



DELAWARE
ACADEMY of
MEDICINE



Issue 73
Mar 2025

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In this newsletter:

- Academy/DPHA News
- Delaware News: H5 in SC, DE Reading & Math Scores, DHSA Comps
- National News: TX Measles, Family Caregiving Rises, Bird Flu & CDC Freeze
- Global News: USAID Freeze, DRC Health Crisis, Japanese Reparations Law

The Academy/DPHA News

Join the Academy/DPHA for DoMore24



DoMore24 Delaware is almost here! Help us make an impact by visiting our [campaign page](#) at the Academy/DPHA DoMore24 Fundraiser and clicking "**Remind me to donate.**" By entering your email, you'll receive a notification when giving opens on **March 6, 2025.**

Please spread the word by sharing our fundraiser with your networks—every reminder and donation helps us advance public health and medical education in Delaware.

Join us for a special [livestream](#) on March 6, 2025, from 8:15 PM to 8:20 PM, hosted by Spur Impact and United Way of Delaware, to celebrate this day of giving together.

Thank you for your support—let's make this our best DoMore24 yet!

Frank M. and Robert R. Hoopes Medical/ Dental Lecture

About the Hoopes Family Fund

When Rob's father and dental partner Frank Hoopes died in 1976, Rob's mother Edna, his family, and donors of gifts for "Dr. Frank," established this lecture fund to provide honoraria for expert speakers to provide continuing dental education in Delaware. While

the lectures have been open to the public, actively practicing dentists and physicians are the target audience. Frank Hoopes was ahead of his time in recognizing this need; he was especially interested in medical-dental collaboration.

During his retirement, Rob was engaged in updating the lecture program. The funds are now managed by the Delaware Community Foundation who send an annual donation to the Delaware Academy of Medicine who work with the Delaware State Dental Society to design and present the Annual Hoopes Lecture.

2025 HOOPES MEDICAL/DENTAL LECTURE



March 27, 2025
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM



Christiana Wilmington Hospital
Gateway Conference Center
501 W. 14th St, Wilmington, DE 19801



Guest Speaker

Vishesh Agarwal, MD, EMBA
Vice Chair of Department of
Psychiatry, Christiana Care

Registration



delamed.org

DRINKS & LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

[Register Here](#)

DJPH Submission Deadline Extended!

Delaware Journal of

Public Health

A publication of the Delaware Academy of Medicine / Delaware Public Health Association

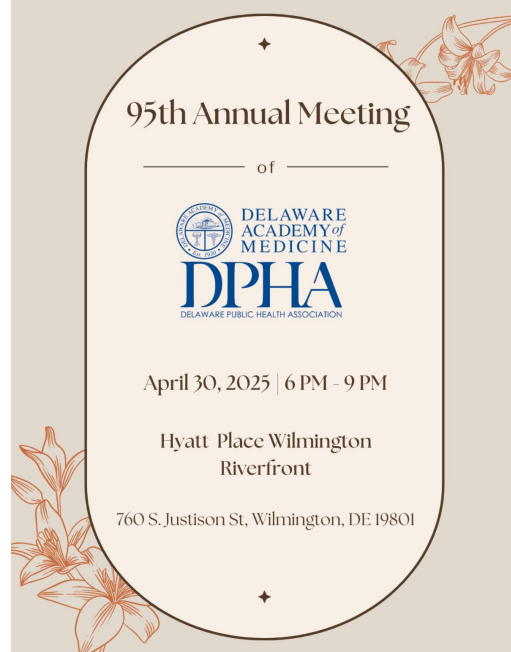
The Delaware Journal of Public Health (DJPH) has extended the submission deadline for its upcoming issue, "Global Health in an Interconnected World," to March 15, 2025.

Submit your article here: <https://djph.org/submissions/upcoming-issues/>

The Academy/DPHA 2025 Annual Meeting

Join President, **Lynn C. Jones, LFACHE**, and the board and staff of the Academy/DPHA at the Hyatt Place Wilmington Riverfront as we honor Dr. Anand Panwalker, and Delaware State University, hear from Sidney Kimmel Medical College Dean (Thomas Jefferson University) **Dr. Said Ibrahim**, and welcome new Academy/DPHA President, **Stephen C. Eppes, MD!**

Date: Wednesday, April 30, 2025
Time: 6:00 – 9:00 PM
Location: Hyatt Place Wilmington
Riverfront



[Register Here](#)

DYMA Hosts Physical Exam Skills Workshop!

On February 1st, 2025, the Delaware Youth Medical Academy (DYMA) held its first in-person workshop at the ChristianaCare John H. Ammon Medical Education Center, focused on physical exam skills. Led by JeffMentors from Sidney Kimmel Medical College, students had the opportunity to engage in hands-on learning, practicing essential clinical skills such as blood pressure measurement, heart and lung sound auscultation, and reflex testing.

This interactive session provided students with a deeper understanding of how physical exam findings contribute to differential diagnoses in patient care. We were thrilled to see such enthusiastic participation and thoughtful questions from our scholars!

We look forward to our next workshop this month, a Clinical Skills Practice Session focused on history-taking and differential diagnosis formulation. This interactive learning experience will provide students with structured guidance from medical students as they refine their clinical reasoning skills.



Think your child may want to become a member? [Click here](#) to learn how.

Delaware Mini Medical School

This series, co-sponsored by Nemours Children's Health, will focus exclusively on children's health and pediatrics.



The poster for the Delaware Mini Medical School series features a green and blue color scheme. At the top, it says "DELAWARE MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL" in white text on a green background, with "Wednesdays, 6:30-8pm" below it. A QR code is in the top right corner. The main body lists seven sessions with their dates and topics. At the bottom, there are logos for the Delaware Academy of Medicine, DPHA, DHF Delaware Health Force, and Nemours Children's Health.

Date	Topic	Speaker
FEB 26	WHAT IS A RESPIRATORY THERAPIST?	MIKE TREUT, RESPIRATORY CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR AND KEITH JAMES, RESPIRATORY CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR
MAR 5	JOURNEY TO A PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN	DR. ANNA BARTON, FELLOW EMERGENCY SERVICES AND DR. MEGAN FEICK, FELLOW EMERGENCY SERVICES
MAR 12	LIFE AS A PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIAN	DR. AMANI SANCHEZ, PEDIATRIC EMERGENCY MEDICINE PHYSICIAN
MAR 19	BECOMING A PEDIATRIC ICU DOCTOR; FROM AFRICA TO THE US	DR. ODIRAA NWANKWOR, CRITICAL CARE STAFF INTENSIVIST
MAR 26	PEDIATRIC ADVANCED PRACTICE PROVIDERS, WHO WE ARE / WHAT WE DO.	DR. STACEY BACHMAN, VIP AMBULATORY AND ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING
APR 2	JOURNEY TO BECOME A PEDIATRIC NURSE	JULIE FAUSNAUGH, NURSE MANAGER, ACUTE CARE
APR 9	MAKE UP SESSION - ONLY IF NEEDED	

Logos at the bottom: Delaware Academy of Medicine, DPHA, DHF Delaware Health Force, in partnership with, NEMOURS CHILDREN'S HEALTH.

The opening session started on Wednesday, February 26th, at 6:30 PM, but do not worry there are more sessions!

Please visit <https://delawareminimed.org> and **bookmark that page**. There, you will find recordings of past webinars, PDFs of past presentations, and information about upcoming series!

This is also the home of the **Delaware Youth Medical Academy**.

[Register Here](#)

Advanced registration is required. **ONE REGISTRATION PER EMAIL ADDRESS.**

Health Student Loan Program

The Academy/DPHA offers two financial aid programs:

Legacy Program: For 33 years, this program has provided low-interest loans to Delaware residents pursuing MD, DO, DDS, or DMD degrees.

2023 Workforce Initiative: Introduced in 2023, this interest-free loan program supports Delaware residents attending local schools who commit to working in Delaware post-graduation. Funded by the US Treasury through Delaware's Department of Labor, it targets health provider shortage areas and communities heavily impacted by COVID-19.

Eligible fields include nursing, behavioral health, dental/medical assistants, and other allied health roles. Visit the [FAQ](#) for a complete list of approved degrees

Delaware News

Sussex County Confirms First H5 Avian Influenza Case

The Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) announced a presumptive positive case of H5 avian influenza in a Sussex County backyard flock, confirmed by the University of Delaware's Lasher Laboratory. Further testing is underway at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Veterinary Services Laboratory.

State officials have quarantined the premises and depopulated the flock to prevent the virus from spreading. The affected birds will not enter the food system. Avian influenza is a highly contagious airborne virus that spreads among birds through secretions, manure, and contaminated surfaces. DDA urges backyard flock owners to keep birds enclosed to prevent contact with wild birds and their droppings.

Delaware Faces Continued Learning Loss in Math & Reading

National reading scores declined by 2 points last year, compounding a previous 3-point drop from 2019 to 2022, with no state reporting gains. Math scores showed improvement for fourth graders, rising by 2 points nationwide, while eighth-grade math remained unchanged. Delaware's fourth-grade math scores increased by 7 points but remain below the national average and have not fully recovered from earlier declines. Eighth-grade math and reading scores continued to drop, with eighth-grade reading reaching its lowest recorded level since 1998. These results indicate that despite some progress, learning losses from the pandemic persist, highlighting the need for further intervention.

DHSA Research Grant Competitions – Call for Proposals

Delaware Health Sciences Alliance is seeking innovative research proposals for two exciting "Shark Tank"-style competitions, offering funding opportunities in Population Health and Nursing Research. These events provide a platform for researchers from DHSA member institutions to present their projects in real-time, receive expert feedback, and compete for funding.

- Population Health Research Competition: Proposals must focus on chronic disease and its impact, including areas such as social determinants of health, environmental health, and mental health. The winning proposal will receive a \$50,000 grant. Submission deadline: April 13, 2025, at 11:59 PM.
- Nursing Research Grant Competition: Proposals must have a direct impact on nursing and patient care, with priority given to collaborative projects across DHSA institutions. Up to \$30,000 in funding will be awarded to one or two winners. Submission deadline: March 2, 2025, at 11:59 PM.

Finalists for both competitions will be invited to pitch their proposals in Spring 2025 before a panel of judges. For more details and to submit your proposal,

Help APHA & the Academy/DPHA Protect Public Health

The Trump administration's proposed policies threaten to dismantle decades of progress in protecting public health. These dangerous efforts to cut funding, weaken protections, undermine science, and put our communities at risk by:

- Stripping public health resources needed to combat infectious diseases, maternal health issues, and environmental hazards.
- Deepening health inequities by neglecting underserved populations.
- Eroding trust in science and expertise, weakening our ability to respond to crises effectively.

APHA is fighting back through advocacy, legal action, and the [For Our Health initiative](#), bringing together leading public health experts to defend evidence-based policies. **But we need your help.** [Contact your representatives](#) today and urge them to oppose harmful public health cuts. Together, we can protect the well-being of all Americans.

**Message Your
Representative**

What else we are reading:

- [Dr. Nancy Fan, DHCC Chair, on DE's Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program](#)
- [Governor Nominates to Hospital Cost Review Board](#)
- [Delaware Moves to Enshrine Abortion Rights](#)
- [DHSS Presents Budget Recommendations to JFC](#)
- [UD Study Reveals Century-old Lead Pipes in Wilmington](#)

National News

TX Measles Outbreak Grows to 146 Cases and 1 Death, Spreads to NM

The Texas Department of State Health Services is reporting a measles outbreak in the South Plains region, with 146 confirmed cases since late January. The outbreak remains concentrated in Gaines County, though cases have also been reported in neighboring areas, including nine in Lea County, [New Mexico](#), where potential exposures occurred in public locations such as a grocery store, school, church, hospital, and pharmacy. Twenty individuals in Texas have been hospitalized, and the outbreak has resulted in one fatality—a school-aged child who was unvaccinated. This marks the state's largest measles outbreak in nearly 30 years, and health officials continue to stress the importance of vaccination in preventing further spread.

Family Caregiving for Older Adults Rises 32%

A new study from Johns Hopkins and the University of Michigan finds that the number of family caregivers for older adults grew 32%, from 18.2 million in 2011 to 24.1 million in 2022. Care hours for older adults with dementia

increased nearly 50%, partly due to more caregivers living with those they assist. Despite stable care networks and minimal changes in caregiving difficulty, reliance on support services declined. With the 85+ population expected to triple by 2050, researchers urge policymakers to strengthen caregiver support through Medicaid waivers, Medicare benefits, and paid family leave.

Study Finds Undetected H5N1 Infections Amid CDC Freeze

The first CDC study on the H5N1 bird flu outbreak under the Trump administration reveals undetected spillover from dairy cattle to humans. Researchers found H5N1 antibodies in three of 150 veterinarians, none of whom reported symptoms or worked with known infected cattle. The study highlights the need for improved surveillance, as [previous research](#) suggested 7% of dairy workers had past infections. The delayed publication of CDC reports, due to a freeze on external communications, has raised concerns among public health officials tracking the outbreak. With nearly 70 known human cases and a new variant appearing in dairy cattle, scientists warn of potential challenges in controlling the virus.

What else we are reading:

- [Judge Orders Federal Health Websites Restored](#)
- [USDA Seeks to Reverse Firing of Bird Flu Response Workers](#)
- [Trump Admin Creates Make America Healthy Again \(MAHA\) Committee](#)
- [President Trump Signs Executive Order to Expand IVF](#)
- [Stanford Designs Tool to Diagnose Diseases Using Immune Memory](#)
- [Judge Extends TRO Against NIH Cap](#)
- [US Sports Betting Growth Linked to Rise in Gambling Help-Seeking](#)
- [COVID Vaccines Cut Kids' Long COVID Risk by Up to 73%](#)
- [NJ on Alert After Identifying Three Measles Cases](#)

Global News

Trump Admin Slashes Foreign Aid, Halting Global Health Programs

The Trump administration is terminating thousands of USAID foreign assistance grants, effectively dismantling the six-decade-old agency and freezing over \$60 billion in global aid. The cuts have disrupted efforts to combat HIV, polio, mpox, and bird flu, with PEPFAR—the U.S. HIV relief program—halted in 50 countries, closing clinics and sidelining health workers. Aid groups warn that the move will accelerate disease spread and worsen humanitarian crises, particularly in Sudan, where over 1,000 USAID-supported food aid kitchens have shut down amid widespread starvation. Despite legal challenges, the administration is fighting court orders to restart payments, with Chief Justice John Roberts temporarily pausing the lower court's directive. The WHO has employed emergency measures to mitigate shortages but stresses the need for a long-term solution.

Escalating Violence in Eastern DRC Deepens Health Crisis

Violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo has led to mass casualties, displacement, and the destruction of healthcare infrastructure, overwhelming hospitals and morgues. Since January 26, over 3,000 injuries and 800 deaths have been reported in North Kivu, while health services struggle with shortages of medical supplies and personnel. Infectious disease outbreaks, including cholera and mpox, are worsening due to disrupted water supplies and the displacement of vulnerable populations. Rising food insecurity and gender-based violence further compound the crisis, leaving many without access to essential care. WHO is deploying emergency medical supplies and expanding hospital capacity, but urgent funding and humanitarian access are needed to prevent further suffering.

Japan to Compensate Victims of Forced Sterilization Under New Law

Last week, the governor of Miyagi prefecture in Japan apologized to victims of the country's forced sterilization program, which operated under the Eugenic Protection Law from 1948 to 1996. In response, Japan has enacted a new law providing compensation, with victims receiving ¥15 million, spouses ¥5 million, and families eligible for claims if both have died. Those who underwent non-consensual abortions will receive ¥2 million, with free legal assistance available to support applications. Over 16,500 people were sterilized without consent, and thousands more underwent coerced abortions, with an estimated 25,000 people eligible for compensation. Similar practices have occurred globally, including in [Peru](#), the [United States](#), and [Canada](#), with scholars and activists continuing to document the lasting impact of eugenics-based policies worldwide.

What else we are reading:

- [Ongoing Polio Vaccination Effort in the Gaza Strip](#)
- [UN Warns of Escalating Abuses & Crisis in Sudan](#)
- [Gaza's Healthcare System in Ruins: Doctors Urge Urgent Action](#)
- [Delayed Dementia Diagnosis Linked to Education & Social Isolation](#)
- [Gang Violence in Haiti Displaces 6K People](#)

Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health - [The DPH Bulletin](#)
Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

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