

QUESTION
SUBMISSIONS:



2026 OPIOID EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM

MOVING AWAY FROM OPIOID RELIANCE

Interprofessional Perspectives; Strategies for Detecting
Opioid Misuse and the Communication that Follows.

MONDAY, APRIL 20

12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Education Agenda

- **12:30 p.m.–12:35 p.m.**
Introduction and Opening Remarks
Dr. Brandy Fuesting
- **12:35 p.m.–1:05 p.m.**
Where We've Been, Where We Are, Where We're Headed
Dr. David Crabtree
- **1:05 p.m.–1:55 p.m.**
Keynote: Pain, Compassion, and Consequence: Lessons from the Table, the Bedside, and the Morgue:
Dr. Tyler McCurry
- **1:55 p.m.–2:05 p.m.**
Break (10 minutes)
- **2:05 p.m.–2:55 p.m.**
Keynote: Teaching Providers about Opioid Misuse Detection
Dr. Karen Derefinko
- **2:55 p.m.–3:25 p.m.**
Moderated Panel: Interprofessional Case Review. *Dr. David Crabtree*
Dr. Melissa Humfleet | *Dr. Katie Kiser*
Dr. Randall Ford
- **3:25 p.m.–3:35 p.m.**
Break (10 minutes)
- **3:35 p.m.–4:15 p.m.**
Experiential Speaker:
Mr. Nathan Payne
- **4:15 p.m.–4:30 p.m.**
Wrap up and Survey

Outcomes

- Explore historical use of opioids, evidence-based adjuncts and alternatives to opioid therapy.
- Define and recognize the role of a personalized compassionate care approach to substance use disorders.
- Identify risk factors, warning signs, and screening indicators of opioid misuse, and apply patient-centered, compassionate communication strategies that support early intervention and appropriate referral.
- Describe the role of Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment as an adjunctive measure in the care of patients struggling with substance use disorder.

Keynote Speakers



DR. TYLER MCCURRY, DO

is a board-certified Osteopathic Family Medicine and Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine physician and full-time medical school faculty member. His clinical background includes outpatient primary care and OMM practice, wound care, hospice and palliative care, and service as county medical examiner. This unique combination of experiences has shaped his perspective on pain as a whole-person phenomenon involving body, mind, and spirit. Dr. McCurry is passionate about restoring osteopathic emphasis on touch, presence, and compassionate care in modern medicine. His teaching focuses on integrating Osteopathic Principles and Practices into real-world clinical decision-making, particularly in pain management and end-of-life care. He brings a reflective, narrative approach to medical education that connects philosophy, physiology, and humanity.



DR. KAREN DEREFINKO, PHD

is an Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine and Associate Professor of Pharmacology, Addiction Science, and Toxicology at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (UTHSC). Her primary research activities target the prevention and treatment of substance use and other conduct problems. She has designed, executed, and managed numerous research protocols that examine the contributions of mental health, stigma, and other proximal mechanisms to substance use and other externalizing outcomes. Based upon findings from this work, Dr. Derefinko has developed seven treatment manuals and completed fourteen treatment outcome studies which have been published in peer-reviewed journals. She received her pre-doctoral training through the University of Kentucky where she also served as a project manager for a longitudinal substance use study conducted through the Center for Drug Abuse Research Translation (CDART), a center funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Dr. Derefinko received additional training in treatment outcome research through her experience at the Center for Children and Families at Florida International University and worked with school systems to develop drug use policies and train educators in substance use and violence prevention. She is now translating her knowledge of risk and maintenance of substance use into tailored interventions for diverse, hard-to-treat populations as a PI or Site PI on four large-scale treatment outcome studies of opioid use disorder treatment or tobacco cessation, and she is exploring the development of substance use in a longitudinal study of childhood health outcomes.

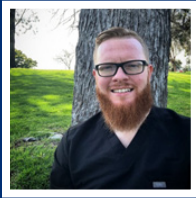
Education Speakers

DR. BRANDY FUESTING, DRPH, MPH



is a social and behavioral public health practitioner with experience in academia and public health practice. Dr. Fuesting is currently the Director of Interprofessional Education, Assistant Professor of Public Health, and Course Director at Lincoln Memorial University Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine. She received her DrPH from The University of Tennessee Knoxville where she examined sexual violence in military communities. Prior to Lincoln Memorial University Debusk College of Osteopathic Medicine, Dr. Fuesting was the Executive Director of the St. Mary's Legacy clinic, a nonprofit mobile primary medical clinic. She also was a Program Development Specialist for Headquarters Marine Corps in Quantico, VA where she developed programs to prevent and respond to military sexual violence. Finally, Dr. Fuesting has worked as a Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for the U.S. Army, Statewide trainer for Tennessee Department of Children Services, and Investigator for child welfare in Alaska and Tennessee.

Dr. David Crabtree MD, MPH



is a medical doctor based in Knoxville, TN, specializing in addiction medicine. He completed his medical education at East Tennessee State University - Quillen College of Medicine, followed by an internship in Psychiatry and residency in Preventive Medicine at the University of California - San Diego. He also holds an MPH in Epidemiology from San Diego State University. After completing addiction medicine fellowship at the University of Utah, he practiced at Kaiser Permanente - Los Angeles. After working in a telemedicine startup, he served as the San Diego regional Medical Director for Acadia Healthcare opioid treatment programs. Dr. Crabtree also has experience evaluating and treating health care professionals with substance use disorders and has consulted for the California and Arizona medical boards. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at LMU-DCOM.

Mr. Nathan Payne, M.S.



is a person in long term recovery. He has a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from Tennessee Tech University. He is passionate about educating others on how to support those in or seeking recovery. In his spare time Nathan enjoys ultra-running, blacksmithing, woodworking and spending time with his wife and dog, Mae Belle.

Melissa Humfleet, DNP, MSN, RN



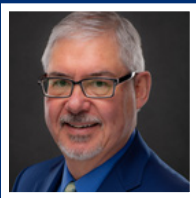
is an Assistant Professor of Nursing and Simulation Coordinator at Lincoln Memorial University Caylor School of Nursing, bringing 26 years of nursing practice and 22 years of nurse educator experience. Her specialty is medical-surgical nursing, and she continues to actively practice at a local critical access facility. Dr. Humfleet earned degrees from Eastern Kentucky University and University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and is guided by a North Star of servant leadership in both the classroom and at the bedside. Outside of work, she enjoys hunting for unique nursing scrubs.

Katie Kiser, Pharm. D., BCACP



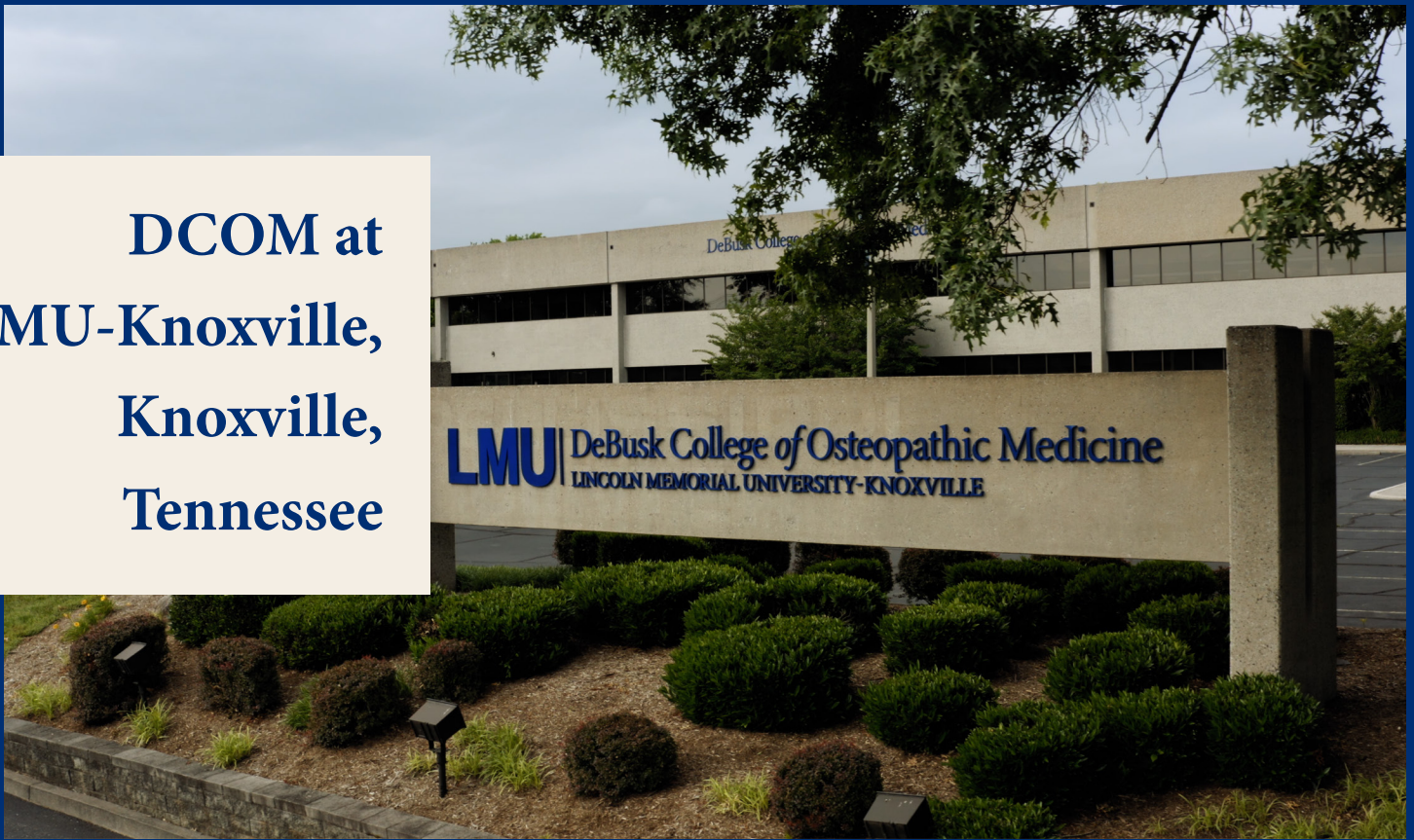
is a Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Director of Interprofessional Education and Clinical and Dispensing Labs at South College School of Pharmacy. She is a board-certified ambulatory care pharmacist and practiced for 16 years in transitions of care and anticoagulation management. Dr. Kiser specializes in teaching clinical abilities and developing, conducting, and assessing objective standardized clinical exams and interprofessional events. Dr. Kiser's research focuses on interprofessional education, clinical abilities and communication assessments, and pharmacy practice readiness.

Dr. Randall Ford, DDS, DrPH, MA, MACSD



is almost a Tennessee native having lived in Memphis for four years and Knoxville for 30 years. Dr. Ford has extensive experience in clinical dentistry, teaching dentistry and public health, and healthcare management. He holds a Doctor of Public Health from Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health at Georgia Southern University and a Doctor of Dental Surgery from the University of Tennessee Center for Health Sciences College of Dentistry as well as a master's degree in Conflict Management from Lipscomb University. Dr. Ford's professional life has been focused on serving vulnerable populations by treating intellectually disabled patients, treating Medicaid patients, and working with non-profit organizations as an administrator to provide care for the uninsured and underinsured populations of Chatham County Georgia. He was also the founder and charter president of the Tennessee Dental Society of Anesthesiology, a position he held for thirteen years before going back to graduate school for his DrPH. Most recently, Dr. Ford served as the interim chairperson for Santa Fe College's dental department. Dr. Ford is excited to be back working at LMU College of Dental Medicine in East Tennessee where he raised his family.

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