
KANSAS CITY

MEDICAL SOCIETY

MEMBER CONNECTIONS

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Gain Insights into Leadership and Patient Advocacy at January 30 Webinar

[REGISTER NOW!](#)

Advocating for Your Patients in 2021: *How to Lead in a Time of Rapid Change*

Saturday, January 30 • 8-11 a.m. • Zoom



Mark Brady, MD



Rachelle Colombo



Bridget McCandless, MD, MBA



Rex Archer, MD, MPH

Ensuring the health of our patients more and more depends on factors outside the exam room or treatment suite. Find out how to be a leader and to advocate for your patients and medicine at the KCMS webinar, "Advocating for Your Patients in 2021: How to Lead in a Time of Rapid Change." Set for Saturday, January 30, the webinar runs from 8 to 11 a.m. and is free to KCMS members, residents and students.

Our outstanding panel of speakers will include:

- **Mark Brady, MD, FASA**, KCMS past president who also has spent many years as an advocate at the state and national levels, and who led a highly successful national fundraising campaign for a specialty society political action committee.

- **Rachelle Colombo**, executive director of the Kansas Medical Society, who previously served nine years as KMS director of government affairs.
- **Bridget McCandless, MD, MBA, FACP**, KCMS past president and past CEO of the Health Forward Foundation, who has spent over 20 years as an advocate for the poor and underserved.
- (Just added!) **Rex Archer, MD, MPH**, director of the Kansas City, Mo., Department of Health, who is highly regarded nationally as a transformational leader in public health for his work in addressing the root causes of health inequities and promoting community health.
- Moderator will be **Jim Wetzels, MD**, who recently retired as senior vice president and chief medical officer at Olathe Health System, and who is a KCMS board member and chair of the Strategic Initiatives Committee.

Prepare to be a leader in shaping the future of medicine!

[Register NOW](#)

KCMS Welcomes 2021 Officers

Joining 2021 KCMS President **Scott W. Kujath, MD, FSVS, FACS**, is a strong team of officers for the coming year: **Carole Freiburger-O'Keefe, DO**, president-elect, from Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City; **Betty M. Drees, MD, FACP, FACE**, immediate past president, from the UMKC School of Medicine and the Stowers Institute for Medical Research; **Jennifer Bernard, MD**, secretary, from Saint Luke's South Hospital; and **Gregory K. Unruh, MD, FASA**, treasurer, from the University of Kansas Medical Center. [See the entire 2021 KCMS board list and officer photos.](#)

How to Become a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider

Missouri and Kansas offer medical offices the opportunity to enroll as COVID-19 vaccine providers. For more information on becoming a provider, follow these links: [Kansas vaccine provider](#) or [Missouri vaccine provider](#). A brief online enrollment is required.



States Expand COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility to Seniors, Essential Workers

Kansas and Missouri are ramping up efforts to vaccinate a broader group of the general population against the COVID-19 virus. Both states in the past week have vastly expanded the population eligible to receive the vaccine. Generally, eligibility is now open to "essential" workers and persons 65 and over. One major difference is that Missouri will now vaccinate adults under age 64 with serious health conditions, while in Kansas they are held back for phase 3. A major challenge in both states is obtaining sufficient supply of the vaccine.

[See Gov. Laura Kelly's news release with a list of groups now eligible under Kansas phase 2](#)

[See Missouri's list of who is currently eligible under phase 1B, tiers 1 and 2.](#)

Several resources are available to help patients sign up for waiting lists to receive the vaccination.

- [Websites of area public health departments](#). Many have waiting list sign-up forms.

Missouri has a [state map of vaccination sites](#) (listing does not guarantee the sites have vaccine supply). Kansas will be launching their mapping tool in the next few weeks.

- Patients can contact area health systems. [The University of Kansas Health System has an online sign-up form.](#)

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has set up an [online dashboard to track the number of vaccinations given in the state to date.](#)

Coming in May: KCMS Leadership Book Study

Join a group of KCMS leaders in a six-week study group on one or more books on leadership. Goals of the course will include helping participants enhance their leadership skills and develop a professional network of emerging and existing physician leaders. Watch for further announcements!

Members in the Media

Farid Namin, MD, is opening a personal protective equipment manufacturing plant next month. The 16,000-square-foot plant in Riverside will produce N95 masks and surgical masks along with head and shoe covers. Dr. Namin practices with Jackson County Gastroenterology. His plans for the plant were featured this week in the [Kansas City Star](#), on [KSHB-TV Channel 41](#) and in the [Kansas City Business Journal](#) (subscription required to view).



Medical News in the Media

[Black Americans Are Getting Vaccinated at Lower Rates Than White Americans \(Kaiser Health News\)](#)

[Q&A for Clinicians on the COVID-19 Vaccine \(New England Journal of Medicine\)](#)

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, January 25 – KCMS Leadership Council, 6 p.m., Zoom.

Wednesday, January 27 – KMS Advocacy Day & Annual Meeting, Topeka. [Information and registration.](#)

Saturday, January 30 – KCMS Leadership and Advocacy Webinar, 8 to 11 a.m., Zoom.

Tuesday, March 2 – MSMA Virtual White Coat Day with Missouri legislators, Zoom. [Information](#).

GO CHIEFS!



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