

THE BULLETIN

VOLUME 66 • NUMBER 9

Fall Social

September 20th
See inside for details!

SEPTEMBER 2021

A PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY
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THE BULLETIN

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Contents

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

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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@muscogeemedical.org.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Bret C. Crumpton, D.O., President



The Booster is on the Way

See "<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0818-covid-19-booster-shots.html>" Joint Statement from HHS Public Health and Medical Experts on COVID-19 Booster Shots
CDC Online Newsroom | CDC

On Wednesday, August 18, 2021, public health and medical experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the following statement on the Administration's plan for COVID-19 booster shots for the American people.

The statement is attributable to Dr. Rochelle Walensky, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); Dr. Janet Woodcock, Acting Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration (FDA); Dr. Vivek Murthy, U.S. Surgeon General; Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH); Dr. Anthony Fauci, Chief Medical Advisor to President Joe Biden and Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID); Dr. Rachel Levine, Assistant Secretary for Health; Dr. David Kessler, Chief Science Officer for the COVID-19 Response; and Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith, Chair of the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force:

“The COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States continue to be remarkably effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant. Recognizing that many vaccines are associated with a reduction in protection over time, and (also) acknowledging that additional vaccine doses could be needed to provide long lasting protection, we have been analyzing the scientific data closely from the United States and around the world to understand how long this protection will last and how we might maximize this protection. The available data make very clear that protection against SARS-CoV-2 infection begins to decrease over time following the initial doses of vaccination, and in association with the dominance of the Delta variant, we are starting to see evidence of reduced protection against mild and moderate disease. Based on our latest assessment, the current protection against severe disease, hospitalization, and death could diminish in the months ahead, especially among those who are at higher risk or were vaccinated during the earlier phases of the vaccination rollout. For that reason, we conclude that a booster shot will be needed to maximize vaccine-induced protection and prolong its durability.

“We have developed a plan to begin offering these booster shots this fall subject to FDA conducting an independent evaluation and determination of the safety and effectiveness of a third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines and CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issuing booster

dose recommendations based on a thorough review of the evidence. **We are prepared to offer booster shots for all Americans beginning the week of September 20 and starting 8 months after an individual's second dose.** At that time, the individuals who were fully vaccinated earliest in the vaccination rollout, including many health care providers, nursing home residents, and other seniors, will likely be eligible for a booster. We would also begin efforts to deliver booster shots directly to residents of long-term care facilities at that time, given the distribution of vaccines to this population early in the vaccine rollout and the continued increased risk that COVID-19 poses to them.

“We also anticipate booster shots will likely be needed for people who received the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine. Administration of the J&J vaccine did not begin in the U.S. until March 2021, and we expect more data on J&J in the next few weeks. With those data in hand, we will keep the public informed with a timely plan for J&J booster shots as well.

“Our top priority remains staying ahead of the virus and protecting the American people from COVID-19 with safe, effective, and long-lasting vaccines especially in the context of a constantly changing virus and epidemiologic landscape. We will continue to follow the science daily, and we are prepared to modify this plan should new data emerge that requires it.

“We also want to emphasize the ongoing urgency of vaccinating the unvaccinated in the U.S. and around the world. Nearly all the cases of severe disease, hospitalization, and death continue to occur among those not yet vaccinated at all. We will continue to ramp up efforts to increase vaccinations here at home and to ensure people have accurate information about vaccines from trusted sources. We will also continue to expand our efforts to increase the supply of vaccines for other countries, building further on the more than 600 million doses we have already committed to donate globally.”

See "<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>"
Delta Variant: What We Know About the Science
CDC for complete information.

Delta Variant: What We Know About the Science
Updated Aug. 19, 2021

Languages

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>"

On July 27, 2021, CDC released <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>" updated guidance on the need for urgently increasing COVID-19 vaccination coverage and a recommendation for everyone in areas of <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/>" \ "county-view" substantial or high transmission to wear a mask in public indoor places, even if they are fully vaccinated. CDC issued this new guidance due to several concerning developments and newly emerging data signals. First is a reversal in the downward trajectory of cases. In the days leading up to our guidance update, CDC

saw a rapid and alarming rise in the COVID case and hospitalization rates around the country.

In late June, our 7-day moving average of reported cases was around 12,000. On July 27, the 7-day moving average of cases reached over 60,000. This case rate looked more like the rate of cases we had seen before the vaccine was widely available.

Second, new data began to emerge that the Delta variant was more infectious and was leading to increased transmissibility when compared to other variants, even in vaccinated individuals. This includes recently published data from CDC and our public health partners, unpublished surveillance data that will be publicly available in the coming weeks, information included in CDC's updated "<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>" Science Brief on COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination, and ongoing outbreak investigations linked to the Delta variant.

Delta is currently the predominant strain of the virus in the United States. Below is a high-level summary of what CDC scientists have recently learned about the Delta variant. More information will be made available when more data are published or released in other formats.

Infections and Spread

The Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than early forms of SARS-CoV-2

"<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/delta-variant.html>"

The Delta variant is more contagious: The Delta variant is highly contagious, more than 2x as contagious as previous variants.

Some data suggest the Delta variant might cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated persons. In two different studies from Canada and Scotland, patients infected with the Delta variant were more likely to be hospitalized than patients infected with Alpha or the original virus strains.

Unvaccinated people remain the greatest concern: Although breakthrough infections happen much less often than infections in unvaccinated people, individuals infected with the Delta variant, including fully vaccinated people with symptomatic breakthrough infections, can transmit it to others. CDC is continuing to assess data on whether fully vaccinated people with asymptomatic breakthrough infections can transmit. However, the greatest risk of transmission is among unvaccinated people who are much more likely to contract, and therefore transmit the virus.

Fully vaccinated people with Delta variant breakthrough infections can spread the virus to others. However, vaccinated people appear to be

infectious for a shorter period: Previous variants typically produced less virus in the body of infected fully vaccinated people (breakthrough infections) than in unvaccinated people. In contrast, the Delta variant seems to produce the same high amount of virus in both unvaccinated and fully vaccinated people. However, like other variants, the amount of virus produced by Delta breakthrough infections in fully vaccinated people also goes down faster than infections in unvaccinated people. This means fully vaccinated people are likely infectious for less time than unvaccinated people.

Vaccines

Vaccines in the US are highly effective, including against the Delta variant. Vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus that cause COVID-19, including this variant. The COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States are highly effective at preventing severe disease and death, including against the Delta variant. But they are not 100% effective, and some fully vaccinated people will become infected (called a breakthrough infection) and experience illness. For such people, the vaccine still provides them strong protection against serious illness and death.

Also see "<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/fully-vaccinated-people.html>" Science Brief: COVID-19 Vaccines and Vaccination (cdc.gov) for more in depth information.

See "<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>" FDA Approves First COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA

August 23, 2021, The FDA granted full approval of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine. This vaccine will be marketed as Comirnaty, for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years and older.

Looking forward to seeing our Muscogee County Medical Society for our first in person meeting: MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th @ 6:30 PM @ EPIC restaurant. Please review our new slate of leaders for MCMS, and we will vote that night. See y'all at Epic.

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PIEDMONT COLUMBUS REGIONAL NEWS

Spring Harbor Receives Quality Award

Spring Harbor has received the 2021 Bronze Quality Award from the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL).

They're the only nursing home/assisted living facility in the Chattahoochee Valley area to receive this award; this is also the first time Spring Harbor has received the honor!

The Bronze Award is the first of three distinctions (bronze, silver, and gold) possible through the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program, a comprehensive organizational assessment and recognition program for long term care providers. Each application is reviewed and judged against a set of nationally recognized standards for achieving excellence.

Nurse Residency Program Celebration

A total of 29 nurse residents from Piedmont Columbus Regional's Summer 2020 cohort were recently recognized in a ceremony, marking the completion of their first year of nursing!

Among the program requirements, nurses participated in Continuous Quality Improvement group projects to improve quality, safety, and service within their units. There are currently 111 nurse residents in the remaining cohorts.

Piedmont Columbus Regional Welcomes New Physicians

Piedmont proudly welcomes Rutvij Shah, M.D., MPH. Dr. Shah will serve as director of the new interventional pain medicine service at the John B. Amos Cancer Center, providing chronic pain management with state-of-the-art interventional procedures.



*Rutvij
Shah, M.D., MPH*



*Manisha
Jakkidi, M.D., MPH*

Piedmont also welcomes Manisha Jakkidi, M.D. Her special interests are general gastroenterology, colorectal cancer, ERCP, and Barrett's Esophagus. She will be joining Michael Steinbook, M.D. at Piedmont Physicians Gastroenterology.

New Stroke Program Manager Named

Alexis Dudley has been named the Stroke Program Manager for the Columbus Hub.

She has been a registered nurse for 11 years with a large portion of that time dedicated to stroke care. Alexis spent 6 years as the Stroke Coordinator at St. Francis Hospital where she was recognized by The Joint Commission for great work in support of



Alexis Dudley

stroke patients. She moved to Piedmont Columbus Regional in 2018 and became a valuable member of the Interventional Radiology team.

ICU Nurse Named CMN All-Star Champion

Congratulations to Carlee Bland (RN, 8 ICU) for being named the 2021 CMN All-Star Champion!



*Carlee Bland, RN
8 ICU*

Carlee was recognized for her continued dedication to Miracle Friday and raising money for sick and injured children in our community. Each year, she takes this on as a personal project. This year, she put together 18 Miracle Friday baskets filled with community donations. Her baskets alone raised over \$6,000! Carlee tells us she's already working on her baskets for next year.

Local Publix Honored for CMN Fundraising

Publix #474 on Bradley Park Drive in Columbus was the top fundraising location for The Children's Hospital at Piedmont Columbus Regional during their 11-day campaign in June raising a total of \$6,511 for our local Children's Miracle Network Hospital. The total raised during the campaign from all Publix stores was \$36,758.

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. Visit <https://www.daisyfoundation.org/daisy-award/honorees> to read the nomination letter and view previous winners.



*Deborah Spencer
7 Main*

Upcoming Events

Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon and Lunch-In

The Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation is excited to provide the in-person Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon at the Columbus Convention & Trade Center on **Tuesday, October 5**, and our Breast Cancer Awareness Lunch-In starting **Wednesday, October 6**.

The 2021 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon will feature a Top Gun team of clinicians and staff with a message for women to Stay Out of the Danger Zone. Guests will enjoy lunch, an uplifting message from this year's featured survivor, Jennifer Sillitto, and keynote speaker, Kevin Paul Scott. If you cannot join us on **October 5**, you can still support this great cause by hosting your Lunch-In...Hope Wherever You Are. On behalf of the more than 23,000 breast care patients we serve each year, we hope you will join us as we raise funds to purchase a new 3-D tomosynthesis mammography unit. We look forward to seeing you on **October 5** or in your home or office starting **October 6**! If you are interested in being a pink partner or a sponsor, please contact **Zarina Cheves at 706-660-6204** or Zarina.Cheves@piedmont.org.

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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Lindsay T. Luce, MD, 2021-2022 Hughston Trauma Fellow

Lindsay T. Luce, MD, a board-eligible orthopaedic surgeon, joined the Hughston Foundation in August 2021 as the 2021-2022 Hughston Trauma Fellow.

Dr. Luce received her Bachelor of Science degree in Biomedical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, GA. She earned her medical degree from the University of Queensland School of Medicine-Ochsner Clinical School—spending the first 2 years in Brisbane, Australia and subsequent years at Ochsner Clinical School in New Orleans, LA. After medical school, she went to the Medical University of South Carolina for her residency program.

Before coming to Hughston, Dr. Luce served as a team physician for the Charleston High School and Pinewood Preparatory School in Charleston, SC. She also volunteered with the Perry Initiative as a facilitator and speaker. The Perry Initiative is a national organization that promotes the introduction of young women to careers in medicine and engineering, as well as promoting the advancement of women medical students to a career in orthopaedic surgery. Dr. Luce is a member of Orthopaedic Trauma Association and the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. She has presented her research during national meetings and has prepared her findings for publication. Dr. Luce plans to continue her research endeavors at the Hughston Foundation during her fellowship.

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.

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 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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Primary Care Physician Opportunity in Beautiful Hamilton, Georgia

In early 2022, Mercer Medicine is opening its next state-of-the-art rural clinic in Hamilton, GA, and is looking for a board-certified family medicine or internal medicine physician to the lead patient care. Located approximately 30 minutes north of Columbus, Hamilton is the county seat of Harris County, which offers mountaintop views, forest trails, and a laid-back, rural lifestyle.

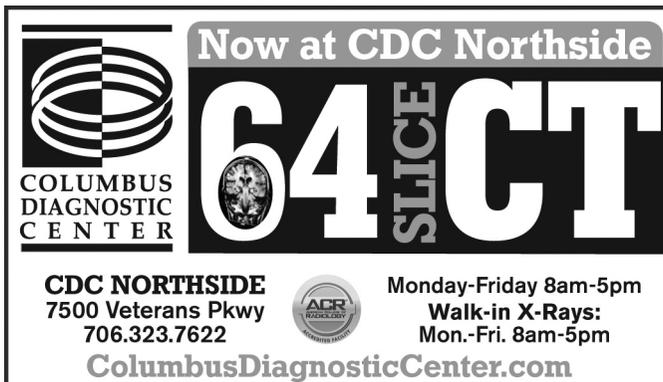
This opportunity offers the ability to work with an organization that is not only committed to providing exceptional patient care but is also serving the healthcare needs of rural Georgia. This is a 12-month faculty position through Mercer University School of Medicine with clinical practice through its subsidiary Mercer Medicine.

Candidates must:

- Hold an M.D. degree and board-certification in family medicine or internal medicine
- Be licensed to practice medicine in the state of Georgia
- Demonstrate strong experience in interdisciplinary medical education and clinical settings

The ideal candidate will have:

- Experience in both an inpatient and outpatient setting
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience presenting and communicating medical concepts
- Experience with medical settings and culture
- Experience working in rural, medically-underserved areas of Georgia




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Frederick Flandry, M.D.
Bret Crumpton, D.O.
James D. Majors, M.D.
Karen Stuart, M.D.
W. Frank Willett, M.D.
Benjamin Cheek, M.D.
Glenn E. Fussell, M.D.

Alternate Delegates to MAG:

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

The above slate was nominated for the 2022-2023 term.
Election will take place at the next MCMS Meeting on
Monday, September 20, 2021.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Dr. Strother earned her bachelor's degree from Ole Miss graduating magna cum laude from the Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors college with a degree in Physics, during that time she also played center midfield for the Ole Miss Women's Soccer team. As an Alabama native she returned to the University of South Alabama College of Medicine to obtain her Doctor of Medicine and subsequently completed her residency in anesthesiology at The University of Mississippi Medical Center where she served as Chief Resident. Dr. Strother continued her education by completing a fellowship in pain management at Baylor Scott & White in Texas. Dr. Strother focuses on a compassionate and personalized approach to treating pain with the newest and most effective procedures. Dr. Strother is accepting new patients at Nexus Pain Center. Welcome Dr. Strother!



Dr. Hares Akbary is a leading Interventional Pain Medicine Specialist. He completed his residency in Anesthesiology at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. He continued his education with a fellowship in Pain Medicine at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois. He is double board certified in Anesthesiology and Interventional Pain Medicine. He specializes in many advanced pain management treatment modalities, including vertebral augmentation for spinal compression fractures and spinal cord stimulation. He also takes special interest in Botox injections for migraines. Dr. Akbary is accepting new patients at Nexus Pain Center. Welcome Dr. Akbary!

MCMS EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT



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Cordially invites you and your guest to our

Fall Social

Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6:30pm
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1201 Front Avenue, Columbus
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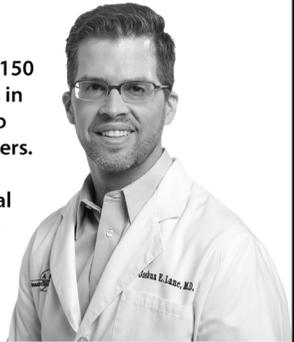


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The Doctors Lane are active in the academic community with a combined 150 plus medical and surgical publications in peer-reviewed journals in addition to multiple textbooks and textbook chapters.

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



706.322.1717



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