

THE BULLETIN

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*On September 3rd Mercer University held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of its planned medical school campus in Uptown Columbus on the banks of the Chattahoochee River.
(See page 14 for more details.)*

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THE BULLETIN

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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



2021

Happy New Year!

If you are like me, 2021 could not have come any faster. We all glad to have 2020 in our review mirrors. Between the beginning expectations of “The year of great vision” and growing our MCMS with increasing membership and service to our community, COVID-19 hits: de-railing the world with massive sickness and death, restrictions, economic shut downs and bringing countless “new normal” of physically distancing and face coverings. Practicing medicine with new systems in place after many of us had to shut down our offices, furlough employees, form new social pods and restrict travel and contact with family and friends, previously able to see without limitations or constraints.

But we made it through! Two new mRNA vaccines, one currently available (as of this writing) and the other thought to be FDA approved any day now (with more in development and clinical trials). These novel vaccines were cultivated in record time with collaboration between government, medicine and industry. New viral medications as well as repurposing old medications for treatment of COVID-19 (I-MASK+, I-MATH+) became available as physicians and researchers worldwide banded together to flight back and save lives developing new treatment protocols and algorithms. www.covid19criticalcare.com

The future for 2021 certainly looks brighter than 2020. Thank you to our Officers and Executive Committee, Events Planning Committee, for pivoting through ZOOM meetings and flexibility as we cancelled, changed and postponed our previous MCMS schedule. Thank you also to our Executive Office Team of Dan Walton, Stacie McGahee, who have been an ever helpful resource and source of stability, persevering through their own personal life challenges, to continue keep all our MCMS plates spinning with grace and care. Thank you also to you, our faithful MCMS members, with your continued financial support of our society to sustain us for a brighter future through these challenging times.

It remains my pleasure to serve, albeit currently as your “virtual MCMS President” and I look forward to the day when we can meet again in person. We have **postponed our Annual Epic Wine Social to the Spring or Fall** when social gathering safety guidelines improves.

May your New Year be filled with good health, peace and prosperity for you and yours!



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PIEDMONT COLUMBUS REGIONAL NEWS

Piedmont Launches COVID-19 Treatment Infusion Center

Piedmont Columbus Regional has officially launched Piedmont Infusion – West for the administration of monoclonal antibodies as a new treatment option for COVID-19.

Monoclonal antibodies have shown to directly neutralize the COVID-19 virus and are intended to prevent progression of disease. Early evidence has shown the potential to reduce the need for hospitalization of infected patients if given within the first 10 days of onset of symptoms.



The new infusion center is located at the Midtown West Campus, formerly known as Doctors Hospital. A COVID-19 positive patient is referred to the Center by a medical provider for candidacy to the program. One of two available treatment options, bamlanivimab and casirivimab/imdevimab combination, are being administered to outpatients meeting specific criteria and are at high-risk of progressing to severe COVID-19. Eligible patients will be provided specific related information by their provider and when the infusion appointment is scheduled. This is a one-time infusion that is provided to the patient.

This would not be possible without the generous donation from Dan and Kathelen Amos, as well as numerous other community donations received. We'd also like to thank the Pharmacy and John B. Amos Cancer Center teams, who have established this new service.

Northside Earns Fifth Straight 'A' Grade from Leapfrog

The Northside Campus was the only hospital in Columbus that was awarded an 'A' grade. Northside's grade recognizes our efforts in protecting patients and Piedmont's Plan on a Page promise of doing zero harm and providing safer healthcare—even as we've faced challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the fifth straight 'A' grade dating back to Fall 2018 when Northside was first eligible for a Leapfrog grade! The fact that the Northside Campus continues to earn such high grades is a testament to the quality of care and service that our providers and employees deliver daily.

The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization committed to improving healthcare quality and safety. The Safety Grade assigns an A, B, C, D or F grade to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, injuries, accidents, infections and other harms to patients in their care. Leapfrog's Hospital Safety Grades help consumers/patients make informed decisions when choosing where to seek medical care. The Columbus Hub, just like the entire Piedmont system, uses Leapfrog grades as a way to gauge progress on patient safety and satisfaction improvement.

To see Piedmont Columbus Regional's full grade details and how other area hospitals stacked up against us, visit hospitalsafetygrade.org.

Piedmont Physicians Endocrinology Participates in Landmark Study with IACT Health

A landmark study on the treatment of new onset type 1 diabetes in children was recently published in The New England Journal of Medicine. Piedmont Physicians Endocrinology Columbus, in partnership with IACT Health, was one of only 20 study sites in the world for this study. They are now involved in a similar study with another drug.

Columbus Hub Wins Red Cross Award

Piedmont Columbus Regional has received the American Red Cross Outstanding Service Award. The award recognizes Piedmont's continued support over the years as a blood program partner of the American Red Cross, and recently hosting more employee-only blood drives during COVID-19 when most public drives had to be postponed.

Celebrity Classic Raises Over \$122K for John B. Amos Cancer Center

In late August, the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation hosted the 25th annual Celebrity Classic at the Country Club of Columbus. The annual event, which normally features golf and tennis in the springtime, but was postponed due to COVID-19 and only featured golf this year.

Foundation staff, along with employee volunteers and Outdoor Events ensured all safety measures were implemented such as temperature checks for every attendee upon arrival, hand sanitizer distributed in every golfer's goodie bag and social distancing wherever possible. COVID-19 waivers were also signed prior to arrival so everyone could enjoy a great day safely playing golf.

Guests got to hear from CEO Scott Hill, a very special story of survival from Gary Socha, and Drs. Pippas and McWilliams of the John B. Amos Cancer Center. Piedmont Healthcare President and CEO Kevin Brown (pictured below) made an appearance at the tournament.

Hosting events like Celebrity Classic are important to our organization– helping engage the community in our mission and raising vital philanthropic support so that we can stay at the top industry best practices and continue offering exceptional and compassionate care– here at home, close to family, friends and loved ones.

The 2021 Celebrity Classic will be held April 9-12.

Breast Cancer Awareness Lunch-In Raises Money for Cancer Care

Because our mission to raise funds for cancer could not wait (or be canceled!), this year's annual Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon looked a little different. Instead of gathering the first Tuesday of October at the Trade Center, our sponsors and guests had the opportunity to host their own "LUNCH-IN" at their home or office, providing #HopeWhereverYouAre.

With a contribution of \$500 to the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation, supporters received a Lunch-In Box for eight (8) guests, a choice of lunch delivered from one of our three local restaurant sponsors, table décor, gifts, and a Tribute yard sign to be personalized with the name of the person they wish to honor. All were able to watch an inspiring message from our Chair, Melissa Thomas, John B. Amos Cancer Center physicians, Drs. Ciuba and Kumar, and our featured Breast Cancer Survivor, La Toya Olszak.

This year's Lunch-In raised more than \$85,000 to help fund the purchase of a new 3-D tomosynthesis mammography unit so that we can continue providing life-saving technology at the Elena Amos Breast Care Center!

We are so grateful to our presenting sponsor, Radiology Partners Georgia, as well as our signature sponsors – TSYS, Aflac, Hall Booth Smith, PC, Columbus Hospice, Georgia Power, The Shelby, and Wanda Amos Foundation, and WC Bradley.

Honor a Caregiver

One of the best parts of our jobs is hearing the feedback from our grateful patients. The Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation has an Honor a Caregiver program honoring our fantastic staff members. This program allows patients to show their gratitude for the exceptional care by donating to the hospital. Research shows that expressions of appreciation, like those offered through the Honor a Caregiver programs in our hospital and hospitals across the nation, are linked to increased ability to cope with stress, lower blood pressure, increased feeling of connectedness, and more for patients who choose to give a gift. Allowing a patient to give back empowers them in their healthcare journey. No matter how large or small, these gifts make a lasting impact on our hospital and caregivers.

Piedmont Columbus Regional Staff who have a gift given in their honor will be inducted into the Piedmont Columbus Regional Honored Society. They will be recognized with special pins to wear. For more information on the Honor a Caregiver program or if you have a grateful patient interested in thanking you in a special way, please contact Kim Rozycki at the Foundation at 706-660-6559. You may also give online by visiting piedmont.org/pcrfoundation.

DAISY Award

Congratulations to the DAISY award recipient, who was selected as part of a national program to recognize nurses for their extraordinary care and compassion to patients and their families. Nurses are nominated by a patient, patient's family member or co-worker. The nominations are then reviewed and winners are selected by the DAISY committee.



*Tanya Mayotte,
Northside Campus*

Upcoming Events

Trauma Symposium

The Georgia state office of EMS Region 7 will host its annual Trauma Symposium at Piedmont Columbus Regional's Midtown Campus on January 20. Area first

responders and clinicians are invited to attend. There will be an array of speakers throughout the day from medical experts and first responders.
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Trauma-Symp-Region_7"](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Trauma-Symp-Region_7)

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.



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HUGHSTON CLINIC NEWS

Andy Grubbs, Elected GATA's New Vice President

The Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association (GATA) recently announced the election results from the GATA Executive Board. The board elected Andy J. Grubbs, Jr., Med, ATC, of the Hughston Foundation's Sports Medicine Program in Columbus, GA to the position of Vice President. Andy's term of office will start at the conclusion of the 2021 Annual Meeting and last for 2 years (2023) after which he will assume the role of President.



Andy Grubbs, originally from Macon, Georgia graduated from Valdosta State University with a BS in Sports Medicine in 2001. He then attended Auburn University and earned his Master's in Education degree while working as a graduate assistant football athletic trainer. Andy currently serves as the Director of Athletic Training at The Hughston Foundation in Columbus, Georgia managing the athletic healthcare for over 12 high schools and colleges. A strong advocate for the profession, he strives each day to make an impact in the lives of student athletes by getting them the resources they need in a timely manner. Andy's goal, if elected, is to improve healthcare access for secondary school athletes in the state of Georgia by increasing the number of certified athletic trainers within the secondary schools.

A recipient of the SEATA Backbone award in 2007 and the GATA Warren Morris Sports Medicine Person of the Year in 2013, Andy can often be found in the classroom helping athletic trainers obtain their Evidence Based CEU's with one of his lectures. In 2017, Andy and his staff published *Taping, Wrapping, and Bracing for Athletic Trainers: Functional Methods for Application and Fabrication* through Slack Publications.

Andy is an active member in a wide array of professional organizations including National Athletic Trainers' Association, Georgia Athletic Trainers' Association, and the Southeast Athletic Trainers' Association. He currently serves on the Georgia High School Sports Medicine Advisory Council, along with numerous local advisory boards and committees.

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 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. Go to <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.

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ST. FRANCIS - EMORY HEALTHCARE NEWS

Dr. John Stephenson Retirement Celebration

On Wednesday, December 2nd, we celebrated the retirement of Dr. John Stephenson. Dr. Stephenson has brought more than 40 years of experience to the St. Francis Orthopaedic Institute. Through the years, he has served two separate times as Chief of Orthopaedic Surgery and also as Chairman of the Surgery Service Committee here. A graduate of the University of the South and the University of Tennessee Medical School, he also served as a Medical Officer in the United States Army.



Dr. Stephenson was a part of the team at McCluskey Orthopaedic Surgery, which eventually helped establish the St. Francis Orthopaedic Institute - the first physicians to join St. Francis. Happy Retirement, Dr. Stephenson!

Light the Spirit Tree Lighting Ceremony

St. Francis held its 26th annual Light the Spirit Tree Lighting Ceremony. We celebrated a little differently this year to keep everyone safe. We had a drive-in movie, Elf, in the Butler Parking lot and a drive-thru visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Visitors



could drop off their Santa letters, receive a candy cane and limited edition ornament, and watch a movie, and eat popcorn all from the comfort of their car. Visitors were greeted by CEO Melody Trimble and a prayer by Chaplain Manager Pat Ingram. Kali, the four-year-old daughter of St. Francis team member Kimberly Brown, flipped the switch to light up the Christmas tree.



Chest Pain Accreditation

Congratulations to our team for their hard work and dedication toward achieving Chest Pain Center Accreditation. As an accredited Chest Pain Center facility, we have coordination among everyone involved in the patient's care: emergency responders, our hospital emergency department (ED) team, the critical care unit, and cardiac rehab. Their commitment to this process and the patients we serve every day help make our hospital a place where people choose to come for healthcare.



Daisy Award Winner

Congrats to our newest DAISY award winner Tyechia Thomas, RN. She was honored in a ceremony to recognize her extraordinary compassion and care. Tye was nominated based on several patient comments.

Here is what her nominators said:

"I will always be grateful and remember her for her caring and thoughtfulness."

"The compassion and understanding and love, yes, that's what I felt from her. What a blessing you have working for you."

"I'm so thankful for the care she gave me when I sincerely needed a loving caregiver."

Thank you, Tye, for your incredible care.



Tyechia Thomas, RN.

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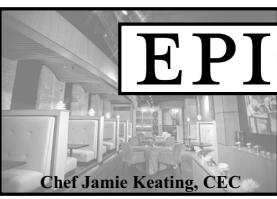
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MERCER UNIVERSITY NEWS

On September 3rd Mercer University held a groundbreaking ceremony at the site of its planned medical school campus in Uptown Columbus on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. The project backed by generous support from the local community, which will be matched by the University, as well as operational funding from the state, was attended by Governor Kemp, Mayor Henderson, Mercer President William D. Underwood and other local and state leaders. The 4-year campus is on schedule for a December 2021 opening and 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.



Architectural rendering of Columbus Mercer University medical school campus.



Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp speaks at the groundbreaking ceremony for the expanded Mercer University School of Medicine Columbus campus.

Local officials and state leaders, including Gov. Brian Kemp and Mayor Skip Henderson celebrate the ground breaking of the upcoming Mercer University School of Medicine Columbus campus.



MCMs NEW MEMBERS

Maurice Solis MD

Dr. Solis received his medical degree from Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest University and completed his general surgery residency in Macon at Medical Center of Georgia, and his peripheral vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and fellowship training in endovascular surgery at Southern Illinois University.

He is Board-certified by the American Board of Surgery in both vascular surgery and general surgery.

He was recently appointed senior associate dean at the Columbus campus of Mercer University.



Dr. Travis Massengill

Dr. Travis Massengill received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree at Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia.

He completed both his Internal Medicine Residency and Cardiology Fellowship at Beaumont Farmington Hills in Michigan.

He is Board Certified in Internal Medicine and General Cardiology and is a Registered Physician in Vascular Interpretation.

Dr. Massengill is on staff at St. Francis Hospital, Piedmont Columbus Regional and Piedmont Northside. He is now accepting patients at Southeastern Cardiology Associates.



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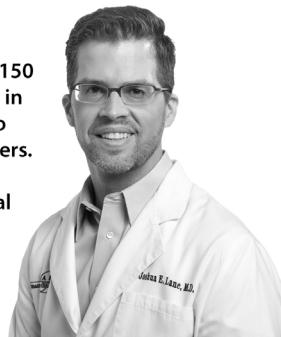


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Both hold faculty positions at regional medical schools and enjoy teaching medical students and residents.



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