

# THE BULLETIN

VOLUME 67 • NUMBER 9



*The Muscogee County Medical Society held its 2022 Fall Social at Epic Restaurant.*

*See more photos on page 14.*

SEPTEMBER 2022

A PUBLICATION OF THE MUSCOGEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY  
ERUDIRE ET DELECTARE



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. Fernicola, 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

6262 Veterans Parkway | Columbus, GA 31909 | 706-324-6661 | [hughston.com](http://hughston.com)



# THE BULLETIN

Society Office: 2612 Commons Blvd. • Augusta, GA 30909  
706-322-1254 • FAX 706-736-8055 • [www.muscogeemedical.org](http://www.muscogeemedical.org)

## Contents

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

**Editor:** Karen Stuart, M.D.  
**Managing Editor:** Dan Walton

### Officers 2022:

President .....	Michael Borkat, M.D.
Past President .....	Bret Crumpton, D.O.
President-Elect .....	Karen Stuart, M.D.
Secretary-Treasurer .....	David Levine, 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., Michael Green, M.D., David H. Levine, M.D., Ken Smith, M.D., Karen Stuart, M.D., Shaun Williams, M.D., Marzena Buzanowska, M.D., Tim Villegas, 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@muscogeemedical.org](mailto:Stacie@muscogeemedical.org).

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

---

*Michael Borkat, M.D., President*



By the time you read this, you will have hopefully, enjoyed the fall social at Epic.

The delegates to the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) will be going to Savannah in October for the annual House of Delegates (HOD). Dr. Fred Flandry (orthopedic surgeon at Hughston) is our current MAG President.

The HOD is the primary policymaking body of the association. They will also nominate a delegation to the AMA to represent Georgia. Our county society will have five representatives. Reference committees will meet soon to discuss current resolutions. Your participation in the county and state societies is an important part of this legislative process.

If you have interest in any aspect of this political course of action, please contact one of the executive committee members.



We Believe



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**



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](http://ColumbusDiagnosticCenter.com)

## 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](http://synovus.com)**

**SYNOVUS®**  
the bank of here



Synovus Bank, Member FDIC.



# PIEDMONT COLUMBUS REGIONAL NEWS

---

## **DNV Stroke Survey Recap**

Surveyors with DNV were on-site at Piedmont Columbus Regional on August 4 for a comprehensive review of the stroke service line. This was Columbus' first stroke survey with DNV as we transition from Joint Commission.

Three onsite surveyors toured five departments — meeting with staff and doing an in-depth medical records review to look for consistency in patient charting and log management. We had three stroke alerts in a matter of 20 minutes; DNV paused the survey to observe how our team springs into action to care for our patients. Once finalized, the accreditation will last for 3 years with on-site reviews annually.

Piedmont Columbus Regional is the leader in stroke care for the Chattahoochee Valley area. We'll soon be just one of only two DNV-accredited Primary Plus Stroke Centers in the state of Georgia! We're also one of ten hospitals in the state of Georgia that are able to perform stroke thrombectomy procedures.

## **Urgent Care Centers Transition to WellStreet**

The two Piedmont Urgent Care (PUC) Centers in Columbus have transitioned to Piedmont's joint venture with WellStreet and are now called Piedmont Urgent Care by WellStreet. Under the partnership, operations shifted to WellStreet for its unique expertise in delivering urgent care with proven customer service, clinical quality, employee satisfaction and financial results. For Piedmont staff, rounding to PUC locations have ended.

## **Nurse Residency Program Welcome New Cohort, Celebrates Graduating Cohort**

Piedmont Columbus Regional recently welcomed 46 newly-licensed registered nurses into its nurse residency program. The yearlong program focuses on supporting new RNs as they transition from



advanced beginner to competent clinical professionals. If you see the new nurses in their white-and-orange Piedmont badges, please stop and say hello and ask if they need anything.

We also recently celebrated 47 RNs from who completed their first year of nursing.

They completed the program by attending monthly sessions and participating in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) group projects within our organization, and presented them to leadership.

Tammy Gilliland (Midtown) and Amalia Acevedo-Sanic (Northside) are the Nurse Residency Program Coordinators for Piedmont Columbus Regional.

### **Teamwork Provides No Cost Healthcare to the Community**

Piedmont Columbus Regional partnered with Valley Healthcare to provide medical, vision, dental and veterinary care at no cost to the community in early August at three locations. This was made possible through the National Guard's Innovative Readiness Training. Nearly 250 troops came to the greater Columbus area to participate in the mission.

### **Publix CMN Campaign a Success**

Eight stores across our region supported The Children's Hospital at Piedmont Columbus Regional by raising \$35,962 in 11 days. These funds were raised through the sale of coupons at the cash register. Thank you to Publix and their patrons for this generous contribution; the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation is grateful for national partners like Publix who make a difference in the lives of our children!

### **Giving to the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation**

#### **Monthly Giving**

Small gifts can make a big impact. The Children's Hospital at Piedmont Columbus Regional serves children from across the region and includes the area's only Neonatal Intensive Care Unit for premature and sick infants. The need for quality healthcare affects all of us — especially those who are the smallest and most vulnerable. Would you consider a monthly gift to The Children's Hospital as a Children's Miracle Network Miracle Maker? Visit [Piedmont.org/PCRFoundation](http://Piedmont.org/PCRFoundation) to make a donation.

#### **Planned Giving**

Many don't realize that the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation is one of the community's oldest and largest not-for-profit organizations. Our mission is to support Piedmont Columbus Regional patients and that would not be possible without donors who allow us to be ready whenever you or your family need us most. Giving a generous gift may be easier than you think.

Consider designating the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation as a beneficiary or if you have a paid whole life policy that your family no longer needs, consider changing its beneficiary to us. Your gifts truly make a difference in every life we touch. Would you consider including us in your estate planning or will? Contact Aline Lasseter at 706-660-6174 for more information on how your legacy can change lives!



## **Publix CMN Campaign a Success**

Eight stores across our region supported The Children's Hospital at Piedmont Columbus Regional by raising \$35,962 in 11 days. These funds were raised through the sale of coupons at the cash register. Thank you to Publix and their patrons for this generous contribution; the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation is grateful for national partners like Publix who make a difference in the lives of our children!

## **Upcoming Events**

### **2022 Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon**

Join the Piedmont Columbus Regional Foundation at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center on October 4 as we raise funds for the Elena Amos Breast Care Center. The Foundation is excited to bring back the virtual Breast Cancer Awareness Lunch-In October 10-28 for those unable to attend in-person. For more information, contact **Zarina Cheves at 706-660-6204**.

## **CME Physician Opportunities**

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**.
- 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.



# HUGHSTON CLINIC NEWS

---

## 2022 Art Gala Competition and Exhibition

Once again, The Hughston Foundation has collaborated with the Work-based Learning Program of Harris County High to



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

**Important information:** The Exhibition will take place at the Foundation on **Thursday, November 10, at 7:00 pm.** We anticipate the show to hang from November 1 through the 18th and we encourage people to stop by and see the artwork. Not knowing how the pandemic will affect us by November, we are planning to have the Gala live via Zoom and we will let people know, when we get closer to the date, who we are able to accommodate on November 10.

For more information, please visit: [hughston.com/art-gala](http://hughston.com/art-gala) or contacting Belinda Klein at 706-494-3326 or [bklein@hughston.com](mailto:bklein@hughston.com).

## Gilberto “Gil” Gomez, DO, joins Hughston’s Spine Service

Gil Gomez, DO, a former resident in the Jack Hughston Memorial Hospital Residency program is joining the Hughston Clinic team. Before coming to Hughston, Dr. Gomez received his Bachelor of Science degree from College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA where he played football and baseball for the Holy Cross Crusaders. He also worked on his Master’s in Science, Sports and Fitness from University of Central Florida in Orlando where he played for the UCF Knights Baseball Team. He received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Suwanee, GA. Most recently, Dr. Gomez completed a one-year AO Orthopaedic Spine Surgery fellowship at Augusta University Medical Center in Augusta, GA.



During his residency, Dr. Gomez served as the Resident director and President of

the Resident American Osteopathic Academy of Orthopaedics. He also served as the Education Representative for the Osteopathic Medical Network of Excellence and he was a member of the Graduate Medical Education Committee. He provided team coverage for Kendrick High School and Columbus High School football programs, and covered the Columbus Cottonmouths of the Southern Professional Hockey League. Dr. Gomez has interests in research in various topics to include bone graft substitutes for cervical discectomy and fusion with recent work “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,” being published in the June 2021 issue of the *Journal of Spine Surgery*.

A board-certified orthopaedic surgeon, he is a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and AO Spine North America. He specializes in orthopaedic spinal surgery with an emphasis on minimally invasive techniques, cervical trauma, and the newest techniques in complex spine surgery. He enjoys spending time with his wife and 3 children, being outdoors and anything sports related. He is passionate about his patients with the goal of finding the best nonoperative or surgical options to obtain the most durable solution for an improved quality of life.

### **Saturday Morning Injury Clinic**

The Hughston Foundation sponsors the Hughston Saturday Morning Injury Clinic through November 5. Every Saturday morning during the fall sports season, the Hughston sports medicine team, composed of clinic physicians, residents, athletic trainers, and physical therapists from Hughston come together at the Hughston Clinic to examine high school athletes injured during Friday night games. This means that no athlete has to pass an anxious weekend awaiting treatment. The healthcare professionals offer on-site diagnoses and treatment plans as well as education on injury management to the athlete and their guardians. These unique Saturday morning sports injury clinics run from August to November. For more than a decade, the members of the Hughston sports medicine team have treated thousands of high school athletes from the West Georgia and East Alabama region who participate in a variety of sports.



### **Summer Student Research Symposium at Mercer Medical School**

Hughston Foundation researchers worked with Mercer medical students during their summer rotations. At the end of the term, the medical students completed poster presentations at Mercer’s Summer Student Research Symposium. The Hughston Foundation’s staff assisted the research teams with editing and layout of the posters. J. Kenneth Burkus, MD, of the Hughston Foundation Research Committee,

organized the Hughston program that matched Mercer students with Hughston researchers and guided the students while completing the research and presentations.

At the symposium, 3 judges from Mercer faculty ranked the 23 posters and presentations based on 5 categories: poster content, appearance, and organization, as well as presentation flow and a lightening round. Each category carried 10 possible points. Those who achieved the 3 top scores received awards based on the overall score out of 50 possible points and the 4th to 6th best scores were given an honorable mention. Poster subjects included academic, bench, population health and clinical. Mercer professor, Emily McMackin, PhD, presented the awards.

Three medical students who worked with Hughston researchers placed in the competition:

Poster Award: Mathew McGinty, MS2, Sohrab Vatsia, MD, L. Erik Westerlund, MD. “Early Phase Outcomes in ACDF with a 3D-Printed Gyroid Architecture Porous Titanium Interbody Reconstruction Spacer.”

Poster Award: Michael Saint-Jean, Reily Cannon, Matthew Stewart. “Incidence of Complications for Hip Arthroplasty on Obese Patient through the Direct Anterior Approach.”

Blake Cromie, MS2, Rourke Stay, MD, won an honorable mention with “Spinal Arachnoid Cysts: Why they Should be Considered in the Differential Diagnosis for Radiculopathy and Myelopathy.”

### ***Hughston Health Alert* wins 2022 APEX Award in Medical Writing**

***The Hughston Health Alert*** received an *Award of Excellence* in the 2022 APEX Awards for Publication Excellence. The APEX Awards for Publication Excellence is an annual competition for writers, editors, publications staff, and business and nonprofit communicators. This international competition recognizes outstanding publications from newsletters and magazines to annual reports, brochures, and websites.

The Fall 2021 issue of the *Hughston Health Alert* won the competition in the *Health & Medical Writing* category.

Under the direction of Editor, Garland K. Gudger, Jr., MD, the *Hughston Health Alert* is planned and produced by the *Hughston Health Alert* Editorial Board members: Benjamin J. Catoe, DO, and Devin Collins, DO, associate editors; Dennise Brogdon, managing editor; Belinda Klein, MA, art director; Tiffany C. Davis, MS, layout editor, Mark A. Baker, PT, CEO; William Etchison, MS; Andy Grubbs, Jr., MED, ATC; Rob Hopkins, PT, SCS; and Cholly P. Minton.

Congratulations to the *Hughston Health Alert* Editorial Board for their hard work and continued dedication to this important publication.

### 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-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](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.

#### **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)



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](http://epiccuisine.com) \* [info@epiccuisine.com](mailto:info@epiccuisine.com)

# ARTICLE OF INTEREST

---

*Thank You!*

Dear Muscogee County Medical Society Board members,

I am honored and grateful to receive the MCMS Scholarship this year. The scholarship will enable me to enhance the quality of my education by taking advantage of more academic opportunities that are available to me. I am currently studying Biology with a minor in Psychology at Columbus State University, and would like to pursue a career in the field of medicine.

Thank you for supporting this scholarship and helping me to complete my studies!

Sincerely,  
Sana Khan



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



2821 Harley Court, Suite 300 | Columbus, GA 31909  
(706) 576-4900

[firm@servicecpa.com](mailto: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!



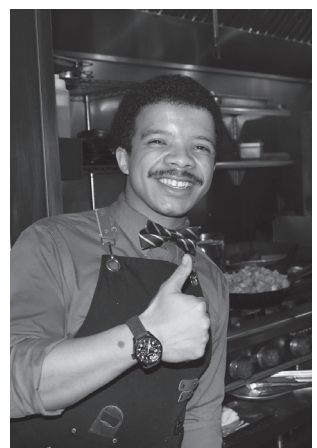
# FALL SOCIAL AT EPIC

---











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

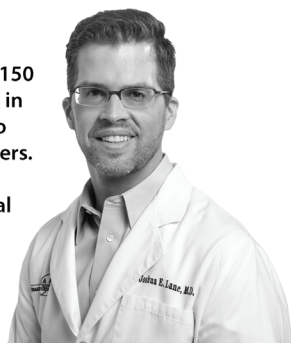


**Board Certified in Dermatology & Dermatologic Surgery**  
**Fellowship Trained in Mohs Micrographic & Reconstructive Surgery**  
**Experienced in Aesthetic & Laser Dermatology**



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**



**1210 Brookstone Centre Pkwy**  
**Columbus, GA 31904**  
**[www.lanedermd.com](http://www.lanedermd.com)**

