

**Missouri State Medical Association
House of Delegates**

Resolution #18
(A-21)

Introduced by: Chakshu Gupta, MD
Subject: Public Recognition for COVID Lab Testing Personnel
Referred to: Reference Committee A

1 **WHEREAS**, the United States declared a Public Health Emergency on February 3, 2020 due to the
2 growing outbreak of SARS-CoV-2 infections, aka COVID-19 within the United States; and
3
4 **WHEREAS**, the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Missouri in St. Louis County on March 8, 2020;
5 and
6
7 **WHEREAS**, testing for SARS-CoV-2 infection by clinical laboratories was an essential component of
8 efforts by Missouri and the United States to identify patients with COVID-19 as well as to understand
9 local, regional and national spread of the virus; and
10
11 **WHEREAS**, clinical laboratory scientists were called upon by the healthcare system to perform testing
12 and deliver test results for millions of patients in Missouri and the United States during the pandemic in
13 2020, putting in long hours under stressful conditions, dealing with resource constraints and personal
14 health concern from handling COVID-19 samples; and
15
16 **WHEREAS**, clinical pathologists played an essential medical role in overseeing testing for SARS-CoV-2,
17 determining appropriate methodologies for clinical care, evaluating test platforms, providing guidance
18 to colleagues, interpreting individual patient results and providing consultative service regarding results;
19 therefore be it
20
21 **RESOLVED**, that our Missouri State Medical Association publicly recognize and express gratitude to
22 clinical laboratory scientists for their untiring, dedicated and overall outstanding service and to clinical
23 pathologists for their invaluable medical services to patients in the State of Missouri and the United
24 States providing laboratory testing for the SARS-CoV-2 virus during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Fiscal Note:

Current Policy:

>>>George Hruza, MD – representing self

SUPPORT. It is important for patient/public safety that standards requiring formal post-graduate training in order to get an unrestricted physician license not be relaxed. Apprenticeship-type "training" in medicine has been replaced by formal internships, residencies, and fellowships many decades ago with great benefit to patient safety and quality of medical care delivery. We should not be going back to the way before the Flexner report.

Resolution 15 - Opioid Litigation

No comments.

Resolution 16 - Medical Malpractice Cases Involving Cerebral Palsy

No Comments.

Resolution 17 - Inter-Professional Education

>>>Roald Menodiado, student – representing MSS

Writing on behalf of the MSMA-MSS, in support of the spirit of this resolution. IPE continues to be a pivotal part of medical education, addressing the need for collaboration to train for a multidisciplinary approach to patient care. As the author states, it is important to highlight the unique training and education of physicians and other members of the health care team. However, IPE is already required by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) and the Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) for medical school accreditation. As this is already part of medical school curricula and part of national standards of medical education, we do not believe Missouri medical schools need further guidance or requirements from MSMA. We do see the value in IPE and ask the author to rewrite the resolve clauses to support instead of advocate for IPE curricula that include differences in education and training of physicians. Thank you.

>>>George Hruza, MD - representing self

The second resolved seems to refer to the Whereas portion of the resolution. If the authors want this information to be included in the actionable portion of the resolution, then they should move the relevant sections into the RESOLVED section as the WHEREAS portion is not actionable.

Resolution 18 - Support for Pathology During COVID Pandemic

>>>Edgar Hunt, MD - representing self

Strongly recommend and support.

>>>Khang Le, MD – representing self

I recommend.

>>>Adam Wineinger, MD - representing self

As a former lab tech myself, I know the hard work and dedication that often goes unrecognized. I support this resolution recognizing lab professionals.

>>>Natalie Webster, MD - representing self

I strongly support this resolution to recognize our hardworking clinical laboratory personnel.

This group is often underrecognized and they have been the backbone of COVID testing. They deserve recognition and appreciation for their efforts during this pandemic.

>>>Pablo Hernandez-Rios, MD - representing Pathology

It is really one of the most important medical specialties in dealing with infectious disease, in the supervision of medical laboratories, and in carrying out testing.

>>>Michael Anreder, MD - representing self

I strongly support this resolution!

>>>Clayton Theleman, MD - representing self

I support this resolution, lab staff is unrecognized on a daily basis, particularly during the increased demands secondary to Covid.

>>>Charles Shuman, MD - representing self

I strongly support this resolution. It is time to recognize those, without whose work, the work of others would be impossible.

>>>Jeffrey Craver, MD - representing self

The entire laboratory staff from phlebotomists to laboratory scientists to supervisors to Pathologists had important roles in ensuring that COVID-19 testing was competently performed. I strongly support recognition of this group of laboratory professionals who have performed so well during the pandemic. The state of Missouri benefited from their efforts and accurate testing.

>>>Scott Murphy, MD - representing self

I support public recognition for COVID lab testing personnel!

>>>Wallace McDonald, MD - representing self

I wholeheartedly support Resolution #18. Dr. Gupta, thank you for introducing this resolution.

>>>Bala Somayaji, MD - representing self

I strongly support this acknowledgment of the work, compassion, and dedication from our laboratory professionals -before and during after the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. They are actively engaged in diagnosis and updating SARS-CoV2 results and facing the unknowns to find answers for individuals, doctors, and the public. Their efforts saved lives and are helping bring our state, country, and world out of this unprecedented scourge. They continue to work tirelessly and usually unrecognized to maintain speed, quality, and accuracy in diagnosing and treating disease.

>>>Raghavendra Adiga, MD - representing self

Certainly laboratory professionals have taken a large burden in this pandemic, very silently. Recognition is very much warranted.

>>>Helen Nguyen, MD - representing self

I support the resolution to support pathologists and other clinical laboratory personnel; pathologists are an essential part of the health system. They are usually unrecognized since most of their work is "behind the scenes". However, their work is necessary for accurate diagnosis and therefore treatment.

>>>John Pope, MD – representing self
Thank you.

>>>Robert Corder, MD - representing self
Excellent! Great recognition for a wonderful job!

>>>Michael DePriest, MD - representing self
I strongly support this recognition of our laboratory professionals and pathologists.

>>>Gordon Bell, MD - representing self
I support.

>>>Douglas Shevlin, MD - representing self
I fully support this resolution.

>>>Douglas C Miller MD, PhD - representing Department of Pathology & Anatomical Sciences, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Clinical Professor and Chair
I strongly support this resolution. Pathologists and laboratory scientists and technologists stepped up, set up high-throughput COVID testing laboratories, and ran them sometimes without adequate PPE. They continued the essential laboratory diagnostic work (including autopsies) necessary to keep clinicians informed about their patient's test results and so guided therapy.

>>>Amy Patel, MD - representing self, Missouri Radiological Society
This is an incredible resolution and lab professionals should be acknowledged for the critical work they do and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

>>>Edward Andres, MD – representing self
I agree.

>>>Catherine Lewis, MD - representing self
I support this resolution. We should support the pathologist's and other lab professionals.

>>>Jon Thomason, MD - representing self
I strongly support this resolution to recognize Missouri clinical laboratory personnel, an often under-recognized group in our healthcare system, for their invaluable service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

>>>John Owen, MD - representing self
It is a good idea.

>>>Ossama Tawfik, MD - representing lab professionals
Pathologist's and other lab professionals are under-recognized. It is time to show our appreciation and support.

>>>Jessica Kozel, MD - representing self

I strongly support this acknowledgment of the "behind the scenes" work, compassion, and dedication from our laboratory professionals -before and during after the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. They were the first in diagnosing SARS-CoV2 and facing the unknowns to find answers for individuals, doctors, and the public. Their efforts saved lives and are helping bring our state, country, and world out of this unprecedented scourge. They continue to work tirelessly and usually unrecognized to maintain speed, quality and accuracy in diagnosing and treating disease.

Resolution 19 - HPV Vaccine Insurance Coverage

>>>Madeline Sauer, student – representing MSS

Madeline Sauer, third year medical student at University of Missouri and secretary for MSS-MSMA writing on behalf of the MSS of MSMA, in SUPPORT of this resolution. This resolution calls for MSMA to support two main areas of vaccine legislation. As the resolution explains, there is substantial evidence on the HPV vaccine's benefits on individual and population-based levels on preventing many types of cancers. Supporting legislation that requires vaccine coverage by insurance companies would help decrease healthcare costs by preventing a variety of morbid and potentially lethal sequela of individuals not vaccinated. This resolution would align insurance reimbursement with the current FDA guidelines on the HPV vaccine and increase its availability. Thank you.

Resolution 20 - Universal Broadband Access

>>>Samantha Lund, Medical Student – representing self

Writing on behalf of the authors, in SUPPORT of this resolution. The COVID19 pandemic has proved how vital internet access is for work, school, and health care and has forever changed how we utilize these services. Yet 20% of Missourians lack broadband access (which includes access to cellular data via a smartphone or other mobile device). Even before this pandemic, Healthy People 2020 included internet access as a social determinant of health and the data is clear on the health impacts of internet access. Our AMA supports similar policy and progress has been made on the federal and state level. Support from our MSMA will further demonstrate the remaining need in our state and reflect our belief that all Missourians should have access to modern health care services regardless of their geographic location or socioeconomic level.

>>>George Hruza, MD - representing self

This resolution has a laudable goal that we all should support. However, the MSMA has limited bandwidth (resources) to pursue our legislative agenda. We focus our limited resources on issues that are very focused on healthcare specific items. There are many groups far beyond medicine advocating for broadband access, making MSMA's effort of limited benefit to this cause, yet it might distract for issues that are more pressing and that may not have as broad support by the community at large. I recommend referring this resolution to Council for further consideration.



April 20, 2021

Resolution supporting lab testing personnel approved by the Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) House of Delegates

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MISSOURI - The Missouri Society of Pathologists (MSP) is proud to announce Resolution #18, "Public Recognition for COVID Lab Testing Personnel", introduced in March by MSP President Dr. Chakshu Gupta, was approved unanimously at the MSMA Annual Convention on April 17, 2021.

Clinical laboratory scientists and pathologists have performed testing and delivered results for millions of patients in Missouri and the United States during the pandemic. They withstood long hours under stressful conditions, resource constraints, and personal health concerns from handling COVID-19 samples. Their role in determining appropriate methodologies for clinical care, evaluating test platforms, interpreting patient results, and providing consultative services regarding results has been essential to the fight against COVID-19. Resolution #18 publicly recognizes and expresses gratitude to all clinical laboratory scientists for their untiring, dedicated, and overall outstanding services, and to clinical pathologists for their invaluable medical services to patients during the pandemic.

During the meeting, 27 physicians submitted comments in support of the resolution. A selection of comments has been copied below.

"I strongly support this resolution. Pathologists and laboratory scientists and technologists stepped up, set up high-throughput COVID testing laboratories, and ran them sometimes without adequate PPE. They continued the essential laboratory diagnostic work (including autopsies) necessary to keep clinicians informed about their patient's test results and so guided therapy."

Douglas C. Miller, MD, PhD, representing the Department of Pathology and Anatomical Sciences at the University of Missouri School of Medicine, Clinical Professor and Chair

"This is an incredible resolution and lab professionals should be acknowledged for the critical work they do and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Amy Patel, MD, representing the Missouri Radiological Society

"I strongly support this resolution to recognize our hardworking clinical laboratory personnel. This group is often underrecognized and they have been the backbone of COVID testing. They deserve recognition and appreciation for their efforts during this pandemic."

Natalie Webster, MD, representing herself

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