

THE BULLETIN

VOLUME 65 • NUMBER 10



St. Paul United Methodist Preschool Makes Posters for Midtown ICU staff.

(See page 7 for more details.)

OCTOBER 2020

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Contents

President's Message	4
Hospital News.....	6, 9, 12

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The Bulletin of the Muscogee County Medical Society is the official monthly publication of the MCMS located at 2612 Commons Blvd, Augusta, Georgia. Opinions expressed in *The Bulletin*, including editorials, are those of the individual author and do not necessarily reflect policies of the Society, unless stated. Advertisements in this publication are paid advertisements and are not necessarily supported or endorsed by the Muscogee County Medical Society.

Members are encouraged to submit articles, current news or upcoming events for publication in *The Bulletin*. Deadline for copy is the 10th of the month preceding date of issue. Those wishing to advertise in *The Bulletin* may request requirements and rates by contacting the society office. Items to be published should be sent to the society coordinator, Stacie Johnson, via email to Stacie@muscogeeomedical.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bret C. Crumpton, D.O., President



Eye Protection and COVID-19

Our planet, country, state, county and city should be laser focused on the pandemic of Coronavirus disease (COVID -19), the pathogen of which is severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

As an ophthalmologist, I feel compelled to discuss the September 16, 2020 JAMA Ophthalmology article, "Association of Daily Wear of Eyeglasses With Susceptibility to Coronavirus Disease 2019 Infection" and the concurrent editorial of invited commentary, "Eye Protection and the Risk of Coronavirus Disease 2019, Does Wearing Eye Protection Mitigate Risk in Public, Non-Health Care Settings?"

This cohort study attempts to answer the question, what is the association between the daily wear of eyeglasses (eight hours or longer a day) and susceptibility to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)? In the findings of this study of 276 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 in Suizhou, China, the proportion of daily wearers of eyeglasses was lower than that of the local population (5.8% vs 31.5 %). These findings suggest that daily wearers of eyeglasses may be less likely to be infected with COVID-19. This virus has been proven to be transmitted mainly through droplets and contact. The eye is also considered an important route of infection.

The hypothesis of this study is that eyeglasses prevent or discourage wearers from touching their eyes, thus avoiding transferring the virus from the hands to the eyes. Studies have shown that normal people will involuntarily touch their eyes about 10 times per hour. Eyes usually lack protection, and an abundance of the SARS-CoV-2 receptor angiotensin-converting enzyme 2 has been found on the ocular surface, through which this pathogen can enter the human body. SARS-CoV-2 may also be transported to the nasal and nasopharyngeal mucosa through continuous tear irrigation of the lacrimal duct, causing respiratory infection. According to available statistics, 1% to 12% of patients with this virus have ocular manifestations. SARS-CoV-2 was detected in tears or the conjunctival sacs of patients with COVID-19, and some ophthalmologists were reported to be infected during routine treatment. Therefore, eyes are considered an important channel for SARS-CoV-2 to enter the human body. For daily wearers of eyeglasses, who usually wear eyeglasses on social occasions, wearing eyeglasses may become a protective factor, reducing the risk of virus transfer to the eyes and leading to long-term daily wearers of eyeglasses being rarely infected with COVID-19.

The concurrent invited commentary by Lisa L. Maragakis, MD, MPH, epidemiologist, and Infectious Disease Specialist from Johns Hopkins University, raise poignant issues regarding this landmark study. Although it is tempting to conclude from this study that everyone should wear eyeglasses, goggles, or a face shield in public to protect their eyes and themselves from COVID-19, from an

epidemiological perspective, Dr. Maragakis reminds us that we must be careful to avoid inferring a causal relationship from a single observational study. The study authors acknowledge several limitations to the study design and call for further studies to replicate and possibly validate or refute their findings. The data suggest that the observed difference in wearing eyeglasses between the group of patients with the virus vs the general population is unlikely to have occurred by chance alone, but it does not indicate a causal relationship between wearing eyeglasses and preventing the disease.

The study by Zeng et al is provocative and raises the possibility that use of eye protection by the general public might offer some degree of protection from COVID-19. More retrospective and prospective studies are needed to confirm the association that was observed in this study and to determine whether there is any incremental benefit to wearing eyeglasses or other forms of eye protection in public settings, in addition to wearing a mask and physical distancing, to reduce the risk of acquiring SARS-CoV-2.

Considering the on-going pandemic, the MCMS is delaying our scheduled in person Fall Social gathering at the Columbus Botanical Gardens in November. We will regroup and offer a virtual CME meeting, possibly an update on COVID-19 or another relevant and interesting topic. Stay safe and vigilant so that we can better serve our patients, staff and community as we continue to provide the best medical care to our Chattahoochee Valley.



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PIEDMONT COLUMBUS REGIONAL NEWS

Columbus Memory Center Donates to COVID Relief Fund

Columbus Memory Center donated \$20,000 to the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation's COVID-19 Infrastructure Fund to provide iPads and support for hospitalized patients at the Northside Campus.



Social isolation and loneliness are known to exacerbate illness. According to the National Institute on Aging, solitude can weaken the immune system, however meaningful activities, such as connecting with a loved one, are linked to an increase in mood and overall well-being.

Columbus Memory Center saw the need-gap and responded with a generous contribution to provide iPads for patients so they can receive face-to-face, virtual visits from loved ones.

New Providers, Service Line for Piedmont Physicians

After graduating from the Piedmont Columbus Regional Family Medicine Residency program and receiving the Howard Vigrass Resident of the Year award earlier this summer, Bailee Blackburn, M.D., has joined Piedmont Physicians at Brookstone in North Columbus as a family medicine physician. She will be joining Elizabeth Martin, M.D., at that practice.



Bailee Blackburn, Charis Chambers,
M.D. M.D.

Piedmont Physicians has also added a new service line and practice. Piedmont Physicians Pediatrics & Adolescent Gynecology is now open on 17th Street in Columbus, back behind the Midtown Campus. Charis Chambers, M.D. is the provider at that location.

Northside COVID Patient Gets Birthday Surprise

Friar Noel Danielewicz went to the Northside ED after experiencing shortness of breath, cough, fatigue, and chills. He tested positive for COVID-19.

He celebrated a birthday while hospitalized and took a selfie while in his room alone. As he was getting cleared to be released from the hospital and go



into Rehab, his church family showed up outside his window with hand-made signs to lift his spirits and let him know he wasn't alone!

Preschool Makes Posters for ICU Staff

"COVID-19 may make us cover our mouths, but it will never cover our smiles. Thank you for keeping us healthy and safe."

That was the message from kids at St. Paul United Methodist in Columbus, who made posters of themselves and had them delivered to Midtown ICU staff.



Upcoming Events

Breast Cancer Awareness Lunch-In

Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, the annual luncheon will now be a "lunch-in" wherever you are throughout the month of October. Visit Piedmont.org to learn how you can support cancer care in our community and celebrate hope with your family, friends, or colleagues.

CME opportunities offered for physicians

The following Continuing Medical Education (CME) opportunities for physicians have been approved for one hour of CME credit each:

- **Cancer Conference:** Every Monday, 12:30 p.m., June Wright Community Conference Center at the John B. Amos Cancer Center. The 3rd Cancer Conference each month is Thoracic specific. For more information, call Sandra Farley at 706.571.1881.
- **Pediatric Grand Rounds:** Every Thursday, 8:15 a.m. (September through May), Conference Center at Piedmont Columbus Regional's Midtown Campus. Open to any physician or other health professional providing care for children. For more information, call Lea Cunningham at 706.571.1217.
- **Hughston Grand Rounds:** Once a month, every first Wednesday, dinner at 6 p.m. and rounding begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Hughston Foundation Building. Open to any physician, resident, medical student, nursing staff, PT, MA and local EMS. For more information, call Belinda Klein at 706.494.3326 or email at bklein@hughston.com.

Piedmont Columbus Regional's Midtown Campus is accredited by the Medical Association of Georgia to provide continuing medical education for physicians. The Midtown Campus designates this live activity for a maximum of one AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

In Memoriam

Norman Luton, Jr., M.D.

*Dr. Norman Luton, Jr., a member of this society,
passed away August 9, 2020.*

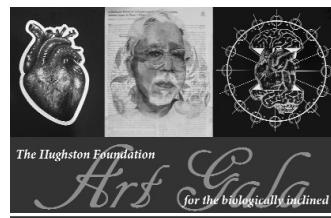
Dr. Luton was a native of Phenix City, Alabama. He attended Auburn University and graduated from the University of Alabama. He received his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in 1974. He completed his residency at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. Upon completion of his medical training, Dr. Luton returned to the Columbus area where he practiced until his retirement in 2016.

Dr. Luton was Board Certified by the American College of Surgeons. In addition to the Muscogee County Medical Society, he was a member of the Southeastern Surgical Congress, the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, past member of the American Medical Association, Medical Association of Georgia, and Society of Laparoendoscopic Surgeons.

HUGHSTON CLINIC NEWS

2020 Art Gala Competition and Exhibition

Once again, The Hughston Foundation has partnered with the Work-based Learning Program of Harris County High to invite middle school and high school students (6th – 12th grades) in Georgia to participate in the Third Annual Art Gala. The Hughston Foundation Art Gala for the Biologically Inclined is perfect for art students who would like to unmask the exciting world of art and science. This biological and medically inspired art competition encourages students to create artwork while integrating the principle areas of the national STEAM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics). There will be multiple scholarships and award opportunities for students at the middle and high school levels.



The Hughston Foundation

Hrf Gala
for the biologically inclined

Harris County High School Work-Based Learning program has partnered with The Hughston Foundation to invite you to participate in the Third Annual Art Gala

All entries must be biologically or medically inspired, with a submission sheet attached and full entry one of the following categories:

Drawing ■ Painting ■ Photography ■ 3D ■ Mixed Media

Submissions deadline Friday, October 23rd

Exhibition date November 12th, 2020 at 7:00pm

Scholarships will be awarded to winners.

Created to support the national STEAM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics). The Hughston Foundation Art Gala helps students learn by integrating these principles across disciplines.

The Hughston Foundation, 6262 Veterans Pkwy, Columbus GA, 31909
For more information: Belinda Klein 404-464-5209 Belinda@hughston.com
Instructions and submission form: hughston.com/art-gala



Important information: The artwork submission date is Friday, October 23rd and the Exhibition will take place at the Foundation on Thursday, November 12th at 7:00 pm. We are anticipating the show to be hanging from November 4th through the 20th for people to stop by and see the artwork. Not knowing how the pandemic will be affecting us by November, we are planning to have the Gala live via Zoom and we will let people know, when we get closer to the date, who we are able to accommodate on November 12th.

For more information and submission forms please visit: hughston.com/art-gala
Artwork Instructions - submissions can be shipped or delivered to: Attn: Belinda Klein, The Hughston Foundation, 6262 Veterans Pkwy, Columbus GA, 31909

If you are shipping your entry, please include a return pre-paid shipping label. If you have multiple pieces, please ship the artwork that is similar in size in the same package with a layer of protection between each piece. Wrap the set together with bubble wrap and have corner protectors. Matting or foam board will help protect the individual pieces; however, we will let the judges know if, for some reason, the matting was damaged in shipping.

For this year's Gala, we will also have the show posted online for anyone to view and vote for Best of Show for both the middle and high school levels.

Digital submissions may also be sent via email and the artwork will be included in the online gallery only. We will make sure the judges view these submissions.

Digital instructions - You have two options for converting your artwork to a digital format and email to Belinda Klein at bklein@hughston.com:

1) Take a high resolution photo (300dpi) of the artwork, paying close attention to having good and even lighting, watching for glares, and the edges of the artwork

are straight and not at an angle or skewed.

2) Or you may scan your artwork as a 300dpi, jpg file.

Contact Belinda Klein if you have any questions or if you would like her to speak with students about the Gala or Medical Illustration as a career. Presentations can be in person or virtually.

Hughston Grand Rounds

To participate in Hughston's Grand Rounds, sign up for email blasts about this event by contacting Belinda Klein at 706-494-3326 or bklein@hughston.com.

On the first Wednesday of each month, a diverse group of local healthcare professionals—which often includes physicians from Hughston, Columbus, and Fort Benning; Hughston Sports Medicine and Trauma Fellows; Hughston Certified Athletic Training Fellows; orthopaedic residents; and medical students—come together for grand rounds lectures on evolving trends in orthopaedics at the Hughston Foundation auditorium. Grand rounds constitute a ritual of medical education and provide an excellent supplement to medical school and residency. Moreover, grand rounds help doctors and other healthcare professionals stay current in their specialty or areas of core practice. The physician lectures offer expertise on specialized topics and cover the latest evidence-based research and treatments emerging in the field of medicine.

Extended Hours at Hughston's Urgent Ortho

Hughston Clinic is excited to extend our practice hours to better fit the needs of our patients and the community. At Urgent Ortho, walk-in are always welcome and you use the main clinic entrance from 8am to 8pm, Monday through Friday and 10am to 2pm on Saturday. A patient can call or text 706-325-8553 to get in line and for faster service, they are encouraged to go to www.hughston.com to complete pre-visit paperwork ahead of time. Urgent Ortho saves time and money by providing faster orthopaedic diagnoses and treatments for bone, muscle, and joint injuries. Sports and workers' compensation injuries are welcome as well.

Hughston Foundation Meeting Rooms Available

The Hughston Foundation has the unique ability to support the medical community by hosting events in our facility. The Foundation offers an auditorium with large drop-down screens, tables and chairs, a 7' x 45' stage with podium, lighting, and sound system that is perfect for presentations and large groups. Our Surgical Education Center contains a 4-station surgical training lab for cadaveric demonstration and practice, and an additional 4-station workshop for training on plastic models. Both labs are equipped for audiovisual presentations and have the ability to broadcast lab activities to other meeting spaces. Our VIP boardrooms have large conference tables, executive chairs, and drop-down screens that are perfect for smaller private meetings. The Foundation also offers plenty of parking, accommodations for catered events, ice machine, commercial refrigerator, and free WiFi with password. Additionally, The Foundation has a spacious atrium lobby, library, and the Hughston gardens that are available for events. <https://www.hughston.com/foundation-facilities-and-services> for more information about our rates or contact Belinda Klein at 706-494-3326; bklein@hughston.com for a tour of our facility.

ST. FRANCIS - EMORY HEALTHCARE NEWS

Welcome Dr. Danisa M. Clarrett

We are excited to welcome Dr. Danisa M. Clarrett to our St. Francis family. Dr. Clarrett has joined the team at St. Francis Center for Digestive Disorders. She earned her medical degree at the University of Cincinnati and her residency at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She completed her fellowship in gastroenterology at Saint Louis University in St. Louis, MO.



Dr. Clarrett is board-certified in internal medicine and specializes in various digestive disorders like ulcers, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, and colonoscopies.

St. Francis-Emory Healthcare receives Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award

St. Francis-Emory Healthcare has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. The award recognizes the hospital's commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines based on the latest scientific evidence.



St. Francis earned the award by meeting specific quality achievement measures for the diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients at a set level for a designated period. These measures include evaluation of the proper use of medications and other stroke treatments aligned with the most up-to-date, evidence-based guidelines with the goal of speeding recovery and reducing death and disability for stroke patients. Before discharge, patients should also receive education on managing their health, get a follow-up visit scheduled, as well as other care transition interventions.

"St. Francis is dedicated to improving the quality of care for our stroke patients by implementing the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke initiative," said Executive Director of Clinical Practice, Paige Harford, RN, MSN, CPPS. "The tools and resources provided help us track and measure our success in meeting evidenced-based clinical guidelines developed to improve patient outcomes."

St. Francis has also met specific scientific guidelines as a Primary Stroke Center or as a Comprehensive Stroke Center, featuring a comprehensive system for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke patients admitted to the emergency department. "We are pleased to recognize St. Francis for their commitment to stroke care," said Lee H. Schwamm, M.D., national chairperson of the Quality Oversight Committee

and Executive Vice Chair of Neurology, Director of Acute Stroke Services, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts. "Research has shown that hospitals adhering to clinical measures through the Get With The Guidelines quality improvement initiative can often see fewer readmissions and lower mortality rates."

According to the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, stroke is the No. 5 cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability in the United States. On average, someone in the U.S. suffers a stroke every 40 seconds, and nearly 795,000 people suffer a new or recurrent stroke each year.

St. Francis chosen as a favorite in several categories of the 2020 Readers' Choice Awards

On September 27th, the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer announced the Readers' Choice Awards 2020. St. Francis was chosen as a favorite in the following categories:

- Favorite Diagnostic Center - St. Francis Breast Care Center
- Favorite Hearing Aid Company - St. Francis Ear, Nose, and Throat
- Favorite OB/GYN - St. Francis OBGYN Associates
- Favorite Physical Therapy Practice - St. Francis Rehab Main Street and St. Francis Rehabilitation Center



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MERCER UNIVERSITY NEWS

Columbus Medical School Campus is One Step Closer After Groundbreaking

Mercer University held a groundbreaking ceremony September 3 at the site of its planned medical school campus in Uptown Columbus on the banks of the Chattahoochee River.



The University's relocation and expansion of its Columbus campus, first announced in May 2019, will enable the School of Medicine to increase the campus' enrollment to 240 Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) students over the next several years, eventually equaling the size of its campuses in Macon and Savannah.

The site at 1701 First Ave., offered to Mercer by Columbus community leaders in March, was owned by TSYS, a Global Payments company, just north of the company's existing Riverfront Campus. This location will allow for construction of a free-built structure to better suit the needs of medical school students, faculty and staff, and will also provide an iconic locale.

"It is truly wonderful to see this worthy initiative become a reality," said Jean Sumner, M.D., dean of the School of Medicine. "This new campus will help to increase health care access in west Georgia and strengthen Columbus' important role as a regional referral center. Working with a great community like Columbus, visionary state and local leadership, regional hospitals, local physicians and many public servants has been a privilege for Mercer University School of Medicine." The School of Medicine is currently recruiting and hiring new faculty and scientists, and the inaugural class of first-year M.D. students in Columbus is scheduled to enroll in August 2021.

MCMS UPCOMING EVENT



C A N C E L L E D !

Fall Social

November 5, 2020
Columbus Botanical Garden



Restaurant Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday
5:30pm-10:00pm

Friday-Saturday
5:00pm-10:30pm

Pre Fixe Menu:

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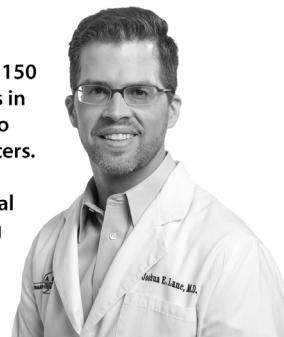


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The Doctors Lane are active in the academic community with a combined 150 plus medical and surgical publications in peer-reviewed journals in addition to multiple textbooks and textbook chapters.

Both hold faculty positions at regional medical schools and enjoy teaching medical students and residents.



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