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DRS. DEWAN, DOWDALL HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS

DRS. SOMER-SHELY, MAMMEN ON THE VALUE OF MOMS MEMBERSHIP • WERNER CENTER: PROMOTES COLLABORATIVE MEDICAL TRAINING



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MOMS PHYSICIANS WRITING GROUP — FALL SESSION

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 - 8:00 PM STARTING
SEPTEMBER 18TH - DECEMBER 18TH

MOMS Boardroom
7906 Davenport St. Omaha

RETIRED PHYSICIANS COFFEE & CONVERSATION

WEDNESDAYS 10:00 AM STARTING IN
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ARE YOU A MEMBER?



AUDREY PAULMAN, M.D.

Editor
Physicians Bulletin

Sometimes things happen through MOMS that can change your life.

First, I have met some amazing physicians. These are people I never would have met otherwise. The practice of medicine can be so isolating. MOMS gathers physicians together – convening for advocacy, education, personal development or just plain fun. Physician members range from students to retirees, solo physicians to employees of large groups, and generalists to specialists. As a group, MOMS members put a local perspective on national trends.

MOMS makes it easy for you to be involved at the local and state levels. There are committees and commissions in Nebraska that seat physicians – based upon the nomination of the medical societies. I served on the Women's Health Advisory Council for the State of Nebraska because I was recommended by MOMS and the Nebraska Medical Association.

MOMS is knowledgeable about employment trends in the area. This can lead to some amazing connections. A new organization, just establishing itself in the state, was looking for a member physician. Specifically, this organization was looking for someone with primary care and a specific additional educational credential. I had those qualifications. Sandy Johnson (former leader of the NMA) asked me if my name could be forwarded. This began a professionally enjoyable 15-year, part-time administrative medical position for me.

MOMS activities can be fun. Whether it is axe-throwing, house building, creating

a terrarium, learning improv, singing in a production at the Joslyn, or creative writing, MOMS has a wide variety of social and educational activities for members to attend.

There are currently opportunities to join in a variety of activities. Some of these activities are educational, while others are social. MOMS hosts an annual DocBuild with Habitat for Humanity. Currently, MOMS is supporting a physician writing group with the next cohort starting in January. Opportunities may be found at the webpage, www.omahamedical.com/get-involved/, either under events, peer groups, advocacy, or committees and boards.

I was curious so I checked out Google to look for reasons to join a professional organization. Here is what I found: (see results in graphic below)

I think MOMS checks all the boxes.

MOMS membership has been and continues to be a great value to me.

Are you receiving all the benefits MOMS has to offer?

MOMS sends the Physician's Bulletin to all licensed physicians in the Omaha area, even if your dues are not current. Some physicians think that because they receive the magazine, their dues are current. That may not be true.

Are you a member?

If so, thanks. If you are not a member, but eligible to join, please do so.

Your dues need to be current to receive all the benefits MOMS and NMA has to offer.

Worried about the expense? Membership costs vary by category, but is \$750 annually – or less if you are in training, recently out of training or nearing or fully retired.

That is only \$2.05 per day.

If you would like to check your membership status, please email laura@omahamedical.com or call (402) 393-1417. [i](#)

It is a privilege and an honor to be a member of the Metro Omaha Medical Society. I have been a member for years. It has had a positive impact on my life.

Years ago, I got the name of our nanny at an annual meeting of the Metro Omaha Medical Society. A member's sons had grown up and no longer needed her. The physician wrote her name and number on a scrap of paper. I called her and hired her on the spot.

For a remarkable 12 years, she provided care for our children while Paul and I worked. She worked late when we worked late. She went on vacation with us. She often had supper waiting on the table when we got home from work. She came early when we had meetings. Most importantly, she loved our children – even at times when their behavior was not exactly lovable.

Had we not gone to the annual meeting, we never would have received the recommendation.

Google search results:

Benefits of joining a professional association

From sources across the web

- Q Networking opportunities
- Q Mentorship
- Q Professional development
- Q Access to resources
- Q Events and networking
- Q Job hunting
- Q Education
- Q Advocacy and influence
- Q Award opportunities
- Q Exclusive Savings
- Q Keep current on industry trends
- Q Give back to your industry
- Q Leadership opportunities



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UPDATES ON LEADERSHIP POSITIONS



AMY REYNOLDSON

Executive Vice President
Nebraska Medical Association

Over the last few months, we have been busy ensuring that we have full representation on the boards and delegation including the Nebraska Medical Foundation (NMF), Nebraska Medical Political Action Committee (NMPAC), AMA Delegation and the Nebraska Medical Association (NMA).

The Nebraska Medical Foundation's mission is to promote the wellness and health of the citizens of Nebraska, provide education on medical subjects, award scholarships to deserving medical students, support physician wellness and leadership initiatives, and fund research projects that are consistent with the purpose of the Foundation. The Foundation Board of Directors helps drive the initiatives of the organization and provides leadership and guidance to ensure that the Foundation continues to grow and remain relevant.

Recently, the Foundation board voted to embark on a long-term plan of investing in the development of a strategic plan focused on fundraising and board development. The board brought on a part-time staff member to lead this initiative and will be working alongside a fundraising consultant that will help throughout this process.

Over the last six years, this board has become more involved and more invested in the work of the Foundation by conducting the scholarship review process,

reviewing funding requests and increasing support for wellness and leadership initiatives. I would like to thank the outgoing board members, including John Peters, M.D., Leslie Spry, M.D., and Richard Blatny, M.D., for their leadership and unwavering commitment to the Foundation.

The Nebraska Medical Foundation will have a few new members joining the Board of Directors beginning in 2025. Paul Paulman, M.D., will be joining the board from MOMS (Metro Omaha Medical Society) and Gerald Luckey, M.D., will be joining the board for the GNMC (Greater Nebraska Medical Caucus). Both individuals plan to participate in the coming board strategic planning session in the fall of 2024 focusing on fundraising initiatives. We have one open seat for LCMS (Lancaster County Medical Society) that will be filled in the coming weeks.


The NMPAC is also going through some board member transitions and has recently had new board members appointed by the NMA Board of Directors, per the NMPAC bylaws. Board members who were previously serving and reappointed include Jordan Warchol, M.D., NMPAC Chair, Jason Kruger, M.D., Linda Ford, M.D., Britt Thedinger, M.D., and David Watts, M.D. Newly appointed board members include Rachel Brock, M.D., Renee Engler, M.D., Sean Figy, M.D., Joshua Mammen, M.D., Daniel Rosenquist, M.D., Sherri Thomas, M.D., Robert Wergin, M.D., and Tristen Zimmerman, M.D.

The NMPAC Board is responsible for overseeing NMPAC operations and contributions, including in the 2024 election cycle. In July and August, representatives of the NMA and NMPAC Board of Directors interviewed 33 of the 48 legislative candidates who will appear on the ballot in November. These interviews allowed NMPAC to vet candidates' understanding of health care issues, willingness to collaborate on key NMA initiatives, and support for physicians and patients.

The NMA will also have some changes with our AMA Delegation for 2025.

Unfortunately, the 2024 AMA Interim Meeting will be the last meeting for Kelly Caverzagie, M.D., and Aman Mahal, M.D. Dr. Caverzagie has been involved with the AMA delegation for several years where he has served as chair of the delegation and helped elevate the NMA's presence and impact at the AMA by advocating for policies that align with Nebraska. Dr. Mahal has served on the delegation over the last three years and has done an excellent job representing and advocating on behalf of the NMA. We are going to miss them both and appreciate their leadership, commitment, and willingness to serve on the delegation.

The NMA Board of Directors has appointed Dan Rosenquist, M.D., and John Trapp, M.D., who will serve for one year as AMA Alternate Delegates attending the 2025 AMA Annual Meeting and Interim Meeting. In 2025, the NMA will work to fill these two positions with members willing to serve a three-year term by seeking applications from interested members to include in the 2025 election process. Jordan Warchol, M.D., now serves as chair of the AMA Delegation.

And lastly, at the 2024 NMA Annual Membership Meeting the election results for 2024-2025 NMA Board of Directors were announced. Todd Voss, M.D., will be rejoining the board as GNMC At-Large Director, Travis Teetor, M.D., will be the MOMS At-Large Director for his second term, Renee Engler, M.D., and Lindsey Nelson, M.D., will be At-Large Directors, both from GNMC, and president-elect from GNMC will be Robert Wergin, M.D. David Ingvoldstad, M.D., from MOMS is our president for 2024-2025. The NMA has been incredibly fortunate to have such strong board members committed to leading this organization. I would like to thank Phil Boucher, M.D., Mark Davis, M.D., Jonathan Morgan, M.D., and Dan Rosenquist, M.D., for your service on the NMA Board of Directors. You have all been such a pleasure to work with and have been instrumental in the success of this organization. 

PRACTICING MEDICINE IN OMAHA IS SPECIAL - HERE'S WHY



JASON C. BRUCE, M.D.
Chair
MOMS Membership Committee

I've said in the past and continue to believe that health care in Omaha is different and, to be clear, different in a good way. The quality of medical professionals, collective hospital resources of academic and community programs, and two medical schools with robust training programs is not the norm for a city the size of Omaha. Combine that with the collegial atmosphere and collaborative natures of the groups in town, only strengthened during and since the pandemic, makes being a physician in Omaha truly special.

The Metro Omaha Medical Society offers a unique, local professional organization to physicians that crosses the traditional barriers of individual specialty and hospital affiliations. Its varied offerings are there to appeal to you as an individual physician while further connecting our medical community.

For younger physicians, having the ability to network with peers as well as established names across the community is a valued resource. These may just be good natured encounters or have the possibility to turn into more formal mentoring or employment options. For those of us further out of training, when we choose our employment avenues (academic, community, private practice, etc), there are generally some resources to which we have less access to. MOMS is here to help fill

“The Metro Omaha Medical Society offers a unique, local professional organization to physicians that crosses the traditional barriers of individual specialty and hospital affiliations. Its varied offerings are there to appeal to you as an individual physician while further connecting our medical community.”

— JASON C. BRUCE, M.D.

that gap whether it's related to education, working with trainees, leadership development, mentoring, community involvement, advocacy, or business/legal acumen to name a few.

If access to elected legislative representatives is of interest to you, MOMS provides opportunities for your individual and our collective voice to be heard. Members are invited to attend MOMS' annual reception with lawmakers and candidates or the NMA breakfast with lawmakers as well as participate in the pre-caucus and caucus providing resolutions for the NMA. For those who want to run from politics, the wellness programs, community service, and social gatherings may be just the well-rounded, human experience you seek.

I also don't want to understate the simple yet basic enjoyment of finding a group of colleagues to connect with who share the same core beliefs of caring for our patients and community. I'm sure you have as much to offer to MOMS as it has to offer you – we are only as strong as our membership.

Take a moment and read the feature story on page 15 where two MOMS member physicians, Drs. Joshua Mammen and Tiffany Somer-Shely, share their experiences of belonging and why they choose to be members.

We invite you to join or renew your membership today – and encourage others to do the same. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. [🔗](#)

**Not a member?
Apply today.**

Scan the QR code below or complete and return the membership application towards the back of this magazine. Join now and submit your 2025 membership dues and we will waive remaining 2024 dues.



INFORMATION BLOCKING IS IN ITS TEETHING STAGE



JAKE WALKER, J.D.

Member of the Health Law Practice Group
Koley Jessen

When the Office of National Coordinator of Health IT (ONC) released the initial information blocking rules in 2020, it plainly stated that “ONC has no authority to set requirements, incentives, or penalties for health care providers related to the use of health [information technology].” While the initial information blocking rules set forth the foundation of what it means to engage in information blocking, it was “toothless” as applied to health care providers. There has been no true enforcement mechanism in place with respect to health care providers since April 5, 2021, when the rules went into effect.

Notably, however, from the date the rules went into effect through July 31, 2024, 846 of the 1,085 reports (78%) of potential information blocking claims filed with ONC were made against health care providers. Yet, no disincentives or penalties were in place to do anything about it. Fast forward to today, and information blocking has now grown some teeth. On July 1, 2024, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and ONC established three specific disincentives that will apply to certain health care providers, all effective as of July 31, 2024 (with one not being enforced until Jan. 1, 2025). With the establishment of these disincentives, it is important to recap the basics of information blocking as it applies to healthcare providers.

Information blocking is any act or omission that is likely to interfere, prevent or materially discourage access, exchange or use of “elec-

tronic health information” if the health care provider knows that the practice is unreasonable and is likely to interfere with such access, exchange or use. “Electronic health information” (EHI) is electronic protected health information (as defined in HIPAA), to the extent it would be included in a designated record set and regardless of whether the records are used or maintained by or for a HIPAA covered entity.

ONC has released numerous examples of potential cases of information blocking. These include, by way of example only: having the capability to provide same-day access to EHI as requested by a patient, but nevertheless, waiting several days to provide such access; having procedures in place that require review before responding to requests of EHI when the EHI could be provided earlier pursuant to such request; and, contractual restrictions on how information is accessed, exchanged or used. These examples have created confusion and contention among applicable actors, with little clarifying guidance. ONC has stated “[a] determination as to whether a delay would be an interference that implicates the information blocking regulation would require a fact-based, case-by-case assessment of the circumstances.” As a result, providers are forced to closely scrutinize their existing information access, exchange, and use practices.


Importantly, certain practices will not be treated as information blocking if health care providers satisfy the requirements of one of eight available exceptions. These exceptions include preventing harm, privacy, security, infeasibility, health IT performance, content and manner, fees, and licensing. It should be noted that ONC takes a strict view of the preventing harm exception. For example, delaying or withholding information merely on the basis the individual may be upset with receiving the information is not a sufficient basis to delay the provision of access.

When a claim of information blocking is submitted, ONC shares it with the Office of Inspector General (“OIG”). OIG may then investigate and apply appropriate disincentives. As of July 31, 2024, if a health care provider is found to have violated the information blocking rules, they may be subject to the following disincentives, depending on the type of health care provider.

First, ACOs, ACO participants, and ACO providers and suppliers may be removed from an ACO or prevented from joining an ACO. In the instance where a provider is an ACO, this would prevent the ACO from participating in the Medicare Shared Savings Program altogether. This disincentive will not be enforced until January 1, 2025.

Second, providers that are MIPS eligible clinicians subject to the Promoting Interoperability category of the Merit-based Incentive Payment System would no longer be considered meaningful EHR users in a performance period. This would result in the provider not earning a score in the Promoting Interoperability category (i.e., a zero score); this category typically accounts for 25% of the total final composite performance score.

Finally, eligible hospitals or critical access hospitals that participate in MIPS will not be considered “meaningful electronic health record users” in an EHR reporting period. This would result in the hospital not being able to earn 75% of the annual market basket increase associated with being a qualifying EHR user. If the hospital is a critical access hospital, it would result in payments being reduced to 100% (rather than 101%) of the reasonable costs it might have otherwise earned.

That all being said, it is important to note that some health care providers are not impacted by the disincentives, because they do not participate in ACO or MIPS programs. Therefore, some health care providers are still in the same position as they were before these new disincentives went into effect, which is to say they are expected to comply with the information blocking rules, however there are no real “teeth” as to those providers, yet. Although those providers are in the clear for now, relevant agencies have stated that this first round of disincentives is only the start when it comes to information blocking enforcement – there is room for more teeth to grow. For now, health care providers subject to these potential disincentives should evaluate their current practices to determine whether any changes should be made to come into compliance with information blocking rules. This compliance evaluation is in addition to, and not in lieu of, providers’ existing obligations under HIPAA and state law with regard to health information. 

VIRTUAL SCRIBING USING AI IN MEDICAL PRACTICES



ALAN LEMBITZ, M.D.
Department of Patient Safety
COPIC

As we look at the proliferation of artificial intelligence (AI) in health care, one of the areas where it is having an immediate impact is virtual scribing. The following provides some information, best practices, and addresses some FAQs from medical providers.

The benefits of using AI tools to quickly and accurately generate a record of clinical interactions are obvious. However, there are many considerations to examine before implementing the use of such tools.

- Patients will need to be aware of and consent to the use of the recording devices in place to generate the records. Providers will need to learn to “narrate their examinations” to populate the record. A policy to erase the work product of the recording at regular, short intervals, as well as open access to the final record generated from that work product will help allay patients’ fears about how their information was captured and what is going in their permanent medical record.
- The need to provide the processes required by the Cures Act will be even more important. One can also predict that patients’ awareness of the record and their requests to edit, amend or delete materials in it will increase and the provider or their staff will need to be cognizant of the necessary HIPAA processes and documentation.

- Finally, and most important, given how AI works and its inherent ability to produce fluent but possibly inaccurate, misleading, or even harmful output, the provider will absolutely need to read and verify the content of the notes generated by AI. The option of “dictated but not read,” in this case becomes “AI generated but not read” and will not be an accepted practice.

Is a HIPAA business associate agreement necessary? Yes. Since AI/scribe functionality will almost invariably involve Protected Health Information (PHI), a Business Associate Agreement (BAA) is required by the HIPAA Privacy and Security Rules.

Do patients need to consent to the remote AI scribing? Verbal or written? What are the elements of that consent? This depends entirely on state regulations. For “two party” states, where consent is required from both parties to record a conversation, it is absolutely necessary to obtain patient consent. For “one-party” states in which both parties are not required to consent to recording, this may not be a legal necessity, but is still strongly encouraged. There are many ways to obtain this consent. It can be incorporated into a broader consent form that a patient might sign at the onset of treatment, or can be a specific document. The current state of the industry seems to be that providers obtain verbal consent which is then documented in the chart. That seems to be the minimum necessary standard that most healthcare organizations are using.

How long does the recording last and is it destroyed once the medical record is created? This is completely vendor-dependent and not covered by any particular regulation. One major industry leader currently states that they hold on to the recordings for one full year, but we are seeing a trend towards the holding period becoming shorter. The medical record that was created from the recording is subject to the rules and policies for medical record retention and accessibility.



The benefits of using AI tools to quickly and accurately generate a record of clinical interactions are obvious. However, there are many considerations to examine before implementing the use of such tools.”

— ALAN LEMBITZ, M.D.

In the past, some providers included disclaimers about the possible irregularities of voice recognition (although our legal advice frowned against that, as it provided no relief and simply stated you were aware that it had errors and didn’t take steps to fix them). Is the health care community using disclaimers like this? While guidance in the previous question states that transparency that AI was used to generate the clinical record is a best practice, the community is (rightly) moving away from additional disclaimers beyond that. They offer no real protection and may actually increase potential liability. By signing a document, providers are responsible for the content of that document, regardless of how that content was created. If some sort of disclaimer is still desired, a better practice would be to say something like “This document was created in part by using voice recognition software and was reviewed by the author. If errors are present, please bring them to our attention.”

Information in this article is for general educational purposes and is not intended to establish practice guidelines or provide legal advice.

DRS. SOMER-SHELY, MAMMEN KNOW THE VALUE OF MOMS MEMBERSHIP



“I’ve already told my young partners that MOMS is awesome for so many reasons.”

— TIFANY SOMER-SHELY, M.D.

Tiffany Somer-Shely, M.D., is glad to be back.

Her MOMS membership helped her connect with a group of other physicians who have a passion for yoga. This connection came during the aftermath of COVID-19 when people – including physicians – were isolated, she said. The group started meeting for yoga at the R+R Physician Wellness Center (sponsored by MOMS) and continued, for a time, meeting in one another’s home. “It was a lifesaver. We connected and this helped me remember how important MOMS is.”

Years ago, Dr. Somer-Shely temporarily let her MOMS membership lapse. Life got busy with raising a family and building her practice. “That’s part of life. It was a busy time.” These days, her children are grown and her practice established. She won’t let her membership lapse again, she said.

Dr. Somer-Shely said she enjoys her membership and makes it her priority to encourage younger physicians in her practice to become members and join her. “I’ve already told my young partners that MOMS is awesome for so many reasons. Networking. Medicine can be isolating these days.”

Attend events, participate in activities. “Once you get to know people, you will realize how much MOMS does in the community.” Then, she tells them about the lobbying efforts MOMS leads and the leadership training it provides. MOMS provides resources for physicians starting their own practices, and opportunities for retired physicians to stay involved and connected.

“It doesn’t matter how old you are, MOMS is a cool place,” she said.

CONT. PAGE 16



The Somer-Shely File

Hometown

Omaha, Nebraska

Undergraduate Degree

Creighton University
in English

Medical Degree

University of Nebraska
Medical Center

Residency

University of Wisconsin
Milwaukee Clinical Campus
in general obstetrics
and gynecology

Specialty

Obstetrics and gynecology

Location

Physicians Clinic Women's
Center at Methodist
Women's Hospital

Hobbies

Reading, knitting and yoga

Family

Husband, Scott Shely;
and four grown children

Why She Joined MOMS

Please read the story

FROM PAGE 15

Membership in MOMS also provides opportunities for involvement. Case in point – she's the newest member of the MOMS Membership Committee.

For Joshua Mammen, M.D., joining MOMS basically was a foregone conclusion. Prior to coming to Omaha, Dr. Mammen lived in Kansas and was heavily involved in the Kansas City Medical Society. He served as president and helped merge separate Kansas and Missouri county medical societies.

"I gained more than I gave," Dr. Mammen said. "I learned how to manage a complex organization with a large budget. I learned how to influence change even when not everyone agreed."

Dr. Mammen said he quickly learned the value of medical societies. They:

- Provide opportunities for physicians who face similar challenges within their practices or specialties to confer.
- Provide a vehicle for physicians to collaborate on key issues, including patient access, payment and public health.

Dr. Mammen said he didn't intend to serve in a leadership role for the Kansas City Medical Society. As he got more involved, he said, he realized he enjoyed the experience and could contribute. When asked, he realized he was willing to serve.

Dr. Mammen, who came to Omaha and UNMC in the spring of 2021, said he immediately joined MOMS. "It was automatic," he said. "Organized medicine is important; medical societies are important."

His involvement with MOMS has helped integrate him in the physician community. The NMA caucus and legislative gatherings, he said, helped him learn how policy is made in Nebraska. All states are a bit different, he said.

These gatherings and events, he said, provide easy opportunities to meet legislators and policy makers. "MOMS and the NMA do all the work to make that happen."


Dr. Somer-Shely recalled attending several Women in Medicine gatherings when she was a medical student in the 1990s. Linda Ford, M.D., and Michelle Knolla, M.D., served as mentors for students. Her medical residency took her away from Omaha but, on her return, she immediately joined and attended events held for young physicians and women in medicine.

"These were my first introductions to MOMS and they left a lasting impression."

Membership in MOMS provides opportunities to:

- **Connect and Collaborate:** Be a part of an organization that brings together physicians representing every medical specialty and every type of practice environment.
- **Pursue Your Passion:** Opportunities abound through boards, committees and task forces, as well as MOMS community programs and events that can serve as a pathway to greater personal or professional fulfillment.
- **Lead:** Build leadership experience or enhance your leadership skills.
- **Make Your Voice Heard:** Speak out within our organization, legislatively and as advocates for your patients and your profession.

MOMS provides three options for membership – for medical students, residents and fellows, practicing physicians (with a dues schedule that reflects a physician's length of service) and retired physicians.

For more information – including member benefits – go to omahamedical.com/membership. 

Joshua Mammen, M.D., Ph.D.



The Mammen File

Hometown

Kaplan, Louisiana

Undergraduate Degree

Boston University Double Major in history and medical science

Medical Degree

Boston University

Doctoral Degree

University of Cincinnati in molecular and cellular physiology

Residency

University of Cincinnati in general surgery

Fellowship

University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston in complex general surgical oncology

Specialty

Oncologic surgery with a focus on melanoma and soft tissue sarcomas

Title

Professor of surgery, Physician-in-Chief of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and Chief of Surgical Oncology at the University of Nebraska

Institution

University of Nebraska Medical Center

Hobbies

Traveling to food destinations and karaoke

Family

Julie Mammen; five children, Joshua, Ann, Therese, Isabel and Rachel

Why He Joined MOMS

Please read the story

Not a member? Apply today. Scan the QR code below or complete and return the membership application towards the back of this magazine.





Jayme Dowdall, M.D.

Meera Dewan, M.D.

DRS. DEWAN, DOWDALL HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS

When it comes to nouns or verbs, Meera Dewan, M.D., and Jayme Dowdall, M.D., stand in agreement.

“Verbs show action,” Dr. Dowdall said.

“I think verbs,” Dr. Dewan said. “They are smaller and yet they convey huge meaning. They connect the nouns.”

Drs. Dowdall and Dewan have found they enjoy working with nouns and verbs, and they experience great satisfaction when they realize they have turned a strong sentence. They write because they choose to do so. They write because they enjoy it. Writing, they say, connects them with one another, with nature and with the people they encourage. They write about their lives, they said, because that is what they know. Finally, writing allows them to share stories – some quite personal, others just because.

Their writing brought them together and now the two share a mutual admiration for the other’s craft and a growing friendship. Dr. Dowdall finds the gathering of the group Dr. Audrey Paulman curated to be even better than the process of writing itself.

Dr. Dewan prefers to write in the morning. It’s when her mind is clear, and her thoughts are fresh. She can pick her moments, she said, because she’s retired and has the time to enjoy the process. “My backyard is a haven. I love to sit down and write.”

Truth be told, Dr. Dowdall said, she sometimes has to force herself to write, especially when she’s facing a deadline. But she does – and she’s glad when she does. “It’s kind of like going to the gym for me. I feel so much better when I have done it. The idea of writing can seem daunting.”

Both physicians carve out time in their schedules to write regularly. They also attend writing sessions led by former Nebraska poet laureate, Matt Mason, and sponsored by MOMS.

Dr. Dowdall prefers to write essays that often focus on some aspect – sometimes a bit obscure – about her work. Case in point: She recently wrote about how physician lounges used to have coffee available. Now they don’t.

Previously, her writing was more research-based for academic work. This is different. She has learned to jot down her ideas for future topics before going to sleep. She knows she sometimes must set her writing aside – “let it marinate. Maybe it gets better over time.”

Reading her work to members of the writing group is productive, she said.

Revisions often follow. “On second pass, that really gets it. But sometimes, there’s some hang time.”

Dr. Dewan said she has the luxury of time – as a retired physician – to write on her own schedule. Her friend, Audrey Paulman, M.D. (editor of Physicians Bulletin) encouraged her to join the writing group– and she’s glad she did.

Being part of the writing group, she said, has inspired her. “I didn’t know if I could write. The neurons are twisted in a certain way when medicine is your life. But when you’re retired, you have time to reflect and look at your blessings.”

“I have loved reconnecting with my peers. It’s such a friendly group. You just write and enjoy each other’s writing.”

Dr. Dewan said she is always looking for her next topic. Most often, she said, the inspiration comes through connections with people. “It’s the human interaction that gets me. There are stories when I have met people in certain circumstances that I store in my mind. That is something I like to write about.”

And so, they write.

Their Words on Paper

Each shared a sample of their writing and provided the story behind their work:

Dr. Dewan said she wrote “Galaxy of Life” on an autumn weekend while she had the opportunity to watch her grandchildren at their home. Here is an excerpt:

“Cozy and comfortable decorated with pictures of family and friends

Validating medals and certificates on the refrigerator,

Christmas cards with happy faces, Halloween ghosts and pumpkins

The home is chaotic....But normal and whole

Imperfect but nourished and loved and human”

In her reflections, she attempts to share the message of the “WABI_SABI” philosophy to her readers. “Finding beauty in imperfection and through acceptance. ‘UKETAMO’ we can learn to live in the moment.”

In the poem “YOU and ME,” she attempts to fill her readers with emotions of joy and resilience as they connect with nature. “ADVAITA” is a Sanskrit word meaning “unity of life,” which makes everyone interconnected.

“In your silence

You talk to me and seem to say

I am content...you see,

When you come to me

And rest and play in my company”

Dr. Dowdall said she is not sure why she wrote this. She was just thinking about the mind during residency in deep fatigue. She was struck by how immersive and present you can be one moment and then dissociating and daydreaming the next – particularly the last portion of residency right before graduation. “I think I was more present for the Lorna Doone in the recovery room than the airway. I wanted to soak in the good bits and move on from the rest. It was shocking how routine and structured emergencies had become.”

A day in the life (in heels)

“As a chief resident, I so seldomly assigned myself to clinic that one night I caught myself thinking I should live a little and dress up. What harm could there be in wearing a really nice outfit instead of rolling out of bed in scrubs? I could put on makeup and even wearing heels? I was the only female resident in the program at that point, without any female faculty so I felt energized at the possibility of bold statement of feminine energy. I might even wear earrings. I was looking forward to a somewhat predictable day. I might even eat lunch, what could go wrong?”

CONT. PAGE 20



The Dewan File

Hometown
Nagpur, India

Undergraduate Degree
St. Francis College
in Nagpur

Medical Degree
Government Medical
College in Nagpur, India

Residency
Creighton University
in family medicine

Specialty
Family medicine
with emphasis on
holistic medicine

Location
Retired from private
practice in Omaha

Hobbies
Travel, family, music
and writing

Family
Her husband, Naresh Dewan, M.D.; a daughter, Tina Dewan Mahajan, M.D.; son-in-law, Sajan Mahajan, M.D; two grandchildren; and son, Vinay Neil Dewan M.D.

Why She Joined MOMS
“Networking to advocate for patients and physicians. A platform to reconnect with my peers after retiring.”



The Dowdall File

Hometown
Olathe, Kansas

Undergraduate Degree
Boston University in biochemistry and molecular biology

Medical Degree
Boston University

Residency
Wayne State University in Detroit in Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery

Fellowship
Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary in Boston in laryngology and professional voice; Research Fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital in regenerative medicine

Specialty
Otolaryngology – Head and neck surgery, laryngology and professional voice

Title
Professor of surgery, Physician-in-Chief of the Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer Center and Chief of Surgical Oncology at the University of Nebraska

Location
Nebraska Medicine

Hobbies
Lifting, exploring Nebraska and airboating

Family
Her husband, Matt David; a son, Sidney

Why She Joined MOMS

"The programming is just amazing. When I first moved here, I attended a welcoming event. People were so incredibly kind and helpful. I thought this is the best thing ever."



Meera Dewan, M.D.

FROM PAGE 19

Just as I settled into clinic after rounds I was paged STAT to the operating room for a slash tracheostomy.

The Gods punished me to have to run in those heels.

The OR was so far away. The reel of thoughts ran through my head as I made my way there from clinic. It was so routine to spring to action that the mindless, numbed-out images of dissociation were almost like a farcical movie. Or like an episode of Scrubs. Just on for the background noise of the mind. I winced with embarrassment with every extra audible click.

I thought about how much I missed the other female resident that had just graduated. She wouldn't have done this. I was counting the days until residency would be over. The adrenaline had stopped rushing long before that moment. Just a constant pace of running and doing had become so routine. It felt like living in someone else's movie.

I found blue booties to put over my heels as I changed into scrubs in the locker room. I slid carefully but quickly to the OR. After we got the airway, I



Jayme Dowdall, M.D.

went to the PACU and got a cup of luke-warm coffee with an oil-slick sheen and a side of Lorna Doones. It was a small and dependable comfort I really appreciated. It was a moment to pause and reflect while writing post op orders at the desk. I smiled to myself. I knew in my soul there was no opportunity for a predictable day. It's why I was bone tired and I loved my job at the same time." 🕒

Interested in joining the MOMS Physicians Writing Group?

The Winter Session group will meet every two weeks on Thursday evenings beginning January 7 through April 17. Scan the QR code below for more information or to register.



MOMS EVENTS RECAP



1



2

EARLY CAREER PHYSICIANS ENJOY TIME AT LUMINARIUM

MOMS Early Career Physicians gathered at the Fig Café for dinner before heading into a night out at Kiewit’s Luminarium in August.

1. Early Career Physicians gather for dinner at Fig Café. Thanks to the NMA for providing dinner.
2. Early Career Physicians explore various interactive exhibits at the Luminarium.

WRITERS PRESENT TO RETIRED PHYSICIANS GROUP IN SUCCESSIVE MONTHS

The MOMS Retired Physicians group met in July and heard from James Fogarty, former staff writer and Pulitzer Prize nominee at the Omaha World-Herald. Fogarty is a lifelong Omahan with wide experience in newspapers, television, radio and, most recently, in history book publishing. He shared stories of Omaha.

In August, the group heard from Dr. Keith Vrbicky, author of “Forever Grateful: The Gift of New Life from Organ Donation.”

MOMS Retired Physicians chair, Dr. Robert Cochran, with August presenter, Dr. Keith Vrbicky.



CANDIDATES AND LAWMAKERS ATTEND ANNUAL GATHERING



1



2



3



4

Physicians met with candidates and lawmakers at this year’s Physician & Policymaker Meet & Greet in late August. The event took place at Blue Cross Blue Shield in Aksarben and was hosted by the Metro Omaha Medical Society, Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Nebraska Psychiatric Society, American College of Physicians and the Nebraska Regional Council of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry.

1. Tony Vargas, current state senator and candidate for U.S. Congress, with Drs. John Peters and Alex Dworak.
2. Congressman Don Bacon talks with physicians.
3. State Sen. Jen Day and Allison Heimes, candidate for the Nebraska Legislature, talk with Drs. Megan Kalata and Cori McBride.
4. Victor Rountree, candidate for the Nebraska Legislature, talks with physicians.



WERNER CENTER PROMOTES A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO MEDICAL TRAINING



Bo Dunlay, M.D.

Bo Dunlay, M.D., offers this assurance: Creighton University-educated physicians will be better equipped to lead health professional teams because of the training they received in the CL and Rachel Werner Center for Health Sciences Education.

Dr. Dunlay, Creighton's School of Medicine dean, walks through the year-old education center and sees future physicians learning side-by-side with nurses, physical therapists and other health care professionals in training.

"There is a growing trend to designing space that lends to interprofessional activities," Dr. Dunlay said, and the Werner Center placed Creighton as part of that trend in student learning.

Yes, the center is the home of Creighton's School of Medicine, but it also serves as a hub for students in all the university's health sciences fields. During his walkabouts, Dr. Dunlay sees a building bustling with student activity.

"I have to be honest with you," he said. "It (the center) has been outstanding. I see the joy in students' faces when they're working in this building."

Initial reviews, Dr. Dunlay said, brought high marks from Creighton alumni. "They are very pleased with the new building and recognize the importance of effective teamwork."

Creighton University opened the 145,000-square-foot, five-story facility in fall 2023 with the intent of bringing future physicians, nurses, physical therapy, occupational therapy, physician assistants and EMS technicians together in one building. It's now been in use for one year and Dr. Dunlay gives it top marks.

"When we look back in five years," he said, "I don't think we would want to change anything with the center. We say to prospective students: When you leave here, we will have laid a foundation for a lifetime of spiritual, emotional and professional growth."

The center allows students to simulate interactions in the emergency room, a patient room, even a patient's home. The possibilities are endless, he said.

The Werner Center was designed so that nearly every square foot of the facility was dedicated to classrooms with a focus on collaboration and hands-on learning. "This building is perfect for small-group, curriculum-based education – and that is what is going on in this medical school," Dr. Dunlay said.

With the priority for the building being student-driven, the Werner Center is mostly void of faculty and staff offices. They are situated in the Criss Complex, which is connected to the Werner Center via a skywalk.

"This facility serves as a platform that has opened so many possibilities for the development of team-based education here at Creighton. This center is as good as you're going to find anywhere in the country – including the simulation spaces, the learning spaces and the places for students to socialize."

Dr. Dunlay said he knows the value of interprofessional education because he experienced it when on rounds seeing patients in Creighton's dialysis unit. He would ask the patient's nurse, social worker and dietician to join him. "This way we could address the patient's needs all at once."

It is the simulation and learning spaces, Dr. Dunlay said, that set this center apart – and has also served as a strong recruiting tool for the university.

One feature Dr. Dunlay said he especially appreciates is the home care lab, which resembles a small apartment. These settings allow students – from medical, to physical therapy and occupational therapy – to experience how their patients will best recuperate and rehabilitate in a home environment. "This lab helps our students realize how they can best prepare patients to return to their home."

Other features of the Werner Center that benefits students from all disciplines,

he said, are the virtual reality room and the Scott Family Foundation Simulation Center.


The virtual reality room is a three-wall projected space where faculty and students interact via touchscreens. Technology allows them to create countless scenarios between patient and caregiver. They can, for example, from a clinic setting, to a patient hospital bed to a triage experience.

In the simulation center, students and instructors create scenarios from trauma care to surgery, obstetrics to general care medicine. They also can create scenarios the simulate intimate care situations – such as hospice. Instructors create the scenarios, watch their students respond and then provide feedback, Dr. Dunlay said.

"We create virtual patient homes. Emergency room situations. The possibilities are endless."

An additional outcome from the building is the attention it draws from Creighton's undergraduate student population. Dr. Dunlay noted that more than one-half of its undergraduate students have an expressed interest in the health fields. "This has been a huge draw for undergraduate enrollment," he said, "because – quite frankly – we were working in dated facilities."

One aspect that Creighton faculty incorporate into their students' training – which has been accentuated by the availability of the scenarios in the virtual and simulation rooms – is medical humanities. Often, care providers focus solely on the patient, Dr. Dunlay said, and forget who else is in the room: family and friends. "We teach our students to worry about the emotional welfare of their patients, but we need to address the issues of the other people in the room. If you're going to be a great physician, you need to develop the ability to reflect what's going on with the other people in the room and put yourself in their shoes."

The virtual reality tools found in the Werner Center will only continue to evolve, Dr. Dunlay said. "The question yet to be answered is whether these virtual reality tools can be used to revolutionize care in remote and/ or underserved areas." 



The Dunlay File

Hometown
Iowa Falls, Iowa

Master's Degree
University of Massachusetts
at Amherst in business

Medical Degree
Creighton University
School of Medicine

Residency
Creighton University
in internal medicine

Fellowships
Oklahoma University
Health Sciences Center
in Oklahoma City in
nephrology; and Jewish
Hospital at Washington
University Medical
Center in St. Louis in
nephrology research

Title
Dean

Institution
Creighton University
School of Medicine

Hobbies
Running

Family
Spouse Kathleen Dunlay;
three adult children and
five grandchildren

Why He Joined MOMS
"It's important to support
medical societies locally."

MEMBER NEWS

DR. BRITIGAN NAMED TO LEADERSHIP ROLE WITH LCME




Bradley Britigan, M.D., UNMC College of Medicine dean, has been named chair-elect of the Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME).

The LCME is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education as the accrediting agency for allopathic medical education programs leading to the M.D. degree in the United States.

Dr. Britigan first was named to the LCME in 2022 for a three-year term. His term as chair-elect, which began at the end of June, will run for one year, followed by a one-year term as chair and then a one-year term as immediate past chair.

Dr. Britigan said: "The LCME accreditation process plays a critical role in shaping the nature and quality of medical education in our country. This in turn determines the skillsets of the next generation of physicians. Helping lead the LCME is an exciting opportunity to improve the quality of U.S. health care by ensuring that the graduates of our medical schools are well prepared for the future demands of the practice of medicine."

Dr. Britigan is not the first UNMC leader to have a major leadership role in the LCME. University of Nebraska President Jeffrey Gold, M.D., former UNMC chancellor, co-chaired the LCME from 2011-13 and was the sole chair from 2013-14.

The LCME is jointly sponsored by the Association of American Medical Colleges and the American Medical Association. It provides accreditation through a voluntary, peer-reviewed process of quality assurance that determines whether a medical education program meets established standards while also fostering institutional and programmatic improvement. 

MOMS MEMBERS RECEIVE 2024 NMA HONORS

MOMS members were presented awards at 2024 NMA Annual Membership Meeting Physician Appreciation Luncheon on Aug. 16 in La Vista.

Distinguished Service to Medicine: Kelly Caverzagie, M.D.



This award is presented to a long-standing physician leader who has made outstanding contributions to the profession of medicine through devoting time and talent, and by bringing about positive change through the advancement of health care access and services

Dr. Caverzagie has been an instrumental member of the NMA and the Nebraska delegation to the AMA. He is also involved heavily at all levels of organized medicine including MOMS and at Nebraska Medicine.

"A skilled hospitalist, Dr. Caverzagie displayed his commitment to education not only on rounds, but also in systematically improving medical education. Many of my classmates in medical school enjoyed rounds with him because he cared about the medical students on service and took the time to teach medical concepts as well as apply them to patients they were seeing that day."

In addition to serving as a delegate for the Nebraska Medical Association, he serves on the Council on Medical Education at the AMA, a top-level committee overseeing the strategy and implementation of AMA's medical education policy. Dr. Caverzagie has also been a mentor to anyone seeking to get involved in organized medicine. Finally, he seeks to make any organization he is involved in better and institutionally more robust.

Physician Advocates of the Year: Ann Anderson Berry, M.D. and Stephanie Hartman, M.D.

This award recognizes physician advocates who have played a crucial role in enhancing the NMA's public policy priorities, in addition to proven and successful outcomes with national and/or state-level advocacy initiatives. These individuals also encourage, support, and motivate their colleagues to participate in NMA advocacy work, while personally advocating for the well-being of physicians, patients, and the communities in which they serve.



Dr. Anderson Berry has shown exceptional leadership in advocacy, clinical care, research and education. She spearheaded Nebraska's implementation of CARA and Plans of Safe Care, establishing best practices for newborns exposed to maternal substance use. Her work has influenced neonatal opioid withdrawal management nationwide.

As a co-founder of the Nebraska Perinatal Quality Improvement Collaborative, Dr. Anderson Berry has led initiatives to promote safe sleep practices, reduce primary cesarean rates, and improve perinatal health. She also successfully advocated for extending postpartum Medicaid coverage in Nebraska, ensuring more mothers have access to essential healthcare services.

Through her efforts, Dr. Anderson Berry has advanced clinical practices, shaped policies, and addressed systemic barriers, significantly impacting the well-being of mothers, infants and families.

MEMBER NEWS cont'd

MOMS MEMBERS RECEIVE 2024 NMA HONORS, CONT'D



Dr. Hartman has demonstrated a long-lasting commitment to physician advocacy, recognized nationally. As a founding board member of the Nebraska Alliance for Physician Advocacy, she empowers physicians to enhance well-being, improve patient outcomes for marginalized groups, advance medical practice, and foster community connections. The organization provides summaries of pending state legislation and creates podcasts on important topics, including legislative initiatives in other states.

Dr. Hartman serves on the Nebraska Medical Association Legislative Committee, currently serves as the chair of the MOMS Foundation and on the MOMS Legislative Committee, and she received the 2023 Advocacy Award from the Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Physicians. Her activities to improve well-being are numerous. From 2020 to 2022, she coordinated a commu-

nity garden project, repairing and planting garden space, and distributing produce through local food banks.

At UNMC, she works on initiatives to identify patients with food insecurity and connect them with resources. In her 2024 Grand Rounds presentation, she taught the Department of Internal Medicine how to quickly make these connections using electronic medical records, leading to immediate patient referrals.


2023 NMA Student Advocate of the Year: Nicholas Bohannon



This award is presented to a medical student advocate who has played a crucial role in enhancing the NMA's public policy priorities through state or national advocacy initiatives, advocates for the wellbeing of physicians, patients, and the communities they serve, and motivates fellow students to participate in NMA advocacy work.

As the UNMC Chapter President of the AMA, Bohannon fostered a collaborative environment where medical students feel valued and supported in their advocacy efforts. By working closely with the NMA and chapter leadership, Bohannon created opportunities for students to engage in advocacy work and attend national advocacy meetings.

His efforts nearly doubled UNMC medical student membership by removing financial barriers and providing advocacy workshops, making advocacy accessible and relevant. Bohannon leads by example, participating in advocacy efforts and showcasing its impact on patient care and medicine. His involvement in the AMA House of Delegates and policy development has inspired students to recognize and participate in healthcare advocacy.

His leadership created a culture of engagement and empowerment, inspiring medical students to contribute to meaningful change in healthcare advocacy. 

DR. INGOLDSTAD SERVING AS NMA PRESIDENT



David Ingvaldstad, M.D., was inaugurated as the 2024-2025 NMA president in August during the NMA Annual Membership Meeting in La Vista.


Dr Ingvaldstad, M.D., a native of South Dakota, earned his bachelor of science from the University of New Hampshire in 1996 and his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia in 2001. He completed a one-year internal medicine internship and a three-year ophthalmology residency at the University of Missouri–Kansas City, serving as chief resident from 2004 to 2005. He then completed a vitreoretinal disease

and surgery fellowship at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. In 2016, he received the Canady scholarship and earned an MBA in Healthcare Management from the University of Colorado at Denver.

Since joining Midwest Eye Care in 2006, Dr. Ingvaldstad has been committed to clinical practice and community service. He volunteers as a surgeon for the Mission Cataract program and helped create Omaha's Community in Focus program, providing vision services to those in need. Since 2021, he has been managing partner at Midwest Eye Care.

Dr. Ingvaldstad has served on the MOMS Board of Directors, including as MOMS president in 2016. He also served on the

MOMS Foundation board. He is a past president of the Nebraska Academy of Eye Physicians and Surgeons, completed the American Academy of Ophthalmology's Leadership Development program in 2010, and served as a councilor to the American Academy of Ophthalmology from 2012-2018. He maintains memberships in the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Medical Association and the American Society of Retina Specialists. In 2012, Dr. Ingvaldstad was awarded Young Physician of the Year by the Nebraska Medical Association.

Outside of his professional life, Dr. Ingvaldstad enjoys exploring the outdoors and supporting his three children's musical pursuits. 

NEW MEMBERS

LAURA ALBEE, M.D.

Methodist Women's Hospital
Emergency Medicine

OLA ALSHAQI, M.D.*

UNMC — Neurology
Neurology

JACKSON BAGBY, D.O.*

UNMC Sports Medicine
Orthopedic Sports Medicine

BRITTANY BAMBERG, M.D.*

UNMC — Psychiatry
Psychiatry

NICHOLAS BATTAFARANO, M.D.

Woodhaven Counseling Associates
Child Psychiatry

DIANE BELL, M.D.*

UNMC — Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine

SHIVANI BHATIA, D.O.*

UNMC — Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine

JAMUMA BUCHANAN, M.D.*

UNMC — Pediatrics
Pediatrics

MADISON BURGARD, M.D.*

UNMC — OB Gyn
Obstetrics & Gynecology

AMBER CLAYTON, M.D.*

UNMC — Family Medicine
Family Medicine

LORELLE DUNN, M.D.

CHI Health Lakeside
Emergency Medicine

LESLIE EILAND, M.D.

UNMC
Endocrinology, Diabetes
and Metabolism

KAREN ERNST, M.D.*

UNMC — Pediatrics
Pediatrics

MALLORY FEENSTRA, M.D.*

UNMC — Pediatrics
Pediatrics

LAUREN GAVIA, M.D.*

UNMC — Pediatrics
Pediatrics

GAURAV GUPTA, M.D.*

UNMC — General Surgery
General Surgery

BOBBY HANSEN, D.O.*

UNMC — Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine

BROOKE HUMMEL, D.O.*

UNMC — Pediatrics
Pediatrics

CHANDLER JAMES, D.O.*

UNMC — Family Medicine
Family Medicine

DAVID (TREY) JANTZEN, III, M.D.

Children's Nebraska
Pediatric Cardiology

CAROLYN KENNEDY, M.D.*

UNMC — Emergency Medicine
Emergency Medicine

TRISTAN KUCKELMAN, D.O.*

UNMC — Pediatrics
Pediatrics

RACHEL LAM, M.D.*

UNMC — Pediatrics
Pediatrics

RORY LI, M.D.*

UNMC — Pathology
Pathology

TIMOTHY LIGHT, D.O.*

UNMC — General Surgery
General Surgery

NICHOLAS LINARES, D.O.*

UNMC — Anesthesiology
Anesthesiology Critical Care

KYLE MCCLOSKEY, M.D.*

UNMC — Neurosurgery
Neurological Surgery

KATHARINE MCLEESE, M.D.

Methodist Physicians Clinic
Internal Medicine

DANIEL MILYAVSKY, M.D.

CHI Health Emergency
Emergency Medicine

HOLLY MITZEL, M.D.*

UNMC — Pathology
Pathology

MONICA NAVA FRENIER, M.D.*

UNMC — Psychiatry
Psychiatry

STELLA NWSU, M.D.*

UNMC — Transplant Surgery
Transplant Surgery

TARUNI PANDHIRI, M.D.*

UNMC — Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine

SARAH PICKETT, D.O.*

UNMC — Emergency
Medicine Fellowship
Emergency Medicine

JANE POTTER, M.D.

UNMC
Geriatrics

**RICARDO RODRIGUEZ
RODRIGUEZ, M.D.***

UNMC — Family Medicine
Family Medicine

CAROLINE SANE, M.D.*

UNMC — Neurology
Neurology

ALEXANDER SCHEIBER, M.D.*

UNMC — Anesthesiology
Anesthesiology

DANIEL SCHLESSINGER, M.D.

Schlessinger M.D.
Dermatology

LOGAN SCHROEDER, D.O.*

UNMC — OB Gyn
Obstetrics and Gynecology

NEW MEMBERS cont'd

CARTER SCHULZ, M.D.*

UNMC — Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine

BROOKE SCIUTO, M.D.

ArchWell Health
Family Medicine

DIVYA SHARMA, M.D.*

UNMC — Dermatology
Dermatology

KURT SIERRA, D.O.*

UNMC — Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine

HEATHER STRAH, M.D.

UNMC/Nebraska Medicine
Pulmonary Disease & Critical Care

ADENIKE SULAIMAN, M.D.*

UNMC — Transplant Surgery
Transplant Surgery

JACINTHA THOMAS, D.O.*

UNMC — Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine

DINH ETHAN TRINH, M.D.*

UNMC — Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

KATELYN UNVERT, D.O.*

UNMC — Pediatrics
Pediatrics

BRANDON VANDER ZEE, M.D.*

UNMC — Ophthalmology
Ophthalmology

ZACHARY VINTON, D.O.*

UNMC — Internal Medicine
Internal Medicine


*Resident

**DR. GOFFMAN NAMED
ENDOWED CHAIR**

Lisa Goffman, Ph.D., is the new Endowed Chair at the Center for Childhood Deafness, Language and Learning at Boys Town. Her research focuses on how children with developmental language disorder (DLD) acquire language and motor abilities.

"I am thrilled to join the Boys Town research team and a remarkable group of scientists focused on language disorders in children," Dr. Goffman said. "We have eight researchers focused on DLD who all have unique perspectives. I study how language and action interact in complex learning, including of language. We share a passion for understanding mechanisms that underlie DLD and for identifying and developing new assessments and treatments to alleviate this disorder that affects so many children and adults."

The Center for Childhood Deafness, Language and Learning serves children by conducting comprehensive evaluations through a team of professionals who have extensive experience working with children with speech-language disorders and children who are deaf or hard of hearing. These wide-ranging assessments are designed to address hearing, communication, health, academic, psychological and behavioral concerns.

Dr. Goffman's plans for the endowed chair position include, "engaging in the array of research and clinical opportunities that are the essence of Boys Town." She also has initiated interactions with new colleagues in the other centers, as she establishes novel conceptual and methodological approaches for studying how children, especially those with DLD, learn. 


**NEW VP CMO NAMED FOR
MIDWEST CHI HEALTH
PHYSICIAN ENTERPRISE**

Renuga Vivekanandan, M.D., has been appointed as the vice president and chief medical officer for the Midwest CHI Health Physician Enterprise. The move is expected to shape the direction of the organization and marks a significant milestone for Dr. Vivekanandan, who has been a key figure within CHI Health for over a decade.

The Midwest Market of the Physicians Enterprise encompasses a vast network of CHI Health hospitals, clinics, and health care facilities spanning North Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota, including 214 clinic locations and over 1,500 physicians and advanced practice providers.

Dr. Vivekanandan brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record in clinical excellence and patient care. Having served as the CHI Health Division chief of infectious disease for the past four years, Dr. Vivekanandan demonstrated exceptional leadership, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, where her expertise was crucial and relied upon daily. In addition, she has been a professor and assistant dean at Creighton University School of Medicine since 2018, reflecting her strong commitment to academic excellence and medical education.

Dr. Vivekanandan began her medical career with a residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, followed by an infectious disease fellowship at Creighton University Medical Center. Since joining CHI Health in 2013, she has been key in shaping patient care and outcomes.


"I am honored to take on this leadership position and look forward to working with our talented team of physicians to continue advancing the quality of care we provide. Together, we will strive to enhance our services and support the health and well-being of our patients," Dr. Vivekanandan said. 



NEW CLINIC OFFERS SPECIALTIES, SERVICES

Children's Nebraska continues to grow with the opening of its new Children's Specialty Pediatric Clinic – West Omaha. West Omaha represents the fastest-growing pediatric population in the metro area, and Children's can offer more convenient access to a broad range of high-quality pediatric health care services to children and families.

The new clinic space, located at 204th and Harrison streets, houses several specialties and services, including allergy, audiology, ENT, lab draws, pulmonology, radiology, sleep medicine and sports medicine. After a grand opening with team members – complete with a ribbon-cutting, tours and an open house – Children's welcomed patients through its doors in early August. Later in 2025, this location will offer innovative and first-of-its-kind outpatient rehabilitation spaces.

As the only hospital in the state exclusively devoted to pediatric care, Children's provides expertise in primary care and more than 50 specialties, growing in size and scope to meet the needs of children and adolescents in the region. 




MEDICAL SCHOOL CLASS OF 2028 INCLUDES STORIES OF PATIENCE

It's never too late to find your true calling. After nearly 10 years working in politics and corporate America, incoming medical student Joel Dumonsau decided it was time to pursue the intangible pull he always felt toward medicine.

The COVID-19 pandemic was his turning point – a chance to re-spark his passion for health care. He said, "For me, it was an opportunity to put a lot of the things that I had been doing in my life on pause and transition to a career in medicine."

That's when he set his sights on Creighton. As a service-minded individual, he knew he wanted to use his education to serve those in difficult situations, aligning with Creighton's ethical and humanistic approach to medicine. "I'm interested in opportunities to engage with others, to care about different people's life perspectives and to, frankly, be a little bit uncomfortable because that's where growth happens," Dumonsau said.

To Dumonsau, his journey to medical school was worth the wait. "As someone who's 34 and married and has gone through a multitude of life experiences," he says, "I feel I'm in a position where I can really relate to people and my patients."

This incredible – and nontraditional – path is one of 250 stories that make up the class of 2028. Impressive academics are a mark of a Creighton physician, and this class is no exception, with a mean MCAT score of 513 and a mean GPA of 3.82. In addition, 34 states are represented, with California (65), Arizona (27) and Minnesota (21) taking the lead. 



NEW LEADERSHIP ROLES SLATED FOR ABBOUD, RICHMOND

Steve Goeser, president and CEO of Methodist Health System, has announced the promotion of two members of the Methodist executive leadership team.

Josie Abboud, president and CEO of Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women's Hospital, has been promoted to Methodist Health System executive vice president. In her new capacity, Abboud will retain her current responsibilities and add the supervision of Methodist Health System affiliate presidents to her duties.

Brett Richmond, Methodist Fremont Health president and CEO, has been promoted to executive vice president of Methodist Hospital and Methodist Women's Hospital. Richmond will continue to lead Methodist Fremont Health and supervise several additional vice presidents.


Abboud began her career at Methodist 28 years ago as a critical care staff nurse. She has held a variety of leadership roles, including service executive, vice president, executive vice president, chief operating officer and president and CEO.

Abboud is a fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives and a member of the Medical Group Management Association. She has received numerous leadership awards and serves on the boards of several organizations.

She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing at Creighton University and her master's degree in business administration and health care management from Regis University in Denver.

Richmond, also a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, has served as president and CEO of Methodist Fremont Health since 2018.

He has over 20 years of experience in health care leadership positions and most recently served as the senior vice president and chief operating officer of Methodist Fremont Health. Richmond serves on the boards of several Dodge County organizations.

He received his bachelor of science from the University of Missouri and his master's degree in finance from Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Missouri. 



PROGRAM HEALTH RECEIVES INITIAL OK FROM REGENTS

The University of Nebraska recently took a significant step forward to launch the most ambitious public-private partnership in its history.

The NU Board of Regents in August approved the program statement outlining initial plans for Project Health, a new \$2.19 billion health care facility at UNMC and Nebraska Medicine that will serve as a clinical learning center to train the next generation of health care providers, conduct research and offer clinical trials.

By approving the program statement, the board authorized spending \$50 million in existing philanthropic funds on nonconstruction design work, essentially launching the project into the design phase. In addition to serving as an ultra-modern clinical learning and research environment, Project Health would be the primary inpatient clinical hospital for Nebraska Medicine. More than 550 beds would be in the facility, although not all would be open on day one.

Project Health would be built on the medical center’s campus on a vacant, 7.5-acre site formerly occupied by JP Lord Elementary School and the Munroe-Meyer Institute, which relocated to Omaha’s Aksarben area in June 2021.

Project Health is the first phase of Project NEXt, a joint effort between UNMC and Nebraska Medicine. The project would be the largest in university history, exceeding the \$370 million Fred & Pamela Buffett Cancer that opened in June 2017.

“Project Health is a highly ambitious effort which will significantly help rural and urban Nebraska communities maintain a growth trajectory for health professions workforce, highly relevant clinical research and care for generations to come,” says NU President Jeffrey Gold, M.D. “This first phase is an exciting step forward, and we are excited and grateful to work with our many public and private partners to continue to bring our vision to reality.”



University of Nebraska Medical Center

DR. WARCHOL NEW CHAIR OF NMA’S LEGISLATIVE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Jordan Warchol, M.D., assistant professor in UNMC’s Department of Emergency Medicine, has been involved in the Nebraska Medical Association since she was a UNMC medical student.

As of July, the Metro Omaha Medical Society member became the chair of the NMA’s Legislative and Advocacy Committee and chair of its delegates to the American Medical Association, having been a delegate to the AMA for five years.

Dr. Warchol, who holds a master of public health degree and is a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Medicine, said being a member of the NMA and MOMS was a way to stay up to date on the regulatory activities of the legislature and various regulatory agencies.

“It’s our professional responsibility to make sure our patients are cared for,” she said. “The best way to advocate for our patients on a greater scale is through organizations like the NMA.”

Dr. Warchol urged other UNMC and Nebraska Medicine medical students, faculty and physicians, to consider joining the NMA.

“It’s important for physicians and trainees to be members of medical organizations,” Dr. Warchol said. “As a student, it was an investment and something I knew I could be involved in longitudinally throughout my career.”



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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



This application serves as my request for membership in the Metro Omaha Medical Society (MOMS) and the Nebraska Medical Association (NMA). I understand that my membership will not be activated until this application is approved by the MOMS Membership Committee and I have submitted my membership dues.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ Middle Initial: _____
 Birthdate: _____ Gender: Male Female
 Clinic/Group: _____
 Office Address: _____ Zip: _____
 Office Phone: _____ Office Fax: _____ Email: _____
 Office Manager: _____ Office Mgr. Email: _____
 Home Address: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Name of Spouse: _____
 Preferred Mailing Address:
 Annual Dues Invoice: Office Home Other: _____
 Event Notices & Bulletin Magazine: Office Home Other: _____

EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

Medical School Graduated From: _____
 Medical School Graduation Date: _____ Official Medical Degree: (M.D., D.O., M.B.B.S, etc.) _____
 Residency Location: _____ Inclusive Dates: _____
 Fellowship Location: _____ Inclusive Dates: _____
 Primary Specialty: _____

I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date

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