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KANSAS CITY

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# MEDICAL SOCIETY

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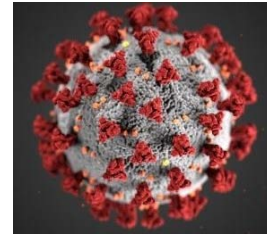
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## MEMBER CONNECTIONS

March 2020

### Special Message on COVID-19 from KCMS 2020 President Betty Drees, MD, FACE, FACP

*The coronavirus pandemic is a serious threat like none we have experienced in our lifetimes. Highly contagious, COVID-19 can be deadly, especially to older adults. If current containment efforts are not successful, a large influx of sick patients could overwhelm our health care system as it has done in Italy. Studies of the last pandemic of this proportion—the 1918 Spanish flu—have shown that social distancing was the most effective containment measure.*



*Whether or not you are involved in the direct treatment of COVID-19 patients, we all have a role to play in this crisis. As physicians, our patients, family and friends look to us for guidance on how to respond. We should be unified in emphasizing that complacency is not an option. People should follow the directives of our local public health officials as well as the CDC and the World Health Organization.*

*Special thanks to our local public health leaders, including KCMS members Dr. Rex Archer (KCMO Health Department and Dr. Lee Norman (Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment), for their strong leadership. Also thanks to you in primary care, emergency medicine and urgent care who are on the front lines treating patients every day.*

*Together, we can and will manage through this crisis.*

### COVID-19 Information Resources

Following are links to the COVID-19 sections of local and national websites with useful information on the current situation and directives regarding COVID-19:

[Johns Hopkins University](#)  
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Information for Health Care Professionals](#)  
[American Medical Association](#)  
[Kansas Department of Health and Environment](#)  
[Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](#)  
[Kansas City, Mo. Health Department](#)  
[Johnson County Health Department](#)

### Have you paid your 2020 KCMS Dues?

KCMS 2020 membership dues must be paid by April 1. Medical Society staff are following up with members who have not paid. Don't wait. Keep receiving the benefits of Medical Society membership including *Kansas City Medicine* and much more. Visit the [KCMS membership](#)

[page](#) to login and pay your dues online. You will find the login icon at the upper-right corner of the screen.

## Medicaid Expansion a Priority

As part of the Medical Society's concern for access to care in the community, we have made achieving Medicaid expansion in Kansas and Missouri a policy priority.

- **Why?** As physicians, all of us are seeing more patients who postpone or go without needed treatment because they don't have health insurance and can't afford care. Plus, our states have given up billions of our tax dollars to other states that have expanded Medicaid. Twenty-two rural hospitals in Missouri and Kansas have closed since 2010 largely due to the lack of Medicaid expansion.
- **What is the policy situation now?** In Kansas, the bipartisan compromise crafted in January has been stalled in Senate committee as part of a larger debate over a constitutional amendment restricting abortion. In Missouri, as of late February, 72% of the needed signatures have been obtained to place a Medicaid expansion proposition on the November ballot. The deadline for submitting signatures is May 2.
- **How can I help?** 1) If you live or practice in Kansas, please contact your state senator to remind them of the importance of Medicaid expansion and to work to free the bill from the legislative impasse. [Find your Kansas state senator here](#). 2) If you live in Missouri, sign the initiative petition and collect signatures. [Go here to get involved](#). 3) Join our KCMS Foundation's list of Medicaid expansion supporters. [Sign up for the list here](#).

Learn more and keep up to date via the [KCMS Foundation Medicaid expansion page](#).

## In Brief

- Congratulations to KCMS member and former Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer, MD, on being appointed chair of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services by President Donald Trump.

## Coming Events

Watch the KCMS [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#) for possible announcements of cancellation of these events due to COVID-19.

- **April 1—KCMS Retired Physicians Organization** luncheon at noon at the Grand Street Café in the Country Club Plaza. New members and guests welcome. Information: Jennifer Ashby, MD, [drashby3333@gmail.com](mailto:drashby3333@gmail.com).
- **April 15—KCMS Retired Physicians Organization** lunch and tour at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. New members and guests welcome. Information: Barbara Buchanan, MD, [bbmccanse@gmail.com](mailto:bbmccanse@gmail.com).
- **April 27—Leadership Council Zoom meeting**

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