



RAM

RICHMOND ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

Patient's Advocate • Physician's Ally • Community's Partner

The Leg.Up

Local, state and national news of interest to the
physician community



October 28, 2026

Email the Editor



FORMER UVA CEO's DAY IN COURT

Most Claims Against Dr. Craig Kent Dismissed



Most claims in a **lawsuit** brought by four current and former **UVA physicians** against former **UVA CEO Craig Kent, MD**, were **dismissed** in court by a federal judge on October 21, [CBS6 reports](#).

"**Senior U.S. District Judge Norman K. Moon** dismissed all claims against UVA and the individual defendants, including Craig Kent. The judge also dismissed the doctors' **civil RICO claims** for a second time," Channel 6 reports. Two claims of **retaliation** under the federal **False Claims Act** and **Virginia Fraud Against Taxpayers Act** were allowed to continue, however.

Dr. Kent resigned from his post in February 2025 after UVA's Board of Visitors received a briefing on an investigation which followed a **no-confidence letter signed by over 100 physicians**, alleging a **profit-driven culture of intimidation** and **retaliation** that **endangered patient safety**. Dr. Kent has denied the claims and filed his own **defamation** suit.



Medicare Advantage: Light at the End of the Tunnel or An Oncoming Train?

Tuesday, November 10th, 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
University of Richmond Jepson Alumni Center

Please make plans to join us on **Tuesday, November 10** at the **University of Richmond's Jepson Alumni Center** for our next **General Membership Meeting** for a discussion on **Medicare Advantage**.

We're pleased to welcome our speaker, **Dr. Rick Mayes**, professor of health policy and chair of the department of health studies at the University of Richmond.

Medicare Advantage (MA) needs reforms. It has gone from a "policy disappointment" in the early 2000s, covering just 14 percent of all Medicare beneficiaries, to predominance two decades later by covering more than half (54 percent) of the Medicare population. MA has transformed Medicare from an egalitarian social health insurance system for its beneficiaries to one that reflects and contributes to the increasing vertical integration, consolidation, and corporatization of U.S. health care.



[Register Here!!](#)

Compelling evidence demonstrates that Medicare substantially overpays private plans, distorts beneficiary choice, and has a fundamentally uneven playing field for MA and traditional Medicare. This is not what MA's creators envisioned for the program.

This meeting will examine how Medicare Advantage has evolved, the problems created by its current structure, and the reforms needed to restore fairness and accountability to Medicare.

Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., dinner at 6:15 p.m. and the presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Members free. Guests \$50.

We hope to have you with us!

Microsoft Announces AI That Thinks Like a Doctor



Microsoft researchers announced they've developed an **AI tool** that is the first to **diagnose sequentially**, step by step, and they claim it is **twice as accurate as a human physician at solving complex medical cases**, [Reuters reports](#).

All other AI tools look at **all the data at once** (symptoms, lab work, imaging) and **arrive at a conclusion**. Microsoft's tool, however, uses an "**orchestrator**" to guide itself along the same path a physician takes to reach a diagnosis: **Asking questions** about history and symptoms, conducting an exam, and then **deciding what tests to order**. Based off each piece of data it learns, it **revises its diagnosis** if necessary, "**updating its working hypotheses and plans**."

"Tasked with diagnosing more than **300 highly unusual and confusing medical dilemmas**, the model employing the diagnostic orchestrator was more than twice as accurate at 'working up' the patient and determining the diagnosis as general physicians using **textbooks** and the **internet**," researchers told Reuters. Additionally, they claim its diagnostic process **cost less** than when performed by humans.

Hopefully Microsoft's tool proves safer than **ChatGPT**, which has been accused in a lawsuit filed against **OpenAI** of **contributing to the death** of a young Chinese student visiting the U.S. who **distrusted her**

doctors and was encouraged by the AI bot to reduce her epilepsy drug dosage, the [New York Times reports](#).

2027 RAM Board of Trustees!

VOTING IS NOW OPEN! The RAM Board of Trustees serves staggered two-year terms. Each year, approximately one-half of our board completes their term in office. At the close of 2026, two Trustees rotate off and five Trustees are eligible to stand for election to another term. Trustees and officers may hold office for three consecutive two-year terms.

Please **[click here](#)** to learn more about each candidate. Online voting is open **October 9 - Tuesday, November 10 at 6:00 p.m.**



[Vote for Entire Slate](#)

[Vote Individually](#)

Chesapeake Regional to Pay \$19.2M Over Perwaiz Claims



Chesapeake Regional Medical Center has finalized a settlement with the **U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia** over its role in the **fraudulent, medically unnecessary** procedures performed by **former OBGYN Javaid Perwaiz**, [Becker's Hospital Review reports](#).

"Under the agreement, Chesapeake Regional will pay **\$6.4 million** to healthcare programs — including **Medicare, Medicaid and Tricare** — and establish a **\$12.8 million restitution fund** for patients who underwent procedures performed by Mr. Perwaiz at the hospital," according to Becker's.

"Eligible patients will have **six months** from the start of the agreement's two-year term to **submit claims for compensation**. The fund will cover **qualifying losses** under **federal restitution law**, including certain **medical expenses**, but **not emotional distress or similar damages**." The hospital admitted to **"repeatedly renewing Mr. Perwaiz's medical privileges despite knowledge of his previous misconduct and concerns raised by hospital employees,"** and it acknowledged that its **leadership was aware of "improper inpatient billing practices, insufficient documentation** supporting medical necessity and **deficiencies involving patient consent for sterilization procedures,"** yet the hospital continued to bill the government anyway.

The hospital has two years to implement **"safeguards** involving **physician oversight, patient consent, medical necessity reviews** and **employee reporting** of potential violations," and it must maintain an **independent compliance monitor**.

*Please Share This With Your
Practice Administrators and Staff!*



2026 Medical Office Staff Appreciation Lunch
Friday, December 11, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
University of Richmond Jepson Alumni Center
442 Westhampton Way, Richmond

As a token of our appreciation for the medical office staff of our Academy members, we're hosting our 2nd annual **Medical Office Staff Appreciation Lunch**—an afternoon dedicated to celebrating you and all you do.

This year, we are excited to have Richmond's favorite juggler/magician, **Jonathan Austin**, join us. Come hungry and ready to laugh!

Thank you to **The Doctors Company** for generously sponsoring this event!



[Register Here!](#)

ACOG Recommends Hormone Replacement Therapy



The **American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)** recently updated its guidelines for the treatment of **menopausal symptoms** in **women**, fully endorsing the use of **hormone replacement therapy (HRT)** as a treatment option, [NPR reports](#).

The new guidelines say that HRT's **safety** is now "**well established**," despite a **2002** finding by the **Women's Health Initiative** that indicated increased risks for **heart disease**, **breast cancer**, **stroke** and **pulmonary embolism** associated with the treatment. Reanalysis of the data uncovered limitations to that finding, such as the fact that the **majority of participants were aged 60 and up**, generally well beyond **perimenopause** and menopause.

A few new studies recently presented at the **Menopause Society** annual meeting did uncover possible risks associated with the treatment. One found that **estrogen-only therapy** was "associated with a slightly higher incidence of **autoimmune disease** compared with **estrogen-progestogen therapy**," [MedPage Today reports](#). Another found that **testosterone therapy** was tied to "heightened risk of **incident cardiovascular disease**," [according to MedPage Today](#). And a third suggests HRT could "lead to longer, more frequent **migraines**," [Healio reports](#). One bit of good news, however: HRT combined with **GLP-1s** may lead to greater, sustained **weight loss** than GLP-1s alone, said another study.

ACOG's recent endorsement has only **increased demand** for **estradiol patch** prescriptions, further exacerbating a year-long **supply shortage**. **Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand** (D-NY) contacted the **FDA** earlier this month, demanding further action on alleviating the shortage and other **emergency measures**. That agency has yet to declare an official shortage, [USA Today says](#).

New RAM Membership Information

After more than 18 years, there will be a **modest increase in RAM dues**. However, **students, residents, interns, and fellows** are now **free** in an effort to reinforce the importance of organized medicine for the future of their careers.

[Click here](#) to see the latest membership eligibility and dues information.



Ebola Spreads Across Africa in Dire Situation

The **CDC** will require **foreign travelers** entering the U.S. to certify that they have not traveled to the Congo within the last three weeks, [The Hill reports](#), as the **Ebola outbreak** in **Africa** achieves a worrisome new record.



"The Ebola epidemic that began in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** earlier this year has achieved a grim new milestone, turning up in a **third region of the African continent**, the **widest footprint** of any Ebola outbreak to date," the [New York Times reports](#).

Nine cases of Ebola have been reported in the East African nation of **Kenya**, [ABC News reports](#), all of which trace back to a man who lived in the Congo but flew back to his homeland just prior to his death. Over 2,000 miles west of the viral epicenter, **Nigeria has now reported a case**, a **Swiss national** who was **evacuated** home, and [AP reports](#) that patient and the aforementioned first Kenyan case **may have crossed paths** in a **Ugandan airport**.

As of Monday, a second **Kenyan** (a relative of the first) had died from **Ebola**, says [AP](#), as the Congo reported **10,060 cases**, roughly **half of which were fatal**, and more **violence against health workers**, [AP notes](#).

CDC Ignored State Pleas as Public Confidence Tanks

The **Centers for Disease Control (CDC)** was approached in the spring by the **West Coast Health Alliance (California, Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii)** with a request to approve a **test for diagnosing 500 measles cases in eight hours**, the [New York Times reports](#), but the **agency did not respond for two months**.



When they finally received a reply, the states were told that the agency had "**other competing priorities**" and "**could not dedicate time** to making a high-volume test available to state labs." Such was related in a letter from the West Coast states to new **CDC Director Dr. Erica Schwartz**.

The revelation comes as a [new Gallup poll](#) finds a record-high **44%** of Americans **graded the CDC's performance** as "**poor**," [Axios reports](#). "Just **26%** of Americans rated the CDC's performance as **excellent or good**." In 2019, prior to the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the agency's approval was **64%**. The **FDA** is also not getting great ratings, [Fierce Healthcare reports](#).

The latest PR hit taken by the agency was the **resignation of deputy director Dr. Jennifer Shuford four months into the job**, the [New York Times reports](#). Dr. Shuford led the state response against the **West Texas measles outbreak** last year and "gained a reputation as a **data-driven epidemiologist** who understood the importance of **childhood vaccines**," according to the *Times*.



**2026 OFFICIALLY DOUBLES
2025'S CASE COUNT**

2026 Data, Per CDC

45 States

4,588 Cases [+178]

Recently released data from the **CDC** recorded **4,588 cases** on the year, officially reaching **double** the number of cases recorded in the U.S. in **2025 (2,289)**, says CIDRAP. The agency recorded **508 cases** the last **two weeks**, a figure **higher** than the entire U.S. case count for an **entire two-year period (2022-24; 465 cases)**.

Measles Antibodies Lost by Age 6 Months

A new study has determined that most **infants lose any detectable measles antibodies** they received from their **mother** by the age of **6 months**, Healio reports. This time frame is earlier than previously thought and suggests that **MMR vaccination** may need to be recommended at an earlier age. Experts say that the **current 12- to 15-month recommendation** was based on decades-old data that included mothers with antibodies from **natural infection**, not **vaccination** (which passes fewer antibodies on to the child than prior natural infection would).

43 Outbreaks (2026) [+1]

479 Hospitalizations [+28]

18 Internat'l Visitors

3 Deaths *

96% Unvaccinated

Data Current as of

October 15, 2026

👉 THE LATEST

** CDC appears to have counted 3 of 6 recent Pennsylvania state-reported deaths among its figures.*

Are You Part of a Multigenerational RAM Family?

If the answer is yes, we'd love to feature a photo of you and your RAM family members in our next **RAMifications!** Contact Scott today: communications@ramdocs.org.

Insurance, or Uninsurance?

The Commonwealth Fund's 2026 Biennial Health Insurance Survey reveals, "after a **decade and a half of expanding coverage** for Americans, coverage and **access to care** are now **in decline**."

The report says, "policy changes advanced by the **Trump administration** and **Congress** led to the biggest cuts to **Medicaid** and the **ACA marketplaces** since the [**Affordable Care Act's**] passage. The combined effects of these changes are expected to drive the number of **uninsured** people to **37 million by 2036** — about the same as in **2014**, when most of the ACA's changes took effect. Healthcare Dive reports that the **uninsured rate** has now risen to **11%**.



"At the same time, **rapid growth in health costs** is making both insurance and care **even less affordable** — and contributing to **medical debt** — for Americans across the country." Indeed, KFF's newly released 2026 Employer Health Benefits Survey reinforces this conclusion. "**Annual premiums for employer-sponsored family health coverage** reached **\$28,303** this year, **5% higher** than in **2025**. On average, **covered workers contributed \$7,471** toward the cost of family coverage. The **average deductible** among covered workers in a plan with a general annual deductible was **\$1,955** for **single coverage**."

"Employers, too, faced additional costs...**44%** of large employers, **with at least 200 employees**, said they upped what workers had to pay toward coverage...Employers reported taking other actions in the past year to hold down their costs, such as **increasing deductibles** (the amounts people pay toward their care before insurance pitches in), **changing insurers**, adding **preapproval** for some services, or offering workers a **narrower choice of healthcare providers**," KFF Health News reports.

IN RELATED NEWS... Insurers **UnitedHealthcare, AmeriHealth Caritas, Centene, Cigna, Elevance, Florida Blue, Health Care Service Corporation, Imperial Insurance Companies, Oscar and Molina** received letters from Senate Democrats inquiring about **ACA coverage terminations** that will leave **760,000** high and dry. (Becker's Hospital Review)

Rogue AI Infiltrating Bank Accounts



Axios broke a disturbing story last Thursday, reporting "**major U.S. banks are detecting unauthorized third-party AI agents** operating inside **customer accounts**, with some agents attempting to take actions that appear to be **independent of user instructions**."

"Bank executives described the situation as **horrifying**, with one official saying the industry has **grave concerns**," Axios says. In response, many large banks such as **Morgan Stanley, JPMorgan, Bank of America, and Citi** are

restricting third-party agents from accessing platforms.

This latest AI nightmare story was countered by reports that artificial intelligence uncovered a "**severe security issue** in **PHP technology**, which powers **70% of the world's websites**. **Hackers** could exploit the bug to unleash mass chaos, leading **web security** gurus on a frantic mission to **patch websites** last week, the Wall Street Journal reports.

IN RELATED NEWS... **Senators** are launching an inquiry into **Google** for its **Gemini AI** products' impact on **children's mental health** and **educational development** in schools, WSJ reports, following a report by the Journal that detailed **cognitive and emotional dependence** and **plummeting test scores** associated with the tech ... National healthcare and physician groups are submitting comments to the **FDA** laying the burden of **generative AI safety responsibility** in **medical devices** at the feet of **developers** (Healthcare Dive).



- **Calley Means**, MAHA leader and top advisor to **Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.**, resigned last week, reportedly out of frustration that the MAHA **food agenda** was being implemented too slowly. (The Hill)
- More than **250 hospitals** across the U.S. signed a pledge to serve **healthier meals**, according to HHS Secretary Kennedy. (The Hill)
- **CMS** has proposed new **verification requirements** for consumers seeking **premium subsidies** for **Affordable Care Act plans**. (Healthcare Dive)
- Following a slew of recent headlines on **dementia** research, **HHS** updated the **National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias** to include "investment in projects focused on **earlier detection** and **intervention**." (MedPage Today)
- That agency also has relaxed **certification regulations** for **IT companies** developing **electronic health records (EHRs)**, although it did not go through with plans to further deregulate **privacy** and **security requirements**. (BankInfoSecurity)
- Ohio State Medical School stands accused by the **Department of Justice (DOJ)** of **discriminating** against **white and Asian students** in its **admissions** process.
- The **U.S. Supreme Court** refused a **DOJ** emergency request to lift a lower court judge's temporary block on restricting **gender-affirming care** for **transgender federal prisoners**. (Reuters)
- Lawmakers in **Congress** continue to mull ways to patch up the **No Surprises Act's independent dispute resolution (IDR)** process. (MedPage Today)

LAST CALL TO REGISTER!!!



Independent Physicians Group: Implementing AI for Efficient, Compliant Healthcare Workflows
Thursday, November 5, 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
RAM Office, 2821 Emerywood Pkwy, Ste. 200

Artificial intelligence is rapidly transforming healthcare practices, offering new opportunities to improve operational efficiency, streamline workflows, enhance patient care, and reduce administrative burden. At the same time, healthcare organizations must navigate evolving legal, ethical, and regulatory considerations to ensure responsible implementation.

Hear from industry leaders as they share real-world experiences, practical strategies, and key considerations for successfully integrating AI into healthcare operations.

Featured Panelists

George Henry, MD
Mitchell Endoscopy Center

Paulina Silva
Virginia Eye Institute

Trisha Singh, Esq.
Singh Advisory



Register Here!!

Not an independent physician? Please feel free to join us!

Medi¢: The Business of Medicine

Medicare's Proposed 2027 Pay Cuts, by Specialty



"Most physicians who aren't qualifying APM participants face a **1.68% cut** to the **Medicare conversion factor** in **2027** under **CMS' proposed physician fee schedule**. Some specialties face much steeper drops once **coding and valuation changes** are added in.

"The proposed rule, released July 14, would lower the conversion factor to **\$32.8409** from **\$33.4009** for clinicians who are not qualifying APM participants. **Qualifying APM participants** would see a **1.19% cut**, to **\$33.1693**. Most of the drop comes from the **expiration** of the **one-time 2.5%**

increase Congress approved for 2026. Wakely estimates the changes would lower average fee schedule reimbursement by about **2.2%** for nonqualifying clinicians. By locality, the drop ranges from **3.6%** in Arkansas and Southern Maine to **0.8%** in Atlanta.

"The biggest single driver of the gap between specialties is a proposed cut to **same-day E/M visits billed with modifier 25**. When a visit and a 0-, 10- or 90-day global procedure happen on the same day, **only the highest-paid service would get full payment**. The others would be paid at **50%**. CMS said **otolaryngology, dermatology** and **podiatry** would be hit hardest by this change, according to Holland & Knight. The **AMA** and more than **150 groups** have asked CMS to drop the proposal. More than **10,000 public comments** mentioned it, and about **85% opposed** it, per Jiro Health." Learn more here!

Medical Business News

- **One million Americans** will be affected by **Medicare Advantage plan cancellations** by **UnitedHealthcare** and **Humana**. ([The Hill](#))
- **Medical lab company Quest Diagnostics** reported a **cyberattack** affecting **patient records**. ([ABC News](#))
- A **House committee investigation** has been opened into alleged instances of **retaliation** by **pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs)** against **independent pharmacies** supporting **new legislation** to rein in PBM practices.
- **Bon Secours Mercy Health** is poised to buy out **private equity-backed** surgical care provider **Surgical Partners** in a **\$6 billion** deal. ([Yahoo! Finance](#))
- **Prior Auth Pledges:** **Amazon, Google, Meta, Axon Enterprise, and Oracle** pledged to streamline **prior authorization** processes in their **self-funded health plans**. ([Healthcare Dive](#))

Practice Management Pearls

- How effective are **AI scribes**? A new study finds that they **cut down on note-taking time** and **generated fuller notes**, yet other **productivity measures** were **unaffected**. ([MedPage Today](#))

Public Health, Recalls & Shortages

- **RECALL:** **Compounded GLP-1** drugs produced by **Apothecare Pharma LLC** are under recall due to "lack of assurance the vials are **sterile**." ([The Hill](#))

Quick Bites

Brief Useful & Intriguing Health News of Note:

Global Perspective

- A **controversial newborn hepatitis B study** in **Guinea Bissau**, funded by the **CDC**, will not continue, a researcher says ([The Guardian](#)). **House Democrats** wrote the CDC director questioning the study's **ethics** and demanding answers as to why it was funded ([The Hill](#)).

National News

- The Trump administration's **\$50 billion Rural Health Transformation Program** encourages states to roll back **certificate of need laws**. ([CBS News](#))
- The **University of New Mexico Health System** encountered a **cybersecurity** issue so severe it **shut down** its Albuquerque hospital and 30 clinics. ([AP](#))
- The nation's first "**detransition clinic**" opened at **Texas Children's Hospital** per a settlement with state **Attorney General Ken Paxton**. ([Becker's Hospital Review](#))
- **Six medical professionals** were among **15** defendants charged with **health care fraud schemes** in **California** worth **\$2 billion**. ([DOJ](#))
- Actress **Christina Applegate** announced she was **misdiagnosed** with **multiple sclerosis**, generating discussion on **diagnostic errors**. [Becker's Clinical Leadership reports](#) up to **20%** of MS diagnoses are **incorrect**, and what clinicians should know.

State Sweep

- **Eli Lilly** has broken ground on its **\$5 billion manufacturing plant** in **Goochland**. ([Eli Lilly](#); [Richmond BizSense](#))
- **Sentara** announced that its 12 hospitals are part of the 150 around the U.S. now using **Regard artificial intelligence** to augment **patient monitoring** and **discharges**. ([Virginia Mercury](#))
- Longtime **State Sen. Louise Lucas** (D-Portsmouth) has been charged by the **Department of Justice** with **corruption** related to "**using her political power to profit from an illegal marijuana operation**." ([Axios](#); [Virginia Mercury](#))
- Virginia ranks **42nd** in the nation for **total nursing home staffing** and **50th** in **certified nursing assistant staffing**, a new report to the **General Assembly** says. ([Cardinal News](#))

Richmond Recon

- **Access Now** partner, physical rehab clinic **Sheltering Arms**, will open a new **adaptive and medical fitness** programming facility in **Regency** mall. ([Richmond BizSense](#))

Medical Miscellany

- The **American Heart Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists** and the **Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine** released "the first coordinated, multi-society framework to **prevent, detect and manage cardiovascular disease** among **girls and women**." ([American Heart Association](#))
- Moving forward the age at which clinics recommended the **HPV vaccine** to children greatly **increased uptake**, which **doubled** when offered for kids **ages 9 and 10** instead of **ages 11 and 12**. ([Healio](#))
- **Post-vaccine fevers** may be due to **intestinal inflammation** related to the **gut microbiome**, a new study says. ([CIDRAP](#))
- **Possible Breakthrough**: Researchers have uncovered a natural compound that may treat the fatal "**brain-eating**" infection caused by the **amoeba *Naegleria fowleri***. ([Marine Drugs](#))
- **Cannabis legalization** corresponded to a rise in **heart-related hospitalizations**. ([The Hill](#))

Drug & Tech News

- An experimental drug by **Roche, divarasib**, reduced the risk of **lung cancer** death by **44%** compared with existing treatments. ([Reuters](#))
- Although a rare occurrence, **GLP-1s** may interact with **lithium** to raise the latter to toxic levels ([MedPage Today](#)). **ALSO**: GLP-1s appear to provide additional health benefits to patients with **multiple sclerosis**. ([MedPage Today](#))

FDA Approvals

- **Berotralstat (Orladeyo)**, oral pellet formulation for **prophylactic therapy** in adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older. ([BioCryst](#); [Healio](#))
- **Cevimeline HCl (Evoxac)**, liquid formulation for the treatment of **dry mouth** symptoms in **Sjögren's disease**. ([Healio](#))
- **Icodec-abae 700 U/mL (Awiqli)**, once-weekly **insulin** for children aged 10 years and older with **type 2 diabetes**. ([Healio](#))
- **Pembrolizumab (Keytruda)**, for previously treated patients with unresectable or metastatic **solid tumors** that have a **high tumor mutational burden**. ([FDA](#))
- **Ravulizumab (Ultomiris)**, to reduce **proteinuria** in adults with **primary immunoglobulin A nephropathy (IgAN)** at risk for disease progression. ([AstraZeneca](#))
- **Risankizumab-rzaa (Skyrizi)**, **subcutaneous (SC)** induction regimen for adults with moderately to severely active **Crohn's disease (CD)**. ([AbbVie](#))
- **Talazoparib (Talzenna)** in combination with **enzalutamide (Xtandi)**, to treat metastatic androgen pathway modulation-naïve or -sensitive **prostate cancer** with **HRR** gene mutations. ([FDA](#))
- **FFR-IQ**, software for noninvasive estimation of **fractional flow reserve** from **coronary CT angiography (FFR-CT)**. ([Elucid](#))
- **Lightning, computer assisted vacuum thrombectomy (CAVT)** technology. ([Penumbra](#))
- **PASCAL Precision System**, for **tricuspid valve repair**. ([Edwards Lifesciences](#))

Infectious Disease Report

- The **CDC** spotlighted **antibiotic-resistant microbes** in a report published yesterday, sounding alarm on **rising infections** and prioritizing germs by level of concern. ([ABC News](#); [Healio](#))
- **Flu hospitalizations** in mid-October reached their highest rate for that point in the season since **2010**. ([Becker's Clinical Leadership](#))
- **Florida's dengue fever outbreak**, now up to **745 cases (425 locally acquired)**, has triggered a **CDC emergency response**. ([MedPage Today](#); [The Hill](#))
- Cases of **rabies** are on the rise across the nation as federal health officials caution **human exposures** are increasing, too. ([NYT](#))
- **New World screwworm** larvae were discovered in a **Texas elk**, marking the first case of **American wildlife infection** since the **parasite** recently crossed the southern border. ([Axios](#))
- The **first-known human case** of **Shamonda livestock virus** infection was a severely **immunocompromised** patient in **France** who died earlier this month. ([MedPage Today](#))

HARROWING FACT OF THE WEEK

An 18-month-old boy who was discovered in a backyard pool was rushed to an Arizona hospital, given 18 minutes of treatment, declared dead, and then discovered **ALIVE** in the morgue five hours later! The child's mother says the emergency room doctor spoke with her numerous times about her son, saying, "He told me it would kind of just be pointless. That he'd be brain damaged, and his organs, they just wouldn't be sufficient for life," despite a police officer's entreaties that he could still feel a pulse. Now, the family is suing, with their attorney alleging test results were not completed until after death was declared, [WUSA 9 reports](#).



Scott C. Matthew
RAM Director of Communications

Thanks for reading *The Leg.Up!*

Each week we scour the media, looking for the news that matters most to you as a physician. We strive to keep you informed on the issues that affect your practice and share with you avenues by which your voice may be heard. The Academy believes informed physicians are successful physicians. Feel free to reach out anytime, and thanks for all that you do!

communications@ramdocs.org

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