



NORTHERN OHIO PHYSICIAN

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The Voice of Physicians in Northern Ohio

www.amcno.org

Our Time is Now

I first want to thank all of those who were able to join us at our first Physician Appreciation Night in September. This event, a reimagined version of the former AMCNO annual meeting, allowed us not only to gather and network, but to recognize the incredible contributions of area physicians in the past year. I encourage you to check out pages 2-5 or www.amcno.org/amcno-2022-voter-guide to learn more about AMCNO annual award winners.

As the chill air makes its way to the north coast, I am reminded of the changing of seasons. It's not only autumn that has ushered in, but also election season. We are again being bombarded with messages from politicians making promises and taking stands. Yard signs are once again lining our roads, and literature arriving in our mailboxes.

If you're feeling ambivalent about voting, it would certainly be understandable. We have seen near-constant political attacks on physicians and medical science since the COVID-19 pandemic began. And more recently, with the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, we have seen state governments, including ours here in Ohio, interfering in the protected physician-patient relationship like never before.

It is these recent challenges, however, that demand we rise to the occasion. We must vote, and we must support candidates who will promote and protect medical science and public health interventions. In the following pages you will read about our 2022 Voter's Guide, which will help provide you with information on candidates running at the federal, state and local levels. The intention of this guide is to inform, not endorse. We did, however, include how incumbents voted on AMCNO priority legislation, ranging from abortion restrictions to telehealth and interstate medical licensure expansions. We hope you will take the time to read through this guide (the full version is posted on our website, www.amcno.org) and ask us any questions you may have. We are here to help you participate fully and confidently in our democracy.

As Thomas Jefferson once said, "We do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate." I hope the events of the past few years will encourage and inspire you to join the ranks of the participating.



AMCNO Board and Future Leaders Council (FLC) members attend Physician Appreciation Night. Left to right: Drs. Marie Schaefer, Jonathan Scharfstein, Richard Watkins, Mary LaPlante, Eric Shapiro, (FLC member Ms. Negin Khosravi), Kristin Englund, Gerard Isenberg, Adrian Lindsey (FLC member).

Ohio's general election takes place Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022. If you are unsure if you are registered, or of your polling location, please check out <https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov>.

Regardless of who is elected this November, we will continue to work with political leaders at every level to further our mission of supporting physicians in being strong advocates for all patients and promote the highest quality of medicine.

Jen Johns, MPH

Executive Director, Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio

Now, her spine
only bends on
game day.



At age 14, Kamryn had a 53-degree curve in her spine. Akron Children's corrected it with spinal fusion surgery, and now she enjoys cheerleading, tennis and roller coasters again.

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Learn more at akronchildrens.org/Spine.

Spine Center



Akron
Children's
Hospital

AMCNO Sponsors **Vote for Ohio Kids Forum**

By Anna Ruzicka, Health Policy Fellow

The Academy proudly sponsored the Vote for Ohio Kids Leadership Forum in Columbus presented by Groundwork Ohio, Ohio Children's Hospital Association, and Ohio Excels. The organizers focused the event around moving from crisis to prevention in the care of Ohio children and ensuring that the next governor of Ohio makes Ohio children a top priority in their administration.

Each Ohio gubernatorial candidate spoke at the forum and participated in a panel-led discussion on their priorities for Ohio's children.

Governor DeWine shared his long legislative history of advocacy for kids in Ohio through increased investments in Medicaid, physical and mental health services in schools, and education programs for early childhood educators. The Governor mentioned his goals for Ohio to be number one in the United States in the realms of pediatric access to care, research, and patient care. DeWine wrote in his candidate questionnaire: "While we have made major progress in expanding access to healthcare, we must grow our behavioral health workforce, increase research and innovation, and build a community capacity for care that offers better treatment, increased prevention efforts, and more residential and outpatient services."

Former mayor of Dayton and current Democratic candidate for Ohio's governor, Nan Whaley, discussed the successes that she achieved in expanding educational resources for young children in Dayton through a universal preschool program for all three- and four-year-olds in her city. Mayor Whaley also shared her concern for the lack of gun safety in the state that she said leads to children dying by suicide. Whaley said that state funding must be provided to create equitable access to pediatric care throughout the entire state. Whaley said, "I will make it a priority to remove structural barriers patients face so our children are better able to lead lives built around wellness and health."

Dr. Brenda Jones Harden, Professor of Child and Family Welfare at the Columbia School of Social Work, used her keynote speech to share her research on the effects of poverty on children's brains. She showed how extreme deprivation in childhood leads to less activity in the temporal lobe which then leads to trouble with speech and problem solving which is a major concern for our children. Additionally, she mentioned the importance of supportive caregivers inside or outside of the home who can act as protective factors against potentially traumatic events in a child's life. Investing in children at the youngest ages, she said, requires the least effort for the greatest outcome. For these reasons, it is critical that the next governor of Ohio use their position to advance the health and well-being of Ohio children.

For more information on the coalition and the event, visit <https://www.voteforohiokids.org/>. The candidates' completed questionnaires are available at <https://www.voteforohiokids.org/candidates2022>.



AMCNO Executive Director Jen Johns (L) and Health Policy Fellow Anna Ruzicka (R)



AMCNO Member Dr. Karen Murray (second from right) and colleagues

AMCNO Announces Winners of 2022 Annual Physician Awards

By Anna Ruzicka, Health Policy Fellow

The Academy is pleased to share the winners of our Annual Physician Awards for 2022, as presented September 30 at AMCNO Physician Appreciation Night, held at Lindey's Lake House in Cleveland.

The John H. Budd, MD, Distinguished Membership Award was given to John Bastulli, MD. Unfortunately, Dr. Bastulli was not able to attend the event to accept the award in person. He is president of Cleveland Anesthesia Group and an anesthesiologist at St. Vincent Charity Medical Center. He has led the Academy's legislative advocacy work for more than 25 years. His tireless effort to protect the physician-patient relationship has benefitted physicians throughout Northeast Ohio in their practice of medicine. The John H. Budd, MD, Distinguished Membership Award is the highest honor awarded by the AMCNO.



Dr. Bastulli receives the John H. Budd, MD, Distinguished Membership Award, but he is unable to do so in person.



AMCNO Past President Dr. Collins (left) accepts his Charles L. Hudson, MD, Distinguished Service Award from current President Dr. Isenberg (right).

Tom Collins, MD, received the Charles L. Hudson, MD, Distinguished Service Award for his dedication to the Academy as its president during the onset of the 2020 coronavirus pandemic and service within the Northeast Ohio region as an emergency medicine physician with the MetroHealth System for the past 26 years. Dr. Collins has also served as the Medical Director for the City of Cleveland, Department of Public Safety, Division of EMS, Fire, and Police, and served as the AMCNO's representative on the Northeast Ohio Hospital Opioid Consortium.



AMCNO Decorations



AMCNO Member Dr. David Stroom (L) with winner Dave Valent and his wife, Molly

The Myra Merrick, MD, Women in Medicine Award was presented to Nancy Kurfess Johnson, MD, the first female physician to own her own practice in Solon. This award is presented to a female physician who has made a significant contribution to the medical community and advanced the work of women in medicine. Dr. Merrick was a leading physician in Cleveland in the 1850s and went on to form the Homeopathic College for Women. Dr. Nancy, as she is often called, delivered thousands of babies in her time as an obstetrician. In her retirement, she serves as an inspiration for other women pursuing their medical education and is an active alumna at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.



Dr. Johnson gave an endearing speech following the presentation of her Myra Merrick, MD, Women in Medicine Award by Dr. Isenberg.

The Academy also recognized Kristin Englund, MD, with the Clinician of the Year Award for her long-standing service to her patients, peers, and community members as an infectious disease physician at the Cleveland Clinic. As our most recent past president, Dr. Englund led the AMCNO through the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and remained dedicated to science-driven medicine, regularly participating in media interviews to provide the public with needed information on COVID-19 precautions and the importance of vaccination. She also provided successful testimony on behalf of the AMCNO before the Ohio House Health Committee against dangerous anti-vaccination legislation.



AMCNO Immediate Past President Dr. Englund stands with current President Dr. Isenberg as she accepts her Clinician of the Year Award.

Mary Francis Haerr, MD, received the Special Honors Award for her achievements in working to lower rates of infant and maternal mortality, both in Cleveland and abroad. She has represented the AMCNO on First Year Cleveland, a community movement with the vision of having every baby born in Cuyahoga County celebrate their first birthday, since its inception in 2015. Additionally, she founded the non-profit JustWondoor, a birthing training program in Guyana, which has helped lower maternal mortality rates in the country.



Dr. Haerr accepts her Special Honors Award from Dr. Isenberg.

The Honorary Membership Award had two recipients: Dave Valent, JD, and Tara Camera. Valent is a member of the AMCNO's Medical Legal Committee and has served as co-chair of the AMCNO Medical Legal Summit, co-hosted with the Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association, on numerous occasions. In addition to his experience working in the legal department at the Cleveland Clinic and Aetna, Valent takes time to participate in AMCNO events and donates regularly to the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation. He is proud to spend all his professional time devoted to supporting the health care profession.



Dave Valent (left) receives the Honorary Membership Award, presented by Dr. Isenberg (right).



AMCNO members enjoying dinner.



AMCNO President Gerard Isenberg (left) with AMCNO Executive Director Jen Johns (right).



AMCNO Board Members Dr. Eric Shapiro (second from left) and Dr. Jonathan Scharfstein (far right) pose with their spouses.

Tara Camera also received the Honorary Membership Award in recognition for her many contributions to the Academy throughout the past eight years of her employment here. Camera was responsible for all internal and external communications for the AMCNO and served as Editor in Chief of the *Northern Ohio Physician*. Her expertise, kindness, and enthusiasm motivated each staff and physician member she encountered, and we are incredibly grateful for her long dedication to the Academy.

Dr. Isenberg also presents the Honorary Membership Award to Northern Ohio Physician Editor in Chief Tara Camera.



We thank these and all our members for their nominations and outstanding clinical and advocacy work. We look forward to celebrating another award ceremony next year!

Be Informed:

Get to Know the Candidates in this Year's Election

The AMCNO has created a Voter's Guide as a resource for the upcoming elections on Nov. 8, 2022. The AMCNO is not endorsing any candidates. This document solely provides information about the candidates and their health care aims.

Check your voter registration status at <https://voterlookup.ohiosos.gov/voterlookup.aspx>; register to vote at <https://olvr.ohiosos.gov/>. Voting districts have changed since the last election, so you can check which district you are in at <https://findmydistrict.ohiosos.gov/>.

Information in the full guide also includes current politicians' votes on AMCNO priority legislation.

You can read the full guide and details on each candidate on our website, at www.amcno.org/voter-guide.

2022 AMCNO Voter Guide

Ohio Governor



Mike DeWine (R)

Has been in public office since 1977

- Green County Prosecutor, Ohio State Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Lieutenant Governor of Ohio, U.S. Senate, Ohio Attorney General, & current Governor of Ohio

Pro-life

- Signed "Heartbeat Bill" and "Born Alive Infant Protection Act"

Ended COVID state of emergency in June 2021

- Endorsed by National Rifle Association (NRA) and Ohio Right to Live
- Signed "Constitutional Carry" into law giving the right to carry arms without taking a firearms training course
- Signed HB 99 to allow authorized personnel to be armed in a school safety zone

American Governors' Border Strike Force Formed

- Joined in April 2022 to "disrupt and dismantle transnational criminal organizations"

Created an executive order to ban new opioids



Nan Whaley (D)

Former mayor of Dayton, Ohio

- Second female mayor of Dayton
- First woman nominated for governor in state of Ohio

Initiatives

- Pro-choice
- Lower prescription drug prices
- Supports gun safety policies like requiring universal background checks

Chose Cheryl Stephens, member of Cuyahoga County Council and former mayor of Cleveland Heights, as her Lieutenant Governor

- Would be first Black woman in this position

Supports more oversight of guns in Ohio

- Spoke against Governor DeWine saying he "has made Ohio less safe" by signing HB 99 along with other legislation that has made it easier for individuals to carry firearms in Ohio, including in school buildings.

Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice



Sharon Kennedy (R)

- Elected to Ohio Supreme Court in 2012
- Supported Ohio's unconstitutional redistricting



Jennifer Brunner (D)

- Elected to Ohio Supreme Court in 2021
- Judge on Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals 2015-2021
- Did not support Ohio's unconstitutional redistricting
- Endorsed by Cleveland.com Editorial Board

Ohio Supreme Court General Election



Patrick Fischer (R)

- On Ohio Supreme Court since 2017
- Elected as judge on Ohio First District Court of Appeals in 2010 and 2012
- President of Ohio State Bar Association from 2012-2013
- Has law degree from Harvard Law School



Terri Jamison (D)

- Judge on Ohio Tenth District Court of Appeals since 2021
- Worked in Franklin County Public Defender's Office
- Elected to Franklin County Court of Common Pleas
- Has law degree from Capital University School of Law
- Endorsed by Cleveland.com Editorial Board

Ohio Supreme Court General Election



Patrick DeWine (R)

- Running for second term
- Served four years on First District Court of Appeals and four years on Hamilton County Common Pleas Court
- Former member of Hamilton County Board of Commissioners and Cincinnati City Council
- Endorsed by Ohio Right to Life and Buckeye Firearms Association



Marilyn Zayas (D)

- Serves on First District Court of Appeals
- Has sat by appointment of Ohio's Chief Justice on the Ohio Supreme Court and the Second, Sixth, Eighth, and Tenth District Court of Appeals
- First Latina elected to an Ohio Court of Appeals
- Endorsed by Cleveland.com Editorial Board

U.S. Senate



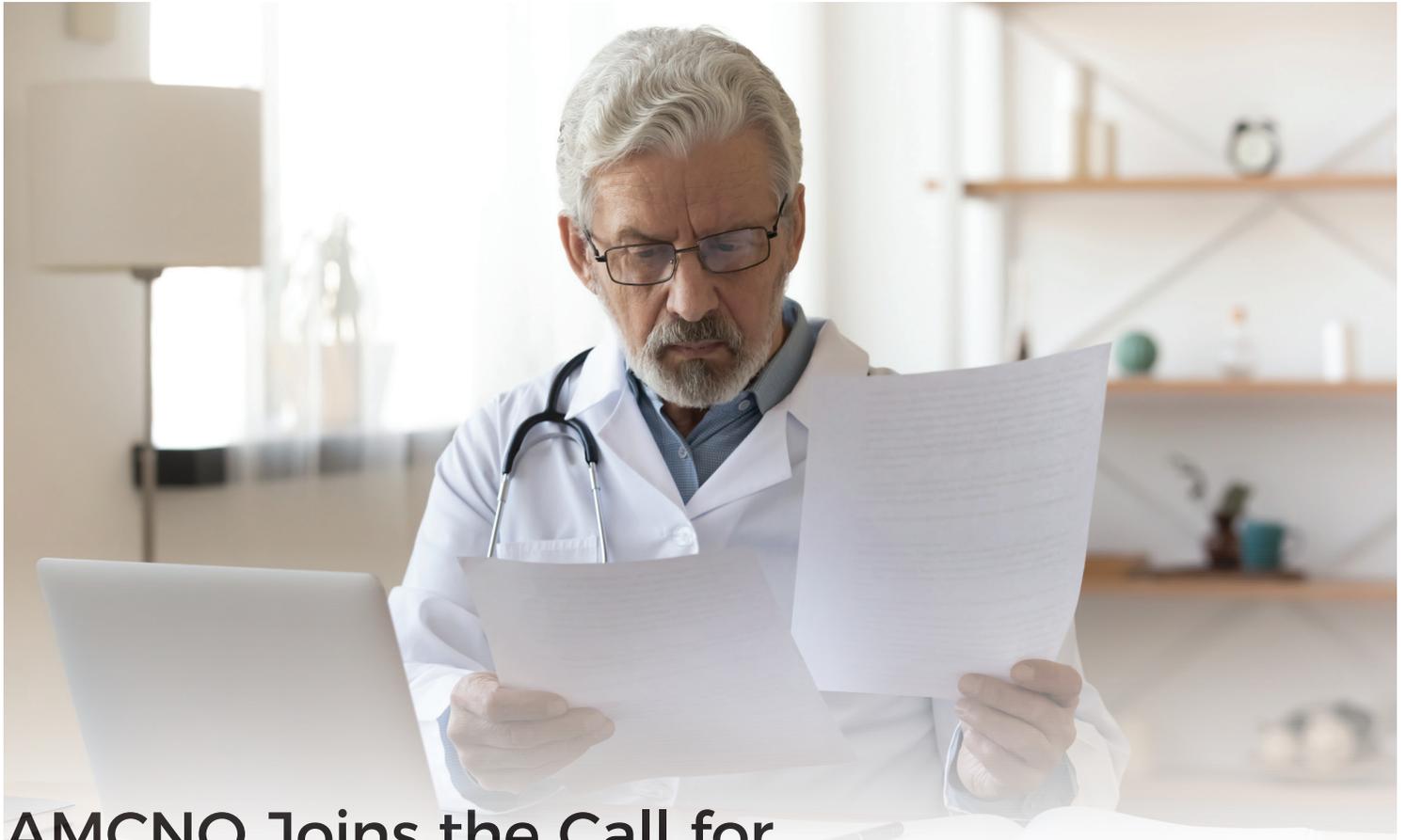
JD Vance (R)

- Endorsed by Donald Trump, Donald Trump Jr., and Marjorie Taylor Greene
- Has a law degree from Yale
- Wrote *Hillbilly Elegy* about his childhood in Middletown, Ohio
- Health care issues
 1. Pro-life
 2. Aims to tackle drug epidemic



Tim Ryan (D)

- Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives ten times
- First sworn in in 2003
- Health care issues
 1. Pro-choice
 2. Supports the Affordable Care Act
 3. Voted to protect access to birth control under federal law
 4. Endorsed by Sen. Sherrod Brown and Congresswomen Joyce Beatty and Marcy Kaptur



AMCNO Joins the Call for Medicare Physician Payment Reform

The American Medical Association (AMA) and multiple state and national medical societies—including The Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO)—have outlined a practical, commonsense approach reforming Medicare physician reimbursement based on the principles of simplicity, relevance, alignment, and predictability.

The need for change is clear. Taking inflation in practice costs into account, Medicare physician payment plunged 20% from 2001 to 2021. Medicare spending on physician services per enrollee retreated by 1% between 2010 and 2020, even as spending per enrollee for other parts of Medicare jumped by 3.6% to 42.1%. With inflation soaring to 40-year highs this year, statutory payment cuts looming, and many physician practices still dealing with pandemic-related financial issues, the current proposal from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) undermines the long-term sustainability of physician practices, while threatening patient access to physicians participating in Medicare.

Physicians deserve payment models that recognize and invest in their contributions in providing high value care to patients, while generating cost savings across all parts of Medicare and the broader health care system. In practical

terms, this means directly rewarding the value of care that physicians offer to patients, as opposed to administrative tasks, such as data entry, that are often irrelevant to the service being provided.

One of the biggest problems under the current payment system is the fact that other Medicare providers benefit from built-in updates, such as a medical economic index or an inflationary growth factor, that help offset increases in the cost of providing services—but no such offset exists for physicians.

The AMCNO will continue to work with the AMA to lobby Congress to stop the physician payment cuts scheduled to go into effect January 1, and to instead reform the Medicaid physician payment system into a model that is both predictable and sustainable. ■



UPDATE ON *Pre-Term v. Yost* Abortion Case

The plaintiffs in the case *Pre-Term v. Yost* withdrew their complaint with the Ohio Supreme Court to file separate litigation in an Ohio common pleas court challenging the constitutionality of SB 23, the 6-week abortion ban otherwise known as the Heartbeat Bill. The move was made to ensure quicker action by a court.

And on September 14, Hamilton County Common Pleas Court Judge Christian Jenkins granted a temporary restraining order sought by the state's abortion clinics blocking enforcement of the law. As a result, the state's 6-week abortion ban has been put on hold temporarily.

The restraining order, which has already been extended once, prevents the state from enforcing the law known as the Heartbeat Bill, making abortion temporarily legal again up to the gestational age of 20 weeks. As part of his decision, Jenkins indicated that the abortion providers are likely to succeed on the merits of their case, pointing to the fundamental right privacy in health care decision-making.

On Oct. 7th, a hearing was held putting the ban on hold indefinitely while the merits of the case are assessed, and a determination is made if the state did indeed violate the constitution by allowing the law to go into effect. Legal experts say it could be up to a year before a final decision is made. Jenkins specifically addressed the burden the law was placing on physicians, telling Cleveland.com, "This law creates a degree of difficulty for practitioners, plus a narrow position to choose between themselves and their own interests and the delivery of health care that they very much want to deliver to their patients."

The AMCNO will continue to provide updates on this case. ■

Cleveland Clinic Women's Professional Staff Association Hosts Fall Meeting

On September 15, the Cleveland Clinic Women's Professional Staff Association (WPSA) held its annual meeting in celebration of National Women in Medicine month. The meeting was held both in-person in Cleveland and virtually across the Clinic's various satellite locations.

AMCNO Member and WPSA President Dr. Rita Pappas addressed the attendees, sharing that the Clinic had hit a milestone—40% of its physicians are now women, the most in its history.

Dr. Serpil Ezurum received the Champion Award. Dr. She is Chief Research and Academic Officer and Chair of the Lerner Research Institute at Cleveland Clinic. In her acceptance speech, Dr. Ezurum gave this advice to the women in attendance, "Never underestimate the power of your voice."

Drs. Mary Renzel and Cara King also shared their new podcast series, "Inspirations and Insights from Cleveland Clinic Women Doctors," which launched last year as part of Cleveland Clinic's centennial celebration. The episodes are available on podcast streaming platforms. ■



AMCNO Executive Director Jen Johns (right) and WPSA President-elect (left) Silvia Perez Protto, MD, pose for a photo at the event.



AMCNO Member and WPSA President Dr. Rita Pappas addresses the attendees.

Dr. Airica Steed Named New President and CEO of MetroHealth

By Anna Ruzicka, Health Policy Fellow

We welcome Dr. Airica Steed to Cleveland as the newly announced President and Chief Executive Officer of The MetroHealth System, which is a group member of the AMCNO. Airica Steed, Ed.D., MBA, will take office on Jan. 1, 2023, succeeding Dr. Akram Boutros, who has held the position since 2013. Dr. Steed brings extensive experience in health care management—currently serving as Executive Vice President/System Chief Operating Officer of Sinai Chicago Health System—and national recognition for her leadership to her new role.

More information, including MetroHealth's full press release about Dr. Steed, is available on our website, amcno.org/MetroHealth_CEO. ■



Telehealth Case Studies Summary

FEATURED PRACTICE:
Launching a Bluetooth Blood Pressure Remote Patient Monitoring Program with Clinically Relevant Alerts and Meaningful Patient Engagement for Obstetrics Patients



Barbara Rhoads, MD
OB/GYN generalist
MetroHealth Medical Center, Cleveland, OH



Over the past year, the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio (AMCNO) collaborated with the Physicians Foundation (PF) and the American Medical Association (AMA) to support physicians interested in establishing or sustaining telehealth services and measuring the impact in their practices. The AMCNO selected seven practices interested in continuing use of telehealth to improve the patient experience and provide patients with remote access to their physicians.

AMCNO co-hosted the webinar with the American Medical Association (AMA) and American Telehealth Association (ATA)."

For full case studies, visit amcno.org/telehealth.

Cleveland Clinic Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute, Dr. Georges Haber

The first case study focused on virtual visits for men's urological care from Cleveland Clinic Glickman Urological and Kidney Institute. From their survey of 1,000 American males aged 18 years and older, they found telehealth visits to be particularly beneficial from an equity standpoint with a high percentage of Hispanic men reporting that they feel more comfortable discussing sexual health issues online instead of in person. This study also led the Institute to more and better diagnoses in reproductive health and erectile dysfunction as well as increased cancer screenings.

Cleveland Clinic Respiratory Institute, Dr. Elliot Dasenbrook

Remote monitoring at the Cleveland Clinic Lung Transplant Program has led to better clinical outcomes for lung transplant patients by enabling them to take home spirometer measurements. These values then transmit directly to their electronic health record, and it alerts their provider if these values are outside of the expected range. Without this remote data collection, spirometry would be performed much less frequently only at in-person visits while home spirometry allows for much quicker detection of possible infection or rejection and, thus, faster intervention.

Cleveland Clinic Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Dr. Ani Das

Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital has also been using virtual visits for infants discharged from the NICU. They found highest utilization of virtual visits came from parents of infants with more complex health needs and those who lived further from the hospital. Overall reported patient satisfaction with the visits was high as well, and this has led to their expansion of telehealth care to include prenatal consults for mothers with pregnancy complications and follow up lactation programs for breastfeeding mothers.

Cleveland Clinic Center for Pain Recovery, Dr. Sara Davin

The AMCNO helped the Cleveland Clinic Center for Pain Recovery continue their telehealth visits for patients with chronic pain through two projects. First was a single session behavioral pain management class delivered by a live therapist for patients with chronic pain and patients preparing for spinal surgery. They found a significant improvement in the pain interference scores of patients who participated. The next project was a virtual intensive outpatient program (IOP) for the most complex and refractory chronic pain patients. This program was shown to be effective and have a significant impact in lowering the participants' pain scores at their follow-up visit compared to those who did not participate in the IPO.

MetroHealth Department of Emergency Medicine, Drs. Thomas Collins and Craig Bates

MetroHealth Emergency Medicine worked on evaluating their virtual pre-hospital and EMS program model which gives EMS providers greater flexibility to address the emergency health care needs of patients following a 911 call. They found video conferencing as a safe and effective way for emergency department physicians to triage patients, especially when the individual is refusing EMS transport. In spearheading these virtual emergency medicine programs, MetroHealth EM has also built meaningful relationships between EMS providers and ED physicians who are both critical pieces of emergency medical care.

MetroHealth Departments of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Maternal & Fetal Medicine, Drs. Kelly Gibson and Barb Rhoads

MetroHealth OB-GYN & Maternal Fetal Medicine Departments implemented a virtual maternity care program which provides digital patient education and remote patient monitoring (RPM) for pregnant patients and their babies. They use a mobile app called Babyscripts that provides patients with daily education, health reminders, and checklists along with optional remote blood pressure (BP) monitoring with a Bluetooth-enabled BP cuff. The app immediately sends an alert following an out-of-range BP reading to their prenatal care medical staff. Survey and anecdotal evidence suggest a positive patient response to this program and stronger relationships between patients and clinical staff.

OhioHealth Division of Vascular Neurology, Dr. Nikita Dedhia

OhioHealth Vascular Neurology Provider Group's use of telehealth allowed their stroke team to diagnose patients at the community hospital and treat them immediately without requiring transfer to another facility, which was especially critical during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic when these hospitals were at maximum capacity. Patients had positive outcomes with improvements in the Stroke Scale during their follow-ups. ■

White House Hosts Forum for Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

By Anna Ruzicka, Health Policy Fellow

The White House held a Cancer Moonshot Childhood Cancer Forum on September 23 as part of Childhood Cancer Awareness month. Four panels discussed different aspects of childhood cancer including data collection, legislation, the Cancer Moonshot initiative, as well as testimonies from childhood cancer patients themselves and parents of children who died of cancer.

President Biden reignited the Cancer Moonshot effort on February 2 of this year after first announcing the program as Vice President in 2016. His goal with the initiative is to end cancer as we know it by reducing the death rate from cancer by at least 50% over the next 25 years, and improving the experience of people and their families living with and surviving cancer.

Cancer Moonshot Coordinator Danielle Carnaval spoke near the start of the forum about the progress that has already been made in childhood cancer treatment and the work that still needs to be done. Since 1980, the mortality rate from all types of cancer among children and teens has dropped by more than 50%, and certain forms of childhood cancer that were once terminal are now survivable. However, cancer is still the top cause of death by disease for children in America, and 47 children in the United States are given a cancer diagnosis each day.

The discussion started with a panel on the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI) through the National Cancer Institute, which aims to gather data from each individual patient with childhood cancer. Although researchers traditionally isolate childhood cancer data for particular uses, CCDI links data broadly throughout the U.S. so that each patient's experience can be used to inform care for another's treatment. CCDI is currently working on developing a National Childhood Cancer Registry to link diagnostic and demographic data as well as a Molecular Characterization Initiative to allow up to 3,000 children annually to get their tumor genomically sequenced at the time of diagnosis for free. The federal government has invested \$50 million in this program for the past 3 years and will continue to do so through 2029. More information about CCDI is available at <https://tinyurl.com/NCI-CCDI>.

The next two panels examined specific policies that have had a notable impact on childhood cancer through improved research capability: the Research to Accelerate Cures and Equity (RACE) for Children Act and the Survivorship, Treatment, Access, and Research (STAR) Act.



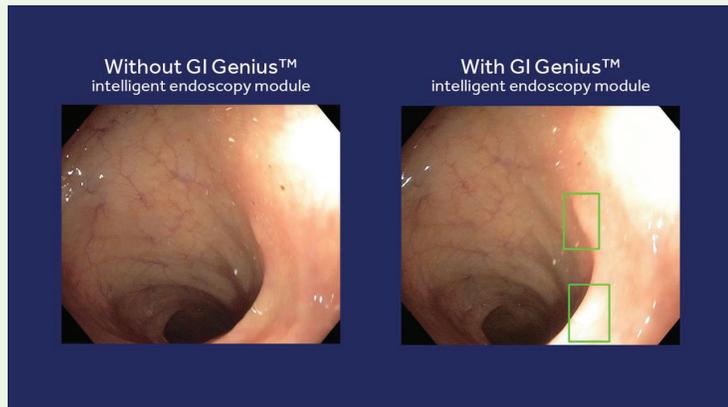
The RACE for Children Act, implemented in August 2020, changed the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) drug and biologic development requirements by requiring developers of adult cancer drugs to test their products in pediatric cancer patients, provided similar molecular targets. This legislation was a necessary incentive for pharmaceutical companies who previously had not tested their cancer treatments in pediatric patients given the small markets and limited return on investment. The RACE for Children Act has led to more clinical trials and will hopefully lead to more survivorship of childhood cancers.

Additionally, the STAR Act supports research on childhood cancer treatment and survivorship, which has been found successful thus far, particularly with biospecimen research. The STAR Act was initially authorized for 5 years, and it is up for reauthorization from Congress for another 5 years to keep their momentum going and continue their research.

The forum ended with a conversation around the importance of keeping patients and their loved ones at the center of care in order to create a more humane and supportive environment throughout their cancer journey. Each of these pieces of the Cancer Moonshot Initiative are critical to meet its goal of finding new ways to detect, prevent, and treat cancer while reaching more Americans with the treatments we already have.

Watch the full forum at <https://tinyurl.com/Cancer-Forum> and learn more about the Cancer Moonshot at <https://tinyurl.com/NCI-Moonshot>. ■

UH Physicians Leverage Artificial Intelligence to Detect Colon Cancer



A group of physicians at University Hospitals (UH) of Cleveland, led by AMCNO President Dr. Gerard Isenberg, are taking advantage of a new tool in the fight against colon cancer.

Colonoscopies continue to be essential in finding and diagnosing colon and rectum cancers. Trained physicians typically use imaging to look for abnormalities, and also send tissue samples for testing.

A new artificial intelligence tool, called GI Genius, is allowing them an extra “set of eyes.” GI Genius can assess and study images to a level of detail that human eyes might miss. The machine, invented by the company MedTronic, can detect polyps with 99.7% accuracy.

Data published in the journal *Gastroenterology* in July showed that the technology reduced the number of missed colorectal polyps in a standard colonoscopy by as much as 50%.

Detecting these polyp lesions early can allow physicians to treat them before they turn cancerous, and, in turn, prevent new cancer cases.

University Hospitals of Cleveland Medical Center is the first Ohio hospital to fully integrate the technology into its endoscopy services, and it is one of only 62 hospitals nationwide using the machine.

As colon cancer rates continue to rise across the nation, particularly in the under 50 and African American populations, Dr. Isenberg says it shows a need to start screening at age 45, and even earlier in those with risk factors.

UH has plans to integrate up to 20 GI Genius modules throughout their health system. ■

NORTHERN OHIO PHYSICIAN

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BREAKING DOWN THE BIVALENT BOOSTERS: A CONVERSATION WITH CDC AND FDA EXPERTS



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Director, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (CBER), FDA



SARAH MEYER, MD, MPH

Chief Medical Officer, Immunization Services Division, CDC



CHANA DAVIS, PHD

Contributor, Dear Pandemic and Founder, Fueled by Science Event Moderator

COVID-19 VACCINE
EDUCATION and
EQUITY PROJECT

CDC and FDA Experts Talk about Bivalent Boosters

By Anna Ruzicka, Health Policy Fellow

The COVID-19 Vaccine Education and Equity Project hosted a webinar on September 20 with Dr. Sarah Meyer, Chief Medical Officer of the Immunization Services Division of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Dr. Peter Marks, Director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The discussion was moderated by Dr. Chana Davis, the founder of Fueled by Science, a company focused on sharing scientific facts and fighting misinformation.

The FDA authorized the new Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna bivalent COVID-19 vaccines on August 31 in preparation for a predicted wave of SARS-CoV-2 in late-November. Moderna's bivalent vaccine has been approved for adults aged 18 and older, and Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine has been approved for individuals aged 12 and older. The bivalent vaccine solution has half of the original, monovalent vaccine and half of a new formula that targets Omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5, the variants with the highest case counts in the United States currently. The FDA is confident that this evidence-based approach will create a large increase in immune response and hopeful that the bivalent approach will be effective against future COVID-19 variants.

The original, monovalent vaccines are now only authorized for use for a primary series of vaccination; the bivalent vaccines are the only doses currently authorized to be used as boosters. Dr. Meyer added that people must wait at least 2 months after the last dose of their primary series (meaning two doses of Novavax or monovalent Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines for non-immunocompromised individuals).

Although there is no required timeline for how long an individual must wait after having SARS-CoV-2 to get a COVID-19 vaccination, including the bivalent booster, the CDC recommends waiting until 3 months after one's onset of symptoms or positive test date. At a minimum, they

recommend deferring any COVID-19 vaccination, including the bivalent booster, at least until individuals have recovered from any symptoms. Dr. Meyer emphasized that individual risk factors must be considered by the patient and their physician regarding these recommendations.

The CDC also recommends coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with any other vaccines for which patients are due for at the time of vaccination. Dr. Meyer shared that there are similar immunogenicity and adverse event profiles when vaccines are administered simultaneously and when administered alone. Offering all vaccines at the same visit, especially COVID-19 and influenza with the expected increase in both during the winter months, increases the chances that the patient will be up to date with their vaccinations.

Although there is evidence of waning immunity from booster doses of monovalent COVID-19 vaccines, Dr. Marks said we will see over the coming months whether boosters can be administered annually or if they need to be given more frequently.

For more information on bivalent boosters, read the FDA's press release at <https://tinyurl.com/FDA-Bivalent> and updated CDC guidelines for vaccination at <https://tinyurl.com/CDC-Bivalent>. The recorded webinar is also available on Facebook at <https://tinyurl.com/Bivalent-Webinar>. ■

Stage 2 of the Next Generation of Ohio Medicaid Managed Care

By Anna Ruzicka, Health Policy Fellow

On October 1, the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) launched Stage 2 of the Next Generation of Ohio Medicaid program. ODM pitched the Next Generation program as a complete overhaul of their approach to managed care to prioritize their individual members over the business of managed care. Their vision for the program is to honor members' choice and provide continuity in the provision of members' care.

Major changes in Stage 2 include the implementation of the Single Pharmacy Benefit Manager (SPBM) and Centralized Credentialing in the Provider Network Management (PNM) module.

Use of a SPBM, Gainwell Technologies, allows each pharmacy to have a direct contract with the whole state of Ohio, rather than being contracted by each individual managed care organization with different conditions. Because of this, all managed care members can now receive the same pharmacy benefits, regardless of which managed care plan they have. The SPBM also reduces administrative burden on providers by implementing a single set of prior authorization policies and claims processes. The SPBM is now a single point of contact between providers, pharmacists, and the managed care organizations. Gainwell also provides real-time updates on status of prior authorizations and provision of prescribed medications for patients. Immediate data is available using a SPBM since all of the information comes from one source, leading to better data integrity.

Additionally, ODM providers now need to complete only one credentialing process to serve Ohio Medicaid members. This change benefits physicians who previously had to comply with six unique credentialing processes for each managed care plan. It will also eliminate repetitive work, improve revenue cycle, and lower credentialing costs for hospitals, facilities, providers, and practices. Providers can access their application directly through ODM's secure portal. More information on PNM and centralized credentialing is available at <https://tinyurl.com/PNM-Credential>.

Every Ohio Medicaid managed care and OhioRISE member should also receive a new member ID card that includes all member information, including pharmacy benefit information. These cards were made effective October 1, and patients should bring them to all appointments and filling of prescriptions.



The final stage of the Next Generation program will occur on December 1, when the new managed care plans will be implemented to Ohio Medicaid, and open enrollment in these plans is available until November 30. Eligible Ohio Medicaid members can choose from seven new managed care plans. Enrollees who do not choose a new plan will stay with their current plan, besides Paramount members who will be enrolled in Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, which has recently acquired Paramount. It is important to encourage patients enrolled in Ohio Medicaid plans to update their contact information with ODM, review the Next Generation plans, and select the one that best fits their health care needs.

For more information on the Next Generation plans, visit <https://tinyurl.com/MCO-Next-Generation>, and email ODMNextGen@medicaid.ohio.gov with any questions. ■

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AMCNO Pollen Line 2022 Review

By Ashwin Shankar, DO; Supriya Nagireddi, DO; Aman Kalkat, MD; Madiha Huq, DO; Sandeep Sarkaria, MD; Lauren Fill, 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 use to calculate daily pollen levels throughout the season.

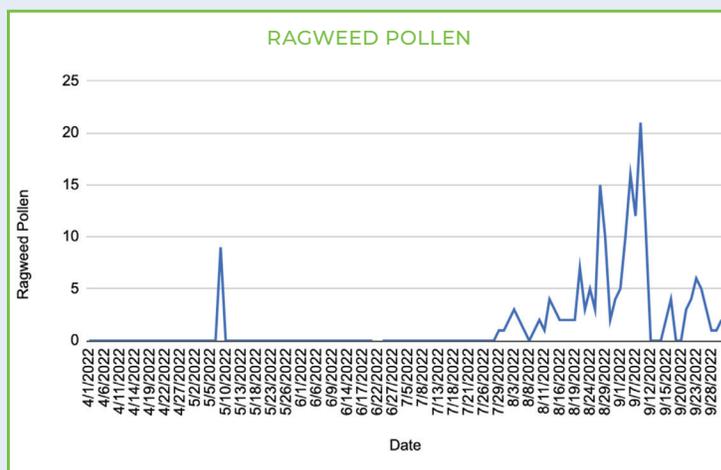
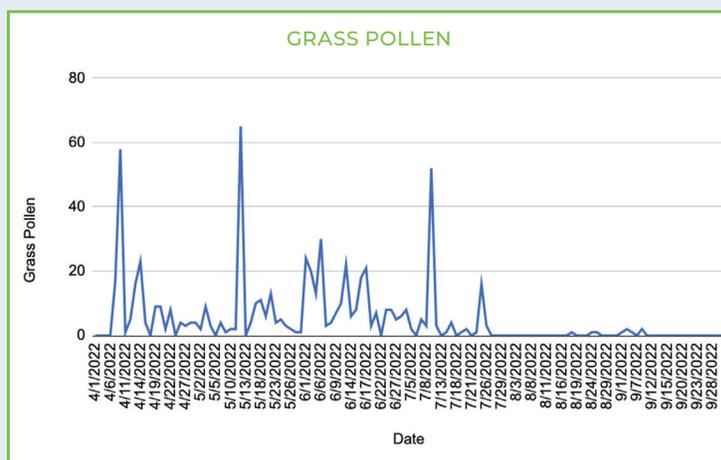
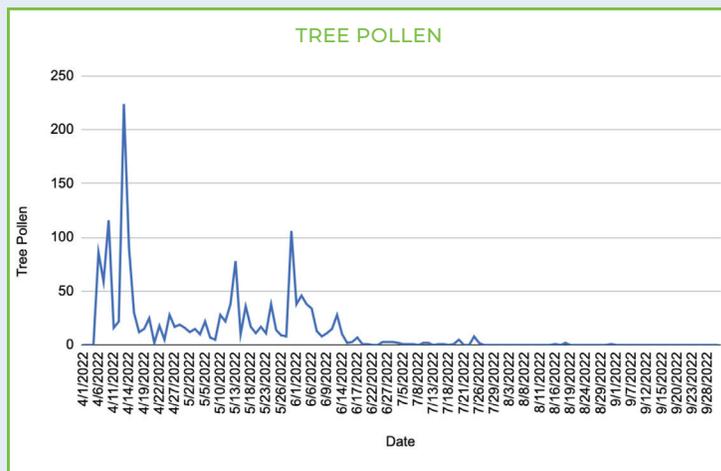
Pollen counts are useful data for both patients and practitioners—allowing individuals to correlate symptoms with an objective measurement. Practitioners can use trends in the data to optimize timing of therapy and confirm suspected diagnoses. Tree, grass, and ragweed pollen are the main culprits most 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.

The pollen season begins with the blooming trees in spring. This year, we saw tree pollen start appearing in early-April, but it remained relatively low until a sudden peak during the middle of April. 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: 224 vs 1250. Just as last year, there were no early peaks in early April that have been seen in previous years.

As the weather gets warmer and summer arrives, grass pollen begins to appear. This year, grass had an intermediate peak in the beginning of April, but then remained relatively low until its main spike in the middle of May, with an additional intermediate peak in the beginning of July. In the year prior, we saw a main spike in grass pollen in early July. Compared to last year, grass pollen was at lower levels: 65 vs 130. This year, grass pollen was less severe compared to last year.

As autumn arrives, we begin to see ragweed. Contrary to last year, we had an intermediate peak in the middle of May. Overall, we started seeing ragweed at the beginning of August, compared to mid-August, with a noted peak at the end of August into September. Ragweed did not peak as high as it did last year: 21 vs. 37.

Each year, Allergy/Immunology Associates, in coordination with the AMCNO, is honored to provide the pollen count for the Greater Cleveland area 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. ■





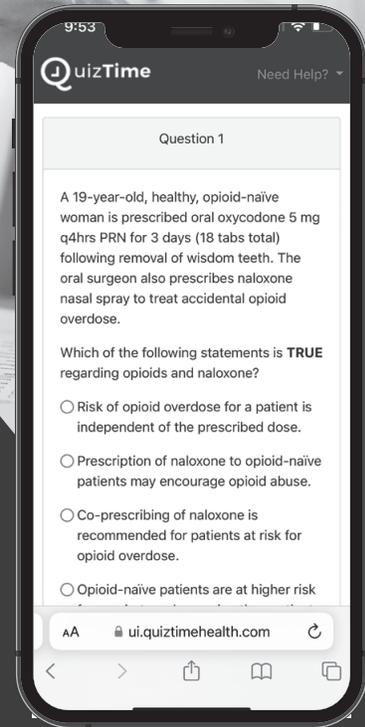
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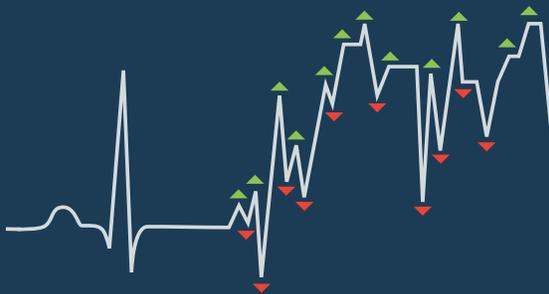
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Golfers Tee Off for Local Medical Students at AMEF Outing

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) held its second Swing for Students golf outing on August 29, at Sand Ridge Golf Club in Chardon. Proceeds from the event primarily benefit medical school student scholarships.

Golfers checked in at the registration table as they arrived at the course, then visited the driving range to practice their swings. The booze putt was a hit again this year as well as the silent auction, which featured some incredible items, including prize packs from the Cavs and Guardians, a Capital Grille basket, a Cleveland Museum of Art package, and a Put-in-Bay getaway.

Lunch was served on the covered patio and inside, so golfers could dodge the fast-moving storm, and the shotgun start at 1 pm was slightly delayed because of the weather.

The sun did make its return while the golfers enjoyed their time on the beautiful course (an Audubon Signature Sanctuary). Many individuals and teams secured their place at the top of the leaderboard! Our congratulations to all for a great game.

- **1st place team:** Anthony Bastulli, Tom Froelich, John Bastulli Jr., Tommy Parran
- **2nd place team:** Dr. Mehrun Elyaderani, Dr. Conjuvareem Maheshwer, Adam Bogden, and Steve Myers
- **3rd place team:** Dr. John Bastulli, Marc Mingione, Irving Hirsch, Richard Garcia
- **Closest to the Pin:** Jacob Ehlers (on #4), John Bastulli Jr. (on #8), Bob McClosky (on #12), and Nicole Thorn (on #17)
- **Longest Drive:** Chad Rittle (on #6), Dave Bastulli (on #18)
- **Longest Putt:** Joe Zabukovec (on #9)

We would also like to sincerely thank all the sponsors and participants for their support.

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We were also pleased that two 2022 AMEF medical school scholarships awardees—Derrick Obiri-Yeboah and Joshua Tidd—attended the dinner. Following formal remarks by the AMEF Golf Committee Chairman Dr. John Bastulli, the top bidders for the silent auction were announced.

Thank you to all who participated in this fun outing! ■



Congratulations to 2022 AMEF Scholarship Recipients

By Anna Ruzicka, Health Policy Fellow

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) presented eight local medical students with \$5,000 scholarships for the 2022 school year. Applicants are third- or fourth- year medical students with leadership skills and interested in participating in organized medicine and community activities. They must also demonstrate academic achievement and reside in Cuyahoga, Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Portage or Summit County.

The AMEF Board of Directors reviews new applications each year. Applications for this year are now open until January 31, 2023 at www.amcno.org/scholarship.

More information about each of this years' recipients is available below. The AMEF and the AMCNO congratulates these exemplary recipients and wishes them success in their medical careers.

Rohit Anand

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Rohit is a fourth-year medical student at Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine (CWRUSOM) planning to pursue a residency in emergency medicine. After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh, Rohit worked for Epic Systems and the University of Pittsburgh Chancellor's office where he helped launch a novel program to combat the student debt crisis. In medical school, Rohit has focused on health advocacy efforts surrounding access to care. He has been involved in multiple advocacy campaigns from the local to national level. He is also a co-leader of CWRUSOM's Health Advocacy Organization which runs multiple electives to empower students in becoming future physician-advocates. He is currently on the national leadership teams for Students for a National Health Plan (SNaHP) and Doctors for America's Access to Affordable Care Committee. After residency, Rohit plans to pursue a health policy fellowship and treat underserved patients while advocating for vulnerable populations.

Michael Benson

Ohio University College of Medicine

Michael Benson is a third-year medical student at the Ohio University College of Medicine. After growing up in Akron and graduating from Revere High School in 2013, Michael received a bachelor's degree in neuroscience from The Ohio State University in 2017. He then earned a master's in physiology at Case Western Reserve University in 2019 before starting medical school. After graduating, Michael plans to pursue a career in anesthesiology. Michael remains very involved with his student body and surrounding area as Vice President of the Cleveland Class of 2023, a tutor, and a volunteer at the Greater Cleveland Foodbank and Community Garden. He is also a member of the medical honorary Sigma Sigma Phi and Gold Humanism Honor Society. In his spare time, Michael enjoys playing basketball, hiking, cooking, and exercising.

Congratulations to the 2022 AMEF Scholarship Recipients!



Rohit Anand
Case Western Reserve
University School of Medicine



Michael Benson
Ohio University
College of Medicine



Kevin Garven
Northeast Ohio
Medical University



Derrick Obiri-Yeboah
Cleveland Clinic Lerner
College of Medicine



Gustavo Roversi
Cleveland Clinic Lerner
College of Medicine



Lidiya Sul
Ohio University
College of Medicine



Andrea Szabo
Case Western Reserve
University School of Medicine



Joshua Tidd
Northeast Ohio
Medical University

Kevin Garven Northeast Ohio University

Kevin Garven was raised in Lakewood and attended St. Ignatius High School. He attended Saint Louis University where he participated in several medical mission trips to Honduras that inspired him to pursue a career in healthcare. After college, he worked as a registered nurse in Cleveland and Chicago before returning to Cleveland in 2018 to start medical school through the Northeast Ohio Medical University-Cleveland State University Partnership for Urban Health. As a medical student, he has volunteered at a student-run free clinic in Rootstown and a Federally qualified health center in Cleveland. He also served as the Medical Spanish Officer for the Latino Medical Student Association where he created medical Spanish workshops for his classmates. Kevin was accepted into the family medicine residency at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) in Charleston, South Carolina. In his free time, he loves cheering for the Browns, the Guardians, and the Cavs. Kevin looks forward to returning to Cleveland after residency and practicing as a family doctor in underserved urban communities.

Derrick Obiri-Yeboah

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine

Born and raised in Kumasi, Ghana, Derrick moved to the United States in 2015 to study chemistry at Hope College in Holland, Michigan soon after his mother was diagnosed with throat cancer. This experience led him to pursue medicine and thrust him into a lifelong learning journey in medicine. At Hope College, Derrick served as a resident assistant for incoming international students and mentored refugee high school students. He was inducted into the Hope College Klesis Society and received numerous awards for his service and excellence in chemistry and research. As a medical student, Derrick continues to mentor high school students in collaboration with an on-campus organization called HOPE4 that works with youth in the juvenile justice system to improve their emotional awareness through mindfulness exercises. He also volunteers at the Lutheran Men's shelter by providing essential physical exams to the medically underserved. In his free time, Derrick enjoys journaling, cooking, interacting in his community, spending time outdoors, and walking/hiking in the Cleveland Metroparks with friends.

Gustavo Roversi

Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine

Gustavo was born in Venezuela and grew up in Miami, Florida with his parents and three sisters. He is a third-year medical student at the Lerner College of Medicine. After completing medical school next year, Gustavo is interested in applying into the field of obstetrics and gynecology or urology. He is interested in pursuing the academic areas of female pelvic medicine, voiding dysfunction, and LGBTQ+ health. At Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine, Gustavo is involved in research, the LGBTQ+ curricular review action group, admissions committee, and the Urology Interest Group. In his free time, he likes to run, cycle, and dance.

Lidiya Sul

Ohio University College of Medicine

Lidiya Sul immigrated to the greater Cleveland area from Ukraine in 2003 with her mother and siblings. In the U.S., Lidiya watched her mother work multiple jobs to support their family while studying to become a geriatric nurse practitioner. Her mother's love of medicine and compassionate care of the elderly in the Cleveland community inspired her to pursue her own journey in medicine. Lidiya went onto graduate from The Ohio State University in 2016 and is now a fourth-year student at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. Throughout her medical education, she showed great dedication to the advancement of research by studying the diagnosis and treatment of heart arrhythmias and cardiac amyloid. Outside of the classroom, she enjoys participating in community service projects including traveling to Lima, Peru to provide primary care to underserved populations. In her free time, she loves to snowboard, play euchre with her friends, and watch musicals at Playhouse Square. After graduation, Lidiya is excited to begin her internal medicine

residency at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and hopes to pursue a career in cardiology or critical care. Mostly, she is enthusiastic to be serving the community she grew up in.

Andrea Szabo

Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine

Andrea Szabo grew up in the Northeast Ohio area and attended high school at Lake Ridge Academy. She majored in biomedical engineering at Boston University and worked in Boston for two years after graduating as a research technician at Massachusetts's General Hospital. She then returned home for medical school at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). During her time at CWRU, she dedicated much of her time to the Student Run Health Clinic and CWRU's chapter of Primary Care Progress. For the first six months of the COVID-19 pandemic, she worked at the Cuyahoga County Board of Health and helped build their contact tracing and cluster investigation program. She also shared her main hobby of dancing with her classmates by choreographing CWRU's annual Doc Opera show throughout medical school. Andrea matched at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for an Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Residency. Following completion of her residency, Andrea is eager to bring the knowledge she learns back to Ohio to continue working with underserved populations and incorporating public and global health into her primary care practice.

Joshua Tidd

Northeast Ohio University

Joshua is a current third-year medical student at Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED). He grew up in Lima and attended The Ohio State University where he majored in finance. At NEOMED, has held leadership positions in student organizations such as Business Leadership in Medical Practice, Orthopedic Surgery Interest Group, and the Student Impact Committee. Joshua was also selected by Governor Mike DeWine to serve as a student trustee on NEOMED's Board of Trustees. He has served as a peer advisor to his classmates for the past two years, and he is also a peer tutor. He was inducted this year to the Alpha Omega Alpha honor society. He is currently working with the NEOMED Bench to Bedside program and hopes to create an innovative and marketable medical device. Outside of his studies, he enjoys spending time with his wife, Samantha, running, baking, and spending time outdoors. He plans on pursuing a career in orthopedic surgery.

The AMEF is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2022-23 school year. To learn more, visit the AMCNO website at www.amcno.org, and click on the AMEF tab.

To contribute to scholarship funds, visit <https://www.amcno.org/donate-to-amef>.



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Consider the Academy of Medicine Education Foundation in Your Annual Giving Plans

The Academy of Medicine Education Foundation (AMEF) exists primarily to raise funds for scholarships for northern Ohio medical students, a tradition that has continued since 1962. As you make your annual giving plans, we ask that you consider making a tax-deductible donation to AMEF. You can donate online at www.amcno.org/amef.

Medical school costs have risen substantially, leaving today's medical students with larger debt burdens. Generous donations to the AMEF continue to provide local medical students with much-needed funds, to help defray some of that enormous debt. Please

consider helping these bright young students on their journeys to becoming the future of medicine.

You can also join us as a **Dr. Lower Legacy member**, by committing \$250 annually. In 1938, Dr. William Lower, one of our past presidents and a founder of the Cleveland Clinic, made the forward-thinking commitment to begin donating this amount—\$250—every year to medical student education. Please visit our online donation page. Lower Legacy donors will receive recognition in our *Northern Ohio Physician* magazine and on our website.

AMEF is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that can accept donations (including cash, bonds and stock) that are 100% tax-deductible. The best way to give is at www.amcno.org/amef, or by mailing your contribution to AMEF at 6111 Oak Tree Blvd S, Ste. 150, Independence, OH 44131. You can also call our offices for assistance at (216) 520-1000.

We hope we can count on you to assist the young men and women who aspire to become the physicians of tomorrow—just like you—through your support of the AMEF today. ■

Together we give.

Nov 29, 2022

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TUESDAY



AMEF
Academy of Medicine Education Foundation

