Michigan—and the United States—are in the midst of an epidemic of opioid overuse, overdose, and fatalities. Four people die each day in Michigan due to opioid overdose. More Michiganders lose their lives from opioid overdoses than from transportation-related crashes, or any other drugs. Families, communities, law enforcement, and correctional facilities struggle with the fallout of addiction, impairment, and loss of life. Meanwhile, health systems and clinicians struggle to change clinical practice and implement prevention strategies that can address this epidemic, while state and federal policymakers struggle to identify solutions.

Studying the many complex issues related to opioid overuse and overdose is extremely important in developing policy proposals. The University of Michigan has a number of state and national experts focused on opioid overuse trends, interventions, and policy options, and we are pleased to host several who will enlighten us on this sobering topic.

**Amy Bohnert** Ph.D., M.H.S.

Dr. Bohnert is the Opioid Content Lead for the U-M Injury Center. She will discuss the trends in opioid prescribing and overuse, and state and national level research and policy related to prescribing and treatment. She provided guidance to the CDC in developing opioid prescribing guidelines for chronic pain in 2016 and has been involved in work at Michigan Medicine to implement medication-assisted treatment for people with addiction.

**Rebecca Cunningham** M.D.

Dr. Cunningham is an emergency medicine physician and Director of the CDC-funded U-M Injury Center, which focuses much of its research on opioid overuse and overdose prevention. She is also a member of the Michigan Prescription Drug and Opioid Commission. Dr. Cunningham will discuss several important policy efforts related to opioid prescribing and opioid use, such as MAPS, the Injury Center’s work, and ongoing efforts to create a surveillance of fatal and non-fatal overdose.

**Chad Brummett** M.D.

Dr. Brummett is the Co-Director of the Michigan Opioid Prescribing Engagement Network, or Michigan OPEN. He will discuss this growing initiative, which raises awareness among patients and providers of the risk of opioid dependence following acute care (surgery, dentistry, emergency medicine, and trauma), measures and reduces opioid prescribing by clinicians for acute care, and improves opioid disposal practices statewide.
University of Michigan Alumni and friends who work in and around the State Capitol are welcome to participate in the Wolverine Caucus. Our mission is to provide diverse forums at which University of Michigan friends can meet one another, enjoy fellowship, exchange views, and learn from the world-class talents of the University of Michigan.

To receive announcements of upcoming programs, call the UM Lansing Service Center at (517) 372-7801 or email veronicj@umich.edu or amccullu@umich.edu and ask us to add your name or the names of associates.

We look forward to seeing you at our 2018 University of Michigan Wolverine Caucus Forums

2018 forums will be announced soon, and will be held at the Christman/MML Building, 208 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933, or at a location in downtown Lansing, MI.