A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT, KAREN P. GOLD, M.D.

With the current COVID-19 pandemic, most of us can scarcely focus on anything else. Healthcare providers across the world are being faced with an unprecedented and incredibly difficult task.

We will try to continue to send emails and post links on the TCMS website which are relevant. I would encourage following the websites for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA) and Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) for the most current updates on COVID-19.

TCMS board meetings will be postponed until arrangements can be made for virtual meetings.

We will resume working on our current projects such as the Physician Wellness Program and Website update after the current situation calms down.

Resources:

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) https://www.cdc.gov
Oklahoma State Department of Health: https://coronavirus.health.ok.gov/
Tulsa Health Department: https://www.tulsa-health.org/COVID19

I'm so grateful for all the TCMS members and their staff who are on the front lines of response to this pandemic. We need to protect our patients and ourselves by continuing to follow the most current recommendations.

Please take care of yourselves and take time for your families and loved-ones.

Retired Physicians and Residents – How Can You Help?

One of the best ways you can help during this time is to sign up for the Medical Reserve Corp. The Medical Reserve Corp. program’s main objective is establishing a system to identify, train, and organize medical and public health professionals, as well as lay volunteers to supplement and support on-going emergency response systems and personnel. The OKMRC is Oklahoma’s only medical and public health volunteer program. The Oklahoma State Department of Health directs the OKMRC program, and contracts with EMSA to maintain the ESAR-VHP compliant electronic registry.

As for the Medical Reserve Corp support of the COVID-19 response; when community testing capability ramps up, we will need support for SWAB POD Operations (screening, sample collection etc.), phone bank staffing, etc. Retired Physicians and Residents are encouraging to sign up for the Medical Reserve Corp, therefore, they will be ready to support the response when the need arises. The link to sign up for OKMRC is https://www.okmrc.org/. At the top of the home page, click on Join MRC Today to sign up and to get additional information. For additional information or questions please contact Carrie Suns, MRC Coordinator in Tulsa County at 918-595-4034 or csuns@tulsa-health.org.

2019 MIPS Data Submission Deadline Extended

The 2019 MIPS Data Submission Deadline Extended to April 30, 2020, 8 pm EDT. MIPS eligible clinicians who do not submit their MIPS data by the April 30 deadline will qualify for the 2019 automatic extreme and uncontrollable circumstances policy and receive a neutral payment adjustment in 2021. You can visit https://qpp.cms.gov/ for more details.
A message from TCMS Executive Director Mark McElreath

TCMS is here to support you as you work to care for your patients, to protect your own health, and to ensure your practice is best equipped to navigate the many changing circumstances ahead due to COVID-19. To that end, we want to hear from you about the challenges you are experiencing and how we can better advocate for the resources you need at this time. We are in communication with state and local leaders to collect, distill, and disseminate COVID-19 information for our members as well as to report your needs back to those leaders.

We know your time is valuable and you are being stretched even further each day. Some of you need help navigating regulations for alternative care sites, others need more personal protection equipment, while still others are facing changes in work force and revenue as more patients are staying home or having elective procedures and non-emergent care delayed.

If you have a moment, please send me an email, text, or call to let us know your specific needs and challenges so we are better equipped to advocate on your behalf. We cannot do your job of caring for your patients, those with COVID-19 and those without—but we can and will continue to support you as you do so. Thank you for your service to Tulsa County by calming and caring for the sick and the well.

P.S. My son Mason 10, daughter Addilynn 9, wanted to show how much they appreciate the hard work and sacrifices our TCMS physicians are making.

Small Business Administration COVID-19 Disaster Loans Available

Paycheck Protection Program
The Paycheck Protection Program prioritizes millions of Americans employed by small businesses toward job retention and certain other expenses. Small businesses and eligible nonprofit organizations, Veterans organizations, and Tribal businesses described in the Small Business Act, as well as individuals who are self-employed or are independent contractors, are eligible if they also meet program size standards.

Under this program:
• Eligible recipients may qualify for a loan up to $10 million determined by 8 weeks of prior average payroll plus an additional 25% of that amount.
• Loan payments will be deferred for six months.
• If you maintain your workforce, SBA will forgive the portion of the loan proceeds that are used to cover the first 8 weeks of payroll and certain other expenses following loan origination.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Loan Advance
In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to $10,000.

The SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program provides small businesses with working capital loans of up to $2 million that can provide vital economic support to small businesses to help overcome the temporary loss of revenue they are experiencing. The loan advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Funds will be made available within three days of a successful application, and this loan advance will not have to be repaid.

SBA Debt Relief
The SBA Debt Relief program will provide a reprieve to small businesses as they overcome the challenges created by this health crisis.

Under this program:
• The SBA will also pay the principal and interest of new 7(a) loans issued prior to September 27, 2020.
• The SBA will pay the principal and interest of current 7(a) loans for a period of six months.


Accelerated and Advance Payment Request Form for Providers
To increase cash flow to providers impacted by the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) expanded their current Accelerated and Advance Payment Program to a broader group of Medicare Part A and Part B providers / suppliers. The expansion of this program is only for the duration of the public health emergency. For more information visit: https://www.novitas-solutions.com/webcenter/portal/MedicareJH/pagevid?contentId=00226105
There's great news for anyone who already shops with Amazon or Amazon Prime – shopping for a cause is just a click away!

What is AmazonSmile?
AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support Holton’s Heroes every time you shop online, at no additional cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you’ll be able to find the exact same great deals, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com with the added bonus that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases directly to Tulsa County Medical Society Foundation.

How do I shop AmazonSmile?
Simply go to smile.amazon.com from your web browser on your computer or smart device. We recommend adding a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make returning to shop AmazonSmile that much easier every time. It’s important to remember that you must shop through AmazonSmile each time for Tulsa County Medical Society Foundation to be rewarded.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile you’ll need to select a charitable organization before you begin shopping. Simply type in Tulsa County Medical Society Foundation to choose us as your donation recipient. Amazon will remember your selection and cause every future eligible purchase made result in a donation. It’s really that easy!

Is there any cost to the customer?
No. There is no cost to you and the shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com.

If you already support another charity but would prefer to switch to Tulsa County Medical Society Foundation, you can go to “Your Account” and select “Change your Charity” to choose Tulsa County Medical Society Foundation.

Thank you for your support! For questions or comments, please email us at mark@tcmsok.org.

Tulsa County Medical Society & TCMS Foundation Welcome New Special Events & Grants Coordinator Beverly Thompson, APR

Last year, we successfully launched The Best Medicine: A Night of Comedy benefiting Project TCMS. In March, we added Beverly Thompson to our staff to help continue the event’s success and to support Project TCMS in its community service and grant efforts.

“The Foundation board, Mark and Mona created a successful fundraising event, and Joetta and Pam have built a strong community network of support. I am excited to be part of the continued success of Tulsa County Medical Society and Project TCMS,” Beverly said.

Beverly has 25-years’ experience in nonprofit communications, special events and fundraising. Her previous position was as Community Relations Director at Counseling & Recovery Services of Oklahoma, a nonprofit providing mental health and substance abuse services to indigent and uninsured area residents. Julie Gustafson is a past board chair at this agency and worked closely with Beverly. Dr. Jerry Gustafson recruited Beverly to the COOTS Committee where she served briefly.

A graduate of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, she also attended graduate school at the University of Oklahoma where she was inducted into the Kappa Tau Alpha national honor society. She is Accredited in Public Relations (APR) through Public Relations Society of America. Immediately after journalism school, she went to work at The Sentinel Record, the daily newspaper in Hot Springs, AR., where she was a reporter and night editor and covered everything from horse racing to Gov. Bill Clinton.

She and her husband, Gary, are newlyweds. Their family includes a daughter and son, daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren.

Welcome New Members


Welcome Back

HEALTHCARE SUMMIT 2020

Advance your understanding of current issues affecting the delivery of healthcare. See how new technologies are impacting the future of medicine. At EXPLORE Healthcare Summit, you’ll collaborate with as many as 400 top physicians and other practitioners. Enjoy food, beverages, live music and networking at the annual EXPLORE Evening Party. Special pricing for our PLICO/MedPro insured providers.

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