

ALABAMA **Board of Medical Examiners Medical Licensure Commission**

Newsletter and Report

www.albme.org **July 2018**

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BME welcomes new board members

The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners welcomes three new members to the Board: Aruna T. Arora. MD; Hernando D. Carter, MD; and Patrick J. O'Neill, MD. Their terms began in April of this year.

Aruna T. Arora, MD



Huntsville physician Aruna T. Arora, MD, MPH, is board certified in neurology and neuromuscular medicine and serves as medical

co-director of the ALS Clinic in North Alabama/Huntsville. She is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College and the University of Alabama Birmingham School of Medicine. She completed her residency and chief residency in neurology at UAB before becoming a Fellow in clinical neurophysiology. She also serves on the board of the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Hernando D. Carter, MD

Dr. Carter practices internal medicine at UAB's Whitaker Clinic in Birmingham where he is the liaison

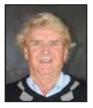
between administrators and physicians in his seven-member internal medicine group. He is also a board member of the Jefferson County



Medical Society and the Jefferson County Board of Health. Dr. Carter received a bachelor of science degree in biology from Morehouse College and completed medical school at the University of Alabama School of Medicine.

Patrick J. O'Neill, MD

Dr. O'Neill is a family medicine physician in Madison. He is a graduate with distinction from St. Ignatius College and



NUI Galway. Residency training was completed at Regional Hospital Galway, Ireland, and he was awarded a fellowship by Canadian College for contributions to family medicine in Canada. He is a board examiner and life member of Canadian College of Family Physicians.

MLC announces new member

James E. West, MD, retires

After serving on the Alabama Medical Licensure Commission (MLC) for 20 years, Dr. West stepped down from his position in March of this year. He was appointed to the MLC in 1998 and became Chairman in 2009.

Paul M. Nagrodzki, MD, joins MLC

Congratulations are in order for Paul M. Nagrodzki, MD, who now

serves in the position on the MLC vacated by Dr. West. An anesthesiologist in Birmingham for the past 35 years, Dr. Nagrodzki received



a medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine and completed residency training in anesthesiology and internal medicine. Dr. Nagrodzki brings a wealth of

knowledge and experience to the MLC having served previously on the boards of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners. Medical Association of the State of Alabama, the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation and BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama.

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

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Beverly F. Jordan, MD Enterprise

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Patrick J. O'Neill, MD

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Paul M. Nagrodzki, MD Birmingham

Pamela D. Varner, MD Birmingham

Naloxone available OTC

On March 8, 2018, the state health officer issued a standing order concerning naloxone distribution for overdose prevention. The standing order may be used as a prescription to obtain naloxone from a pharmacy in the event there is an inability to obtain naloxone or a prescription for naloxone from an eligible person's regular health care provider or another source. The standing order authorizes pharmacists to dispense naloxone and devices for its administration only in the forms stated in the standing order (intranasal naloxone with atomizer kits, intranasal naloxone spray kits, intramuscular naloxone kits, intramuscular auto-injector naloxone kits). The standing order will expire on the date naloxone may be approved as an over-the-counter medication.

The standing order was issued pursuant to Act 2016-307, which states that a licensed physician or licensed dentist may directly or by standing order prescribe, and a licensed pharmacist or a registered nurse employed by the state or a county health department may dispense an opioid antagonist to an individual at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose, or a family member, friend, member of a fire department, rescue squad, law enforcement, or other individual in a position to assist an individual at risk of experiencing an opiate related overdose. A physician, prior to prescribing an opioid antagonist under this law, may require receipt of a written communication that provides a factual basis for a reasonable conclusion that the individual seeking the opioid antagonist is at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose, or is a family member, friend, or otherwise in a position to assist the individual who is at risk. Physicians who prescribe an opioid antagonist under these terms and who have no managerial authority over the individuals administering the opioid antagonist are immune from any civil or criminal liability for actions authorized by this law.

In Memoriam: Ronnie Lee Lewis, MD



Former Board member Ronnie Lewis, MD, age 61, of Fyffe, passed away May 29, 2018, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center following a battle with cancer. He is survived by two brothers, two sisters, an honorary son, daughter-in-law and three honorary grandchildren.

Dr. Lewis was a member, pianist and song director of Lee's Chapel in Henagar, Ala. It was his sincere request that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Alabama School of Gospel Music at PO Box 199, Fyffe, AL 35971.

Kenneth Aldridge, MD, receives Garber Galbraith Medical-Political Award



The UAB School of Medicine's Medical Alumni Association recently awarded to Kenneth Aldridge, MD, the Garber Gailbraith Medical-Political Award. The award recognizes Dr. Aldridge's outstanding service to the medical profession. He has been licensed in Alabama since 1983 and has served on several state committees and boards, including the Board of Medical Examiners from June

2001 to April 2010. Dr. Aldridge has assisted in developing rules and policies to improve patient safety and increased access to healthcare in Alabama. The Board congratulates Dr. Aldridge on this well-earned award.

BME staff update

Jane Wynn retires

The Board announces the retirement of Jane Wynn as of May 31, 2018. Ms. Wynn began her employment with the Board in 1996 when she was hired as accounts manager. In 2015, she also assumed the role of office manager. After 22 years, Ms. Wynn has moved on to a much-deserved retirement.



Pictured with Jane Wynn is Larry Dixon (left) retired BME executive director; George C. Smith Sr., MD, MLC vice chairman, and James H. Walburn, MD, MLC chair.

On behalf of the many

Board members with whom Ms. Wynn worked and the innumerable licensees and others she has assisted, the Board and staff wish Ms. Wynn the best and extend their gratitude for her years of dedicated service.

Board welcomes Donna Jordan as Director of PA Licensing; Deana Bozeman becomes Accounts Director

The Board is pleased to announce that Donna Jordan has been retained as Director of Physician Assistant/Anesthesiologist Assistant Licensing, replacing Deana Bozeman, who has been named Director of Accounts. This change took place with the retirement of Jane Wynn.

Ms. Jordan comes to the Board with an extensive education and background in health regulation. She is responsible for all licensing and registration of physician assistants and anesthesiologist assistants, along with coordinating the Physician Assistant Advisory Committee and handling laser registrations.

Board website – A useful tool for physicians

The Board and Commision website, *www.albme.org*, continues to serve as a valuable informational tool for licensees and consumers. Website users can obtain information about the Board and Commission, review the Medical Practice Act and corresponding administrative rules, and obtain updates on issues such as continuing medical education requirements and new rules. Important information regarding prescribing controlled substances, addiction treatment, and other prescribing topics is also available. Consumers and credentialers frequently utilize the website to verify licensure information on a specific practitioner or inquire about disciplinary actions.

The Board is currently developing a new website with a modern look and easier navigation. Numerous online services are anticipated to be in place by 2019.

New: Additional QACSC at lower fee

Rule 540-X-18-.05: Issuance of an Additional Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificate (QACSC) Effective April 9, 2018

- (1) After the first QACSC for an approved collaborative practice agreement has been obtained by a CRNP or CNM, pursuant to Board Rules 540-X-18-.02, .03 and .04, any subsequent QACSC obtained for an additional collaborative practice shall be designated an additional QACSC.
- (2) The Board may issue an additional QACSC to a CRNP or CNM when all of the requirements for issuance have been met.
- (3) Every additional QACSC issued shall have a unique QACSC number which identifies the particular applicant as a CRNP or CNM with a valid QACSC.
- (4) The fee for an additional QACSC is sixty dollars (\$60.00).

Rule 540-X-12-.05: Issuance of an Additional Qualified Alabama Controlled Substances Registration Certificate (QACSC) Effective April 9, 2018

- (1) After the first QACSC for an approved registration has been obtained by a Physician Assistant pursuant to Board Rules 540-X-12-.02, .03 and .04, any subsequent QACSC obtained for an additional registration shall be designated an additional QACSC.
- (2) The Board may issue an additional QACSC to a Physician Assistant when all of the requirements for issuance have been met.
- (3) Every additional QACSC issued shall have a unique QACSC number which identifies the particular applicant as a Physician Assistant with a valid QACSC.
- (4) The fee for an additional QACSC is sixty dollars (\$60.00).

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Practicing in Alabama: Physician assistants and anesthesiologist assistants

by Donna Jordan, MPA, Director of Physician Assistant Licensure

As you begin a collaboration with a supervising physician and submit an initial application and/or registration agreement for the Board to review, please be mindful of the following:

 The Board meets monthly to review initial applications and registration agreements.

2018 Board Schedule

Month	Deadline	Meeting
Aug	July 23	Aug 15
Sept	Aug 27	Sept 19
Oct	Sept. 24	Oct. 17
Nov	Oct. 22	Nov. 15
Dec	Nov. 16	Dec. 12

- The Board staff requires **four to** six weeks to process an initial application and/or registration agreement. Interim approval will not be provided to a physician assistant (PA) until four to six weeks after the receipt of a registration agreement. It is the responsibility of the supervising physician and the PA/Anesthesiologist Assistant (AA) to submit an application in a timely manner (based on the Board's established schedule). Due to the volume of applications received. Board staff will not offer any exceptions. Before beginning to complete a form, review Board Rules, Chapter 540-X-7, Assistants to Physicians, available through the Board's website, www.albme.org.
- Answer each question on the initial application and/or registration agreement. This is a requirement established by the Board. If an initial application/registration agreement is incomplete, it may result in not being reviewed by the Board in the intended month as expected. It is the responsibility of the supervising

physician and the PA/AA to submit a complete application and provide

supporting documentation (if requested). An incomplete initial application/ registration agreement will be returned back to the sender when requested information from the Board is not provided in a timely manner.



- · A check should be submitted with an initial application/ registration agreement (with the appropriate fee). The Board fee schedule is available on the PA Applications page at www.albme. org. Checks mailed to the Board should have the PA/AA name included. Checks will be returned back to sender if the PA/AA name is not included on the check or if the Board is unable to determine how to apply a payment. The Board anticipates offering online applications later in the year. Payment will be accomplished via
- Checking the status of a submitted initial application/registration agreement is available via the Board website on the PA/AA Applications page. To review the status of a **recently submitted** initial application/registration agreement, click Application Status.

credit card or check.

To review the **Board's decision** regarding a submitted initial

application/registration agreement, click Licensee Search.

Allow three business days after the Board meeting to verify the status of a submitted application. See the 2018 Board schedule.

- Termination of a registration agreement can be submitted online.
- It is the PA's responsibility to notify the Board of Medical Examiners of any address changes.

The above information will

ensure efficiency in Board review and processing of initial applications and registration agreements. In addition, it will ensure the Board has the necessary documentation required to make an informed decision.

Deadlines strictly enforced

Effective immediately, the established Board deadline schedule will be enforced. It is the responsibility of the supervising physician and PA/AA to submit an initial application and/or registration agreement in a timely manner. The Board staff requires four to six weeks to process an initial application and/or registration agreement.

If you have any questions about submitting an initial application/registration agreement, contact Donna Jordan, Director of Physician Assistant Licensure, at *djordan@albme.org* or visit the Board website *www.albme.org*.

Thank you for your impact, commitment, and dedication to serving communities in Alabama.

Need CME Credit?

Join us for three days of CME November 16-18, 2018

Hyatt Regency Birmingham - The Wynfrey Hotel

Early registration is a must!

Friday, November 16

- *New!* Targeted Update for Advanced Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants (Replaces Collaborative Practice course)
- Medical Ethics

Saturday, November 17

Prescribing of Controlled Drugs

Sunday, November 18

· Pharmacology of Controlled Drugs

For information and to register, go to www.alamedical.org/prescribing. For questions, call (334) 954-2500 or (800) 269-5200.

Announcing two-hour Prescribing Controlled Substances series

Is your county medical society or specialty society looking for a two-hour course on prescribing controlled substances for those who hold an ACSC and must meet the new BME CME requirement?

The Medical Association of Alabama, in collaboration with the BME, is now offering "Problems in Pain Management in Alabama" presented by Steven P. Furr, MD; Boyde J. (Jerry) Harrison, MD; or George C. (Buddy) Smith, Jr., MD. These physicians have been on the faculty and planning committee of the Prescribing and Pharmacology of Controlled Drugs conferences for 10 years and would welcome the opportunity to speak to your group.

To schedule a speaker, contact Judy DeBray, Medical Association Director of Education, at *jdebray*@ *alamedical.org* or (334) 954-2535.

Alabama Quitline

What is the Alabama Tobacco Quitline?

The Alabama Tobacco Quitline is a free telephone (1-800-784-8669) and online (*www.quitnowalabama.com*) coaching service for any Alabamian who is ready to quit tobacco. The Quitline is open from 6 a.m. to midnight seven days a week.

What services are available?

All Quitline services are free to Alabama residents including:

- Telephone and online coaching
- Printed support materials
- Electronic and fax program for healthcare providers
- Up to eight weeks of nicotine replacement patches, **if enrolled in coaching and medically eligible**.

Medicaid patients are not eligible for NRT through the Quitline and should get their cessation medications through Medicaid pharmacy services.*

How can the Quitline help your patients?

Healthcare providers are encouraged to refer patients directly to the Quitline by faxing a referral form to (800) 692-9023 or completing the electronic referral form found at *www.quitnowalabama.com*. The Quitline will contact the referred patient within 24 hours of receiving a referral to enroll the patient into the Quitline coaching program.

*For Medicaid patients

Medicaid pays for any of the seven approved cessation medications** for its patients if the following documentation is submitted: **both** the Medicaid Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Prior Authorization Request form **and** the Quitline referral form should be faxed to Health Information Design, (800) 748-0116. The Quitline referral form should be faxed to the Quitline at (800) 692-9023. Plan First Recipients are not required to have a Prior Authorization form submitted.

**Approved cessation medications include nicotine patches, gum, lozenges, inhalers, nasal spray, varenicline and Bupropion SR, according to *Treating Tobacco Use and Dependence, U.S. Clinical Practice Guidelines*, 2008.

Quitline/Medicaid Pharmacy PA forms

The Quitline fax referral forms, both English and Spanish versions, and the Medicaid Pharmacy Smoking Cessation Prior Authorization Request Form can be found at *www.quitnowalabama.com*.

Meaningful Use

Recording and providing cessation interventions are core clinical quality measures that can be used to demonstrate meaningful use.

For more information about the Alabama Tobacco Quitline, or to order Quitline materials for your office, call Julie Hare at (334) 206-3830 or email Julie.Hare@adph.state.al.us. Visit www.quitnowalabama.com and www.adph.org/tobacco, click Healthcare Providers link.

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Report of Public Actions of the Medical Licensure Commission and Board of Medical Examiners

Mission: The Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and the Medical Licensure Commission are charged with protecting the health and safety of the citizens of the state of Alabama.

MLC – February 2018

◆ On Feb. 28, the Commission issued a Consent Order placing on restriction the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Thomas J. Seglio, DO**, lic. no. DO.1222, Pascagoula, MS.

MLC - March 2018

- ◆ Effective Mar. 6, the Commission issued an Order Temporarily Suspending License and Setting Hearing concerning **Steven B. Hefter, MD**, lic. no. MD.25137, Hoover, AL.
- ◆ On Mar. 13, the Commission issued an Order denying the request for reinstatement of license of **Mark P. Koch, DO**, lic. no. DO.322, Monroeville, AL.
- ◆ On Mar. 13, the Commission issued an Order reinstating to full, unrestricted status the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **James F. Hooper, MD**, lic. no. MD.12618, Tuscaloosa, AL.
- ♦ On Mar. 28, the Commission issued an Order placing on indefinite probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of Marie C. Cebert, DO, lic. no. DO.656, Harvest, AL.

BME - March 2018

◆ On Mar. 21, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of Willie J.

Chester, Jr., MD, lic. no. DO.138, Wetumpka, AL.

- ◆ On Mar. 21, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of **John L. Lentz, Jr., MD**, lic. no. MD.20698, Destin, FL.
- ◆ On Mar. 21, the Board accepted the voluntary surrender of certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Iqbal I. Singh, MD**, lic. no. MD.14549, Selma, AL.
- ◆ On Mar. 27, the Board issued an Order reinstating to full, unrestricted status the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Tao Chen**, **MD**, lic. no. MD.29601, Mobile, AL.

BME – April 2018

- ◆ On Apr. 12, the Board accepted the Voluntary Surrender of Certificate of Qualification and License to Practice Medicine of **Steven B. Hefter, MD**, lic. no. MD.25137, Hoover, AL.
- ◆ Effective Apr. 13, 2018, the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Robert John Nicke**, **MD**, lic. no. MD.35256, Trussville, AL, is temporarily suspended until such time as a hearing shall be held by the Board and a decision rendered thereon.

MLC - May 2018

◆ Effective May 7, the Commission reinstated with restrictions the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Paul A. Roberts, MD**, lic. no. MD.24557, Dora, AL.

- ◆ Effective May 11, the Commission revoked the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **David L. Sincavage, MD**, lic. no. MD.34955, Brentwood, TN.
- ◆ On May 31, the Commission entered an Order approving the practice plan of **Russell Wayne Stevens, MD**, lic. no. MD.26655, Daphne, AL.
- ◆ On May 31, the Commission entered an Order placing on probation the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Hobert J. Sharpton, Jr., DO**, lic. no. DO.205, Cullman, AL.

BME - May 2018

♦ On May 16, the Board entered a Consent Order restricting the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Jimmy S. Hankins, DO**, lic. no. DO.199, Foley, AL.

MLC – June 2018

- ◆ Effective Jun. 4, by Order of the Commission, the license to practice medicine in Alabama of William B. Nickell, MD, lic. no. MD.3370, Birmingham, AL, is temporarily suspended until such time as the Administrative Complaint of the Board shall be heard and a decision rendered thereon.
- ◆ Effective Jun. 5, by Order of the Commission, the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Darryle P. Bullard, MD**, lic. no. MD.26800, Fairhope, AL, is temporarily suspended until such time as the Administrative Complaint of the Board shall be heard and a decision rendered thereon.

Continued on page 7

Online application forms available this fall

The Board and Commission anticipate placing all application and registration forms online where they can be completed and submitted online where applicable. Some applications, for example those that require notarization or a photo, will be completed online then printed and mailed to the appropriate agency.

It is the intent of the Board and Commission that no forms will be mailed or provided from their offices. This will save time for the applicant as well as the agencies, leading to quicker issuance of licenses and registrations.

New applicants will be required to register to use the online application services. Existing licensees and registrants will access forms through the Practitioner Portal. Applications that require a fee will be payable with a credit card. For payment by check, the applicant will complete the form online, then print and mail it to the Board.

For initial MD/DO licenses, the applicant will register and complete an initial questionnaire to determine eligibility. Fingerprint cards will be mailed to the address provided by the applicant. The application forms will be completed online but, because a notarized signature is required, the applicant will print and mail the form to the Board. It is the responsibility of the applicant to have forwarded to the Board those forms that are completed

by persons other than the applicant (medical school and postgraduate training certifications, for example), but the completed forms are acceptable if sent via email or fax, as long as it can be verified that the transmission is from the entity.

Initial Alabama Controlled Substances Certificates (ACSC) will be available for online submission. ACSC renewals are currently completed and submitted online, and that process will not change.

The initial physician assistant (PA) license application process will be similar to the initial MD/DO license application. Because a notarization and photo are required, the application will be printed and forwarded to the Board. PA registration applications are signed by both the PA and the supervising physician. The licensees will enter the Practictioner Profile separately and complete the respective portions of the application.

Other applications that will be completed and submitted online include dispensing physician, office based surgery, and use of lasers registrations.

Additionally, licensees and registrants will be able to complete an address change, request duplicate certificates and access other online services as they become available.

Public Actions, cont.

Actions for CME (reprimand, fine, additional CME required):

- Steve H. Boger, MD, lic. no. MD.12652, Birmingham, AL
- **Jimmy L. Boyd, Jr., PA**, lic. no. PA.211, Mobile, AL
- **Baylissa M. Bridges, PA**, lic. no. PA.274, Fairhope, AL
- Elias G. Chalhub, MD, lic. no. MD.8386, Mobile, AL
- **Barry G. Collins, MD**, lic. no. MD.22922, Pell City, AL
- Mark I. Copeland, AA, lic. no. AA.826, Madison, AL
- John F. Delmas, MD, lic. no. MD.19322, Mobile, AL
- Clinton E. Duncan, PA, lic. no. PA.132, Mobile, AL
- James R. Gewin, MD, lic. no. MD.10526, Birmingham, AL
- Michael N. Gordon, MD, lic. no.

- MD.22660, Eutaw, AL
- **Jerry L. Hennig, MD**, lic. no. MD.14734, Mobile, AL
- Frank K. Hixon, MD, lic. no. MD.15455, Fairhope, AL
- William J. McFeely, Jr., MD, lic. no. MD.22355, Huntsville, AL
- Rian L. Montgomery, MD, lic. no. MD.13940, Birmingham, AL
- Michael J. Patterson, MD, lic. no. MD.22472, Pelham, AL
- Teresa A. Price, PA, lic. no. PA.988, Anniston, AL
- Kenneth E. Rose, MD, lic. no. MD.21078, Muscle Shoals, AL
- Mary Rose J. Santiago, MD, lic. no. MD.20519, Hamilton, AL
- Paul S. Scalici, MD, lic. no. MD.9896, Birmingham, AL
- **Shashi Sharma, MD**, lic. no. MD.20843, Opelika, AL

- Mimi C. Smith, MD, lic. no. MD.22700, Birmingham, AL
- Gordon M. Telepun, MD, lic. no. MD.17201, Decatur, AL
- Stephen M. West, MD, lic. no. MD.22031, Evergreen, AL
- **Selina G. Woolverton, PA**, lic. no. PA.269, Tuscaloosa, AL

Actions on ACSC for not being registered for PDMP (administrative fine):

None to date

Actions on ACSC for prescribing controlled substances with expired ACSC (administrative fine):

None to date



Alabama Board of Medical Exami P.O. Box 946 Montgomery, AL 36101-0946 www.albme.org PRESORTED STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Montgomery, AL Permit No. 417

2018 BME Meeting Dates

August 15 November 15
September 19 December 12
October 17

The public portion of each meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. CT (unless otherwise indicated) in the Dixon-Parker Building located at 848 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Ala.

Meeting agendas and a full list of meeting dates and times can be found on the Board's website:

www.albme.org

2018 MLC Meeting Dates

August 22 November 28
September 26 December 20
October 24

Meetings are held in the Dixon-Parker Building located at 848 Washington Avenue, Montgomery, Ala.

QUESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE

Alabama Board of Medical Examiners (334) 242-4116

Acting Executive Howard J. Falgout, MD Directors: Mark H. LeQuire, MD

Administration: William Perkins

Deana Bozeman

Legal: E. Wilson Hunter

Virginia Reeves Patricia E. Shaner

Licensing: Jacqueline B. Baskin

Mary Leigh Meredith

Investigations: Stan Ingram

Physician

Monitoring: Jeff Grimsley
Pain Management
Services: Edwin Rogers
Bob Steelman

Physician

Assistants: Donna Jordan

Collaborative Patricia Ward, RN
Practice: Amy Wybenga, CRNP

Medical Licensure Commission......(334) 242-4153

Executive Assistant: Karen Silas

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