

MSSC NEWS

Two Kansas physicians run for U.S. Senate



Barbara Bollier, MD



Roger Marshall, MD

Two Kansas physicians are vying for an open Senate seat, a spot in the 117th Congress and a shot at bringing a health care background and sensibility to one of the highest offices in the country.

Today, Congress is made up of 17 physicians – three in the Senate and 14 in the House, including one of the Kansas candidates. It also boasts five dentists, three veterinarians, two psychologists and an optometrist.

Kansas Democrat Barbara Bollier, who is a member of the Kansas Senate (representing District 7 in the Kansas City area) is running against Kansas Republican Roger Marshall, a two-term Congressman in the U.S. House (representing Kansas' 1st Congressional District, which encompasses 63 counties in western and central Kansas).

Bollier, a longtime retired anesthesiologist, and Marshall, a more recently retired OB/GYN, are campaigning on their medical degrees, promising to bring a wealth of health care knowledge, sensitivity and activism to the Senate body.

PLEASE SEE *SENATE*, PAGE 2

Learn more

► **Barbara Bollier's campaign website:** bollierforkansas.com. Bills sponsored by this legislator during the current session can be found for free at billtrack50.com

► **Roger Marshall's campaign website:** kansansformarshall.com. Metrics on Marshall's voting record can be read here: www.govtrack.us

INSIDE

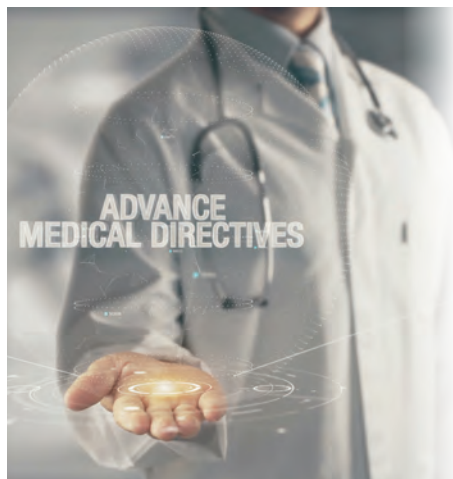
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Pandemic opens doors for end-of-life conversations



The uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic has made it even more imperative that physicians and other health care professionals talk about advanced directives.

Local and national advocates say now is an important time to have those difficult discussions with patients.

"The medical status of individuals with COVID-19, even those with seemingly benign and mild symptoms, can quickly change to the point that they may need advanced life support (e.g., a ventilator)," the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services wrote in a document created in April to assist physicians in talking with patients about advanced directives during the pandemic.

"Given all the ways that COVID-19 is affecting how medical care is provided, it is important to talk to everyone – in or out of hospital settings – about advance directives."

This is certainly at top of mind with the folks at Wichita's TPOPP,

PLEASE SEE *TPOPP*, PAGE 4

We've come a long way on gender equality in the last century



Patricia Wyatt-Harris, MD
October President's Message

"Look around, look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now." That line is from the musical "Hamilton" and may not seem to apply to the world with COVID-19, but from the standpoint of gender equality, I think it is appropriate.

Recently we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote in the United States. I can't imagine a world where women were thought to be unfit to vote.

Apparently, women in the U.S. were considered physically and mentally inferior to men until the first World War. Women were working to attain economic and political equality even before this time. When they started working in munition factories, men took note of their abilities. Suffice it to say that granting women the right to vote was a huge step in the path to gender equality.

On Sept. 18, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died. She played a major role in cases that have led to gender

equality. After graduating at the top of her class, she was not offered a job in a top law firm nor a Supreme Court clerkship like some men who ranked lower in her class.

Instead of letting that stop her, she taught law and eventually became a tenured professor. At that time she worked for the ACLU and co-founded the Women's Rights Project. She used a legal strategy that included challenging discrimination against men. She felt that there shouldn't be discrimination against women or men.

When she became a Supreme Court justice, one of her dissenting arguments actually led to congressional action regarding pay discrimination. I don't have time to chronicle all of her accomplishments, but I am grateful to her for helping to pave my way in what was a primarily male career when I started.

I know there are still instances of pay discrimination that need to be remedied. The #MeToo movement has gone a long way to fight injustices in the workplace, but these still exist.

I am just glad I am alive now and have been able to practice medicine. I am happy to be able to vote without worrying about discrimination because I am female.

We are lucky to be alive right now!

SENATE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The growing number of politicians with medical and health care backgrounds is heartening for groups that advocate on behalf of physicians, including the Kansas Medical Society and the Medical Society of Sedgwick County, both which work to bring physician – and, ultimately, patient – issues to the attention of policymakers.



COLOMBO

"One of the most important things before Congress at this time is health care – how it's provided, how it's paid for, as well as quality and access to care," said Rachel Colombo, KMS executive director. "To have physicians there who have an understanding of that space to inform those decisions is obviously in the best interest of Kansas and America as a whole."

Physicians in Congress not only bring an additional vault of knowledge for medical issues and policy, but serve as a resource for colleagues as well – especially important in this time of pandemic as well as for a host of other health care issues.

Priority interests for Kansas that expand into national issues include access to care, responding to COVID-19, and the liability climate, Colombo said. At the state level, KMS was successful in its campaign to help pass HB 2016 this year, protecting physicians from liability arising out of deferred, delayed or altered care as a result of the pandemic.

"It'd be our hope this would become a federal restriction as well," Colombo said. "Without a doubt, one of the most important ways our leaders can ensure access to care is to support an environment in which physicians are practicing medicine."

Another issue that translates well from a state priority to a federal one involves telemedicine as a viable platform of care during the COVID pandemic and beyond. Physician advocates want to ensure that physicians are properly paid for their telemedicine services. Kansas passed a bill a few years ago that created a

structure in which telemedicine platforms could operate, and these were brought in and heavily utilized this year, Colombo said. CMS rules and payment structures surrounding that are an important local and national issue, she said.

Scope of practice continues to be a critical issue for physician advocates at both the state and federal level. Colombo worries that arguments based on access and demand have allowed a lowering of quality standards when it comes to who can provide care, especially in rural areas.

"We believe the best care is physician-directed," Colombo said. "One of the things we've seen pushed into independent practice is the APRN, sold as a way to meet demand when in reality, there are enough physicians who can lead teams and make sure that care is high quality."

The candidates, whose different career experiences and personal beliefs inform their campaigns and priorities, are worth an extra look. Physician advocates encourage people to look up each candidate to learn specific details about their campaigns, goals and priorities. There also is a third candidate, Libertarian Jason Buckley, a longtime health care IT professional

who currently works in the banking industry and lives in Overland Park.

In the end, however, having a physician in Congress is positive for all medical professionals – and patients – across Kansas and the nation, experts said.

"Physicians bring a unique perspective in that we generally see all patients as precious and valuable and tend not to see them in terms of party affiliation," said Kevin Hoppock, MD, chairman of the Legislative Committee for both MSSC and KMS. "We tend to be in tune with some of the economic and social barriers to care that affects health in a way that other non-physicians are less likely to appreciate."

We tend to be in tune with some of the economic and social barriers to care that affects health in a way that other non-physicians are less likely to appreciate.

~KEVIN HOPPOCK, MD



DR. HOPPOCK

Physicians at the heart of Wichita's premier PPO

The "DR" in the ProviDRs Care name is no coincidence, as doctors have always been at the heart of the preferred provider organization (PPO).

Physician-governed and physician-owned have been constants since the for-profit network began in 1985 as the Wichita Preferred Provider Association, a wholly owned subsidiary of the MSSC. The name was later shortened to WPPA Inc. as it began serving a larger swath of the state. In 2007, it began operating as ProviDRs Care, but WPPA remains the official corporate name. The company operates under its own board of directors.

Terry Poling, MD, president of the ProviDRs Care Board of Directors, has been leading the company from the start. The 1980s were – much like today – a time of uncertainty and change in health care and health insurance as HMOs, PPOs and other new models came into play. "WPPA was an experiment to help physicians understand what was going on in the industry and why," Poling said.

The ProviDRs Care role remains a valuable one for MSSC, its members and Kansas employers. Big insurance companies contract for their own networks, but smaller insurance companies and self-funded employers relying on third party administrators cannot. Without the ProviDRs Care network, employers' only alternative would be health plans offered by the few large insurance companies.

Today, ProviDRs Care is the only physician-owned PPO in Kansas and one of the few in the country. It has ridden out and adapted to changing health care and insurance markets, delivering a competitive option for employers of all sizes, and providing access to quality doctors across Kansas.

"ProviDRs Care has been here for 35 years, and every day we look for ways to innovate and be here for the long term," said Karen Cox, chief executive officer of ProviDRs Care. "ProviDRs Care, because of its size, has the flexibility that large companies don't."

That flexibility allows ProviDRs Care to tailor plans for and collaborate with physicians, hospitals, employers, payers, and brokers.

Today, the network includes more than 15,000 providers – 2,430 in Sedgwick County alone – and 181 hospitals in Kansas and adjacent states. The network provides access to over 150 employer groups and one insurance company. About 80 percent

of covered lives are in self-funded or level-funded plans.

This network is constantly innovating, Cox said. "We stay viable by developing new and better products and services to meet today's needs of our clients. Employers today want solutions that will reduce health care costs and improve the health of their employees.

ProviDRs Care is continually seeking ways to position itself for the future, as the health care system moves to value-based models from the current fee-for-service system. As it does, physicians will remain – as the name says – front and center.

"WPPA ProviDRs Care wouldn't be where we are today without our physicians," Cox said.



Cox

GET CONNECTED

Interested in finding out more about ProviDRs Care or joining its network? Visit its website, providrscare.net, or contact CEO Karen Cox at (316) 683-0665 or by email to KarenCox@providrscare.net



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MSSC member physicians earn Health Care Heroes honors



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TIFFANY SCHWASINGER-SCHMIDT



LINDALL SMITH

Sixteen MSSC members were celebrated as Health Care Heroes by the Wichita Business Journal. The annual award recognizes companies, individuals and organizations for their contributions to improving health care in Wichita and the surrounding area. The recipients were honored at a virtual awards presentation on Sept. 30.

Drs. Francie Ekengren, Gyan Khicha and Lindall Smith received Lifetime Achievement awards. This year's award sponsors were Medical Provider Resources and the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita.

Other MSSC members recognized were Drs. Samuel Akidiva, Sam Antonios, David Bryant, Christopher S.R. Dakhil, Bradley Dart, Philip Dooley, John Lohnes, Marilee McBoyle, Mark T. McVay, Ragnar Peterson, Tiffany Schwasinger-Schmidt, Chloe Steinshouer and Priyank Yagnik.



CHLOE STEINSHOUE



PRIYANK YAGNIK

Resources available to help physicians facilitate serious illness discussions

TPOPP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

or Transportable Physician Orders for Patient Preferences. TPOPP Wichita – an initiative of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County in collaboration with both hospital systems – encourages, educates and promotes physician communication about end-of-life care for appropriate patients.

TPOPP Steering Committee chairwoman Carolyn Harrison said COVID has caused more people to stop and think about planning. It is a prime opportunity for physicians – whether in a clinic or hospital setting – to speak with patients about who has control of their medical decisions.

“We all need to practice more how to do serious illness conversations,” Harrison said. “For a physician, it may be different to predict what will happen with an illness, especially with COVID these days. We all need to work at that.”

The end-of-life discussion from a physician or health care worker standpoint generally revolves around ascertaining the values, goals and desires of patients so they receive the kind of care they want should they be unable to communicate about it themselves. A TPOPP form is a physician order designed for people with chronic, advanced illness or terminal illness. It's not needed by everyone but may be appropriate for some high-risk patients during the COVID pandemic. Patients take those forms with them into clinical settings.

The conversation may not be as difficult as some imagine. Interest in advance directives has skyrocketed this year as COVID took hold. The Wichita Medical Research & Education Foundation, which houses all the Kansas advance directive forms

– including TPOPP, Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care Decisions, Living Wills and DNRs – has seen at least a 30% increase in downloads from its website since March 15, and a significant uptick in hospitals and clinics requesting forms. New Spanish versions have been downloaded 1,400 times since March.

“One of the biggest things from COVID is that it has spurred the conversation,” executive director Peggy Johnson said.

TPOPP focuses on communication between the patient or their surrogate (legally designated decision-maker) and the patient's physician or health care providers that ensures informed medical decision-making occurs, organization officials said.

“It's about trying to figure out what the patient wants or doesn't want and letting health care professionals have access,” said retired family physician Barbara Coats, MD, also part of the TPOPP steering committee. “We need to have those conversations.”

Resources

Ariadne Labs' **Serious Illness Conversation Guide** offers clinicians language to ask patients about their tinyurl.com/MSSC-ALGuide

Using REMAP to talk to patients, from HHS: tinyurl.com/MSSC-remap

More about TPOPP Wichita: tppowichita.com

Kansas advance directives forms: tinyurl.com/MSSC-WMREF

In Brief ▶▶▶

New and noteworthy

Derby physician wins teaching award



DR. LIND

Family medicine physician Edward Lind II, MD, was selected by the American Academy of Family Physicians as the recipient of the AAFP's 2020 Exemplary Teaching Award in the volunteer category.

The award was developed to acknowledge exemplary teaching skills, as well as individuals who have implemented outstanding educational programs and/or innovative teaching models, officials said. Lind was honored last year with the Kansas Exemplary Teaching Award (volunteer category) by the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFFP) and then nominated for the national award.

"While most preceptors are willing to take one medical student per year, you have volunteered to teach 23 students in the last six years!" wrote AAFP board chairman Gary LeRoy, MD, in a letter to Lind. "You are both a clinical and personal role model, setting a high professional standard for third-year medical students during their eight-week family medicine clerkship with you."

Virtual Webinar honors Guthrie legacy

Great Plains Diabetes is holding a CME Webinar called "Drs. Richard and Diana Guthrie: A Legacy of Diabetes Discovery" on Nov. 13.

The seminar honors the legacy of Drs. Richard and Diana Guthrie with presentations by Irl Hirsch, MD, University of Washington Medicine Diabetes Institute; Fran Kaufman, MD, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Pediatrics at USC, The Center for Endocrinology, Diabetes & Metabolism; and Guillermo Umpierrez, MD, Emory University.

Cost is \$50. The event offers CME hours for MDs, RNs, pharmacists, dietitians, and PAs. Go to tinyurl.com/MSSC-GPD for more information or to register.

Family Med Winter Symposium is online

KUSM-W's 40th Annual Family Medicine Winter Symposium will be held virtually on Dec. 4.

The event is designed to present new and updated topics useful to practicing family physicians and other primary care providers, with special emphasis on refining diagnostic and therapeutic skills.

Register online by Nov. 29 at www.eeds.com/live/792927. More information is at wichita.kumc.edu/fcm-wintersymposium.

Business Journal profiles physicians

Twelve MSSC members were recognized in a Wichita Business Journal question-and-answer feature on excellence in women's health care. Drs. Sharon Breit, Carl Christman, Arthur DeHart, Paige Harwell, Amisha Khicha, Jacqueline Morgan, Margaret O'Hara, Stephanie Oberhelman, Simon Patton, Laura Tatpati, Tracy Williams and Patricia Wyatt-Harris were among those featured.

One of the questions asked how the pandemic impacted their jobs, and several obstetricians noted that COVID didn't stop deliveries. "Babies are on their own schedule, despite the stay-at-home order," Breit said.



DR. BREIT

MSSC donates meals to COVID units



MSSC BOARD MEMBER CHADY SHARRAF, MD, HELPED DISTRIBUTE THANK YOU NOTES AND GIFT CARDS TO THE COVID STAFFS AT ASCENSION VIA CHRISTI.

MSSC recently provided meals or gift cards to the staffs of COVID units at Ascension Via Christi and Wesley Medical Center. "The gifts were a token of our appreciation for the skilled and compassionate care these staff members provide to COVID patients," said MSSC President Patricia Wyatt-Harris, MD. "We are grateful these dedicated professionals are part of our medical community."

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ROSTER UPDATE

Keep your 2020 roster current with this information. Key: [BC] Board Certified [F] Accredited Fellowship [R] Residency [AT] Additional Training [F*] Unaccredited Fellowship

NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS



Mahdi M. Alsaleem, MD

[BC] Pediatrics
[F] Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Children's Mercy Wichita - St. Joseph
OFF: 689-5474
3600 E Harry, 67218
NPI: 1609218171

Medical education obtained at Jordan University of Science & Technology, Irbid, Jordan 10/2004-6/2010. Internship with Ministry of Health 7/2010-7/2011. Residency in Pediatrics at Jordan University 7/2011-6/2012. Residency in Pediatric Surgery at Hamad Medical Corporation, Doha, Qatar 7/2012-6/2013. Residency in Pediatrics at Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit 7/2013-6/2016. Fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at University of Buffalo 7/2016-7/2019.



Parthu K. Avvaru, MD

[BC] Pediatrics
[F] Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Pediatrix Medical Group
OFF: 962-8550
FAX: 962-8581
550 N Hillside, 67214
NPI: 1366857351

Medical education obtained at Narayana Medical College & Hospital, Andhra Pradesh, India 8/2005-3/2011. Residency in Pediatrics at Monmouth Medical Center, Long Branch, NJ 7/2014-6/2017. Fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at St Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia 7/2017-6/2020.



J. Craig Benning, DO

[R] Diagnostic Radiology
Kansas Imaging Consultants, PA
OFF: 689-5050
FAX: 689-6192
3600 E Harry, 67218
NPI: 1366856015

Medical education obtained at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences 8/2010-5/2014. Residency in Diagnostic Radiology at Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City 7/2014-6/2019. Fellowship in Abdominal Imaging at University of Utah School of Medicine 7/2019-6/2020.



Sarah E. Carlson, MD

[R] Pediatrics
Redbud Pediatrics
OFF: 201-1202
FAX: 201-1251
8725 E 32nd St N, 67226
NPI: 1124549738

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Wichita 7/2013-5/2017. Residency in Pediatrics at KUSM-Wichita 7/2017-6/2020.



Brent A. Crane, MD

[F] Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
[R] Psychiatry
Affiliated Psychiatric, LLC
OFF: 687-0006
FAX: 687-0328
1148 S Hillside S-104, 67211
NPI: 1336469287

Medical education obtained at Saba University School of Medicine, The Bottom, Saba, Dutch Caribbean 12/2005-5/2009. Residency in Psychiatry at KUSM-Wichita 7/2010-6/2013. Fellowship in Child Psychiatry at Indiana University 6/2013-7/2014.



Anne L. Housholder, MD

[BC] Dermatology
Dermatology Clinic, PA
OFF: 685-4395
FAX: 685-1149
835 N Hillside, 67214
NPI: 1518100718

Medical education obtained at Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, 7/2005-5/2009. Internship in Internal Medicine at University Hospital/University of Cincinnati College of Medicine 7/2009-6/2010. Residency in Dermatology at University of Cincinnati 7/2009-6/2013.



Kyle P. Smith, DO

[BC] Family Medicine
Wichita Family Medicine Specialists
OFF: 858-5800
FAX: 858-5850
800 N Carriage Parkway, 67208
NPI: 1306986484

Medical education obtained at University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine, Kansas City 7/1992-5/1996. Internship at Riverside Hospital, Wichita 7/1996-6/1997. Residency in Family Medicine at Santa Rosa Medical Center, San Antonio, TX 7/1997-6/1999.

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BretEmberson@ProviDRsCare.Net or **(316) 221-9106**.

ROSTER UPDATE (continued)



Elisa Stauffer, MD
[BC] Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
[BC] Pediatrics
KUSM-Wichita Pediatrics
OFF: 962-2080
FAX: 962-2079
3243 E Murdock S-510, 67208
NPI: 1083811962

Medical education obtained at University of Oklahoma College of Medicine 8/2002-5/2007. Residency in Pediatrics at OU 7/2007-6/2010. Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology-Oncology at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11/2012-6/2015.



Karen L. Valle, MD
[R] Emergency Medicine
CarePoint Healthcare
OFF: 962-2239
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550 N Hillside, 67214
NPI: 1295267789

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Kansas City 7/2013-5/2017. Residency in Emergency Medicine at UT Southwestern Medical Center/Parkland Memorial in Dallas 7/2017-6/2020.



John-Michael Watson, MD
[BC] Family Medicine
Premier Hospitalists of Kansas
OFF: 755-0144
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Medical education obtained at KUSM-Kansas City 8/2009-5/2013. Residency in Family Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2013-6/2016.

REINSTATE TO ACTIVE



Paula A. Worley, MD
[BC] Family Medicine
Immediate Medical Care
OFF: 440-2565 | FAX: 440-2750
4722 W Kellogg Dr, 67209
NPI: 1518000397
Active MSSC member 2006-15 and 8/2016-3/2020.

CHANGES

Nader S. Eldika, MD
Heartland Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine, LLC
OFF: 500-7777
FAX: 888-522-7670
2600 N Woodlawn S-A, 67220

Edward J. Lind, MD
KUSM-Wichita (mid-November)
OFF: 962-3070
FAX: 962-3136
850 N Hillside, 67214

Kristin I. Thom-Kinder, DO
River City Osteopathic Clinic
OFF: 678-3636
FAX: 678-3637
401 E 1st St, 67202

DROPPED

Sylvester T. Youlo, MD – Moved out of state

RETIRED

German G. Gonzalez, MD – 6/30/2020

In Remembrance

Longtime Wichita physician remembered for his strong work ethic, friendly bedside manner

MSSC extends its condolences to the family of Dr. Jacob.

General surgeon K. L. Jacob, MD, passed away Oct. 12 at the age of 89. He was born in Pariyaram, Kerala, India, and graduated from Kasturba Medical College in Karnataka. He did his residency at Christian Medical College, Vellore, and completed his Masters in Surgery from Nagpur Medical College. Dr. Jacob worked as a general surgeon in Little Flower Hospital in Angamaly, Kerala, rising to chief of staff, his family said. In 1971, he emigrated to the United States to continue his medical training; his wife and four small children joined him a year later. Dr. Jacob completed his residency in urology in Cleveland, Ohio, before moving to El Dorado, Kansas. He practiced medicine in El Dorado, Augusta, and, ultimately, in Wichita. For more than 30 years, he dedicated himself to his patients and to learning emerging medical technologies, and served as a role model for a strong work ethic, tenacity, and moral character, his family said. His patients remember him for his friendly and competent bedside manner. "He managed to transform stent removal, something that was always horrifying to me, into something painful, but humorous, each time," retired Hamilton County Sheriff Michael Keating said. "I remember, when he retired, that I would find other surgeons who were skilled, but not as enjoyable."



DR. JACOB

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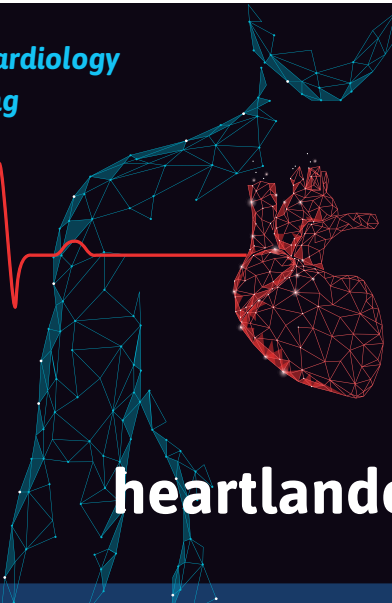


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