



# PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY News

October 2024

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Pulaski County Medical Society

- Kelly Burks, MD – *President*
- Ken Singleton, MD – *Vice President*
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- Richard Wirges, MD
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### Pulaski County Medical Society

- Nicholas Brucker, MD
- Nominating & Credentialing Chair*

## 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Pulaski County Medical Exchange

- Angela Lovett, MD – *President*
- Marvin Ashford, MD
- Inge Carter, MD
- Jeffery Hartsell, MHSA
- Will Henson
- Renee Ross, MD

## Pulaski County Medical Society

500 S. University Ave., Suite A14

Little Rock, AR 72205

Phone: 501.687.0039

Email: [derek@pulaskicms.org](mailto:derek@pulaskicms.org)

Website: [www.pulaskicms.org](http://www.pulaskicms.org)

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

## Society to Honor Dr. John C. Jones at Annual Meeting

The Pulaski County Medical Society board of directors has chosen Dr. John C. Jones as the recipient of the 2024 Presidents Award for Outstanding Contributions to Medicine.

Dr. Jones graduated from the University of Arkansas in 1968 and later UAMS in 1971. He had an internship and residency at John Hopkins and a residency at the UCLA Medical Center. He was a practice partner with Dr. Robert D. Jones from 1979-1995 and Dr. Michael M. Pollock from 1995-1999. In 1999 Dr. Jones went to The Surgical Clinic of Central Arkansas. He retired in 2016.



We invite you to attend and help us celebrate Dr. Jones and his achievements at our annual dinner on November 7, 2024 in the Robinson Center Ballroom. You can make your reservations by going to <https://pulaskicms.org/event-registration/>. Please be sure to enter the full names of everyone you are registering so that name badges are correct upon arrival. Details of the event are on page 3 of this issue.

## OUTPAGE™ App Rollout

As we announced in last month's issue of the newsletter, the Medical Exchanges new App, OUTPAGE™, is being rolled out to all its physician customers and their nurses.

Thank you so much to the Arkansas Women's Clinic, Pulaski Surgery Clinic and Renal Associates for helping us test this new technology before sharing it with the rest of the customer base.

*continued on page 3*

# Risk Matters: Minimizing Risk with Temporary Employees

JEFFREY A. WOODS, JD, DIRECTOR OF RISK EDUCATION, SVMIC; REPRINTED FROM THE SVMIC SENTINEL

As reported by many news outlets and industry experts, the healthcare profession is suffering a severe shortage of workers at every level. This crisis was only worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and is projected to continue for the foreseeable future. As a result, healthcare institutions and medical practices are hiring travel nurses and other temporary labor to offset the staffing shortages that currently exist. While temporary personnel can provide a much-needed stopgap, they can sometimes increase potential liability for providers and affect patient safety due to a lack of stability and continuity.

Travel nurses and other temporary staff are typically highly trained and experienced; but they often come from other states or regions of the country. For example, they may have previously practiced in a large urban facility or teaching hospital, whereas now they are being asked to work in a small rural community health center which often has limited resources. Policies and procedures as well as technology (such as the EHR) can differ between these locations. Tasks which may be legally delegated can vary from community-to-community, and routine procedures such as when to contact the on-call provider can be inconsistent. Moreover, the standard of care in the current community may differ from that of their usual community. These differences can and should be addressed through discussion and training at the outset by the facility/ employer to minimize risk.

**Providers should  
also take affirmative  
steps to integrate the  
temporary staff and  
reduce risk:**

Use effective communication to ensure you are on the same page

Be clear in your instructions

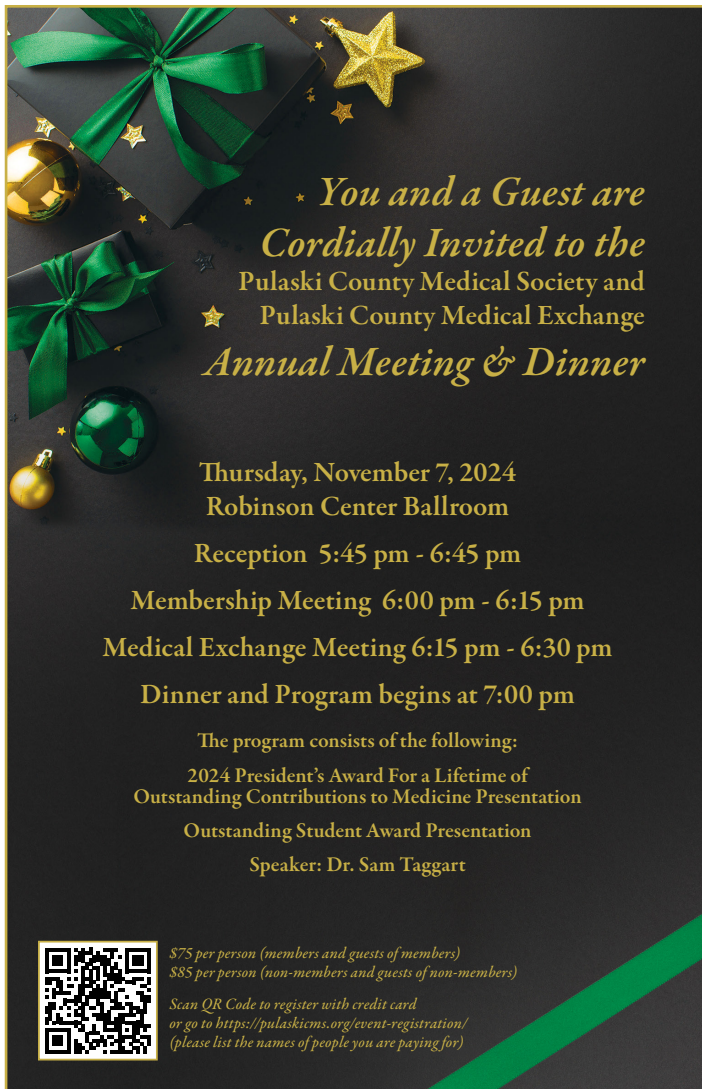
Don't make assumptions about proficiency regardless of level of experience

Don't be afraid to follow up

Be approachable - invite questions and encourage contact

Document, document, document

For more information about SVMIC, contact our Arkansas representative, Sharon Theriot.



*You and a Guest are  
Cordially Invited to the  
Pulaski County Medical Society and  
Pulaski County Medical Exchange  
Annual Meeting & Dinner*

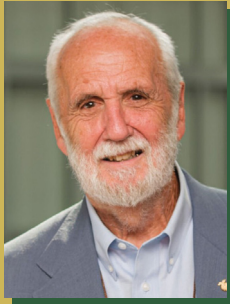
Thursday, November 7, 2024  
Robinson Center Ballroom

Reception 5:45 pm - 6:45 pm  
Membership Meeting 6:00 pm - 6:15 pm  
Medical Exchange Meeting 6:15 pm - 6:30 pm  
Dinner and Program begins at 7:00 pm

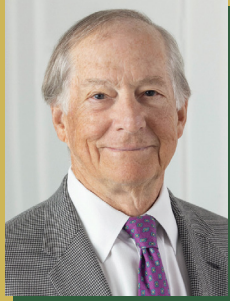
The program consists of the following:  
2024 President's Award For a Lifetime of  
Outstanding Contributions to Medicine Presentation  
Outstanding Student Award Presentation  
Speaker: Dr. Sam Taggart

 \$75 per person (members and guests of members)  
\$85 per person (non-members and guests of non-members)

Scan QR Code to register with credit card  
or go to <https://pulaskicms.org/event-registration/>  
(please list the names of people you are paying for)





*Speaker:*  
Dr. Sam Taggart  
*Author and Retired Family Physician*



Dr. John C. Jones  
2024 President's Award  
for a Lifetime of Outstanding  
Contributions to Medicine recipient

*Thank you to our sponsors:*

Blue and You Foundation   
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## OUTPAGE™ App Rollout

*continued from page 1*

For almost a year the Pulaski County Medical Exchange (PCME) has been working on a replacement for the ever-troublesome PingMD app to send secure messages to its customers. After testing for the past few weeks with several local clinics, the app is finally ready for use by all PCME customers. The conversion has already begun. If you want your clinic to use this app to receive messages from the Medical Exchange, please let us know. We will also be contacting groups of doctors as well.

The first phase is the deployment of the app only as a means for the Medical Exchange to send secure messages to our customers. Once this phase has been

operating successfully for a period of time then we can consider expanding its capabilities. One request during development was the ability for individual clinics to use the app as a secure internal communication tool. If you have a function you want to see available on the new app, please let us know.

Once it is your clinics turn to convert to the new app, a set of instructions will be emailed to you with how to download the app, and some facts about the app to keep in mind. When it is your clinics turn, we ask that everyone download the app as soon as possible, so that we can move to the next clinic as quickly as possible.

If you wish PCME to contact you about moving your team to OUTPAGE™, please call Derek at 501-687-0039 or email him at [derek@pulaskicms.org](mailto:derek@pulaskicms.org)



## UAMS Historical Research Center Opens Digital Collection Celebrating Life, Career of Joycelyn Elders, M.D.

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Historical Research Center announced the opening of "Making a Difference: The M. Joycelyn Elders, M.D. Collection," a digital collection documenting the career of Joycelyn Elders, M.D.

Elders, an emeritus professor of pediatrics and distinguished professor of public health for UAMS, was appointed U.S. surgeon general by then-President Bill Clinton and served from 1993-1994. She was the first African American, the second woman and the first Arkansan appointed to the post.

"This digital collection shows the impact Dr. Joycelyn Elders has had on the medical and other health sciences fields throughout her career," said Tim Nutt, director of the UAMS Historical Research Center. "Dr. Elders has always fought for better health education and access to have a more informed population. The Historical Research Center is proud to showcase Dr. Elders' contributions to the state and nation."

Elders was born in Howard County in southwest Arkansas and graduated from UAMS in 1960. As a doctor, Elders wanted to improve the lives of children and became the first person in Arkansas to become certified in pediatric

endocrinology. In 1987, she was appointed by then-Gov. Bill Clinton to lead the Arkansas Department of Health, the first woman and African American to do so. After her time in the Clinton administration, she returned to UAMS in 1995 as a faculty researcher and a professor of pediatric endocrinology at Arkansas Children's Hospital until her retirement in 2002. Elders remains active in public health education through presentations and public appearances.

The creation of the digital collection was supported by a grant from the TAWANI Foundation of Chicago, a philanthropic organization that provides support in the areas of arts and culture, historical preservation, health and wellness, LGBTQ+ and human rights, education, and environmental initiatives.

The digital collection, which includes images, videos and documents, may be accessed [here](#).

The UAMS Historical Research Center, a department of the UAMS Library, is charged with preserving the institutional records of UAMS and the history of the health sciences in Arkansas. For more information about the new digital collection or the UAMS Historical Research Center, please email [hrc@uams.edu](mailto:hrc@uams.edu).

## UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute Partners Card Offers 20% Discount at Nearly 200 Locations

About 200 shops and restaurants in central and Northwest Arkansas and Conway will offer discounts Oct. 25 – Nov. 3 with the Partners Card, a fundraising project of the volunteer auxiliary of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute.

This marks the 21st year for the Cancer Institute to offer Partners Cards in central Arkansas and the 17th year in Northwest Arkansas and Conway.

For 10 days, shoppers and diners who purchase the \$50 cards will receive a 20% discount at nearly 200 area



stores and restaurants in central Arkansas, Conway and Northwest Arkansas.

To purchase a Partners Card online or view a complete list of participating shops and restaurants, visit [uamspartnerscard.com](http://uamspartnerscard.com). Cards also may be purchased by calling 501-686-8286

or at participating locations indicated on the website.

Proceeds from the sale of Partners Cards help cover the hidden costs of cancer care that patients often incur, such as transportation, nutrition support and housing assistance.



## Baptist Health Pregnancy Clinic-Little Rock Holds Ribbon Cutting Ahead of Opening

Baptist Health Pregnancy Clinic-Little Rock on Wednesday, Oct. 2, held a celebratory ribbon cutting before the clinic officially opens later this month.

James Studdard, MD; Jennifer Dorris, APRN; and Marie Lehman, APRN, will see patients at the clinic which offers prenatal and postpartum care. Moms also will be connected with the maternal infant home visiting program and community health resources.



*James Studdard, MD*

Dr. Studdard, a Pine Bluff native, has more than 50 years of experience in obstetrics and gynecology. He graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. He completed

residency training at Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. Dr. Studdard is a fellow in the American

College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Dorris, a Batesville native, received a Master of Nursing Administration from Arkansas Tech University and her post-master's certificate as a Family Nurse Practitioner from Arkansas State University.

Lehman is originally from Dayton, Ohio. She received a Bachelor of Nursing from Wright State University in Dayton and a Master of Science in Nursing from UAMS. Lehman graduated from the Women's Health Nurse Practitioner program then received her post-master's certificate as a Family Nurse Practitioner from UAMS.

Baptist Health Pregnancy Clinic-Little Rock aims to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality rates by creating healthier moms and in return, healthier babies. The clinic will help address the gap in care for pregnant women who have issues accessing care regardless of insurance coverage.

Baptist Health Pregnancy Clinic-Little Rock, at 10117 Kanis Road, Suite B, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with variable extended hours

# CHI St. Vincent First in Central Arkansas for Treating Afib with FARAPULSE™

**A newly-approved device for the treatment of atrial fibrillation**

On September 25, 2024 CHI St. Vincent became the first hospital in Central Arkansas to offer FARAPULSE™ Pulsed Field Ablation System for the treatment of atrial fibrillation (Afib).

"We are pleased to have performed the first cardiac ablation procedure in Central Arkansas using the FARAPULSE™ Pulsed Field Ablation System, a newly-approved device for the treatment of atrial fibrillation in the U.S. and a technology that has been used safely and effectively across the globe," said Marcia Atkinson, President of CHI St. Vincent Heart Institute. "The incidence of atrial fibrillation is on the rise, and such safe, effective and efficient therapies allow physicians to treat more patients, reduce complications, and benefit overall public health."

The FARAPULSE PFA System is a unique new alternative to standard-of-care thermal ablation. A non-thermal

approach for the treatment of drug-refractory, recurrent, symptomatic, paroxysmal (i.e., intermittent) atrial fibrillation (AF), it is proven to be an effective treatment option for patients while minimizing risks associated with thermal ablation.

"During a traditional ablation procedure, a catheter is guided to the interior of the heart, which uses extreme temperatures of hot or cold to destroy the targeted areas in the heart associated with abnormal heart rhythms," said Dr. Tom Wallace, Cardiac Electrophysiologist at CHI St Vincent Heart Institute. "The Farapulse system, however, relies on a high-frequency electrical pulse, allowing us to be more precise during the procedure. This unique new therapy has proven to be as effective as the traditional method while minimizing risks for patients and shortening the procedure time significantly."

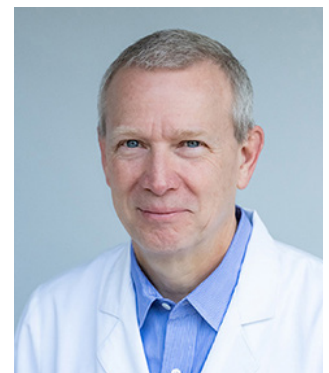
## Student Led Pop-Up Clinic at 12<sup>th</sup> Street Health and Wellness Center

A student led project, funded by the Pulaski County Medical Society, was held on Saturday October 5, 2024 at the 12th Street Health and Wellness Center located at 4010 W. 12th Street. The students and their faculty advisors, saw a total of 45 patients that day



## Genesis Cancer and Blood Institute welcomes Dr. Baltz

Genesis Cancer and Blood Institute is excited to announce the addition of Dr. Brad Baltz to our team of medical oncologists and hematologists at our new Little Rock location at 5620 W. Markham!



*Dr. Brad Baltz*



A DIVISION OF AMERICAN ONCOLOGY PARTNERS, P.A.



## Anonymous Donors Give UAMS \$9.7 Million During 2024 Fiscal Year

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) received \$9.7 million through anonymous gifts in the 2024 fiscal year, supporting several UAMS programs throughout Arkansas.

“During the 2024 fiscal year, one of UAMS’ highest fundraising years, we received several significant anonymous gifts that support a variety of programs in many parts of the state,” said Cam Patterson, M.D., MBA, UAMS chancellor and CEO of UAMS Health. “Though the contributors of these gifts would prefer to not be publicly acknowledged, it is difficult to not highlight the impact that these funds are having on the recipient programs.”

The Division of Institutional Advancement integrates donor and alumni relations with fundraising to secure resources and support for the UAMS Foundation Fund for the benefit of the UAMS mission.

Institutional Advancement secures philanthropic gifts and grants from individuals, corporations and community partners that provide critical resources to advance the work in UAMS’ threefold mission areas — education, patient care and research.

The anonymous gifts support the mission-critical work of the following programs:

- \$2.5 million to the Organ Engineering and Gene Therapy Fund for Excellence supporting the work of the UAMS Research Center for Organ Engineering and Gene Therapy.
- \$722,000 to support an endowed chair and operational activities at the Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute.
- \$2,888,747 to support implementation and evaluation of the BehaviorHelp program, a statewide expulsion prevention support system for Arkansas early child care and education programs administered by Project PLAY (Positive Learning for Arkansas’s Youngest).
- \$1.1 million to support an endowed chair in the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine.
- a \$2 million gift to support the activities of The Orthopaedic and Spine Hospital, the Department of Urology and the Chancellor’s Discretionary Fund.

“There are a variety reasons why philanthropists, foundations and organizations wish to remain anonymous when making a contribution to UAMS,” said John Erck, vice chancellor for the Division of Institutional Advancement. “However, this does not diminish our gratitude for these philanthropists, many of whom are longtime supporters of UAMS. Thanks to them, the beneficiaries of these funds are making differences in the lives of many Arkansans.”

## UAMS Study to Address Maternal, Infant Deaths with \$2.4 Million Federal Grant

The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) will receive up to \$2.4 million over the next four years to test prevention strategies for reducing high rates of maternal and infant deaths in the Arkansas Delta.

The grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will fund a combination of education, training, outreach and preventive health services focusing on Helena-West Helena, Lake Village and Pine Bluff. The initial \$599,887 grant is for one year and must be renewed each year.

The collaborative effort led by BioVentures LLC at UAMS includes key partnerships with the UAMS Institute for

Digital Health & Innovation and the UAMS Division for Academic Pathways and Workforce Partnerships.

“This is a big team effort, and the HHS grant will help us address one of the most significant, preventable health issues in our state,” said UAMS’ Stefanie Kennon-McGill, Ph.D., the grant’s principal investigator and project director, as well as senior program manager for BioVentures, which is the project’s operations manager.

Kennon-McGill noted that while BioVentures primarily helps UAMS researchers commercialize their discoveries, its role has expanded in recent years to find other innovative ways to improve the health of Arkansans.

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## UAMS Study to Address Maternal, Infant Deaths with \$2.4 Million Federal Grant

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As of March, Arkansas had the highest maternal mortality rate in the United States, at 8.6 deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to the national average of 5.4. Arkansas also has the third highest infant mortality rate in the United States, with 7.67 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, based on 2022 data.

“Our goal with this grant is to test innovative, sustainable strategies to prevent maternal and infant deaths in the Delta region, where Black women are 1.8 times more likely to have pregnancy-related deaths than white, non-Hispanic women,” Kennon-McGill said.

Called the Delta Maternal Outreach and Transformational Health Education Resource (Delta MOTHER) project, it will establish and track community-level health initiatives. The primary activities supported by the grant will include:

- Holding health screenings and conducting educational outreach at existing community events in Helena-West Helena, Lake Village and Pine Bluff.
- Providing four interactive educational presentations for local health care providers each year covering evidence-based, best practices in maternal and infant care.

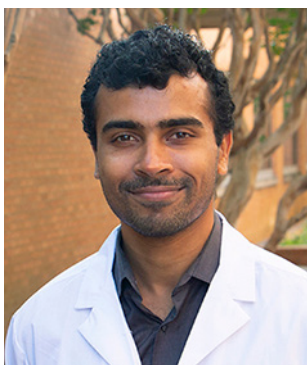
- Engaging five students per year at historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) who will identify community needs and work with the BioVentures team to develop their ideas for sustainable solutions and gain entrepreneurial skills and training.

The UAMS Institute for Digital Health & Innovation and its High-Risk Pregnancy Program will offer the Delta MOTHER project clinical expertise, partnership connectivity and fiscal management. Its contributions also include access to its three grant-funded satellite digital health resource centers at Lake Village, Helena-West Helena and Pine Bluff. The institute’s mission includes seeking to eliminate health care disparities in Arkansas and beyond through digital health and health care innovations.

The Division for Academic Pathways and Workforce Partnerships will engage HBCU students through its Serving Underrepresented Populations through Engagement and Research (SUPER) Program. The SUPER Program provides opportunities for undergraduates to conduct community-based research, focusing on health disparities that affect medically underserved populations. It is a component of the HBCU Med Track Program.

Other key partners on the grant are the Jefferson Regional Medical Center School of Nursing in Pine Bluff, the Arkansas Rural Health Partnership in Lake Village, and UAMS East Regional Campus in Helena-West Helena.

## Dr. Dushyant Ramakrishnan Joins Team of Pulmonologists at CHI St. Vincent



*Dr. Dushyant Ramakrishnan*

[CHI St. Vincent](#), a leading regional health network serving Central and Southwest Arkansas, announced the appointment of Dr. Dushyant Ramakrishnan to its [CHI St. Vincent Pulmonology and Critical Care](#) practice in Little Rock.

Ramakrishnan’s journey in medicine began at the esteemed Osmania Medical

College in Hyderabad, Telangana, India, where he earned bachelor’s degrees in medicine and surgery. He completed his internal medicine residency and a

specialized fellowship in pulmonary disease and critical care medicine at the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine.

Ramakrishnan’s research has been featured in prominent publications such as the *Journal of Cardiac Failure* and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology Case Reports*. The American Board of Internal Medicine has awarded him board certifications in internal medicine and pulmonary disease with eligibility for critical care expected later this year.

To schedule an appointment with Ramakrishnan, call (501) 552-0500. CHI St. Vincent Pulmonology and Critical Care is located at the Little Rock Diagnostic Clinic at 10001 Lile Drive in Little Rock. For more information on CHI St. Vincent, visit [chistvincent.com](http://chistvincent.com).