**2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Sean L. Smith, M.D.

Chris L. Sudduth, M.D.

James R. Webb, Jr., M.D.

Michael A. Weisz, M.D.

**Upcoming Events:**

For further information about the following meetings, tcms@tcmsok.org or 918.743.6184

- **January 8, 2020 6pm**  
TCMS Board Meeting  
TCMS

- **January 12, 2020**  
OB-GYN Meeting, Town Hall  
Dr. Ted Anderson, ACOG 70th President  
11:00am ~ 1:00pm Tulsa, OK  
3:00pm ~ 5:00pm OKC, OK  
“For info call Joetta 918.743.6184”

- **January 14, 2020 5:30pm**  
OSDS RSS Center for Dermatology  
3915 E 51st St

- **January 28, 2020 6pm**  
Legislative & Legal Update  
1 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™  
TCMS

- **February 17, 2020 6pm**  
TCMS & TCMSF President’s Inaugural OU Learning Center, Founders Hall  
4502 E 41st St

- **February 20, 2020 6pm**  
Tulsa OB-GYN Meeting  
TCMS

- **March 12, 2020 6pm**  
Tulsa OB-GYN Meeting  
TCMS

- **March 25, 2020 Time TBA**  
Medicine Day at the Capital Legislative Reception, OSMA OKC

FYI:

Doctor of the Day has been moved from the Month of February to April 2020, in hopes of better weather for those traveling to the capital.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Barry vonHartitzsch, MD  
December 1, 2019

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SAVE THE DATE...MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

The TCMS & TCMSF President’s Inaugural & Recognition of Retired Physicians will be held at 6 pm at the OU Learning Center Founders Hall, at 4502 E 41st St. Members and non-members are welcome to attend. Members will receive an invitation in the mail soon. Hope you can join us on National Presidents’ Day for Dr. Karen Gold’s Inauguration as TCMS President. Call 918-743-6184 for Information.
Happy New Year!

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for 2020. I would like to thank Dr. Siegler for his hard work and dedication to the position in 2019.

The team at TCMS has changed since the retirement of Mona Whitmore. Mona served as the Executive Director for 11 years. I want to thank her for all she did during her tenure. Please join me to honor her during the TCMS Presidents Inaugural Dinner on February 17, 2020 at OU Schusterman Founders Hall.

Help me welcome Mark McElreath as the new Executive Director, and Joetta Cunningham as she accepts her new position as Director of Operations. Below are some of the highlights for the upcoming year.

**PHYSICIAN WELLNESS PROGRAM**

Despite many positive sources of career satisfaction in the practice of medicine, physicians in the U.S. increasingly report significant stress that can impact their productivity, clinical effectiveness, sense of altruism, personal life and willingness to continue in their practices. The Oklahoma County Medical Society recently implemented its Physician Wellness Program (PWP) to address these issues, drawing from similar programs in other states. Confidentiality and privacy are concerns for physicians. No information is disclosed without written consent and sessions are not reportable to the Oklahoma State Board of Medical Licensure. OCMS has previously met with the State Board of Licensure, who fully supports the pursuit of this program. Since the program started in 2017, 7 Practicing Physicians and 10 Residents have used the PWP program which resulted in 91 visits.

A large part of the purpose of the Tulsa County Medical Society is to “foster ethical practices among members and unite the medical profession in promoting public health.” I cannot think of better way for us, as physicians fostering ethical practices and promoting public health amongst our colleagues, than to implement a Physician Wellness Program. My hope and goal is for us to implement this program in 2020. If you have an interest in helping with our efforts with the PWP, please contact Mark McElreath at the TCMS office.

**MEMBERSHIP ENGAGEMENT AND GROWTH**

Last month, Dr. Siegler highlighted some details about TCMS Membership. I want to reiterate his comments and add a few more aspects. The four main levels of membership in TCMS are Active Members, Life Members, Resident Members, and Student Members. It is our goal to engage and grow the membership of TCMS in 2020. I want to briefly highlight some of the benefits of membership in TCMS.

**Advocacy**

A bipartisan lobby team, Pat Hall and Jim Dunlap, ensuring physicians have a voice at the state capitol. In 2019, we stalled several scope measures including CRNAs, RNs, and psychologists defined as physicians. For 2020, the legislative agenda lays the foundation of our policy when considering positions on proposed Legislation:

- **Lawsuit Reform**: Maintain our recent gains and provide greater protections for physicians. Promote access to care by providing physicians with a stable and lower-cost medical liability system.
- **Scope of Practice**: Defend against any legislation that would expand the scopes of practice for mid-level providers without the approval of the Patients First Coalition. Support efforts to ensure that allopathic and osteopathic physicians are appropriately referenced in any legislation dealing with medical procedures. Oppose any legislation that could jeopardize patient safety or create a “two-tiered” system of care for patients on Medicaid or who live in medically underserved areas.
- **Physician Practice**: Oppose legislation that would mandate specific courses of treatment or otherwise override a physician’s medical judgment. Support efforts to decrease administrative burdens on physician offices.
- **Reimbursement**: Maintain adequate physician reimbursement through Medicaid and support insurance reforms that will help maintain physician reimbursement levels. Promote access to care by providing adequate reimbursement and other incentives for physicians to see Medicaid patients and to serve in rural communities.
- **Public Health**: Support anti-tobacco, anti-obesity, vaccinations and other initiatives to improve the public health in Oklahoma.

**Updates**

Essential updates on topics impacting your practice and legislative alerts on healthcare issues.

**Education**

Over 150 hours of the state’s highest-rated CME are offered for free or at discounted member pricing. Upcoming required proper prescribing credit in Tulsa on January 28, 2020 - FREE for TCMS members.

**Community**

In 2019, through the TCMS Foundation: $30,000 in scholarships were awarded to local medical students. Over $1.3 million in non-emergent care was donated through Project TCMS which represents 148 patient referrals, 730 services, and over 170 volunteer physicians. This year was the inaugural year of our Project TCMS Fundraiser, “The Best Medicine: A Night of Comedy.” To say the event was a success is an understatement. Two local comedians and a nationally known comedian, Jonathan Kite, provided attendees with evening of laughter, but also a reminder of the valuable work that Project TCMS is doing in our community. We raised over $25,000 in support of Project TCMS. In addition, $1.6 million in recycled medication was collected for Tulsa county residents through our Drug Recycling Program. If you are interested in helping with any of these efforts, please contact Mark McElreath at 918.743.6184 or marle@tcmsok.org.

Welcome NEW TCMS Board Members

I want to thank our three newest board members: Dr. Stephen D. Bruns, MD, Dr. Chris L. Sudduth, MD, and Dr. James R. Webb, Jr., MD for their leadership in joining the TCMS Board of Directors. I know they will bring much experience, insight, and vision for our organization and its future.

At a previous TCMS Board Meeting, one of my colleagues made the argument, “As a student and resident I was involved with TCMS. I saw the benefits of collegiality, advocacy, and philanthropy. Why would I not be a member?” His sentiments echo true today. As we now reach the year 2020, our need for TCMS is stronger than ever.

Best Regards,
I am excited and honored to take on the role of Executive Director for Tulsa County Medical Society and the TCMS Foundation. In May 2018, I joined the TCMS Foundation and Project TCMS as Program Manager. I bring experience in nonprofit administration, fundraising, community relations, and marketing. I also bring a deep understanding of the mission and vision of Tulsa County Medical Society and the TCMS Foundation as physicians advancing health care and caring for the community.

I want to take this opportunity to share a little about myself. My wife, Rachel, and I have been married for almost 15 years. We have three children, Mason (10), Addilynn (9), and we welcomed our son Pierson on November 25, 2019. In 2017, I completed my Master of Public Administration from the University of Central Oklahoma and in 2007 I graduated with a Bachelor’s in Biology from Northeastern State University.

It has been a pleasure working with Pam Oppelt, Project TCMS Care Coordinator, on making Project TCMS a success. Many milestones were accomplished during my time working side-by-side with her. Pam continues to provide excellent patient care and coordination with our clinics, hospitals, and volunteer physicians. I look forward to working with both Joetta and Pam on achieving the mission and vision of TCMS and the TCMS Foundation.

Additionally, I would also like to thank my predecessor, Mona Whitmire. I am so thankful that I had the opportunity to get to know Mona and work with her over the past few years. I am grateful for her continued dedication to this organization and those we serve as well as her role as a mentor to me. During the upcoming months and years, I hope to have the opportunity to get to know you — our physicians, both active and retired, along with residents and students as well. I appreciate your continued support of Tulsa County Medical Society and the TCMS Foundation. Please feel free to contact me or drop by at any time.

Gratefully,
Mark McElreath

Joetta J. Cunningham, Promoted to TCMS Director of Operations

We are delighted to recognize one of our own, Joetta J. Cunningham, with a promotion to TCMS Director of Operations, after 11 years of commitment and dedication to our organizations. She has cultivated relationships not only with our TCMS members but also with all others who are an integral part of the TCMS family. Joetta's reputation of dependability, competence and proficiency is instrumental to the continued success of TCMS and TCMSF. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Science from Northeastern State University. Congratulations Joetta.

Mona Whitmire

TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY FOUNDATION

PHYSICIANS CARING FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Tulsa County Medical Society Foundation (TCMS Foundation) was established in 1986 by the Tulsa County Medical Society with the goal of supporting the community. The TCMS Foundation currently accomplishes this mission through 3 programs: Medical Student Scholarships, Drug Recycling Program, and Project TCMS. For more information about these programs or how you can help, contact Mark McElreath, Executive Director, at 918.743.6184 or mark@tcmsok.org.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**
(SINCE 1964)

$1,348,250
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

1,297
MEDICAL STUDENTS

**DRUG RECYCLING**
(SINCE 2004)

$25,075,807
AVERAGE WHOLESALE PRICE

248,305
DISBURSED PRESCRIPTIONS

**PROJECT TCMS**
(TULSA CHARITABLE MEDICAL SERVICES)
(SINCE 2012)

$6.5M
DONATED CARE

4,138
PROGRAM SERVICES

1,141
PROGRAM REFERRALS

178
PHYSICIAN VOLUNTEERS

12
HOSPITAL PARTNERS

60
HEALTHCARE VENDORS

THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATE AND VOLUNTEER TO MAKE OUR PROGRAMS A SUCCESS!
INVOICE DUE DATE: 01/01/2020

Print Name______________________________
Print Address____________________________
City, State Zip____________________________

2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES INVOICE

Please send a check made payable to TCMS, complete credit card information below or pay online at http://tcmsok.org/online-payment/online-dues/

$680.00 $380.00 TCMS & $300.00 Oklahoma State Medical Association (Required)

$420.00 American Medical Association (Optional)

Total Paid

PAY DUES BY CREDIT CARD

Card Number ____________________________________________________ Amount Paid__________
Name on Card______________________________________ Expiration Date______________ Code____________
E-Mail to Send Receipt to__________________________________________________________

OSMA dues for 2020 are not deductible as a business expense for federal income tax purposes. $45 of the OSMA dues provides an annual subscription to the Journal of the Oklahoma State Medical Association. Membership in OSMA is required to continue OSMA Group Health Plan Coverage. AMA dues are not deductible as a charitable contribution for federal income tax purposes, but may be partially deducted as a business expense. AMA estimates that 60% of your membership dues are allocable to lobbying activities of the AMA, and therefore are not deductible for income tax purposes.

Lobbying Fees: TCMS 0%, AMA 60%, out of dues amount $420.00, $252.00 are nondeductible $168.00 deductible. OSMA dues of $300 for 2020 are not deductible as a business expense for federal income tax purposes.

TCMS FOUNDATION – VOLUNTARY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION
Send your voluntary contribution directly to TCMS, 5315 S. Lewis Ave Tulsa, OK 74105.

OSMA FOUNDATION – VOLUNTARY TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION
Send your voluntary contribution directly to OSMA, 313 N.E. 50th, Oklahoma City OK 73105.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR PHYSICIAN ORGANIZATIONS

Physicians Advancing Health Care
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