailed overview of the transplant patient and living donor vaccine mandate, the medical reasoning supporting such a mandate and how it compares to the expansive list of other medical requirements for transplant patients and living donors. She also discussed the special circumstances and limited resources of transplant patients and why such a vaccine mandate for transplants is not likely to result in system-wide patient vaccination mandates.

Professor Hoffman then discussed the legality of such requirements and the lack of any legal dispute or



Panelists discuss organ donation vaccination policies. (Pictured clockwise from top left: AMCNO President Dr. Kristin Englund, Bradley Reed, Kari Burns [CMBA staff] and Sharon Hoffman.)

ambiguity about their enforcement, particularly when it comes to organ-transplant patients and the already extensive list of medical requirements these patients must meet. The meeting ended with a brief Q&A session. ■

Physicians and Medical Students Team Up at Annual Speed Mentoring Event

The AMCNO and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine once again co-hosted the annual Speed Mentoring event in September. This year, four sessions took place in person at the Samson Pavilion on the Health Education Campus and included both first- and second-year medical students. Masks were required for all participants, regardless of vaccination status.

At the first night's session, AMCNO President-Elect Dr. Gerard Isenberg provided engaging remarks about the Academy's work and history as well as the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation and medical school student scholarships.

Dr. Isenberg also served as a mentor during the session, which followed the same format as years' past, where 1 - 2 physicians talk with a group of students about their specialty, then, after a few minutes, the students

move to another table to talk to the next set of physicians. Dr. Isenberg and Past President Dr. R. Bruce Cameron, both gastroenterologists, sat at one table. They provided words of encouragement and advice to the first-year students. AMCNO Board members Drs. Mary Frances Haerr and Mary LaPlante also served as mentors. All members talked about the rewarding side of what they do on a daily basis, what they love about their specialties and when they chose them.



AMCNO President Dr. Kristin Englund welcomes the medical student attendees and provides information about the Academy.

During the second session, AMCNO President Dr. Kristin Englund, an infectious disease physician, provided welcoming remarks for the attendees, and she served as a mentor for the rest of the session. When a student asked her how she chose her specialty, Dr. Englund said she didn't choose it until her third year of residency, and she has since found that all of her colleagues have similar personalities as her. Dr. Isenberg, who was at the same table, stressed the importance to the students of finding something they love, especially because they will be doing it for a long time. He gave an example of how longevity is also a good thing—his father was a family physician and had a lot of long-lasting relationships.

The two subsequent sessions, the last one focusing solely on surgeons, followed a similar path for the mentors and students, where questions were answered, and thoughtful conversations took place. From feedback we received, both groups of attendees enjoyed their time at these sessions and especially to be able to do so in person.

We appreciate all our members and Case faculty who participated in this event. Thank you to the Case School of Medicine Alumni who also joined us this year. ■



AMCNO Board Member Dr. Mary Frances Haerr answers questions from the students about her specialty and daily activities.



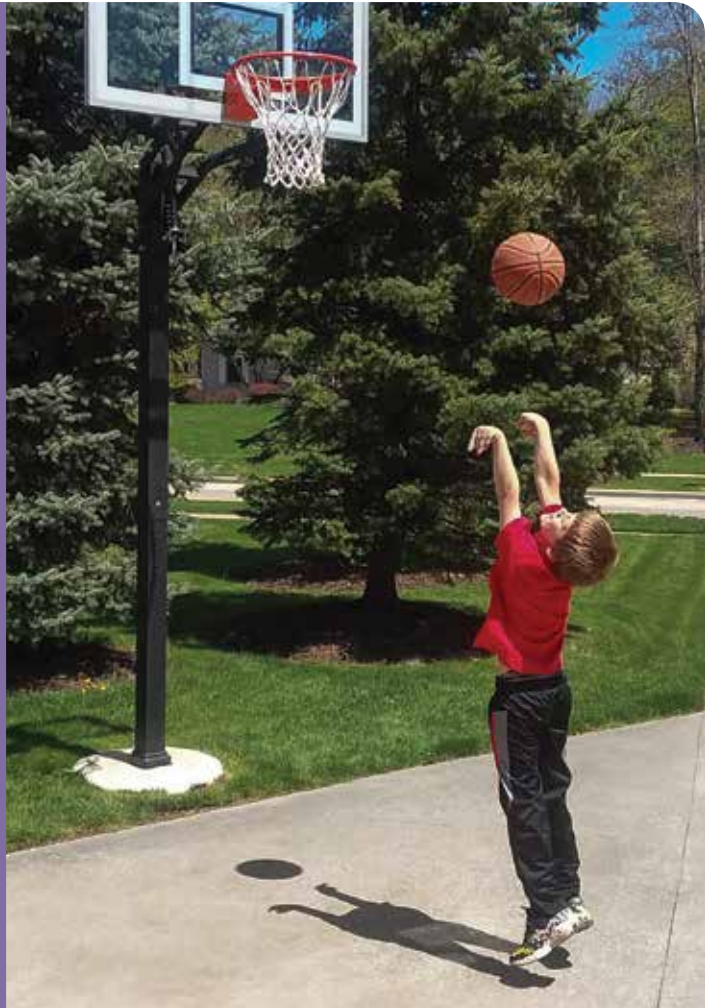
AMCNO Past President Dr. Bruce Cameron (center) and AMCNO President-Elect Dr. Gerard Isenberg (second from right) talk about why they chose to become gastroenterologists.

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– Michelle, Max’s mom



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Columbus Legislative Update

Unfortunately, the anti-science rhetoric in Columbus continues to grow, and several new pieces of legislation were introduced about vaccinations and mask mandates in the Ohio Statehouse throughout the last few months. As of press time, only one of these bills is currently seeing movement—House Bill 435 was recently amended into HB 218 and passed by the House. It now heads to the Senate, where its fate is unknown. The AMCNO will continue to be steadfast in standing against any legislation that threatens the public health and the health of our patients. A summary of these bills follows.

| | |
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| <p>Senate Bill 169 would prohibit any person, political subdivision, public official, or state agency from requiring a COVID-19 vaccine or from denying “the full and equal enjoyment of goods, services, privileges, advantages, facilities, and public spaces” based on vaccination status.</p> | <p>House Bill 411 would prohibit governments and businesses from requiring proof of COVID-19 vaccination. People could not be forced to provide a reason for declining to disclose their vaccination status.</p> |
| <p>Senate Bill 209 would prevent the state or local schools from implementing mask requirements. The bill is in direct opposition to the governor’s office, which has pleaded for local school districts to independently put in mask requirements to keep children in in-person learning.</p> | <p>House Bill 424 would ban COVID-19 vaccine mandates but only in the public sector, an attempt to appease the hospitals and business groups. Those not inoculated could not be penalized or discriminated against.</p> |
| <p>House Bill 253 would prohibit a person be required to show vaccination to enter a governmental building. It would prohibit government-imposed vaccine passports.</p> | <p>House Bill 425 would ban COVID-19 mask mandates, vaccine mandates and testing mandates by businesses and government, only carving out exceptions for health care settings.</p> |
| <p>House Bill 350 would allow only health care businesses like hospitals and nursing homes to mandate inoculations and proof of them. Mandates could only be for fully approved vaccines.</p> | <p>House Bill 435 is a compromise bill from legislative leaders. The bill would prohibit schools, colleges, and employers from requiring students or employees from requiring a COVID-19 vaccine that hasn’t had full FDA approval. It also bans vaccine “passports” being required to enter a business—private or public.</p> |
| <p>House Bill 400 prohibits boards of education of a school district from implementing mask requirements. It also prohibits putting facial coverings into dress code or uniform policy—a workaround that districts in other states have used to defy similar laws.</p> | <p>House Bill 477 takes a more limited approach, simply prohibiting a school or institution of higher education from expelling a student who refuses a certain vaccination and barring an employer from terminating an employee who refuses the vaccination.</p> |

In other Statehouse news, legislators passed HB 172, legislation that would allow Ohioans to legally set off Roman candles, firecrackers, bottle rockets and other consumer-grade fireworks on designated days. Ohio’s current law only permits consumers to use sparklers and a handful of other pyrotechnics. The AMCNO opposed the bill, and joined a coalition led by the Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics in working against the legislation, asking Governor Mike DeWine for a veto. There were 15,600 serious injuries caused by discharge of consumer fireworks last year, half of those were innocent bystanders. In fact, 25% of all firework-related injuries are incurred by children. Gov. DeWine had vetoed an earlier version of this legislation last year, but he signed this version of the legislation. It will take effect July 1, 2022. ■

Federal Update

AMCNO Comments on CY 2022 Physician Fee Schedule Rule

In September, the AMCNO commented on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) CY 2022 Revisions to Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and Other Changes to Part B Payment Policies Proposed Rule.

Highlights of our comments:

- We supported the ask of the American Medical Association (AMA) to extend the waiver of the budget neutrality adjustment, considering the continued COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). In this time of increased pressure on physician practices and hospitals, we simply cannot afford a **payment reduction of 3.75%**.
- We urged CMS to implement and pay for CPT Code 99072, defined as additional supplies, materials and clinical staff over time over and above those usually included in an office visit or other non-facility service, when performed during a PHE to compensate practices for the **additional staffing and personal protection equipment (PPE)** and other supplies needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We supported CMS in proposing to continue paying for services initially placed temporarily on the **telehealth** list through the end of 2023.
- During the PHE, counseling and therapy for **opioid use disorder** could be furnished using **audio-only telephone calls**, where two-way audio/video communications technology was not available to the beneficiary. CMS believed this change was necessary to ensure the availability of these important services during the PHE. CMS is now proposing making permanent this flexibility, and we expressed our support. ■

Medicare Cuts Pending

The AMCNO sent an advocacy alert in early November in coordination with the AMA, asking members to petition Congress against unprecedented pending payment cuts. These Medicare cuts, scheduled to go into effect on January 1, amount to an overall 9.75% cut to physician practices.



These cuts include:

- Expiration of the current reprieve from the repeatedly extended 2% sequester stemming from the Budget Control Act of 2011. Congress originally scheduled this policy to sunset in 2021 but it will now continue into 2030.
- Imposition of a 4% Statutory PAYGO sequester resulting from passage of the American Rescue Plan Act. Should lawmakers fail to act, it will mark the first time that Congress has failed to waive Statutory PAYGO.
- Expiration of the Congressionally enacted 3.75% temporary increase in the Medicare physician fee schedule (PFS) conversion factor to avoid payment cuts associated with budget neutrality adjustments tied to PFS policy changes.
- A statutory freeze in annual Medicare PFS updates under the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) that is scheduled to last until 2026, when updates resume at a rate of 0.25% a year indefinitely, a figure well below the rate of medical or consumer price index inflation.

These cuts, if allowed to go into effect, could deeply impact Medicare recipients' access to care, and lead to disruptions to care and barriers to needed treatment. The AMCNO will keep members informed on the status of these cuts as the new year approaches. ■

AMCNO Welcomes New and Renewing Physician Members for 2022



City Hospital in 1889, which later became MetroHealth.

We are proud to welcome back our renewing members and groups, including the physicians of MetroHealth System as AMCNO group members for 2022. This re-establishes a decades-long partnership since the system's earliest days, when it existed as City Hospital.

MetroHealth System is currently undergoing a new brand and logo design as they work to redefine health care by going beyond medical treatment to improve the foundations of community health and well-being: affordable housing, a cleaner environment, economic opportunity and access to fresh food, convenient transportation, legal help and other services. The system strives to become as good at preventing disease as it is at treating it.

The system's more than 600 doctors, 1,700 nurses and 7,800 employees go to work each day with a mission of service to their patients and the community. As Cuyahoga County's safety-net health system, MetroHealth plays an essential role in the region.



Founded in 1837, MetroHealth operates four hospitals, four emergency departments and more than 20 health centers and 40 additional sites throughout Cuyahoga County. The system serves more than 300,000 patients, two-thirds of whom are uninsured or covered by Medicare or Medicaid.

MetroHealth is also home to Cuyahoga County's most experienced Level I Adult Trauma Center, verified since 1992, and Ohio's only adult and pediatric trauma and burn center (which was established by our AMCNO Past President Dr. Fratianne, featured on page 2).

Please join us in welcoming the physicians of MetroHealth back to the AMCNO!

We would also like to warmly welcome the Executive members from St. Vincent Charity Medical Center—a group comprised of 17 physicians. Earlier this year, we also notified you of NOMS Healthcare joining as group members. In addition, we welcome back our Cleveland Clinic members for 2022, in a continuation of our long-standing relationship with the health system. And, we are grateful for our individual and small group members for choosing to be part of our organization for another year as well.

We are moving to a new membership cycle that runs from January to December, so this year's dues expire on Dec. 31, 2021. If you have questions about your membership status, or you need assistance paying your annual dues, please contact our Digital Marketing and Membership Manager Val Yanoska at vyanoska@amcno.org. ■

The NOP is Going Electronic!

We're updating your *Northern Ohio Physician* delivery from paper to paperless in 2022. Each month, we'll email you a link to your AMCNO profile email address. We will also post the newest issue on the home page of our website at www.amcno.org. This change is part of our process to use our new website to its full functionality and help bring the Academy into the future.

The new year is also a great time to set up your profile at www.amcno.org. If you haven't logged into our new website yet as a member, you will first need to reset your password. Once updated, you can log in using your new Username and new Password.

If you have any questions or need assistance with your profile, please contact AMCNO Digital Marketing and Membership Manager Val Yanoska at vyanoska@amcno.org, or call our offices at (216) 520-1000, and staff will assist you.

If you wish to continue receiving a paper copy, email Editor in Chief Tara Camera at tcamera@amcno.org. To offset printing and mailing costs, paper copies will be available for \$35 per year. We look forward to continuing to bring you the latest news via this important publication. ■

AMCNO Pollen Line 2021 Review

By Sandeep Sarkaria, MD; Lauren Fill, DO; Madiha Huq, DO; Maaz Jalil, DO; Craig Sewell, DO; Katheryn Birch, DO; Robert Hostoffer, DO; Devi Jhaveri, DO; Haig Tcheurekdjian, MD; Shan Shan Wu, DO

Allergy/Immunology Associates is committed to serving our community of the Greater Cleveland area by providing daily pollen counts every year through the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) Pollen Line. We use a Rotorod Aeroallergen device to obtain samples of air, which we then use to calculate daily pollen levels throughout the season.

Pollen counts are useful data for both patients and practitioners—allowing individuals to correlate symptoms with an objective measurement. Practitioners can use trends in the data to optimize timing of therapy and confirm suspected diagnoses. Tree, grass, and ragweed pollen are the main culprits most responsible for allergies in the Northern Ohio region. They cause allergic conjunctivitis, allergic rhinitis, and/or asthma. By quantifying the amount of pollen in the air and observing trends, we can offer targeted therapies and prepare our patients to improve their overall quality of life.

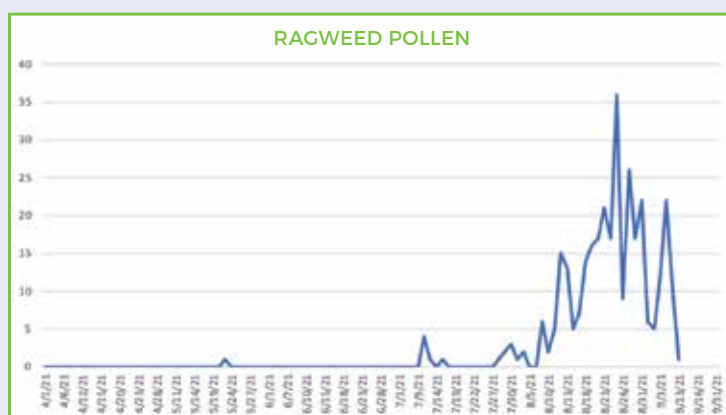
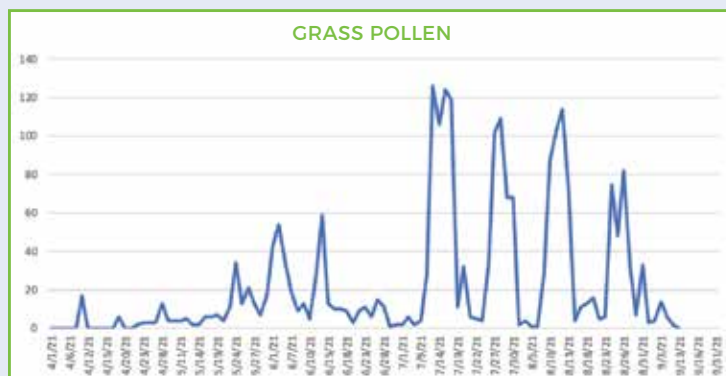
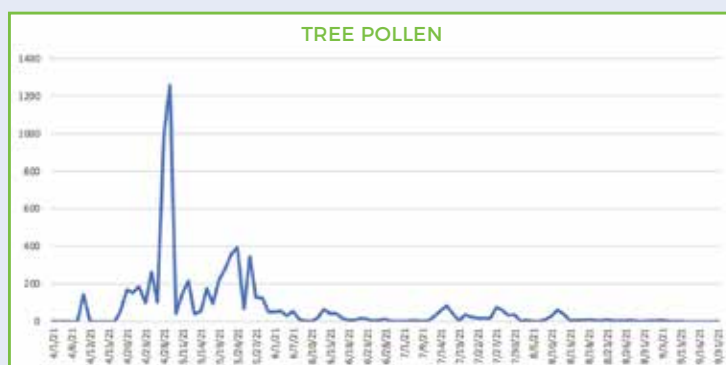
This year's allergy season was unique due to the COVID-19 pandemic that remains in the United States. Public officials and state guidelines mandated quarantines and closures of local businesses, parks, schools, and retail stores. Thus, less people were outdoors during the start of the spring season, causing less symptoms. As businesses reopened in early summer, however, our allergy practice noted worse allergy symptoms.

The pollen season begins with the blooming trees in spring. This year, we saw a tree pollen start appearing in mid- to late-April, but it remained relatively low until a sudden peak at the end of April/beginning of May. A second peak was also seen in mid- to late-May. Compared to last year, the pollen did not reach as high of a level: 1250 vs. 1550. Just like last year, no early peaks were seen in early April that have been seen in years' past.

As the weather gets warmer and summer arrives, grass pollen begins to appear. This year, grass had an intermediate peak in the beginning of June, but then remained relatively low until its main spike in the beginning of July. In the year prior, we saw a peak in grass pollen in early June versus early July this year. Compared to last year, grass pollen was at lower levels: 130 vs. 315. Last year, grass pollen was in the high range for the majority of June; this year, grass pollen was less severe.

As autumn arrives, we begin to see ragweed. Similar to last year, we started seeing ragweed in mid-August and noted a peak at the end of August into September. Ragweed did not peak as high as it did last year: 37 vs. 70.

Each year, Allergy/Immunology Associates, in coordination with the AMCNO, is honored to provide the pollen count for Northern Ohio from April 1 to October 1. The counts are available daily through the Pollen Line at (216) 520-1050, online at www.amcno.org, and on Twitter @AcademyMedCLE. ■



Participate in the American Medical Association Telehealth Use Survey

The AMCNO is partnering with the American Medical Association (AMA) to help assess the current landscape and use of telehealth among physicians and other health care practitioners. Your experience and insight on the use of telehealth services is important to us and critical to informing the future of telehealth in our nation.

We are asking our members to please fill out this survey:
<https://tinyurl.com/AMCNOAMA>.

The goal of this project is to learn more about your experience with telehealth—what’s working, ongoing challenges, benefits, and opportunities. A de-identified aggregate report of survey findings will be shared with the public for the purposes of supporting telehealth initiatives, programs, and services at practices and health systems. Results will also help inform future telehealth research and advocacy, resource development, and continued support for physicians, practices, and health systems.

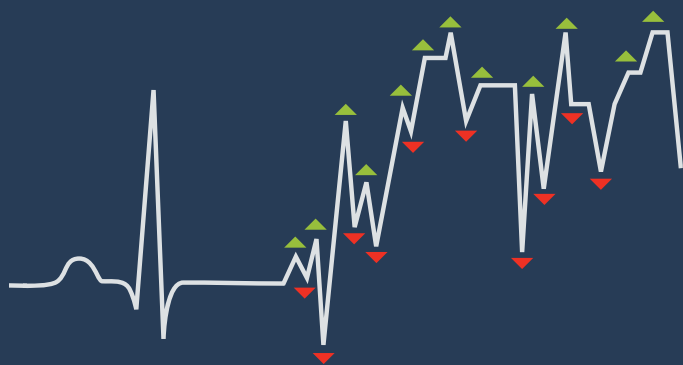
The survey should take no longer than 10-15 minutes to complete. We thank you in advance for your time and participation in it. The survey closes on **Dec. 31, 2021, at 11:59 pm EST.**

The AMCNO is also looking to identify 5 - 8 practices who are interested in participating in the AMA Telehealth Initiative’s second cohort project. We’ll serve as the liaison between the practices and our partners, to survey and report progress on telehealth use. Training through virtual events and opportunities to network and learn from peers will be provided. We’re asking our individual and group practices to participate—a stipend is available and a 12- to 16-month commitment is required. And we’re looking for practices at all levels of usage—those just starting to use telehealth to those who want to enhance their current offerings.

If you are interested in participating, please contact AMCNO Communications Director Tara Camera at tcamera@amcno.org. ■

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HPIO Hosts Forum on Connections between Racism and Health

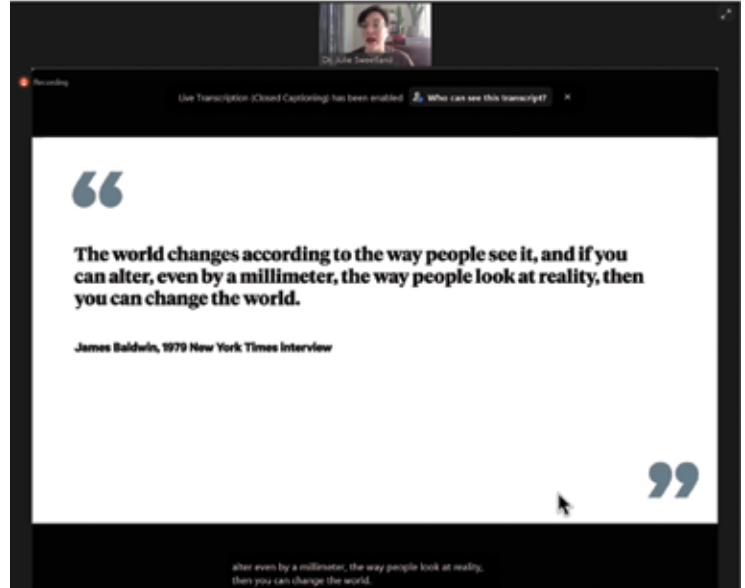
On October 27, the Health Policy Institute of Ohio (HPIO) hosted a webinar to provide an overview of the role racism has played in shaping the health of Ohioans of color. Several key professionals discussed barriers to learning about racism as well as new strategies on how to communicate health equity. The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) was pleased to serve as a Bronze Series Sponsor for this event.

Reem Aly, HPIO Vice President and in-house legal counsel, provided opening remarks and reviewed the learning objectives for the forum. She emphasized that progress is possible, but to achieve equity, systemic barriers need to be addressed.

Ruqaiyah Yearby, JD, MPH, a professor at the St. Louis University School of Law, was the first speaker. She discussed how people often talk about social determinants of health, but they do not focus on the root causes or laws. Systemic discrimination is about power and does not require bad intent, she said, and described several types. She further explained some of them with real-life examples: the lack of clean water for Native Americans living in the Colorado River basin, and when a recent storm led to lack of water for Black neighborhoods in Jackson, Mississippi. Closer to home, Ms. Yearby said current laws in Cleveland focus on lead in homes, but not on running water, which inspectors should also check for, so that money can then be allocated to address this necessity as well.

Ms. Aly next presented on “A Look at the Present: Explaining Connections Between Racism and Health.” She said if the playing field was level, the following, for example, would no longer be issues: food insecurity, lack of internet access, housing affordability, unfair treatment. Racism has a direct impact, including toxic stress and stigma. She cited findings that Black children are 17.3 times more likely to receive unfair treatment because of race than their white peers. One in 11 Black Ohioans is treated worse in health care than their white peers, and, on average, Black Ohioans live 5 years less than their white peers. She emphasized that **people** are behind these statistics. Racism’s impacts persist, and they can carry across generations. She closed her presentation with two key action steps: acknowledge the impacts of racism on health, and educate yourself and others on the impacts of racism.

Julie Sweetland, PhD, an associate linguist and senior advisor at the FrameWorks Institute, then provided information on how to effectively raise health issues. She emphasized that framing matters because it’s the connection between communication choices and more equitable outcomes. Framing shapes understanding, she said. She played a couple of video clips of focus groups to show how the way issues are framed influences how people think and feel about them, and what actions they are willing to take or support. Dr. Sweetland said just saying the word “equity” isn’t enough—more needs to be done to better frame the issue, and she has found that assertion and an explanation build more policy support versus assertion alone.



Dr. Julie Sweetland discusses how to effectively frame issues to shape understanding and build policy support.

The final speaker was Terrance Dean, PhD, assistant professor of Black Studies at Denison University. He spoke about “Why We Need to Look Back in Order to Move Forward.” He said racism was recently declared a public health crisis, but it’s something that’s been known for a long time. He cited several mental health disparities between African Americans and their white counterparts, especially in Ohio, where 15% of the African American population is uninsured, and 40% live in poverty. For low-income individuals, survival or scarcity stress is chronic, he said, and many people are “surviving” on a daily basis.

Dr. Dean said Policy Matters Ohio recommended three changes on the state level in response to Ohio ranking 47th in the country for how poorly the health of lower-income Ohioans is compared to their higher-income counterparts: “investing in education, increasing the minimum wage and access to public benefits, and targeting state investments in those areas of concentrated poverty.”

He discussed the roles of racism and segregation on the health divide, saying there is more to the health story than just poverty itself. Ohio ranks 8th in the country for Black-white residential segregation, and Cleveland and Cincinnati are two of the most segregated communities in the nation. Stressors associated with racism and segregation lead to hypertension—the leading cause of heart disease. Dr. Dean closed his presentation showing the link between social determinants of health and antiracism. ■

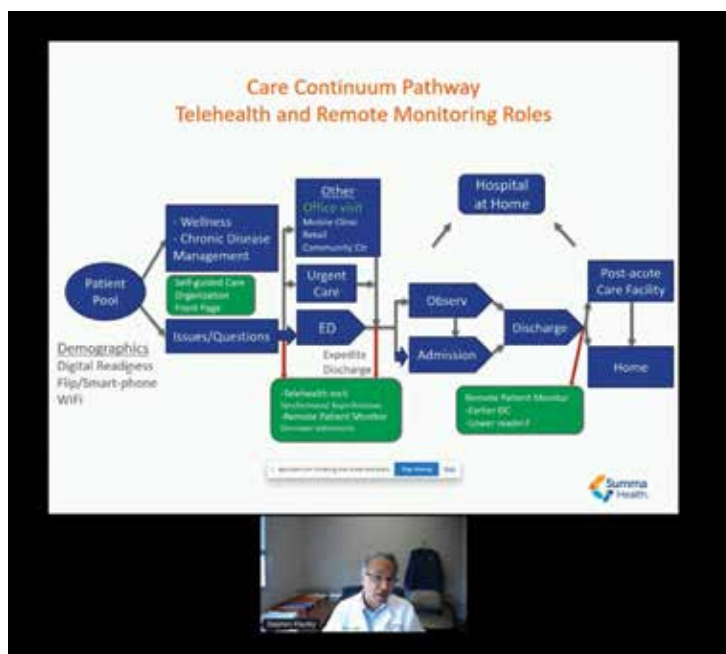
NOHIMSS Conference Focuses on Extending Access to Digital Health Care

The Northern Ohio chapter of the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (NOHIMSS) held its fall conference, “Perspectives in Capacity Management: Extending Access to Care,” virtually.

Keynote Speaker Harun Rashid, Akron Children’s Hospital’s chief information officer, discussed a “New Paradigm Ahead for Health Care.” He said a look at the past 18 months shows how the pandemic turned our world upside down—rapidly, and, in some cases, forever. Significant things, however, will come of it, he said, including our own resiliency. COVID-19 has helped us address longstanding issues. For example, more agencies are now working together, building guidance and more equitable distribution of vaccines, and those in information technology (IT) can help. The new normal will be more tech-driven, he said, and new payment models will be needed, especially considering studies show 75% of patients prefer online visits.

NOHIMSS Board Member and Advocacy Chair Larry Voyten provided an advocacy update, an overview of HIMSS priorities, and details about Global Health Equity Week (October 25 – 29).

Dr. Stephen Klautky, Senior Medical Director of Digital Health at Summa Health and interventional cardiologist discussed “Home Health and Remote Monitoring.” He listed three main causes of the decline in health care capacity: COVID-19, staffing limitations, and consequences (e.g., limited beds led to a decline in elective procedures). Dr. Klautky shared a care continuum pathway for telehealth and remote monitoring roles, to determine which patients would best benefit from these services, acknowledging that some patients will *have* to go to the ED. He said an integrated approach is needed, where IT professionals are brought into the conversation to collaborate with physicians to identify, develop and implement these solutions. In addition, he said remote patient monitoring tools and services are rapidly expanding, with the pinnacle being Hospital at Home models.



Dr. Stephen Klautky shares a care continuum pathway for telehealth and remote monitoring during his presentation.

Two finance directors from MetroHealth spoke about how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used in the revenue cycle and provide return on investment; AI has greatly improved the system’s registration workflow efficiencies. Accuracy increased from 51.5% (\$22 million) in January 2020 to 93.2% (\$58 million) in December 2020 following implementation, and then to 93.3% accuracy (\$454 million) in September 2021.

The event closed with remarks from NOHIMSS President Christine Hudak. ■

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Congratulations to the 2021 AMEF Scholarship Recipients!

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF), the charitable component of the AMCNO, presented six local medical students with \$5,000 scholarships each for the 2021 school year to help ease the burden of student loans.

The AMEF Board of Directors reviews new applications each year and chooses students based on a number of criteria. Applicants are third- or fourth-year medical students who are, or were, residents of Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Portage or Summit counties, and who have demonstrated an interest in being involved in organized medicine and community activities. They must also possess leadership skills and demonstrate academic achievement.

Each year, the AMEF and the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) highlight the scholarship recipients in our publications. The awardees were asked to provide their photo and short bio, so that our members can learn more about them—such as their interests and future plans. Their information follows.

The AMEF and the AMCNO would like to congratulate these exemplary recipients, and we wish them all the best in their medical careers!

Selena Chandler
*Scholarship Recipient from
Northeast Ohio Medical University*



Selena entered her last year of medical school in July. She has learned a lot from the challenges of medical school and knows that what she has been through will make her a strong and resilient physician. Selena plans on applying for a residency in anesthesiology, with the hope of specializing in pain management, performing procedures to help people have a higher quality of life. Her love for boxing has given her insight on how some of our most precious hobbies that bring us happiness now may bring us some

adverse effects down the road. Her dreams do not stop with wanting to become a physician—she aspires to use her knowledge to help her community and other countries in need. She would love to travel to medically deprived countries and help others who would be without otherwise. Having many challenges growing up and putting herself through school taught her how difficult it can be for all of us to reach our goals, and she wants to take her achievements and aid that has gotten her this far to help make it possible for others to do the same.

Patrick Connell
*Scholarship Recipient from Ohio
University Heritage College of
Osteopathic Medicine*



Patrick grew up in Akron and attended St. Vincent - St. Mary High School. He pursued a bachelor's in biology at The Ohio State University and graduated from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in May. During medical school, he was active in medical professional advocacy organizations, including Ohio University's chapters of AMA/ OMSA, AMSA, and founded a chapter for Students for a National Healthcare Plan (SNaHP). He is pursuing a career in anesthesiology and hopes to one day practice pain management in Northeast Ohio, where he may help those with chronic pain and make an impact on the opioid crisis in his community. With a long history and graduate education with nonprofit organizations, he hopes to help build up his community through development of the arts. In his free time, Patrick enjoys hiking, climbing, skiing, photography, and astronomy.

Heidi J. Huang
*Scholarship Recipient from Case
Western Reserve University School
of Medicine*



Heidi plans to apply into ophthalmology. She has served as a leader in the Asian Pacific American Medical Student Association (APAMSA) chapter at Case, spearheading community service and research initiatives benefiting the Northeast Ohio Asian American community. She has a research interest in ophthalmology, with experience in cornea and retina. Prior to medical school, she worked on the Drug Product team at Genentech in South San Francisco. She further worked in account management and product implementation at a San Francisco Bay Area startup that creates machine-learning algorithms to provide clinicians with lead time to treat sepsis. Her hobbies include urban gardening and hiking trails in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Heidi aspires to glean all she can from her volunteer, research, and work experiences to innovate her practice of medicine and better serve minority populations.

Joseph Laseter
*Scholarship Recipient from Case
Western Reserve University School
of Medicine*



As a future family medicine physician, Joseph looks forward to infusing mental health services into primary care practice and doing his part to undo the societal inequities that plague the American health care system. He is from Chicago, and received his

(Continued on page 14)

Congratulations to the 2021 AMEF Scholarship Recipients! *(Continued from page 13)*

Bachelor of Science in psychology from Princeton. Joseph has a substantial background in research, co-authoring tens of orthopaedic surgery papers, and he is currently researching the disparities that exist between Black and non-minority children with autism. Within the CWRU community, he is part of a committee that successfully increased representation of LGBT and minority identities within CWRU's curriculum. He also organized a vigil that brought together Cleveland medical professionals, students, and community members to put a spotlight on the complicit violence that the medical community inflicts on transgender individuals. Joseph has also led the Pediatric and Urban Health Interest Groups and served as Vice-President of Case's SNMA/LMSA. As VP, he created the first 'Minority Mental Health Panel' and spearheaded an annual publication of minority student advice from which prospective and current students can learn. Outside of school, you can find Joseph running miles at the Metroparks or indulging in anything Nintendo.

Metabel Markwei
Scholarship Recipient from Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of CWRU



Born and raised in Accra, Ghana, Metabel came to the United States to attend Yale University, where she majored in medical anthropology and global health. At Yale, she received the Howard Hilgendorf Memorial Award for her senior thesis research, the Vanguard Leader Award for campus leadership, and the Janifer

Lighting Award from the Yale Afro-American Cultural Center. After college, Metabel received her Master of Science at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH), focusing on reproductive and cancer biology. She was inducted into JHSPH's Delta Omega Alpha academic society, receiving the society's Lifetime Achievement Award for academic excellence, research, and service. In medical school, Metabel continues to pursue her research and community service passions. As an aspiring OB/GYN, she volunteers at the Cleveland Clinic's annual Celebrate Sisterhood event, teaching minority women about self-breast exams and scheduling them for mammograms. She recently co-founded the Minority Maternal Health Initiative (MMHI), a student navigator program for Black and Hispanic pregnant women, as part of efforts to bridge Cuyahoga County's stark racial disparities in maternal and infant mortality. In her free time, Metabel immerses herself in writing, narrative medicine, long walks/hikes with friends, culinary escapes, and serving her community.

Marija Rowane
Scholarship Recipient from Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine



Marija is a native of Northeast Ohio and alumna of Beaumont School and Case Western Reserve University with a Bachelor of Arts in biology and music. Marija studied at the OU-HCOM Athens Campus for her preclinical medical school years, in addition to

local Sigma Sigma Phi Osteopathic Service Fraternity, Student American Academy of Osteopathy (SAAO), Pediatrics Club, Live Healthy Appalachia Live Healthy Kids, and Lifestyle Medicine Club leadership and volunteerism. She continues to publish with the University Hospitals Pediatric and Adult Allergy/Immunology Fellowship and serves as Student Editor of their Scholar 12 virtual research development program. Marija advanced her SAAO leadership to the National Executive Council Chair in the past academic year. She presently directs Regional Coordinator activities and serves on the AAO Education and Publications Committees as Immediate Past Chair. Her career interests include pediatrics, allergy/immunology, lifestyle medicine, and osteopathic neuromusculoskeletal manipulative medicine. She looks forward to exploring pediatrics residencies in Ohio. Apart from her academic and research activities, Marija enjoys her instruments, the outdoors, fitness, and plant-based cooking.

The AMEF is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2021-22 school year. To learn more, visit the AMCNO website at www.amcno.org, and click on the AMEF tab.

Scholarship funds are primarily raised through the AMEF's annual golf outing. This year's event was held at Sand Ridge Golf Club on August 9. **Please consider joining us there once again next year on Monday, Aug. 29.** We, and future students, welcome your support! ■

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AMEF FOUNDATION FACTS | FALL 2021

AMEF Sponsors Drive-in Fundraiser for Prevention Education Organizations

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) was pleased to sponsor a drive-in fundraiser on May 1, to benefit Community Assessment & Treatment Services, Improbable Players and My Recovery Day for their drug prevention efforts in Northeast Ohio.

The event, held at the Mayfield Drive-in Movie Theater in Chardon, included live music by Chrissy Strong and Hoodoo BBQ, a virtual



performance by Improbable Players on the big screen, raffle items and concessions. It was a COVID-SAFE event, where parked cars were spaced out, providing a safe way to gather and support an excellent cause.

The Improbable Players and Creating Outreach About Addiction Support Together merged in June as 2nd Act. Visit their new website www.weare2ndact.org to learn more.

This event was just one of many that the AMEF sponsored this year—others included First Responders Appreciation Week, the upcoming Doc Opera, and the Speed Mentoring sessions with CWRU School of Medicine. ■

Ways to Donate to AMEF

Did you know that contributions made by December 31 each year could reduce taxes on returns filed by April 15 of the following year, and missing that date delays tax savings for a full year? Timing is everything—that's why it's recommended to plan as if the year ends on December 15 and make charitable gifts before then.

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the improvement of health care in Northern Ohio. It is the charitable component of the AMCNO. It impacts the lives of physicians, residents, medical school students and local citizens through scholarships, community health projects and education. Please review the following ways to give to the AMEF's efforts and consider making a donation. All donations are fully tax-deductible. If you have any questions, please contact AMEF Secretary-Treasurer Jen Johns at jjohns@amcno.org, or call her at (216) 520-1000. You can also donate online by visiting www.amcno.org, and clicking on the AMEF tab. A printable donation form is also available there.

Tribute Gifts

Remembering or honoring a family member, friend, loved one or colleague by making a gift to AMEF is a meaningful gesture. Any gift to the AMEF may be made "in memory of" or "in honor of" someone or some occasion.

Stock Gifts

Gifts of appreciated stock are a convenient way to contribute to the AMEF. There are often many tax benefits for donors through tax deductions for the full fair market value of the contributed stock, and avoidance of taxes on capital gains. Contact our office for more information.

Check Donations

To donate by check, send your contribution by mail to AMEF, 6111 Oak Tree Blvd., #150, Independence, OH 44131. ■