

RISING STAR AWARD: *Andrew Schlachter, MD*

## Developing Many Opportunities in Leadership

By Madeline Mapes



Leadership and medicine are deeply rooted with **Andrew Schlachter, MD**. Since joining Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City in 2015 as

a pulmonology/critical care physician, he has assumed positions of increasing responsibility. These include medical director of respiratory therapy, medical director of the Neurosciences ICU and medical director of the Rare Lung Disease Clinic.

For his hard work and dedication, Dr. Schlachter has been chosen to receive the Medical Society's 2021 Rising Star Award.

Dr. Schlachter's roots with medicine begin with his father, Kansas City gastroenterologist and KCMS member Jeffrey Schlachter, DO. His grandfather also was a physician, as are several cousins. His wife Rachel is, too, and practices podiatry. One lesson that Dr. Schlachter learned from his father is to accept opportunities when they arise.

"My father has been a great role model in my life as a physician. He taught me that if you get asked to do something, say 'yes' and do it well." Dr. Schlachter has carried this concept throughout life and into his work.

Also preparing Dr. Schlachter for his work today were the leadership roles in sports and youth groups he held growing up. He said because of these experiences, leading became second nature to him.

Dr. Schlachter has sought out many of his positions. One example is being his role as a donor management critical care consultant with the Midwest Transplant

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Network, a position he started this year.

In his work in the Neurosciences ICU, he found that some neuro-critical care patients became tissue and organ donors and he became very impassioned in the work of transplantation. So Dr. Schlachter began to serve on the Donor Advisory Council and work closely with the Midwest Transplant Network.

"Some of the most rewarding work that I have done as a staff physician is helping with the gift of life in what I like to call the miracle of transplantation," Dr. Schlachter said.

Another role Dr. Schlachter has taken on is that of a media representative for Saint Luke's Hospital on COVID-19 issues. He has appeared on all four local TV stations along with "Good Morning America;" he was the physician speaker in a press conference held by Kansas Gov. Margaret Kelly on COVID-19. His comments also have appeared in print in the *Kansas City Star* and *Topeka Capital-Journal*. He said Saint Luke's has a wonderful media relations team who help him prepare for all of his meetings with the media.

He noted that he loves what he does and can never imagine a time when he isn't working at the bedside.

An additional role he has taken on is

serving as the representative of Saint Luke's Hospital on the KCMS Leadership Council since 2019.

Dr. Schlachter received his medical degree from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He completed internship and residency at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, along with a fellowship in pulmonary/critical care.

He said he is thankful and humbled to receive the 2021 Rising Star Award. 🙏