

Important Discussion on Physician Suicide – May 15 in Greensboro – Please Attend

By Kirby Sheridan, NCMSA Vice President for Program Development; kirbypsheridan@gmail.com

May 15 at the Greensboro History Museum
6:15 pm – heavy hors d’oeuvres; 7:00 pm – Program
Free admission

After a downturn in the number of deaths by suicide in the US in 2020, the rate of suicide began to climb to 14.5 deaths per 100,000 people in 2022.¹ In that same year, between 300 and 400 doctors died by suicide.² That is a 40% higher rate among male physicians and a 130% higher rate among female physicians compared to the general population.²

It is hard to talk about suicide. And if you are the healer, charged with the responsibility of looking after others, it can be very hard to admit that you are struggling with suicidal thoughts, depression or substance misuse. As a community, we need to make channels available so that those discussions are easier to initiate. In supporting our physicians and physician families, as well as others in healthcare, we need to bring this problem out into the open to find solutions.



Betsy Gall, our guest speaker on May 15, is speaking all over the country about physician suicide after her oncologist husband,

Dr. Matthew Gall, tragically and unexpectedly



took his own life on Thanksgiving Day in 2019. Betsy recently wrote a book titled *The Illusion of the Perfect Profession*. It is a story about love, physician suicide, and finding comfort and purpose in the aftermath. Betsy will share her story with us and answer questions.



Dr. Joseph Jordan, CEO of the North Carolina Professionals Health Program (NCPHP), will follow Betsy to discuss the support the NCPHP offers health professionals, allowing them to seek help, recover, and return to their careers.



The NCMSA hopes you will attend this vital discussion at the Greensboro History Museum on May 15. Refreshments will be served in the lobby at 6:15 pm. The program will begin at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. Questions and answers will follow along with dessert. RSVP is requested by May 7 to admin@ncmsalliance.org or 919-810-4081. Admission is free.

1. CDC
2. 2022 Medscape National Physician Burnout & Suicide Report