

# Missouri Society of Pathologists

A PROFESSIONAL NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION OF LABORATORY PHYSICIANS



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## Notes from MSMA Annual Convention April 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The Missouri State Medical Association (MSMA) held its 164<sup>th</sup> annual convention in St. Louis on April 1-3, 2022. The MSMA represents over 4,000 physicians and physicians-in-training from across Missouri and is a strong advocate for our profession at the state Capitol. The MSP works closely with MSMA on legislative issues that affect our own beloved profession of pathology.

### The following are some of my observations:

The annual convention alternates between Kansas City and St. Louis, with the 2023 convention scheduled for March 31 – April 2, 2023, at the Westin Kansas City. The agenda covers business meetings, CME presentations, and legislative updates. As attendees include physicians of varying specialties and practice types, advocacy and governance issues take prominence.

Dr. Alex Hover, a gastroenterologist from Branson, completed his term as President of MSMA. Some of you may remember him as a guest speaker at MSP's May 2021 general meeting. He has been a strong voice for physicians and has supported MSP's advocacy including PCCP payments for clinical pathology work. The MSP looks forward to working closely with Dr. George Hubbell, the incoming MSMA President.

Spouses of MSMA members are eligible to join the [MSMA Alliance](#). This is a fabulous organization that works to support physicians and the health needs of Missouri communities. Some of their initiatives include the Hungry Heroes Project, Holiday Sharing Card fundraisers, and lectures on coping with Covid19 pandemic.

The Missouri Medical Political Action Committee (MMPAC) board meeting was well attended. This is a non-partisan organization that identifies and supports physician friendly candidates at the state Capitol. The MSMA has two full time lobbyists to advocate on our behalf. They are kind enough to alert the MSP if pathology related bills are introduced. As MSP President, I have travelled to Jefferson City to provide testimony on pending legislation, and the MSMA staff have graciously arranged meetings with lawmakers and ensured our voice is heard in relevant committees.

The prevailing sentiment in Jefferson City is in many ways against physicians, and we are facing strong challenges to our scope and autonomy of practice from allied health professional groups. I would strongly urge you to consider becoming a member of the MSMA or supporting the MMPAC by visiting [msma.org](#).

Sincerely,

Chakshu Gupta, MD, MBA

President, Missouri Society of Pathologists

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