



# PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

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## Fighting Legislative Battles

by Dr. Monica Hall

Zion Williamson. That name should sound familiar to anyone who has followed college basketball this year. He's been called the greatest freshman to ever play college basketball. His ability to dominate his opponent comes from years of practicing repetitive drills, mastering strategic plays, and learning how to incorporate his team in order to obtain success. If a player or team successfully prepares before the game starts, their win is almost secured the moment the game clock starts.

These lessons in preparation also ring true when confronted with legislative battles. Each year, "scope of practice" bills are discussed during the legislative session. This year, one of those scope bills, House Bill 1251 (the "eyeball" bill), hit close to home. Unlike most filed legislative bills that seems to conjure up little opposition or discussion, scope of practice bills can be highly

contentious. When these bills are discussed during committee meetings, the room's capacity is often exceeded. For HB 1251, you needed to arrive at the committee meeting 3 hours early if you wanted to secure a seat. Scope bills are difficult to predict because multiple, seemingly legitimate, arguments are made for and against advancement or passage of the bill.

For bills that are this contentious, preparation is key. Successful preparation is more than just giving a speech or testimony during a committee meeting. Successful preparation is more than just showing up on "game day."

One of the first steps in preparation is to know your elected representative and senator. Their vote during the legislative session represents you. They hold an obligation to represent their constituents so make sure they know how you



**Dr. Monica Hall, MD.**

feel about topics that are important to you.

An additional step to preparation is to start early. Successful preparation begins weeks, months, and probably even years before a bill gets filed with the legislature. As I began speaking with legislators at the Capitol this year, I quickly realized that advocacy from the opposing side began months prior to the legislative session convening. I quickly realized that for a significant percentage of legislators, their vote had been committed before this year's sessions had even begun.

A third step to preparation is

*Continued on page 7*



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# PCMS NEWS

## calendar of events

**MAY 29, 2019**

### **Reducing Risk through Robust Hiring Practices**

**Mike Bellari and Jade Daniels, Favorite Medical Staffing**



**Mike Bellari**



**Jade Daniels**

This session will focus on How to avoid hiring mistakes, Screening procedures, Interview technique do's and don'ts. Red Flags to watch for, Policies, Compliance and the cost of Turnover.

**JUNE 19, 2019**

### **Embracing the Generations**

**Sheri Smith, State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company**



This is the first time in history four generations have joined forces in the workplace. With each new generation, we lament, shake our heads and remember "the good ole days." Yet each generation brings with it not only new challenges, but

also new talents and resources. Understanding the perspective of each generation can provide everyone important information useful in dealing with staff, colleagues and patients.

**JULY 31, 2019**

### **Breach Notification**

**Loretta Duncan- State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company**

This program explains the Breach Notification requirements that have been in effect since September 23, 2009. Attendees will learn what constitutes a breach and the steps that should be taken if a breach occurs.



**AUGUST 28, 2019**

### **Change Management and Strategic Planning**

**Stephen Dickens, State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company**

This session addresses the need for change along with the challenges to effective change and recommendations to achieve positive results. It outlines the strategic planning process with an emphasis on the importance of an effective governance model, mission and core values.





# PCMS NEWS

## Cara Petrus Appointed as Director for Arkansas Neuroscience Institute



CHI St. Vincent has appointed Cara Petrus as Director for the Arkansas Neuroscience Institute (ANI). Petrus, who most recently served as the operational

project manager for ANI's transition to the CHI St. Vincent North campus, will now take a leadership role as the institute prepares to open the new, world-class Arkansas Neuroscience Institute Research and Education Center this summer.

Petrus received her bachelor's degree in nutrition from the University of Central Arkansas and her master's in healthcare administration from St. Louis University. During her time at CHI St. Vincent, Petrus received her Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification, graduated from Leadership Little Rock Class XXIII and graduated from MEMS Citizen Academy.

## Dr. Jay Bhama Joins Baptist Health Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic Health Failure and Transplant Institute in Little Rock



Dr. Jay Bhama has joined Baptist Health Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic and Baptist Health Heart Failure and Transplant Institute, both located on the campus of Baptist Health-Little Rock.

Dr. Bhama has practiced medicine for 15 years. He received his medical education from the Baylor College of Medicine, George Washington

University and Johns Hopkins University. He obtained an advanced cardiac surgery fellowship at the Mayo Clinic, and a thoracic transplant and left ventricular assist device (LVAD) fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

## Dr. Harry Kourlis Joins Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic on Campus of Baptist Health-Little Rock



Dr. Harry Kourlis has joined Baptist Health Cardiothoracic Surgery Clinic in Little Rock.

Dr. Kourlis, who has practiced medicine for more than 20 years, received his medical degree from Georgetown University School of Medicine. He obtained residencies at the University of Louisville in Louisville, Kentucky, and at Baylor University Medical

Center, where he additionally received a fellowship in vascular surgery. He is certified by the American Board of Thoracic Surgery, and specializes in mitral valve repair and valvular surgery, among other practicing concerns.

## Dr. Brad Baltz Joins CHI St. Vincent's Growing Oncology Practice



Leading Arkansas oncologist Dr. Brad Baltz has joined the growing cancer care practice at CHI St. Vincent. Dr. Baltz joins Dr. Peter Emanuel, who joined CHI St. Vincent as the hospital

group's new director of oncology services in September, and Dr. Joseph Beck, a medical oncologist who joined the Oncology Clinic in Little Rock this January. Dr. Baltz is now seeing patients in Suite 815 of the Doctors Building at 500 S. University Ave. in Little Rock.

Dr. Baltz has 25 years of professional Oncology experience, most recently at Baltz Hematology Oncology. He previously served at CARTI Cancer Center, Hematology Oncology Services of Arkansas, Arkansas Oncology Associates and Little Rock Hematology-Oncology Associates. Dr. Baltz

attended medical school at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences in Little Rock, where he later completed his residency and fellowship training.

“Dr. Beck and I are pleased to welcome Brad to the group,” said Dr. Emanuel.

## Dr. Ben Bordador Joins CHI St. Vincent Little Rock Diagnostic Clinic



Dr. Ben Bordador, an internal medicine physician, has joined the CHI St. Vincent Little Rock Diagnostic Clinic.

Dr. Bordador, a hospitalist with the CHI St. Vincent Hot Springs’s medical staff since 2011, also served as the co-medical director for the Christus Dubuis Hospital of Hot Springs from December 2014 through November 2015,

and spent two years as the co-chair of the Utilization Review and Oversight Committee.

After medical school at the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery in Manilla, Phillipines, he completed a rotating internship at Makati Medical Center, Makati City, Phillipines before completing his internship and residency at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons at Harlem Hospital Center in New York City. Dr. Bordador is board certified with the American Board of Internal Medicine.

## Reanetta Hunt to Lead Charitable Efforts of Baptist Health Foundation

The Baptist Health system announced the selection of Reanetta Hunt as its new chief development officer and CEO of the Baptist Health Foundation.

Prior to her appointment to lead the Foundation, Hunt served most recently as CEO of the Chicago State Foundation



and as interim vice president of advancement at Chicago State University, a public, comprehensive university that provides higher education for students of diverse backgrounds and educational needs.

Hunt is a native Arkansan and a veteran journalist who once worked as a reporter and anchor at ABC affiliate KATV-TV in

Little Rock. Hunt’s background includes work as a principal of a public relations, marketing and management consulting business that included several Fortune 500 companies among its diverse client base. She has held positions as news reporter and anchor in Chicago, television general manager, corporate communications vice president and nonprofit executive director, and has received national recognition for her charitable work with at-risk youth and families.

**Arkansas Longevity Center is now offering Laser services. For more information, please call 501-813-5415.**



L-R: Oumitana Kajkenova, M.D., Arpana Edala, M.D., and Samantha Watt, APRN



# PCMS NEWS

## 2019 HEALTHCARE HEROES AWARDS

The 2019 Healthcare Heroes luncheon was held April 24, 2019 at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock. Congratulations to PCMS members Dr. Patrick Campbell and Dr. Lowery Barnes who were named as finalists in the 2019 Arkansas Business Healthcare Heroes awards program. Dr. Patrick Campbell was a finalist for Physician of the Year, and Dr. Lowery Barnes was recognized as Administrator of the Year. Dr. Joseph Bates, PCMS Emeritus Member, was given the 2019 Healthcare Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award.



*Dr. Lowery Barnes (left) Administrator of the Year.*

***Congratulations to these deserving physicians.***



*Dr. Joseph Bates, PCMS Emeritus Member, the 2019 Healthcare Heroes Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient*

(Photos by Kelley Cooper of UAMS)

## CONGRATULATION TO THE UAMS STUDENTS WHO RECEIVED PCMS FUNDING FOR THEIR 2019 PROJECTS

The following student projects were chosen for funding during the 2019 PCMS funding drive. We look forward to hearing about the results during the coming year.

- Harmony Health Clinic Garden Project: UAMS students Kesley M. Brown and Caroline E. Barham
- LULAC Medical Spanish Course Project: UAMS students Rebecca Moreira and Santiago Gonzalez
- Walk with a Future Doc Project: UAMS Students Christine Rutlen, Jordan Fielding, Christian Thompson, and Anusha Majagi

Congratulations from the members of the Pulaski County Medical Society.

## MEDICAID EXPANSION STATES SEE DECLINE IN LOW BIRTH WEIGHT FOR BLACK INFANTS, UAMS RESEARCHERS REPORT IN JAMA

States that expanded Medicaid showed a significant reduction in low-birth-weight and preterm births for black infants, but no significant difference in those rates overall, researchers at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) report in an article published in JAMA. JAMA is a peer-reviewed medical journal published by the American Medical Association. This publication makes it the first time in history that a study originating in the College of Public Health has been published in JAMA.



“We wanted to see if adverse birth outcomes would be reduced in expansion states relative to non-expansion states,” said Clare Brown, Ph.D., M.P.H., instructor in the Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health and lead author on the study. “We hypothesized that there would be greater declines among black infants because of the much higher rates of preterm birth and low birth weight among this population.”

“The important thing to highlight here is that without a doubt, the biggest declines were in outcomes for black infants,” said Mick Tilford, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management in the College of Public Health and co-author on the study. “Medicaid expansion means continued health insurance for many low-income women. Insurance can lead to healthier mothers, and healthier mothers can lead to healthier babies.”

The study examined 15.6 million births from 2011 to 2016 in states that expanded Medicaid and states that did not expand Medicaid. Specifically, the study looked at the association between Medicaid expansion and rates of low birth weight and prematurity overall and among racial/ethnic minorities compared to non-Hispanic white infants.

The data came from 18 states that expanded Medicaid and 17 states that did not. Researchers looked at preterm birth (a baby born less than 37 weeks), very preterm birth (a baby born less than 32 weeks), low birth weight (a baby weight less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces), and very low birth weight (a baby weighing less than 3 pounds, 5 ounces). These evaluations were made among all births, as well as among Medicaid-covered births and Medicaid-covered births to women with at most a high school diploma.

“Babies born with a low birth weight are at much higher risk for developing chronic conditions, such as neurological, respiratory, behavioral, or educational deficits,” said Brown. “These not only lead to increased infant mortality, but they can also result in increased risk of chronic conditions throughout infancy and into adulthood, which can lead to increased medical costs and reduced proactivity.”

“Our findings should be considered by policy makers in their calculus of whether to expand or uphold Medicaid expansion.” Tilford said. “These results show the potential for Medicaid expansion to reduce disparities for black individuals.”

*Continued from page 1  
Fighting Legislative Battles*

to secure strength in numbers. When it comes to contentious bills, legislators tend to vote for the side they hear more from. If you never have a meeting with your legislator, you never send an email, you never place a phone call, you never show up at the Capitol, you never make a donation, or you never let your voice be heard, you can't expect a battle win if your opposition is doing all those things. In general, legislators are curious for information regarding the innumerable topics they're asked to vote on. If your opinion on a bill is heard more times than your opposition, your legislator is more likely to vote in your favor.

The influential military strategist Sun Tzu said it best in his work *The Art of War*. “Every battle is won or lost before it's ever fought.”

### THE PULASKI COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS ANNOUNCES ITS PARTNERSHIP WITH FAVORITE HEALTHCARE STAFFING



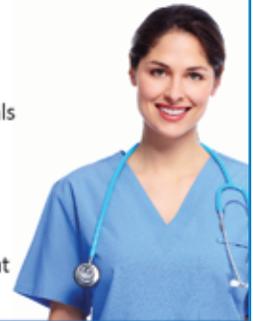
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**Mission:**  
Promote medical care,  
professional growth, and  
public health.

**Vision:**  
To be a catalyst for change  
in how healthcare is  
viewed and implemented  
in Central Arkansas

## Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021

1

### Practice and Professional Viability

Maintain and enhance services,  
professional staff and communications  
to effectively implement the mission.

2

### Community Voice and Outreach

Create and participate in events to  
promote health; monitor and propose  
government initiatives that affect public  
health and safety; become the trusted  
resource in the community for overseeing  
the influencing of public health policy.

3

### Leadership

Growing the number of active members  
involved in the society's community  
outreach and service, and take care of  
the mental health of its members through  
the foundation.

If you would like to be involved in the  
committee to help implement the  
Strategic Plan please call 501-687-0039.