



**2023 Alumni Award Winners**

## **Daniel K. Berry, DO (COM 1984) – Alumni Achievement Award**

**Dr. Daniel K. Berry, D.O., M.S., PhD**

**Col(r), USAF, MC, CFS**

Medical Licenses: Kansas, Oklahoma, New Jersey



Dr. Daniel K. Berry is a graduate of Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN with a Bachelor's Degree with a Mathematic major and a Chemistry minor. He earned a Master's of Science Degree in Biomathematics from Loma Linda University in California, with his research in 3-dimensional modeling of cardiac electrical activity using Aitoff projections, and a PhD in Biomedical Engineering from the California Coastal University in California with his research in statistical analysis of cardiac disorders using the angiogram as the gold standard. Dr. Berry is a physician who graduated from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, and completed his post graduate training at the Tulsa Regional Medical Center, which is now the Oklahoma State University Hospital. Dr. Berry completed the RAM requirements for a Master's of Public Health at the University of Oklahoma, School of Public health, in Oklahoma City, OK. Dr. Berry is Board Certified in Aerospace Medicine by the American

Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine and is Board Certified in Family Practice by the American Osteopathic Board of Family Practice.

Dr. Berry served in the United States Air Force for 28 ½ years as a physician. Dr. Berry started his career as a Flight Surgeon at Tinker AFB in Oklahoma City, OK. Within one year he was promoted to the chair of the 10 physician department. His next assignment was at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey, where he was the Director of Preventive Health Services and directed the offices of Flight Medicine, Public Health, Bioengineering, Infectious Diseases, and the Immunizations Clinic. He was then assigned as the Aerospace Medicine Squadron Commander at Tyndall Air Force Base in Panama City, Florida. Then Dr. Berry was selected to be the Command Chief of Aerospace Medicine, and the Chief of Clinical Medicine, and the Medical Director of the Personnel Reliability Program for headquarters Space Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Dr. Berry then became the Aerospace Medicine and Aeromedical Information Systems Director for the Human Systems Program Office at Brooks City Base in San Antonio, Texas, where Dr. Berry directed the departments for 17 medical device and medical information systems development. Dr. Berry then became the Human Systems Office deputy Group Commander. Dr. Berry's last assignment with the United States Department of Defense was as the Joint Project Manager for Biological Defense, where he ran the joint (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force) programs for the Biological Defense. Dr. Berry had over 100 civilian and military personal and over 500 contractors and a \$1.3 billion dollar budget over the FYDEP. Dr. Berry retired from the Air Force, but continued to practice Aerospace Medicine in the Federal Aviation Administration as first the Deputy Regional Flight Surgeon, and then as the Regional Flight Surgeon for

the Central Region of the United States. Dr. Berry is also the acting Senior Regional Flight Surgeon for the Federal Aviation Administration in which he provides management and oversight of 135 personnel including 23 physicians, and oversight of approximately 5,400 Aviation Medical examiners located in the 9 regions of the United States

Dr. Berry has also been extensively involved in professional activities with the American Osteopathic Association. Dr. Berry held nearly every office in the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine (AOCOPM) including President of the College. Dr. Berry developed and founded the Osteopathic Specialty of Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine and established the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Conjoint Committee. Dr. Berry is currently the Chair, of the American Osteopathic Board of Preventive Medicine (AOBPM). Dr. Berry has served in this position for 14 years, and was just re-elected for a 15<sup>th</sup> year. Dr. Berry is also the President of the American Society of Aerospace Medicine Specialists (ASAMS).

Dr. Berry is a distinguished Fellow of the American Osteopathic College of Occupational and Preventive Medicine and a fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association.

Dr. Berry is one of the authors of the "Aerospace Medicine Board Essentials" text book. Dr. Berry is also a frequent lecturer on topics in Aerospace Medicine and has written articles on Aerospace Medicine. Dr. Berry is a trained item writer for Board questions, and is trained in Anghoff psychometric procedures. Dr. Berry developed the first Undersea and Hyperbaric Medicine Table of Specifications (TOS), and Joint Task Analysis (JTA), and has participated in updating the previous Aerospace Medicine TOS, and JTAs.

Dr. Berry holds five medical patents and is the president and owner of Obtronics, Inc., which is a medical device development company.

### **Dr. Dale W. Bratzler, DO, MPH (COM 1981) – Alumni Service Award**



**Dale W. Bratzler, DO, MPH**, is the Dean of the Hudson College of Public Health; Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Administration and Policy; and Professor in the College of Medicine at the University of Oklahoma (OU) Health Sciences Center. He assumed the role of Chief COVID Officer for the University of Oklahoma in June of 2020. He also serves as the Chief Quality Officer for the three-hospital health system and faculty practice at OU Health. Dr. Bratzler has served two terms as president of the American Health Quality Association and was appointed to the National Advisory Council for the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality from 2005-2008 by then HHS Secretary Mike Leavitt.

For more than 20 years, Dr. Bratzler has participated in research on prevention of surgical infections and on adult vaccination. He was appointed to the CDC's Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee by then HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and subsequently spent a year as a Senior Policy Advisor for the CDC. He has given more than 600 lectures nationally on health care quality topics with a particular emphasis on prevention of surgical site infections and adult vaccination. He has published more than 100 manuscripts in journals such as the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Journals of the American Medical Association*, *Health Affairs*, and others. Board certified in internal medicine, Dr. Bratzler is a Master Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Internists and a Fellow of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

**Dr. Lindsey Malloy-Walton (COM 2007) – Alumni Service Award**



**Dr. Lindsey Malloy-Walton** is a Pediatric Electrophysiologist. She completed medical school at Kansas City University (2003-2007), pediatric residency at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City (2007-2010), Pediatric cardiology fellowship at the University of Iowa Hospital and Clinics (2010-2013), and pediatric electrophysiology fellowship at Lucille Packard Children's Hospital/Stanford University (2013-2014). She has been providing care for patients with dysrhythmias at Children's Mercy Kansas City since 2014. She currently serves as the Medical Director for Inpatient Cardiology,

Exercise lab, Project ADAM KC, and Camp Systole. She is very involved and active in the KC community.

## Margaret Aguwa, DO (COM 1973) – Alumna of the Year



**Dr. Margaret I. Aguwa, BA, DO, MPH, FACOFP**  
Associate Dean and Professor Emerita MSUCOM.  
Chairperson Emerita: Dept of Family and Community  
Medicine

Dr. Margaret Aguwa completed her medical degree at Kansas City University College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1973. After her internship at Tri-County Hospital in Philadelphia, she did a year of surgical residency in New York before joining a Family Practice group in Queens, NY. In 1976, she accepted a faculty position at Michigan State University in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the College of Osteopathic Medicine. She attained full Professorship in 1991 and eventually became Chairperson of the Dept. in 2000. She was named Associate Dean for Community Outreach and Clinical

Research in 2005. Over the years of her service at MSU, she held various positions including: **Chairperson**, University Medical Credentials and Privileges Committee; **Director**, Medical Internship Training; **Faculty Excellence Advocate**, representing the College of Osteopathic Medicine; **Director**, Departmental Clinical Enterprise; **Deputy Medical Examiner**, Ingham County Health Department; and also served as a **US Civil Surgeon**.

In 1992, Dr. Aguwa produced an instructional video-tape on Breast Self-examination. The video-tape titled "Breast Self-examination: A Touch of life" received a Merit Award from the American Cancer Society.

In 2000, Dr. Aguwa founded the OsteoCHAMPS program as a health career pipeline for high school students from communities of need in Michigan. Dr. Aguwa was honored by the Detroit News Board of Directors as a **Michigania**n of the Year 2007.

Dr. Aguwa is board certified in: Family Medicine; Public Health and Preventive Medicine, and has diplomate certificates in Health Policy (AOA) and Academic Medicine Leadership (Costin Institute). She is a Fellow of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians.

Retired from MSU in 2014 after 37 years of service, Dr. Aguwa authored numerous articles and book chapters; served on the editorial boards of the British Medical Journal-USA and The Johns Hopkins University Journal for Advances in Medicine. She was a member of the Advisory Committee to the Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services and helped to write the seminal principles on the training of primary care physicians and dentists throughout the United States. The **“Dr. Margaret Aguwa Endowed Scholarship”** at MSU helps support deserving MSUCOM students in financial need.

From 2014 till 2017, she served as the Medical Director for the Senior Community Care of Michigan, a PACE program in the Lansing community.

Married to Okechukwu Aguwa, PhD, Dr. Aguwa is a proud mother of two surviving sons and is Gigi to her 5-year-old grandson, Dominick.

### **Denise Bratcher, DO, (COM 1986) – Alumna of the Year**



**Denise Bratcher, DO** is a Professor and Associate Dean of Pediatrics at the University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Medicine and a member of the Pediatric Infectious Diseases division at Children’s Mercy Hospital. In addition to her clinical role in pediatric infectious diseases, Dr. Bratcher has served as the Chair of Graduate Medical Education at Children’s Mercy Hospital since 2015 and has been committed to medical education throughout her career. Prior to assuming her current role, she spent 10 years leading the Children’s Mercy Pediatrics Residency Program and 5 years as the Program Director for the Pediatric Infectious Diseases Fellowship program. She has been honored as a medical educator at all stages of her medical career, having received the Darrow Award as a Children’s Mercy resident, the residents’ teaching award as a fellow in Cincinnati, the Daniel Scagliotti Educator of the Year award as CM faculty, and the CM

Department of Pediatrics’ Award for Excellence in Program Development in 2013.

Dr. Bratcher is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a BA degree in Human Biology and the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences. She completed her Pediatrics residency at Children’s Mercy Hospital and Pediatric Infectious Diseases fellowship at Children’s Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati, Ohio.



## **Major General Brett A. Wyrick, DO (COM 1989) – Star Spangled Banner Medallion**



**Maj. Gen. Brett A. Wyrick** is the Air National Guard Assistant to the Department of the Air Force Surgeon General, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. He assists and advises the Surgeon General on all military medical matters. General Wyrick is dual Board Certified in General Surgery and Aerospace Medicine. He has combat experience as a trauma surgeon at Balad Air Base, Iraq. He also served as the Chief of Aerospace Medicine for the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing at Bagram AB, Afghanistan. He is a member of the Hawaii Air National Guard and was first commissioned in the Oklahoma Air National Guard in 1990. He received his Doctor of Osteopathy degree from Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in Kansas City, Missouri and completed his surgical training at Oklahoma State University in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He completed his second residency in Aerospace

Medicine at the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Brooks AFB, Texas.

Dr. Wyrick's contributions to the United States in both his military career and his Federal career with the Federal Aviation Administration are truly remarkable. Dr. Wyrick's assignments include Deputy Joint Staff Surgeon, Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Air National Guard Assistant to the Air Combat Command Surgeon, Adjutant General (Air) Hawaii Air National Guard, Director of the Air National Guard Medical Service, Joint Surgeon of the Texas National Guard, and Hawaii State Air Surgeon. He also served as the Commander of the 154th Medical Group HI ANG. As a Traditional Guardsman, Dr. Wyrick currently serves in his civilian role as the Deputy Federal Air Surgeon for the United States of America. He is the Federal Aviation Administration's Senior Executive responsible for Aeromedical Operations and Plans, Medical Policy and Appeals, Internal Drug Abatement, and the nine FAA Regional Flight Surgeon Offices at various locations around the country.

He is the Delegated waiver authority for every pilot and air traffic controller in the United States, and he advises the United States Ambassador to the International Civil Aviation Authority on aviation medical matters.

Dr. Wyrick is a highly decorated general with the following medals and awards:

Defense Superior Service Medal

Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster

Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters

Air Medal

Joint Service Commendation Medal

Air Force Commendation Medal

Iraqi Campaign Medal

Afghan Campaign Medal

Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terror Service Medal

Air Force Expeditionary Medal

NATO Service Medal

## **Cornelius A. Thiels, DO (COM 13) – Young Alumni Achievement Award**



**Dr. Thiels** is a Surgical Oncologist and HPB Surgeon at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN. He specializes in the surgical management of patients with sarcomas, pancreatic cancer, and metastatic colon cancer as well as patients with neuroendocrine tumors and gastric cancer. Dr. Thiels has special expertise in multimodality treatment of advanced or metastatic cancers, in which surgery is combined with radiation, chemotherapy, or immunotherapy. Dr. Thiels utilizes minimally invasive techniques to perform a variety of operations (including robotic surgery) as well as utilizes radical techniques including intra-operative radiation, HIPEC, and leads the Hepatic Artery Infusion Pump Chemotherapy program at Mayo Clinic. He runs the Surgical Outcomes and Oncology Clinical Research Lab at

Mayo Clinic and is founder and clinical lead of Surgical AI2 lab. He serves as Minnesota State Chair of the Commission on Cancer and is a member of the American Cancer Society Minnesota Board of Directors. Prior to working at Mayo Clinic he completed a Complex General Surgical Oncology Fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, General Surgery Internship and Residency at Mayo Clinic, Surgical Outcomes Research Fellowship at Kern Center, and combined DO/MBA at Kansas City University.