



## ALBME Welcomes New Board Members for 2019-2020

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners welcomes three new members for 2019-2020: Dr. Jay Suggs of Decatur, Dr. Jane Weida of Tuscaloosa, and Dr. Amanda Williams of Montgomery.

### **W. JAY SUGGS, M.D.**

When Alabama native, Jay Suggs, M.D., FACS, FASMBS, returned home after his general surgery training at the Mayo Clinic and bariatric surgery fellowship at Princeton, NJ, he started his first bariatric surgery practice, Center of Excellence in Decatur. He now also has practice locations in Huntsville and Madison.



*Jay Suggs, M.D.*

Dr. Suggs is a board-certified surgeon, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a Fellow of the American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. He has degrees in Biology and Chemistry from Emory University and a medical degree from UAB. Dr. Suggs, together with his wife and three daughters, live in

Decatur where they are active in the community.

Dr. Suggs has interests in medical education and research and serves as an associate professor of surgery at the UAB Huntsville Regional Campus as well as the director for the Huntsville campus of ACOM and VCOM-Auburn medical schools. He has been involved in the leadership of multiple professional organizations and hospitals.

### **JANE A. WEIDA, M.D., FAAFP**

Dr. Jane Weida is an associate professor in the University of Alabama Department of Family Medicine and associate director of the Family Medicine Residency Program. She received her medical degree from Jefferson Medical College and completed her family medicine residency at Chestnut Hill Hospital in Philadelphia. After 13 years in private practice in Blue Bell, Pa., she spent six years as faculty at Penn State College of Medicine before joining an affiliated community-



*Jane A. Weida, M.D.*

based family medicine residency in West Reading, Pa. There, she taught residents and medical students and served as the medical director, clerkship director and co-director of the residency's Global Health Track.

Dr. Weida is active in several professional organizations. She is the immediate past president of the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, where she developed the organization's signature humanitarian program in Haiti. She is committed to residency education, medical student interest in family medicine, and global health and has traveled extensively to provide family medicine education in Haiti and many former Soviet Republics in Asia and Europe.

### **AMANDA J. WILLIAMS, M.D.**

Originally from Tallahassee, Fla., Dr. Williams received her medical doctorate from the University of South Florida and trained at University of Pittsburgh Medical Center's



*Amanda Williams, M.D.*

## 2019-2020 Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners

Mark H. LeQuire, M.D.  
Chairman  
Montgomery

Michael T. Flanagan, M.D.  
Vice Chairman  
Dothan

Aruna T. Arora, M.D.  
Huntsville

Gregory W. Ayers, M.D.  
Birmingham

Eli L. Brown, M.D.  
Birmingham

Hernando D. Carter, M.D.  
Birmingham

Beverly F. Jordan, M.D.  
Enterprise

Gary F. Leung, M.D.  
Auburn

John S. Meigs Jr., M.D.  
Centreville

Patrick J. O'Neill, M.D.  
Madison

Dick Owens, M.D.  
Haleyville

Charles M.A. Rogers IV, M.D.  
Mobile

William Jay Suggs, M.D.  
Decatur

Jefferson Underwood III, M.D.  
Montgomery

Jane A. Weida, M.D.  
Tuscaloosa

Amanda Williams, M.D.  
Montgomery

## Medical Licensure Commission

James H. Walburn, M.D.  
Chairman  
Tuscaloosa

George C. Smith Sr., M.D.  
Vice Chairman  
Lineville

Jorge A. Alsip, M.D.  
Birmingham

Craig H. Christopher, M.D.  
Birmingham

Gary R. Hill, D.O.  
Auburn

Mr. L. Daniel Morris  
Montgomery

Paul M. Nagrodzki, M.D.  
Birmingham

Pamela D. Varner, M.D.  
Birmingham

*ALBME Welcomes New Members continued from page 1...*

Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic, one of the largest and most reputable psychiatry residency programs in the country. There she was the chief resident of inpatient services and completed a one-year fellowship in Community Mental Health. She is now a board-certified psychiatrist in Montgomery, Ala.

Dr. Williams primarily treats adults with disorders of mood, anxiety, psychosis and personality, along with those struggling with addiction, past trauma, intellectual disabilities, and memory difficulties. She is a strong advocate for individuals suffering from mental illness and absolutely loves helping individuals find genuine wellness.

## Effective Nov. 18: Gabapentin Changed to Schedule V

On May 15, 2019, the Alabama State Committee of Public Health voted to change Gabapentin to a Scheduled V medication, effective Nov. 18, 2019. The six-month implementation period was provided to allow time to implement the appropriate changes for a legend medication to move to a scheduled medication.

These changes may include the following: software requirement changes; increase in physical space to store scheduled medications; and changes in procedures for prescribing a controlled substance. Please begin to make the necessary adjustments to meet the implementation date, Nov. 18, 2019.

Questions should be directed to Nancy Bishop, State Pharmacy Director, Alabama Department of Public Health, [nancy.bishop@adph.state.al.us](mailto:nancy.bishop@adph.state.al.us).

## 2019 CME Series

### PRESCRIBING AND PHARMACOLOGY OF CONTROLLED DRUGS

#### *Critical Issues and Common Pitfalls*

August 2-4 | Destin

November 23-24 | Birmingham

[www.alamedical.org/prescribing](http://www.alamedical.org/prescribing)

# Underwood Minority Scholarship Award Announced

MONTGOMERY — The Underwood Minority Scholarship Award is named for long-time Montgomery physician,

the Medical Association's 152nd President, and current



*Jefferson Underwood III, M.D.*

Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners Board Member Jefferson Underwood III, M.D. The scholarship award is for African-American individuals who are underrepresented in Alabama's medical schools and the state's physician workforce.

"The Association's leadership has been long aware that, even after decades of effort to affect change, African American enrollment in medical schools continues to lag," said Executive Director Mark Jackson. "Coupled with the exorbitant cost of medical education and the need for more financial aid opportunities to

help ease this burden for those students who wish to pursue the art of medicine, particularly for minorities who may not have access to scholarships or other avenues of financial aid, the Board of Censors decided to create a scholarship for African-American individuals underrepresented in Alabama's medical schools and the state's physician workforce. Naming the scholarship in honor of Dr. Underwood for his service to the Association, his patients and his colleagues seemed only fitting."

Dr. Underwood became the first African-American male to serve as President of the Association in 2018-2019. He previously served the Association as President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer and Vice President. He is also a member of the Montgomery County Medical Society, in which he also served on the Board of Trustees and as President.

Requirements of the Underwood Minority Scholarship Award include:

- Applicants must be African American.
- Students already attending medical and osteopathic school or who have been accepted are eligible.
- One scholarship will be awarded annually.
- Fundraising efforts will be the responsibility of the Medical Foundation of Alabama.
- The scholarship presentation will take place at the Medical Association's Annual Meeting.
- The Board of Medical Scholarship Awards will make recommendations to the Medical Association for potential recipients.
- 2020 scholarship applications will become available in Fall 2019.

For details, contact Mark Jackson at [mjackson@alamedical.org](mailto:mjackson@alamedical.org).

## Do You Have Patients Who Live or Travel Extensively Outside the Country?

For patients who live or travel out of the country for an extended period of time, the Board recommends the physician coordinate with the patient's insurance carrier and pharmacy to provide prescriptions with appropriate dosing and usage while the patient is out of the country.

Most insurance carriers have a process in place that allows for long-term

prescriptions for patients who travel out of the country extensively or who live temporarily outside of the United States.



The practice of providing prescriptions for escalated amounts of controlled substances in an attempt to make the medication available over the extended travel period puts the patient at increased risk for misuse, abuse and diversion.



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

**Mission:** The Alabama State 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.

## MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION – APRIL 2019

On April 29, the Commission revoked the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Stephen M. Sawrie, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.26183, Chickasaw, AL.

On April 29, the Commission denied the request to lift the license restrictions on the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Vanessa Thomas, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.29849, LaGrange, GA.

On April 29, the Commission lifted the suspension of the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **John Barrett Slappey, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.34055, Vestavia, AL.

On April 29, the Commission lifted the probation of the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Barry N. Lumpkins, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.24548, Moulton, AL.

On April 22, the Commission issued an Order revoking the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Duane W. King, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.11133, Birmingham, AL, staying the revocation, and placing license on indefinite probation pending satisfaction of conditions of probation.

On April 19, the Commission revoked the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Malachy M. DeHenre, M.D.**, lic. no. 22722, Raleigh, MS.

On April 19, the Commission entered an Order denying the application for reinstatement

of **Paul Muratta, D.O.**, lic. no. DO.536, Gadsden, AL.

Effective April 16, the Commission amended the terms of probation on the license of **Marie C. Cebert, D.O.**, lic. no. DO.656, Harvest, AL, authorizing her to recommence the practice of medicine subject to certain terms.

On April 16, the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Judy O. C. Travis, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.11061, Demopolis, AL, was temporarily suspended until such time as the Administrative Complaint filed by the Board of Medical Examiners shall be heard and a decision rendered thereon.

Effective April 5, the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Kang Lu, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.33264, Crestview, FL, was temporarily suspended until such time as the Administrative Complaint filed by the Board of Medical Examiners shall be heard and a decision rendered thereon.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS – APRIL 2019

Effective April 22, the Board temporarily suspended the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate and Pain Management Registration of **Deborah J. Hart, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.13847, Somerset, KY.

On April 16, the Board issued an Order terminating the probation on the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Farouk**

**Y. Khan, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.21322, Dothan, AL.

On April 4, **David Douglas Schaffer, D.O.**, lic. no. DO.421, Montgomery, AL, voluntarily surrendered his license to practice medicine in Alabama.

On April 1, **Marshall Brian Plotka, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.10607, Huntsville, AL, voluntarily surrendered his Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate and Pain Management Registration. On April 17, Dr. Plotka voluntarily surrendered his certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama.

## BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS – MAY 2019

Effective May 29, the license to practice as a physician assistant of **Steven P. Laubenheimer, PA**, lic. no. PA.414, Collinsville, AL, is temporarily suspended until such time as the matter shall be heard by the Board and a decision rendered thereon.

Effective May 22, **Laurence D. McMillan, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.38242, Birmingham, AL, entered voluntary restrictions on his certificate of qualification and license to practice medicine in Alabama.

## MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION – JUNE 2019

On June 12, the Commission entered an order denying the

*See Public Actions continued on page 5...*

Public Actions continued from page 4...

application for licensure of **Duke J. Wood, D.O.**, Amory, MS.

### BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS – JUNE 2019

On June 10, the Board entered an consent order amending a term of the restrictions on the Alabama Controlled Substances Certificate of **Larry Taylor Bolton, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.5951, Scottsboro, AL.

### MEDICAL LICENSURE COMMISSION – JULY 2019

Effective July 3, the license to practice medicine in Alabama of **Vinson M. DiSanto, D.O.**, lic. no. DO.1189, Springdale, AR, is summarily suspended until the Administrative Complaint filed by the Board of Medical Examiners has been heard and a decision rendered thereon.

### ACTIONS FOR CME (reprimand, fine, additional CME required)

**Timothy K. Adams, Jr., M.D.**, lic. no. MD.26609, Huntsville, AL

**Farah Al Khitan, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.34127, Gadsden, AL

**Jason E. Kinsel, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.32456, Huntsville, AL

**Elizabeth M. Mazyck, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.4118, Montgomery, AL

**Barney A. McIntire, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.13722, Birmingham, AL

**Rebecca L. Mittelstadt, PA**, lic. no. PA.405, Alabaster, AL

**Joseph F. Pazona, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.35291, Brentwood, TN

**Richard L. Stephens, PA**, lic. no. PA.623, Birmingham, AL

**Duane M. Tippetts, D.O.**, lic. no. DO.1260, Anniston, AL

**Lawrence T. Williams, D.O.**, lic. no. DO.100, Montgomery, AL

### ACTIONS ON ACSC FOR NOT BEING REGISTERED FOR

**PDMP (administrative fine)**

**Ayodeji O. Adeoya, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.35245, Florence, GA

**Brent B. Blackwell, PA**, lic. no. PA.1129, Birmingham, AL

### ACTIONS ON ACSC FOR PRESCRIBING CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES WITH EXPIRED ACSC (administrative fine)

**Gary K. Adams, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.15051, Huntsville, AL

**Marla Jean Gleason, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.11955, Bay Minette, AL

**David D. Hall, D.O.**, lic. no. DO.283, Montgomery, AL

### ACTIONS FOR NOT OBTAINING/RENEWING PAIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES REGISTRATION (administrative fine)

**Moses A. Awoniyi, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.9604, Decatur, AL

**David S. Wilson, M.D.**, lic. no. MD.26067, Clanton, AL

## Be Sure of the Accreditation Status of ALS, PALS, ACLS Providers

Many advanced life support/resuscitation certification courses are not accredited to confer *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. The Board has become aware of some providers using language in advertisements and on certificates that may be misleading. Be aware that “*AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*” is the only wording approved by the American Medical Association. If the advertisement or certificate does not have *this exact phrase*, then the provider is likely not accredited.

The Board has seen certificates from unaccredited providers using wording such as “awarded 8 hours

of category 1 credit toward the A.M.A. physicians recognition award.” If the “magic words” aren’t present, or when in doubt, ask the provider for documentation of accreditation.

Board rules allow for a maximum of two Category 1 credit equivalents for attendance at nationally recognized advanced life support/resuscitation certification courses that are not otherwise accredited for *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™*. Basic life support courses are excluded and are not deemed to be the equivalent of Category 1 continuing education.

# Disaster Planning for Your Medical Practice

Disasters can overwhelm a medical practice.

Damages can range from shattered windows, power outages for long periods of time, disrupted phone systems, structural damage and destroyed medical records.



of those plans should include:

- A detailed, written plan.
- Instructions to set up an instant messaging system for staff to

communicate with one another when a wireless network is not available.

- Instructions for ensuring medical records are secure, including a plan for maintaining compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA).
- Maintain the certificate of insurance for your medical malpractice coverage with you should you have to relocate your practice.
- If home health care agencies are caring for your patients, ensure

these agencies have plans in place as well.

- Ensure you have a process in place for your return to practice after a disaster has occurred.

You should also create an inventory of all equipment if you do not have one, preferably with video, to make it easier for you and your insurance company when it comes to reimbursement of items destroyed or lost in the disaster.

## Drills

Once you have a disaster plan in place, it is important to have drills to test the disaster plan so that your staff and you know exactly what to do in case of an emergency.

*Tammy Kelley  
Investigative Specialist*

*Alabama State Board of Medical Examiners*

## Plan Ahead

Before a disaster happens, you should have a plan in place with a customized check list to fit your medical practice needs. Some

# DEA Warns of Alarming Increase in Scam Calls

The Drug Enforcement Administration urges its DEA-registered practitioners and members of the public to be cautious of telephone calls from criminals posing as DEA or other law enforcement personnel threatening arrest and prosecution for supposed violations of federal drug laws or involvement in drug-trafficking activities.

DEA continues to receive reports from practitioners and the general public indicating they have received calls threatening legal action if an exorbitant fine is not paid immediately by phone. The callers typically identify themselves as DEA personnel and instruct their victims to pay the "fine" via wire

transfer to avoid arrest, prosecution and imprisonment.

The scam tactics are continually changing but often share many of the following characteristics:

- Callers use fake names and badge numbers or, alternatively, names of well-known DEA senior officials.
- The tone of calls is urgent and aggressive; callers refuse to speak or leave a message with anyone other than the person for whom they are calling.
- Callers threaten arrest, prosecution, and imprisonment, and in the case of medical practitioners, revocation of their DEA numbers.

- Callers demand thousands of dollars via wire transfer or in the form of untraceable gift cards.
- Callers falsify the number on caller ID to appear as a legitimate DEA phone number.
- Callers often ask for personal information, such as your Social Security number or date of birth.
- When calling a medical practitioner, callers often reference National Provider Identifier numbers and/or state license numbers. They may claim patients are making accusations against the practitioner.

*See Scam Calls continued on page 7...*

Scam Calls continued from page 6...

It's important to underscore that DEA personnel will never contact practitioners or members of the public by telephone to demand money or any other form of payment. DEA will not request any personal or sensitive information over the phone. Notification of a legitimate investigation or legal action is made via official letter or in person.

Impersonating a federal agent is a violation of federal law.

Anyone receiving a telephone call from a person purporting to be a DEA special agent or other law enforcement official seeking money should refuse the demand and report the threat using the online form (<https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/esor/>) or by calling 877-792-2873. Reporting scam calls will assist DEA in investigating and stopping this criminal activity. Any urgent concerns or questions, including inquiring about

legitimate investigations, should be directed to the local DEA field division.

To report scam activity online, visit the DEA Diversion online reporting page (<https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/rxaor/>).

For contact information for DEA field divisions, visit the domestic division page (<https://www.dea.gov/domestic-divisions>) on DEA.gov.

## Use of Lasers and Other Modalities Affecting Living Human Tissue

The Board regularly receives questions relating to the use of lasers and other modalities affecting living human tissue. Questions include whether a physician must provide the treatment or if a licensed or unlicensed delegate may be used, if an initial examination may be conducted via telehealth, and whether some of the newer devices, such as CoolSculpting® and Exilis, come under these rules.

### Who can provide treatments?

Board Rules, Chapter 540-X-11, Guidelines for the Use of Lasers and Other Modalities Affecting Living Tissue, address these questions. These rules do not apply to licensed chiropractors, dentists, occupational therapists, optometrists, or physical therapists when the device is used exclusively for the practice within the practitioner's scope of practice. They also do not apply to the practice of "body art" as defined by the Dept. of Public Health when it is not a part of patient treatment and is performed with equipment specifically manufactured for performing body art procedures.

The use of lasers/pulsed light devices, or any energy source, chemical, or other modality that affects living tissue, whether applied for surgical, therapeutic, or cosmetic purposes, is the practice of medicine. Ablative treatments must always be performed by a physician. Non-ablative treatments may be performed by the physician or a delegate of the physician.

There are two levels of delegates. Level 1 Delegates are Certified Registered Nurse Practitioners, Certified Nurse Midwives, and Physician Assistants who are authorized in a collaborative protocol or job description to use a specific device for non-ablative procedures and who have met the educational requirements stated in the rules. A Level 2 Delegate is a person other than a Level 1 Delegate who has met the educational requirements stated in the rules.

A Level 1 Delegate may perform treatments without the physician being on site when the delegate is approved for a "remote site" practice away from the physician. A Level

2 Delegate may only provide treatments when the physician is on site and readily available.

### Initial examination and telemedicine

If a physician is capable of conducting a proper and sufficient examination via telemedicine, while adhering to the same standard of care as an in-person examination, then such examination via telemedicine would be permissible for the purpose of satisfying the Board rule concerning an initial examination. However, the requirement for the physician to be on site while the treatment is being provided still applies when using Level 2 Delegates.

### Newer non-laser devices

If a device affects living human tissue below the stratum corneum, then treatments using the device should be provided in compliance with Board rules. The Board was specifically asked about CoolSculpting® and Exilis devices. The Board is of the opinion these devices affect living tissue, and the use of these devices is subject to Board rules.





Alabama Board of Medical Examiners

P.O. Box 946  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0946  
[www.albme.org](http://www.albme.org)

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Montgomery, AL  
Permit No. 417

### Upcoming BME Meeting Dates

**July 17   Aug. 21   Sept. 18   Oct. 16**

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

Meeting agendas and a full list of meeting dates and times can be found online at [www.albme.org](http://www.albme.org).

### Upcoming MLC Meeting Dates

**July 24   Aug. 28   Sept. 25   Oct. 25**

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

## Have questions or need assistance?

**Alabama Board of Medical Examiners   (334) 242-4116**

Executive Director	Sarah H. Moore
Associate Executive Director	William Perkins
Administration	Brandi Maddera
Board Secretary	Amy Dorminey
Legal	Wilson Hunter, General Counsel J. Matthew Hart Virginia Reeves
Licensing	Patricia E. Shaner
Investigations	Stan Ingram
Physician Monitoring	Jeff Grimsley
Pain Management Services	Edwin Rogers Bob Steelman
Physician Assistants	Donna Jordan
Collaborative Practice	Patricia Ward, RN Amy Wybenga, CRNP

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

Executive Assistant   Karen Silas

### About MedicalDigest...

*MedicalDigest* is the official publication of the Alabama Board of Medical Examiners and Medical Licensure Commission. It is published four times per year: January, July, and October.

Past issues are archived and available on the Board's website at [www.albme.org](http://www.albme.org) and listed as *Newsletter and Report*.

Questions? Please contact the Board of Medical Examiners at (334) 242-4116.