The opioid epidemic continues to be a national emergency. Michigan set a new record for overdose deaths in 2018—an alarming trend that is predicted to continue for several years to come. Opioids are commonly prescribed after both minor and major surgical procedures for pain management. Overprescribing is a widespread problem and contributes to the opioid crisis currently claiming 134 American lives every day. With up to 92% of patients having leftover opioids after common operations, millions of pills are left vulnerable to diversion into our communities. The impact is acute in urban, suburban and rural communities alike. Understanding the many complex issues related to opioid overuse and overdose is extremely important in developing effective policy. Please join us to hear from an informative panel of experts from the University of Michigan who will discuss their research and recommendations for policy changes that could help Michigan stem the tide in this growing opioid crisis.

More About the Speakers

Dr. Jennifer Waljee co-directs the Michigan Opioid Prescribing Engagement Network, Michigan OPEN. She will discuss trends in opioid prescribing and overdose, state and national research on prescribing and treatment across the continuum of care, how opioid prescribing during acute care among patients not using opioids can greatly reduce numbers of new chronic opioid users, and minimizing unintended distribution of prescription opioids into communities.

Dr. Michael Englesbe co-directs the Michigan Opioid Prescribing Engagement Network, Michigan OPEN. He will discuss the unique opportunities provided by collaborative quality initiatives (CQIs) in Michigan. CQIs are statewide, physician-led networks that are devoted to improving the care of patients in Michigan’s major hospitals and surgical specialties. Michigan OPEN partners with them to gather data and implement change to transform surgical pain management and curb opioid misuse.

Dr. Rebecca Haffajee is the Policy Analysis Activities Lead, Policy Workgroup, Outreach and Translation Core, at the U-M Injury Prevention Center. She will discuss trends in state and national-level policies related to opioid prescribing and treatment, and the evidence base for several prominent state policies that target opioid misuse and overdose, prescription drug monitoring programs, pain clinic regulation and naloxone access laws.

Panel Moderator: Dr. Chad Brummett is Associate professor of Anesthesiology and co-director of the Michigan Opioid Prescribing Engagement Network, Michigan OPEN

More About the Caucus

University of Michigan Alumni and friends who work in and around the State Capitol are welcome to participate in the Wolverine Caucus. Our mission is to provide diverse forums at which University of Michigan friends can meet one another, enjoy fellowship, exchange views, and learn from the world-class talents of the University of Michigan.

To receive announcements of upcoming programs, call the UM Lansing Service Center at (517) 372-7801 or email veronicj@umich.edu
Please join us for the following 2019 University of Michigan Wolverine Caucus Forums

Forums will be held at a location in downtown Lansing, MI

Twitter: twitter.com/UMLansing

UMLCS: govrel.umich.edu/caucus.html

Facebook: facebook.com/pages/Wolverine-Caucus/157511511865

Twitter: twitter.com/UMLansing

National Poll on Healthy Aging
Featured speakers: Erica Solway and Dr. Jeff Kullgren, UM Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation (IHPI)

Tuesday, March 19, 2019
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
MI Senate Binsfeld Office Building
5th Floor, Room 5550

How Soon will Autonomous Vehicles and artificial intelligence (AI) be the norm?
Featured speaker: Professor Jason Mars, UM College of Engineering

Tuesday, April 16, 2019
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
House Office Building
Mackinac Room, 5th Floor

New Pathways to Healing: Reversing Diabetes
Featured speaker: Dr. Caroline Richardson, UM Medical School

Tuesday, September 24, 2019
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
House Office Building
Mackinac Room, 5th Floor

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