



MICHIGAN POISON CENTER  
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

# POISON PERIODICAL

SPRING 2021



## OUTREACH: COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY

DENISE KOLAKOWSKI  
EDUCATOR  
MICHIGAN POISON CENTER

Last year, technology-based communications were at the forefront of patient care and education outreach in new and unexpected ways. The groundwork for navigating this recent 'uncharted territory' in virtual communication had already been implemented in some areas of patient care and outreach. However, serving the community entails outreach being accessible to all, regardless of technological capability. To promote alternative communication methods, your Michigan Poison Center launched a billboard and digital programming campaign. The image below was seen on billboards throughout Michigan in August and September, 2020.



### MICHIGAN POISON CENTER

The Mitten's Own:  
Your Health, In Good Hands

ALL DAY  
EVERY DAY  
800-222-1222



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

The billboards were accessible to approximately 20 million people around Metro Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Traverse City, and Lansing. This raised awareness about the availability of the Michigan Poison Center as a key state health care and public safety resource. The coinciding Pandora Radio® campaign reached over 671,000 listeners.

Social media continues to play a central role in our awareness campaigns and education outreach. We launched our Facebook® and Twitter® pages in February 2020. We subsequently launched Instagram® and LinkedIn® pages to extend our outreach network. Our poison center educator and specialists have hosted Twitter® Chats and a Facebook® Live event. We will be continuing to host myriad social media events.

We also launched our new website in March 2020. Users will be able to access resources, printable materials, and stay up-to-date on news and other public safety information. Health care professionals can also access a page devoted to their needs, including access to our Quarterly Toxicology Rounds and other dynamic resources. We encourage everyone to visit [www.mipoisonhelp.org](http://www.mipoisonhelp.org) to see the updates and new features!

Public safety agencies will implement more technology-based tools to communicate with those we serve. Be assured that our progress will not replace our established outreach methods. Technology will enhance, but not entirely replace, on-site outreach. When a return to classrooms, health care facilities, and other businesses is deemed safe, we will be able to provide a variety of content across many mediums for program participants.

We continue to provide poison prevention materials by request. Visit our webpage to place a request, or call **1-800-222-1222, Extension 2**, to reach the Education Line.



550 E. Canfield, Suite 354 \* Detroit, Michigan 48201  
[www.mipoisonhelp.org](http://www.mipoisonhelp.org)



## SPI SPOTLIGHT: FRANCINE BOONE, CSPI, R.N.

The Michigan Poison Center is proud to introduce one of our Certified Specialists in Poison Information (CSPI) Francine Boone, R.N. Francine joined the MiPC in 2009. Francine lives in Hudsonville, Michigan. The Michigan Poison Center is a three-hour commute, so she enjoys working remotely on the other side of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. Although she would love to reside in the countryside, she remains close to her three grown children and two dogs. Francine enjoys raising miniature schnauzers. When Francine is not working or spending time with her family, she enjoys reading and watching soccer and basketball. Some of her favorite books are written by Julie Garwood and Iris Johansen.



Francine started working as a Registered Nurse 40 years ago. At a small rural hospital, she was the only RN on the night shift with two LPNs working alongside her. A physician was on-call, but she had to be prepared for anything including codes and delivering babies. When she moved to Grand Rapids, she enjoyed working in the ICU, but the physical demands became too much to bear. In 2000, Francine started working as a SPI with the Grand Rapids Poison Center before eventually transitioning to the Michigan Poison Center. Francine has a love of learning and helping people; working at a poison center was an ideal fit for her as a compassionate nurse.

The pandemic positively sparked Francine's creative side. During quarantine, Francine and her husband created a game called "Lock Down," which she describes is similar to Cribbage and Cross Crib (card/board game). She has also continued to help mini schnauzers with birthing. Francine's ideal vacation is camping and relaxing in nature. She now watches her grandchildren catch and release turtles and snakes, just like in her own childhood.

Francine is a magnanimous contributor to the poison center. She is a knowledgeable and generous CSPI, always happy to share what she has learned throughout her career.

## MEET THE SPI

Laura Gleason, CSPI, RN



Laura has been a Registered Nurse since 1988 and an employee with the Michigan Poison Center since Fall 2001. She became a CSPI in 2004 and has re-certified twice since. Laura previously worked in other areas of nursing, most recently in Infection Control and Epidemiology.

Laura enjoys hiking, biking, swimming, gardening, traveling, and reading. She has completed several Michigander bike trips, canoed and backpacked in Algonquin Provincial Park, biked and hiked in the San Juan Islands in Washington State, as well as in Arizona and Colorado. Family is also a large part of Laura's life and she loves spending time with them.

Working at the Michigan Poison Center helps keep Laura current with information, trends, and best practices related to toxicology. Laura particularly enjoys talking to and helping people in need. Laura says this position also affords her the opportunity to work alongside smart, caring, and hard-working colleagues.



## MEET THE LEADERSHIP

Dr. Varun Vohra completed the Doctor of Pharmacy Program, specializing in pharmacology and toxicology, from the SUNY University at Buffalo. He then completed a PGY-1 residency at the Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Florida. Subsequently, he pursued and completed his two-year Clinical Toxicology Fellowship at the SUNY Upstate Medical University/Upstate New York Poison Control Center in Syracuse, New York, from 2017 to 2019. This fellowship consisted of a focus on academia, clinical research, and direct bedside patient care.



Following the completion of his toxicology fellowship, Dr. Vohra became a Board-Certified Clinical Toxicologist and Diplomate of the American Board of Applied Toxicology in November 2019. He then gained an appointment at the Wayne State University School of Medicine as the Academic and Managing Director with the Michigan Poison Center and Assistant Clinical Professor within the Department of Emergency Medicine in January 2020.

His current areas of research and expertise include toxicosurveillance and epidemiology of drugs of abuse, with a focus on methamphetamine and novel psychoactive substances.

Dr. Vohra's recent abstract submissions to the European Association of Poison Centres & Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT) were accepted and will be presented at the 41st EAPCCT Congress held May 25-28, 2021. Highlights include the following:

- **The White Panther: Rare exposure to *Amanita multisquamosa* causing clinically significant toxicity (E-Poster).**
- **An Unsolved Mystery: Idiopathic thallium exposure resulting in clinically significant toxic effects (E-Poster).**
- **The Color Purple: Death associated with brophine, an emerging novel synthetic opioid (E-Poster).**
- **"Flu" the Looking-Glass: Observational poison center study evaluating adverse events secondary to flumazenil administration over time (Oral Presentation for the Young Investigator Award Session).**

We extend our congratulations to Dr. Vohra on his work and achieving recognition at this dynamic, collaborative event with the goal of advancing knowledge and understanding of poisoning emergencies and toxicology.



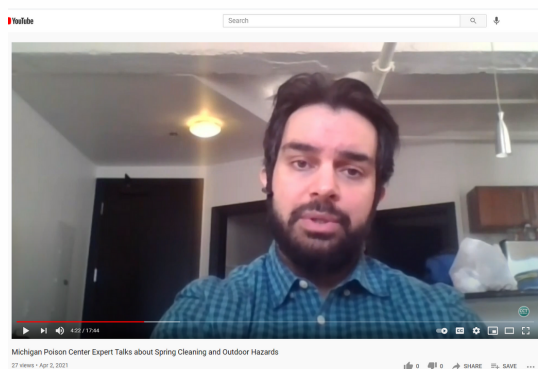
## MEDIA MENTIONS

Your Michigan Poison Center is featured on local and statewide media outlets. See highlights from Henry Ford Health Systems, Wayne State University, and other organizations serving our state.

### Decriminalizing Buprenorphine & Harm Reduction




### Poison Prevention Spring Cleaning and Outdoor Hazards



### Delta-8 THC Public Service Announcement




### Michigan Poison Center Rebranding



March 22, 2021  
New Name for Poison Control  
The regional Poison Control Center has been renamed Michigan Poison Center and is now housed at Wayne State University. It was previously known as the Poison Control Center at Children's Hospital of Michigan. The 24-hour hotline to report poison exposures and speak with a poison specialist remains 1-800-222-1222. Henry Ford Hospital emergency medicine physicians Lydia Baltarowich, M.D., and Eric Malone, M.D., are clinical consultants at MPC and toxicology faculty at Wayne State.

### Daily Press Editorial for NPPW 2021



**PREPARE. PREVENT. PROTECT.**  
March 21-27, 2021 • National Poison Prevention Week

## PUBLICATIONS

Our toxicology consultants are involved in ongoing clinical research and scholarship to contribute to the literature and enhance the working body of knowledge regarding toxins, poisoning emergencies, and best practices in treatment. See below or visit our webpage to request more information regarding publications from the Michigan Poison Center.

- **Vohra V**, Hull IV, Hodge KT. (2021). The White Panther - Rare exposure to *Amanita multisquamosa* causing clinically significant toxicity, *Clinical Toxicology*, DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1080/15563650.2021.1891242>.
- **Vohra V, King AM, Jacobs EJ, Aaron C.** (2021). Death associated with bromphine - an emerging novel synthetic opioid, *Clinical Toxicology*, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15563650.2021.1879111>.
- Lelak K, **Vohra V**, Neuman MI, Farooqi A, Toce MS, Sethuraman U. (2021). COVID-19 and Pediatric Ingestions, *Pediatrics*, DOI:10.1542/peds.2021-051001.

