

WORCESTER DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY

WORCESTER MEDICAL LIBRARY, INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



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Executive Director's Message
2021-2022

As we enter our second year of COVID, we find ourselves planning our annual calendar, one event at a time, still hoping to resume our meetings in person. However, all of our committee meetings and programs we are still able to host, remain virtual. We are mastering Zoom and Event Brite but can only hope to be in person by next year.

We continue with office improvements by weeding through files and closets to dispose of unnecessary items. This allows us to continue sorting and cataloging archives, revising policies, etc. We moved our storage unit from one level to another at our off-site storage unit. We are saving money and have a better quality unit with more lighting. We also obtained new artwork and took items out of storage to hang in the office.

This report will highlight our 2021-2022 programs and events. Our Committees met via Zoom to plan events as best as possible, we planned initially as an in person program, but most were converted to virtual programs and recorded to post on our website. We awarded our annual member awards, held our Annual Oration and celebrated our medical students by dispersing medical student scholarships. We collaborated with the Boston Medical Library a second time for our annual education Cottle Lecture.

Our Television program, *Health Matters* has picked up and they are now allowing one host and two guests, masked at 6-feet apart. We have a new host, Trent Taros, MS4 from UMass. Please be sure to view our programs online: <https://www.wdms.org/community-services/health-matters/>. If you have ideas for future episodes or wish to be a guest, please contact Melissa Boucher at 508-753-1759 or MBoucher@wdms.org.

Our magazine, *Worcester Medicine*, continues to thrive with 6 issues a year. We have been working with a Guest Editor model and although it's a little more work the issues are really very good and we have received positive unsolicited feedback! Studio DiBella is still working out well and Guiding Channels continues to print our magazines.

We continue to be very happy with our web-developer, Artefact, Inc. We have further developed our History, Alliance and Events pages.

I'd like to thank our President, Dr. Spiro Spanakis, Dr. Giles Whalen (VP and Marianne Felice (Sec) for their leadership and guidance over the past year and look forward to developing next year's events and getting back to in-person meetings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Wright, MBA
Executive Director

**Worcester District Medical Society
2021-2022**

Officers

President	Spiro Spanakis
Vice President	Giles Whalen
Secretary	Marianne Felice
Treasurer	Dale Magee
Orator	Kimiyoshi Kobayashi

Delegates

George Abraham	Lawrence Garber	Prithwjit Roychowdhury
Janet Abrahamian	Susan George	Calvin Schaffer
Alan Albert	Jay Glaser	Peter Schneider
Rachel Anderson	Wayne Glazier	Manjul Shukla
Frederic Baker	Richard Haas	Robert Sorrenti
Bruce Bertrand	Bruce Karlin	Spiro Spanakis
James Broadhurst	Kenneth Kronlund	Leo Stolbach
William Cohen	William Lavelle*	Madhavi Toke
Michelle Dalal	B. Dale Magee*	Ram Upadhyay
Dennis Dimitri*	Saharsh Mehta	Rohit Vakil*
Jon Dorfman	Miriam O'Neil	Bennett Vogt
Lynn Eckhert	Sahdev Passey*	Giles Whalen*
Louis Fazen	Alwyn Rapose	Lynda Young*
Marianne Felice	John Romano	Peter Zacharia
Lloyd Fisher	Thomas Rosenfeld	
Jeffrey Gallo	Abhijit Roychowdhury	* ex officio

Executive Committee

Spiro Spanakis, Chair	Peter Schneider
Frederic Baker	Robert Sorrenti
James Broadhurst	Paul Steen
Marianne Felice	Giles Whalen
Michael Hirsh	Lynda Young
Anne Larkin	
Jane Lochrie	<i>Student Representatives</i>
Dale Magee	Calvin Schaffer
Mary O'Brien	
Sahdev Passey	<i>Alliance Representatives</i>
Michele Pugnaire	Maureen Zacharia

Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report 2021-2022

The Worcester District Medical Society is, by far, the most active of the 20 districts. We offer more events, committees, and community activities than the others. Our goal is to promote collegial relationships and promote the ideals that brought our members to a career in medicine. Thanks to our full-time staff, energetic officers and members we have not only one of the highest percentages of practicing physicians as members but also a high level of member engagement.

Income: The Society has an income of ~\$310,000 per year of which ~\$150,000 is dues. Our regular dues are \$185/yr for practicing physicians with discounts for 1st year in practice, couples, and residents. UMass Medical School pays for a membership for each of its students (\$10/yr). The remainder of income comes from support provided by the Worcester Medical Library through investment income to help with our educational efforts (~\$40,000), advertising for Worcester Medicine (~\$15,000). Louis Cottle, a member who passed away in 1951, left earnings from his estate to the WDMS starting in 2007. This amount varies from year to year and is ~\$60,000.

Because the Cottle income is based on stock market performance, the 2023 income may be less. We are also decreasing Worcester Medicine to 4 issues per year from 6 which will decrease both expenses and income.

Expenses: Society expenses consist primarily of staff salaries and benefits (~\$145,000), rent (~\$25,000), Worcester Medicine (~\$5,000), committee meetings and events (~\$20,000) and office administrative, professional fees, printing, and postage (~\$30,000). Over the past year most meetings have been via Zoom. For member events this saved the Society approximately \$8,000 per dinner meeting. Accordingly, we were substantially under budget. Savings are invested to build an endowment with a goal of accumulating 2 million dollars to help defray Society expenses by ~\$80,000 per year. Currently the fund is valued at approximately 1 million dollars.

During the coming year we will address:

- Membership has been steady to slowly falling. Since we have the second highest dues of the 20 districts, raising dues is not felt to be an option. The Massachusetts Medical Society is raising its dues over the next few years. This may put membership at risk.
- Meetings: To mitigate no-shows for dinner meetings we have instituted a \$10 charge for all members, we are also closely tracking no-shows to better calibrate dinner reservations.

Financially the Society is doing well. We anticipate pressures on income going forward and seek opportunities to cut costs while improving member benefits.

See attached Profit and Loss for 2022 as well as trend graphics.

**Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report
2021-2022
*Con't***

Respectfully submitted,

B. Dale Magee, MD
Chair and Treasurer

Finance Committee

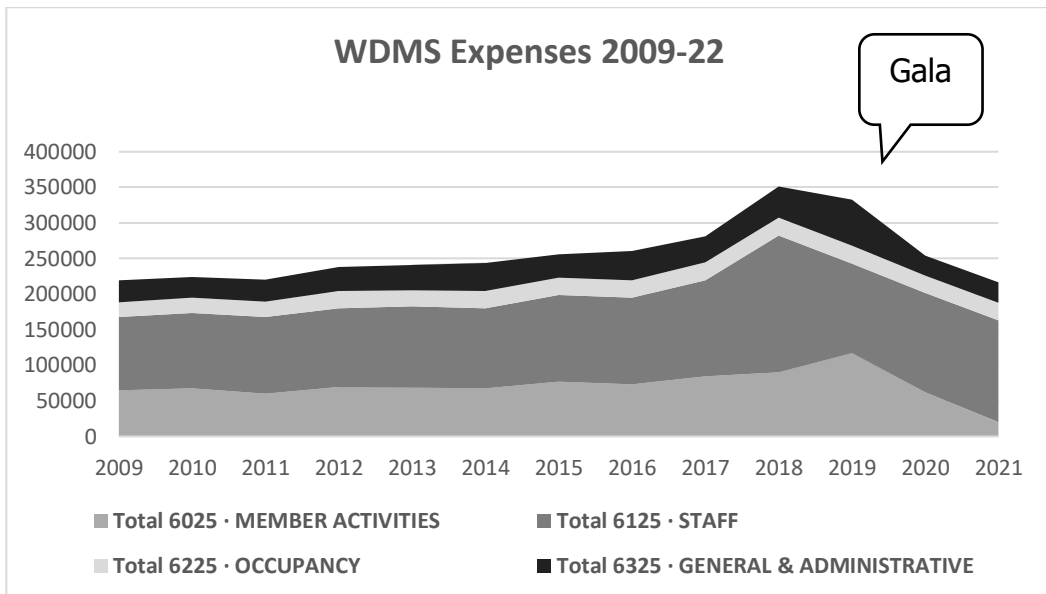
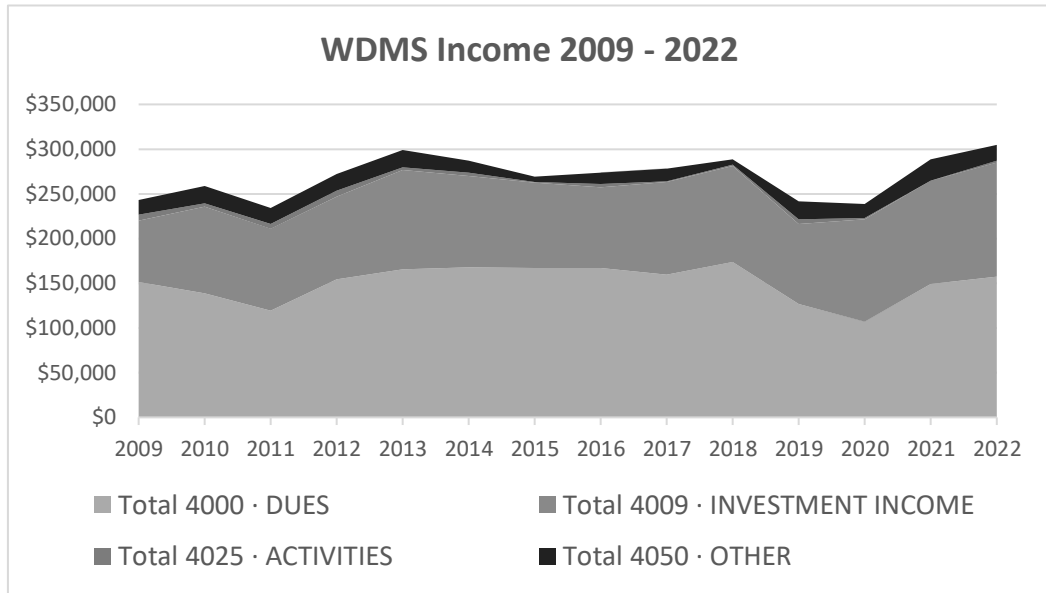
B. Dale Magee, Chair
Lloyd Fisher
Kenneth Kronlund
Pankaj Ksheersagar

Peter Schneider
Fred Schwarz
Stuart Weisberger
Peter Zacharia

**Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report
2021-2022
Con't**

WDMS	Jan - Dec 22	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
DUES	157390	160000
INVESTMENT INCOME		
Salary Grant from WML	40000	40000
Cottle dividends and interest	87568.50	60000
ACTIVITIES	2284.83	0
OTHER	17484	21500
Miscellaneous Income	1316.89	0
Total Income	306044.22	282500
Expense		
MEMBER ACTIVITIES	28460.44	75900
STAFF	146592.66	145900
OCCUPANCY	22119.65	25400
GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE	29023.73	22163
Total Expense	226196.48	269363
Net Ordinary Income	85380.03	

**Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report
2021-2022
Con't**

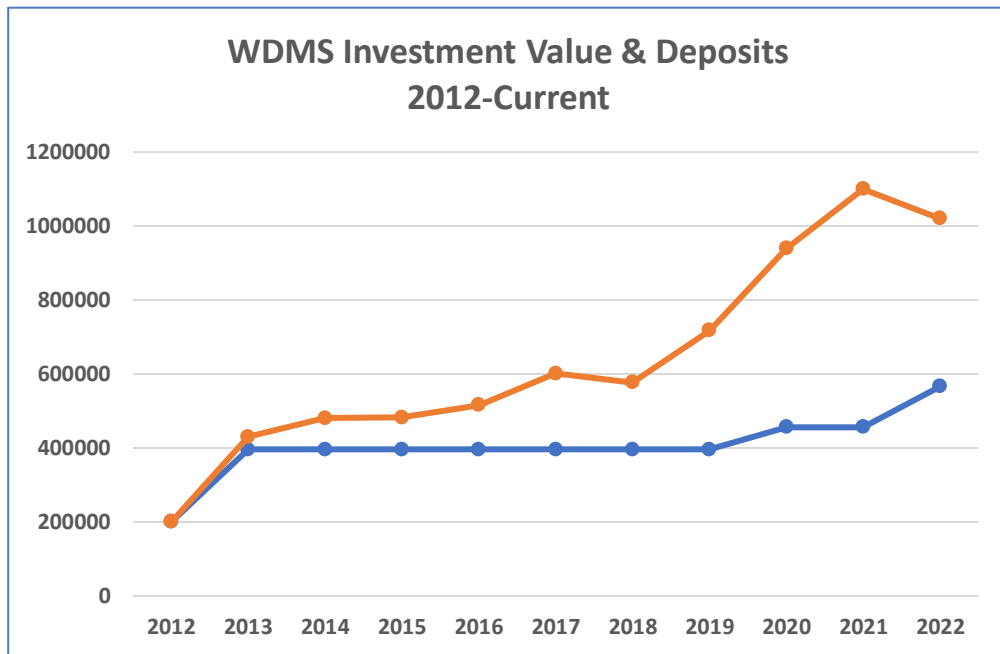


**Finance Committee and Treasurer's Report
2021-2022
Con't**

WDMS Investments:

WDMS maintains an investment account with approximately 2/3 equities and 1/3 bonds/short term at Fidelity Investments with low-cost mutual funds. The purpose of this account is to accumulate a fund to defer future costs of running the Society without increases in dues and to hold the possibility of reducing dues in the future.

Value as of 12/31/22: \$1,020,701



**Legislative Committee
2021-2022**

WDMS Legislative Committee was represented again this year at the MMS Committee On Legislation by Dr. Giles Whalen.

After taking last year off, our Legislative Committee resumed their meetings. We hosted our Legislative Committee meeting on March 8 and the Legislative Breakfast on May 6, 2022. Despite these being a virtual meetings, we had great attendance between our members and legislators. We collaborated with our local and state legislators on issues important to them and asked for ways we could help. In turn, we proposed issues with which we are concerned and discussed ways the legislators could help. Although meeting in person may be more effective, the attendees were happy with this format and all had a chance to speak.

Some of the topics discussed at the Legislative Committee meeting in March were:

“No Surprises Act”

- Federal (1/2023) – Provide estimate in advance/burden on insurance companies
- State (7/2022) – Burden on physicians: more time, economic impact
- Who is responsible for final bill, need more transparency

Topics discussed at the Legislative Breakfast on 5/6/22 were:

- Pediatric Mental Health – discussion led by Dr. Marianne Felice followed by comments by Drs. Ryan Friedberg (SVH), Joseph Tennyson (UMass).
- No Surprise Act – discussion led by Brendan Abel, Esq. at MMS followed by comments by Dr. Jeffrey Gallo.
- We also recognized Senator Harriet Chandler for her decades of support of the WDMS and wished well in retirement.

With regard to the HOD, we met with Worcester North to caucus prior to the annual MMS HOD meetings, which were all held virtually:

- The Interim Meeting for MMS House of Delegates will meet:
 - 1st Session – 11/21/21
- The Annual Meeting for MMS House of Delegates will meet:
 - 1st Session – 5/4/22
 - 2nd Session – 5/21/22

Legislative Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Giles F. Whalen MD, FACS
Chair

Giles Whalen, Chair	Seth Kates
Dennis Dimitri	Pankaj Ksheersagar
Sahdev Passey	Frederic Schwartz
Marianne Felice	
Jeffrey Gallo	<i>Resident Representative</i>
Wayne Glazier	Robert Le
Michael Hirsh	Brittany Reid
Stefanie Russell	
Timothy Hopkins	<i>Student Representative</i>
	John Romano

**Medical Education Committee
2021-2022**

The 15th Annual Louis A. Cottle lecture was held virtually online on 10/21/21, co-sponsored with the Boston Medical Library Garland Lecture. The topic, "A conversation with Anthony Fauci, MD, Lessons Learned, Looking Forward." The guest speaker was Anthony Fauci, MD-Chief Medical Advisor to the President and Director of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. Moderated by Richard Pieters, MD- the Boston Medical Library, Dale Magee, MD-Boston Medical Library Chair of the Garland Committee and Mary O'Brien, MD-WDMS Chair of the WDMS Medical Education Committee. To view this taped event, visit www.wdms.org and go to Event Calendar, Past Events. It was well attended and participation was active.

We continue to solicit your suggestions and nominations for speakers to keep our programs relevant and interesting. Please email or call the District Office if you have not been heard and help us fulfill our mission for the society.

I'd like to thank the Committee members for their hard work and thoughtful suggestions as we plan our events. I'd also like to welcome the new members to the committee: Drs. Maria Abruzzo and Stacy Potts.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary O'Brien, MD
Chair

Medical Education Committee

Mary O'Brien, <i>Chair</i>	<i>Resident Representative</i>
Maria Abruzzo	Edward Adams
Bronwyn Cooper	Elizabeth Bobersky
Frank Fechner	Miriam O'Neil
Jay Glaser	
Rebecca Kowaloff	<i>Student Representative</i>
Quang Le	Shani Aharon
Laszlo Leb	Rachel Anderson
James Lindberg	Sassicaia Schick
Jane Lochrie	Rebecca Toohey
Stacy Potts	Bennett Vogt

**Membership Committee
2021-2022**

	<u>3/19/2018</u>	<u>3/25/2019</u>	<u>3/23/2020</u>	<u>3/29/2021</u>	<u>3/28/2022</u>
1st Year Practice	138	136	172	150	168
Joint/Family	26	25	22	18	14
Physicians	783	758	740	720	699
Seniors /Emeritus	157	165	170	185	192
Residents	601	603	619	639	660
Students	570	618	651	651	642
CHC/Comp	n/a	49	53	52	52
Military	1	1	1	1	1
Waived	7	2	5	4	4
Total Members	2328	2357	2433	2420	2432

Once again our membership has increased. WDMS is proud to represent 2432 physicians and medical students in Central Massachusetts. Membership dues are what allows us to offer our members a variety of events that are interesting and educational.

We strive to provide programs that will increase the level of participation and involvement of young physicians, residents and students and are committed to represent and serve our members.

Please be sure to keep your membership up-to-date and also please help us recruit new members by sharing our events and accomplishments with your colleagues who are not members of WDMS.

Respectfully submitted,

Spiro Spanakis, DO
Chair

Membership Committee

Spiro Spanakis, Chair
James Broadhurst
Marianne Felice
Michael Hirsh
Rebecca Kowaloff
James Lindberg
Jane Lochrie
Dale Magee
Mark Maxfield
Sahdev Passey

Peter Schneider
Robert Sorrenti

Resident Representative
Edward Adams

Student Representatives
John Romano
Bennett Vogt

**Anniversary Members
2021-2022**

50 Year Member

Peter S. Chen, MD

25 Year Members

Michael W. Potter, MD

Richard A. Rosiello, MD

Karen F. Rothman, MD

**Memorials Committee
2021-2022**

<u>Member</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Date of Death</u>	<u>Members Since</u>
Dominic J. Nompleggi, MD	5-1-1950	8-27-2021	1983
Robert W. Finberg, MD	3-23-1950	8-30-2021	2002
Richard L. Bishop, MD	4-13-1941	9-10-2021	1974

Respectfully submitted,

Memorials Committee

Memorials Committee
Sidney Kadish

Resident Representatives
Edward Adams
Stephanie Clegg

**Public Relations Committee
2021-2022**

“Health Matters” remains the cornerstone for the public relations outreach of WDMS. Now in its nineteenth year, “Health Matters” is the public access cable broadcast of thirty-minute shows featuring lively discussions on relevant and diverse health topics affecting patients and the community.

Our program reaches a T.V. audience of at least 56,000 households and airs three times a week in Worcester, Shrewsbury, Hopkinton and Holden. Live-streaming and on-line archiving of episodes are available on our website: <https://www.wdms.org/community-services/health-matters/>.

Our hosts include Doctors James Broadhurst, Michael Hirsh, Bruce Karlin, and Lynda Young.

If you have an interesting topic in mind and wish to be a guest on our show, please contact WDMS directly at 508-753-1579 or email mboucher@wdms.org.

Health Matters Shows for 2021-2022

Lifestyle Medicine

Host: Dr. Michael Hirsh

Guest: Dr. Michelle Dalal

Prescription CPR

Host: Dr. James Broadhurst

Guest: Dr. Joseph Sabato

Addiction Medicine

Host: Dr. James Broadhurst

Guest Megan Wood

Gun Violence

Host: Dr. James Broadhurst

Guest: Dr. Peter McConarty

Equity and Diversity in Health Care

Host: Dr. James Broadhurst

Guest: Dr. Manjul Shukla

Medical Robotics

Host: Dr. Lynda Young

Guest: Loris Fichera

Life as a Medical Student during COVID

Host: Dr. Bruce Karlin

Guest: Trent Taros

Tobacco: A Public Health Perspective

Host: Dr. Bruce Karlin

Guest: Cherry Tangri

**Public Relations Committee
2021-2022
*Con't***

Child Health Equity Center

Host: Dr. Lynda Young

Guests: Dr. Arvin Garg and Allison LeBlanc

Thank you to our guests and our hosts for their meaningful and educational programs. And a special thank you to WCCA for all their work in producing our program and to Melissa Boucher for her organization and occasional camera-woman skills.

Respectfully submitted by

Michael Hirsh, MD
Chair

Public Relations Committee

Michael Hirsh, Chair	Bruce Karlin	Laszlo Leb
James Broadhurst	Pankaj Ksheersagar	Dale Magee
Marci Jones	Julianne Luring	Lynda Young

**Publications Committee
2021-2022**

The Publications Committee manages the materials published by the District with the primary focus on *Worcester Medicine*. *Worcester Medicine* is published bimonthly and provides a unique perspective on current health care issues within central Massachusetts. The magazine is produced by the Editorial Board which has representation from the District members but also from others within our healthcare community, such as the Worcester campus of the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and the Graduate School of Nursing and the Biochemistry and Molecular Pharmacology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School.

The Publications Committee acknowledges the excellent work of the Editorial Board. The 2021-2022 issues of *Worcester Medicine* covered important health care topics such as:

<u>May/June 2021:</u>	Jedi or Die- Not an Option but a Mandate Guest Editor: George Abraham, MD
<u>July/August 2021:</u>	Medicine in Worcester: History of Leaders Guest Editor: B. Dale Magee, MD
<u>September/October 2021:</u>	Students Then and Now Guest Editor: Alexandra Rabin, MS4
<u>November/December 2021:</u>	Game Changers in Medicine Guest Editor: Peter Zacharia, MD
<u>January/February 2022:</u>	Infertility: An Often Silent Struggle Guest Editor: Heidi Leftwich, DO
<u>March/April 2022:</u>	Health and Wellness in the LGBTQA+ Community Guest Editor: Julianne Luring, MD

To view past issues of Worcester Medicine, click [here](#).

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sorrenti, MD
Chair

Publications Committee

Robert Sorrenti, Chair
Anthony Esposito
Lloyd Fisher
Julianne Luring
Joel Popkin
Paul Steen

Editorial Board 2021-2022

Despite COVID-19, the Editorial Board and Worcester Medicine Magazine continue to thrive. As you can see from the list of issues above, the Editorial Board continues to report on current and interesting and do a wonderful job and work very well together.

We are still producing six issues a year and could not be accomplished without a hard-working, dedicated Board and Staff. Unfortunately, with the inception and lasting pandemic, Pagio Inc. will no longer be our Editor/Publisher.

With Dr. Jane Lochrie stepping down, we have gone to a Guest Editor (GE) model. This will allow each themed issue to be edited by a specialist/expert on the subject. We will continue this model while we search for a new Editor and Chair of the Editorial Board.

We have hired Studio DiBella, a local and reputable editor and designer. With this transition, we will assume the responsibility for advertising so this could mean additional revenue. In addition, we have decided to transition to a digital magazine which means fewer printed copies and digital enhancements for advertisers. We look forward to increasing our online presence on a new platform, and to a lasting relationship.

Finally, I'd like to thank Dr. Heather Finlay-Morreale for her contributions to the magazine, as she steps down from the Board. Below is a list of the topics from 2021-2022:

Our next issue will be May/June, entitled: Fulfilling Lives: Palliative Care/GE Rebecca Kowaloff, DO

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Wright, MBA
Executive Director

Editorial Board

Editor: Guest Editor Model	Robert Sorrenti
Lisa Beittel, MBA	Parul Sarwal
Anthony Esposito	Pawina Subedi
Rebecca Kowaloff	Paul Steen
Susan Krantz	Ram Upadhyay
Heather Finlay-Morreale	Martha Wright, MBA
Michael Hirsh	Peter Zacharia
Julianne Luring	
Anna Morin, PharmD	<u>Resident Representatives</u>
Nancy Morris, PhD, ANP	Alex Newbury
Thoru Pederson, PhD	
Joel Popkin	<u>Student Representative</u>
Alwyn Rapose	Aly Rabin

**Scholarship Committee
2021-2022**

It is a pleasure to write this report highlighting the 2021 scholarship award recipients, 23 exceptional medical students who exemplify our medical society's values of community service, academic achievement and professional character.

These students hail from hometowns across the Worcester District and attend diverse medical schools nationwide. Some may come from your own hometown, local community or alma mater. The applicants represent eight different medical schools and include students across years 2, 3 and 4 of medical school, some just beginning and others ready to graduate. But despite these differences and rich diversity, they all share one common and pressing need: the burden of student debt. Now more than ever, our medical students face overwhelming debt burdens. The indebtedness of graduating medical students across the country continues to increase, with the median medical school debt now at \$200,000.

The 2021 WDMS Scholarship Program granted an all-time record of 24 awards to these aspiring future physicians. Through your generosity, the Scholarship Fund distributed a total of \$68,000 in scholarships to the award recipients featured in this report. There were 18 Scholarship Awards at \$3500 and 6 Book Awards at \$1000.

The Scholarship Fund of the Worcester District Medical Society gratefully acknowledges WDMS members and the dedicated sponsors from the Worcester community whose support makes our scholarship program possible.

As Chair of the Committee, I would like to acknowledge our dedicated team of committee members who interviewed and selected this year's award recipients. On behalf of all our committee membership, let me also offer our collective appreciation to Dr. Ken Kronlund, who serves as Trustee of the Scholarship Fund. As a most valued member of the Scholarship Committee since 2001, Dr. Kronlund does a superlative job of safeguarding our scholarship fund and we are most grateful for his service, wisdom and sage stewardship.

Scholarship Committee

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Pugnaire, MD
Scholarship Committee Chair

Michele Pugnaire, *Chair*
Janet Abrahamian
Robert Bessette
Susan George
Rebecca Kowaloff
Kenneth Kronlund, *Trustee*
Heidi Leftwich
Jane Lochrie
Susan Moran
Nitin Trivedi
Martha Waite
Stuart Weisberger
Giles Whalen |
Resident Representative
Alex Newbury

2021 WDMS Medical Scholarship Award Recipients



Alec Allain
*Dr. Hebert E. Nieburgs
 Scholarship Award*
 University of Massachusetts
 Chan Medical School—
 Class of 2022



Kendall Burdick
*Worcesters District Medical
 Society Scholarship Award*
 University of Massachusetts Chan
 Medical School— Class of 2023



Catherine Cattley
*Worcesters District Medical
 Society Scholarship Award*
 University of New
 England College of Osteopathic
 Medicine— Class of 2022



Zain Chaudry
*Worcesters District Medical
 Society Scholarship Award*
 Robert Larner, MD, College
 of Osteopathic Medicine—
 Class of 2024



Allibon Chevalier
*Worcesters District Medical
 Society Scholarship Award*
 New York Institute of Technology,
 College of Osteopathic Medicine—
 Class of 2024



Stephanie Craig
*Dr. Burt Guterman
 Scholarship Award*
 Lake Erie College of
 Osteopathic Medicine—
 Class of 2022



Brennan Dagle
*UMMHC Dr. Samuel
 Picken's Scholarship Award*
 University of Massachusetts
 Chan Medical School—
 Class of 2022



Kelly Flanagan
*Dr. Hebert E. Nieburgs
 Scholarship Award*
 University of Massachusetts
 Chan Medical School—
 Class of 2022



Arianna Gray
*Dr. Sanfrey Lilyestrom
 Scholarship Award*
 Philadelphia College of
 Osteopathic Medicine—
 Class of 2024



Tara Hebert
*Dr. Hebert E. Nieburgs
 Scholarship Award*
 University of New England
 College of Osteopathic
 Medicine—Class of 2024



Tanika Isaac
*Worcesters District Medical
 Society Scholarship Award*
 Philadelphia College of
 Osteopathic Medicine—
 Class of 2023

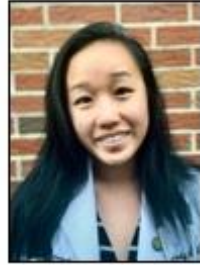


Laura Knapik
Amaral Family Book Award
 University of New England
 College of Osteopathic
 Medicine—Class of 2022

2021 WDMS Medical Scholarship Award Recipients (continued)



Dhanya Kumar
*MPMC John A. Rauth
Book Award*
University of Massachusetts
Chan Medical School—
Class of 2023



Cindy Le
*Dr. Gilbert E. Levinson St.
Vincent Hospital Medical
Staff Scholarship Award*
University of Massachusetts
Chan Medical School—
Class of 2023



Ashwin Panda
*Paulette Griffin Pugnairé
Book Award*
University of Massachusetts
Chan Medical School—
Class of 2023



Marc Poirier
*Joyce Cariglia and David
William Book Award*
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic
Medicine— Class of 2022



Siena Romano
*Dr. Hebert E. Nieburgs
Scholarship Award*
Georgetown University
School of Medicine—
Class of 2023



Juliet Ross
*Boucher Family
Book Award*
Albany Medical College
— Class of 2024



Amanda Scudder
*Dr. Leonard J. Morse
Scholarship Award*
New York College of
Medicine— Class of 2022



Nathan Taber
*Dr. Hebert E. Nieburgs
Scholarship Award*
University of Massachusetts
Chan Medical School—
Class of 2023



Rebecca Toohey
*RMG Dr. M. Elizabeth
Fletcher Scholarship Award*
University of Massachusetts
Chan Medical School—
Class of 2022



ToQuynh Vu
*Dr. Lillian A. Luksis
Scholarship Award*
University of New England
College of Osteopathic
Medicine—Class of 2022



Mina Zaky
*Dr. Julius Tegelberg
Scholarship Award*
Tufts University School of
Medicine— Class of 2022

**Awards Committee
2021-2022**

Presented at the WDMS Annual Fall District Meeting and Awards Ceremony, November 17, 2021. The event was held virtually.

The 2021 Worcester District Medical Society Career Achievement Award was presented to Thomas F. Halpin, MD. This award was established to recognize a Society member who has demonstrated compassion and dedication to the medical needs of patients and/or the public and has made a significant contribution to the practice of medicine.

Dr. Thomas Halpin, a WDMS Member since 1970, graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1963. He then completed an internship in the Department of Surgery at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in 1964. Then in 1965, he honorably completed a military commitment in the United States Army Medical Corps as a Major and Ob/Gyn in the Martin Army Hospital, in Fort Benning Georgia, followed by the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon, Vietnam in 1966. Upon returning from Vietnam, he completed his residency in Obstetrics & Gynecology at Sloane Hospital for Women, Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center, before moving to the Worcester area, in 1970.

The 2021 Dr. A. Jane Fitzpatrick Community Service Award was presented to Kavita M. Babu, MD, FACEP, FACMT. This award was established by the Medical Society to commemorate the life-long community contributions and exemplary efforts of Dr. Jane Fitzpatrick in the Worcester Community. This award recognizes a member of the healthcare community in Central Massachusetts for their effort beyond professional duty to improve the health and well-being of others.

Dr. Kavita Babu, Professor of Emergency Medicine, serves as Chief, Division of Medical Toxicology for the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, and the Chief Opioid Officer for the UMass Memorial Health System. She earned her M.D. from Brown Medical School where she also completed her residency, and then came back to complete her Toxicology fellowship, at UMass.

Presented at the WDMS Annual Business Meeting and Awards Ceremony, April 13, 2022. The event was held at the Beechwood Hotel in Worcester, MA

The 2022 Editor's Award, (formerly the Wisteria Award) was presented to Robert W. Sorrenti, MD. The Wisteria Dinner has been a tradition of Worcester Medicine, formerly Worcester Medical News, since 1974. Dr. Samuel Bachrach, former Editor of Worcester Medical News established the award named after a spring-flowering vine that used to surround the Worcester Club (former home of the Editorial Board meetings) to honor an outstanding contributor of the magazine. The Editorial Board is pleased to continue this tradition.

Dr. Robert Sorrenti graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1973. He completed his residency in Pediatrics and was Chief Medical Resident at Children's Memorial Hospital in Chicago. He returned to Massachusetts to be the Chief of Pediatrics at the Worcester City Hospital. For about twelve years he was in private pediatric practice while participating in student and resident education. Following that

Awards Committee
2021-2022
Con't

he embarked on a career in healthcare management. For about 15 years prior to retirement in 2020, he served as the chief operating officer of a health plan. He currently remains active in his community and, in addition to his participation in the activities of the Medical Society, serves on the Worcester Public Library Board and the Music Worcester Board.

The 2022 Worcester District Medical Society, President's Award was presented (posthumously) to Robert W. Finberg. Dr. Joyce Fingerth accepted the award on his behalf.

This is a special award recognizing an individual for their extraordinary contributions to the health and wellbeing of the medical community, with significant contributions to patients and the community and the profession of medicine.

Dr. Finberg was a friend, colleague, mentor, Chair Emeritus, and distinguished Professor of Medicine. He was an accomplished clinician, infectious diseases researcher, mentor and valued leader of our Department of Medicine for 21 years. Dr. Finberg was an internationally renowned physician scientist, with over 300 publications and innumerable research awards and honors from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, and other agencies. We all witnessed the significance of Dr. Finberg's research as he helped develop, test, and implement new therapies for our patients affected by SARS-CoV-2. He helped shape our response to the pandemic and was the principal investigator on multiple clinical studies related to therapeutics and vaccines for SARS-COV-2. Dr. Finberg was known for his infectious laugh, dry wit and great sense of humor and of course his iconic hat. He will be greatly missed by his colleagues, peers, and family. For a full bio, click [here](#).

The 2022 Worcester District Medical Society/Massachusetts Medical Society *Community Clinician of the Year Award* will be awarded to June R. O'Connor, MD. This award recognizes a practitioner who has made significant contributions to patients and the community. Dr. June O'Connor grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y. and graduated cum laude from Boston University with a degree in Biology and Environmental Sciences. She then completed her medical degree at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, Ireland and subsequent OB/GYN residency at Stamford Hospital, Stamford, Connecticut. She went on to work as a staff physician at the Fallon Clinic, Worcester, Massachusetts and then for UMassMemorial Medical group. Currently she is a partner at Women's Health of Central Massachusetts and performs surgeries and deliveries at UMassMemorial. For many years she has attended to patients with gynecologic problems from the St. Anne's and St. Peter's clinics. She has also worked at El Buen Samaritano Hospital in La Romana, Dominican Republic on mission trips to perform gynecologic surgeries for underserved Dominican and Haitian women. In addition, she is part of the Shrewsbury chapter of the Days for Girls International organization who sew reusable menstrual hygiene kits that allow girls to remain in school full time. These kits are then distributed worldwide. As part of the Dominican mission, these kits are brought and distributed to the Bateyes and orphanages in the La Romana area.

I would like to thank the Committee for their hard work and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Awards Committee

Michael Hirsh, MD
Chair

Michael Hirsh, <i>Chair</i>	Jane Lochrie
Fred Baker	Michele Pugnaire
Bruce Karlin	Abhijit Roychowdhury

Public Health Committee 2021-2022

The WDMS Public Health Committee continues to do meaningful and significant work in the community. Occasionally working with the WDPH, we continue to support various public health activities. Here are some of the things we worked on this year:

COVID-19 Pandemic – Worcester is still in the red zone. Cases are down but deaths continue to rise. Effective 11/1, the City of Worcester will have a vaccine mandate. A Pfizer vaccine has been approved for kids. Worcester Public Schools will be the sites for the COVID Vaccine distribution for students. Only about 3% to 15% of kids (depending on where you live) between six months and five years of age have been vaccinated. And only about 30% of the children between five and 11 years old have been vaccinated. There is a lot of hesitance and distrust amongst the parents who feel this vaccine is untested and too new. COVID boosters are starting to come out now, Pfizer was the first. Waiting for Moderna and the Johnson and Johnson boosters.

The Great American Smoke Out - took place on 11/18/21. Paula Madison from the WDMS Alliance spoke about the Task Force Tobacco Free Massachusetts. She has been active for many years on this committee and recently getting vaping out of convenient stores. There is lobbying at the State House. Gwen Stuart wrote an article in the Boston Globe about Philip Morris. Paula is hoping people would write letter to stop promoting Philip Morris as the article undermines public health efforts. The Commonwealth Magazine published an Op Ed from our Chair and Vice Chair about the fact that the Globe is running Philip Morris International ads. You can read it here:

<https://commonwealthmagazine.org/opinion/globe-should-honor-its-1999-policy-on-tobacco-ads/>

National Injury Prevention Day – Also took place on 11/18/21. Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability to U.S. children from 1 to 18 years old. Every day, 20 children die from preventable injuries, resulting in more deaths than all other diseases combined.

CPR Education Update - Dr. Joe Sabato (Emergency Medicine physician from UMass) presented his work at the Legislative Breakfast on 4/13/22. The Worcester City Manager has given him a budget for CPR education and AED equipment.

Barbershop Health Network –Michelle Chang, MS4 continues to lead this group. Their goal is to continue to provide educational outreach and resources to minorities in our community, via barbershops, churches and other community centers. The WDMS will continue to help fund programs up to \$2k annually to help restock supplies and pay for incentives, T-shirts, etc. For this year, they organized “Shots at the shop” for vaccinations. All the supplies and vaccines are provided by WDPH. Tables, gloves, coolers...etc. The supplies WDMS was storing are now under lock and key at UMass for the BHN group to use. Eventually, once the pandemic has ended, they wish to get back on track and have a foundation of locations, hopeful for 15 sites, “Doc in the Shop” at local Barbershops to continue their mission of education and outreach for men and women of color. Michelle would like to move forward and include beauty and hair salons for the outreach on the next event.

Public Health Committee
2021-2022
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Goods for Guns – The 20th annual program took place on 12/11/21. The program continues to grow each year, with new towns and cities participating.

Our Committee has grown exponentially and I would like to thank everyone who has worked hard to plan and support our mission of helping to keep our community educated by outreach and volunteerism.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Hirsh, MD
Chair

Public Health Committee

Michael Hirsh, <i>Chair</i>	<u><i>Resident Representatives</i></u>
Robert Bessette	Edward Adams
Colleen Bolen	Amber Thompson
James Broadhurst	
Matilde Castiel	<u><i>Student Representatives</i></u>
Karyn Clark	Shani Aharon
Richard Ellison	Rachel Anderson
Louis Fazen	Michelle Chang
Tiffany Forti	Kelly Flanagan
Rebecca Kowaloff	Calvin Schaffer
Susan Krantz	
Panjak Ksheersagar	<u><i>Alliance Representative</i></u>
Quang Le	Francine Vakil
Bency Loudior	
Kirti Nagpal	
Fozia Qamar	
Abhijit Roychowdhury	
Manjul Shukla	
Anthony Teebagy	

**Women's Caucus
2021-2022**

The Women's Caucus serves as the planning committee for the Women in Medicine events, there are usually two events per year.

The 30th Annual Women in Medicine Breakfast, co-sponsored by PIAM, was held on 9/24/21 as a virtual presentation. We hosted a "Panel on Mentoring" and it included Drs. Michelle Hadley, Jane Lochrie, Lauren Orr and Claudeleedy Pierre. Each panelist, at a different point in their careers share their experiences and wisdom from the perspective of being a mentor and a mentee.

This year's annual Women in Medicine Leadership Forum, co-sponsored by PIAM, took place on 5/25/22. The program was entitled: *Building a Family: A Dialogue about Fertility and Pregnancy in Medical Trainees and Faculty*, and the following speakers presented:

Moderator: Heidi Leftwich, DO
Panelists: Armando Arroyo, MD
 Jennifer Yates, MD
| Christine Van Horn, MD

Although these events were both successful and held virtually, we look forward to future events and bringing our members back together in person.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Women's Caucus (listed below) as well Martha Wright and Melissa Boucher for all of their hard work, guidance and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Young, MD
Chair

Women's Caucus

Lynda Young, Chair	<u>Resident Representatives</u>
Annie Abraham	Elizabeth Bobersky
Janet Abrahamian	Stephanie Clegg
Maria Abruzzo	
Lynn Eckhert	
Marianne Felice	<u>Student Representatives</u>
Hari Kirin Khalsa	Shani Aharon
Rebecca Kowaloff	Rachel Anderson
Heidi Leftwich	Nayha Chopra-Tandon
Jane Lochrie	Kelly Flanagan
Dhanya Kumar	Sassicaia Schick
Bency Louidor	Rebecca Toohey
Kirti Nagpal	
Stacy Potts	
Manjul Shukla	
Rebecca Spanagel	
Martha Waite	
Jennifer Yates	

Worcester Medical Library, Inc.
2021-2022

The Worcester District Medical Society has had a library since 1798 and the Worcester Medical Library, Inc. was incorporated as a separate entity in 1934. The Library is dedicated to supporting educational programs for physicians and to maintaining resources on the history of medicine. In 1973 its collection was brought to the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School to establish a rare book room in the Lamar Soutter Library and an on-going partnership with the medical school library. In August, 2002, the Library provided the Lamar Soutter Library with a gift to establish the Humanities in Medicine Collection.

Society dues include membership to the Worcester Medical Library (WML), entitling members to access the many services available at the Lamar Soutter Library.

Student Achievement Award (new):

We are proud to announce the sponsorship of a new Student Achievement Award. This year, the WML will donate \$2K to support an award/awards for any enrolled UMass Chan medical student, to include Massachusetts residents outside the Worcester district as well as out of state residents. The purpose of this award is to recognize a student(s), exemplifying outstanding service, achievement, or other notable accomplishments on behalf of the WDMS and its mission. Of note, this is a “merit -based” award rather than a “need-based” one. As such, the WDMS Awards Committee will oversee and manage the process of soliciting nominations and selecting the student recipient(s). The Awards Committee will recognize student awardee(s) at the Fall District Meeting, the Annual Business Meeting and/or as part the Awards Ceremony conducted by UMass Chan Medical School as part of the Commencement Week Events Program. Nominees will be accepted through the annual appeal process conducted by the WDMS Awards Committee.

Humanities in Medicine Committee - With the ongoing pandemic, this Committee has not met and the Meet the Author series is on hold.

Spoken History Project - Dale Magee, MD, MS, Curator of the WDMS and WML is also the Director of the Spoken History Project which was formed in 1995 to record the experiences of practicing physicians through the ages. Dr. Magee continues to conduct interviews and they are uploaded to the history page on our website. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to visit the [Spoken History section of our website](#).

Ongoing activities include:

Oversight of the Worcester Medical Library's historical book collection, which is housed in the Rare Books Room of the Lamar Soutter Library.

Support for the Humanities in Medicine Collection, also in the Lamar Soutter Library. Representatives from the WML serve on the Humanities in Medicine Committee at the Library.

Support for activities conducted at the Lamar Soutter Library.

Financial support for the educational activities carried out by the Worcester District Medical Society.

The Worcester Medical Library will continue to evaluate opportunities to foster educational programs and projects in the Worcester area.

Worcester Medical Library, Inc.
2021-2022
Con't

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to Dr. Peter Schneider for serving as the Treasurer for WML over the years and congratulations on your retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Sorrenti, MD
Chair

Officers

President	Spiro Spanakis
Vice President	Giles Whalen
Secretary	Lynda Young
Treasurer	Peter Schneider
Curator	B. Dale Magee

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Dale Magee
Sahdev Passey

**Worcester District Medical Society
Alliance
2021-2022**

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, many of our activities were suspended. However, Alliance members stayed connected this past year remotely via Zoom and with in-person outdoor meetings for book club discussions.

Continuing our Nursing Scholarship remains a focus. We recently appealed to our membership for contributions in honor of National Nurses Day. Our updated website can accommodate online donations.

Members of our Alliance are working to review our historical records and photographs. Cataloged items will be archived and placed into storage alongside WDMS archives. In addition, Alliance members have contributed their time to assist WDMS to catalog historic items and documents for storage.

Special appreciation is extended to the WDMSA members; Francine Vakil, Kathleen Thompson and Sophia Bogdasarian for their time and dedication to serving on the Board of the MMS and Alliance Charitable Foundation. The Foundation awarded a total of \$175,000 in grants to 13 organizations. Two of the grants, \$15,000 each, were awarded to Worcester County organizations:

Restoration Recovery Center Funding supports outreach in underserved/high-need areas to increase access to recovery programming, resources, behavioral health, and health care, with the overarching goal of preventing illness as well as reducing costs to the community by preventing more serious complications through consistent care and attention.

Lovin' Spoonful's, Inc. Funding supports the expansion of its food rescue and hunger relief operation by launching its first route in Worcester County, which will provide fresh, nutritious food to people in a region experiencing high levels of food insecurity.

For the upcoming year, our Alliance in Worcester is hopeful. We are looking forward to continuing our work and commitment to our community by hosting in person events.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Madison
WDMSA Board

WDMS Alliance Board

Paula Madison, Past President, MMSA
Usha Upadhyay, Treasurer
Francine Vakil, Alliance Representative
Maureen Zacharia, Secretary

Curators Report 2021-2022

The Curator and interested members catalog artifacts and archives, develop exhibits and offer activities relating to the history of medicine to the membership and to the public.

Members are invited to participate on an activity by activity basis to accommodate their interests and time availability.

Projects:

Cataloging: all artifacts have been photographed and uploaded to our Web page as well as cataloged. Storage is both at Mechanics Hall and offsite at Value Store It on Chestnut St.

Exhibit: an exhibit including a short video on the Polio Epidemic was displayed in the Mechanics Hall offices on October 16th during Mechanics Hall Founders Day. Christopher Zappos, Michael Newstein, Leah Doret, Trenton Taros, Patricia Giunta have participated in this project.

Bus Tour: On June 7th we held a medical history bus tour of sites in Worcester and had a reception at Mechanics Hall. The narration was led by Leah Doret, MD. Twenty four members and guests attended.

Medical History Book Club: Meeting since 2016, the Club has about 30 members and during 2022 met 3 times via Zoom with 10-15 participants per meeting.

Spoken History Project: Since its inception in 1995 we have accumulated over 80 interviews of senior members discussing their careers. These are available on the WDMS YouTube channel. Six interviews were added this year.

Book Restoration: a book with member signatures attesting to our Bylaws dating back to 1804 has been restored thanks to the generous donations.

Joseph Sargent, MD Portrait: A portrait of Joseph Sargent, WDMS president from 1864-66 was discovered in the home of a descendant of Eben Harrington, the artist, and donated by Marilyn Harrington. The frame was restored by Gerry Scher and a reception was held on May 7, 2022 to display both the restored Bylaws Signature Book as well as the Sargent Portrait.

History of Worcester Hospitals and Associated Medical Societies: A manuscript of a book by Paul Bergin from 1954 was discovered and digitized and posted to our website by Dr. Magee.

Worcester Medical News: A project is underway to digitize all articles (starting in 1937) appearing in Worcester Medical News (later Worcester Medicine) relating to medical history and compile them into a digital book. Michael Urbanowski is helping with this project.

In addition there have been curator reports included with many issues of Worcester Medicine.

Green Family profile: A paper covering the Green family of physicians in Worcester from the mid 18th to mid 19th centuries and their contributions to the community was submitted to the Worcester 300th Anniversary Committee for inclusion in their book. An unedited version is available on the WDMS website.

Curators Report
2021-2022
Con't

Museum: An ongoing interest in advancing the development of a medical museum is continued. Site visits at the Hartford Medical Society, the Samuel Slater Experience in Webster, and meetings with the curator of the Dittrick Medical Museum in Cleveland and with a representative of Boston Promotions have occurred.

We are attempting to minimize the costs of Curator activities with donations. We are grateful for the generosity of Maria Abruzzo, MD, James Broadhurst, MD, Hebert Dean, MD, Cay Denherder, MD, Louis Fazen, III, MD, Marianne Felice, MD, Jay Glaser, MD, Daniel Guilbert, MD, Bruce Karlin, MD, Robert Le, MD, Tiffany Moore Simas, MD, Maria Pickering, MD, Spiro Spanakis, DO, and Robert Terrill, MD.

Respectfully Submitted,

B. Dale Magee, MD
Curator

**Medical Student Committee
2021-2022**

This is the second year of the Medical Student Committee.

It was established as a Special Committee to further collaborate and enhance the relationship between WDMS and the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. It will be comprised of at least 8 medical students, 2 from each year and led by two Chairs, one physician member and one student member. But we will also accept interested students during our annual roster appeal. It will be responsible for two events per year, one in the fall and one in the spring, one educational and one social/networking. Bylaws have been written and we hope to become a Standing Committee of the WDMS in 2022-2023.

For their fall program, the Student Committee hosted a panel to discuss “Anti-Racism and Health Equity in Worcester”. This took place via Zoom on 10/26/21. The Keynote speaker was Dr. Mark Johnson, and the panelists were Drs. Matthew Masiello, Sahdev Passey, and David Rosman and moderated by Dr. Anne Larkin and Bennett Vogt. Within the past year, organized medicine has begun to undergo a transformation. The AMA’s Center for Health Equity recognizes racism as a public health threat. This talk is a move in the right direction to see how WDMS can develop ways to strive for health equity in Worcester.

Their spring event was postponed so we anticipate 3 Student sponsored events in 2022-2023.

Thank you to all of the student committee members for their interest and hard work in generating ideas and developing the programs we are able to offer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anne Larkin, MD, Co-Chair
Bennett Vogt, MS3, Co-Chair

Medical Student Committee

Anne Larkin, *Physician Chair*
Bennett Vogt, *Student Chair*, MS3
Sarah Uhranowsky, *Student Co-Chair*, MS2
Calvin Schaffer, *Student Vice Chair*, MS3
Nayha Chopra-Tandon, MS4
Louis Fazen, *Physician Member*
Paramesh Karandikar, MS2
Iha Kaul, MS4
Trent Taros, MS4