



PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

# News

October 2025

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## 2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

## Pulaski County Medical Exchange Announces Adjustment in Service Rates

The following notice was emailed to billing email address on file for users of the Pulaski County Medical Exchange on August 15, 2025.

*"We are writing to inform you of an upcoming adjustment to the Medical Exchange service rate. Effective July 1, 2026 (Q3 2026), the rate will increase by \$2.00 per physician per month. We understand the importance of budget planning and are providing this notification well in advance of the effective date to allow you and your clinics ample time to incorporate this change into your 2026 budgets.*

*This adjustment, the first since 2005, reflects the significant increase in personnel costs over the past two decades. We are committed to providing competitive compensation and benefits to our employees, and this rate adjustment will help us ensure their continued well-being and maintain the high quality of service you expect."*

## CARTI's Festival of Trees Returns This November

### Proceeds Will Help Expand Patients' Access to Trusted Cancer Care

The CARTI Auxiliary's Festival of Trees will return this November. [Tickets](#) for the 49<sup>th</sup> annual event, scheduled for November 6-8, go on sale today, September 30. All proceeds support CARTI's Patient Assistance Program, which provides comprehensive support services, such as transportation, lodging assistance and financial, emotional and nutritional counseling, to reduce potential barriers to treatment.

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# Maximizing the Benefits and Recognizing the Risks of AI in Healthcare

Justin Joy, JD, CIPP, Attorney, Lewis Thomason, PC

Adapted from the SVMIC Sentinel: Read the full article at [svmic.com/sentinel](https://svmic.com/sentinel)

Various applications utilizing some form<sup>1</sup> of artificial intelligence ("AI") have been in place in healthcare for decades. The utility and utilization of AI have increased dramatically as the technology continues to develop and improve. A 2019 Harvard Business Review study estimated that AI applications for back-office activity save the industry \$18 billion annually, noting that "activities that have nothing to do with patient care consume over half (51%) of a nurse's workload and nearly a fifth (16%) of physician activities."<sup>2</sup> With the dramatic improvement and availability of AI applications over the past half decade, such cost-saving estimates are likely more generous today. Recent improvements in, and increased adoption of, generative artificial intelligence ("Gen AI") have reinvigorated imaginations on how AI can be leveraged to improve healthcare on a wide scale. For example, prior to Gen AI, voice-to-text technology could automatically and instantly transcribe notes dictated by a provider. With the introduction of Gen AI, those voice recordings from a patient visit can be taken from unstructured text and adapted into a structured office visit note with conversational language.<sup>3</sup> The risks of employing AI in any clinical application, such as assisting with diagnoses, should be evident on the surface. The challenge-which is well beyond the scope of this article-is to mitigate that risk in a meaningful way while not significantly diminishing the recognized efficiencies and other benefits of utilizing the technology for clinical purposes.

While not as obvious, the risks for administrative tasks should not be underestimated. Particularly with the increasing use of Gen AI, the benefit of the technology in quickly providing customized material unique to each patient, such as after-visit summaries, must be weighed against the possibility of error. Privacy and security concerns must also be addressed. For example, ambient clinical

intelligence is a technology that "listens to" a conversation between a provider and patient and then automatically creates a clinical note based on the encounter. Those using the technology must understand if and whether any audio recording is maintained, and the security of the information collected during the visit utilized to generate the note.

Medical practices must first understand and identify where AI is used anywhere within the organization, including software or systems provided by outside vendors. Next, groups should identify

any output created by AI or, relatedly, any data derived from AI processing. Given that AI may be embedded into applications and not always apparent at the surface, IT staff or others familiar with the practice's software and systems should be involved in this identification process. Once AI applications and systems have been identified, the risk posed by the output or AI data should be assessed, with any application assisting in rendering medical diagnosis or judgments generally weighted as a potentially higher risk than

AI processes geared toward administrative tasks. The assessment process should challenge how AI outputs are validated and how automation bias is mitigated. In other words, just because the process seems correct nine times in a row, that alone does not justify a presumption, without some check or control, that it will be correct the tenth time. Similarly, quality checks comparable to human-generated output should be utilized for administrative tasks. For example, just like human-transcribed dictation should be proofread for errors, text generated by an AI application should be subject to the same review process.

While AI in healthcare offers tremendous potential for improving patient care and operational efficiency, healthcare organizations must recognize and proactively manage the associated risks.



<sup>1</sup> For an overview of certain types of AI-machine learning, natural language processing, rule based expert systems, physical robots, and robotic process automation-relevant to healthcare applications, see Thomas Davenport and Ravi Kalakota, "The potential for artificial intelligence in healthcare," *Future Healthcare Journal*, Vol. 6, No. 2:94-98 (2019). Of course, as the technology continues to develop, new variations and combinations of AI are introduced.

<sup>2</sup> Brian Kalis, Matt Collier, and Richard Fu, "10 Promising AI Applications in Health Care," *Harvard Business Review* (May 10, 2018)

<sup>3</sup> Shashank Bhasker, Damien Bruce, Jessica Lamb, and George Stein, "Tackling healthcare's biggest burdens with generative AI," *McKinsey & Company* (July 10, 2023)

## Don't Forget to Register for the Annual Meeting on November 6<sup>th</sup>

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

Thursday, November 6, 2025  
Robinson Center Ballroom

5:45 pm - 6:45 pm  
Reception

6:00 pm - 6:15 pm  
Membership Meeting

6:15 pm - 6:30 pm  
Medical Exchange Meeting

Dinner and program begins at 7:00 pm

The program consists of the following:

**SPEAKER: Salvatore Mangione, MD**  
Author and Associate Professor of Medicine at the  
SKMC of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia  
Presentation of the 2025 Outstanding Student Award

2025 Presidents Award for a Lifetime  
of Outstanding Contributions to Medicine  
**Dr. Debra Morrison**

\$80 per person (members and guests of members)  
\$90 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)

Deadline to Register: October 29, 2025.  
No registrations will be accepted  
after this date.

2025



*Speaker:*  
**Salvatore Mangione, MD**  
Author and Associate Professor of  
Medicine at the SKMC of Thomas  
Jefferson University in Philadelphia



**Dr. Debra Morrison**  
2025 President's Award for a  
Lifetime of Outstanding  
Contributions to Medicine recipient

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## Baptist Health Community Outreach Schedules Free Monthly Wellness Meetups in Little Rock

Join Baptist Health Community Outreach for free Monthly Wellness Meetups this fall.

The group will meet on the first Tuesday of each month from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at 10117 Kanis Road, Little Rock. Pre-registration is required. Refreshments will be provided.

- **Tuesday, Nov. 4** (Registration opens Oct. 14)
- **Tuesday, Dec. 2** (Registration opens Nov. 11)

This supportive group, led by a team of Baptist Health professionals (a nurse, a dietitian and a community health educator), focuses on achieving holistic wellness and sustainable weight management.

Each month, the meetup discusses key aspects of a healthy lifestyle, including

- **Physical Activity:** Finding enjoyable ways to move your body and increase your fitness level.
- **Mindful Eating:** Developing a healthy relationship with food, exploring nutritious options, and cultivating mindful eating habits.
- **Stress Management:** Learning effective techniques to reduce stress and improve overall well-being.

To sign up visit, [bit.ly/BHwellnessmeetup](https://bit.ly/BHwellnessmeetup) or call (501) 202-1540.

## UAMS Kidney, Liver Transplant Programs Receive National Honors for Improving Rural Access

The kidney and liver transplant programs at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) were honored with the prestigious John M. Eisenberg Award for Local Achievement in Patient Safety and Quality from The Joint Commission and National Quality Forum.

"We are thrilled about this recognition of our solid organ transplant team," said Michelle Krause, M.D., MPH, senior vice chancellor for UAMS Health and chief executive officer for UAMS Medical Center. "This is a testament to the creation of our statewide health system under the UAMS Health umbrella in October 2019. Thanks to UAMS Health, patients across Arkansas have access to specially trained health care teams and expert care that's not typically available outside major metropolitan cities."

Katelyn Faust, MSN, RN, the transplant program's quality and process improvement manager, attended the inaugural UNIFY conference in Washington, D.C., and accepted the award on behalf of UAMS Health on Sept. 16.

The UAMS Health program was recognized for improving access to organ transplantation for underserved rural communities in Arkansas. The UAMS Health Solid Organ Transplant Program established satellite transplant clinics in El Dorado, Fayetteville, Fort Smith, Helena-West Helena, Jonesboro, Pine Bluff and Texarkana to improve access to care for patients around the state and reduce the need for costly travel to UAMS clinics in central Arkansas.

"These satellite clinics are strategically located in regions with the highest concentrations of transplant patients," said Lyle Burdine, M.D., Ph.D., director of solid organ transplants at UAMS. "By going out into the state to meet our patients, rather than asking them to come to Little Rock, we are not only improving our patients' quality of life, but we are also adding years to their life as well."

"This has been a nurse-driven initiative, and our outcomes reflect the commitment and passion of the entire solid organ transplant team," he said, thanking Nursing Director Joy Cope, MSN, MBA-HCM, RN; Clinical Services Manager Donna Reppond, MSN, RN; Faust; and the entire transplant nursing team.

"They provided transplant-specific training to staff at our Little Rock campus and the regional sites and increased community engagement by distributing educational materials and hosting awareness events," Burdine said. "We've also used technology to improve provider communication and lab integration for same-day results and alerts."

As a result of these efforts:

1. Referrals increased by 101%.
2. Time between referral and evaluation decreased by 40 days.
3. Time from evaluation to being added to the transplant waitlist decreased by 39 days.
4. Post-transplant hospital stay decreased from five to three days.
5. Additions to the patient waitlist increased by 106%.

This UAMS Health initiative has greatly enhanced care accessibility and efficiency for rural transplant patients and has been sustained through continuous training, data tracking and community engagement, the Joint Commission and National Quality Forum said.

The Eisenberg Award panel selected UAMS Health for this award based on the following strengths:

This initiative's innovative approach using satellite clinics, which improved access for vulnerable, underserved and rural populations.

1. UAMS' bold vision and leadership.
2. The model's potential to be applied to other specialized services and conditions, especially in rural health care settings.
3. The timeliness of this work in light of a recent federal focus on transplant access for rural populations.

UAMS performed the state's first kidney transplant in 1964 and the state's first liver transplant in 2005 and is currently home to Arkansas' only adult kidney and liver transplant center. Since these programs began, the UAMS Organ Transplant team has performed more than 3,120

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## UAMS Kidney, Liver Transplant Programs Receive National Honors for Improving Rural Access

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kidney transplants and more than 660 liver transplants. In late 2023, UAMS became the first hospital in the state to perform kidney-pancreas transplants since the 1990s.

The Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) evaluates the 256 kidney transplant and 150 liver transplant programs across the country, and UAMS ranked first in the country in the survivability category and fourth in the country overall.

"A key element of the success of our transplant programs is the effective team structure at UAMS, enabling the delivery of world-class care comparable to any top-tier hospital in the United States," said Burdine. "Transplantation is a highly specialized field, inherently reliant on the seamless collaboration of various hospital departments."

## Newsweek Honors Baptist Health as One of America's Most Admired Workplaces 2026

Baptist Health announced Oct. 2 that it is recognized as one of America's Most Admired Workplaces 2026 by Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group.

Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group recognized America's Most Admired Workplaces in the United States, by conducting a large-scale employer study based on interviews with over 400,000 employees in the U.S. and more than 4.9 million company reviews.

"Being recognized as one of America's Most Admired Workplaces is a testament to the dedication and Christian compassion that define our team at Baptist Health," said Cathy Dickinson, the system's chief human resources officer. "We are proud to serve the community, and this honor reflects our unwavering commitment to creating a positive and inspiring environment for both our patients and our staff."

Newsweek and Plant-A Insights partnered to rate America's Most Admired Workplaces 2026. This list highlights companies that employees respect and job searchers want to work for. From fostering innovation and professional growth to championing work-life balance,



these organizations set the standard for what it means to be an admired employer.

"A great workplace is one that strives to make all its employees feel respected and appreciated. But ensuring that employees are comfortable and valued is something only some companies

excel at," said Jennifer H. Cunningham, editor-in-chief of Newsweek.

Baptist Health maintains a number of benefits to help parents and families, including tuition assistance, loan forgiveness, a credit union, an employee food pantry and an abundance of company-provided benefits and discounts. Baptist Health also offers many community programs such as immunizations, cooking events and classes for new and expecting parents. Also, our Baptist Health Mobile Health Unit reaches families throughout the state.

Baptist Health has a number of ongoing initiatives that are dedicated to celebrating the health care organization's diverse workforce. We survey our employees annually for valuable feedback. Leadership is trained in unconscious bias, creating an inclusive work environment.

## CARTI's Festival of Trees Returns This November

*Continued from page 1*

"Every day, patients and their families display incredible strength and resilience during what can be some of life's most difficult moments," said Grace Raja, M.D., fellowship-trained medical oncologist, CARTI Foundation board member and Tux 'n Trees co-chair. "At Festival of Trees, we can celebrate their 'Courage in Full Color'—fittingly selected as this year's theme—by helping support them for every step of their cancer journeys."

Recognized as one of Central Arkansas's signature holiday events, Festival of Trees is held in the Wally Allen Ballroom at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. The weekend includes the Sugar Plum Ball, a father-daughter dance on Thursday, November 6; Festival of Fashion, a New York City Fashion Week style runway show featuring local boutiques on Friday, November 7; and Tux 'n Trees, a black-tie gala with fine dining, live



*CARTI's Festival of Fashion 2024*

entertainment and dancing on Saturday, November 8. It will also feature a silent auction, including designer-decorated trees, with mobile bidding open Thursday to Saturday.

Tickets to the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Trees are available at [CARTI.com/festivaloftrees](https://www.carti.com/festivaloftrees). In 2024, Festival of Trees surpassed fundraising records for the second consecutive year. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$11 million to support cancer patients and their families.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Arkansas Charity Clays Set for Oct. 24, Benefitting Baptist Health College Little Rock

The 14<sup>th</sup> annual Arkansas Charity Clays tournament, presented by CompleteCare, is set for Oct. 24, at the Arkansas Game & Fish Foundation Shooting Sports Complex, 2800 Graham Road, in Jacksonville.

Chad Golden with Trane Commercial and Alan Hope with Powers of Arkansas are this year's event co-chairs.

The clay shooting tournament offers marksmen an entertaining day complete with lunch, an auction, activities, prizes and of course, the chance to compete. First, second and third place awards are given to teams and individuals with the overall highest scores.

Proceeds raised from this year's event will support Baptist Health College Little Rock, which has a strong history

of preparing the next generation of nurses and health care professionals to improve the health of Arkansans. All proceeds will go toward facility expansion and improvements to increase student enrollment and enrich learning in all programs.

Baptist Health Foundation strengthens the power of life-changing care by connecting philanthropy with the all-important purpose of providing compassionate care and building healthier communities.

For more information about the Arkansas Charity Clays, visit the Baptist Health Foundation website at [BaptistHealthFoundation.org](https://www.baptisthealthfoundation.org) or call (501) 202-1839.

## CHI St. Vincent Announces \$5 Million Gift

### Gift Will Fund Creation of New Advanced Cardiac Care Center

[CHI St. Vincent](#), a leading regional health network serving Central and Southwest Arkansas, announces a \$5 million gift from Isabel and John Ed Anthony for the creation of the Anthony Center for Advanced Cardiac Care at CHI St. Vincent Infirmiry in Little Rock. This is the largest single gift that CHI St. Vincent has ever received.

The Anthony Center for Advanced Cardiac Care will be the new standard for the diagnosis and treatment of heart-related conditions. CHI St. Vincent Heart Institute is the largest heart program in the state and is ranked #1 for heart care in Central Arkansas by U.S. News & World Report. The Anthony Center for Advanced Cardiac Care will allow CHI St. Vincent to continue to expand its heart program for the most complex cases, combining inpatient and outpatient heart care services, including cardiac electrophysiology and cardiothoracic surgery programs in one location.

"This gift signals a bright future for cardiac healthcare in the state of Arkansas," said Chad Aduddell, Market President of CHI St. Vincent. "We are honored by Isabel and John Ed Anthony's generosity and for their long-time support of our ministry. Their support over the years has allowed St. Vincent to enhance its healthcare services to the community and create a positive impact across the state."

The Anthony Center for Advanced Cardiac Care will provide the following services:

- Advanced heart failure, including mechanical circulatory support and left ventricle assist device
- (LVAD) assessment, treatment, infusion and follow-up services.
- Cardiopulmonary testing and treatment



*John Ed and Isabel Anthony*

- Transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR)
- Watchman procedures (minimally invasive technique reducing risk of stroke and bleeding)
- Transcatheter mitral valve repair
- Cardiogenic shock program
- Cardio-oncology program
- Cardiac ultrasound and stress testing
- EKG and Electrophysiologic testing
- Vein and vascular testing
- Transesophageal echocardiogram procedures
- HeartSmart heart screening and cardio metabolic evaluation/treatment

The CHI St. Vincent Infirmiry heart program is the largest heart program in Arkansas and boasts a patient satisfaction rating of more than 95%. In addition to ranking #1 in Central Arkansas for Heart Care, U.S. News & World Report recognized CHI St. Vincent Infirmiry as high-performing for Pacemaker Implantation, TAVR, Aortic Valve Surgery, Heart Bypass

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## CHI St. Vincent Announces \$5 Million Gift

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Surgery. CHI St. Vincent is 1 of 80 hospitals nationwide to receive the American College of Cardiology's 2025 NCDR Chest Pain - MI Registry Silver Performance Achievement Award. Patients at CHI St. Vincent Infirmary have come to expect the best outcomes through our advanced, non-invasive diagnostic techniques and surgical expertise, as recognized by a 3-star rating by the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, the highest rating that can be achieved.

"I am honored to receive such a gracious gift from Isabel and John Ed Anthony for the expansion of our heart program at the Infirmary," said Infirmary President Dr. Gerry Jones. "Not only does the Infirmary heart program treat the most complex cases in Arkansas, but has the best patient outcomes. This gift will allow us to expand

our mission of treating the most vulnerable in the communities we serve."

Isabel and John Ed Anthony are long-time supporters of CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs. Their generosity established the Cooper Anthony Advocacy Center, funded new 3D mammography equipment, and expanded cardiac services at the St. Vincent Heart Center in Hot Springs. More recent gifts from Isabel and John Ed Anthony led to the creation of the Anthony Childbirth Center at CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs, which addressed the maternal-fetal healthcare desert in Arkansas. The Anthony Childbirth Center features 12 private birthing suites, which are designed to keep mothers and their babies together during the entire birthing process. The center cares for more than 1,000 births every year.

## CARTI Welcomes Fellowship-Trained Head and Neck Oncologic and Reconstructive Surgeon

**Dr. Jake Brady Will Serve Patients at Cancer Care Provider's Flagship Campus**

In August CARTI welcomed [Jake Brady, M.D.](#), a fellowship-trained head and neck oncologic and reconstructive surgeon. Dr. Brady will serve patients at the not-for-profit cancer care provider's flagship campus in Little Rock, which includes the CARTI Surgery Center.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Brady to CARTI, where he will be an incredible addition to our growing surgical oncology team," said Scott Stern, M.D., chief medical officer. "Along with his expertise in performing advanced head and neck reconstructive procedures, Dr. Brady's wealth of research experience will ensure we continue to offer personalized, leading-edge care to patients and their families."

A graduate of Rutgers New Jersey Medical School, Dr. Brady completed his residency in otolaryngology-head

and neck surgery at the University of Washington in Seattle and a fellowship at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland in head and neck surgical oncology and microvascular reconstruction. He graduated with honors from Vanderbilt University with a bachelor's degree in molecular and cellular biology and European history. Dr. Brady has more than a decade of experience conducting peer-reviewed research, with several manuscripts currently in development.



*Dr. Jake Brady*