

Genesee County Medical Society
ALLIANCE FOCUS
4438 Oakbridge Dr., Suite B
Flint, MI 48532

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**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION & RENEWAL FOR 2018-2019
GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY ALLIANCE**

Alliance Member's Full Name: _____
Mailing Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Home Phone # _____ Cell Phone if desired _____
E-Mail Address: _____
Physicians Full Name: _____

Annual Dues:
GCMS Alliance \$30.00 NO DISCOUNT ON COUNTY DUES
MSMS Alliance \$32.00 (\$25 **State Dues** if retired)

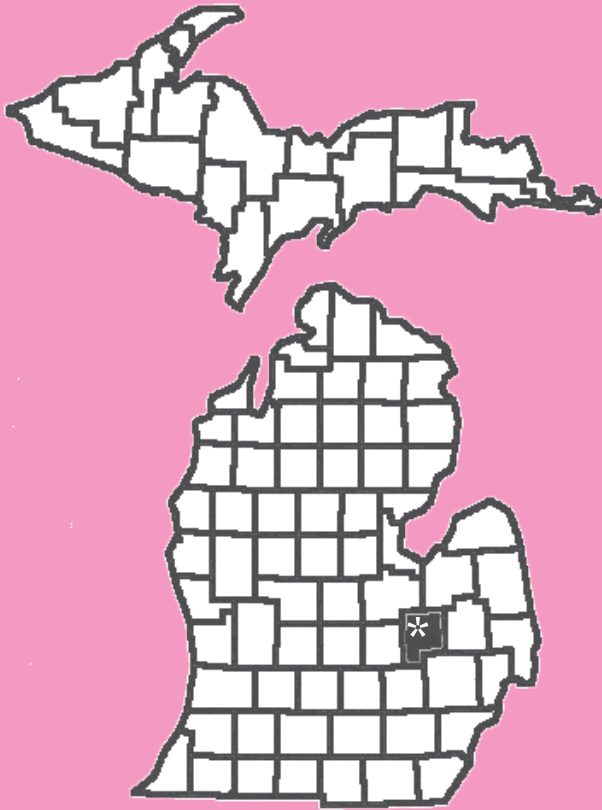
IMPORTANT:
Check payable to: GCMSA
Total Remittance \$ _____
Mail to: Cheryl Thoms

GCMS Alliance Membership
1213 Carter Dr.
Flint, MI 48532

Phone # 732-7719 if you have any questions

GCMS

Alliance Focus



2018 - 2019

Founded in 1938

Since 1938 the GCMS Alliance has offered programs and
services to make our county a better place

President's Message

First and foremost, I would like to say that I'm humbled to be taking the helm of this outstanding organization and feel flattered by the confidence that you all have placed in me. I can ensure you that I will do my very best to exceed your expectations. I have been a member of this organization for many years and value the diverse medical community, having made lots of lastfriendships. I would especially like to thank my husband, Abdullah, and my kids for always being so supportive of my extracurricular activities.

Every year, we have a chance to reevaluate the goals of the Alliance. That being said, I think it is important to adapt to changing times while keeping sight of our goals. I would urge everyone to invest in the Alliance so that we can continue to make a difference in our community.

I have a few goals that, with the help of the board and the members, I would like to achieve this upcoming year. Firstly, the Reach out and Read project is dear to my heart. Childhood literacy is an essential tool for future success and an important investment in future generations. The Doctors and their Families program has been well received in the past, and I hope to continue its success and efficacy. Furthermore, we will continue to support the Healing Hands 5k run. Its success is imperative to the continued prosperity of the Genesee County free clinic, which benefits the community greatly.

Some upcoming membership meetings, that I hope to realize, include the International Luncheon in September, the Presidents' Ball in November, the Children's Program in December, a High Tea, a Fashion Show and, lastly, the Geranium Luncheon. The Friendship Group and The Book Club will continue.

In terms of participation, every little bit helps, whether it is just paying your dues or giving your most valuable asset, your time. I am

looking forward to working with all of our dedicated members during the upcoming year, and I would like to urge everyone to continue to participate, as we are strongest when we all work together. If you have any new ideas, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would love to hear from you!

To quote a great leader, Nelson Mandela: "What counts is not the fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made in the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

Thank you, *Feroza Raffee*



President Feroza Raffee was born and raised in Carnarvon, South Africa. She is married to internist, Abdullah. The couple has four children and one grandchild. On graduating from high school in Cape Town, due to apartheid restrictions, she put aside her dream of becoming a doctor, to

serve as a certified X-Ray technician at Tygerberg Hospital. Her cherished memory is that of caring for the anti-apartheid revolutionary, Nelson Mandela. Later, she and her husband migrated to the United States in 1988, making Flint their home.

Feroza served as Treasurer of the GCMSA for multiple terms. As a volunteer in the community, she lent her efforts for several causes. With her interest in politics, Feroza helped with numerous presidential campaigns. She is an animal lover, over the years, she shared her home with many foster kittens. When she is not busy managing her husband's practice, Feroza enjoys gardening and cooking.

Friendship Group

The group was started in 2006 for ladies 55 and older.

They meet at noon on the 3rd Wednesday of each month and try different restaurants in the area. There is no agenda since they would like to just meet so that they can stay in touch with each other. The food is ordered off the menu and each person pays for her own lunch. The next luncheon is on Wednesday, October 10 at Blondie's Food and Spirits, across from Meijer, at the corner of Hill and Torrey Rds.



Seen in the picture are (L-R): Cheryl Thoms, Barb Pougnet, Marilyn Lindman, Marty Antell, Sylvia Berner, Beth Schumacher, Carole Hassan, Sandi Smith, Linda LeMieux

RSVPs are a must, sent to Cheryl Thoms at 732-7719 or Carole Hassan at 624-5154. The group is open to all and would like to see more ladies join them.

Doctors and Their Families Make a Difference

This project has been around for many years. It is a simple way to help the needy in our community. Your gifts will help families in our local crisis shelter. Here's all you need to do:

- 1) Fill bags with personal care and children's items-toothpaste, deodorant, over-the-counter pain relievers and cold medicines, hygiene products, diapers, and household cleaning products.
- 2) Bring them to the International Luncheon or drop them off at the GCMS Office on Linden Road. The GCMSA volunteers will collect the filled bags and deliver the items to the local family crisis centers.

Together, we can "Make a Difference!"

2018-2019 GCMSA Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

President Feroza Raffee
Secretary Rula Ali
Treasurer Rosa Wang

Standing Committees:

Membership.....Lakshmi Tummala
& Cheryl Thoms
Doctors and Their Families Make a Difference
.....Velynda Makhene
Reach Out and Read
.....Elizabeth Jordan,
.....Joy Dawn Hardman
Program.....Lakshmi Tummala
Legislation..... Beth Schumacher
Public Relations/Website..... Rula Ali
Courtesy Dianne Thompson
Fundraising:
5K Run/Walk..... Maria McCann
Presidents Ball Feroza Raffee

Special Interest:

Newsletter..... Lakshmi Tummala
Friendship Group.....Carole Hassan &
Cheryl Thoms
Book Club Rula Ali

www.GCMSALLIANCE.COM

Membership

As we all know, membership is the backbone of any organization. The projects undertaken are based upon the funds available. GCMSA, at one time, boasted a record membership, across the state. During the past few years, we have seen a decline in the numbers. We have lost some of the senior members and some more due to the retirement and moving of their spouses to warmer places. Hopefully, we will be able to recruit the younger physician spouses who can bring in fresh ideas. Thank you for your continued support of the organization that gives us an opportunity to give back to the community.

Lakshmi K. Tummala
Chairperson

Programs

- **September 25, 2018**
International Luncheon
Lakshmi Tummala
- **Oct 23, 2018**
Fashion Show
Feroza Raffee
- **November 10, 2018**
Presidents Ball
Feroza Raffee
- **December 2018**
Christmas Outing – Beth Schumacher
TBA
- **February 26, 2019**
Neighborhood Coffee
TBA
- **March 2019**
Cyber Security – Lakshmi Tummala
TBA
- **April 23, 2019**
Gardening – Feroza Raffee TBA
- **May 21, 2019**
Geranium Luncheon
Beth Schumacher &
Carole Hassan

Board Meetings

Board meetings will be held
at the GCMS Office at
4:00 PM
on the **first Tuesday**
of the following months

October 2, 2018

January 8, 2019

March 5, 2019

May 7, 2019

Geranium Luncheon 2018

Another Alliance year came to an end with the annual Geranium Luncheon held at the Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club. Cheryl Thoms, Rula Ali and Rula Ali, greeted the members. The program started with an invocation by Liesbeth Fernandez. A moment's silence was observed for members lost during this past year with Carole Hassan and Beth Schumacher offering a rose for each in their memory.

Immediate past president, Maria McCann gave a report on the year's activities. Pete Levine, Executive Director-Genesee County Medical Society and Sherry Smith-Executive Admin Assistant, were thanked for their continued support of the GCMSA.

A light and delicious lunch with a healthy green salad, crusty rolls with butter and turkey wrap followed. That was topped off with a decadent chocolate cake for dessert. It was, then, time for the eagerly awaited fashion show with some of our Alliance members modeling today's hot fashions. Beth Schumacher, Carole Hassan, Liesbeth Fernandez and Rula Ali did the cat walk donning chic clothing

from Cabi's and Kim Rose of Grand Blanc. The program ended with Lakshmi Tummala installing officers for 2018-2019. Feroza Raffee, Rula Ali and Rosa Wang took oath to serve as President, Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Thank you, ladies, for stepping up to the plate to give of your time to serve the Alliance.

As is the tradition, Past Presidents, Rula Ali, Kathy Cox, Lila Esfahani, Liesbeth Fernandez, Elizabeth Jordan, Kee Ja Kang, Vibha Kaushal, Jay Kommareddi, Velynda Makhene, Bobbie Schoolfield, Beth Schumacher, Cheryl Thoms, Lakshmi Tummala and Rachel Yapchai, were each recognized for their service with a beautiful pot of geraniums.



Reach Out and Read

Keeping in mind the importance of reading among students, GCMSA will focus, this year, on the Reach Out and Read program. We would like to partner with one or two area schools to mentor students in promoting reading skills.

Following is a message received from one of the schools.

Dr. DANA D. DYSON.

SUBJECT: WOODCROFT-EISENHOWER
COMMUNITY MENTOR PARTNERSHIP

The overall goals of the program are to increase reading proficiency to 55% by June 30, 2019 and to meet the learning target: R.F.2.4. Common Core, which reads that "student can read with accuracy and fluency." Thus, the objective of the WECMP is to help Eisenhower School meet its goals by supporting the teachers in their efforts to increase the reading speed and fluency of each student. In the 2018-2019 academic school year, given the new standards set by the State of Michigan to retain students in the 3rd grade who read below grade-level, we will continue to work with the students who were in the pilot program during the 2017 – 2018 school

year, as they progress into the 3rd grade. The program will run twice in 2018-2019. From September to November 2018, we will mentor 3rd graders. Then, we will mentor a new group of 2nd graders from February to May 2019. Each program will run for approximately 8 weeks. Unfortunately, the school does not have the space to run the program for both grades, concurrently.

Dr. Dyson notes that children need books to practice their skills and the program is looking for volunteers to mentor the children (training is available for participant volunteers). Dr. Dyson will attend the International Luncheon as our guest. She will personally share the needs of the WECMP program, how we can participate/help, and successes that have been documented thus far. She is excited to meet Alliance members and is grateful for any help and support we can give to the program which helps Flint students to meet their needs.

D. Elizabeth Jordan Ph.D, Co-Chairperson

P. S. Members are requested to bring gently used books to the International Luncheon to be donated for the above need. Thank you.

International Luncheon



The GCMSA will kick off the year with the ever popular International Luncheon. It will be held at the beautiful home of Mary and Dan Ryan. Come enjoy the potluck with yummy dishes prepared by our members.

Please bring a dish to pass or pay \$15.

Date: Tuesday, September 25

Time: 11:00 AM

**Place: 2802 Westwood Parkway
Flint, MI 48503**

**RSVP by
September 21**

to:

Lakshmi Tummala (810) 908-8023

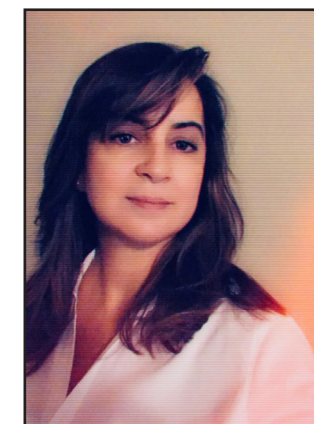
Cheryl Thoms (810) 732-7719



Rosa Wang was born and raised in Taipei, the capital and business center of Taiwan. She graduated with a B.A. degree in Western Language and Literature (Majoring in English) in Taiwan and an M.A. degree in Communication Arts from the University of

Wisconsin-Madison. Husband, Stephen Wang, is an Urologist and Rosa is a successful venture capitalist for her family in Real Estate and Equity Investment. The couple has three successful adult children who live in San Francisco.

Besides her business, Rosa is a busy volunteer in the community. She currently serves on the Genesee County Human Trafficking Task Force, is a Trustee of the Flint Institute of Music, a member of the Flint Symphony Chorus and is in the St. Christopher Episcopal Church choir. Rosa is Past President of the GCMSA and is currently serving as Treasurer.



Rula Ali, was born and raised in Jerusalem. Her family, later, moved to Michigan where she met and married husband, Omar who is a cardiologist in Okemos. The couple has four children. She is Past President of GCMSA and has been involved with the organization for many

years, holding various positions on the board. Currently, Rula is serving as Secretary and is Web Master of GCMSA. She also serves as Social Media Chairperson on the Board of the Michigan State Medical Society Alliance. She feels that the best time is that spent with family and friends. Rula enjoys taking long walks. Her hobbies include reading and traveling.

Book Club

The Book club meets four times a year. Since they are a small group of 10-12 members, they take turns hosting the meet at their homes. Members read a variety of books and always have great discussions! The next meeting is on 9/26. The book recommended is, "Big Little Lies" by Liane Moriarty. Those interested in joining the group may contact Rula Ali at RulaAli@aol.com



Seen in the Book Club picture from are (L-R): Kathy Cox, Raquel Yapchai, Ruqsana Ahmed, Amita Desai, Maria McCann, Rula Ali, Tinsi Kline and Sue Lauber.

*Remember To
Save the date*

**November 10th
2018 GCMS/GCMSA
President's Ball**



The Healing Hands 5K Run/Walk



The GCMSA has been partnering with other groups in the community to help raise funds to support the Genesee County Free Medical Clinic that treats uninsured and under insured residents in the area. Volunteers are needed to help at the race to be held in May. More information on the date of the race and organizational meetings will be included in the next issue of the Focus.