

THE BULLETIN

VOLUME 66 • NUMBER 4



"The healthcare legislation has kicked in.
You have an appointment with the masses."

APRIL 2021

A PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
ERUDIRE ET DELECTARE



HUGHSTON CLINIC

Research • Education • Treatment

Hughston's quality patient care has kept us #1 in orthopaedics for over 70 years

David P. Antekeier, MD
Orthopaedic Trauma & Adult
and Pediatric Orthopaedic Spine

Champ L. Baker III, MD
Arthroscopic Surgery, Cartilage Restoration
& Sports Medicine

Norman L. Donati, Jr., MD
Hip, Knee, Shoulder, Total Joint Replacement,
Foot, Ankle & Arthroscopic Surgery

John D. Dorchak, MD
Orthopaedic Spine Surgery

Patrick J. Fornicola, MD
Shoulder, Knee, Total Joint Replacement
& Sports Medicine

Fred Flandry, MD, FACS
Trauma, Total Joint Replacement,
Sports Medicine & General Orthopaedics

Ryan M. Geringer, DO, FAOAO
Shoulder, Knee & Sports Medicine

Garland K. (Jake) Gudger, Jr., MD
Arthroscopy, Sports Medicine, Hip
& Knee Reconstruction

Kurt E. Jacobson, MD, FACS
Knee, Sports Medicine & General Orthopaedics

David H. MacDonald, DO, FAOAO
Hand & Upper Extremity, Arthroscopic Surgery

James E. McGrory, MD
Spine Surgery, Hip and Knee Replacement

Douglas W. Pahl, MD
Orthopaedic Spine Surgery

David C. Rehak, MD
Hand, Elbow & Upper Extremity

Randall J. Ruark, MD
Hip & Knee Total Joint Replacement

Matthew G. Stewart, MD
Foot & Ankle, Hip & Knee Reconstruction,
Orthopaedic Trauma & Sports Medicine

Michael M. Tucker, Jr., MD
Knee, Shoulder, Foot, Ankle & Sports Medicine

John I. Waldrop, MD
Hip, Knee, Total Joint Replacement
& Arthroscopic Surgery

B. Collier Watson, DO
General Orthopaedics, Foot & Ankle

L. Erik Westerlund, MD, FACS
Minimally Invasive & Complex Spine Surgery



THE BULLETIN

Society Office: 2612 Commons Blvd. • Augusta, GA 30909
706-322-1254 • FAX 706-736-8055 • www.muscogeeomedical.org

Contents

President's Message	4
Hospital News.....	6, 8, 9

Editor: David H. Levine, M.D. • **Associate Editor:** Karen Stuart, M.D.
Managing Editor: Dan Walton

Officers 2021:

President	Bret C. Crumpton, D.O.
President-Elect	Michael Borkat, M.D.
Past President	Timothy P. Villegas, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer	Karen Stuart, M.D.
Director to MAG	Fred Flandry, M.D.
Alternate Director to MAG	W. Frank Willett, III, M.D.

Executive Committee: James D. Majors, M.D., W. Frank Willett, M.D., Glenn E. Fussell, M.D., Fred Flandry, M.D., Michael Borkat, M.D., Ryan Geringer, D.O., Michael Green, M.D., Kurt Jacobson, M.D., David H. Levine, M.D., Ken Smith, M.D., Karen Stuart, M.D.

Delegates: Michael Borkat, M.D., Benjamin Cheek, M.D., Bret Crumpton, D.O., Fred Flandry, M.D., Glenn E. Fussell, M.D., James D. Majors, M.D., Karen Stuart, M.D., W. Frank Willett, III, M.D.

Alternate Delegates: Ryan Geringer, D.O., James Hagler, M.D., A. J. Jain, M.D., David Levine, M.D., Henry Ngo, M.D., Folarin Olubowale, M.D., Kenneth Smith, M.D., Timothy Villegas, M.D.

Ad position is at the sole discretion of the Editorial Board.

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



COVID-19 Cases and Vaccine Update

COVID-19 continues to consume the forefront of our medical information and awareness. As of this writing (March 29, 2021), according to the CDC website, there are 30,038,363 COVID-19 cases reported in the US. The cases reported in the last 30 days is mildly increasing. Total vaccines administered in the US: 143,000,000. Total deaths in the US: 546,144. The 30 - day death rate continues a steady decline.

The CDC website reports for Muscogee County 7- day total data for cases (from Friday, March 19, 2021 – Thursday, March 25, 2021) is down 46.75 % total cases (180), with the other major percent change of indicators; Percent Positivity (6.93), Testing Volume (1702), Percent Beds Used (COVID) 8.30%, Percent ICU Beds Used (COVID) 16.07% were all down when compared to the absolute change in the previous 7 - day period. The only two major percent change of indicators, Deaths (12) and New Hospital Admissions (COVID) 34 5.93 per 100 beds, increased compared to the absolute change in the previous 7 – day period.

The New England Journal of Medicine online letters to the editor, March 23, 2021 reports new independent data concerning vaccine effectiveness. These letters state that data from health care workers at medical centers in the United States and Israel are confirming the effectiveness of both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines against COVID-19. Testing showed new cases among 2.5% of those tested within the first week after the first dose. With steady decline in new cases to less than 0.2% in the second week after the second dose. A University of California San Diego Health team, led by Dr. Jocelyn Keehner said: “The rarity of positive test results 14 days after administration of the second dose of vaccine is encouraging and suggests that the efficacy of these vaccines is maintained outside a trial setting.” Similar outcomes were also reported by research teams at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, and Hadassah Hebrew University Medical Center, in Jerusalem, Israel. These studies included increasing protection to healthcare workers vaccinated during the midst of a surge of community COVID-19 infections. The Israel study included protection from the U.K. variant of the disease known as B.1.1.7. The authors said: “These findings suggest that widespread and effective vaccination among healthcare workers provides a safe environment even in the presence of a high rate of SARS-CoV-2 infection in the community.”

To date we have three approved vaccines available in the US, with a fourth vaccine reporting promising results (AstraZeneca). Pfizer and Moderna are mRNA vaccines, while the Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca are Viral Vector vaccines. Please see the CDC website for more details.

Fortunately, more and more people can receive COVID-19 vaccinations, with the age in Columbus dropping to 16 and above for the Pfizer vaccine at the Columbus Civic Center mass vaccination site (1 Lumpkin Blvd.).

The Executive Committee will meet this month via Zoom to continue planning for future activities for our MCMS. Stay tuned to the Bulletin for updates. Hopefully, we will be able to meet at Epic for our Fall Social.

Stay safe during your remaining Spring Break activities.



We Believe

**COLDWELL
BANKER**

KENNON, PARKER,
DUNCAN & DAVIS

Mike See

Fully Licensed GA/AL Realtor

706-315-5289 (CELL) • Mike.see@kpdd.com
5670 Whitesville Road • Columbus, GA 31904
SEE IT SOLD

Helping others is your specialty. Helping you is ours.

The challenges of the medical profession are increasingly complex. We understand. That's why many healthcare providers are trusting Synovus for their financial needs. Our Medical Financial Services provide real solutions specifically designed to help you achieve your goals.

Find out how we can help you.

1-888-SYNOVUS | synovus.com

SYNOVUS®
the bank of here



Synovus Bank, Member FDIC.



PIEDMONT COLUMBUS REGIONAL NEWS

Columbus Hub Implementing New Visitor Management System

Piedmont Columbus Regional has joined more than 400 hospitals and healthcare systems that use the Omnigo visitor management system to ensure safer facilities. This new system has been implemented at the John B. Amos Cancer Center as well as the Midtown and Northside campuses. Visitors MUST HAVE A VALID ID (driver's license or another form of government ID) to enter the facility.

Staff will take the visitor's valid ID and input other information (such as room number or department) into the system.

If the visitor does not have a valid ID, our staff will take a photo of them (just like how the DMV does with the driver's license process).

A badge sticker will be generated for visitors to wear at all times; once the sticker expires, the visitor must leave the facility or go back to the entrance to be re-screened.

Visitors will still be required to undergo a temperature check and health questionnaire at the entrances before they get to the new Omnigo process.

Foundation Announces New Patient Promise Fund

The Piedmont Promise— to make a positive difference in every life we touch is more than just providing the highest quality care to our patients. It's also about giving compassionate human touches that go beyond the care at the bedside. The Foundation has established the Patient Promise Fund to deliver those touches that make our patients' experience exceed their expectations. These funds will assist in their moment of greatest need, from clothes, food, and transportation to special life celebrations. For more information on how you can support this new fund, please email us PCR_foundation@piedmont.org or call (706) 660-6115.

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.



*Julia McLaughlin
Family Care Center*

Upcoming Events

Piedmont Classic

The Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation is excited to announce the 2021 Piedmont Classic will be held April 9-12 at Cooper Creek Tennis Center and Green Island Country Club. We are thrilled to announce that our presenting sponsor will be Mercedes-Benz of Columbus.

This annual golf and tennis tournament was founded to benefit the John B. Amos Cancer Center and the patients we serve. As the only comprehensive cancer center in the region, it is a place where patients receive compassionate care close to family, friends, and loved ones with access to the region's finest clinicians, advanced treatments, and cutting-edge technology.

In 2019 we completed the expansion and renovation of the Cancer Center, made possible through donations and support from our sponsors and community members. And in 2020, the event raised over \$131,000 to help fund next-generation linear accelerators. The Piedmont Classic will continue raising funds to help purchase this technology, and we hope that we can count on you this year to help make it possible!

For more information on sponsorships or how you can be a part of these tournaments, email zarina.cheves@piedmont.org or call 706-660-6204. We hope to see you there!

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.

MERCER UNIVERSITY NEWS

Mercer Medicine Rural Health Clinics

In early November, as continuation of its mission to meet the primary care and health care needs of rural and medically underserved areas of Georgia, Mercer Medicine Clay County celebrated a ribbon-cutting at its offices at 101 Hartford Rd. West, Suite 1, in Fort Gaines. The 4,885-square-foot clinic is located at the site of the county's former hospital facility and is adjacent to the public health department. The facility was refurbished with a grant from the OneGeorgia Authority in addition to local contributions.

Dr. A.S. Ghiathi, a board-certified family medicine physician who is well known and highly respected in the area, along with certified physician assistant Jennifer Sanders and a professionally trained staff, will be available Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Additionally, Mercer Medicine has begun a partnership with the local government, school system, chamber of commerce and others to establish a future clinic in Hamilton in Harris County.

**Behar, Reid,
Melton & Brown**
Certified Public Accountants

**C
P
A**

2821 Harley Court, Suite 300 | Columbus, GA 31909

(706) 576-4900

firm@servicecpa.com

Tax Consulting & Planning

Tax Audit Representation

Audit, Review & Compilation

Bookkeeping and Payroll Services

Forensic Accounting & Litigation Support

Mergers, Acquisitions & Mediation

Experience to help you where it counts...peace of mind!

HUGHSTON CLINIC NEWS

Hughston Organization Welcomes Physician and Researcher, **Brent A. Ponce, MD**

Brent A. Ponce, MD, joins the Hughston Clinic and the Hughston Foundation as an orthopaedic physician, surgeon, and researcher. He will see patients in Columbus as well as Vidalia. He will also spend much of his time at the Hughston Foundation working with other researchers, orthopaedic residents, and medical students.



Dr. Ponce graduated summa cum laude with an undergraduate degree in Biology from the University of Cincinnati, and graduated medical school from the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, TN. He completed his surgical internship from Wright State at Wright Patterson AFB. His orthopaedic surgery residency, as well as a shoulder fellowship was completed at Harvard Medical School. He then fulfilled an 18-month military commitment at the Air Force Academy Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colorado. During his military career, he served as a flight surgeon, orthopaedic surgeon, and team physician for the men's basketball program.

Dr. Ponce is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, American Orthopaedic Association, American Shoulder and Elbow Society, Interurban Orthopaedic Society, and Arthroscopy Association of North America. He is also a member of the Veterans' Administration Orthopaedic Society and Alabama Orthopaedic Society, serving both organizations as a past-president.

Academically, Dr. Ponce has published extensively in peer-reviewed scientific journals and authored chapters for medical textbooks. He also serves on the editorial boards of several well-known medical journals as referee. Further, Dr. Ponce presents his research at international and national meetings, and has won awards for his investigative studies, publications, and presentations at state, regional, and international levels. During his career, he has held academic appointments at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, to include Vice Chairman of Clinical Affairs and Professor for the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery as well as Director of the Orthopaedic Research Fellowship and Director of Orthopaedic Specialties Institute Skills Lab.

Dr. Ponce will continue his research through the Hughston Foundation. He also plans to mentor research fellows and surgical residents through Hughston's fellowship and residency programs.

Dr. Ponce specializes in shoulder, knee, sports medicine, total joint replacement, and general orthopaedics. He is especially interested in biomechanics, ligamentous injuries, and the development of surgical instruments, techniques, and implant designs for the shoulder and knee.

Scrubs Camp Hands-On Adventure in Healthcare

Do you know a high school or college student interested in learning more about the medical field? During Scrubs Camp, students will enjoy lab demonstrations, facility tours, surgical videos, and hand-on activities. Speakers and topics covered during camp include medical writing and illustration, radiology, surgical nursing and technologist, physician and residency program, physical and occupational therapy, athletic training, optometry, and a number of other medical professions. Our camps have been so successful, we have we are offering it twice again this year: June 15-17 and July 20-22. Attendees and staff will follow CDC guidelines for COVID throughout camp participation.<https://www.hughston.com/summer-camp/>

Seeking Scrubs Camp sponsorships. In 2021, The Hughston Foundation is offering the camp twice, giving more students the opportunity to participate. As we continue to offer this life-changing opportunity for passionate students, future educators, and medical professionals, we are requesting your financial help for a student who would not otherwise be able to attend. You can make a difference by sponsoring a student to attend the camp for \$200. Every gift matters and any amount will help us continue our mission. For more details: visit our website at www.hughston.com or email the Hughston Foundation's Executive Director, Belinda Klein at bklein@hughston.com.

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—that 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.



**COLUMBUS
DIAGNOSTIC
C E N T E R**

Now at CDC Northside

64 SLICE CT

CDC NORTHSIDE
7500 Veterans Pkwy
706.323.7622



Monday-Friday 8am-5pm
Walk-in X-Rays:
Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm

ColumbusDiagnosticCenter.com

In Memoriam



James Heiskell Venable, M.D.

*Dr. James H. Venable, a member of this society since 1957,
passed away February 7, 2021.*

Dr. Venable was a native of Wichita Falls, Texas. He graduated from Mercer University and received his medical degree from the Tulane University of Louisiana Medical School in 1955. He served his internship at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and completed a general practice residency at the H.P. Long Charity Hospital in Pineville, Louisiana. He returned to Columbus to practice general medicine until 1959, when he returned to Tulane and completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Upon completion of his medical training, Dr. Venable returned to the Columbus area where he practiced until his retirement.

Dr. Venable held academic appointments at Tulane Medical School and Emory University School of Medicine. He served as Chief of Staff at St. Francis Hospital in Columbus. He was editor of the Muscogee County Medical Society Bulletin for many years and served as MCMS President in 2004.

In addition to the Muscogee County Medical Society, Dr. Venable was a member of the South Atlantic Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the Continental Gynecologic Society, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Georgia Obstetrics and Gynecology Society, the Medical Association of Georgia and the American Medical Association.

ARTICLE OF INTEREST

SARS-COV2, Variants, Covid-19 and Vaccines facts, fiction and clinical implications

The following article was requested for publication by Dr. Karen Stuart. It was written by Gary LeMay. Dr. LeMay holds a PhD in Clinical Psychology and a post doctorate in clinical neurophysiology.

Due to length, we are including a link to the full article:

<http://muscogeeecms.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SARS-COV2-physician-version-FINAL-revised-3.15.2021.pdf>



.....
SAVE THE DATE!

Fall Social

September 20, 2021 • EPIC Restaurant

.....

Restaurant Hours:

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

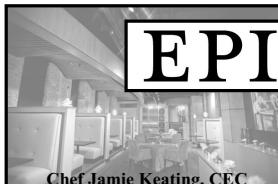
Friday-Saturday
5:00pm-10:30pm

Pre Fixe Menu:
Three Course Dinner

Tuesday-Thursday
5:30pm-6:30pm
Friday-Saturday

5:00pm-6:00pm

\$35 per person
(Taxes & Gratuity Not Included)



EPIC

Chef Jamie Keating, CEC

*Ask About The Interactive Culinary
Experience Of The Chef's Table!*

706-507-9909

1201 Front Ave., Suite E, Columbus, GA 31901
Located in the Historic Eagle & Phenix Mill
Private Dining Available, Reservations Recommended
epiccuisine.com * info@epiccuisine.com



**Board Certified. Fellowship Trained. Quality Driven.
Medical, Surgical, Laser, & Aesthetic Dermatology**

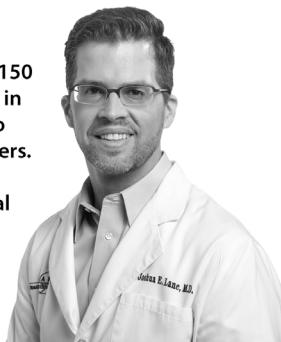


**Board Certified in Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery
Fellowship Trained in Mohs Micrographic & Reconstructive Surgery
Experienced in Aesthetic & Laser Dermatology**



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.



706.322.1717



American Society for
Dermatologic Surgery

**1210 Brookstone Centre Pkwy
Columbus, GA 31904
www.lanederm.com**

