

Dr. Gary R. Katz is an Emergency Physician with Community Health Partners in central Ohio. He founded the practice in 2018 in an effort to increase access to quality emergency medical care to Ohio's rural and critical access communities. He has since helped grow the group to include hospitalist and urgent care service lines treating 65,000 patient encounters a year.

Gary Katz serves as a Councilor at Large for the OSMA council and chairs the OSMA Audit and Appropriations Committee. He has extensive experience in organized medicine having used the length of his career to build bridges and leadership within the House of Medicine. He is a former ACEP House of Delegates Speaker, serves on the AMA delegation to the AMA, and is appointed to the AMA's Council on Long Range Planning and Development.

A member of the Ohio Air National Guard, Dr. Katz is a Lieutenant Colonel based in Mansfield, OH, where he serves as a fully qualified member of the Ground Surgical Team. He is additionally Chief of Aerospace medicine and advises commanders on matters involving the health and wellbeing of service members along with promoting facility and occupational safety. In 2020 Lt. Col. Katz volunteered for Domestic Operations in support of Operation Steady Resolve as the Joint Task Force Surgeon, advising The Adjutant General of Ohio on technical matters regarding force safety, COVID science, and health precautions. He worked across state agencies to develop and pilot public health clinics through the early COVID response. Later, he served the state of Ohio on missions to Serbia and establishing health care training clinics with the Blackfeet tribe in Montana.

Dr. Katz earned his undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis, with a major in Psychology and a minor in Jewish and Near Eastern Studies. After a brief interlude earning a private pilot license, Dr. Katz continued studies at the Medical College of Ohio, Toledo, graduating as Doctor of Medicine in 1998. He completed Residency in Emergency Medicine at Summa Health System in Akron, OH, in 2001. He earned recognition as a Diplomat of Emergency Medicine in 2002, with recertifications in 2012 and 2022. In 2004, He was awarded Fellow status of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Gary lives in Powell, Ohio, with his wife Teresa, their four children, and young puppy.

Dear Members of the Ohio State Medical Association,

It is with great enthusiasm and a deep sense of responsibility that I submit my candidacy for President-Elect of the Ohio State Medical Association (OSMA). Serving with you in the OSMA for over two decades has given me a profound appreciation for the challenges and opportunities facing our profession, and I am eager to lead us into the next phase of advocacy, growth, and member engagement.

A Vision for OSMA's Future

Our profession stands at a critical juncture. The landscape of healthcare is evolving rapidly, and OSMA must be a steadfast advocate for physicians and the patients we serve. My vision as President is built on three interconnected pillars:

1. Protecting the Physician-Patient Relationship:

The strategies employed by insurance companies to interfere with the physician-patient relationship and prescribed courses of care pose a direct threat to healthcare quality. I will champion initiatives to increase public awareness of these practices while working with legislators to ensure that care decisions remain in the hands of the team most well equipped to make these decisions - the patients and their physicians.

2. Ensuring Quality Through Safe Scope of Practice Standards:

As the efforts from some groups to broaden scope of practice by non-physicians intensifies, OSMA must redouble its efforts in educating policymakers and the public about the risks of expanding scope of practice to those with lesser training than physicians. Evidence shows that unchecked scope creep compromises care quality and increases healthcare costs. I will prioritize advocacy efforts that emphasize the irreplaceable role of physicians in delivering safe, efficient, effective care.

3. Meeting Physicians Where They Are:

With nearly 80% of physicians now employed by organizations, OSMA must adapt its messaging and outreach. While employers often provide support to physicians, there are critical moments when our members' needs outpace the priorities of their employers. OSMA's unique value rests in ensuring that physician autonomy is protected, even when institutional interests are not fully aligned. By leveraging the OSMA Strategic Plan's goals for engagement, resiliency, and advocacy, I will help reinforce our role as an indispensable partner to all Ohio physicians.

Experience to Lead

Throughout my career, I have been privileged to lead and advocate in various capacities. From founding a multispecialty practice serving Ohio's rural communities, to serving as core academic faculty, to my leadership positions with the AMA, OSMA, and ACEP, I have honed the skills necessary to represent our profession effectively. My

service in the Ohio Air National Guard has further reinforced my commitment to service and resilience under pressure.

A Call to Action

As physicians, we are united by a shared commitment to improving lives and strengthening the healthcare system. I believe OSMA is uniquely positioned to be the voice of Ohio's physicians, advocating for the integrity of our profession and the well-being of our patients. Together, we can address the challenges ahead with determination and innovation.

The future of Ohio's healthcare demands leadership that embraces change, inspires growth, and positions our OSMA to evolve in step with the dynamic needs of our members. We have on our horizons burgeoning uses and threats in AI, evolving medical education curricula - such as the move to 3 year education cycles, and the integration of telehealth in a fashion that can truly improve access without sacrificing quality. By fostering our culture of adaptability and resilience, we can ensure that OSMA remains not only relevant but indispensable to every physician in Ohio.

I humbly ask for your vote as we embark on this journey together. Let us strengthen our OSMA and continue its proud legacy of advocacy and leadership. Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and I look forward to working alongside each of you to advance our shared mission.

Sincerely,

Gary R. Katz, MD, MBA, FACEP

Candidate for President-Elect

Ohio State Medical Association