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# MEDICINE

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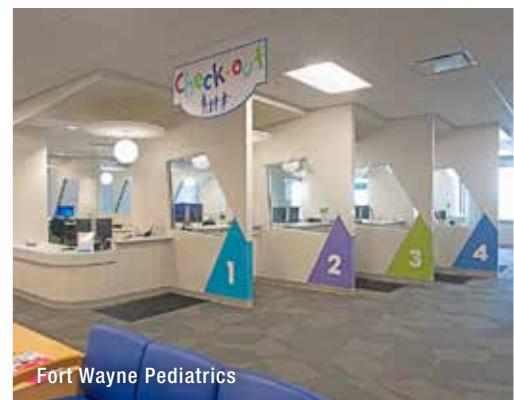
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pages 12-14

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The views expressed in *Fort Wayne Medicine Quarterly* articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the Fort Wayne Medical Society.

Editorials are welcome and members are encouraged to respond to an opinion that might be different from their own.

References from articles will be included, if space allows. When not included, references can be obtained through the editor.



## About the Cover

Ready or not, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is here. We are thrilled to have Dr. Andrew Roberts educate us on this topic (pages 12-14). After reading his cover story, I attempted to use AI in the creative process of this edition of *Fort Wayne Medicine*

*Quarterly*. Using an AI graphics generator (diffuse.me), I entered the following prompt: “Create a high-resolution magazine cover, suitable for professional printing, that personifies the role of Artificial Intelligence in Medicine.” The image you see on the cover was created entirely by a machine. It was one of six images produced for a total cost of \$12.

Don't write off humans just yet, as our editorial team chose between the six AI images, and our graphic designer professionally placed the cover, adding our logo and headline. As impressive as these results may be, AI has a long way to go, at least as it pertains to magazine production. I am happy to report that this column was 100% human-generated (hopefully free of typos and/or grammatical errors).

## Alliance Continues to Impress

We love talking about our incredible group of physician spouses known as the Fort Wayne Medical Society Alliance. If its impactful community outreach isn't enough, the organization has made membership FREE for 2025 (pages 22-23). Physician spouses may show their appreciation for this wonderful benefit by volunteering for several upcoming events. Contact Tonya Hughes to lend a hand at: [tonyahughes4@aol.com](mailto:tonyahughes4@aol.com)

## Non-profit updates

As we mentioned in the fall issue, the Fort Wayne Medical Society Foundation has a process in place to financially assist local non-profit organizations. In this edition, we have two reports from organizations we support (pages 18-21). Take a moment to read about the Foundation's dollars in action. Wonderful people right here in our city are truly making a difference in people's lives. We are happy to play a small role in their success.



## Fort Wayne Medical Society

### Please Note: Important 2025 Dates

#### Annual Dinner

Wednesday, April 30th  
5:30pm

Fort Wayne Country Club

#### ISMA District 12 Meeting

Thursday, June 26th  
6:00pm

Sycamore Hills Country Club

#### 176th ISMA Annual Convention

September 26-28  
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# What if health were endemic? |

Thomas Gutwein, MD, FACEP , Allen County Department of Health, Health Commissioner



It's an intriguing, albeit unrealistic, thought. Factors such as genetics, existing and emerging diseases, lack of or inconsistent access to health care, and social determinants all but ensure some level of unhealthiness in any population.

Those factors are powerful, but it is possible to lessen some of their effects

– and the Allen County Department of Health is doing that right now in our community through our Health First Allen County initiative.

Following my appointment in 2022 as Allen County Health Commissioner, I asked why ours couldn't be the healthiest county in America.

"Public health is about working to make us all healthier, and that encompasses a lot of different areas," I said then. Tackling just one issue won't make us healthy. We need to tackle many different issues together if we want to have a healthy, productive and thriving community.

I still believe we can be the healthiest county, and it remains true that working to achieve that involves many crucial components. While it is impossible to ensure everyone is healthy all of the time, we can improve our public health infrastructure and add to existing modes through which our residents can become healthier. Providing the opportunity and environment to have a healthy community is where we want to start.

Health may not be endemic, but our efforts to promote and protect health can be omnipresent.

Key to that is having resources available to do such work. Historic funding for local health departments guaranteed by state lawmakers and Gov. Eric Holcomb already is being put to use in proactive and effective ways in our community. We are hopeful lawmakers vote this legislative session to continue that needed and essential funding.

Investment in public health in Indiana entered a new era in 2023, with legislation passed and later signed into law. Health First Indiana, a state-led effort, emerged from that to shore up public health infrastructure. Health First Indiana is our local initiative, aimed at improving public health locally through in-house work and community partnerships to provide Core Public Health Services outlined in the new law.

Our work in 2024 – the first year of Health First Indiana funding and implementation – has included continuing services we have long provided. Other work involved new efforts to counter problems such as chronic disease and obesity.

Some other examples of our work in the past year:

- More than \$2 million in funding was provided to 29 trusted community partners in the inaugural round of

Health First Allen County grant funding. That funding covered several Core Public Health Service including maternal & child health to expand services for moms to be and young children to decrease our maternal and infant mortality rate, chronic disease prevention & education for middle school students and adults, access to clinical care for those unable to get a ride to their physicians, student health education for school leaders and their students, trauma & injury prevention including education on "Stop the Bleed" and child & adult immunizations.

- In the tobacco/vaping cessation & prevention area, we spearheaded partnerships with local schools and a health advocacy nonprofit to provide education on the dangers of vaping for thousands of elementary and middle school students in Allen County. This current school year we should have over 10,000 middle school students get new education on vaping that they have never had before.
- We created an immunization incentive program through which families received safety-related gifts when their child completed a vaccine series through the Allen County Health Department or Super Shot.
- Our public health school liaison – a new position made possible by state public health funding – worked to partner for the first time with Amish schools and provide education on a variety of health topics to students in Allen County.
- We made outreach – meeting residents where they are – a greater priority, attending health fairs and community events to provide information and education on the department of health and our work.

I pass along these details not to pat ourselves on the back, but instead to illustrate the many ways increased funding has augmented our efforts. We are working to be more of a proactive Health Department than a reactive community. None of the work highlighted here would have been possible without the state's investment in public health.

We'll work even harder to ramp up efforts this year, and 2025 Health First Allen County grant recipients have received nearly \$3 million in funding. This will allow us to partner with 48 different agencies and organizations that will make Allen County a healthier community.

Funding struggles once limited local health departments in Indiana, leading typically to reactionary measures to respond to challenges. Ours and other departments around the state are now proactive, which leads to healthier citizens, lower costs associated with health care and a robust economy.

The health of the members of our community is every physician's responsibility. We would be happy to hear from you and welcome any suggestions, ideas or questions you might have about our programs.

# Legislative Priorities for Indiana Patients and Physicians

William Pond, MD



This article focuses on high value legislation for the citizens (patients) of the State of Indiana.

**SB 475 (Elimination of all physicians non-compete contract language):** Patients' access to their physicians, especially in the Northeast Indiana area, is on

the minds of all Hoosiers. SB 475 aims to uphold the doctor-patient relationship, promote competition in the healthcare marketplace, and enable physicians to stay in their communities. Studies reviewed by the Indiana General Assembly clearly demonstrate that consolidation in the marketplace decreases patient choice and increases costs. Noncompete clauses (restrictive covenants) deprive patients' choice, drive up medical costs and adversely affect physician job satisfaction. Such noncompete clauses also close the market to foster entry of billion-dollar venture capital companies, who have little connection to the local marketplace except to monopolize and use it as a revenue source for distant stockholders.

**SB 480 (Prior authorization reform):** Patients, physicians and their staff experience excessive and exasperating delays and unnecessary work. The average physician practice processes 45 prior authorizations per week costing doctor and staff time of nearly 2 business days per week – time that is not expended on patient care. Physicians are familiar with best practices, checklists, and reviews to guide therapy, but this unnecessary non-benefit added burden is unconscionable leading to adverse events, needless hospitalizations and even death. Physicians report that the insurance company appointed “peer” often does not have the expertise to make the determination. Dr. Bruce Scott addressed the ISMA House of Delegates explaining, “I sit down with a patient, listen to their history, do a thorough exam, review imaging studies and then together we decide on a treatment plan. And then I have to get approval from an insurance company representative who has never seen my patient and is typically not even a physician.” Physicians report that prior authorization delays necessary care 94% of the time.



**SB 419 (Crimes against health care providers):** Patients and those working with them should be assured of a safe environment to receive care. Unfortunately, workplace violence disproportionately affects health care workers who are five (5) times more likely to suffer a workplace violence injury than workers overall. Patients and their families who are sick, tired, and emotionally drained may sometimes lash out at those providing their care. For all the other patients, this then creates an environment in which they cannot receive optimal care. Nurses, aides, housekeepers, physicians, and hospitals are united in seeking a safe environment in which patients may receive care.

Physician personal stories and opinions affect policy (not a form letter). Please take a moment to share your thoughts by going to <https://iga.in.gov/information/find-legislators>. This will find your legislator based on your address. Click on the legislator's name, click the legislator's “contact me” button and then complete your contact information and your thoughts. It is easy to convey your thoughts in less than 3 minutes. If many do so, then there is much impact. My mother, Representative Phyllis Pond, served for 35 years in the Indiana General Assembly. She told me that every person who sent a personal message probably represented 100 who did not take the time to do so. Ten or twenty personal messages to the legislators are truly impactful. Please feel free to contact me anytime on my personal cell phone: (260) 602-5167 or email: [wwpond@aol.com](mailto:wwpond@aol.com).



## State budget tops priority list as 2025 General Assembly gets underway

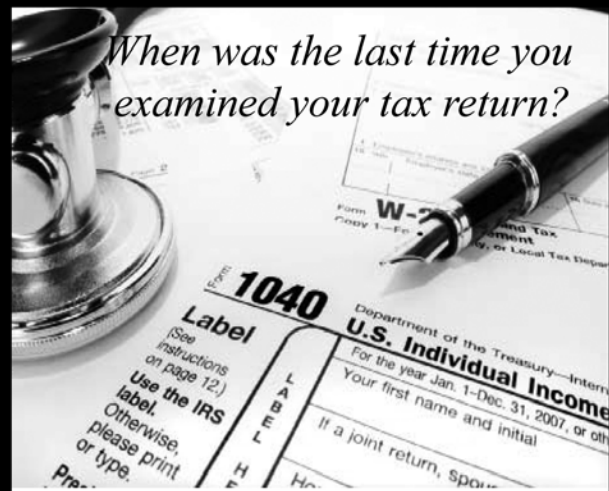
Legislators began the 2025 General Assembly session January 8, starting the clock on four months of work to pass a new state budget and other legislation.

Governor Mike Braun (R), who was sworn in on January 13, has announced he intends to make health care cost reduction one of his top priorities. Braun said he will seek to reform prior authorization, create more price transparency, regulate pharmacy benefit managers, and expand rural health care access and telehealth services.

Reforming senseless prior authorization requirements is among the ISMA's top priorities as well. ISMA will also defend common-sense scope of practice rules against efforts to allow unsupervised practice of medicine by pharmacists and advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), and proposals to weaken oversight of certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs). ISMA will also urge legislators to expand a ban on noncompete clauses for primary care physicians to cover physicians in all specialties.

The House and Senate have until April 29 to agree on a new two-year spending plan. Legislators have been warning a steady rise in Medicaid spending is likely to mean a cautious approach to spending increases. Last month's economic forecast from the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency reinforced that outlook, predicting economic growth in the first year but near-flat revenue in the second year.

ISMA will be active in working to protect or enhance funding for health care in the new budget, including the Health First Indiana public health program established in 2023 and the equalization of Medicaid reimbursements under the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP 2.0) with Medicare rates. ISMA will also advocate for increased funding for Graduate Medical Education (GME), enabling the creation of more residency slots across Indiana.



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# New Practice Now Open |

## Fort Wayne Gynecologic Oncology Opens Its Doors

Drs. Iwona Podzielinski and Scott Goodrich have opened Fort Wayne Gynecologic Oncology, a division of Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology. Both physicians, who are fellowship trained and board-certified, specialize in complex gynecologic and gynecologic oncology care. The practice will expand access to specialty services for women in Fort Wayne and Northeast Indiana with multiple community locations.

The first office opened in Warsaw on Nov. 11, and additional offices are set to open after Jan. 2, 2025. Fort Wayne Gynecologic Oncology will offer comprehensive gynecologic surgical and therapeutic options, including treatments for ovarian, peritoneal, uterine, cervical, vulvar, vaginal cancers, and gestational trophoblastic disease. Specialized interventions, such as intraperitoneal chemotherapy and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC) for gynecologic malignancies, will also be available.

### A Commitment to Comprehensive Care

In July 2017, Dr. Podzielinski and Goodrich established the first gynecologic oncology department in Fort Wayne, offering comprehensive services including surgery, chemotherapy, palliative care, and clinical trials. Their efforts ensured 24/7, year-round access to specialized care, greatly benefiting the women of Northeast Indiana.

Despite these advancements, the doctors recognized the need to bring care closer to patients' homes. In July 2024, following careful deliberation, they decided to prioritize patient-centered care and expand services to focus on prevention and early detection alongside treatment.

Dr. Podzielinski and Goodrich are dedicated to minimizing delays in care. Patients with a cancer diagnosis or a high suspicion of cancer will be offered an appointment within 24-48 hours of contacting the office. Every case is reviewed by a board-certified gynecologic oncologist to determine the best course of action.



### About Dr. Iwona Podzielinski

*Dr. Podzielinski earned her medical degree and completed her residency at Indiana University. In 2012, she completed her gynecologic oncology fellowship at the University of Kentucky. She then returned to Fort Wayne, becoming the region's first dedicated gynecologic oncologist.*

*Dr. Podzielinski played a pivotal role in standardizing treatment protocols and expanding access to care. Her collaboration with Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology to deliver chemotherapy has ensured women in Northeast Indiana have a full-time, dedicated specialist.*



### About Dr. Scott Goodrich

*Dr. Goodrich completed his medical degree and obstetrics and gynecology residency at the University of Vermont College of Medicine. He transitioned from the U.S. Army Reserve to active duty after residency and was accepted into a gynecologic oncology fellowship at the University of Kentucky in 2008.*

*Upon completing the fellowship in 2011, he was stationed at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state before completing his military service obligation. His deployment to Afghanistan led him to develop a deep appreciation for the importance of women-centered, dedicated care. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Army, Dr. Podzielinski recruited him to Fort Wayne, where they collaborated to enhance gynecologic oncology care.*

### A Vision for the Future

Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology fully supports the physicians' mission to put patients first. Fort Wayne Gynecologic Oncology is now open and ready to serve the community.

For appointments and additional information, visit [www.fwmoh.com](http://www.fwmoh.com) or call (260) 436-0800.

# Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology (FWMOH), Joins American Oncology Network (AON) |

Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology (FWMOH), a trusted name in northeastern Indiana cancer care since 1977, is proud to announce it has joined American Oncology Network (AON), one of the nation's fastest-growing networks of community-based oncology practices.

This partnership enables FWMOH to expand its patient-focused services while continuing the high-quality, compassionate care that has been a hallmark of the practice for nearly five decades.

"We are thrilled to join American Oncology Network," said Dr. Praveen Kollipara, a Board-certified medical oncologist and president of FWMOH. "This partnership comes at an exciting time for FWMOH. We've recently added the leading gynecologic oncologists in northeastern Indiana and expanded our presence in Peru and Warsaw. With AON's support, we will pursue additional growth initiatives and innovations to enhance care for more patients in the region."

FWMOH operates ten locations across northeastern Indiana and is staffed by 16 Board-certified medical oncologists and two Board-certified gynecologic oncologists, Dr. Iwona Podzielinski and Dr. Scott Goodrich, who joined AON as Fort Wayne Gynecologic Oncology, a division of FWMOH, in November in anticipation of the FWMOH/AON partnership.

"We are excited to join FWMOH as its gynecologic oncology division," said Dr. Podzielinski. "FWMOH and AON share a deep commitment to delivering innovative, high-quality, and personalized cancer care in a community setting. This partnership strengthens our ability to offer cutting-edge treatments while maintaining the patient-centered approach our patients trust. We look forward to the expanded services this collaboration will bring, enhancing convenience and improving outcomes for the patients we serve."

FWMOH offers comprehensive cancer care, including laboratory services, PET/CT imaging, diverse oral and IV infusion treatment options, clinical trials, survivorship programs, and patient support – all delivered close to home to reduce travel burdens for patients and their families. FWMOH clinics feature private exam rooms and on-site infusion suites designed for patient comfort and privacy during treatment.

"We are pleased to welcome Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology to the American Oncology Network," said AON's chief executive officer Todd Schonherz. "FWMOH is



ASCO certified and has an exceptional reputation for delivering patient-centered, community-based care. Their team brings extensive expertise and shares AON's commitment to individualized care tailored to each patient's unique needs. This partnership aligns with AON's mission to expand access to high-quality, patient-first cancer care in local communities nationwide. We look forward to the expertise FWMOH providers bring to our network."

"On behalf of AON, I am thrilled to welcome the FWMOH team to the network," said Stephen "Fred" Divers, MD, AON's chief medical officer. "The FWMOH team has delivered exceptional care in northeastern Indiana for decades, and I am confident that our patients – and our team – will benefit immensely from their expertise and commitment to providing quality, patient-centered care in a community-based setting."

FWMOH providers are now accepting new patients. For more information about AON, visit [AONcology.com](http://AONcology.com). To learn more about Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology, visit [fwmoh.com](http://fwmoh.com).

## About Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology

Fort Wayne Medical Oncology and Hematology (FWMOH) provides state-of-the-art cancer and blood disorder treatments through a team of dedicated healthcare providers serving northeastern Indiana. Since 1977, FWMOH has cared for thousands of patients, treating more than 40 types of cancer – from bladder to bone, pancreatic to prostate – as well as blood disorders such as hemophilia, sickle cell anemia, and idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP).

FWMOH's experienced physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, and clinical support staff work collaboratively to deliver the high-quality oncologic and hematologic care informed by cutting-edge research and decades of experience. The team emphasizes compassionate, patient-centered care that respects the needs of the whole person.

Learn more at [fwmoh.com](http://fwmoh.com).



Andrew Roberts, MD



The advent of artificial intelligence (AI) has ushered in a transformative era in medicine. As AI technologies permeate clinical, administrative, and research domains, they promise to revolutionize patient care, optimize operational efficiency, and accelerate breakthroughs in medical

science. However, these advancements also come with ethical dilemmas, potential biases, and significant challenges that must be carefully navigated. This article delves into the nuanced debate of AI in medicine, exploring whether it is a boon or bane for the healthcare industry.

## The Promises of AI in Medicine

Artificial intelligence holds immense potential to address some of the most pressing challenges in healthcare.

Among its many capabilities, AI excels in processing vast datasets, identifying patterns, and generating insights at a scale and speed unattainable by human counterparts. These capabilities translate into substantial benefits across various areas of medicine.

### Enhanced Diagnostics and Personalized Treatment

AI-powered diagnostic tools are at the forefront of this technological revolution. By analyzing medical images, laboratory results, and patient histories, AI systems can assist physicians in diagnosing diseases more accurately and at earlier stages. For instance, algorithms trained on thousands of mammograms have demonstrated performance comparable to, and in some cases better than, radiologists in detecting breast cancer. Similarly, AI applications in genomics are paving the way for personalized medicine by identifying genetic markers linked to specific diseases and tailoring treatment plans accordingly.

Beyond diagnostics, AI-driven tools like predictive analytics and decision support systems such as open-evidence.com provide clinicians with evidence-based recommendations. These systems analyze patient data in real time to predict outcomes, suggest interventions, and optimize treatment protocols. For example, in critical care settings, AI can predict patient deterioration, enabling timely interventions that save lives.

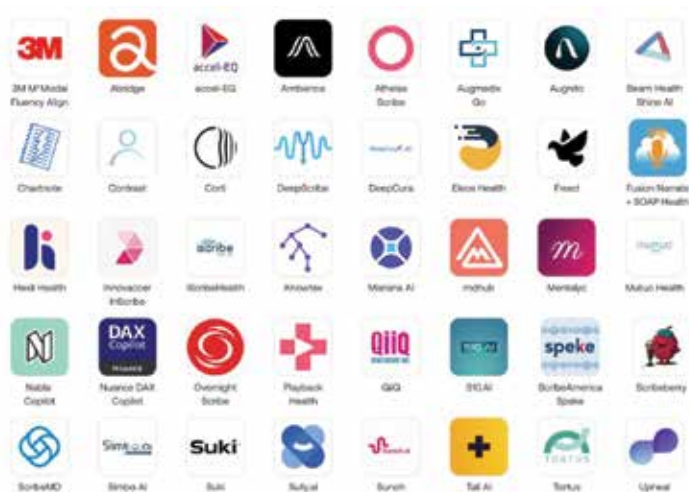


In an experiment, doctors who were given ChatGPT to diagnose illness did only slightly better than doctors who did not. But the chatbot alone outperformed all the doctors.

Michelle Gustafson for The New York Times

### ***Streamlining Administrative Tasks***

Administrative burdens, a leading cause of physician burnout, are another area where AI shines. Tools such as intelligent documentation systems (AI scribes) automate mundane tasks like medical coding, billing, and note-taking. By accurately transcribing and structuring clinical notes, these tools not only save time but also improve data accuracy and compliance with regulatory standards. Virtual health assistants further enhance efficiency by managing appointment scheduling, patient queries, and follow-ups, reducing the workload on medical staff.



The integration of AI into administrative workflows can lead to significant cost savings for healthcare institutions. By automating repetitive tasks, hospitals can allocate resources more effectively and focus on delivering quality care. Moreover, AI-driven resource management systems optimize inventory, staffing, and patient flow, ensuring operational efficiency in high-demand environments.

### ***Innovations in Robotic Surgery***

Robotic surgery has revolutionized the field of minimally invasive procedures, offering precision, reduced recovery times, and enhanced outcomes for patients. Innovations such as robotic-assisted platforms enable surgeons to perform complex operations with greater dexterity and visualization, minimizing the risks associated with traditional open surgeries. These advancements are particularly transformative in fields like oncology, cardiology, and orthopedics, where precision is paramount.

### **Ethical Concerns and Challenges**

While the potential benefits of AI in medicine are undeniable, its widespread adoption raises several ethical and practical concerns that cannot be ignored.

#### ***Data Privacy and Security***

AI systems rely on large datasets to function effectively, often requiring access to sensitive patient information. This dependence raises concerns about data privacy and security. Unauthorized access, data breaches, and the misuse of personal health information are significant risks that must be mitigated through robust cybersecurity measures and regulatory frameworks.

Moreover, questions about data ownership and consent remain unresolved. Who owns the data used to train AI systems—the patient, the healthcare provider, or the technology developer? Ensuring transparency and securing informed consent are critical to maintaining patient trust in AI-driven healthcare.

### ***Algorithmic Bias and Health Disparities***

The quality of AI outcomes depends largely on the data used to train the algorithms. If these datasets are unrepresentative or biased, the resulting AI models may perpetuate existing disparities in healthcare. For example, facial recognition algorithms trained predominantly on lighter-skinned individuals have been shown to perform poorly in identifying darker-skinned individuals. Similar biases in medical AI could lead to misdiagnoses or sub-optimal care for underrepresented populations.

Addressing algorithmic bias requires a concerted effort to diversify training datasets and implement fairness assessments during development. Regulators and developers must prioritize inclusivity to ensure equitable outcomes for all patients.

### ***Impact on Employment and the Doctor-Patient Relationship***

The automation of routine tasks has sparked concerns about job displacement among healthcare workers, especially in fields such as radiology. While AI is designed to augment rather than replace human roles, its adoption may lead to a redistribution of responsibilities, particularly in administrative and diagnostic functions. Training and upskilling programs are essential to help healthcare professionals adapt to this evolving landscape.



continued on page 14

Additionally, excessive reliance on AI could erode the doctor-patient relationship. Medicine is as much an art as it is a science, and the human touch remains a cornerstone of effective care. Striking a balance between leveraging AI for efficiency and preserving the empathy and trust inherent in human interactions is crucial.

### **Bridging the Divide: Collaboration, Regulation, and Education**

For AI to be a boon rather than a bane, a multi-pronged approach is necessary to address its challenges and maximize its benefits.

#### ***Collaborative Development***

The successful integration of AI into medicine requires collaboration between technologists, clinicians, and policymakers. Developers must work closely with healthcare providers to design systems that align with clinical needs and ethical standards. Policymakers, in turn, must establish regulatory frameworks that ensure patient safety, data privacy, and algorithmic accountability.

#### ***Education and Training***

Education plays a vital role in preparing healthcare professionals to embrace AI. Physicians and medical staff must not only learn how to use AI tools but also understand their limitations. This knowledge empowers them to critically evaluate AI recommendations and integrate them with clinical judgment.

Medical schools and continuing education programs should incorporate AI literacy into their curricula, equipping future generations of healthcare providers with the skills to navigate an AI-enabled landscape.

#### ***Transparency and Trust***

Transparency is essential for building trust in AI systems. Patients and providers must understand how algorithms make decisions, what data they use, and what limitations they have. Open communication about these aspects fosters confidence and ensures that AI is perceived as a reliable partner in care.

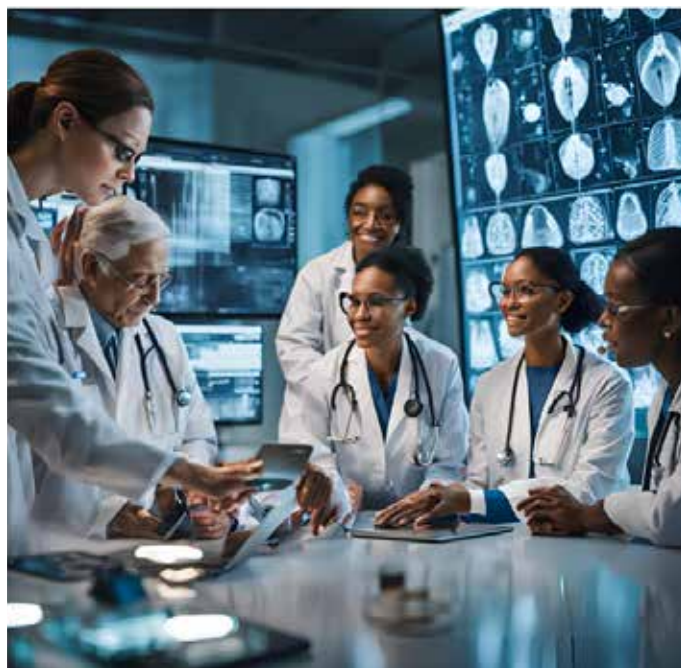
### **The Future of AI in Medicine**

The future of AI in medicine is both exciting and uncertain. As the technology continues to evolve, its applications are likely to expand into areas such as preventive care, real-time monitoring, and advanced surgical techniques. Predictive analytics, for instance, could enable proactive interventions that prevent diseases before they manifest, transforming the healthcare paradigm from reactive to preventive.

However, achieving these advancements requires ongoing investment in research, infrastructure, and ethical oversight. Stakeholders must remain vigilant against the risks of over-reliance and inequitable access, ensuring that AI serves as a force for good in medicine.

### **Conclusion**

Artificial intelligence is neither a panacea nor an imminent threat—it is a tool. Its impact on medicine depends on how it is implemented and integrated into existing systems. By embracing its strengths, addressing its limitations, and prioritizing ethical considerations, AI has the potential to revolutionize healthcare for the better. The question is not whether AI will shape the future of medicine but how we will choose to wield its power in our collective pursuit of health and well-being.







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# Fort Wayne Medical Society | New Members



## KEVIN BUI, MD

Specialty: Neurocritical Care & Neurology  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Neurology  
11104 Parkview Circle Suite 110  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: University of Mississippi, 2018  
Residency: University of Alabama, 2018-2022



## SARA KESHTVARZ, MD

Specialty: Anesthesiology  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Anesthesiology  
3810 New Vision Dr  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: University of Kentucky, 2020  
Residency: University of Kentucky, 2020-2024



## RANSFORD COMMEY, MD

Specialty: Bariatric Surgery & General Surgery  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Trauma & Acute Care Surgery  
11141 Parkview Plaza Dr Ste 305  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, 2011  
Residency: Temple University, 2011-2017



## MAHMOUD KHEIS, MD

Specialty: Critical Care Medicine, Infectious Disease & Internal Medicine  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Critical Care Medicine  
11109 Parkview Plaza Dr  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: Jordan University, 2012  
Residency: Presence St Joseph Hospital, 2014-2017



## RICHARD GEORGE, MD

Specialty: Surgical Critical Care & General Surgery  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Trauma & Acute Care Surgery  
11141 Parkview Plaza Dr Ste 305  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: University of South Carolina, 1996  
Residency: University of Alabama, 1998-2000



## JODY NEER, MD

Specialty: Neurology & Internal Medicine  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Neurology  
11104 Parkview Circle Suite 110  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: Indiana University, 1998  
Residency: University of Iowa, 1998-2002



## CHARLES HILL, DO

Specialty: Pediatrics & Pediatric Infectious Disease  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Pediatrics  
1355 Mariners Dr  
Warsaw, IN 46582  
Medical School: Marian University, 2018  
Residency: Peyton Manning Children's Hospital, 2018-2021



## PRAVEEN SATEESH, MD

Specialty: Gastroenterology & Internal Medicine  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Gastroenterology  
11104 Parkview Circle Suite 310  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: Wayne State University, 2005  
Residency: Georgetown University, 2005-2008



## NATALIE HUYNH, DO

Specialty: Hospital Medicine & Internal Medicine  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Hospital Medicine  
11109 Parkview Plaza Dr  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: Marian University, 2020  
Residency: University of Illinois, 2020-2024



## SHRADDHA SHRESTHA, MD

Specialty: Internal Medicine Resident  
Group: Parkview Residency Center  
2231 Carew St  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805  
Medical School: Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeye Medical College, 2018  
Residency: Parkview Residency Center, 2024-



## TAYLOR IPSEN, DO

Specialty: Anesthesiology  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Anesthesiology  
3810 New Vision Dr  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine, 2020  
Residency: University of Kentucky, 2020-2024



## SUJANA SHRESTHA KARKI, MD

Specialty: Internal Medicine  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Hospital Medicine  
11109 Parkview Plaza Dr  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: Nepal Medical College, 2010  
Residency: Montefiore New Rochelle Hospital, 2021-2024

# Fort Wayne Medical Society | New Members

**HARBINDER SINGH, MD**

Specialty: Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-  
Cardiovascular Surgery  
11108 Parkview Circle Ste 5100  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: Rosalind Franklin University, 1995  
Residency: University of Illinois, 1996-2001

**BARTON WILLIAMS, MD**

Specialty: Cardiothoracic Surgery  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-  
Cardiovascular Surgery  
11108 Circle Ste 5100  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: Ross University, 2016  
Residency: Spartanburg Regional, 2016-2021

**AHMAD TAFTAF, MD**

Specialty: Internal Medicine  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-  
Hospital Medicine  
11109 Parkview Plaza Dr  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: University of Damascus, 2015  
Residency: Hurley Medical Center, 2021-2024

**KENNETH YEW, MD**

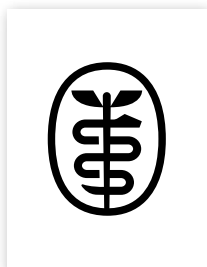
Specialty: Family Medicine  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-  
Family Medicine  
1818 Carew St Ste 120  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805  
Medical School: Michigan State University, 1989  
Residency: US Navy Hospital, 1989-1994

**RUTH TANGONAN, MD**

Specialty: Neurocritical Care  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-  
Neurocritical Care  
11104 Parkview Circle  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: University of Illinois, 2018  
Residency: University of Chicago, 2018-2022

**MOAZ ZIA, MD**

Specialty: Hospital Medicine & Internal Medicine  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-  
Hospital Medicine  
11109 Parkview Plaza Dr  
Fort Wayne, IN 46845  
Medical School: King Edward Medical University, 2014  
Residency: Maimonides Medical Center, 2018-2021

**MICHELLE WIESE, MD**

Specialty: Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry & Psychiatry  
Group: Parkview Physicians Group-Psychiatry  
2200 Randallia Dr  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805  
Medical School: University of Nebraska, 2017  
Residency: University of Washington, 2017-2021



**Fort Wayne  
Medical Society**

## Mission Statement

**The Fort Wayne Medical Society** is committed to the goals of the American Medical Association, the purpose of which is the preservation of the art and science of medicine, the personal development of member physicians and the protection and betterment of the public health.

**The Fort Wayne Medical Society** is committed to the principles of physician autonomy and self-determination in the practice of medicine.

**The Fort Wayne Medical Society** is committed to fulfilling the role of an active cohesive leader of the healthcare resources of our community by maintaining and assuring the quality, availability and the responsible economic utilization of our healthcare resources.

**The Fort Wayne Medical Society** is committed to active involvement in the decision-making process regarding medical, social, political and economic issues affecting patients and physicians within hospital and all various inpatient and outpatient settings.



# MATTHEW 25

## HEALTH AND CARE

### The Vital Role of Free Clinics and the Value of Medical Student Residencies

At Matthew 25 Health and Care, we are dedicated to transforming healthcare for the uninsured in our community. Our free clinic offers a range of services, from primary and preventive medical care to specialized services like dental, vision, and mental health support. However, our clinic does much more than provide healthcare to those who might otherwise go without—it also serves as a training ground for the next generation of healthcare professionals. By welcoming medical students and residents, we foster a unique learning environment that imparts both practical medical skills and invaluable perspective on treating patients from all walks of life.

This program, supported in part by a recent gift from the Fort Wayne Medical Society Foundation, has provided a crucial avenue for emerging doctors to develop cultural competencies while encouraging a perspective on how asset-limited families live. And since many of our patients are immigrants from other countries, students spending their time at Matthew 25 get to see first-hand the invincible spirit of those who come to our country for a better life. For those medical students who haven't experienced this themselves, it can be a key factor in a doctor's training to make them more effective in the world of medicine.

### Why Free Clinics Are Indispensable

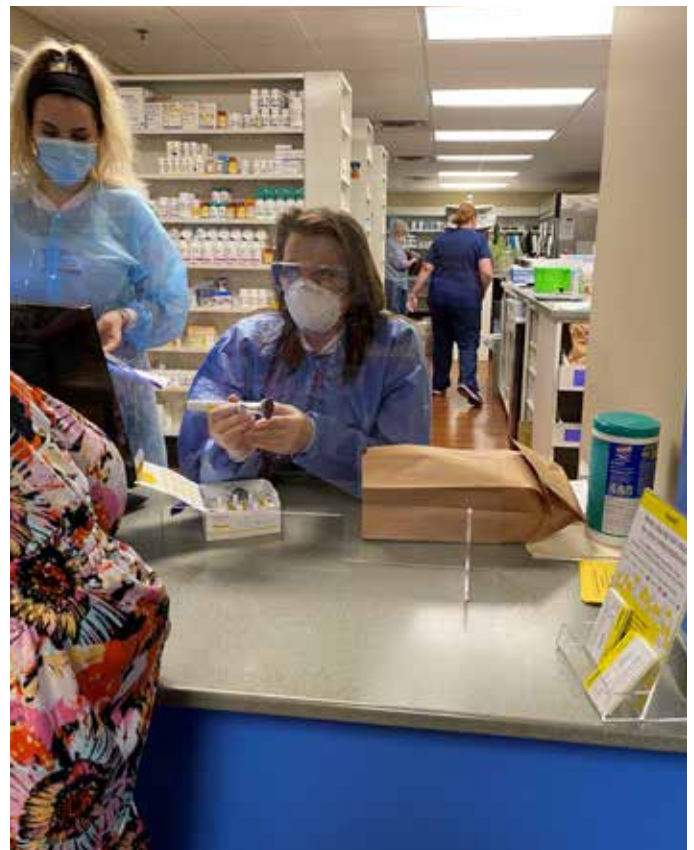
In communities across the country, free clinics are essential for those who lack access to affordable healthcare. At Matthew 25, we see patients from diverse backgrounds, many of whom are navigating the daily stresses of poverty. These challenges take a toll on health, often

leading to conditions like high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and Type 2 diabetes—all linked to the persistent stresses of financial hardship.

Free clinics fill a critical gap, reducing the strain on emergency rooms and ensuring that the uninsured receive timely care. By treating people before their conditions worsen, we prevent more severe health issues and help reduce overall healthcare costs. More importantly, Matthew 25 empowers patients by educating them on preventive care, enabling them to take control of their health. This ripple effect—of empowered, healthier individuals—is how free clinics contribute to a more resilient, healthier society.

### A Unique Training Opportunity for Medical Students

For medical students, time spent at a free clinic is a transformative experience. During their rotations, they witness firsthand how socioeconomic factors influence health, as they help patients who are working hard to overcome overwhelming challenges. This experi-



ence encourages students to see patients as whole individuals whose health is intricately influenced by their social and economic conditions.

Working with patients at our clinic also helps medical students develop essential skills that aren't always available in abundance in a traditional medical education setting. With a trauma-informed

understanding of care, they learn to communicate with sensitivity and respect, to approach healthcare with empathy, and to foster trust with patients who may feel marginalized by the healthcare system. Medical students quickly realize the value of listening, understanding, and providing care that respects each patient's dignity. Such experiences are invaluable, providing a foundation for compassionate care that they will carry forward into their careers.

At Matthew 25, students also experience the integration of physical, mental, and social health services. They witness how access to comprehensive services like dental and vision care, mental health counseling, and even transportation support can transform a person's overall well-being. By working in this environment, medical students gain perspective on the interconnectedness of these services and the importance of treating health as a complete picture.

### **Building a Culture of Compassionate Care**

One of the most lasting lessons for medical students working in a free clinic like Matthew 25 is the value of



compassionate care. In this setting, they learn to provide healthcare that prioritizes the dignity and self-worth of each individual. Our clinic fosters an environment where healthcare professionals focus on making every patient feel respected, regardless of their financial situation or background, and therefore build trust with those for whom trust can be an oft-missed luxury.

The experience medical students gain here shapes them into compassionate, well-rounded practitioners who understand the realities of healthcare disparities. They carry forward the insights gained at our clinic, becoming advocates for accessible, empathetic care and more attuned to the needs of underserved populations.

By becoming ingrained in health and care clinics like ours, medical professionals can ensure that future doctors and nurses gain the empathy and skills necessary to care for patients from all walks of life. Matthew 25 Health and Care, and clinics like ours, play a critical role in creating a more equitable healthcare system—one where every individual receives the quality care they deserve.





aimed at restoring dignity and independence to its residents. These services include crisis intervention, case management, mental health assessments, life skills education, financial literacy, and vocational training. TRM's holistic approach is designed to address root causes of homelessness, such as mental illness, addiction, abuse, and trauma. It's estimated that nearly 47% of TRM residents have a diagnosed mental health condition, and staff believe that approximately half of the remaining population suffers from undiagnosed mental health issues.

Allen County, with more than 3,000 individuals

The Fort Wayne Rescue Mission (TRM), established in 1903, began as a small initiative to help those struggling with homelessness. Over the years, it has grown into a faith-based 501(c)(3) organization serving Allen County and the surrounding area. TRM provides shelter, food, clothing, and a range of holistic services to men, women, and children experiencing a homeless crisis or at risk of becoming homeless.

TRM operates four houses: Charis House, Life House, Restoration House, and Treasure House. Charis House offers emergency and long-term care for women and children, while Life House provides emergency services for men and operates the Community Meals Program. Restoration House focuses on rehabilitation for men, and Treasure House, a thrift store, offers job training and generates income for the agency.

In addition to addressing basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter, TRM provides a wide array of services

experiencing a homeless crisis, faces significant challenges increased by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising mental health concerns, economic pressures, and a lack of affordable housing. The complexity of homelessness in the region is underscored by the high prevalence of mental illness, often intertwined with addiction and trauma, among those seeking help at TRM. All individuals who arrive at TRM are classified as low-income and either "In-Crisis" or "At-Risk."

In response to the growing mental health crisis within the homeless population, TRM has expanded its outreach and partnered with key organizations, including the Allen County Mental Health Court, Parkview Behavioral Health Institute, Alliance Health Center, and Maple Heights Behavioral Health. These collaborations have significantly increased TRM's access to mental health professionals who can provide critical support for residents experiencing a mental health crisis.



In addition to mental health services, TRM works with numerous community partners to ensure comprehensive care for its residents. The expanded Community Resource Center (CRC) on-site allows organizations like Brightpoint, Catholic Charities, Just Neighbors, and Lutheran Social Services to offer services directly to those in need. A recent partnership with Alliance Health Center has also led to the establishment of a full-service medical clinic at TRM, which operates five days a week and works closely with Parkview Community Health nurses. Future plans include the addition of on-site dental and vision clinics.

TRM operates its shelters 24/7, 365 days a year, and its Community Meals Program offers three balanced meals daily to resi-

dents and anyone in the community in need. The organization also serves as a warming center during winter and a cooling center during summer, further supporting community health and safety. In fiscal year 2024, TRM served 2,447 unique over-

night guests, including 1,076 first-time visitors, provided 115,305 nights of shelter, and served 362,055 meals through its Community Meals Program.



Through its life-changing programs and holistic services, TRM is playing a crucial role in alleviating homelessness across Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio. By addressing the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of its residents, TRM helps individuals and families regain stability and dignity. The organization's commitment to long-term solutions continues to offer hope to those most in need, making a measurable impact on the community.

# Fort Wayne Medical Society - Alliance

Fort Wayne Medical Society Alliance  
23rd Annual Cinderella Dress Day  
Saturday, March 22, 2025  
Grand Wayne Center, 8am-2pm



This is a free event that provides age appropriate health information to teen girls. After they listen to a series of health topics they are ushered in to the prom boutique where they get to choose 2 free dresses, jewelry, and shoes.

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**ALLIANCE**  
Fort Wayne Medical Society  
*Connect. Promote. Support.*

Established in 1939, the Fort Wayne Medical Society Alliance is a not-for-profit organization representing all physicians and their spouses and serves as a charitable arm of the Fort Wayne Medical Society Foundation.

There are many avenues of support but none so crucial as the funding and volunteerism of our members.

The Alliance is an all volunteer organization and 100% of our funds go towards supporting community health related programs. In total, the Alliance supports 8-10 community and fundraising events every year with separate efforts for social, mentorship, and scholarship programs.

We have two premier events every year,

**Doctors Day and  
Cinderella Dress Day.**

Please scan the QR code below to follow the Alliance, find volunteer opportunities, and see the social calendar. We would love to xsmeeet new friends.





# Trine dedicates new Brooks College of Health Professions

James Tew, Assistant Vice President for Content and Communications  
Trine University Marketing and Communications



## **‘Beacon of learning’ brings innovative healthcare education to Fort Wayne**

Trine University dedicated its largest building project ever, praised by its namesake as “a beacon of learning, innovation and service, and a testament to the power of partnership and philanthropy,” on Sept. 27.

The new Dr. Earl D. and Melanie N. Brooks College of Health Professions (BCHP) facility welcomed university trustees, officials from Parkview Health and City of Fort Wayne and local media as well as Trine employees and students to christen the \$42.5 million crown jewel, built to transform the landscape of healthcare education in northeast Indiana.

“Through innovative academic offerings and hands-on training, the Brooks College of Health Professions is positioned to meet the growing need for healthcare professionals locally, regionally and beyond,” said Trine University President Earl D. Brooks II, Ph.D.

Developed in close partnership with Parkview Health and located at 12817 Parkview Plaza Drive, Fort Wayne, the BCHP opened for classes in August.

The new facility both accommodates explosive growth in Trine University’s health professions programs and provides ample space for future expansion.

## **A decade of growth**

The Brooks College of Health Professions began with the university’s Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) program, which launched in fall 2014 on the campus of Parkview Randallia Hospital. As Trine added additional academic programs, a larger space was needed.

The university’s Board of Trustees voted in May 2023 to name the facility and the academic department it houses in honor of Dr. Brooks and his wife Melanie, in recognition of their transformational leadership, commitment to excellence and impact.



“Together, they have transformed Trine University into a hub of academic excellence and community engagement,” Dr. Rick L. James, chair of Trine University’s Board of Trustees, said at the dedication. “It is fitting that their legacy is intertwined with the future of healthcare education in our region.”

“The Brooks College of Health Professions will not only prepare graduates for rewarding careers but will also drive economic growth, create community vitality and ensure that northeast Indiana remains a leader in healthcare and education for decades to come.”



## State-of-the-art facility

Offering 110,000 square feet of space, the BCHP eventually will employ 100 faculty and staff and serve nearly 700 students.

The new facility is home to Trine's programs in physical therapy, physician assistant studies, occupational therapy and surgical technology. Additional degree programs are planned.

BCHP programs offer opportunities for health sciences students on Trine's Angola campus to continue on to graduate school and health professions careers. Several programs offer 3+3 options, which allow Trine students to count their first year of graduate classes toward their undergraduate degree.

Parkview Health will use several facilities in the BCHP for training its staff.



Building amenities include:

- The Larry and Judy Reiners Library, which provides multiple study and collaboration areas along with the academic resources needed for students to succeed in their degree programs.
- The innovative Parkview Mirro Advanced Medical Simulation Lab (SimCenter), which includes mock surgery and Emergency Room suites, exam and patient rooms, and stations simulating an Intensive Care Unit, Nursing Station, Med Room and Sterile Processing. The SimCenter provides students the opportunity to practice techniques as they would in an acute care environment.



- The Virtual Reality/Immersive Training Room, which gives students the opportunity to apply medical knowledge as they work through interactive cases in the virtual world. It also allows students to explore how VR can enhance cognitive, motor, balance and social skills in clients.
- The 3D Printing Lab, which allows Trine students to design and create individualized adaptive devices, promoting creativity in developing custom solutions for client needs.

continued on page 26

- A larger Gross Anatomy and Cadaver Lab that allows opportunities to work with the human body.
- The movement science research laboratory, which allows Trine Doctor of Physical Therapy students and faculty to conduct research that advances the physical therapy field and benefits patients.
- The Dekko Foundation Clinical Skills Lab, which includes 20 patient exam beds and is utilized by the physician assistant program to practice essential clinical skills.
- The Hayner Foundation Pediatric Lab, which simulates environments for pediatric assessment and intervention, helping students develop skills in addressing sensory processing, motor development and play-based therapy.
- The Technology Lab, equipped with resources for splinting, casting, modifying toys for accessibility, working with augmentative and alternative communication devices and customizing wheelchairs for client needs.
- The Activities of Daily Living lab, which provides a realistic, fully functioning home setting, including an adapted bathroom, kitchen and living space, allowing students to practice transfers, home safety assessments, and home modification planning to facilitate independent living for clients across the lifespan.
- The Rehabilitation Labs, which provide resources to allow students to practice diagnosing and managing movement dysfunction as it relates to restoration, maintenance and promotion of optimal physical function, health and well-being.

Trine University purchased an additional 43 acres of land from Parkview Health in September 2023 to continue to grow its health professions programs.



### Dean has strong ties to area

Lisa Clemens, DMSc, PA-C, a longtime medical professional with extensive ties to health education and the Fort Wayne area, serves as dean for the Brooks College of Health Professions.

A New Haven High School graduate, Clemens worked for Parkview Health as a physician assistant for more than a decade before joining Trine.

She also served Parkview as director of provider professional development and director of simulation education. In that role, she led the provider educator and simulation educator teams, performing professional development and onboarding needs assessments for Parkview service lines and external customers. She also planned and executed professional development courses and events for physicians and advanced practice providers and oversaw the accreditation and research endeavors of the accredited education institute at the Parkview Mirro Center.

She holds a Doctor of Medical Science with a specialization in education from A.T. Still University, and a Master of Science in physician assistant studies from the University of St. Francis.



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**6:30 pm**  
Dinner

**7:15 pm**  
Annual Meeting Begins

Executive Director Remarks



To reserve your spot, contact us at:  
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or by email at: [lindsey@fwms.org](mailto:lindsey@fwms.org)

### ► Patient travels across state lines for life-changing shoulder surgery

Tracy Young is no stranger to hard work – or to the toll an active life can take on the body. A lifetime of sports, including high school wrestling, baseball, and his newfound love of pickleball, left Young with significant shoulder issues that impacted his quality of life. What began as minor discomfort developed into chronic pain that made even the simplest tasks, like opening doors or putting on a belt, impossible. Playing sports – once a passion – became a distant memory.

“I couldn’t even swing a golf club or use my right hand to eat,” Young says. “I was in so much pain.”

When the cortisone injections he had been receiving stopped offering relief, Young knew surgery was inevitable. His search for a solution led him back to Dr. Matt Noyes, an orthopedic surgeon at IU Health Fort Wayne. Young was already familiar with Dr. Noyes’ expertise – he had performed surgeries on Young’s left shoulder, thumb, and knee over the years. Despite living four hours away in Ohio and splitting time between homes in Texas and Ohio, Young didn’t hesitate to make the trip.

“Dr. Noyes had always gone the extra mile for me,” says Young. “He’s the only one who gave me a chance to avoid a reverse shoulder replacement, and I trusted him completely.”

Young’s right shoulder required a unique approach. Over the course of several evaluations, Dr. Noyes carefully examined his condition and determined that an anatomical shoulder replacement was possible. Young appreciated the time and attention Dr. Noyes and his team gave to explaining the procedure and preparing him for surgery.

“Young’s shoulder arthritis was unique in that there was a specific type of deformity on his glenoid,” says Dr. Noyes. “Most surgeons today would implant a reverse total shoulder, but Young wanted an anatomic total shoulder replacement similar to the one I performed for him over 11 years ago on his left side. The only difference this time was he received a much more bone preserving shoulder replacement.”

On the day of the surgery, Young was once again impressed by the care and professionalism of the IU Health team. From the anesthesiologist who walked him through the nerve block

process using ultrasound guidance to the nursing staff who made his recovery as smooth as possible, every detail of his care stood out.



“This was my fourth or fifth surgery with Dr. Noyes, and I’ve had 15 or 17 surgeries overall. I can honestly say this was the best experience I’ve ever had,” Young says. “The entire team was exceptional.”

The surgery was a success, and Young is now focused on recovery. With physical therapy underway, he’s already noticing improvements.

“I’m out of pain, and I’m starting to feel like myself again,” he says.

Though he’s still in the early stages of recovery, he is optimistic about the future. He looks forward to playing golf and pickleball again – a sport he loves so much that he learned to play left-handed while his right shoulder was healing.

Dr. Noyes says Young’s most recent x-rays show that the shoulder replacement is in excellent position and he is making great progress with his range of motion and strength.

Reflecting on his journey, Young is thankful for the care he received at IU Health Fort Wayne.

“Dr. Noyes is elite – there’s no other way to say it,” he says. “I’ve been around a lot of surgeons, but he’s different. He always takes the time to do what’s right for his patients, and that’s why I’d travel any distance to see him.”

For Young, the expertise and compassion of the orthopedic team were what made his recovery possible. His journey highlights the importance of finding a care team you trust and the difference personalized care can make.

“I can’t wait to get back on the pickleball court,” he says. “Thanks to Dr. Noyes and the IU Health team, I know I’ll get there.”





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## ► Dupont Hospital Earns An 'A' Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group

### ***New Grade for fall 2024 is a national recognition for commitment to patient safety***

Dupont Hospital earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group, an independent national nonprofit watchdog focused on patient safety. Leapfrog assigns an "A," "B," "C," "D" or "F" grade to general hospitals across the country based on over 30 performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent them.

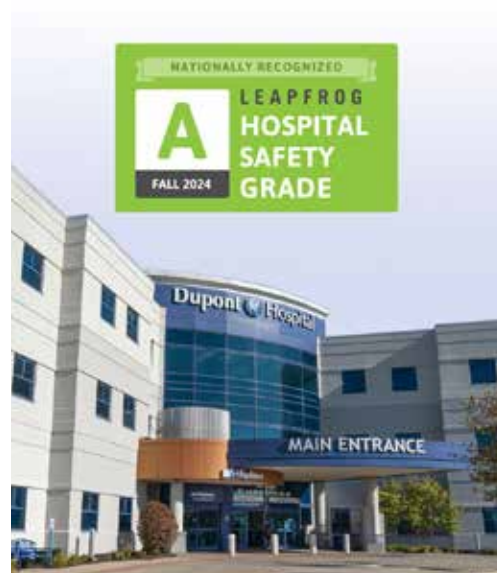
"We want every patient to have a positive experience at Dupont Hospital. It is rewarding to receive an "A" safety grade from the Leapfrog Group because our medical staff and employees are steadfast in delivering quality compassionate care to every patient, every time in a safe environment of care," said Brent Parsons, CEO of Dupont Hospital.

"Achieving an 'A' Hospital Safety Grade is a significant accomplishment for Dupont Hospital," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "It reflects enormous dedication to your patients and their families, and your whole community should be proud. I extend my congratulations to Dupont Hospital, its leadership, clinicians, staff and volunteers for their tireless efforts to put patients first."

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade stands as the only hospital ratings program focused solely on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day in the

United States. This program is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

To explore Dupont Hospital's full grade details and to find valuable tips for staying safe in the hospital, visit [HospitalSafetyGrade.org](https://HospitalSafetyGrade.org).



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Lutheran Hospital is owned in part by physicians.

### **About Lutheran Health Network**

Lutheran Health Network is a family of more than 6,000 employees, physicians, advanced practice providers and volunteers dedicated to providing compassionate, quality care with the best possible experience to every patient, every time. As a taxpaying, integrated health care delivery system and one of the largest employers in the region, Lutheran Health Network makes a positive impact on the communities we serve. Access points across northeast Indiana include acute care hospitals, specialty hospitals, physician offices, urgent care clinics and outpatient centers. For more information, please visit [LutheranHealth.net](https://LutheranHealth.net). Lutheran, Dupont, Lutheran Downtown and The Orthopedic Hospitals are owned in part by physicians.

### **About The Leapfrog Group**

Founded in 2000 by large employers and other purchasers, The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization driving a movement for giant leaps for patient safety. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Leapfrog's other main initiative, assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety, helping consumers protect themselves and their families from errors, injuries, accidents and infections. For more, follow them on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram and sign up for their newsletter.

## ► Lutheran Hospital Celebrates 120 Years

On Thanksgiving Day, November 24th 1904 the doors to Lutheran Hospital were opened in Fort Wayne, Ind. Following a dedication held on the hospital's lawn, hundreds in attendance were invited inside for a tour of the 25-bed facility by The Evangelical Lutheran Hospital Association. The facility provided one operating room, reception area, kitchen, dining room and living quarters for Louise Hitzeman, the hospital's first administrator. Fast forward to today, Lutheran Hospital is a 396-bed tertiary care facility that provides healthcare services to patients in Fort Wayne and throughout northeastern Indiana and northwestern Ohio. In addition to traditional healthcare, Lutheran Hospital provides extensive specialized services through:

- Level II verified adult and pediatric trauma centers
- A certified comprehensive stroke center
- An accredited comprehensive cancer program
- First in northeast Indiana to offer acute care robotic-assisted surgery for emergency cases

"We have been dedicated to providing compassionate, quality care for over a century and that shows our continued commitment to the region. We thank our community and partners for supporting us over the years while we strive to make a positive difference. Thank you to our loyal team and all of our patients throughout the years," said Lorie Ailor, Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Hospital.



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## ► Parkview dispatch center receives re-accreditation from International Academies of Emergency Dispatch®

### **One of only 180 centers worldwide to achieve ACE status**

Parkview Flight and EMS Operations has been recognized by The International Academies of Emergency Dispatch® (IAEDTM) as a Re-Accredited Center of Excellence (ACE) for emergency flight and EMS dispatching.

Parkview Flight and EMS Operations is one of 180 accredited ACE agencies in the world and is the only accredited center in Indiana.

"When we first started working toward this accreditation eight years ago, there were several who said we would never obtain it," said Roman Arnold, Parkview Flight and EMS supervisor.

"Now, having earned our second re-accreditation, I couldn't be prouder of our communications center team and all the work and progress they have accomplished over the past six years."

Parkview EMS & Flight Operations handles more than 50,000 requests for service each year, of which more than 21,000 are 911 calls. Parkview serves eight counties, totaling over 2,000 square miles with 19 911 ambulances, two helicopters – including a new Leonardo AW169 added this summer – four transfer ambulances, Parkview Community Paramedics and Parkview Wheelchair Transport.

"Our team of dispatchers are the link that connects people in need with the emergency responders ready to help them as quickly as possible," added Brett Steffen, manager of Parkview's Flight and EMS Operations center. "I am extremely proud of the dedication and skill which has once again made Parkview the only center in Indiana to earn this prestigious accreditation from the IAED."

IAED is the standard-setting organization for emergency dispatch services worldwide. Accreditation from the IAED is the highest distinction given to emergency communication centers, certifying that the center is performing at or above the established standards for the industry. Centers that earn ACE status are the embodiment of dispatch done right and have demonstrated strong local oversight, rigorous quality processes, and a commitment to data-driven continuous improvement.



*Parkview Samaritan medical helicopter in flight.*

IAED Accreditation is the culmination of a lengthy, arduous process that includes the completion of the 20 Points of Accreditation, a detailed evaluation of performance by industry experts, and

a final review and ruling by IAED. Accreditation is valid for a three-year period, during which all standards must be upheld. Emergency communication centers can earn multiple accreditations, one for each emergency discipline they service (medical, fire, police, and emergency nurse triage).

"I am incredibly proud of our dispatch team for again meeting the standards for ACE accreditation," said Dr. Amy Souers, medical director, Parkview Health EMS, community/ground 911 and EMS dispatch center. "This award represents an incredible commitment to excellence in quality, education, and compliance."

More than 3,500 emergency communication centers worldwide use the medical, fire, police, and emergency nurse triage protocols developed and maintained by the IAED. The protocol-based system – known as the Priority Dispatch System – is recognized as the standard of care and practice for emergency dispatch and is used in 46 countries.

"Accreditation is truly a pinnacle achievement", said Christof Chwojka, accreditation board chair at IAED. "We applaud the dedicated call takers, dispatchers, and leadership team at Parkview Flight and EMS Operations for their commitment to quality, and for meeting that high standard that few achieve. We know their community can count on these first responders to do an outstanding job."



## ► Five rural Parkview hospitals recognized with Performance Leadership Awards for quality, outcomes



Five Parkview hospitals have earned a 2024 Performance Leadership Award for excellent quality and outcomes from The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

Three hospitals — Parkview Bryan Hospital, Parkview LaGrange Hospital and Parkview Whitley Hospital — were recognized in the quality category, while Parkview DeKalb Hospital and Parkview Huntington Hospital were awarded in the outcomes category.

The Performance Leadership Awards recognize top quartile performance among rural hospitals in three categories: quality, outcomes and/or patient perspective. All five hospitals recognized by The Chartis Center this year have previously been awarded Performance Leadership Awards, extending a streak of top performance among Parkview's community hospitals.

"Serving small communities is a big part of what Parkview does, with hospitals and physician offices across more than 20 rural counties in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio," said Dr. Greg Johnson, regional market president for Parkview Health. "Rural hospitals are crucial to providing our communities with great care that is close to home, where they need it, when they need it.

Parkview Bryan Hospital has been recognized for two consecutive years and, in February, was named to The Chartis Center's Top 100 rural hospital list. Parkview Huntington Hospital has received six Performance Leadership Awards since 2016; Parkview LaGrange Hospital is on a three-year streak; Parkview DeKalb Hospital was recognized in back-to-back years; and Parkview Whitley Hospital has been awarded three times since 2016.

The Performance Leadership Awards are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®, a comprehensive and objective framework for assessing how rural hospitals are performing. INDEX benchmarks are relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations, and state offices of rural health to measure performance across multiple areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

"The Performance Leadership Awards capture the commitment, diligence, and innovation with which America's rural hospitals approach the delivery of care within their communities," said Troy Brown, Network Consultant, The Chartis Center for Rural Health. "It's a tremendous honor to be able to recognize the efforts of this year's award winners and celebrate their achievement as part of National Rural Health Day."

## ► Parkview Health partners with Ubuntu Collaborative on job skills training, career exploration opportunities



*The Ubuntu Collaborative has teamed up with Parkview Health to offer members skills training and potential job placement. Pictured L to R are Pastor Bell, True Love Missionary Baptist Church; Jeff Rice, director of talent acquisition, Parkview Health; and Pastor Curry, Unity Christian Fellowship, at a recent job fair at Parkview Field.*

Parkview Health and the Ubuntu Collaborative are working together on an innovative approach to career training and job placement.

The Ubuntu Collaborative was formed in July 2023 in partnership with the late Mayor Tom Henry and aims to convene African American pastors and their congregations across Fort Wayne. The collaborative's partnership with Parkview aims to empower and equip church congregations with the tools needed to improve their careers, such as resume building or mock interview training.

Parkview will also assist individuals with healthcare career exploration. Qualified candidates may be offered roles at Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) or Parkview Hospital Randallia.

"Ubuntu is an African word that means 'I Am Because We Are,'" which shapes our hearts to appreciate our deep bond with our neighbors, friends and family," said Pastor Kim Curry of Unity Christian Fellowship. "In the same way, we believe that our partnerships help us to fulfill the mission of Ubuntu and consider it a great honor to collaborate with Parkview to serve our community together."

A job fair was held in October 2024 specifically to unite Ubuntu members with Parkview leaders who were looking to fill roles on their teams. Ten Parkview departments, ranging from student services to pharmacy, attended to connect with potential candidates.

"The collaborative can help us prepare candidates for careers at Parkview and, for those who are already qualified, fill available roles from right here in Allen County," said John Bowen, president, Parkview Regional Medical Center and Affiliates. "We have already seen success from our partnership and look forward to what the future holds."

Parkview and Ubuntu are planning additional initiatives, such as tailored career workshops, job shadowing opportunities, job fairs and recruitment events, and mentorship programs.

To learn more, visit [www.UbuntuFW.com](http://www.UbuntuFW.com).

## ▶ Parkview hospitals earn straight ‘A’s in fall Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grades

All six eligible Parkview hospitals received “A” grades in the fall 2024 Hospital Safety Grades released by The Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit focused on patient safety in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers.

Parkview Regional Medical Center & Affiliates, Parkview Bryan Hospital, Parkview DeKalb Hospital, Parkview Huntington Hospital, Parkview Noble Hospital and Parkview Whitley Hospital all received top grades on this fall’s report.

Leapfrog assigns an A–F grade to general hospitals across the country based on more than 30 national performance measures reflecting errors, accidents, injuries and infections, as well as the systems hospitals have in place to prevent harm.

Parkview Bryan Hospital, which affiliated with Parkview in October 2023, received its first “A” grade since joining the system. The hospital had previously received “C” grades in fall 2023 (scored before joining Parkview) and in spring 2024 as the hospital transitioned to Parkview’s full data recording and reporting procedures.



Parkview Regional Medical Center (PRMC) scored an “A” on 21 of 23 Leapfrog report cards dating back to 2013. Parkview’s community hospitals also extended

their “A” streaks — Parkview Huntington Hospital has scored an “A” for seven consecutive periods, Parkview DeKalb Hospital and Parkview Noble Hospital for five straight, and Parkview Whitley Hospital for the last four reports.

“Safety for both our patients and our co-workers remains a top priority at Parkview,” said Dr. Jeffrey Boord, chief quality and safety officer, Parkview Health. “Parkview acts on the feedback we receive from our frontline workers and we increasingly leverage the power of data to make improvements and maintain high-quality care and safety. We’re proud to earn straight ‘A’s from The Leapfrog Group as recognition that our efforts create and maintain a safe environment.”

Parkview LaGrange Hospital, Parkview Wabash Hospital and Parkview Montpelier Hospital are not graded because the Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade does not assess critical access hospitals due to limitations on publicly available data from those smaller facilities. Parkview Orthopedic Hospital is also not graded by Leapfrog because it is a specialty hospital.

The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is the only hospital ratings program focused exclusively on preventable medical errors, infections and injuries that kill more than 500 patients a day nationally. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade is peer-reviewed, fully transparent and free to the public. Grades are updated twice annually, in the fall and spring.

## ▶ Parkview Health named to Most Wired list for 11th consecutive year

For the 11th straight year, Parkview Health has been recognized on the Digital Health Most Wired Survey by the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME).

In the 2024 survey, Parkview was once again certified at Level 9, the second-highest level, in both acute and ambulatory care categories.



Among the more than 48,000 facilities represented, Parkview distinguished itself by ranking above peers in critical categories such as analytics and data management, population health, infrastructure and patient engagement. The survey evaluates the adoption, integration and impact of technologies across healthcare organizations, from early-stage adopters to industry leaders.

“Technology is an integral part of providing high-quality care, excellent patient experiences and a great value,” said Ron Double, chief information officer, Parkview Health. “By effectively utilizing the tools at our disposal — from patient portals to smart equipment to analytical and predictive models and more — Parkview is able to leverage the power of technology and data to increase efficiency, improve quality and provide robust security. We’re proud to continually be recognized by CHIME for our commitment to effective tech.”

“We are proud to recognize Parkview’s exceptional dedication to digital health excellence,” said CHIME President and CEO Russell P. Branzell. “Your pioneering performance in the industry not only inspires other organizations by example, but also provides patients around the world with better care.”

In the face of escalating challenges like cybersecurity threats and evolving care models, the urgency for revolutionizing healthcare through technology continues to grow. The next 30 years will bring profound changes, driven by emerging technologies. We anticipate that advancements in digital health — facilitated by fully interoperable data, artificial intelligence, and secure platforms — will significantly transform the landscape of care. A strategic roadmap will be essential to navigate these changes.

Parkview’s electronic health records system, Epic, provides an expansive suite of software and tools to assist both providers and patients, from point-of-care modules that doctors and advanced practitioners use during office visits to the MyChart portal for patients to engage with their health record.

Parkview Connect also allows hundreds of non-Parkview entities throughout the region and across the state to access and use patient health information to maintain a single story of care. This technology is used daily to deliver high-value care and an overall better experience for patients.

“Technology is a powerful tool in the modern-day physician’s care bag, one that we rely on to help us deliver the best care possible to our patients,” said Dr. Mark Pierce, senior vice president and physician chief information officer, Parkview Health.





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