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KANSAS CITY

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MEDICAL SOCIETY

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## MEMBER CONNECTIONS

November 6, 2020

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### Area CMOs Warn That Rise in COVID-19 Cases Could Test Hospital Capacity

Chief medical officers from six area hospitals warned Kansas City-area government officials Friday morning on the potential impact of the recent rise in COVID-19 cases on local hospital capacity. They presented their case in a Zoom call hosted by The University of Kansas Health System and attended by 165 elected officials from around the region. Currently, the hospitals represented in the briefing have only 76 unoccupied non-ICU beds for general adult inpatient care for which staffing is in place. There are only 22 unoccupied ICU beds that could be staffed. Their message: **If widespread community transmission goes up, the hospitals will be overwhelmed. We can prevent this if everyone follows the pillars of infection control including wearing masks and washing hands frequently.**

Other points made by the CMOs:

- Hospitals do not want to turn anyone away. There have been no ambulance diversions.
- Hospitals may have to decline transfers from rural areas.
- Other non-emergent surgeries that require inpatient care typically are for cancer, heart issues or joint replacement; postponing these surgeries is not advisable since the patient's condition could worsen. Elective outpatient surgeries are continuing and do not affect inpatient bed availability.
- The CMOs encourage patients to continue seeking care for other conditions.

CMOs on the briefing were: **Raghu Adiga, MD**, Liberty Hospital; **Larry Botts, MD**, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission; **Peter Holt, MD**, Saint Luke's Health System; **Mark Steele, MD**, Truman Medical Centers / University Health; **James Stewart, MD, CHCQM**, North Kansas City Hospital; **Steve Stites, MD**, The University of Kansas Health System; and **David Wild, MD**, vice president of performance improvement, The University of Kansas Health System. [Watch the CMO briefing to the media.](#)

### Videos of Annual Meeting Awards and Mayors Program Available

If you weren't on Zoom during the awards presentation at the October 21 KCMS Virtual Annual Meeting, you can watch videos of the presentations. Follow these links to see the [Lifetime Achievement Award presentation to Donald Potts, MD](#), and the presentation of the [Friend of Medicine and Member Awards](#).

You can also view the mayors panel discussing "[Promoting and Protecting Community Health.](#)"

## November Is American Diabetes Month

More than 34 million Americans—10% of the population—have diabetes. Another 88 million have prediabetes. During November, the American Diabetes Association highlights the consequences of diabetes and calls on the public to learn more about diabetes and how it can be prevented. The theme of this year's campaign is "[We stand greater than diabetes.](#)"

Check out these American Diabetes Association [resources for medical professionals, including practice guidelines and more.](#)

Let your patients know about a free webinar, "[Diabetes Self Care: Reducing Risks,](#)" being offered by Saint Luke's Diabetes Education Centers next week. Two times are available: Tuesday, November 10, from noon to 1 p.m., and Thursday, Nov. 12, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. [Learn more and register here.](#)

## It's Time to Renew Your KCMS Membership!

Stay connected to other Kansas City-area physicians by renewing your KCMS membership. You should have recently received your renewal notice by email. It's easy to [renew online here.](#) Your 2020 membership is good until December 31; don't miss out on being part of our dynamic medical society.

This year, KCMS has put your member dues to work for you more than ever. We have adapted to the challenges of COVID-19 to provide timely and impactful activities including COVID-19 resources for physicians on our website and in our publications, our special summer webinars on leadership during COVID-19 and Medicaid expansion, "Get Care" patient resources, advocacy for Medicaid expansion and much more. Help us fulfill our mission to advance the practice of medicine to improve the health of all in greater Kansas City by renewing your 2021 membership TODAY!

For information on your membership or to have your 2021 dues invoice resent, please contact Emily Whalen at [ewhalen@kcmedicine.org](mailto:ewhalen@kcmedicine.org). You can also visit the [membership page on kcmedicine.org](#) for more information on membership and the Society.

## Recognized for Excellence in Carotid Artery Procedure

Congratulations to KCMS President-Elect **Scott Kujath, MD, FSVS, FACS**, on being named a 2020 TCAR Clinical Operator of Experience by the procedure's developer, Silk Road Medical. TCAR ([TransCarotid Artery Revascularization](#)) is a minimally invasive approach for high surgical risk patients to reduce their risk of stroke. As an Operator of Experience, Dr. Kujath has demonstrated a focus on patient outcomes through appropriate patient selection and a well-trained and credentialed vascular specialist team. Dr. Kujath practices with [Midwest Aortic & Vascular Institute.](#)



## Follow KCMS Social Media for the Latest News

Check our [KCMS Facebook page](#) and [KCMS Twitter account](#) frequently for the latest news relevant to KCMS physicians. Get the news as it becomes available!

## Calendar

Monday, November 6 - KCMS Board Meeting, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Monday, November 30 - KCMS Board Meeting, 6 p.m. via Zoom

## Thank you to our Partners & Sponsors!



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