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The Academy/DPHA News

Welcome Our New President!

Stephen C. Eppes, MD



Dr. Stephen C. Eppes is a pediatric infectious disease specialist at ChristianaCare, where he currently serves as Director of Pediatric Infectious Diseases and previously held the role of Associate Infection Prevention Officer for 11 years. He earned his medical degree from the University of South Florida, completed his pediatric residency at Wake Forest University, and pursued a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at Duke University. Dr. Eppes is widely recognized for his clinical expertise and dedication to teaching, having received numerous awards from pediatric residents. He also holds emeritus status at Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children and serves as a Professor of Pediatrics at Sidney Kimmel Medical College at Thomas Jefferson University.

New Officers & Board Members

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Student Summer Skills Sessions

Join the Academy/DPHA, ChristianaCare, and DHSA for a skills-focused event for students interested in healthcare.

□ Dates:

- Sunday, May 18th, 2025
- Sunday, August 17th, 2025

(Note: Registrants may only attend one of the sessions.)

Event Description

Open to students in **middle school through undergraduate** levels, this free event offers a hands-on, skills-focused experience for those interested in healthcare careers.

Event Activities Include:

- CPR, First Aid, Suture & Intubation Techniques
- Lunch & Listen Panel with healthcare professionals
- Mentoring & Networking Opportunities

Lunch will be provided for both students and attending parents.



STUDENT SUMMER SKILLS SESSION

A skills-focused event for students interested in healthcare.

Open to students in middle school through undergraduate.

One itinerary, two days to learn

12 PM to 3:30 PM

May 18th & August 17th

Event Activities:

- Learn CPR & first aid, suture and intubation techniques!
- Lunch & Listen Panel with medical providers.
- Opportunities for mentoring & networking.

THESE SESSIONS ARE FREE TO ATTEND!

Lunch will be provided.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Please only attend one of the two sessions, both sessions will have the same itinerary

ChristianaCare John H. Ammon Medical Education Center
4755 Ogletown Stanton Rd, Newark, DE 19718

[Register Here](#)

Delaware Mini Medical School

Late Spring 2025 Registration is Open!

The opening session started on Wednesday, April 16th, at 6:30 PM, but do not worry there are more sessions!

Please note that the session held on May 1st, will be a Thursday.

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



DELAWARE MINI MEDICAL SCHOOL

6:30 PM-8 PM



and information about upcoming series!

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

APR 16 UNLOCKING YOUR FUTURE: EXCITING CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE

TABASSUM SALAM, MD, BRIAN LEVINE, MD, TAMEKIA CHISHOLM, MSN, AND LIZ MASTEN, PA

APR 23 TALES OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE

JULIE SHAMIS, MD & JENNA FREDETTE, MD

MAY 1 THE CASE OF THE YELLOWING MAN

BRIDGET PETERS, DO

MAY 7 BREATHING THROUGH BARRIERS: TACKLING MEDICAL COMPLEXITIES LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

EMMANUEL MENSAH, MD & STEPHANIE GUARINO, MD

MAY 14 THE CASE OF A WOMAN WITH RA NOT RESPONDING TO TYPICAL TREATMENTS.

DEVANSHU VERMA, MD & AMANDA RUNYON, PHARM D

MAY 21 THE CURIOUS CASE OF A TOOTHY OVARY

MARY IACocca, MD, THOMAS CHOU, MD, PHD & SHANICE BEDASSIE, PA

MAY 28 MAKE UP SESSION - ONLY IF NEEDED



in partnership with



[Register Here](#)

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

Delaware News

Delaware Gets Mixed Air Quality Grades in 2025 Report

According to the American Lung Association's 2025 State of the Air report, Delaware's air quality remains a concern, especially when it comes to particle pollution. All three counties—New Castle, Kent, and Sussex—received a 'D' grade for short-term particle pollution, with multiple days coded orange or worse. Kent County reported 3 orange, 2 red, and 1 purple day, while New Castle saw 4 orange, 1 red, and 2 purple days. Sussex County also experienced 2 orange, 2 red, and 1 purple day. New Castle County was the only one with a "Pass" for annual particle pollution, with a design value of 7.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. Kent and Sussex counties were marked "Incomplete" for annual data.

For ozone pollution, Kent and New Castle counties each received a grade of C, with 5 and 6 moderate ozone days (orange) respectively. Sussex County performed best, earning a B grade with just 2 orange days and no more severe days reported. While Delaware did not record any maroon-level (hazardous) air days, the findings highlight the ongoing need for stronger air quality protections and pollution reduction efforts across the state.

DE Marks Second Year of Decline of Fatal Overdoses

Fatal overdoses in Delaware dropped by 36% in 2024, marking the second year of decline and signaling a hopeful shift after a decade of rising deaths. The state recorded 338 overdose fatalities last year, down from 527 in 2023. While fentanyl remains the primary cause—appearing in 80% of cases—emerging threats like xylazine and medetomidine, both veterinary tranquilizers, are raising new public health concerns. Delaware has expanded its harm-reduction efforts with free naloxone distribution, test strip access, and targeted outreach via real-time overdose mapping. The state's Overdose Response Center is also releasing regular street drug reports to inform healthcare providers and outreach workers. Meanwhile, Attorney General Kathy Jennings is fighting to preserve over \$38 million in federal health grants at risk of being cut, emphasizing the ongoing need for funding to sustain substance use disorder programs.

Dover 911 Among First to Launch Video Streaming & Text Translation

Governor Matthew Meyer and public safety officials unveiled new upgrades to Delaware's Enhanced 911 (E911) system, making Dover's 911 Center one of the first in the country to offer live video streaming and language text translation for emergency calls. The technology allows dispatchers to see real-time video from callers and translate messages in multiple languages, improving response accuracy and safety. Funded by Delaware's E911 Emergency Reporting System Fund, this innovation is part of the state's NextGen initiative to modernize emergency communications by 2026. Officials say these tools will help save lives by providing first responders with critical details before they arrive on the scene. The launch coincides with National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, recognizing the vital role of 911 operators.

What else we are reading:

- [DE Bill Seeks to Ban Discrimination Based on Weight, Height, & Size](#)
- [UD Students Regain Visas After Sudden Terminations by DHS](#)
- [Gov Meyer's 2025 State of the State Address](#)
- [2025 Delaware Secretary of Education Scholars](#)
- [Delaware 250 Grant Recipients for Winter 2025](#)
- [Office of Animal Welfare Introduces Dog Licensing Program](#)
- [AHA's Woman of Impact- Delaware Recipients](#)
- [Pocomoke Watershed Wetlands Get Highest Rating](#)
- [DMV Urges Delawareans to Verify REAL ID Before Deadline](#)
- [Lt. Governor Kyle Evans Gay to Host Statewide Meet-and-Greet](#)
- [DNREC Hosts Training at Cape Henlopen for Volunteer Beach-Nesting Bird Monitors](#)
- [Fingerprint-based Background Checks for Cannabis Industry Signed into Law](#)



SAVE THE DATE

DE-CTR ACCEL COMMUNITY RESEARCH EXCHANGE 2025

COMMUNITY BASED APPROACHES FOR CHRONIC DISEASE
PREVENTION

When: Monday, October 6th, 2025

*Where: ChristianaCare Newark Campus
John H. Ammon Medical Education Center*

Funding for the DE-CTR is provided by an Institutional Development Award (IDeA) from the
National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health under grant
number U54-GM104941y (PIHicks)

CHECK THE ACCEL WEBSITE FOR FURTHER
INFORMATION ON REGISTRATION AND
AGENDA – COMING SOON!



National News

'Women' & 'Female' Among Nearly 200 Words Now Flagged in Federal Grant Reviews

A federal language crackdown under the Trump administration has quietly flagged nearly 200 terms — including basic scientific words like “women” and “female” — for heightened scrutiny in grant proposals to agencies like the NIH and NSF. Internal memos obtained by The New York Times suggest that using these terms in proposals could trigger additional review, rejection, or even funding termination. The affected language ranges from gender and reproductive health to diversity and climate change — with little clarity about who is conducting the reviews or why. Researchers now face growing uncertainty: they’re being warned not only to avoid “politicized” language, but also to comply with new [executive orders](#) discouraging any grant activity involving DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) frameworks. Many fear that peer review — a cornerstone of scientific integrity — is being bypassed in favor of vague political oversight. With “women” and “female” potentially blacklisted, scientists warn this isn’t just censorship — it’s a threat to public health, academic freedom, and the future of federally funded research.

Federal COVID Websites Overhauled to Promote Lab Leak Theory

Federal COVID-19 websites, covid.gov and covidtests.gov, have been taken down and now redirect to a new page promoting the lab leak theory of COVID-19’s origin (original website can be found [here](#)). The Trump-backed site criticizes the Biden administration, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and public health measures like masks and lockdowns. It presents five points supporting the lab leak theory, though experts say these claims are misleading or false. Scientists widely agree that evidence still points to a natural origin, likely linked to Wuhan’s live animal markets. Public health leaders warn that erasing vaccine, testing, and treatment resources puts Americans at risk. Critics call the site

political propaganda, while House Republicans have praised it. The White House has not said what will happen to the removed public health content.

NIH Autism Study Raises Privacy Concerns

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is set to begin collecting private health data from Americans as part of a controversial autism research initiative, led by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. The study aims to uncover the environmental causes of autism by using medical records from sources such as pharmacies, hospitals, and wearable health devices. However, the plan has sparked backlash from privacy and disability advocates who argue it threatens personal privacy and raises ethical concerns. Critics question the security of the collected data and the potential for surveillance, while some experts caution against oversimplifying the complex causes of autism. Despite initial plans for a rapid timeline, NIH officials now suggest results may take up to a year to emerge.

What else we are reading:

- [Whooping Cough Cases on the Rise](#)
- [Abortion Bans Linked to Spike in Maternal Deaths](#)
- [Long COVID Activists Won Against Trump Team in Grant Fight](#)
- [Athena's Adventures Books: Introducing Kids to Health Policy](#)
- [EPA to Stop Collection Emissions Data](#)
- [CDC STI Lab Shutdown Amid Staff Cuts](#)
- [Trump Officials Call Letter to Harvard a Mistake After Confrontation](#)
- [Measles Up to Nearly 900 Cases Across 30 States](#)
- [Trump Admin to Restore Women's Health Initiative \(That They Cancelled\)](#)
- [Canadian Career Apps from U.S. Scientists Rose 41% Since Last Year](#)
- [The Past Decade: Hottest on Record & Costing Billions](#)

Global News

WHO Report Highlights Leading Causes of Maternal Deaths

A new WHO study identifies haemorrhage and hypertensive disorders as the leading causes of maternal deaths, responsible for 130,000 fatalities in 2020. Chronic and infectious diseases contribute to nearly 23% of cases, while infections, embolism, and unsafe abortions further increase risks. Many deaths occur due to inadequate maternity care, especially in low-income countries. WHO is urging global action, launching a roadmap for postpartum haemorrhage and making maternal health the focus of World Health Day 2025.

Peanut Allergy Trial offers Evidence Micro-Dosing Could Work for Adults

A phase II clinical trial has shown that oral immunotherapy (OIT) using real-world peanut products significantly increased peanut tolerance in allergic adults, marking a major advancement in adult allergy treatment. Among 21 participants, 67% reached the target maintenance dose of 1000 mg (about four peanuts) and successfully tolerated up to 3,000 mg (12 peanuts) during final food challenges—a 100-fold increase from their starting threshold. In addition to

improved tolerance, quality of life measures improved, and biological markers such as peanut-specific IgG and reduced skin prick test sizes supported the therapy's effectiveness. While three participants dropped out due to adverse reactions, and three others for unrelated reasons, the results highlight OIT's potential as a safe and effective therapy for adults. Further research is needed to confirm long-term outcomes and evaluate safety across broader adult populations.

Denmark Works to Eliminate Cervical Cancer by 2040

A new report from the Danish Cancer Society projects that Denmark could effectively eliminate cervical cancer within the next 15 years, making it the first cancer type to disappear in the country. Thanks to high HPV vaccination rates—currently at 89% among 12-year-olds—and growing participation in cervical cancer screening, Denmark is nearing the World Health Organization's threshold for elimination: fewer than four cases per 100,000 women. Experts emphasize that continued progress depends on maintaining and improving vaccine and screening uptake, especially in underserved populations. A new home-testing method is expected to further boost screening participation.

What else we are reading:

- [Teens w/ Earlier Bedtimes & Longer Sleep Show Better Cognitive Performance](#)
- [Children in Burkina Faso Facing Rights Violations](#)
- [South African Soccer for 'Grannies'?](#)
- [Dialysis Patients in Gaza Struggle to Get Treatment](#)
- [WFP Runs Out of Food Stocks in Gaza](#)
- [Nigeria & Kenya: Struggle for Inclusive Care](#)
- [Japan Gearing to Approve iPS-cell-based Treatments](#)
- [Sudanese Eating Charcoal & Leaves to Survive Amid War](#)
- [Qatar Launches First Clinical Study for Shisha Smokers](#)
- [Study Shows 1 HPV Dose Provides Similar Protection to 2 Doses](#)
- [London's Low Emission Zones Reduce Sick Leave & Save Money](#)
- [COVID Vaccination in Same Arm Boosts Antibody Response](#)

Additional Resources

Delaware Division of Public Health - [The DPH Bulletin](#)

Trust for America's Health: Wellness and Prevention Digest - [Subscribe](#)

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