



Michigan Society for Respiratory Care

Chartered Affiliate of the American Association for Respiratory Care

MESSENGER

PRESIDENTIAL VISION FOR 2023

Brian Wicker – MSRC President



I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to lead the Michigan Society for Respiratory Care this year as President. In my 31 years as a Respiratory Therapist, I am constantly amazed at the resiliency and innovative nature of our specialty.

Specifically, over the last three years, COVID has shown the world how imperative respiratory therapists are to the infrastructure of healthcare. To say I am both proud and inspired by those resilient RTs who withstood the brute force of the pandemic is an understatement. Their commitment to their patients is a testament to the amazing and selfless individuals that they are. What makes a great leader is not the position itself, but the goals and actions they strive to achieve, and the team they are able to inspire.

My vision as MSRC President is to continue pushing the boundaries of Respiratory Care and to change how healthcare is delivered. Our specialty is incredibly adaptable. My team has shown this through our 'RT at Home' program, in which a respiratory therapy navigator arranges home visits with patients living with COPD who were recently discharged from our hospital. This has resulted in a dramatic decrease in re-admission rates for patients with respiratory illnesses and our patient's overall well-being has dramatically improved. The success of this program would not be possible without my colleague and Respiratory Therapy Navigator, Kelly Long, RRT. Our work was recently showcased at the 2022 National AARC Congress Annual Meeting in New Orleans, and I hope this type of program motivates others to explore launching similar at-home programs of their own to improve patient care.

[Continued on page 2]



Breathing life into your career

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Presidential Vision.....1, 2
- The Power to Make a Difference.....2
- Past President Reflections.....3,4
- 2022 Election Results.....5
- Meet the Executive Board.....6, 7
- Treasurer Update.....8
- .NBRC & CoARC Updates9
- AARC Updates.....10, 11, 12
- AARC Save the Dates.....13
- MSRC Spring Conference Save the Date.....14
- New Members and Upcoming Events.....15

[Continued from page 1]

Another vision I have for the MSRC is to continue to provide educational and team-building opportunities for new and experienced RTs throughout Michigan. If you surround yourself with driven individuals who support a similar mission, you will achieve the best outcomes for your patients and cultivate a healthy workplace environment.

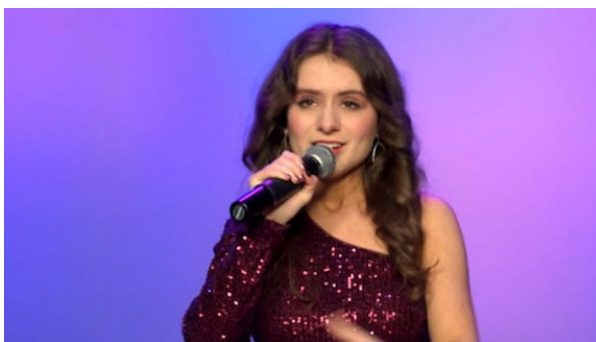
A little background on me: I am the Director of Respiratory Services; wound, hyperbaric, sleep, cardiac, and pulmonary rehab at McLaren Lapeer Region. I have had the privilege of working there for the last 27 years. I began my career as an Adult Critical Care Respiratory Therapist and have since focused a large portion of my career on becoming an effective leader in management and teaching. Additionally, I have served on the MSRC as a District Representative, and I am an Institutional Review Board (IRB) Member at our system for research. I believe leaders are always students and should constantly seek additional education and training; therefore, I am currently pursuing an advanced healthcare degree at Central Michigan University. I am happily married and have two amazing daughters, both actively pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. Because my passion for work is such an integral part of my life, I have always strived to make the workplace an enjoyable place for all and have remained Chair of Workplace of Choice which includes hosting fun after-work activities such as cornhole, dodgeball, and lip sync battles. Collectively, my skills and abilities will allow me to successfully fulfill the position of MSRC President, and I hope to continue to highlight our amazing profession.

Again, thank you so much! I look forward to serving as the 2023 MSRC President! I can be reached by email at rrtbrian@aol.com.

The Power to Make a Difference

See how RTs save and improve lives every day; click on the link below to view **'Unstoppable: Brianna Collichio's story'**

<https://www.moreerts.com/patient-stories/>



REFLECTIONS FROM 2022

Jonathan Vono– Past President



As I sit to write this end-of-year 2022 president's message, I am reminded of how short, fragile, and special life is.

As many of you know, our respiratory community lost a lifelong practitioner, Tracie Golden, to an act of senseless violence. On behalf of myself and the MSRC House, I want to share our deepest sympathies with her family, friends, and coworkers. This senseless act of violence reminds me to reach out to every one of you and to remind you to be safe and practice situational awareness. Watch out for each other, take care of each other, and be kind to each other. Life is precious, and our time on earth is short. Cherish it, live every day to its fullest, be kind to everyone as we may not know what someone is going through, and you may just be a shining light that makes a difference for someone struggling.

Recently, we also saw how the general public does not understand what we do in healthcare daily. I am speaking about the Buffalo Bills player that had CPR administered on the field. Watching CPR firsthand strongly impacted everyone watching, while for healthcare workers it is a part of our normal day-to-day. I read that a Respiratory Therapist on the Bills staff was first to administer CPR (GO RT), although there are conflicting reports as to who started this life-saving measure. Once again, an RT is in the spotlight. As a community of Respiratory Therapists, we need to keep sending our message out. Nobody can advocate better for us than us.

COVID made us a household name, but many still do not know all that we do or how many different areas of healthcare we touch and impact. From the cradle to the grave there is almost always some sort of Respiratory Therapy intervention needed and we are there.

As I asked in my opening remarks at the 2022 Spring Conference: I ask you, the RTs of Michigan, to spread our message, story, and values! Advocate for your profession, department, coworkers, yourselves, and your patients. Write to your federal, state, and local politicians so they can get to know who we are, all we do, the lives we touch, the care we provide, the compassion we give, and the collaborative work we do with other healthcare professions. I also implore you to get your RRT. In Michigan we are looking to make entry-level into the profession a minimum of a Bachelor's degree, because we are lagging behind other allied healthcare professionals in this area. Progress requires people to continue their education and think outside the box for career development and advancement.

While Respiratory Therapy can be a launching point into other healthcare areas, respiratory has many places to grow and advance.

[Continued on page 4]

[Continued from page 3]

We need educators both in academia and within healthcare systems. We need leaders and researchers, passionate about the profession as much as they are about growing people to be the best they can be. Hopefully, the Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapy Degree will soon have a credentialing body so we can branch out into even more areas and provide higher levels of care to all. With new opportunities on the horizon, such as telehealth, advances in sleep medicine, hypoventilation clinics, ALS, and other neuromuscular diseases, RTs can have a considerable impact. And don't forget health informatics, the ever-growing EMR world, and the need to extract data to look at and identify opportunities for improvement in how we provide care and treatment to our patients.

Welcome to our new and returning credentialed members, new students, and returning students getting ready to join the ranks of the credentialed practitioners. Welcome to the new leaders in the MSRC. The sky is the limit on where we can go, but we cannot go forward if we are unwilling to advocate for ourselves. Please join a committee, run for office, run for a section leader appointment, and help us drive forward. You are our future. Let us be advocates for our patients and ourselves. We must be willing to accept the challenges and reach for the stars.

It has been a great honor to represent you and our profession as President of the MSRC. I hope I have made a small difference in the profession.

Thank you and have a great year. Remember to be kind to everyone and take care of yourselves.



2023 MSRC HOUSE ELECTION RESULTS

2022-2023 Election Results		
President Elect	Shane Spaulding	
District 2	Duane Croel	
District 4	Vacant	
District 6	Helen Grim	Connie Lane
District 8	Kathy Gurin	Tami Stafford
District 10	Roger Reichenbach Liz Santamaria	
Acute Care Chair-Elect	Brittney Rankin	
Asthma Chair-Elect	Vacant	
Diagnostics Chair-Elect	Vacant	
Education Chair-Elect	Helen Grim	
Home Care Chair-Elect	Bill Hart	
Long Term Chair-Elect	Vacant	
Management Chair-Elect	Jessica Sturgill	
NeoPeds Chair-Elect	Kayla Ford	
Pulmonary Rehab-Chair	Vacant	
Sleep Medicine Chair-Elect	Vacant	
Transport Chair-Elect	Tony Iannetta	
Medical Advisors	Paul Bozyk	Vacant

Click [here](#) for a complete list of MSRC House Members.

Thank you for all that you do!

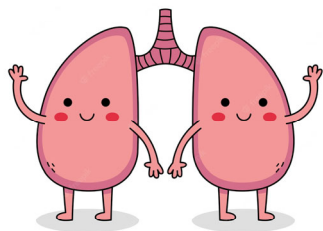
If you are interested in getting involved with the MSRC or filling a vacant position, please contact Keeli Baker at kbaker@mhsa.com.



MEET THE NEW 2023 MSRC EXECUTIVE BOARD!

The executive committee works hard to make sure all Michigan therapists are informed. A few of the topics that the board is working on are:

- Continuing education for licensed RT's
- Limited licenses/licensing for RT students
- RRT as the entry level credential of licensure
- Standards for professional competency in the practice of respiratory care
- Respiratory Care services as skilled therapy services
- Delegation of RT procedures in the community residential setting



PRESIDENT

BRIAN WICKER RRT-NPS



PRESIDENT ELECT

SHANE SPAULDING MHPE, RRT-ACCS



PAST PRESIDENT

JONATHAN VONOMBAA, RRT



SECRETARY

JESSICA CUSAC MA, RRT-ACCS



MEET THE NEW 2023 MSRC EXECUTIVE BOARD!

TREASURER

KELLY FIORINO MS, RRT-ACCS



AARC DELEGATE

TEENA CULHANE BHK, RRT



AARC DELEGATE

NICHOLAS PRUSH PHD, MHA, RRT-ACCS



TREASURER UPDATE

Kelly Fiorino



The past year has been a tumultuous time for many people financially. The MSRC is no different- we had our ups and downs in 2022. As a not-for-profit organization, funds are put towards providing CEUs, educational events, and lobbying for our members. We were able to have in-person conferences again, which made 2022 the first year since 2020 that we have not had to use funds from our savings account. It felt good to reconnect with everyone again at Spring and Fall Conferences! Additional revenue streams included our annual Golf Outing and membership revenue sharing with the AARC. Revenue sharing with the AARC means that for every Michigan RT who is an AARC member, the MSRC gets a small amount of money from the AARC. By being an AARC member, you are helping us be able to provide many services to the RTs in Michigan! Thank you for your support. We are looking forward to another great year in 2023 and hope to see you at our conferences!

NBRC and CoARC UPDATES



- On track with the launch of the exam in 2027
- Detailed content outline available in 2025
- Funded **2 million dollars** to provide **\$5,000** to each RT program in the U.S. to assist with recruitment and to promote the profession
- NBRC has assumed the AE-C credential and it is now available on the website to obtain
- Public Awareness Campaign; goal is to promote teaching as a 'pathway', career ladders
- 2021 membership: 18,5000
- CSE exam has been the highest over the past few years



Dr. Tom Smalling-NBRC CEO

- Received 36 letter so intent in 2022; most requests are for a combination of AS, BA, and Master's programs
- Many requests for increased enrollment in 2022
- As of Sept 1st, 2022, will need to submit a request for Substantive changes to permanently change to online/virtual format
- Revision to the Entry Standards to be released in Jan 2025 (last revision was done in 2010); there will be a focus on differentiated competencies and degrees

AARC UPDATES

AARC House of Delegate Winter Meeting November 7-9th, 2023 New Orleans, LA



Michigan AARC
Delegates
Nicholas Prush, Ph.D.,
MHA, RRT
Teena Culhane, BHK,
RRT

Guest speaker: Dean Hess: Editor-in-Chief; RC Journal



- RC Journal update: October 2022 was the final issue available in print
- 462 research submissions and 156 accepted in 2022
- Considering a 2nd tier journal to include submissions that weren't included in the RC Journal as well as a potential forum for 'soft science' such as case studies, teaching cases, short reports

Dr. Lynda Goodfellow: Director of Clinical Practice Guideline Development/AARC



- New Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG's) using PICO (Population/Intervention/Comparison/Outcome)
- Patient-Ventilator Assessment (PVA):
- 8 PICO's to be developed; the first 4 will focus on lung protection strategies, airway interface, telemedicine
- Draft of the first manuscript available March 2023
- Future CPG's: SBTs, Oxygen transition from the hospital to the home

AARC UPDATES

Government Affairs: Miriam O'Day: Director of Government Affairs-AARC



- AARC worked with a select group of representatives of the ATS Pulmonary Rehab workgroup to finalize updates to the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Toolkit. The update reflects recent changes in coverage and coding and was reviewed on a webinar hosted by AACVPR. The AARC has yet to select a date but will convene a webinar to promote the toolkit. COVID diagnosis is included for Pulmonary Rehab.
- Virtual Visitation for Pulmonary Rehab extended Through January 11, 2023.
- PR Direct to Virtual supervision- AARC recommended that CMS make permanent direct supervision through virtual presence via real-time, audio-visual telecommunications technology in the final CY 2023 update to the physician fee schedule so Medicare beneficiaries can continue to receive cardiac and pulmonary rehabilitation services that can improve their lives
- The AARC continues to participate with the very active Alliance for Connected Care.
- PREVENT Act Package successfully passed the House of Representatives and is now stalled in the Senate as part of a larger healthcare package S.3799 called “PREVENT”.

The PREVENT ACT includes the language from the Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act, which would increase educational opportunities for respiratory therapists and the other allied health professions for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds or who are underrepresented in the profession.

- Four Pillars for Oxygen Reform legislation
 - Ensure supplemental oxygen is patient-centric
 - Change “home oxygen” to “supplemental oxygen” to ensure people requiring oxygen can live full lives outside their primary residence
 - Create a patients’ bill of rights to ensure care is focused on patient needs
 - Ensure access to liquid oxygen for patients for whom it is medically necessary. Liquid Oxygen access has reduced by 80%.
 - Create a statutory service element to provide adequate reimbursement for respiratory therapists to ensure patients have access to their expertise
 - To ensure predictable and adequate reimbursement and to protect against fraud and abuse, establish national standardized documentation requirements that rely upon a template rather than prescriber medical records to support claims for supplemental oxygen suppliers.
- Pact Meeting will be in person September 25-26, 2023
- Allied Health Workforce Diversity Act of 2021 (to increase diversity within Allied health professions); Bill passed the House and has been included in a package called PREVENT to be voted on in 2023
- Rich Branson is leading a committee to create a formal comment including recommendations/guidance which will be submitted to the FDA regarding how pulse oximeters misread when used with people of color

AARC UPDATES

AARC Executive Office Update: Dan Garrett



- Search to begin for new AARC CFO
- Rebranding initiative; emphasis placed on how a brand is not just a logo, it's a culture and how we live, breathe and sleep....Who are we? What do we provide? A firm has been hired to assist with this initiative and to be presenting to the Board in early 2023
- We're at 70% for attendance at our conferences since the pandemic; national average is 60-80%
- Since the hiring of the new Membership Director in Sept 2022, membership retention has increased to 69% from 67% in August; a successful association should be at least at 80%; AARC goal is 85%; current membership is 39,483 members
- Member tracker; started Nov 1st, survey to active/lapsed/non-members early professionals; will be done annually
- New Membership Advisory Committee formed

Resolutions:



- Resolution: # 67-22-4
Resolution Author: Dennis Guillot State: Louisiana Resolution Co-sponsors: Washington, Utah, Idaho, Colorado
'Resolved that the AARC Board of Directors and Executive Office collaborate with the State Affiliate Charters and the House of Delegates to develop an Early Professional Leadership Council that is given voice and input on the direction that the AARC is going for the future'
- Approved by the House of Delegates

FUTURE AARC MEETINGS



Future **Congress** locations:

- o 2023- Nashville, TN
- o 2024 – Orlando, FL
- o 2025-Phoenix, AZ

Future **Summer Forum** Locations

- o 2023 – Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- o 2024 – Snowbird, UT
- o 2025 – Ft. Lauderdale, FL



BEYOND THE BEDSIDE 2023

University of Michigan Health– Respiratory Care Learner Symposium

On February 2nd, Respiratory Care students from different programs joined University of Michigan Health for a one day symposium at the Big House! There were many different speakers from Michigan Medicine:

Dr. Philip Choi, Medical Director AH Respiratory Care

Pat Posa, RN, MSA, CCRN-K, FAAN, Quality and Patient Safety Program Manager

Dr. Jacqueline Meadow, Attending Assistant Professor, Pediatrics and Neonatology

Dr. Jose (Pepe) De Cardenas, Director of the Interventional Pulmonology Program

Mark Konkle and Teresa Keppler, Directors of Respiratory Care

After the educational lectures and networking, the students had the opportunity to tour the Michigan locker room and practice their throws on the football field. Go Blue!



Dr. Philip Choi speaking to students about management of chronic CO2 retainers



The Michigan locker room and football field during the tour



SAVE THE DATE!

MSRC Live/Virtual Spring Conference

March 28th-30th

Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center
100 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo MI 49007

REGISTRATION: [2023 Spring Conference - Michigan Society for Respiratory Care \(michiganrc.org\)](https://michiganrc.org/2023-spring-conference)

See the [MSRC Website](https://michiganrc.org) for a tentative agenda and hotel reservation code!



Sputum Bowl is back! [Practitioners](#) and [student](#) teams are welcome! Click the hyperlinks for registration forms.

Hope to see you there!

MSRC

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THE AARC

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Please email any articles, pictures, events, etc., that you would like to see in the Newsletter to Nick Prush

ADVERTISEMENTS

For advertising information, contact MSRC Society administrator Keeli Baker (517) 267-3909 124 West Allegan, Suite 1900, Lansing, MI 48933 info@michiganrc.org

WELCOME NEW MSRC MEMBERS!

- Diane Benton, Wales
- Carolyn Buclay, Gaylord
- Thomas Denhardt, Greenwood
- Patsy Gonzales Martens, Rochester Hills
- Anna Krausz, Ionia
- Sarah Parker, Jackson
- John Radziszewski, Jackson
- Scott Williquette, Kalamazoo
- Ryan Brenner, Hudsonville
- Diane Chopp, Plainwell
- Kiersten Gahan, Jenison
- Dee Her, Warren
- Matthew Micallef, Saint Clair Shores
- Linda Petty, Rockwood
- Marci Smigiel, Dorr
- Wendy Woniewski, Byron Center
- Jennifer Brock, Allendale
- Michael Clark, Sparta
- Sean Game Brown, Battle Creek
- Nicole Korbal, Southgate
- April Murray, Bloomfield Hills
- Kylie Porter, Portage
- Luther Sprague, Allendale

To renew or become a member click [here](#)

UPCOMING MSRC EVENTS

Please see the website www.michiganrc.org for more details on the following events:

- MSRC Spring Conference 2023: March 28th-30th
- MSRC Golf Outing: Friday, August 4th