PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Michael Weisz, M.D.

The Oklahoma Legislature hit the ground running on February 6. Thank you to the following TCMS members who represented the House of Medicine as Doctor of the Day at the State Capitol in February; Peter Aran, M.D., Jenny Boyer, M.D., Christopher Emerson, M.D., Brad Garber, M.D., and Carl Pfanstiel, M.D. The state budget is a high priority again this year and will drive consideration and deliberation on many issues this session.

On February 21st, I had the pleasure of serving as Doctor of the Day. What was distinctive from past years was my opportunity to take three medical students with me and provide some insight into the legislative process in real time. The students really enjoyed the experience and even more, I enjoyed watching the students interact with representatives and senators. Medical students approach most issues from the standpoint of “where we are going”, not “where we have been” and as a result, they engage in dialogue that is outside the box and progressive. Legislators love to hear from students and residents, knowing, as we do, they are the future of medicine.

After serving as Doctor of the Day, I attended the Medicine Day Reception at the Oklahoma State Medical Association. This was a great chance to speak one-on-one with many legislators. My take away at the end of both events that day was that communicating our ideas really does make a difference. Politics is local and legislators pay very close attention to the views of those who live in their district. One representative told me that the biggest reason she was voting against the bill eliminating physician supervision of nurse practitioners was because 50 physicians in her district had contacted her.

The student section of leadership medicine in Oklahoma is working with Representative Katie Henke on a public health and safety measure prohibiting persons under a certain age from using a tanning device in a tanning facility. They were involved in writing HB 1756 and will participate in the process of carrying the bill through committee and if approved on to the House. Thank you to Wes Glinsmann, OSMA Director of State Legislation and Regulation and Pat Hall and Jim Dunlap, TCMS/OSMA Lobbyists for involving the medical students in this important educational experience.

Your TCMS Leadership met with State Representative Chad Caldwell a couple of weeks ago. He serves on the Appropriations and Budget Committee and as Chair of the A&B Health Sub-Committee. He was interested in hearing directly from us about key concerns. I think the discussion was helpful for us as well as Representative Caldwell. We appreciate that Representative Caldwell initiated this meeting so he would have more information as bills that impact healthcare are heard by his committee. He encouraged physicians to personally contact their representatives and shared how influential his own constituents are in guiding his votes.

As of this writing, HB1013, the independent practice bill for Nurse Practitioners, passed at the Committee level and will be heard on the House floor very soon. If it passes the House, we all need to make sure we have contacted our senator to ensure our opinion of this is very clear. You should have received an e-mail last Thursday from TCMS containing a commentary by Dr. George Monks about this critical issue. If you have not had a chance to review it, I strongly encourage you to take a look at it.

I hope to see you on March 3rd at Southern Hills when we will honor the physicians who retired from the practice of medicine last year. Many years of dedicated service to Tulsa residents will be represented at our event. For me it is enjoyable to hear the pearls of wisdom they share with us about their practice and their family. This is one of the best long-standing traditions of TCMS.
ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS NOW AVAILABLE ON MOBILE DEVICE

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR PATIENTS AND OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO WORK TO CONNECT THOSE IN NEED WITH SERVICES.

211OK.org is a simple to use and mobile friendly site that provides access to a wealth of information on the thousands of service organizations (the 211 directory) serving in all 77 counties in Oklahoma.

One out of every 6 Oklahoma residents has household income below the federal poverty level. Access to basic needs such as food, housing, formula and diapers is fundamental to their existence. The 211OK site allows users to email or call a service organization directly, access driving directions, find services nearest them, and to email information about a service organization to someone else in need.

**Here is how it works,**

1. go to [211OK.org](http://211OK.org) on your mobile device
2. type “formula, food, etc” in the search box on the home screen
3. click on “services near me” on the organization listing page
4. click on the organization entry at the top of the list
5. click on directions at the top right of the display

This easy to navigate site is possible due to funding from the Zarrow Family Foundations, the work of 211 staff led by Donnie House, and technical expertise from Asemio and 501tech.net, which facilitated and implemented the program.

Tulsa County Medical Society President-Elect, Jenny Boyer, M.D., Ph.D., was elected to serve on the American Psychiatric Association Board of Trustees. The American Psychiatric Association has 37,000 Psychiatrists members and is widely regarded as the voice of American Psychiatry. Dr. Boyer has served as Speaker of the American Psychiatric Association Assembly and is currently co-chair of the APA Caucus of VA Psychiatrists. Part of Dr. Boyer’s message through her service in APA leadership has been the importance of retention and recruitment of VA psychiatrists and their service to veterans as well as providing significant intangible job satisfaction. Dr. Boyer will be involved in approving national policies promulgated by APA.

Dr. Boyer has also served as a leader in the American Medical Association, currently representing Oklahoma as an Alternate Delegate to the AMA. She attends the national meeting and actively engages in the business of the AMA House of Delegates. She has introduced resolutions that impact the delivery of health care in Oklahoma.

Dr. Boyer currently serves as a Trustee on the Oklahoma State Medical Association Board. She is a past director on the Oklahoma Medical Board and member of the OSMA Council on State Legislation and Regulation. Dr. Boyer was instrumental in the launch of the medical student mentorship program at Tulsa County Medical Society in 2016, and she was one of the first physicians to participate in the program.

Congratulations Dr. Boyer and thank you for all you do to advance the practice of medicine and patient care in Oklahoma.

OU-Tulsa medical students (from left to right) Cate Lynn, Eric Reynolds and Alizay Paracha pictured with TCMS President, Michael Weisz, M.D. at the State Capitol. The group served as Doctor of the Day on February 21.

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Oklahoma State Department of Health
Kevin Taubman, M.D., FACS, Assistant Professor & Acting Chief, Section of Vascular & Endovascular Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and Director of the Vascular Lab with OU Physicians Surgical Specialists, will become the 111th President of the Oklahoma State Medical Association. His Inauguration will be held on Saturday, April 22nd at 6:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Tulsa, 100 East Second St. Dr. Taubman has been a member of TCMS and OSMA since 2008 when he joined the faculty at OU. Dr. Taubman served as Chair of the OSMA Board of Trustees prior to his election as Vice-President in 2015. He has served as an OSMA Delegate since 2012.

Dr. Michael Weisz, TCMS President, said “We are fortunate to have Dr. Taubman serve in this important role at this particular time when we are facing many challenges and I am hopeful that many of Dr. Taubman’s Tulsa colleagues will attend the Inaugural to support him.”

**TCMS CAUCUS SET FOR MARCH 23 IN PREPARATION FOR OSMA ANNUAL MEETING ON APRIL 22ND.**

If you are able to attend the TCMS Caucus on March 23 at 6:00 p.m. at TCMS and/or the OSMA Annual meeting on Saturday, April 22nd at 10:00 a.m. at the Hyatt Regency, Tulsa, please email TCMS at tcms@tcmsok.org. TCMS members interested in submitting a Resolution for consideration of the OSMA House of Delegates should submit the Resolution to TCMS, by Monday, March 20th. The TCMS Caucus will review 2017-2018 nominations for OSMA leadership positions, OSMA proposed Bylaw changes and any Resolutions received, in preparation for the meeting on April 22nd. For more information about the OSMA Annual Meeting or to register go to [http://www.okmed.org/web/Online/News_Events/Annual_Meeting/Online/News__Events/Annual_Meeting.aspx](http://www.okmed.org/web/Online/News_Events/Annual_Meeting/Online/News__Events/Annual_Meeting.aspx), call OSMA at 800.522.9452, or call/email Mona at 918.743.6184, email mona@tcmsok.org.

**PROPOSED OSMA BYLAW CHANGES TO BE CONSIDERED AT ANNUAL MEETING:**

Article II, Section 2.02.3 **Affiliate Members.** Any physician who does not satisfy the requirements of any other category, but was once eligible for Active membership but no longer qualifies due to the residency requirement, may be classified as an M.D. or D.O. Affiliate Member.

Article II, Section 2.02.4 **Resident/Fellow Members**. Physicians serving as full-time residents or fellows in a program leading to certification by the American Board of Medical Specialties or the American Osteopathic Association or American College of Medical Specialties, upon application of the component society or participation in an AMA membership program, may become Resident/Fellow members of a component society and of this Association. Resident/Fellow membership is limited to the period of training. Resident/Fellow members shall have all the rights and privileges of Association membership, except the right to hold office, **unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws**.

Article II, Section 4.02.2 **Partial Exemption.** Full membership rights will be retained during the period of partial dues exemption, except the right to hold office, **except the right to be a General Officer of the Association**.

Article VII, Section 7.02 **Term of Office and Tenure.** All Trustees and Alternate Trustees shall be elected for staggered terms of three (3) years each, except Resident and Student Trustees and Alternate Trustees who shall be elected annually. No Trustee, **except Resident and Student Trustees**, may serve more than two (2) consecutive terms and will be ineligible for immediate election to Alternate Trustee after his/ her term limit as Trustee expires. Filling an unexpired term will not count toward the term limit. Officers shall serve as members of the Board of Trustees during their terms in office.

**ARTICLE XVII
INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

There is hereby established an “Investment Account”, to be the proceeds from the sale of the Association’s interest in PLICO, to be held and administered as follows: Any expenditure, distribution, disbursement or payment from the Investment Account, other than distributions of not to exceed three percent (3%) annually from the Investment Account to the “Reserve Account” as administered by the Board of Trustees, shall require an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the Board of Trustees at a properly called meeting thereof and an affirmative vote of seventy-five percent (75%) of the House of Delegates at a properly called meeting thereof.
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