



# NEWSLETTER

## Sangamon County Medical Society

September 2024

For those of you that do not know me, my name is Shreepada Tripathy.

I am an associate professor of Clinical Pediatrics at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, and the President of the Sangamon County Medical Society. We have not had a newsletter in the past few years and the board wanted to restart this newsletter to let our membership know of upcoming events as well as things we have done for our constituency.

One of my mentors found out about becoming president of the Medical Society and asked me what my position as president would be. Honestly, I had not really thought about this, and thought this role more of an administrative one. However, she really made me think about what goals I wanted for the medical society. After mulling this over, I thought a lot about medical students. In my role in the Department of Pediatrics, I get the wonderful opportunity to work with the next generation of doctors in all fields, not just Pediatrics. Our students are kind, brilliant, and a passionate group of people that I want to help support. There is no question that there is a multitude of ways to support medical students. However, the one that I gravitated to was how to support them as they further their interests in their respective fields. To this end, I brought to the board the idea of scholarships to help with travel support for conferences. What this entails is support to help offset costs for a student to travel to a conference to attend or present their work to a national audience. After much spirited discussion, we decided to offer up to \$500 per student per year. There is an application form that students have to fill out which details the conference they are going to and why they believe they should get this scholarship. Every form is read by the board to ensure that the conference is worthwhile and will be further their education by attending this conference. In this newsletter, you will hear from 2 excellent students that have had their work presented on a national platform. On a personal level, I greatly enjoy reading these applications and learning more about the work that our students are doing and presenting on a national level.



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It should be noted that this is the first year we are doing this. While we have a soft cap in mind for a yearly limit of how much money we will give to students, we also recognize that attending conferences is expensive, between the travel, the hotel, the conference registration, etc. Anything that we can do to help, we want to try. So far, we have not exceeded this cap, but my hope is that more medical students do apply for these scholarships so that we can fund as many students as we can. I also want to note that membership dues go directly into funding these scholarships. We know that there are several different societies that you can be a part of. For me, it was important to show our members where their money was going. I believe strongly that funding the next generation of doctors is important, and I hope that you do too. My personal goals for the coming years is that we are able to fund more medical students and as well, be able to fund residents as well. So far, we have not extended this to residents, but this is something we discuss constantly at our board meetings.

As a medical society, we also want to engage with our membership. During the COVID-19 pandemic, that personal connection with going up to people to meet them was lost. We want to do a better job in seeing people and making those face to face connections with others. We have had several events recently, including the annual SCMS Day at the Ballpark where we watch the Springfield Lucky Horseshoes, to our every other month Happy Hours, most recently at Bloom Wine Bar. I look forward to having these events throughout the year and meeting more of you. Be on the lookout for emails that detail future events.

To close, I want to thank you for being a member of the Sangamon County Medical Society. I have personally enjoyed being President and look forward to working for you. If you have any questions or concerns, or have an idea that you want to bring to the board, please do not hesitate to reach out. We always want to hear from you about how to make the Medical Society better and also how to make it better work for you.

Shreepada Tripathy

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### Events you may have missed.....



#### ISMS PRESIDENT VISIT

On October 19, 2023 SCMS hosted Illinois State Medical Society President Dr. Rodney S. Alford at the Illini Country Club. Dr. Alford updated the gathering on current ISMS activities and what the organization's goals are for the future.



#### LUCKY HORSESHOES

In the summers of 2022 and 2023 SCMS hosted members at Lucky Horseshoes games. Attendees enjoyed the game, each other's company and delicious ball game fare. If you were not able to make it to these, please look out for information on the next outing. We are making this an annual event to support our local team!



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Four decades ago, Rotary International (RI), the world's largest member service organization, committed to eradicate polio worldwide. Over the years, RI members have raised well over two billion dollars to fund this initiative.

Utilizing mass vaccination campaigns and sophisticated monitoring techniques and in collaboration with the United Nations (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and several other organizations, RI's vision to eradicate one of mankind's greatest scourges is finally near at hand. In recent years, there have been few polio cases, almost entirely confined to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Unfortunately, for different reasons, complete and permanent eradication remains elusive, so that vaccination and monitoring efforts must continue. Polio is a devastating, highly contagious disease, the epidemiology of which predicts that were universal vaccination efforts to abruptly stop, there would emerge within a decade 300,000 cases worldwide. Accordingly, polio eradication remains one of RI's causes, for which every Rotarian is encouraged to contribute.

On April 13, 2024, our Sangamon County Medical Society (SCMS) was the title sponsor of the END POLIO NOW educational and fundraising event hosted by the six Springfield Rotary Clubs. Held at the ACE Sign Company venue, approximately 125 Rotarians, SCMS members, and guests attended the event that included food, beverage, socializing, trivia contest, and educational presentations by both local Rotarians and the main speaker, SIU School of Medicine infectious disease fellow, Salvador Fernandez, MD.

The evening's activities raised \$11,500. With the two-to-one match by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the total amount raised for RI's Polio Eradication program came to nearly \$35,000. All agreed that it was a successful event in every way.

Eli Goodman, MD  
Secretary-Treasurer, Sangamon County Medical Society  
Member, Springfield Sunrise Rotary Club



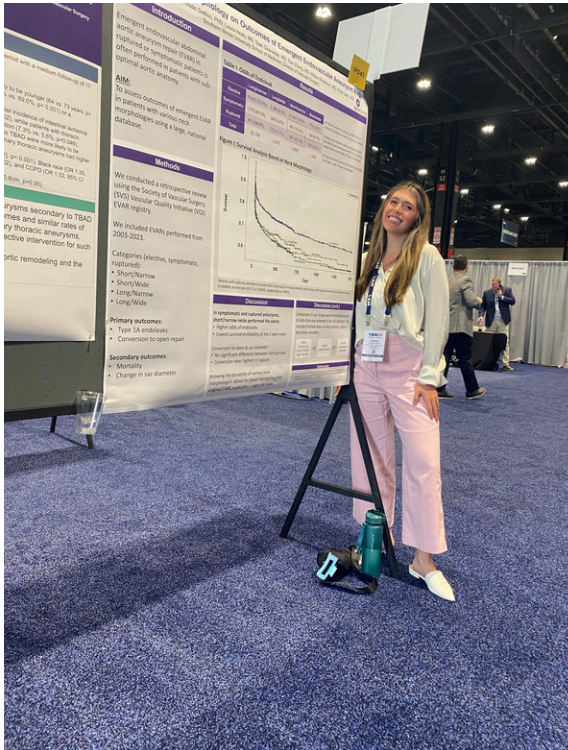
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### What our Students have been upto...



Hi! I'm Georgia Graham, a medical student at SIUSOM going into my third year. I recently had the honor of presenting my research project of the past year at the Vascular Annual Meeting (VAM) 2024 in Chicago! I worked with Dr. Khalil Qato and the SIU Division of Vascular Surgery on our project investigating how different infrarenal aortic neck anatomy affects outcomes of endovascular repair in different urgency settings.

I am grateful to SCMS for awarding me a travel grant that helped me attend 3 days of the conference and to have an awesome poster that showcased our hard work.

My abstract was awarded an interactive poster presentation, where I presented it to members of the conference and answered questions. I got to meet other medical students, residents, and faculty from all over the country and the world and see their research, too. I also attended sessions for medical students interested in vascular surgery, networking events with residency programs, and saw many different speakers discuss the cool & innovative future of vascular surgery.

This is my first time doing research of my own and it has been a spectacular experience. Thank you to SCMS for their generous contribution via their student grant opportunity. I was honored to represent Springfield and SIU at VAM 2024 and am grateful to SCMS for helping me accomplish that!

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### What our Students have been upto...



My week in Phoenix, Arizona attending SAEM24 as a Medical Student Ambassador was an invaluable experience for me professionally and personally. The week began with getting to meet the other incredible students serving at this conference. Our diverse group was comprised of fifty medical students from all over the nation. Each of us came to the conference ready to share our love for emergency medicine and learn from one another's unique journey to medicine. We spent countless hours together at team-building activities, morning breakfast meetings, physician led lunch didactics, award ceremonies, research presentations, etc. allowing us to do just that. In addition to learning from my peers, the week was filled with numerous didactic sessions, research presentations, workshops, and opportunities for networking.

I am leaving this conference with much more knowledge about both clinical and academic emergency medicine.

One of my favorite sessions from this conference was a four-hour long workshop given by the SAEM Simulation Academy and Education Committee on the use of simulation in both undergraduate and graduate medical education. I worked alongside academic EM faculty from various institutions as we learned about the importance of effective pre-briefing, how to best create learning objectives, and how to facilitate an efficacious debrief. This workshop greatly expanded my knowledge about the fundamentals of simulation and the best practices to utilize them. I'm excited to share my new knowledge with our emergency medicine interest group simulation teams at SIU.

Later in the week, I attended a presentation given by physicians from the University of Florida regarding their work in improving global health through education. They collaborated with a group of physicians from Ghana to better understand what barriers they face in the diagnosis and treatment of patients. From this collaboration, they were able to create a customized point-of-care ultrasound curriculum that utilizes a 'train the trainer' model. Through Zoom and in person trainings, they have been able to refine the curriculum to include POCUS as means of diagnosing conditions resource rich physicians wouldn't normally use POCUS for. The implementation of this curriculum is not only going to allow their physicians to use POCUS as a more reliable means of diagnosis, but it also allows the intervention to be a sustainable means for education within Ghana

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I also attended a workshop hosted by various EM clerkship directors in which they discussed topics such as: decreased student interest in EM, methods of engaging non-EM bound students during EM rotations, advising practices for EM bound students, and potential challenges in the use of SLOE for EM residency applications. While I had originally attended this session in hopes of learning the 'behind the scenes' of EM clerkship, I left having contributed a student perspective to the discussion and with an even greater appreciation for our emergency medicine faculty at SIU.

The final activity of the week was an ultrasound competition called SonoGames in which residents competed in teams of three against (almost one hundred) other residencies. The games began with a preliminary round consisting of a multiple-choice exam in which pathologies had to be discerned from images. The top twenty teams then advanced to the second round in which they had to ascertain an exam to perform from a given prompt. It was then performed on anatomic models while a judge observed and awarded points. Many of the medical student ambassadors and I volunteered as models for this portion. It was an incredible experience to learn from the residents' problem-solving skills and teamwork while gaining an understanding of what it's like for a patient to receive such scans.

These are just a few of the many incredible lessons and experiences I am leaving SAEM24 with. Being immersed in the world of academic emergency medicine has been nothing short of inspiring. This experience revealed many areas of research, education, and clinical practice that I'm interested in exploring as I continue my medical education. I am incredibly thankful to have had the opportunity to attend this conference. The knowledge and personal connections I have gained through this experience will carry throughout my educational and professional career.



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