Thanksgiving is around the corner and it brings to mind my unabated gratitude for family, friends and colleagues. It has been an honor to serve as your President this year and I appreciate your support of the work we do through both of our organizations to advance our mission.

I extend a heartfelt thanks to those who serve on the TCMS Board, the Board of Censors and the TCMS Foundation Board. Your leadership and thoughtful counsel have been instrumental to our association.

Some of my personal highlights this year include;

• Taking three OU medical students with me to the Capitol on February 21st. We co-serve as Doctor of the Day at the State Legislature after which we attended a reception for the Legislators, hosted by OSMA. We had a great experience and enjoyed the opportunity to personally visit with our law makers.

• My friend and colleague, Karl Hoskison, M.D., was the guest speaker at my Inaugural in March. His remarks resonated with all as he took a journey through some of his personal interactions with those physicians whose retirement was being honored. Also, it was particularly special to me to have 40 medical students in attendance along with my entire family.

• The successful efforts of medical students working with the OSMA legislative team, State Representative Katie Henke and Senator Ervin Yen, M.D., to craft a bill that would prohibit minors from being allowed into tanning booths. SB 765 was signed by Governor Mary Fallin on May 2nd. The law goes into effect November 1. It is exciting to see the medical students lead this important health initiative.

• The opportunity to represent the medical community at the Tulsa Regional Chamber OneVoice Healthcare Task Force. The Task Force was led by my colleague John Schumann, M.D. and included a diverse group of local stakeholders. Here is the link to the final 2018 OneVoice Agenda http://tcmsok.org/mc/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2018-OneVoice-Agenda.pdf

• I have enjoyed working with Kevin Taubman, M.D. in his role as President of the Oklahoma State Medical Association. Kevin is a dynamic leader and a skilled communicator who is doing a great job. We are working closely with our state organization on advocacy and membership.

• It has been a joy to participate on the TCMS Foundation Board. Dr. Rollie Rhodes, who chairs the Board is an inspiration to all and perfect for the job. Marc and Mary Milsten hosted a Patron Party for the Board. We personally signed and penned a note on 375 letters to potential sponsors of our Project TCMS fundraising event on January 18, 2018. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us for An Evening with Jeannette Walls at the Bond Event Center.

As most of you know from reading my letters this year, my passion is my work with medical students. We currently have 450 TCMS student members from OU-TU School of Community Medicine and the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. This year the students have formalized the TCMS Student Resident Council initiated a couple of years ago. Their focus is in three areas, community service, advocacy and student outreach. I am excited to see how their efforts unfold and how they pave the way for future students to engage with leadership medicine and community support. These young women and men are the future leaders of our organization. This year TCMS hosted the first year medical student orientation at OU and OSU as well as a Zoo social in August.

On a final and most important note, I want to thank my wife Susan for her unwavering support throughout my career. As we all know medicine is a family affair and as physicians we understand the compromises our families make in order for us to care for our patients and fulfill our responsibilities to our practice, hospital, and elsewhere. Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving and a blessed holiday season.

It is time for all of us to renew our membership. You should have received a dues statement for 2018. Here is the link to pay online http://tcmsok.org/online-payment/online-dues/, or you can call TCMS at 918-743-6184 to pay by credit card. Thank you for your continued support.

In Memoriam
C. William Simcoe
October 22, 2017
THE BUDGET DRAMA CONTINUES. Kevin Taubman, M.D., OSMA President released the statement below on 10-25-17 when it was announced a deal on the budget had not been reached. As of 10-26-17 the Senate adopted a resolution calling on the House to include a 4% gross production tax in a revised budget deal. The resolution is non-binding and any revenue measure would still have to originate in the House. But hopefully it does two things:

1. The House Republicans have been locked up on no GPT increase. With the Senate now on board with passing something, hopefully it signals to the House GOP leadership that it’s time to pull their heads out of the sand.
2. The Democrats have been pushing for going to 5% on GPT. This may signal to them that the votes could be there on the Senate side if they back off to 4%.

The ball is still very much in Speaker McCall’s court—he would have to budge on any GPT increase before they could even talk numbers. But this shows just how frustrated the Senate has gotten with the House’s antics.

Failure to reach a deal will result in a 9% cut from OHCA to providers effective December 1st.

Oklahoma State Medical Association Comments on Failure of Budget Package
The Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) today expressed its disappointment in the failure of the proposed budget revenue package.

“Today is just the latest example of why Oklahomans have lost faith in their government leaders,” said OSMA President Kevin Taubman, MD. “The legislative leadership—and I use that term loosely—seems more interested in lobbing partisan attacks at one another than in saving lives and protecting the health care of Oklahoma’s most vulnerable citizens.”

Taubman pointed out that, not only will thousands of Oklahomans lose access to health care as a result of legislative inaction, but Oklahoma is missing an opportunity to save lives by passing the cigarette tax.

“Tobacco remains the greatest contributor to death and poor health outcomes in our state. Increasing the price is the single most effective way to both reduce the prevalence of smoking and also prevent new smoking. If we can keep kids from ever taking up the habit, we will begin to meaningfully address the number one cause of preventable death in our state. Simply put, passing this tax will save lives,” Dr. Taubman said.

“To the legislative leadership I would simply say, ‘Are you happy now? Have you accomplished what your constituents sent you here to do? Have you made the lives of ordinary Oklahomans better?’ said Dr. Taubman. “And I would encourage them to take a long, hard look in the mirror before they answer.”

On a more positive note...OHCA 3-Day Rule Repealed!
Earlier this month, Governor Fallin signed an emergency rule from the Oklahoma Health Care Authority repealing the “3-day rule” that would have been so problematic for physician practices. Under the terms of the rule, in order to be eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, medical records would have to have been authenticated within three days of when the service was provided. With the governor’s signature, the rule goes back to its previous form, which required such records to be authenticated within three business days of when the record was completed. Thank you to the OSMA member physicians who brought this issue to our attention, to our lobby team who worked diligently to address the situation with state leaders and to the OHCA leadership who, once they realized their mistake, worked with us to correct it as quickly as possible.

PEDiATRIC OBESiTY MANAGEMENT iN PriMaRY CARE – WeBiNaR SERIES CoMiNG SOON!
The Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) and OU Medicine are pleased to offer a free training series developed to improve the quality of pediatric obesity management in primary care.

Starting January 2018 a six week training course will be offered via on-demand webinars. This training will be delivered by experts specializing in pediatric obesity including pediatricians, psychologists and registered dieticians.

OVERALL OBJECTIVES:
1) Recognize the stages of obesity management for children and referral options for children with severe obesity.
2) Implement evidence-based guidelines for obesity management in primary care.
3) Incorporate motivational interviewing and targeted dietary strategies to prevent and address obesity in your practice.
4) Identify resources available for pediatric obesity management in primary care.

TOPICS INCLUDE:
Implement Childhood Weight Management Into Your Practice: Ashley Weedn, MD, MPH, FAAP
Practical Nutrition Tips: Katy Soper, MS, RD/LD
Motivational Interviewing Tips: Stephen Gillaspy, PhD
Sleep Behaviors: Theodore Wagener, PhD
Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome in Adolescents: Kelly Curran, MD
Adolescent Bariatric Surgery: Laura Fischer, MD, MS

To register for the webinars or for more information, please contact Melissa Johnson at Johnson@okmed.org.

Ask about CME credit!
The TCMS Women in Medicine Committee was an active group 20 years ago. The committee joined forces with Women in Law and worked to reinforce that domestic violence is unacceptable behavior and develop methods to effect change in the community through patient intervention, peer education and public relations. After the project was completed the committee unintentionally over a period of time disbanded.

A couple of months ago at the Joy of Medicine annual CME program, Drs. Diane Heaton, Lora Larson and Candy Ting recalled how much they enjoyed meeting with their female colleagues and decided to reinvent the group with a social purpose. The first event was held on October 23 at TCMS. Forty female physicians, medical students and residents enjoyed a delightful evening. A diverse group came together and shared their personal stories of success and challenges practicing medicine.

Top photo from left to right is Drs. Diane Heaton, Candy Ting, Lora Larson & Jenny Boyer. Bottom photo from left to right is Drs. Cindi Starkey, Stephanie Holt & Laurie Flynn.

Dr. Jenny Boyer, 2018 TCMS President, encouraged those in attendance to stay connected and be a mentor to female medical students, residents and doctors who are at the beginning of their medical career.

Welcome New Members


EXPLORE THE BENEFITS OF PLICO + MEDPRO.

93% PLICO TRIAL WIN RATE

99% NATIONWIDE CLAIMS CUSTOMER SATISFACTION

EXPERTISE FROM SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED NATIONWIDE

400,000 CLAIMS

200,000 INSUREDs NATIONWIDE

A.M. Best rating as of 7/15/2017. PLICO trial-win-rate data range is 2006-2017. All other data is MedPro Group data. MedPro Group is the marketing name used to refer to the insurance operations of The Medical Protective Company, Princeton Insurance Company, PLICO, Inc. and MedPro RRG Risk Retention Group. Oklahoma physician & surgeon policies are underwritten by PLICO and administered by PLICO and MedPro Group. Product availability is based upon business and regulatory approval. ©2017 MedPro Group Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Certitude healthcare professional liability coverage delivers:

- **Risk resources** to help you manage your practice, enhance patient safety, and save money
- **Flexible premium payment options** to fit your needs
- **Certitude peer input** for difficult claims and underwriting issues
- **Unified claims approach** that helps you protect your important identity
- **Enhanced coverage** for today’s ever-changing medical environment

Join over **4,000 ASCENSION PHYSICIANS** and healthcare providers now practicing with Certitude.

---

Certitude health care professional liability insurance is underwritten by ProAssurance Indemnity, Inc. For more information on Certitude, call ProAssurance at **800.282.6242** or visit [CertitudebyAscension.org](http://CertitudebyAscension.org).