CONGRATULATIONS TO TCMS MEMBERS ELECTED DURING OSMA MEETING

Tulsa physicians elected to OSMA positions at the April 16th meeting include Kevin Taubman, M.D., President-Elect, Joseph Cunningham, M.D., Vice-Chair of the OSMA Board of Trustees, George Monks, M.D., Speaker of the House of Delegates, Jenny Boyer, M.D., Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association and Trustee on the OSMA Board, George Caldwell, M.D., OSMA Health Board, W. Frank Phelps, OSMA Health Board and Patrick Lester, M.D., OSMA Board of Trustees.

OSMA HOUSE OF DELEGATES REDUCE ANNUAL OSMA DUES TO $300.00 FOR 2017

The OSMA House of Delegates approved a recommendation from the Board to reduce the annual OSMA dues from $450.00 to $300.00 for 2017. The reduction is possible because of the recent sale of PLICO. In addition to the dues reduction, revenues from the sale will be used to enhance programs that will benefit Oklahoma physicians and their patients.

Dr. Kevin Taubman, Chair of the OSMA Membership Committee appointed 4 focus groups to further consider how our organization can increase and promote membership values and benefits. The focus groups cover 1) Value, Retention/Recruitment Membership, chaired by Peter Aran, M.D., 2) Leadership Development/Training, chaired by Ken King, 3) Advanced Advocacy and Political Training, chaired by Don Wilbur, M.D., and 4) CME Membership, chaired by George Monks, M.D.

We would love to hear from TCMS members if you have input to share about how your organization can be more relevant to you personally and professionally.

SENATE BILL 1148 PASSES AND IS SIGNED BY GOVERNOR FALLIN ON APRIL 11, 2016

Last year, TCMS member David Siegler, M.D. submitted a resolution to the OSMA House of Delegates to pursue legislation to eliminate discrimination by the state of Oklahoma, employers, hospitals and payers based on the ABMS’ proprietary Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program as a requirement for maintenance of Oklahoma licensure, employment, hospital staff membership and payments for medical care in Oklahoma.

Senate Bill 1148 was authored by Senator Brian Crain and Representative Michael Ritze (D.O.). The bill passed through the legislature and was signed by the Governor on April 11th. It will become effective on November 1, 2016. The bill stipulates that nothing in the Oklahoma Allopathic Medical and Surgical Licensure and Supervision Act and likewise, nothing in the Oklahoma Osteopathic Medical Act may be construed as to require a physician to secure a Maintenance of Certification as a condition of licensure, reimbursement, employment, or admitting privileges at a hospital.

This is a great example of the impact of a grassroots effort to effect change.

ADVOCACY 101 FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

When TCMS surveyed medical students to ask how we can support them at this point in their career one of the most requested programs was to learn more about interacting with legislators and how bills become law. On April 8th, Pat Hall, OSMA Lobbyist and Wes Glinsmann, OSMA State Legislative Director met with OSU medical students to discuss this topic along with Drs. Peter Aran, David Siegler, Doug Stewart & Mona from the TCMS leadership. On May 13th the same presentation will be provided to the OU medical students. OSMA plans to work with medical students on an issue of importance to them and have legislation filed on that subject in the 2017 legislative session.

WOULD YOU SERVE AS A MENTOR?

An important TCMS initiative this year is a Mentorship Program for medical students and residents. We are asking TCMS members to volunteer as a mentor. Many of the medical students have expressed an interest in this opportunity. Physicians who have participated in other programs agree the experience is both rewarding and educational for the mentor and the mentee. If you are willing to serve as a mentor please email mona@tcmsok.org or call 918.743.6184. Thanks.
What you are about to read is news for many of you. I wish that it were not “new information” since it deals with patient care and our patients may ask us about this. But it is good news and it is nice to read good news for a change.

It may be a surprise to you that medical policy makers (both physicians and non-physicians) around the country consider Tulsa to be a national leader in team based healthcare. Some of us hear this at national meetings and with all the negative health statistics about Oklahoma it is great to hear people say that they admire us for what we do. Their impression is partly due to a handful of programs that our doctors, many of you, are part of from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) or the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) initiatives. I want to give you an overview of some of these and in future issues go into more depth on individual programs. Since they do relate to patient care they have a direct impact on our patients and families here in Oklahoma.

So here are some programs/abbreviations that you may hear or read about. If a patient asked you about CPC, MyHealth, H2O, T 1000, Healthy Cities Challenge, or OSIM would you know what the heck they are referring to? Or more importantly would you like to be involved or wonder if your patients could benefit in some way from being a part of these? CPC is not a typo referring to a government health agency in Atlanta, H2O is not something we drink, T 1000 is not a fancy metal tennis racket, Healthy Cities is not a bike race, and OSIM is not an abbreviation for some international organization.

CPC stands for the “Comprehensive Primary Care” initiative. 265 of you are front line participants in this and congratulations on being a part of this multi-million dollar, 4 year grant from CMS aimed at improving health care by incorporating risk stratification, designated nurse navigator specialists for the sickest of the patients, and providing an information technology that allows all the people caring for the patient to know about their medical condition using technology designed as a product of another grant given to Tulsa called MyHealth. You and your offices should be congratulated since of the 7 sites nationally chosen to be part of this grant the Tulsa region has performed the best in terms of quality while saving costs. What is unique about CPC and all of these programs is that in order to be chosen the candidate sites have to demonstrate that their participants include competing hospitals, competing physician groups, independent and employed physicians, large and small practices, multiple payer organizations, and civic organizations. As you would imagine that is not an easy accomplishment. In fact, of the 223,000 primary care practices in the United States only 474 were picked to be part of this program. In the Tulsa regional site we are fortunate to have 68 of the 474 practices. For Tulsa this means that Saint Francis, St. John, Hillcrest, the OMNI Medical Group, the Warren Clinic, the Utica Park Clinic, Jenks Family Physicians, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Oklahoma, Community Care, Medicare, the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority/Medicaid, the Tulsa County Health Department, the Oklahoma Center for Healthcare Improvement, OSU School of Medicine, OU Tulsa School of Medicine, MyHealth, and others are all part of this successful, functioning program. The results from the CPC trial so impressed CMS that they announced on April 21, 2016 that a new program entitled CPC Plus was being designed that would now include 5000 PCP practices in 20 sites around the country caring for over 20,000,000 patients. When did you last see something like that occur here in Tulsa?

MyHealth, mentioned above, would be the answer to that question. This is an information technology initiative out of the HHS/Office of the National Coordinator’s 3 year, 250 million dollar program (designated as the Beacon Communities Grant) involving only 17 places in the United States. Spearheaded by Dr. David Kendrick of the University of Oklahoma Tulsa Community School of Medicine similar criteria were required to win this grant. He assembled a team involving the three large hospitals, the two medical schools, multiple physician practices, EMSA, civic and community organizations including TCMS, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Community Care, and the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority, and others. What can it do? Imagine that you were in a car accident and unconscious. EMSA arrives at the scene, identifies you, and in a HIPPA secure fashion can access your health record seeing what conditions you have, what medications you are on, what allergies you may have, and who they should contact. They can then safely care for you as they transport you to the nearest hospital. And although that may not be your hospital those doctors can also access your health records as they go about stabilizing you. In a less dramatic but more common scenario patients can be seen by doctors who may not have access to their normal EMR (EPIC, Cerner, Athena, etc.) but can then care for them whether they are away on vacation in Paris (France or Texas) or in their own city but being seen by another doctor.

H2O, or Healthy Hearts of Oklahoma, is an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality initiative led by Dr. Dan Duffy, the former University of Oklahoma Tulsa medical school dean, and involves 36 of you working with 560 doctors in 266 Oklahoma PCP practices aimed at optimizing how those practices deliver cardiovascular preventive medicine. If you were fortunate enough to have grown up in rural America you will remember the U.S government’s Department of Agriculture Extension Service that essentially served as a communication and resource office for improving farming in our country. In somewhat the same way H2O helps these PCP practices better deliver care patterned after the Million Hearts Campaign outcomes initiatives. While hospital systems have EMRs, care management, quality departments, education departments, etc., individual practices not associated with large health systems do not have these resources. This program helps bridge those gaps.
T1000 is the program title standing for Tulsa 1000 a series of behavioral health initiatives based at the Laureate Institute of Brain Research (LIBR) here in Tulsa. It is a study of 1000 people in our community with behavioral health problems that are tracked longitudinally and are cared for by many of you. LIBR was formed seven years ago under the direction of the William K. Warren Foundation to further mental health research for Tulsa and Oklahoma and is headed up by Dr. Martin Paulus. Many of you were able to hear Dr. Paulus’s excellent presentation at the April 6th meeting of the TCMS. Taking advantage of functional MRI brain imaging at a level of sophistication unmatched in the Midwest and comparable to that of the NIH a group of neuroscientists and physicists are working on 16 clinical research studies. One of the most promising for the health of our community is that of mental health and substance abuse in young people. LIBR was fortunate enough to be one of 19 psychiatric programs in the country that were chosen as part of a National Institute of Health multi-million dollar grant to assess and treat these problems that might arise as early as grade school or high school. You can Google the Tulsa World article from October 2015 describing this breakthrough study.

The Healthy Cities Challenge is a national competition that awards grant money to cities that can demonstrate the ability to mount a community-wide effort related to promoting and improving health related behaviors designed to improve the well-being of our population. These lifestyle changes should have an observable and quantifiable impact on conditions such as heart disease, hypertension, obesity, and stroke. This initiative, under the direction of Dr. Bruce Dart the head of the Tulsa City/County Health Department, requires the combined efforts of physicians, hospitals, schools, civic organizations, and healthcare insurance companies.

OSIM is an abbreviation for a statewide program called the Oklahoma State Innovations Model. This is funded by the CMS Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovations (CMMI). 660 million dollars were awarded to states in December of 2014 to design and test improvements in healthcare delivery. Like the other CMMI grants mentioned above, CPC and CPC Plus, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, hospitals, health insurance payers, medical schools, social workers, city, county, and state agencies were all integral parts of this program headed up by the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Another example of team based care is evolving in our midst at the University of Tulsa. Under the leadership of University of Tulsa President Steadman Upham and Dr. Gerry Clancy, the Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean of the College Of Health Sciences, a new multi-disciplinary program is underway that includes primary care/community medicine physicians, psychiatrists specializing in behavioral health issues related to primary care, nursing, social work, the above mentioned LIBR Institute, the College of Law and others. They will collaborate in the actual care of patients based out of a clinic in downtown Tulsa addressing the medical and social needs of patients with acute and chronic conditions. The college will also offer a Master’s Degree Program in Healthcare Delivery bringing together students with health degree backgrounds and students with business, law, and social studies backgrounds. They will learn together and teach each other drawing on their own personal backgrounds related to healthcare delivery.

The overarching theme of all of these programs is that of city-wide/state-wide collaboration. We thank our many doctors who are participating in these initiatives and we want all of you to be aware and take pride in this work which has had and will continue to have significant impact on the health of our community and state. The Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Stephen Shortell, wrote a book that I would encourage all of you to read entitled “The Remaking of Healthcare in America”. He predicted that if healthcare were to improve in the United States it would only happen if competing healthcare organizations learned to work together. He wrote that in 1996 while teaching at Northwestern in Chicago and many thought of it as interesting but unlikely to ever occur. In Oklahoma we are proving that it was not fiction, he was right on, just ahead of his time.

Mary Anne McCaffree, M.D., Candidate for AMA President

Oklahoma can be proud of Dr. Mary Anne McCaffree yet again. Many of you know her as a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine where she has treated children for decades as a neonatologist and helped train many of you as you rotated through the NICU. Some of you remember that she was the first woman elected to be president of the Oklahoma State Medical Association. What has just been announced this past month is that she is one of two U.S. physicians in the running to be the next president of the American Medical Association. The election will be in June at the Chicago meeting. She has served on the Board of Directors of the AMA for the past 8 years. It would be great for our state to have one of our colleagues in this position. Of the many, many things that she would be able to influence among them would be that of promoting programs that would improve patient care, help with physician practice sustainability, and promote medical education innovations.
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