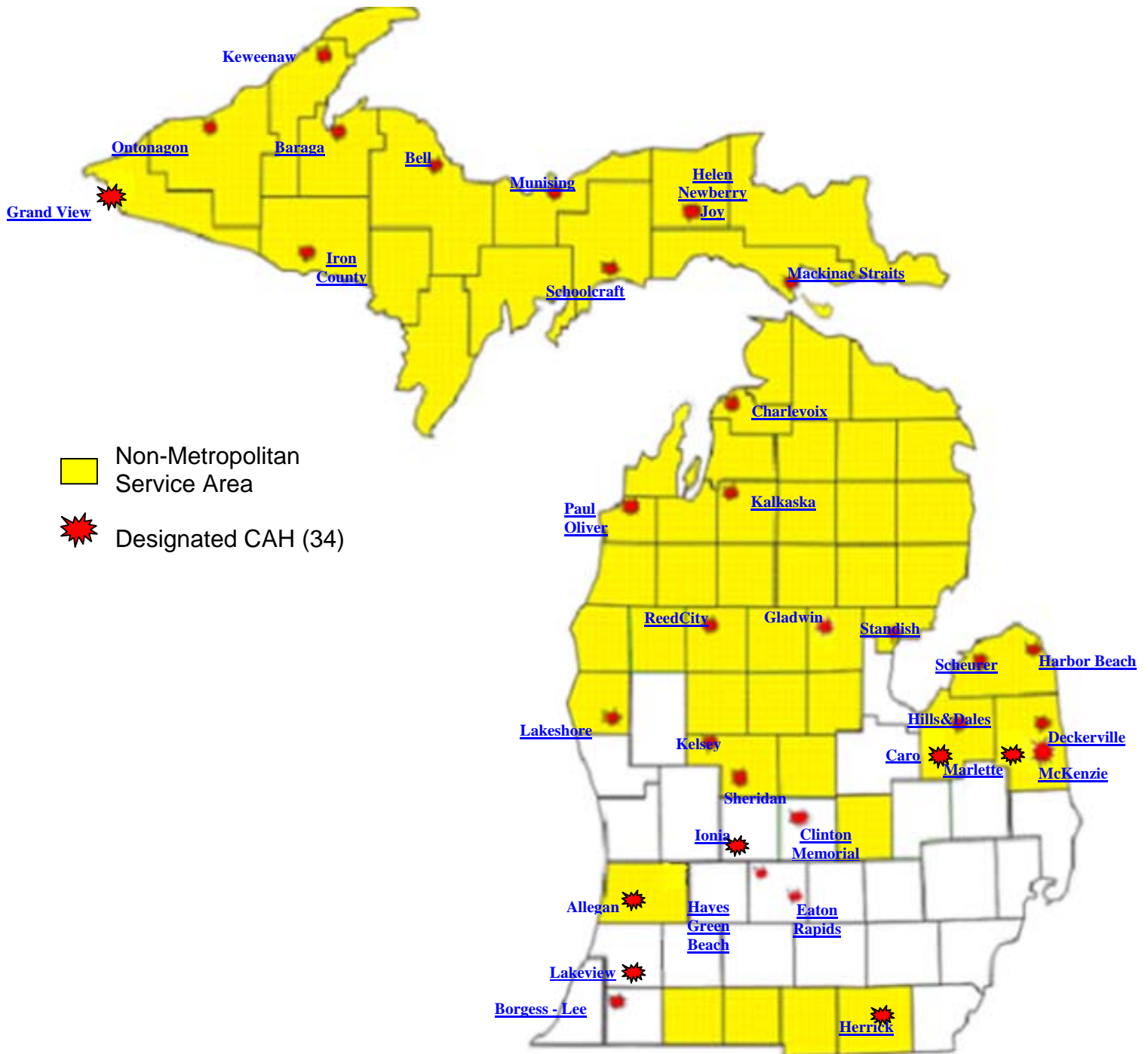


CAH Chronicle



Michigan Department of Community Health ♦ Michigan Center for Rural Health ♦ Michigan Health & Hospital Association

MICHIGAN CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS



Iron County Welcomes President and CEO

Bruce Rampage is the new President and CEO at Iron County Community Hospital in Iron River. He replaces Interim CEOs Michelle Sand, Vice President of Patient Care Services and Glenn Dobson, Vice President of Finance.

Rampage completed his under graduate degree at Xavier University in Chicago. He earned two Masters Degrees from Northwestern University of Chicago in Hospital Administration and Organizational Behavior.

Rampage, a native of Indiana, brings more than 33 years of health care experience to Iron County.

EMS LEADERSHIP TRAINING & RURAL AMBULANCE BUDGET MODEL WORKSHOP

This two-day leadership seminar is for new, current, and future leaders of ambulance services. This course will provide instruction and tools on personal leadership development, performance improvement for volunteers and recruitment and retention.

The second half of the program will provide each student with a spreadsheet-based budget tool. This tool can create a budget for those that do not have one, or assist with financial planning for things like new medications, procedures or staffing changes.

Hands-on, group participation is at the core of this program. Attendees will be given tools and techniques they can implement, not theories or abstract concepts.

Speaking at the workshop will be Gary Wingrove and Aaron Reinert of the Mayo Clinic's Gold Cross Ambulance Service.

There is **NO COST** to attend this workshop, however, registration is limited to **40 PARTICIPANTS** at each location. In addition to program sessions, continental breakfast, lunch and mileage are included. Participants are responsible for hotel accommodations as needed. Participants attending the Budget Model Workshop are required to bring a laptop.

There are two opportunities to attend the workshop. The first opportunity is at the Holiday Inn in Marquette on March 31 & April 1. The second opportunity is at the Quality Inn & Suites Conference Center in Sault Ste. Marie on April 2 & 3.

For more information contact: Angie Emge or the MCRH Administrative Assistants at: 517-432-1066.

EMS.gov Goes Live

The Office of Emergency Medical Services (OEMS) at NHTSA is pleased to announce the launch of <http://www.ems.gov/>. This innovative Web site, developed to meet the varied needs of the EMS community, contains not only the latest news from OEMS - but also functions as a portal to other EMS Web sites and resources. Here you'll find background and updates on groundbreaking Federal initiatives and programs, including Emergency Medical Services for Children, the National EMS Information System, the Federal Interagency Committee on EMS, Enhanced 9-1-1 and Next Generation 9-1-1, the National EMS Advisory Council, and more.

Clearly our Nation's EMS Community is too diverse for a single Web site to meet all its informational needs. But by providing links and contact information for other trusted resources, EMS.gov strives to provide EMS professionals and stakeholders with the closest thing to a "one-stop shop" for Federal EMS Information available online today. Source: Office of Emergency Medical Services.

Rural Michigan – Success Stories

- [EMS Co-op Helps Rural Providers](#)

Using the power of group purchasing within a cooperative structure, the North Central EMS Cooperative (NCEMSC) is an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) cooperative developed to serve Minnesota and surrounding states.

- [Fighting Obesity in Children and Adolescents](#)

This project aims to reduce the proportion of children and adolescents who are overweight or obese in three Michigan counties.

- [Greater Iron County Advanced Life Support Project](#)

The project's primary goal was to improve and upgrade the prehospital healthcare delivery system in Iron County, Michigan by creating a full-time hospital-based paramedic transportation system to address the dwindling personnel resources, outdated transportation equipment, high cost of paramedic equipment, and the lack of access to a community-based paramedic-training program.

- [Health Outreach Project](#)

The Health Outreach Project (HOP) focused on increasing childhood immunization rates among children in Baraga, Houghton, and Keweenaw counties - all of which are located on a peninsula in the northernmost region of Michigan.

- [Huron-Sanilac Emergency Medical Services \(EMS\) Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Project](#)

The Huron-Sanilac Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Volunteer Recruitment and Retention Project will aggressively seek to reverse the declining number of active EMS providers in this rural area of Minnesota.

- [Integrated Behavioral Health Care of Northeast Michigan Project](#)

The project will provide new psychiatric services at four clinics and will add two new behavioral health consultants and neurological health services to address the needs of the substantial elderly population.

- [Northern Michigan Integrated Delivery System](#)

Founded in 1998, the Northern Michigan Integrated Delivery System (NMIDS) targeted a 10-county, rural area where the driving economic force is the resort industry. The NMIDS is a region wide network of four hospitals and one independent physician association that share the common mission of integrating service delivery systems, maintaining the highest level of health care quality possible, reducing costs, and making services accessible to all Northern Michigan communities.

- [One-Stop Shop for Mind and Body](#)

Designed to simplify access to care in Newaygo County Michigan, the Baldwin Family Health Care center is combining health care and human services in a one-stop shop for the mind and body.

- [Rural Health Outreach Program \(Marquette, MI\)](#)

A telecommunication system that merges voice, video, and data has improved access to health care and reduced isolation across Michigan's rural Upper Peninsula.

- [Rural Prevention Network](#)

Network partners hired a full-time health educator to plan, implement, and evaluate the primary prevention programming aimed at reducing youth tobacco use, underage drinking, and teen pregnancy.

- [Softening the Sunset Journey Project](#)

This project seeks to maximize local coordinated care resources toward the improvement of community awareness, early identification, access to care, and caregiver screening for older adult memory loss.

- [Thumb Area Nutrition and Physical Activity Campaign](#)

This project aims to reduce obesity and promote healthy lifestyles to adults and children through community outreach and health promotion interventions.

- [Upper Peninsula Health Care Network, Inc.](#)

Michigan's Upper Peninsula is comprised of 15 rural counties scattered across 16,600 square miles. The Upper Peninsula Health Care Network was established to overcome some of the biggest barriers to health care that include the distance between communities, an unstable regional economy, a harsh winter climate, and the inability to recruit and retain health care providers.

About Rural Health Research Centers

The Rural Health Research Center (RHRC) Program is designed to help policy makers, both in Washington and throughout the Nation, better understand the problems that rural communities face in assuring access to health care for their residents. This is the only Federal program that is dedicated entirely to producing policy-relevant research on health care in rural areas. Initiated in 1988, it is administered by the Office of Rural Health Policy (ORHP), Health Resources and Services Administration.



The Centers study critical issues facing rural communities in their quest to secure adequate, affordable, high quality health services for their residents. The Centers' research findings inform a wide audience of National, State, and local decision-makers concerned with rural health. These research findings have been instrumental in bridging gaps between policy and program needs and have assisted in educating legislators and policymakers. Each year, the Research Center Directors and the policy staff at ORHP select specific research topics for the Centers jointly. The emphasis is on research that will have a timely impact on policy debates and decisions at Federal and State levels.

Eight Centers have cooperative agreements with the Office for FY2005-2008 – five General Centers and three Analytic Centers. Both General and Analytic Centers concentrate on policy-focused health services research. The Analytic Centers also provide rapid-responses to emerging policy issues, generally using innovative research approaches and techniques.

For more information about the individual research centers funded under this program, please see <http://www.ruralhealthresearch.org/centers.php>.

USA Counties Quarterly Update Available from Census Bureau

The U.S. Census Bureau announced that they have issued the quarterly update for USA Counties and it is now available on the web at <http://censtats.census.gov/usa/usa.shtml>.

USA Counties now features more than 5,900 data items for the United States, the 50 states (plus the District of Columbia), and all of the nation's 3,141 counties and county equivalents, and covers areas such as age, agriculture, ancestry, banking, building permits, business patterns, crime, earnings, education, elections, employment, government, health, households, housing, income, labor force, manufactures, population, poverty, retail trade, social programs, veterans, vital statistics, water use, and wholesale trade. It is the most comprehensive source for data on counties in the United States." Source: Census Bureau News: Feb 14, 2008.

Congress Approves Extension of Mental Health Parity Act

Congress on February 21st passed legislation extending the Mental Health Parity Act of 1996 until the end of 2008. Included in the Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2007 (H.R. 3997), the extension will prohibit group health plans that provide medical, surgical care and mental health care from imposing coverage limits on mental health coverage that don't apply to other types of medical treatment, and imposes a \$100 fine per day for violations. The extension does not eliminate a loophole in the 1996 law that allows group health plans to impose higher co-payments, deductibles and coinsurance payments for mental health services. Source: AHA News

HHS Secretary Invites Communities to Apply for an Innovative Electronic Health Record Demonstration Project

Use of EHRs Can Improve the Quality of Health Care and Reduce Errors. HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt called on community leaders across the country to collaborate and apply for a new demonstration project that provides Medicare incentive payments to physicians for the use of certified electronic health records to improve patient care. The project, which will be open to small- and medium-sized primary-care physician practices, is expected to reduce medical errors and improve the quality of care for an estimated 3.6 million Americans.

This initiative is also part of HHS' bold vision for health care reform built on the four cornerstones of value-driven health care, and a major step toward the President's goal of most Americans having access to a secure, interoperable electronic health record by 2014.

Over a five-year period, financial incentives will be provided to as many as 1,200 physician practices that use certified electronic health records to improve quality as measured by their performance on specific clinical quality measures. In addition to the incentive payments, bonus payments may be awarded based on a standardized survey measuring the number of EHR functionalities a physician group has incorporated into its practice. Total payments under the demonstration for all five years may be up to \$58,000 per physician or \$290,000 per practice. On average, it is expected that approximately \$3.5 million in incentive payments will be made to participating physician practices in each of the 12 sites under this demonstration.

The application period is open now through early May for communities interested in becoming one of the pilot program's 12 sites. CMS expects that the demonstration will start with four communities in 2008, with the remainder beginning in 2009. Once communities have been selected, CMS will begin working with the communities to recruit physician practices for participation in the demonstration.

For more information about the EHR demonstration project, visit <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?itemID=CMS1204776>.

Source: CMS Press Release February 11, 2008

Learn more about: [Medicare Electronic Health Records \(EHR\) Demonstration](#)

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Community Health Matching Grants

<http://www.bcbsn.com/foundation/pdf/commhealthmatc>

The BCBSM Foundation's Community Health Matching Grants program supports Michigan nonprofit organizations in the delivery and evaluation of interventions that focus on depression, domestic abuse, patient safety, access to care for the uninsured, and critical community health issues. The Community Health Matching Grants Program requires that grantees develop a funding partnership(s) to support the proposed program. The Community Health Matching Grants program fosters collaboration among community organizations and funding agents to address important health issues within Michigan's communities.

Applications accepted on an ongoing basis. Nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations based in Michigan are eligible for up to \$25,000 per year in matching funds, for a maximum of two years. Application details are available on the program web site. Prior to submitting an application, the Foundation encourages discussion with the program officer in charge of this program.

For more information contact:

BCBSM Foundation, 313.225.8706

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Proposal Development Award

http://www.bcbsm.com/foundation/pdf/proposal_development_award.pdf

The Proposal Development Award will contribute up to \$3,500 to help nonprofits pay for the development of new grant proposals. Expenditure of award funds is restricted to proposal development costs, such as technical assistance, freelance proposal writers and related proposal development costs. Award funds are not intended to support any type of project activity or to supplement operational expenses up to \$3,500 per award. Applications accepted on an ongoing basis. Application forms are available on the Program web site.

For more information contact:

Before submitting your application, you may contact the BCBSM Foundation at 313.225.8706 to discuss your project with a program officer.

To view all grant opportunity listings go to: <http://raonline.org/funding>

GRAND ROUNDS:

PHARMACY

Date: Thursday, May 1, 2008

Time: 1:00-2:00 pm EST

Sponsored by: Michigan Center for Rural Health, Marquette General Health System and Upper Peninsula Telehealth Network

"Pharmacotherapy and Nutrition Management Issues in the Bariatric Surgery Patient" - Wayne J English, MD, FACS
Continuing Education: for pharmacists pending.

ARTHRITIS

Held the second Wednesday of each month from Noon to 1:00 p.m. except in July and August.

Sponsored by: The Michigan Center for Rural Health and the Michigan Arthritis Collaborative Partnership.

2008 Schedule

- April 9 -Crystalline Arthropathies David Fox, MD
- June 11- Back Pain Joseph Weiss, MD
- October 8-Psoriatic Arthritis- Robert Ike, MD

Accreditation: St. Mary Mercy Hospital, an organization accredited by the MSMS Committee on CME Accreditation, designates that this activity meets the criteria for a maximum of one (1) credit hour in Category 1 credit towards the AMA Physician's Recognition Award.

GERIATRIC

Held the first Wednesday of each month from Noon to 1:00 p.m. except July and August.

Sponsored by: The Michigan Center for Rural Health and the Geriatric Education Center of Michigan.

2008 Schedule

- March 19 – Dementia, Decision making Capacity, and Goal Setting by Frank Komara, DO
- April 2 – Spirituality in Aging by Linda Keilman, MSN, APRN, BC, GNP
- May 7 – Elder Abuse by Dr. Dean Sienko & Detective Traci Ruiz
- No program June, July or August
- September 3 – ACOVE Quality Indicators in Primary Care Mark Ensberg, MD & Linda Keilman, MSN, APRN, BC, GNP
- October 1 – Oral Health in the Elderly Elisa Ghezzi, DDS
- November 5 – Health Literacy in the Elderly Marolee Neuberger, MS
- December 3 – Telemedicine and Remote Monitoring Pam Whitten, PhD

Accreditation: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of the Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and the Michigan Center for Rural Health.

NURSING

Held quarterly from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Sponsored by: The Michigan Center for Rural Health and MSU College of Nursing

- March 11 – Update on Arthritis & Osteoporosis: Issues for Nurses by Iris Zink, RN, MSN, APRN, BC
- May 6 – TBD

- Sept. 16 – TBD
- November 18 – TBD

Accreditation: Participants who attend the entire session and complete an evaluation form will receive a certificate for 1.5 contact hours.

Michigan State University College of Nursing is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Michigan Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

PSYCHIATRY

Held quarterly from Noon to 1:00 p.m.

Sponsored by: The Michigan Center for Rural Health and the MSU Department of Psychiatry.

2008 Schedule

- April 23 -Suicide and Antidepressants: Jed Magen, DO, MS
- July 23 -Eating Disorders: Christine Shafer, MD
- October 22-Managing Bipolar Disorder Through the Life Span: Dale D'Mello, MD

Accreditation: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Essential Areas and Policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education through the joint sponsorship of the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine and the Michigan Center for Rural Health.

SOCIAL WORK

Held quarterly from noon – 1:15 pm

Sponsored by: The Michigan Center for Rural Health and the MSU School of Social Work

2008 Schedule More information coming soon.

- March 20 – TBD
- September 18 – TBD
- November 20 – TBD

Accreditation: Michigan State University School of Social Work (Provider No. 1136) is approved by the Association of Social Work boards (ASWB) approved continuing Education (ACE) program: www.aswb.org; 1-800-335-6880. ASWB ACE-approved programs are recognized in Michigan. In addition, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Indiana recognize ACE-approved providers. Social workers should verify recognition of ACE approval with their state boards.

EMS TELECONFERENCES

Quarterly 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Sponsored by the Michigan Association of Ambulance Services and The Michigan Center for Rural Health.

February 28 – Pediatrics Are Not Aliens. But Close - Pediatric Patient Assessment – David Maatman

Credits: Approved for 1 Special Considerations-Pediatrics Continuing Education Credit

For more information, contact Phyllis Ball, Education Coordinator at: ballp@msu.edu or 517-355-8250.

For additional information or questions about materials contained in this newsletter, please contact:

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INTERESTING QUOTE:

"A friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out."

- Walter Winchell

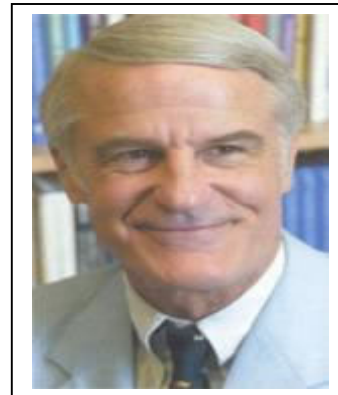
**Michigan Rural Health Conference
April 23-24, 2008 at Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
“Opening Doors for Quality Healthcare”**

Please join us for the 11th Annual Michigan Rural Health Conference, April 23-24, 2008, at the Mt. Pleasant Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort.

This year’s conference features the “best of the best” presentations on Quality Improvement, Telehealth Medicine, Legislative Updates, Access to Oral Health Services, RHC Billing, Loan Repayment, and Rural Policy. The presentations are guaranteed to be practical and relevant by these high caliber and dynamic speakers.

With the support of the Michigan Center for Rural Health, Midwest Alliance for Telehealth & Technology Resources (MATTeR), Michigan Rural Health Association and the Michigan Rural Health Clinics Organization, Inc., this conference brings together rural health professionals for extensive learning and networking opportunities.

We are pleased to present Bill Ballenger, Editor and Publisher of *Inside Michigan Politics*, as our Keynote Speaker. He will present an “Update on the Lansing Political Scene.” Attendees will be treated to his insightful observations.



Conference registration booklets will be mailed out early in March. You can download a registration on our website. Go to www.mcrh.msu.edu and click on the conference link.

For more information, contact Phyllis at (517) 355-8250 or ballp@msu.edu.