



## FEATURES:

- From the President
- In Memory
- 175th ISMA Annual Convention and House of Delegates
- Physicians Slam Congress for Failure to Offset Medicare Pay Cuts
- Blue Cross Blue Shield \$2.8B Settlement in Antitrust Case
- MOCMS Book Club - Nov. 2024
- 31st Annual Soup Bowl Benefit
- ISMA General Reminders
- Save the Date

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

### President:

*Meredith Lulich, MD*

### Secretary/Treasurer:

*James Faris, MD*

### Immediate Past President:

*Christal Greene, MD*

### Board of Directors:

*Camila Arnaudo, MD*

*Kimberly Benham, DO*

*Clark Brittain, DO*

*Duangnapa Cuddy, DO*

*James Faris, MD*

*Christal Greene, MD*

*Rachel Gutfreund, MD*

*Meredith Lulich, MD*

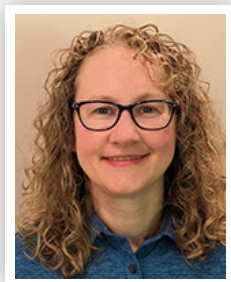
*Lawrence McBride, MD*

*Ashish Sadolikar, MD*

*Jackie Trueblood, MD*

### Executive Director:

*Dave Burnworth*



## From the President

Dear Colleagues,

In these short days of winter, it can be easy to wonder what happened to the sun as many of us go to work in the dark and come home in the dark, sneaking glimpses of the sun through a window. It can be harder to find motivation to go out and about in the dark and cold, and I know I enjoy a spot by a nice cozy fire this time of year. However, too much isolation can contribute to melancholy and a potential for dreariness over the winter. So, I invite you to shun the desire to cozy up at home all winter and spend some time socializing and engaging your brain in a fun way with one of our upcoming events.

First up, Enigma will take place on January 23rd. At this event, Drs. Cuddy and McKinley will present a couple of engaging cases for us to try and solve. It will be held at The FAR Center and attendees will be treated to a nice catered meal, so your efforts to get out will be rewarded. The Medical Society will also have another book club on February 28th. The Gifford's open their home to our group and their hospitality will certainly be a respite from any winter weather that may come our way. We'll be discussing the book *Riding the Orphan Train* by local author, Mark Braun. We may even have the good fortune to have him join us for our discussion.

At the state level, the Women in Medicine retreat is happening on February 1st at the Hotel Carmichael in Carmel. I attended last year and thought it was well worth my time and the drive.

The new year brings transitions on the board as well. I am thankful for Drs. Laura Knudson and Tashera Perry for their contributions and wish them well in their other pursuits. We have sadly lost Dr. Thomas Sharp's steady, faithful presence on the board with his recent passing. He will be missed. I am thankful for other physicians who have volunteered to take their places and look forward to working with Drs. Camila Arnaudo, Ashish Sadolikar and Rachel Gutfreund over the coming year.

### Meredith Lulich, MD FACP

*President*

*Monroe Owen County Medical Society*

## MOCMS

P.O. Box 3211  
Bloomington, IN 47402  
t: 812.332.4033  
e: [director@mocms.org](mailto:director@mocms.org)  
[www.mocms.org](http://www.mocms.org)

## MOCMS.ORG

Check out the new MOCMS website at [mocms.org](http://mocms.org).

- News
- Events
- Resources
- Membership and more...



## In Memory

Dr. Thomas Wayne Sharp, aged 79, passed away peacefully in Bloomington, Indiana on December 19th surrounded by his family and loved ones.

After graduating from Indiana University School of Medicine and completing his internship in 1973, Tom started working in Bloomington, Indiana, in family practice. He was the Monroe County Health Commissioner from 1976 until spring 2023. He was a respected member of his profession and a lifetime member of the Monroe Owen County Medical Society.

The family will hold services at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the IU School of Medicine. Please make checks payable to: IU Foundation and mail to IUF, PO Box 7072, Indianapolis, IN 46207-7072. Indicate "In memory of Dr. Thomas W. Sharp" on the memo line, you may also go to <https://go.iu.edu/8rU9>. All donations will be routed to further liver research.

*"Dr. Tom Sharp was a close friend of mine and was a very special physician! He cared so much for his patients and they thought he was their very special physician. He was an active member of the Monroe Owen County Medical Society including being on its current Board of Directors. He maintained social relationships with other retired physicians in his circle of friends. The Bloomington's physician community will certainly miss Tom Sharp for many reasons. I certainly wish condolences for Tom's family. May he rest in peace."*

~ James V. Faris, II, MD

# 175th ISMA Annual Convention and House of Delegates

By James V. Faris, MD

## Do you want to be an ISMA Convention Delegate and help influence past and present Indiana Medical/Physician Practice legislation passed by our state legislature?

There is an annual ISMA Convention and House of Delegates meeting this year from 9-11 September, 2024! The Owen/Monroe County Medical Society is currently allowed to select eight delegates to attend the Convention and House of Delegates. Any ISMA member is allowed to generate a proposed resolution concerning their idea for possible changes in Indiana Medical/Physician Practice. These resolutions are refined with the help of other of our delegates or members for submission to the House of Delegates in September. Following submission, the resolutions are available on the ISMA internet website for members' personal evaluation and comment. On Friday September 6, 2024 the proposed resolutions are presented to the House of Delegates to be further discussed and evaluated on 7 September by a select committee of volunteer delegates. That evening, this select committee generates a document recommending the action the committee believes should be taken on each resolution by the House of Delegates on Sunday, 8 September. That day the final House of Delegates meets and discusses the recommended action, any amendments to the resolution and votes for the action to be taken on the resolutions by the ISMA Board of Trustees. The possible actions include referring to the Board for "action" or for "study", adoption to become ISMA policy, or lastly, defeat of the proposed resolution. The Board of Trustees then takes action on the resolutions while those resolutions for "study" are further studied and a report on the study findings presented at the next annual Convention and House of Delegates. This would then be in September, 2025. When appropriate, the Board will ask ISMA employees who are paid to connect with Indiana State legislators interested in medical/physician practice issues to suggest potential legislation which would help physicians practicing in Indiana. Additionally, the elected delegates to the American Medical Association could, if appropriate, carry forward the proposed resolutions to the AMA House of Delegates to eventually gain national legislation helping all physicians in the United States of America. Thereby, a single ISMA physician could bring about change statewide and nationwide!

There are several additional activities at the convention. There is usually an educational event for physicians in practice on the first day of the Convention. The first evening there is an IMPAC social event as well. The Saturday evening, there is a semi-formal dinner honoring the out-going and in-coming Presidents of ISMA.

The Owen Monroe County Medical Society, of which you are a member, would like you to consider becoming one of our delegates to the ISMA House of Delegates. We usually are lucky to have only half of our eight delegate slots filled. Expenses for our delegates are reimbursed by the MOCMS. Let Dave Burnworth, our CEO, know of your interest for the 2024 ISMA House of Delegates.

# Physicians Slam Congress for Failure to Offset Medicare Pay Cuts

By Alan Condon | Becker's Hospital Review (12/23/2024)

Congress has signed a pared-down funding bill to prevent a government shutdown but failed to pass measures in a previously proposed bipartisan package that would have offset the 2.83% Medicare pay cut physicians face in 2025.

The Medical Group Management Association expressed relief over temporary extensions for telehealth flexibilities and the 1.0 work GPCI floor but criticized Congress for failing to avert the 2.83% Medicare physician reimbursement cut starting January 1.

"The previously agreed-upon [continuing resolution], while not perfect, would have critically averted most of the 2.83% cut to physician reimbursement in Medicare beginning January 1," Anders Gilberg, senior vice president of government affairs, said in a statement. "Now physician practices head into the new year facing uncertainty and financial shortfalls that not only negatively impact the viability of their Medicare business, but their commercial contracts tied to Medicare rates, as well as Medicaid reimbursement in states that use Medicare as a benchmark."

Physicians' Medicare pay rates have dropped 33% over 20 years, and Congress has ignored inflation adjustments, prior authorization reforms and rising care costs, according to the American Medical Association.

"For the fifth consecutive year, Congress has adjourned and allowed Medicare cuts. What will be the result? Patients struggling to access health care. Physicians closing or selling their private practices while others opt to leave the profession," AMA President Bruce Scott, MD, [said](#).

The AMA also criticized lawmakers for missing a "golden opportunity" to improve patient care by failing to include prior authorization reform — which had bipartisan support in the House and the Senate — in the final package.

"Leaving it on the cutting room floor is an unnecessary gift to the insurance industry at the expense of our patients," Dr. Scott said. "Physicians have unique training and expertise when prescribing appropriate care, and we don't need insurance companies delaying and interfering with our patients' vital treatments."

The AMA and MGMA urged Congress to retroactively address the reimbursement cut and enact permanent Medicare payment reforms to support physicians, medical groups and patient care.

# Blue Cross Blue Shield Agrees to \$2.8B Settlement in Antitrust Case

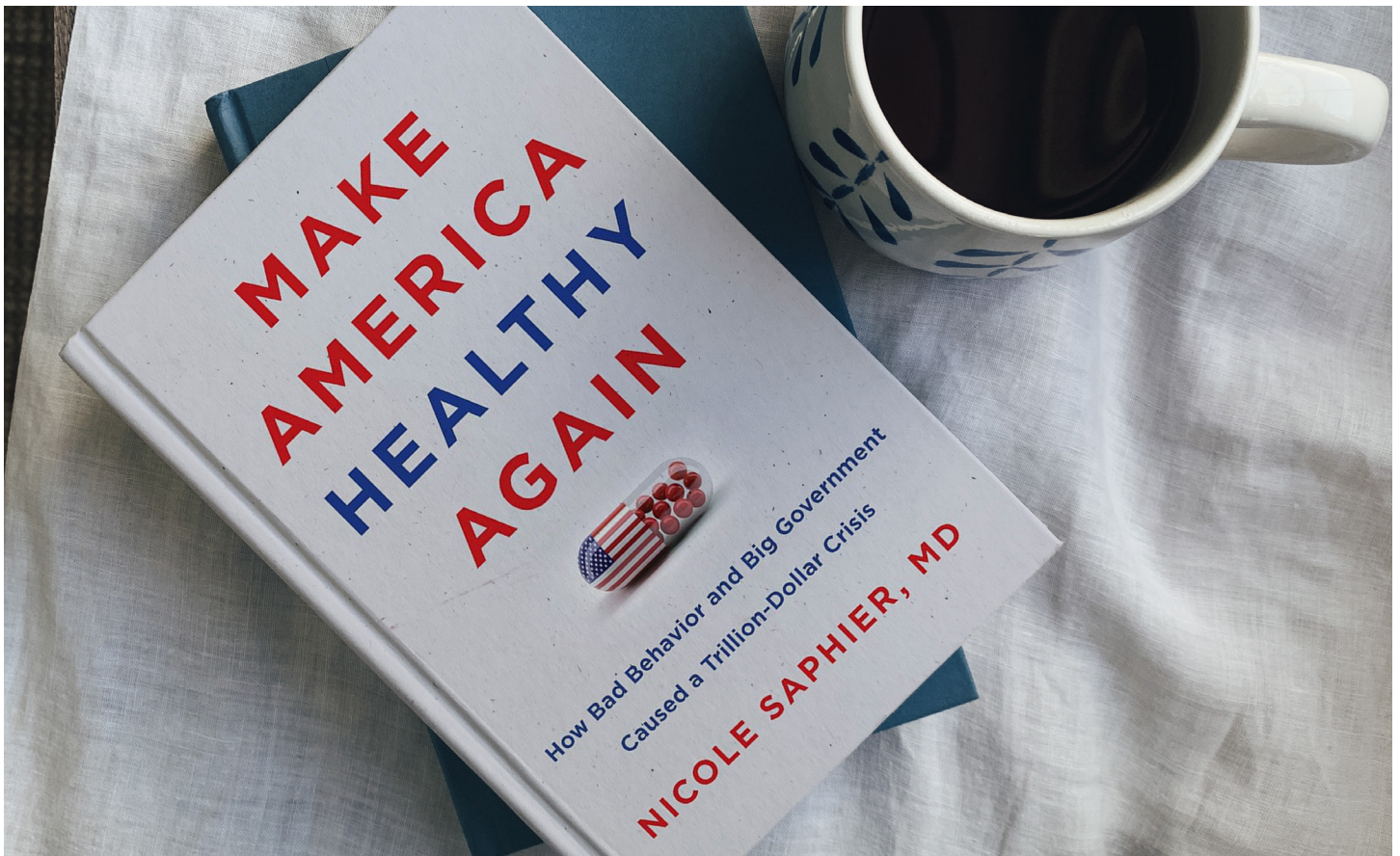
Article from ISMA e-Reports 11-21-2024

Plaintiffs representing physicians, hospitals and other health care professionals in *In Re Blue Cross Blue Shield Antitrust Litigation* reached a settlement agreement on Oct. 14 with the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and its member companies (BCBS) for allegations of suppressing competition and underpaying providers.

As part of the [agreement](#), BCBS will pay \$2.8 billion to a settlement fund and implement transparency and accountability measures within BCBS. The settlement — the largest ever for a health care antitrust case — covers health care service providers with BlueCard Program patients between July 2008 and October 2024.

The settlement is subject to approval from a federal court in Alabama. If approved, impacted health care professionals will receive information about potential recovery options and participation in the settlement fund. There is not expected to be an opt-in to the settlement but there will be an opt-out right. Physicians who wish to claim a recovery under the settlement will eventually need to submit a claim form to do so. Formal notice will be sent at a later time. ISMA will share more details as they become available.

BCBS has continued to deny the allegations and said it agreed to the settlement and operational changes to "put years of litigation behind us."



## MOCMS Book Club - November, 2024

After a close vote, *Make America Healthy Again* by Nicole Saphier, MD, was selected for our November MOCMS Book Club. Dr. Cam Gifford and his wife continue to graciously host. Our attendees are unanimously reporting that Gifford's home is our absolute favorite Book Club location—hands down!

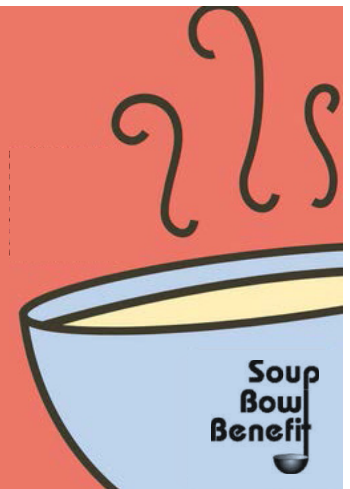
On the evening of Friday, November 15, 2024, we enjoyed fantastic drinks and tapas. Our small group of eight started by sharing our individual impressions, then engaged in open conversation about the book's content in general as well as some thoughts on particular aspects. We are always so grateful to have colleagues who can hold this space together. Even though we might not all agree, we can respectfully stay curious, listen, and reflect together.

Remarkably, MOCMS Book Club is approaching its 5th year since inception. Dr. Christal Greene envisioned a physician book club as a wonderful way to gather with fellow physician bookworms and share meaningful conversation, with a focus on revitalization and inspiration not possible within our typical professional day-to-day interactions. With the Board of Directors' support, the idea took root, and here we are 5 years later—going strong.

Even through outdoor meetings during COVID, we have sustained this quarterly MOCMS Book Club, alternating between fiction and non-fiction, with novels written by physicians or relating to some aspect of medicine. Selections are voted on by past attendees. If you haven't joined us in the past, we hope you will consider attending. Let us know if there is a particular selection you would like to see on our lineup, and we can make that happen!

The next Book Club will be on Friday, February 28, 2025, at the Giffords' home. The selection is *Riding the Orphan Train* by local author, Mark Braun. Please consider joining us in celebrating 5 years of the MOCMS Book Club. We hope to see you there!

# SOUPBOWL 2025



## 31st Annual Soup Bowl Benefit

Sunday, February 23, 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Monroe Convention Center  
302 S. College Ave., Bloomington, IN 47403

Tickets \$30 (Children \$15) - includes bowl

Tickets available online starting January 1, 2025 at [hhfoodbank.org/soupbowl/](https://hhfoodbank.org/soupbowl/)



The Soup Bowl Benefit is the biggest fundraiser for HHFB and it will set the Convention Center abuzz on February 23, 2025. It is a beloved, joyous event, in which local potters donate handmade bowls, local restaurants donate delicious soups, and local musicians provide lively entertainment. Patrons take their beautiful new bowl home with them.

It's more than just a fundraiser; it's a celebration of community and a tangible way to give back. I hope to see you at the Soup Bowl Benefit, enjoying great food and fantastic company—knowing that your generous support is directly fighting hunger in our community.

The impact of your donation is far-reaching, providing essential food and resources to those in need. Every contribution makes a real difference, and we invite you to make a donation today to help us continue this important work. You can donate anytime at [hhfoodbank.org/donate](https://hhfoodbank.org/donate), or simply scan the QR code to give now.

While tickets for the Soup Bowl Benefit will be available starting January 1, 2025, at [hhfoodbank.org/soupbowl/](https://hhfoodbank.org/soupbowl/), your donation today can have an even greater immediate impact. Your support ensures we can provide for those who need it most, so please consider making a contribution now, before tickets go on sale. Thank you for helping us fight hunger, one meal at a time!



### Hoosier Hills Food Bank Update from Judy Klein, MD

I am a retired Bloomington physician. I have volunteered with Hoosier Hills Food Bank (HHFB) for over 25 years and know how effective they are in combatting hunger in six different counties, including Monroe and Owen county. Through their partnership with over 100 nonprofit agencies, they will have distributed over 5 million pounds of food this year alone to food-insecure individuals and families.

# ISMA General Reminders

## ISMA 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Video

[https://www.ismanet.org/ISMA/Convention/175\\_Video.aspx](https://www.ismanet.org/ISMA/Convention/175_Video.aspx)

Watch and share ISMA's 175th anniversary video showcasing nearly two centuries of health care milestones led by Indiana physicians and ISMA. We are finding this video to be a great membership driver encouraging viewers to join ISMA and help shape the next 175 years!

## 2025 ISMA Legislative Priorities

<https://www.ismanet.org/pdf/Leg-Priorities-2025.pdf>

With a new governor, a new budget, and several health care-related issues competing for attention and funding, the 2025 legislative session promises to be a busy one. Read our [2025 ISMA Legislative Priorities](#) which serves as a “broad game plan” going into the 2025 legislative year.

## 2025 ISMA dates to be aware of:

January 15	Quarterly Meeting*
March 6	<b>ISMA 2025 Halftime Legislative Update</b> Live webinar for ISMA members only. Accredited for 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. <a href="#">Register Now</a>
March 12	Physician Advocacy Day at the State House <i>(more details forthcoming)</i>
April 16	Quarterly Meeting*
May 1	<b>ISMA 2025 Post-Session Legislative Update</b> Live webinar for ISMA members only. Accredited for 1.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. <a href="#">Register Now</a>
May/June	District Meeting Season <i>(more details forthcoming)</i>
August 20	Quarterly Meeting*
September 26-28	ISMA's Annual Convention at Embassy Suites in Noblesville, Indiana.
October/November	Pints & Politics Season <i>(more details forthcoming)</i>
December 10	Quarterly Meeting*

\*We will hold county medical society quarterly meetings at 1:00 pm. Look for calendar holds soon.

# Save the Date

For more details on any event listed below, please feel free to contact us at [director@mocms.org](mailto:director@mocms.org).

## Enigma

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 2025, 6:30 PM

Have some fun earning CME points by joining us at the FAR Center for Contemporary Arts for the next MOCMS Enigma event on January 23, 2025 where Drs. Cuddy and McKinley will present a couple of engaging cases for us to try and solve.

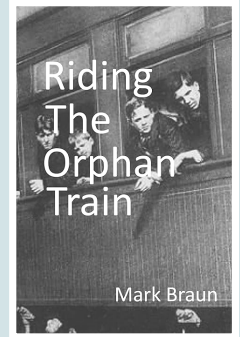
Visit [mocms.org](http://mocms.org) to view this event in more detail and add it to your calendar.

## Book Club

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025, 6:30 PM

Mark your calendars for our next MOCMS Book Club on Friday, February 28 at the home of Dr. Cameron Gifford, where we will be discussing “**Riding the Orphan Train**” by local author, Mark Braun. We may even have the good fortune to have him join us for our discussion. Spouses and significant others are welcome to join!

Visit [mocms.org](http://mocms.org) to view this event in more detail and add it to your calendar.



## ISMA Women in Medicine Retreat

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2025, 6:30 PM

Attend the 2025 WIM Retreat on February 1, 2025 at Hotel Carmichael in Carmel for a full day of networking, wellness sessions, and expert speakers. Gain up to 6 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™.

**Fees:** ISMA Members - \$250, Residents/Students - \$100, Non-members - \$350

**New:** Sponsor a medical student’s participation during registration!

Special hotel rates available until January 10. Don’t miss this opportunity—last year’s event set attendance records!

[Register Now](#)



## Reminder:

### KEEP YOUR INFO UP TO DATE!

If you change work location, move your residence, or update your email address, please email [director@mocms.org](mailto:director@mocms.org) and log in to the [ISMA website](#) to make those changes. Keeping your information current helps us maintain an accurate member list.

Thank you for your cooperation!

# PLEASE KEEP US UPDATED

In our increased effort to “go green”, MOCMS is hoping to communicate with you through email. If you would like to help MOCMS use less paper, please be sure we have your updated email address by sending an email to [director@mocms.org](mailto:director@mocms.org) and check that your spam blocker will allow communications from MOCMS.

## MOVED LATELY?

Please forward your new address for your **home** and/or your **practice** to MOCMS right away. You may call MOCMS at 812.332.4033, write to us at PO Box 3211, Bloomington, IN 47402 or email [director@mocms.org](mailto:director@mocms.org). Please help us keep your information current/correct in the MOCMS database, Physician Directory and on our website at [mocms.org](http://mocms.org).



P.O. Box 3211, Bloomington, IN 47402  
t 812.332.4033  
[www.mocms.org](http://www.mocms.org)

The Monroe Owen County Medical Society (MOCMS) Newsletter is published each spring, summer and fall by approval of the Executive Committee. The MOCMS Newsletter accepts submissions of articles, announcements, obituaries, and editorials related to the interests of our members. Materials submitted for consideration should be typed as a Word document. The MOCMS reserves the right to edit all articles submitted. MOCMS retains final editorial judgment regarding newsletter content. It reserves the right to reject articles, announcements, letters, advertisements, and other items that do not correspond with the goals and purposes of the organization.

The information contained in the newsletter is believed to be correct and accurate. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions expressed in any article, advertisement, or column are those of the individual author and do not represent an official position of, or endorsement by, the Monroe Owen County Medical Society, its officers, Executive Committee, or the newsletter staff.

*Approved by the Executive Committee on June 5, 2007.*