

## President's Message by Sarah E. McAchrans, MD, FACS



*Sarah E. McAchrans, MD, FACS*

Dear Wisconsin Urological Society Members,

As I write this, our state is experiencing what we expect to be the peak of the Omicron surge and our state's health care system is working harder and with fewer resources than it has in my career. At times like this, having something to look forward to is more important than ever. After a two-year hiatus, the Wisconsin Urological Society Meeting will return to an "in-person" format the weekend of April 9 - 10, 2022,

at the Edgewater Hotel in Madison. We can all look forward to seeing friends and colleagues once again, and to an outstanding program.

Dr. Angela Smith from the University of North Carolina will be one of our guest speakers. Dr. Smith is a nationally recognized expert in bladder cancer and outcomes research and the 2022 winner of the AUA Gold Cystoscope award. She will be speaking about her research in patient centered outcomes in bladder cancer as well as a topic we can all embrace—the intersection of organization, optimization, efficiency, and wellness.

Dr. Adonis Hijaz will also be joining us from Case Western Reserve University/University Hospitals of Cleveland Medical Center where he serves as the Vice Chair of Academics and Research and as the Director of the Female Pelvic Medicine & Surgery Program. Dr. Hijaz is one of the national leaders in female urology basic science research and he will be sharing his pioneering research on mesh alternatives as well as more about emerging therapies in female urology.

We will also have interactive sessions on bladder cancer and female urology as well as two new faculty presentations. Additionally, we will once again be able to give the Wisconsin urology residents a forum for presenting their work.

Finally, I am very excited to invite everyone to join us at the Annual Banquet on April 9 at one of Madison's newest and most celebrated restaurants, The Harvey House. The Harvey House opened during the pandemic in Madison's Historic Train Depot and is a celebration of Wisconsin's iconic supper clubs. In just a short time, the restaurant has received numerous national accolades including being listed in *Esquire* magazine's "Best New Restaurants in America, 2021" and the Robb Report's "10 Most Beautiful Restaurants That Opened in 2021, From Seattle to Miami."

The Board of Directors and I would like to extend a warm thank you for both your membership and commitment to the WUS. We will be taking every precaution to ensure a safe environment to gather and enjoy an engaging program and the simple pleasure of seeing each other once again.

Best Regards,  
Sarah E. McAchrans, MD, FACS

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**Secretary/Treasurer's Report** by Travis W. Groth, MD



*Travis W. Groth, MD*

A lot has changed since our last in person Wisconsin Urological Society Meeting. I am excited to announce, we are planning on having an in-person Wisconsin Urological Society Meeting this spring in Madison. I look forward to seeing you all on April 9 - 10, 2022, at the Edgewater Hotel in Madison to help usher in the new spring season. We will be taking COVID precautions to make sure that we are going to have the safest meeting possible.

Dr. Sarah McAchran, our society president, has helped put together an outstanding program for this year. We are honored to have two nationally recognized speakers coming to our meeting. Dr. Angela Smith from the University of North Carolina will be giving two lectures on Patient Centered Outcomes of Bladder Cancer and a second lecture on Wellness. The second speaker for the meeting will be Dr. Adonis Hijaz from Cleveland Clinic, who will be giving talks on topics regarding female urology.

We also look forward to new faculty educational lectures, a Wisconsin Urologic Society tradition, from our academic institutions. This year Dr. Kathryn Trandem from Medical College of Wisconsin will be speaking to us along with Dr. Shannon Cannon from University of Wisconsin. We will also be planning to have several patient care based panel discussions with our guest lectures and panelists from the Medical College of Wisconsin, University of Wisconsin, and community.

The Wisconsin Urological Society remains in very good financial standing at this time. As a society, we look forward to missions beyond the annual meeting that benefit urologists and our patients within Wisconsin. We are excited to continue to offer the Pilot Grant for Advancement of Urology in Wisconsin. The purpose of this grant is to help provide pilot funding for novel projects that advance urological care in Wisconsin.

The sustainability and growth of our society depends on our members support along with growth of new members. To accomplish this, please encourage urologists in our state and advanced practice providers to join and be a part of our society.

I look forward to ushering in spring and seeing and hearing from everyone at the Wisconsin Urological Society Annual Meeting on April 9 - 10, 2022, at the Edgewater Hotel in Madison.

Best Wishes,

Travis W. Groth, MD  
WUS Secretary/Treasurer

# Government Affairs and Advocacy Update



Ross E. Weber

## Medicare cuts temporarily averted

On Friday, December 10, President Biden signed legislation to halt Medicare physician payment cuts that were scheduled to take effect on January 1. Highlights of the physician payment provisions include:

- A three-month delay in resuming the 2% Medicare sequester (now scheduled to resume March 31), followed by a reduction to 1% for three months (through

June 30, 2022).

- A one-year increase in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule of 3% (0.75% less than the conversion factor boost provided for 2021).
- A one-year delay to the 4% Medicare PAY-GO cut, clinical lab fee cuts, and radiation oncology payment demonstration.

## Surprise billing regulations take effect amid legal fight

The latest regulations to implement the No Surprises Act face challenges from lawmakers and several health care organizations. In a joint AMA-AHA statement, the groups announced that they are challenging a specific federal rule that “ignores requirements specified in the No Surprises Act and would result in reduced access to care for patients.”

The contested provision, created by the federal regulatory bodies after the bill was passed, mandates an independent dispute resolution process that presumes the median in-network rate set by insurers is the appropriate out-of-network rate that physicians and hospitals may charge. The American Hospital Association and AMA charge, “The skewed process will ultimately reduce access to care by discouraging meaningful contracting negotiations, reducing provider networks, and encouraging unsustainable compensation for teaching hospitals, physician practices, and other providers that significantly benefit patients and communities.”

Additionally, on Nov. 5, 2021, 152 members of Congress wrote a letter seeking a revision of the provision. “[The provision] is contrary to statute and could incentivize insurance companies to set artificially low payment rates, which would narrow provider networks and jeopardize patient access to care — the exact opposite of the goal of the law,” the lawmakers wrote. “It could also have a broad impact on reimbursement for in-network services, which could exacerbate existing health disparities and patient access issues in rural and urban underserved communities.”

## Medical malpractice fund continues premium holiday due to COVID-19

The board overseeing the state’s medical malpractice fund has approved a premium holiday for the next fiscal year, the third in a row due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Full-time physicians will save between \$382 and \$2,521 depending on specialty, with residents saving \$229 and part-time or retired physicians saving \$95. The IPFCF will be providing Fund coverage for all Fund participants free of charge from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. ([Wisconsin Medical Society](#))

## Compromise reached on naturopathic doctor bill

Naturopathic doctors have reached a compromise on a bill to license and regulate their profession in Wisconsin, after a previous version of the plan drew concerns that it would grant them authority too close to that of physicians and fence out practitioners already using the title. (Wisconsin Health News)

## Proposed bipartisan legislation would allow recent veterans with medical training to temporarily practice without a license

A bill recently introduced in the state Legislature would allow recent vets to provide limited health care without a license under supervision of a physician, physician assistant, podiatrist, registered professional nurse or advanced practice nurse. Supporters say the training of Army medics and Navy corpsman provides a comparable baseline to a year and a half of nursing school. Under the proposed Wisconsin legislation, military medical personnel would sign a memorandum of understanding detailing their scope of practice and establish a timeline to acquire a license from the Medical Examining Board, the Podiatry Affiliated Credentialing Board, the Physician Assistant Affiliated Credentialing Board or the Board of Nursing. ([Wisconsin Public Radio](#))

## Independent Nursing Bill gets split committee vote, advances

Despite strong objections from nearly a dozen physician organizations, legislation that would allow certain Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRN) to diagnose, treat and prescribe drugs to patients as independent providers advanced out of the Senate Committee on Health December 7, with Senate Bill 394 receiving a 3-2 vote in favor of passage. ([Wisconsin Medical Society](#))



# Wisconsin Urological Society 2022 Annual Meeting

April 9 - 10, 2022

*Edgewater Hotel | Madison, Wisconsin*

## Join Us in April!

Online registration is open for the Wisconsin Urological Society 2022 Annual Meeting. The event will be held April 9 - 10, 2022 at the Edgewater Hotel in Madison, Wisconsin.  
[wisurol.com/register](https://wisurol.com/register)

The program committee has prepared an excellent scientific program presented by expert faculty. The meeting content provides current and relevant information that will provide an immediate impact on patient care. The program includes important topics as well as many relevant topics.

## Program Highlights

### **New Faculty Presentation: Disparities in Pediatric Urology**

Speaker: Shannon Cannon, MD  
*University of Wisconsin, Madison*

### **NCS Visiting Professor Lecture: Emerging Therapies in Female Urology**

NCS Visiting Professor: Adonis K. Hijaz, MD  
*University Hospital Cleveland Medical Center*

### **State-of-the-Art Lecture: Patient Center Outcomes in Bladder Cancer**

Guest Speaker: Angela B. Smith, MD, MS, FACS  
*University of North Carolina*

To view the full program schedule visit the WUS meeting site: [wisurol.com/schedule](https://wisurol.com/schedule)

## Mark Your Calendars



**North Central Section of the AUA, Inc.**

**96TH ANNUAL MEETING  
AUGUST 28 - 31, 2022**

Sheraton Grand Chicago  
Chicago, IL



**American Urological Association**

**2022 ANNUAL MEETING  
MAY 13 - 16, 2022**

New Orleans, LA