

# THE BULLETIN

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*The new Mercer University School of Medicine continues to take shape in Columbus! See page 12 for more details.*

JULY 2021

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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@muscogeemedical.org](mailto:Stacie@muscogeemedical.org).

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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*Bret C. Crumpton, D.O., President*



## **CDC COVID-19 Study**

This article is from  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0607-mrna-reduce-risks.html>

### **CDC COVID-19 Study Shows mRNA Vaccines Reduce Risk of Infection by 91 Percent for Fully Vaccinated People**

**Vaccination Makes Illness Milder, Shorter for the Few Vaccinated People Who Do Get COVID-19** Press Release

For Immediate Release: Monday, June 7, 2021

Contact: <https://www.cdc.gov/media>" Media Relations - (404) 639-3286

A new CDC study finds the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) reduce the risk of infection by 91 percent for fully vaccinated people. This adds to the growing body of real-world evidence of their effectiveness. Importantly, this study also is among the first to show that mRNA vaccination benefits people who get COVID-19 despite being fully vaccinated (14 or more days after dose 2) or partially vaccinated (14 or more days after dose 1 to 13 days after dose 2).

“COVID-19 vaccines are a critical tool in overcoming this pandemic,” said CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, MD, MPH. “Findings from the extended timeframe of this study add to accumulating evidence that mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are effective and should prevent most infections — but that fully vaccinated people who still get COVID-19 are likely to have milder, shorter illness and appear to be less likely to spread the virus to others. These benefits are another important reason to get vaccinated.”

The findings come from four weeks of additional data collected in CDC’s HEROES-RECOVER study of health care workers, first responders, frontline workers, and other essential workers. These groups are more likely to be exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 because of their occupations. Preliminary results from this study were first announced in March 2021.

In the new analysis, 3,975 participants completed weekly SARS-CoV-2 testing for 17 consecutive weeks (from December 13, 2020 to April 10, 2021) in eight U.S. locations. Participants self-collected nasal swabs that were laboratory tested for SARS-CoV-2, which is the virus that causes COVID-19. If the tests came back positive, the specimens were further tested to determine the amount of detectable virus in the nose (i.e., viral load) and the number of days that participants tested positive (i.e., viral shedding). Participants were followed over time and the data were analyzed according to vaccination status. To evaluate

vaccine benefits, the study investigators accounted for the circulation of SARS-CoV-2 viruses in the area and how consistently participants used personal protective equipment (PPE) at work and in the community. Once fully vaccinated, participants' risk of infection was reduced by 91 percent. After partial vaccination, participants' risk of infection was reduced by 81 percent. These estimates included symptomatic and asymptomatic infections.

To determine whether COVID-19 illness was milder, study participants who became infected with SARS-CoV-2 were combined into a single group and compared to unvaccinated, infected participants. Several findings indicated that those who became infected after being fully or partially vaccinated were more likely to have a milder and shorter illness compared to those who were unvaccinated. For example, fully or partially vaccinated people who developed COVID-19 spent on average six fewer total days sick and two fewer days sick in bed. They also had about a 60 percent lower risk of developing symptoms, like fever or chills, compared to those who were unvaccinated. Some study participants infected with SARS-CoV-2 did not develop symptoms.

Other study findings suggest that fully or partially vaccinated people who got COVID-19 might be less likely to spread the virus to others. For example, fully or partially vaccinated study participants had 40 percent less detectable virus in their nose (i.e., a lower viral load), and the virus was detected for six fewer days (i.e., viral shedding) compared to those who were unvaccinated when infected. In addition, people who were partially or fully vaccinated were 66 percent less likely to test positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection for more than one week compared to those who were unvaccinated. While these indicators are not a direct measure of a person's ability to spread the virus, they have been correlated with reduced spread of other viruses, such as varicella and influenza.

Overall, the study findings support CDC's recommendation to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as you can. Everyone 12 years and older is now eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination in the United States. CDC has several surveillance networks that will continue to assess how FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are working in real-world conditions in different settings and in different groups of people, such as different age groups and people with different health statuses.

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# PIEDMONT COLUMBUS REGIONAL NEWS

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## **Auxiliary Holds Officer Installation, Makes Donations**

The Piedmont Columbus Regional Auxiliary hosted its installation of officers ceremony for fiscal year 2022 and made several donations.



A total of \$50,000 was donated to John B. Amos Cancer Center for the Community Connection Corridor, located next to the Elena Amos Breast Care Center connecting over to the main entrance.

The Auxiliary also made a \$16,000 pledge to the Northside Campus ICU for a bladder scanner. Additionally, the Auxiliary will be making a donation to the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation's Patient Promise Fund in honor of the Auxiliary board members. The Auxiliary has donated close to \$7 million since its formation 58 years ago.

Additionally, Jimmi Pate, volunteers for Meet My Loved One calls and the Special Events and Member Engagement committees, was the recipient of the "Because of You" award. Just like employees, Auxilians champion patient-centered care, exemplify teamwork and connections, are owners, and embrace the future. Jimmi received a pin, which she'll wear on her uniform. The pin represents strength, wisdom, and hands to accompany a servant's heart.

## **Longtime Columbus Employee Receives Special Honor**

MA Dowdell, the second longest-serving active Columbus employee, celebrated her 50th work anniversary in late May!



After a renovation thanks to the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation, the classroom in the Family Medicine Residency Program was renamed to MA's Room.

## **NICU's Kangaroo-a-Thon a Success**

The "kangaroo" method of care highlights the importance of close contact between a mother and baby. It mimics the way a kangaroo holds her baby in her pouch. The care method is the practice of mothers holding babies skin to skin to improve the health of infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

The goal for this year's event was to reach 150 hours of kangaroo cuddle time, and they ended up reaching 170 hours.

### **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 bedside care. The Piedmont Columbus Regional 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, transportation, and even special life celebrations.

A recent patient tested positive for COVID and had to be hospitalized at our Midtown Campus. On day 21 of his hospitalization, he was deemed non-infectious and was allowed to have visitors. He was finally able to see his wife. The day she was able to see him also happened to be their 9th wedding anniversary!

When staff from our COVID unit heard about their special day, they got with the Patient Experience and Foundation teams to give the couple a special anniversary surprise. Thanks to the Foundation's Patient Promise Fund, the staff purchased non-alcoholic champagne, flowers, and cake for the couple to enjoy! The couple even got a musical performance of "You Are So Beautiful" thanks to a Pharmacy staff member.

For more information on how you can support this new fund, please email [PCR\\_foundation@piedmont.org](mailto:PCR_foundation@piedmont.org) or call (706) 660-6115.

### **DAISY Award**

Congratulations to the DAISY award recipients, who were 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. The winners were Shelby Dowdy, 8 ICU and Aryn Hueston, 5 Neuro.



### **Upcoming Events - Walmart Fundraising Campaign**

The 2021 Walmart campaign benefitting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals is scheduled for June 28-July 25. CMN Hospitals are on the frontlines when it comes to protecting the health of future generations. But we can't do it alone. When you are at Walmart, please consider donating or rounding up your total invoice! Walmart and Sam's Club started their partnership with CMN in 1987, and have raised more than \$1 billion. They fundraise for CMN in numerous ways, but 75% of their funds come in through the register campaign, and that is why this campaign is so essential. Please support your local Walmart and the kids!

## 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](mailto: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

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## **The Hughston Foundation Hosts the 2021 Research Presentation Program**

The Hughston Foundation hosted the 2021 Research Presentation Program on June 9, at 6 pm. Speakers included, Atsushi Endo, MD, MPH, the 2020-2021 Hughston Trauma Fellow, who presented “Proximal Humerus Fracture Treatment Trends in US Trauma Centers (2007-2015)”. The chief residents also presented their final research projects: Gil L. Gomez, DO, presented, “Clinical and Radiographic Outcomes Using Third-generation Bioactive Glass as a Bone Graft Substitute for Multi-level Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion: A Retrospective Case Series Study. Mudassar A. Khan, DO, presented, “Is the Hoffman’s Sign a Reliable Test for Predicting Spinal Cord Compression Seen on Magnetic Resonance Imaging?” and Christopher D. Muncie, DO, presented Inter-Observer Reliabilities of a Novel Acetabular Classification System. The other 4 classes from the Jack Hughston Memorial Hospital Orthopedic Residency Program presented their research studies as well. Dinner was provided and the program offered 4 AMA Category I CME credits to the attendees. Thank you to our industry sponsors and to the program sponsors for making this event possible.



*Gil L. Gomez, DO*



*Mudassar A. Khan, DO,*



*Atsushi Endo, MD, MPH*



*Christopher D. Muncie, DO*

## **Hughston Foundation Welcomes Back Scrubs Camp**

High school and first-year college students from across Georgia will attend Scrubs Camp in Columbus, GA, in June and July. The Hughston Foundation, Three Rivers AHEC, and Columbus Technical College are hosting 2 summer camps for students who have an interest in the medical field, especially orthopaedics, surgery, nursing, and rehabilitation. Although the classes are smaller to follow COVID-19 protocols, the scheduled presentations and activities will be as fun and enriching as ever.

As in the past, each student will receive a scrubs top to wear during camp and in addition to tours of each facility, the students will participate in many hands-on activities presented by knowledgeable faculty. Welcome Back Scrubs Camp—it’s going to be a great summer!

## **Hughston Foundation Partners with Tree of Life**

Tree of Life is a nonprofit facility that provides medical care to underserved populations and indigent patients of the Chattahoochee Valley. Since approximately 75-80% of their patients require orthopaedic care for joint pain, Hughston professionals are helping Tree of Life provide patients with orthopaedic exams, diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care.



## **What is Tree of Life Healthcare?**

Tree of Life is a non-profit primary healthcare provider and eye clinic in Columbus, Georgia, which provides medical care to underserved populations and indigent patients of the Chattahoochee Valley. The clinic provides chronic and acute medical treatments, preventative care, diagnostic exams, and doctor's visits. It is also an approved Medicaid and Medicare provider. Delivering quality and compassionate care, Tree of Life offers prostate cancer prevention, eye care exams and treatment, corrective lens prescriptions, and currently serves approximately 1,400 healthcare patients.

## **Tree of Life Volunteers**

Tree of Life currently operates with a volunteer staff. The professionals at Hughston are expanding the services available to patients by offering orthopaedic exams, referrals, and non-operative care. Tree of Life also works with colleges and universities, such as Duke University, Mercer University, Columbus State University, and Columbus Technical College to provide clinical hours for nurse practitioner and nursing students. This community program is committed to cultural competence, equity, and inclusion in our medical education and training between Hughston professional staff and university level students. Our mission is to enhance the educational environment through the engagement of a culturally diverse academic workforce, while preparing medical leaders to engage in diverse ideas, perspectives, and values.

## **How You Can Help**

This level of nonoperative care, of course, comes with costs that the patients cannot afford. For Tree of Life and Hughston to meet this demand for treatment, your support is needed. Your financial support will assist with the additional diagnostic tools and supplies necessary to treat orthopaedic and joint pain. For example, a standard patient visit at the Tree of Life costs approximately \$120, which includes office and lab visits, supplies, and overhead. This does not include staff, medications, or diagnostics, such as x-rays and MRI. The partnership between Tree of Life and the Hughston Foundation is an affirmation of Dr. Hughston's lifelong dedication to the health of orthopaedic patients everywhere. For more information on how you can support this worthy endeavor, please visit the <https://treeoflifehealthcare.org/donate/> or give by mail at PO Box 9205, Columbus, GA 31908.

## **Free CME at 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](mailto: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. Each Grand Rounds conference is approved for 1 unit CME.

**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-ins 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](http://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.

The advertisement is a rectangular box with a black border. On the left side, there is a logo for Columbus Diagnostic Center, consisting of a stylized globe with horizontal lines, above the text "COLUMBUS DIAGNOSTIC CENTER". To the right of the logo, the text "Now at CDC Northside" is written in white on a black background. Below this, the words "64 SLICE CT" are prominently displayed in large, bold, white letters. The "64" is the largest, with "SLICE" written vertically in a smaller font between the "4" and "CT". Below the "64 SLICE CT" text, there is a small circular logo for "ACR RADIOLOGY" with "ACCREDITED" written below it. To the right of the ACR logo, the text "Monday-Friday 8am-5pm" and "Walk-in X-Rays: Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm" is written in white. At the bottom of the advertisement, the website "ColumbusDiagnosticCenter.com" is written in white.

# MERCER UNIVERSITY NEWS

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With the brick walls near completion and the roof installation underway, the new Mercer University School of Medicine continues to take shape in Columbus! As construction advances on our riverfront campus, the School of Medicine faculty and staff have now moved into the temporary space, where they will welcome the inaugural class of 30 first-year MD students starting this coming August.

More details are here: <https://medicine.mercer.edu/construction-updates/>



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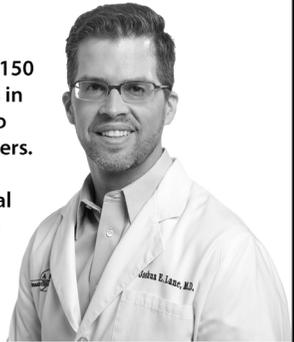


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