

4th Annual

Street Medicine of Michigan Symposium



October 24, 2026

Michigan State University, East Lansing

AWARDS

Dean Carpenter Award: Dean Carpenter was a nurse practitioner at the Neighborhood Service Organization's Tumani Center in Detroit and the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, MI. He had an incredible passion both for teaching, spending many years as a clinical preceptor, and for providing care to those who needed it. He became a trusted figure in the world of street medicine to his patients, and provided not only medical care and support, but also a listening ear. In his memory, we highlight the actions of other amazing and dedicated individuals that are changing the world of street medicine.

Student Excellence in Street Medicine Award: This award is brand new this year, and will be given to a medical student who has shown dedication and commitment to street medicine. Whether that be through volunteering, advocacy, or another avenue, this award is dedicated specifically to the amazing students who get involved with street medicine, in order to show our appreciation for all of their hard work

This year's award winners to be announced at the event!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Jim O'Connell, MD (he/him) serves as the President of Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. O'Connell received his medical degree from Harvard University in 1982 and completed residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1985, he began full-time clinical work with homeless individuals as the founding physician of the program. He established the nation's first medical respite program in 1985, with 25 beds nested within the Lemuel Shattuck Shelter. Working with the MGH Laboratory of Computer Science, Dr. O'Connell designed and implemented the nation's first computerized medical record for a homeless program.

Dr. O'Connell served as the National Program Director of the Homeless Families Program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Dr. O'Connell is the editor of [The Health Care of Homeless Persons: A Manual of Communicable Diseases and Common Problems in Shelters and on the Streets](#). His articles have appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, Circulation, the American Journal of Public Health, the Journal of Clinical Ethics, and several other medical journals. His first book, [Stories from the Shadows: Reflections of a Street Doctor](#), was published in 2015 and featured on NPR's [Fresh Air with Terry Gross](#). His work at BHCHP is the subject of New York Times Best Seller, [Rough Sleepers: Dr. Jim O'Connell's Urgent Mission to Bring Healing to Homeless People](#) by Tracy Kidder, published in 2023.

SCHEDULE

8:00-8:30 AM

Registration and Breakfast

8:30-8:45 AM

Welcome

Dean Carpenter Award

Student Excellence in Street Medicine Award

Multipurpose A&B

8:45-9:00 AM

Street Medicine in the Lansing Area

Spartan Street Medicine team

Multipurpose A&B

9:00-9:30 AM

DHHS Update

Amber Troupe and Lynn Nee, DHHS

Multipurpose A&B

9:30-10:20 AM

Advocacy Panel

Kat Layton, LMSW

Sheri Wander, coordinator with Daytime Warming Center

Jim Clark, Community Organizer with Washtenaw Camp Outreach

Mark Brieve, Director, Community & Govt Relations, MSU CHM

Megan Morris, Director of Govt Relations, CMU

Multipurpose A&B

10:20-10:30 AM

Break

Living Room

10:30-11:30 AM

Keynote: Reflections on Four Decades of Caring for Rough

Sleepers in Boston

Jim O'Connell, MD

Multipurpose A&B

11:45 AM-1:00 PM

Lunch and poster viewing

See poster listing on page 5

Living Room

Michigan State University is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

1:00-1:55 PM

A) Safety on Street Medicine

Multipurpose A

Graham Atkin, PhD, Faculty Advisor, Spartan Street
Kayla Csapo, OMS3, Spartan Street Medicine
Abigail Leeland, OMS2, Spartan Street Medicine
Kate Driesse, M2, Spartan Street Medicine
Phillip Bulson, Sheriff's Deputy Paramedic

B) 1:00-1:25PM- Expanding Accessibility: Mobilizing STI Clinics

Multipurpose B

Jasmine Bains, Medical Volunteer, Street Outreach Teams
Justice Crane, Medical Volunteer, Street Outreach Teams

1:30-1:55PM: NurtureNet: A Street Medicine Model for Supporting Unhoused Pregnant and Postpartum Patients

Bea White, NurtureNet Coordinator, Street Medicine Detroit
Olivia Daniel, NurtureNet Coordinator, Street Medicine Detroit
Ritika Tiwary, NurtureNet Coordinator, Street Medicine Detroit

2:00-2:30

Living Room

Break- Enjoy Ice Cream from MSU's Dairy Store

2:30-3:25 PM

A) Gender-Affirming Care and Street Medicine: Current Challenges And Advocacy for Student Education

Multipurpose A

Zachary Austin, Chief Coordinator, Spartan Street Medicine
Jenna Koelsch, MPH, Chief Coordinator, Spartan Street Medicine

B) Oral Health

Multipurpose B

Sarah Tomaka, DDS, MPH, Assistant Dean of Outreach, U of M School of Dentistry
Julia Jardina, Dental student, U of M School of Dentistry
Kennedy Kuhlmann, Dental student, U of M School of Dentistry

3:30-4:30 PM

A) Legislative Adocacy for Street Medicine in the State of Michigan and Beyond

Multipurpose A

Adam Gaetz, Mt. Pleasant Event Coordinator, CMU Street Medicine

B) Building Foot Care Capacity in Street Medicine Teams

Multipurpose B

Ashley Park, Medical student, U of M Medical School
Sanjana Paye, Medical student, U of M Medical School
Zoe Siegel, Medical student, U of M Medical School
Zoe Chen, Medical student, U of M Medical School
Lauren Bradford, Medical student, MSU COM
Liliana Melgoza, Medical student, MSU COM
Stephanie Behme, DPM, University of Michigan Podiatry
Eve Losman, MD, University of Michigan Emergency Medicine

4:30-5:00 PM

Legislative Brainstorming Session

Multipurpose A

POSTERS

Inhalation Safe-Use Kits as Route Transition Interventions Among People Using Methamphetamine in Southwestern Indiana

Zorah Mehrzad, Indiana University School of Medicine & AmeriCorps

Implementing Sunscreen Dispensers in Homeless Shelters: A Community-Based Pilot Initiative

Lexi Zydeck, Kate Riscks, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine; Grace Schaeffer, Kate Driesse-Keegan, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

Patient Demographics and Comorbidity Burden in Michigan State University's Spartan Street Medicine Program

Grace Schaeffer, Kate Driesse-Keegan, Michigan State University College of Human Medicine ; Lexi Zydeck, Kate Riscks, Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine

The Climate-Housing-Health Nexus: How Extreme Weather Compounds Inequities in Chicago

Lauren Petersil, Chicago Street Medicine

Understanding Homeless Healthcare and Resources Through the Lens of Federally Qualified Health Centers

Anna Bender, Medical Student, Indiana University School of Medicine and Hoosier Public Health Corps

"All the trauma I've been through was training for the work I do now": Integrating Lived Experience into Dayton Street Medicine

Elizabeth Barnett, Demingo Hill, Duane Short, Sydney Silverstein, Dayton Street Medicine

Building Bridges: A Review of Street Medicine Referral Pathways to Inform a Planned Program Readiness Toolkit

Jenny Lee, Madeleine (Maddie) Wong, Andrew Sorn, Chicago Street Medicine

Pathways to Healthcare Access - A Needs Assessment Survey of Michigan Student-Run Free Clinics

Nathanael Brookshire, Tessa Mlinar, Elizabeth Gray, Isabel Young, Jacob Spaulding, Central Michigan University Street Medicine

Street Medicine in Detroit, The Path to Meaningful Change: A Summary of Qualitative Interviews with Street Medicine and Outreach Workers

Amanda Casetti, Brooke Waldon, Meera Bhagat, Alex Kastrul, Wolverine Street Medicine

From Classroom to Community: A Community-Partnered Curriculum Model for Longitudinal Street Medicine

Vaishnavi Labhishetty, Ashley Shamp, Elton Tong, Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine

Boonshoft Health Outreach Program: A Student-Led Model for Engagement with Persons Experiencing Homeless

Elton Tong, Wright State Boonshoft School of Medicine

Extended Stay Motels: Housing Crisis and Research Opportunity

Sapna Nakshatri, Indiana University School of Medicine

Beyond the Waiting Room: Exploring Emergency Care Among Unhoused Populations to Improve Medical Education

Shambhvi Ojha, Dyelle Frederick, Detroit Street Care

Responding to Extreme Winter Conditions in Michigan: A Warming Center Navigation Resource for Street Medicine Outreach

Sandra Messiha, Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine

Detroit Street Care: A Qualitative Program Evaluation of a Student-Led Street Medicine Program

Noor Msallaty, Ananya Rao, Niharica Suri Kannan, Detroit Street Care

New Approaches to Street Outreach: Foot Outreach

Justice Crane, Jasmine Bains, Medical Volunteer, Street Outreach Teams

Abandoned Building Exploration

Jasmine Bains, Medical Volunteer, Justice Crane, Street Outreach Teams

STRIDE: Bringing Diabetes Screening, Referral, and Education to Street Medicine Footcare Runs

Muhammed Sillah, Harrison Greenbaum, Wolverine Street Medicine

Integrating Community Partners into Street Medicine

Sydney Silverstein, Mason Chambal, Boonshoft School of Medicine; Jennie Valdez, Dayton Fire; Drew Ryan, Dayton Dream Center; Andy Altenburg, Miami Valley Housing Opportunities