



# PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY News

May 2022

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When you think professional, ethical, quality healthcare,  
think physicians of Pulaski County Medical Society.

## Annual Award Nominations Opening June 1, 2022

The Pulaski County Medical Society (PCMS) will be accepting nominations for the awards listed below, to be given at the annual membership meeting/dinner in December.



Please consider nominating an outstanding physician in central Arkansas. A written nomination should be submitted to the PCMS Executive Director at [derek@pulaskicms.org](mailto:derek@pulaskicms.org) outlining the reasons for the nomination, listing the activities of the nominee that warrant nomination, and the complete contact information of the person making the nomination.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the 2022 Awards, is August 1, 2022. The finalists will be given a complimentary registration to the PCMS Annual Dinner on December 1, 2022. The recipient of each award will be announced that evening.

### Distinguished Community Service Award:

This award Recognizes a physician for outstanding achievements in local community service. The physician being considered for this award should be an active member of the society and active in their community. Serving on boards and volunteering with non-profits that effect the health of the community are examples of distinguished community service.

### Outstanding Young Physician Award:

This award recognizes a physician less than 40 years old with less than 5 years practicing post-training who has gone above and beyond to serve their patients and community. This physician does not need to be a member of PCMS.



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## UAMS Offers Statewide Summer Program for High School Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Regional Campuses will host a statewide virtual summer enrichment program for current high school sophomores, juniors and seniors interested in learning more about careers in health care.

"Find Your Future in Health Care," a free virtual event open to Arkansas students in grades 10-12, will be hosted July 19-20, each day from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. During the two-day program, students will be introduced to a variety of medical careers through hands-on activities and presentations from UAMS health care professionals and students.

"Last summer, we created the virtual Find Your Future in Health Care event in response to the lack of in-person programming due to COVID-19," said Marcia Byers, Ph.D., RN, program director. "Through this format, we found that it was not only a safe alternative for students and staff, but we were also able to expand the reach of the program, engaging with students who would have been unable to travel to participate in one of our MASH or CHAMPS camps around the state."

"While some MASH and CHAMPS camps have returned to in-person programming, Find Your Future in Health Care will remain on our schedule as a virtual two-day event."

While part of the goal is to promote primary care, especially for rural and underserved areas, the program also seeks to introduce students to the idea of team-based care and to show them the variety of career options available in the field of health care.

"A goal of the program is to explore the many opportunities that are available in health care. Though we encourage students to consider roles as primary care providers, there are a variety of specialists in medicine who work alongside doctors and nurses," said Destiny Carter, a recruiting specialist at the UAMS Southwest Regional Campus in Texarkana.

Forms can be found at [regionalcampuses.uams.edu/find-your-future-in-healthcare-application](https://regionalcampuses.uams.edu/find-your-future-in-healthcare-application). Along with their registration, students must submit a parental consent and medical release form, a confidentiality agreement form and an up-to-date high school transcript. Students who plan to attend must confirm that they have a computer or tablet with access to the internet. Registration ends Monday, May 2, with limited spots available.

This program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$10,607,638 with 50% financed by UAMS Arkansas AHEC/Regional Campuses sources.

## Baptist Health Medical Center-Conway Recognized as Stroke Ready by Arkansas Department of Health

The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) has recognized [Baptist Health Medical Center-Conway](#) as an Arkansas Stroke Ready Hospital (ArSRH).

Stroke continues to take a significant toll on our state. The most recent data show Arkansas has the fifth highest stroke death rate in the country, with over 45 deaths per 100,000 people every year. Stroke is a leading cause of serious disability. Although life-saving treatment is available to reverse the effects of the most common type of stroke, few patients receive medical care in time.

Hospitals recognized with the ArSRH designation partner with local EMS to improve outcomes by helping ensure stroke patients are rapidly transported to the most appropriate hospital. EMS providers screen patients with

standardized protocols to effectively recognize stroke and make sure patients receive the right kind of care.

Arkansas' stroke system of care consists of Joint Commission certified Primary Stroke Centers and ADH designated ArSRHs. Hospitals designated as ArSRHs are capable of providing time-critical care to the stroke patient, including initial emergency evaluation, real-time stroke assessment and treatment through telemedicine.

Baptist Health Medical Center-Conway joins our hospitals in North Little Rock, Arkadelphia, Malvern, Heber Springs and Stuttgart in receiving this designation. The system's hospitals in Little Rock and Fort Smith are designated as Primary Stroke Centers.

## U.S. News & World Report Recognizes UAMS' Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Public Health

U.S. News & World Report recognized the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences' (UAMS) College of Medicine, College of Nursing and the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health on its latest Best Graduate Schools lists.

UAMS ranked 36<sup>th</sup> in primary care on U.S. News' 2023 list of Best Medical Schools. UAMS moved up three notches from last year, when it was ranked 39<sup>th</sup> in the primary care category, which was a significant jump from its ranking of 63<sup>rd</sup> in 2021.

The annual list, released March 29, also ranked UAMS 36<sup>th</sup> for producing the most primary care graduates and, for the second year in a row, 20<sup>th</sup> for training physicians to serve rural areas.

In addition, the annual U.S. News ranking of graduate schools placed UAMS' Master's in Nursing program 61<sup>st</sup> in the nation, its Doctor of Nursing program 62<sup>nd</sup> and its public health program 79<sup>th</sup>.

Previously, UAMS' nursing programs weren't considered for ranking, and its public health program was ranked 90<sup>th</sup>; public health isn't ranked every year.

"We were very pleased to be recognized again as one of the nation's best medical schools for education in primary care, graduating a high percentage of physicians who go on to practice primary care and generating much-needed

doctors for our rural communities," said Susan Smyth, M.D., Ph.D., executive vice chancellor of UAMS and dean of the College of Medicine. "All of these are key to our ability to reduce health disparities and ensure good health for all Arkansans today and in the years to come."

The undergraduate rankings were released in November, and [UAMS' BSN program tied for 43<sup>rd</sup> out of 694 schools](#).

The masters in nursing rankings involved an evaluation of 564 schools, and the doctor of nursing programs were evaluated at 343 schools.

The public health ranking involved a review of 195 schools and was based solely on peer surveys.

Forty-eight percent of the College of Medicine's Class of 2022 recently matched to primary care residencies for the next stage of training as physicians.

"Because primary care physicians play such a key role in addressing prevention and care of chronic illnesses like high blood pressure and diabetes, continuing to improve in producing primary care physicians is likely to improve the health of Arkansans," Graham said.

Designed for prospective students looking to further their education beyond college, the [Best Graduate School rankings](#) evaluate programs in a variety of disciplines besides medicine, nursing and public health.

## Gynecological Surgeon Dr. J. Afton Cooper Joins CHI St. Vincent Urogynecology Clinic

CHI St. Vincent announces that gynecological surgeon [Dr. J. Afton Cooper](#) has joined the team of specialists at the [CHI St. Vincent Urogynecology Clinic](#) in Little Rock. Dr. Cooper is now seeing patients at the clinic, located at 5 St. Vincent Circle, Suite 300 in the Blandford building.

Dr. Cooper most recently served as Assistant Professor in the St. Thomas OB/GYN Residency Program at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Nashville. After attending medical school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, she completed her residency in obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in

Jackson. Dr. Cooper completed her fellowship training in minimally invasive gynecologic surgery at the Cleveland Clinic in Weston, Florida.

The team of specialists at the CHI St. Vincent Urogynecology Clinic provide evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of conditions that affect female pelvic organs, including overactive bladder, urinary incontinence, fecal incontinence, vaginal fistulas, recurrent UTI and pelvic organ prolapse.



*Dr. J. Afton Cooper*

# CHI St. Vincent Selects MobileSmith Health for Perioperative Improvement Initiative

CHI St. Vincent Infirmary, announced that it is partnering with [MobileSmith Health](#) (OTCBB: MOST), a leader in the digital health and mobile development sector who is changing traditional healthcare patient engagement and adherence management, on an initiative to improve practice-to-center surgical patient management while increasing patient adherence to pre- and post-surgical instructions across multiple specialty groups within the health system. CHI St. Vincent’s implementation of MobileSmith’s PeriOp patient adherence management solution is also designed to relieve several levels of staff burden in pre-op patient assessment, information gathering, confirmations and post-op patient management.

“After the many months of canceled and postponed surgical procedures that came with the onset of the pandemic, the wave of voluntary and elective surgical procedures is finally rising again,” said Dr. Jill Flaxman, Medical Director of Perioperative Services, CHI St. Vincent Infirmary. “Partnering with MobileSmith Health and implementing PeriOp throughout Central Arkansas gives us a level of confidence in our ability to combat the financial and workflow challenges that come with staff intensive surgical patient preparation and hand-offs, patient compliance, cancellations and readmissions – ultimately allowing our staff to focus on patient care.”

MobileSmith Health is partnering with select health systems and ambulatory surgery centers to support their perioperative improvement goals. As part of this innovation initiative, MobileSmith Health works extensively with the health system partner’s perioperative, clinical, technology, finance and performance services teams to configure PeriOp to the

health system’s specific needs. This initiative positions perioperative programs to share their experiences in an evidence-based, data-driven manner to capture the performance improvements that PeriOp generates.

Additionally, the program gathers insights from the nurses and physicians using the platform to manage their surgical patients. As a FHIR-based solution, PeriOp will be seamlessly integrated and accessible through CHI St. Vincent Infirmary’s Cerner EMR. PeriOp is a validation program partner with both Epic and Cerner and is interoperable with any FHIR based EMR.

“As the post COVID-19 surge in surgical encounters increases, so does the need to safely and efficiently manage these patients. Our PeriOp solution aims to reduce the amount of time needed to prepare patients for upcoming surgical procedures, while reducing the amount of “hands on” time needed from the surgical staff,” said Jerry Lepore, CEO, MobileSmith Health. “We’re thrilled to partner with CommonSpirit Health on this initiative and look forward to the unmatched insights and feedback that we’ll receive.”

[MobileSmith Health’s recently enhanced PeriOp](#) reduces cancellations and complications across episodes of care with an intuitive and patient-friendly mobile app. The EHR integrated solution allows hospitals, health systems and ASCs to gain visibility and efficiency throughout pre- and post-procedural adherence. The PeriOp mobile app improves post discharge medical adherence through ERAS protocols support, provides education and procedural transparency, while streamlining staff and clinician workflows to reduce complications and preventable readmissions.

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

<b>May 30, 2022</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>	<b>June 21, 2022</b>	<b>First Day of Summer</b>
<b>June 14, 2022</b>	<b>Flag Day</b>	<b>July 4, 2022</b>	<b>Independence Day</b>
<b>June 19, 2022</b>	<b>Juneteenth</b>	<b>July 24, 2022</b>	<b>Parents Day</b>
<b>June 19, 2022</b>	<b>Father’s Day</b>		

## UAMS, Community Partners Unveil Mobile Medical Education Unit

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS), Arkansas Rural Health Partnership and Community Health Centers of Arkansas announce the launch of the Health Careers Workforce Mobile Unit, a new traveling medical education facility. The unit will visit schools in rural communities to teach students about health care careers available to them.



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## AAPI Holds Diabetes Awareness and Prevention Event

The American Association of Physicians of Indian origin: Arkansas ( AAPI- AR ) conducted Pre-Diabetes Awareness, Assessment, and Diabetes Prevention Program enrolment in partnership with Baptist Health, Arkansas on April 27th, 2022 in Little Rock. The program was attended by more than 50 community members who had their Pre-Diabetes risk assessment and HbA1C testing done on spot. Qualified members were enrolled in the CDC-recommended, free Diabetes Prevention Program offered by Baptist Health Community Outreach’.



## Angie Longing Appointed as New CHI St. Vincent Chief Nurse Executive

[CHI St. Vincent](#) has appointed Angie Longing, MHSM, BSN, RN, NE-BC as the non-profit health system’s new Chief Nurse Executive. Longing has served CHI St. Vincent’s healing ministry since 1994, beginning her career as a Labor and Delivery nurse at CHI St. Vincent Morrilton. She most recently served as Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President of Patient Care Services through a partnership with Conway Regional Health System. She will now provide leadership and coordination of excellence in nursing practice across the CHI St. Vincent system.

“Angie is a champion for nursing and we’re incredibly proud to have her leadership in such a vital role,” said CHI St. Vincent CEO Chad Aduddell. “She has led the way in nursing excellence throughout her career and we know that our inspiring nurses and healthcare heroes will find themselves fortunate to have her at the helm.”

Longing’s 28 years of healthcare experience also includes serving as Executive Director for Hospital Based Physician Practices at CHI St. Vincent. She has also served as Executive Director of Nursing for CHI St. Vincent

Infirmery, CHI St. Vincent North and CHI St. Vincent Morrilton, as well as Chief Nursing Officer at CHI St. Vincent Morrilton. In addition to her other accomplishments, Longing has also achieved her Board Certificate as a Nurse Executive.



*Angie Longing, MHSM, BSN, RN, NE-BC*

“I have always been an advocate for nurses and knew this was my path from a very early age,” said Longing. “I feel it’s my duty to ensure our coworkers providing direct patient care have the resources and support they need to provide the exceptional, compassionate care our patients deserve. Being able to serve my home state in this role is an incredible honor.”

Longing earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Central Arkansas and completed her Masters in Health Services Management at Webster University in Little Rock.

**E-Alert:**

## NLRB GC Takes Another Step Toward Fulfilling Her Aggressive Agenda

*From Cross Gunter, Witherspoon, & Galchus, P.C.*

Since being confirmed as General Counsel (GC) for the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), the agencies top prosecutor, Jennifer Abruzzo has urged the Board to take extraordinary pro-labor positions, including her most recent that seeks to overturn decades of two well-established labor law principles under the National Labor Relations Act (Act).

The GC's office filed a brief on April 11, 2022, in the Cemex Construction Materials Pacific case arguing that the Board should overhaul well established law under the Act. Specifically, the GC's brief is arguing to restore the Joy Silk standard regarding a union's demand for recognition and to reverse precedent that would make employer "captive audience speeches" unlawful, unless very specific safeguards are in place to "minimize the coercive impact of such employer" speech.

First, a return to the Joy Silk standard would require an employer to bargain with a union where the union represents a majority of employees in an appropriate unit and makes a demand for recognition. An employer could only refuse this demand for recognition if it could establish a "good faith doubt" as to the union's majority status. If an employer is unable to meet its burden to establish a good-faith doubt of the union's majority status, or if it commits an unfair labor practice, the employer would be required to bargain with the union. This is a completely ambiguous standard and would

overturn current precedent that allows employers to ask for a secret ballot election to determine if the union has majority support. The Joy Silk framework would do away with the time an employer would have to lawfully present its position on unionization to its employees.

Second, the GC is looking to overturn the precedence set in the Babcock & Wilcox case that allows for employers to lawfully hold meetings, on company time, to express its views on unionization to employees. The GC's position here is in line with a memo she issued on April 7, 2022, where she argued that captive audience speeches violate employees' Section 7 rights by giving employers a "license to coerce." Such a shift in well-established precedence would leave employer unable to express its views on why employees should not vote for a union.

As mentioned above, the GC set a very aggressive agenda when she was appointed and has shown she is determined to make that agenda a reality. Practically speaking, if the GC's positions on these two items are adopted, it will effectively strip employers of their right to express their views on unionization in their workplace while at the same time making it easier for unions to demand bargaining based on an alleged showing of majority support.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact us at 501-371-9999.



Cross, Gunter,  
Witherspoon &  
Galchus, P.C.

## Dr. Anuradha Kunthur Joins CHI St. Vincent Cancer Center

CHI St. Vincent announced that [Dr. Anuradha Kunthur](#) has joined the team of leading oncologists and hematologists at the [CHI St. Vincent Cancer Center](#) in Little Rock.

Dr. Kunthur is now seeing patients at the Cancer Center, located at 10001 Lile Drive.

After attending medical school at Sri Venkateswara Medical School in Tirupathi, India, Dr. Kunthur completed her residency at Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center in Bronx, New York. She completed her fellowship training in hematology and medical oncology at the University of

Arkansas for Medical Sciences. Dr. Kunthur previously served as hematologist and medical oncologist at the John L. McClellan Memorial Veterans' Hospital in Little Rock.

The oncology and hematology team at the CHI St. Vincent Cancer Center treats cancer and all forms of blood disease in adults.



*Dr. Anuradha Kunthur*