
KANSAS CITY

MEDICAL SOCIETY

MEMBER CONNECTIONS

Special COVID-19 Edition May 8, 2020

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Patients Encouraged to Seek Care if Needed; Many Postponing Care Due to COVID-19 Fears

KCMS physicians are concerned that people are hesitant to seek medical assistance out of fear of contracting COVID-19. The Medical Society encourages patients to seek medical care if they need it, particularly if they are having symptoms such as chest pains. An [article in Thursday's Kansas City Star](#) discussed how emergency departments have seen much fewer patients in the past month, and why it is important to not delay or forgo care. Among those quoted in the article are KCMS members Jim Wetzel, MD, of Olathe Health and Michael Main, MD, of Saint Luke's Physician Group. KCMS will be rolling out additional resources to support this message as it applies not only to emergency care, but also primary and specialty care. This was a primary topic of discussion at the recent KCMS Leadership Council meeting. [Read the article.](#)

KCMS President to Appear on KCPT-TV Diabetes Panel This Evening

Betty M. Drees, MD, FACP, FACE, KCMS president and a leading endocrinologist, will be part of a 30-minute [panel discussion about diabetes](#) airing on KCPT-TV at 8 p.m. tonight.



The panel will provide a local Kansas City perspective on the PBS documentary, *Blood Sugar Rising: America's Hidden Diabetes Epidemic*, that premiered in April. The panel discussion will be repeated on KCPT2 on Sunday, May 10, at 7 p.m., and Tuesday, May 26, at 10 p.m. Others participating in the panel are Qiana Thomason, president and CEO of the Health Forward Foundation; Jim Nunnally of KPRT Gospel 1590; and Sarah Golder, a 17-year-old living with diabetes. [Learn more about the panel.](#)

[Watch the two-hour *Blood Sugar Rising* documentary online.](#)

Do You Have a Nominee for the KCMS Lifetime Achievement Award?



The KCMS Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes a KCMS member physician for leadership, lifelong commitment to health and dedication to the health of the greater Kansas City community. Do you know a physician who qualifies for this award? Nominations for 2020 KCMS Awards are open now through Friday, June 12. Recent recipients of the award include former mayor Charles B. Wheeler, Jr., MD, JD (2019), Randall Hudson, MD (2018) and George Stamos, MD (2018). [Learn more about the awards and submit a nomination.](#)

AMA Telehealth Resources

Are you in the process of expanding the use of telemedicine in your practice? The American Medical Association has published a 128-page **Telehealth Implementation Playbook** containing much useful information on telemedicine. Topics covered include evaluating a vendor, designing the workflow, training the care team and more. [Download the Telehealth Implementation Playbook.](#)



In Memoriam

Our sincere condolences to the family of Mark Bernhardt, MD, orthopedic surgeon and KCMS member who died on April 30 at the age of 62. Dr. Bernhardt was the Rex L. Diveley Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthopaedics at UMKC. He also was in private practice with Dickson-Diveley Midwest Orthopaedic Clinic. He was a past president of the Saint Luke's Hospital medical staff and a member of the board of directors. Dr. Bernhardt served as an associate team physician and spine consultant for the Kansas City Royals from 1992 through 2010. [Read the obituary from Johnson County Chapel.](#)



MSMA Saturday Events Continue

The Missouri State Medical Association continues its two Saturday morning events this weekend:

- Legislative update via Zoom on Saturday, May 9, at 9 a.m. Learn more and register. You will receive the Zoom link after you register. (Note: if you not receive the Zoom link, it is suggested you email Jeff Howell of MSMA, jhowell@msma.org.)
- The weekly physicians' COVID-19 conference call with Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Director Randall Williams, MD, will be held on Saturday, May 9, at 8 a.m. To participate, call 888-330-9939, then enter PIN 767288#. Learn more

Follow KCMS Social Media for the Latest COVID-19 News

Check our [KCMS Facebook page](#) and [KCMS Twitter account](#) frequently for the latest COVID-19 news relevant to KCMS physicians. Most of the above articles appeared on our KCMS social media during the past week, plus many additional items. Get the news as it becomes available!

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