

MISSOURI GI SOCIETY

SCOPE IT OUT

SAVE THE DATE

Second Annual MOGI Meeting
in Kansas City

Saturday, September 19

Take A Peek Inside

- President's Corner
- Member Spotlight
- Legislative Update
- Case of the quarter
- Invitation to Join



MOGI Board members Elizabeth Marsicano and Dayna Early at the MSMA Annual Physician Advocacy Day in Jeff City

MISSOURI GI SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Missouri GI Society is an organization for Gastroenterologists by Gastroenterologists from around Missouri. We are focused on improving GI care throughout the state as a group of individuals who care about our patients and GI community. As a growing and robust organization, we will continue to focus on education and camaraderie; as well as advocating for improved GI reimbursement, insurance and payer issues, as well as GI regulatory reforms state-wide.

We are very excited to have our second annual in-person meeting for MOGI Society, and we are excited to host GI physicians from around the state.

September 19th, 2026
Kansas City

To do this work in advocating for our specialty, we need the participation of all the GI physicians in the state, on education, advocacy, and involvement. If we do not lend our support and voices, nobody will. We need to advocate for our members and patients; because if we do not have a seat at the table, others will decide our specialty for us. Impacts on GI can only be managed if we strive to work together; for ourselves and our patients. I urge you to come join us at MOGI and see what the future holds. Come join us in Kansas City this Fall for our second annual meeting!



Sheetal Sharma, MD, FACG

President, Missouri GI Society (MOGI)

MISSOURI GI SOCIETY

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



COLUMBIA ENDOSCOPY CENTER BY GASTROINTESTINAL ASSOCIATES

The Columbia Endoscopy Center by Gastrointestinal Associates is a premier private practice in the heart of Missouri. Established in 2004, this physician-owned practice has excelled in caring for mid-Missourians in and around Columbia, MO. Located just east of downtown Columbia, Columbia Endoscopy Center specializes in numerous GI procedures. With an affiliation with Boone County Hospital, gastroenterologists at the Center perform advanced procedures as well. This 7-person group is not only talented, but has the most years of experience in all of Columbia, MO.

Dr. Bradley Anderson graduated medical school from the University of Missouri – Kansas City and completed his GI fellowship training at the Mayo Clinic. Furthermore, he continued his training with an advanced motility fellowship at Mayo Clinic. With numerous publications, he is an experienced, well-respected leader in the GI community and beyond.

MISSOURI GI SOCIETY

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Ameena Anees graduated medical school from Gandhi Medical College in India and completed her GI fellowship at the University of Missouri – Columbia. Having advanced training, Dr. Anees works in Columbia, MO, as well as Moberly, MO, just north of Columbia.

Dr. Peter Cleavinger is a physician-scientist, graduating medical school and graduate school (PhD in Molecular Microbiology & Immunology) at the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Dr. Kevin Halsey is a product of Columbia, MO, as well. Being raised in mid-Missouri, Dr. Halsey graduated medical school from the University of Missouri and GI fellowship at the University of Maryland, where he received his advanced endoscopy training. He specializes in advanced GI techniques, such as EUS, ERCP, and Barrett's esophagus treatment.

Dr. Nicholas Llorens graduated medical school and GI fellowship from the University of Missouri – Columbia.

Dr. Matthew Struttman graduated medical school at the University of Missouri – Columbia but completed his fellowship at the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Michael Williams graduated medical school at the University of Missouri – Columbia and GI fellowship at St. Louis University.

Columbia Endoscopy Center by Gastrointestinal Associates is an exceptional GI practice. With many locally trained physicians with years of practice experience, mid-Missouri patients are in good hands for all of their gastroenterology needs.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

We began March with ‘Physician Advocacy Day,’ where physicians from all over Missouri gathered to meet with our respective legislators to discuss issues and upcoming legislation. It is important to learn to effectively communicate and advocate on behalf of ourselves and our patients. Over the next weeks, the legislative session committees are wrapping up their work, and the legislature turns its focus to passing a balanced budget.

Both chambers continue to grapple with large, wide-ranging healthcare bills in the final weeks. The House version (HB 2372) waits for action in the Senate, while the Senate version (SB 841) saw vigorous debate. The Senate bill attracted a flood of amendments. Physicians succeeded in adding common-sense limits on the sale of ivermectin and hydroxychloroquine, and expanded physician participation in the “Food is Medicine” program. Notably, prior authorization reform remains absent in both bills—for now.

Although the standalone prior authorization reform bill (HB 3010) stalled in committee, the Senate debate revealed valuable insights and potential future pathways. A promising amendment to establish a statewide electronic prior authorization interface—eliminating the outdated fax-driven process—sparked strong reactions from insurers and some legislators who sought to dilute key physician protections. While the bill was set aside for the moment, the sponsor refused to compromise on measures that would leave physicians behind. The takeaway: there are clear champions in both chambers and a well-defined map of where the opposition stands.

Meanwhile, two professional registration bills (SB 1083 and SB 1233) advanced. These large bills address licensing, reciprocity, telehealth, and physician assistant compacts.

The Missouri Medical Association website provides tools to easily identify and contact your representatives as well as the opportunity to donate to the Missouri Medical Political Action Committee. www.msma.org

Follow us at [@MOGISociety](https://twitter.com/MOGISociety)

PHYSICIAN ADVOCACY

As this session races toward the finish line, it's crucial for Missouri's physicians to stay engaged. Here's what you can do:

- Contact your legislators. A brief call or email sharing how prior authorization delays harm patient care can make an impact.
- Strengthen your relationships with physician champions. Encourage those who have stood firm for us this session—gratitude builds long-term allies.
- Join advocacy efforts. Participate in legislative updates and physician action networks.
- Stay informed and visible. Even outside of session, continue educating policymakers on the realities of practice and patient care.

(**above adapted from the MSMA legislative report)



MSMA/MAOPS End of Legislative Session Recap

Register: [Click here to register!](#)

Topic: End of Legislative Session Recap

Join MSMA lobbyists Jacob Scott and Rachel Bauer for presentation on how things went down in the 2026 Legislative Session. After the presentation there will be ample time for questions and any points of discussion. As always, thank you for your membership and support. We look forward to the discussion and be sure to secure your spot by registering today!

When: Sunday, May 17 - 6:00 pm

CASE OF THE QUARTER

50-year-old male presents with jaundice and is noted to have elevated liver enzymes with AST 1945 and ALT 3253. Viral hepatitis panels are negative. Other chronic liver disease work-up is negative except for a positive ANA, but negative ASMA. He reports taking a “Men’s vitality supplement” he bought online.

After 1 week in the hospital, his liver enzymes improved and his bilirubin trended down from 12 to 8, he is discharged home.

He returns 2 weeks later with worsening jaundice and fatigue and is noted to have worsening of his liver enzymes and bilirubin again. He denies taking any new medications or restarting his previously discussed supplements. His biopsy shows Interface hepatitis with plasma cells infiltrate.

What is the most likely cause of this patient’s liver disease?

- A. Drug induced liver injury
- B. Alcohol associated hepatitis
- C. Autoimmune Hepatitis
- D. Hepatic Lymphoma

This month’s case brought to you by Drs. Marina Kim and Halim Bou Daher

Click link for answer: <https://www.missourigi.org/mogi-society-case-answers>

BECOME A MEMBER

Become a member of the Missouri Gastroenterology Society and keep up to date on the latest issues affecting GI providers throughout our state! Join by scanning the QR code or visit <https://www.missourigi.org/membership>.

Membership in the Society offers the following benefits:

- Complimentary registration to the MO GI Society's Annual Meeting
- Ability to Earn MOC Points and AMA PRA Category 1 Credit
- Establish new connections with gastroenterologists from around the state and share ideas about making all GI providers successful well into the future
- Advocate for the profession on legislative, regulatory, and payer (both public and private) issues state-wide.

