

July 2026 Newsletter



To all volunteers, donors, and attendees—friends of the UMKC School of Medicine and Sojourner Health Clinic, thank you for your continuous support and commitment. You have made our mission possible: “To provide quality medical care at no cost to the medically indigent in downtown Kansas City while creating an environment where medical students have the opportunity to interact with, understand, and care for the medically indigent.”

The Annual Banquet

5/9/2026

On May 9, Sojourner Clinic hosted its Annual Banquet, bringing together volunteers, donors, community partners, and members of the UMKC School of Medicine to celebrate the successful conclusion of the 2025–2026 volunteer year. The evening recognized the dedication and impact of those who supported the clinic throughout the year while marking the beginning of the 2026–2027 leadership and volunteer year.

The 2025–2026 Co-Executive Directors, Bethany Bockelman and Eric Chai, welcomed attendees with opening remarks highlighting the history of Sojourner Clinic, announcing the 2026–2027 Board of Directors and upcoming clinic changes, recognizing recipients of the volunteer awards, and honoring the faculty and physician volunteers whose dedication has made Sojourner Clinic possible.

2026-2027 Clinic Board Members:

Executive Directors: Bethany Bockelman and Salam Hadji

Finance Director: Ayla Nguyen

Clinic Directors: Sid Suvarna and Simren Mahajan

Lab Director: Kamran Javid

Clinic Managers: Anna Ruvinov, Fahad Jamal, Daniel Moftakhar, Annika Tsay, Vani Patel, Qasim Chohdry, Khushi Patel, Misha Polara

Lab Managers: Anum Amanullah, Youssef Abu Ela, Muzzamil Salau, Zoya Rizvi, Haya Ahmed, Christina Calcoulidis

Pharmacy Representatives: Tanyaa Gurushankar and Ali Akers

Secretary: Hafsa Rahman

Junior finance chair: Ahmed Iqbal

PAP Directors: Zahra Khan and Fatima Iqbal

Webmaster: Krish Manek, Shrihari



2026-2027 Clinic Board Members Cont'd:

Webmasters: Nagarajan and Vignesh
Tiruvannamalai
Outreach Director: Kymora Freeman
PR Representatives: Kamron Jafari and Elena Chen

2026-2027 Volunteer Awards:

Top Year One Volunteer: Elena Chen
Top Year Two Volunteer: Fatima Iqbal
Top Year Three Volunteer: Fahad Jamal
Top Year Four Volunteer: Salam Hadji and Vani Patel
Top Year Five Volunteer: Anna Ruvinov
Top Year Six Volunteer: Megan Costello
Brook Nelson Award for Leadership: Sid Suvarna
Ellen Beck Award for Dedication: Shrihari Nagarajan
Angela Barnett Award for Humanism: Fatima Iqbal
Dan Purdom Award for Commitment: Ayla Nguyen

The Dermatology Clinic

6/7/2026

Co-founded by UMKC School of Medicine alumni Grace Steinback and Joycie Chang, the Dermatology Clinic offers free dermatologic screenings, treatment for common skin conditions, and early identification of suspicious skin lesions. Held approximately once a month in conjunction with Sojourner Clinic's regular Saturday clinic, the Dermatology Clinic expands access to specialized dermatologic care for patients in the Kansas City community. On Saturday, June 6, the Dermatology Clinic held its first clinic of the 2026-2027 volunteer year, where medical student volunteers and attending physicians provided dermatologic care alongside Sojourner Clinic's weekly services.

DERMATOLOGY Clinic

Providing free dermatologic screenings, treatment for common skin conditions, and early identification of suspicious skin lesions.

SKIN SCREENINGS

TREATMENT

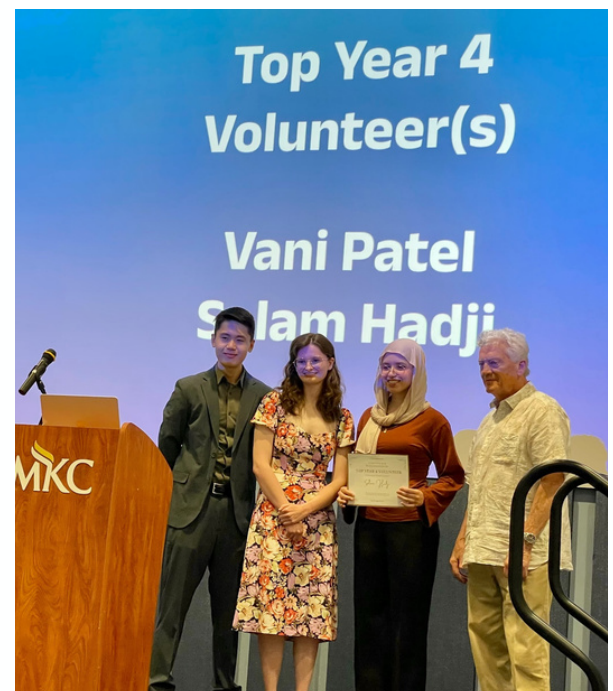
EARLY DETECTION

June 6, 2026
First clinic of the 2026-2027 volunteer year!
Medical student volunteers and attending physicians provided dermatologic care alongside Sojourner Clinic's weekly services.

HELD MONTHLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH SATURDAY CLINIC

SKIN HEALTH MATTERS
WE'RE HERE TO HELP.

SOJOURNER HEALTH CLINIC



Outreach Events

6/13/2026

Outside of its regular Saturday clinic hours, Sojourner Clinic frequently participates in community outreach events throughout downtown Kansas City to provide free health screenings while raising awareness of the clinic's services. On Saturday, June 13, Sojourner Clinic partnered with Trinity United Church to offer basic health screenings to the community, further expanding access to care in an underserved area of Kansas City. Volunteers staffed a variety of screening stations, including hearing, vision and reading glasses, blood pressure, and diabetes screenings.

The event also featured a family-friendly children's activity that encouraged participation in each screening station. As children completed each activity, they collected stickers that could be exchanged for a prize, promoting health literacy and healthy habits in an engaging and interactive way.



Our Research

Year Round

Alongside providing care to underserved communities, Sojourner Clinic engages in year-round research aimed at improving the clinic's effectiveness by analyzing patient populations and evaluating initiatives designed to better serve them. Current research topics include, but are not limited to, comparing communication strategies to improve patient adherence to prescription instructions and evaluating the impact of targeted educational pamphlets on diabetes management and healthy lifestyle practices.

These research projects culminate in poster presentations at the annual Society of Student-Run Free Clinics (SSRFC) National Conference, where findings contribute not only to the continued improvement of Sojourner Clinic but also to the broader body of research on student-run free clinics, where we help the continuous effort to identify effective strategies for improving healthcare delivery, patient engagement, and health outcomes in medically underserved communities.



Social Media:



Instagram: @sojournerhealthclinic

Twitter: @Sojourner

UMKC Facebook: Sojourner Health Clinic

Mailing List: sojourner.webmaster@gmail.com

[Please follow us on social media](#)
[regarding updates and clinic activities!](#)