



# THE Bulletin

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**GCMS and GCMSA  
Members, Staff  
and their Pets**

**GCMS Honored  
by Healthcare  
Michigan/Comcast**

**GCMS Board  
Meets with  
Asst. Sec. for  
Preparedness  
& Response Dr.  
Nicole Lurie**

**GENESEE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY**

*Organized Medicine's Leading Edge*

# HEALTHCARE MICHIGAN AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

## PATIENT/POLITICAL ADVOCACY

### Flint Water Crisis Team

For those who believe grassroots movements have given way to large, moneyed interests and monolithic, unconquerable government bureaucrats, the city of Flint and its dedicated citizens stand as a sterling example of what can be achieved with guts, commitment and passion.

By now, the world knows about Flint and its multicolored, fragrant water and the strife it has caused. And the world has responded. Water donations, financial support, legislation and help-in-kind are being showered on this Michigan community of about 100,000.

This help is too late and not enough in many cases. The damage to Flint's children from lead poisoning is as yet unknown. The cost of replacing all of the city's water pipes is daunting. Feelings of mistrust and lack of confidence government likely will linger long.

Eventually Flint's water quality crisis would have floated to the surface and become too obvious to ignore. But that process of discovery and acknowledgement could have taken months or even years as government agencies, state bureaucrats and politicians seemed to do everything in their power to deny the problem and, when that failed, to minimize its scope.

Presenting evidence of raised lead levels in children and in the water, researchers, physicians and local public health advocates presented their findings to government officials and demanded they aggressively investigate the matter. When their pleas fell on deaf ears, they took their case public with a press conference. And the ball started rolling.

Mass shipments of water began pouring into the city. National and international media and celebrities embraced Flint's struggle. Cash donations in the millions of dollars rolled in. State and federal government began drafting bills appropriating millions more to fix problems created by the tainted tap water.

The pace of the fixes is still too slow for many, and the damage done in some cases might not be reparable. But all of this could have been much, much worse. Committed people in a proud, but struggling city put the first finger in the dike and sounded the alarm that brought the nation to Flint's side.

When we first received the award nomination for what we chose to call the "Genesee County Flint Water Crisis Team," we could tell that behind each name were many more who quietly lent their support to furthering Flint's efforts to force a fix.

Healthcare Michigan is proud to recognize the following community leaders and grassroots activists for their role in exposing and helping to bring solutions to their city.



### From the Genesee County Medical Society:

Lawrence Reynolds, MD    Laura Carravallah, MD  
Gerald Natzke, DO  
Mona Hanna-Attisha, MD    Peter Levine, MPH

### From the Greater Flint Health Coalition: GFHC

Kirk Smith, MHSA

### From the Michigan Legislature:

Senator Jim Ananich

