These are difficult times. That is truly an understatement. We have only reached July, yet it seems you could fit a decade into these last 4 months.

First, we have been battling a global pandemic in COVID-19. Then racism and discrimination, which has long been a problem, come front and center. Protesters around the world have taken to the streets to demand change.

Looking at our own history as an organization, I’m reminded of Charles J. Bate, MD.

Excerpts and quotes from Dr. Bate come from Tulsa Medicine History, Charles J. Bate, MD. If you have not done so, I encourage you to read the article about Dr. Bate which can be found on our website:

http://tcmsok.org/tcms-history/tcms-physician-histories/

Dr. Bate’s journey to membership in the medical society was long and not without difficulties. “I wrote up five surgical cases on ectopic pregnancy that I had done at Moton. In 1947, a well-known doctor came to town for a joint meeting of Hillcrest and St. John staffs and Dr. Flack presented my cases at the meeting. The doctor asked where I was and he was told I couldn’t come to the meeting because I was a Negro. The doctor asked those at the meeting, ‘you mean we are discussing this doctor’s cases and he is not even allowed to come to this meeting?’ Dr. Leo Lowbeer stood up and said, ‘this will never happen again.’

“There was one regrettable incident in the 20’s in which a medical society member invited black doctors to attend a lecture by an eminent physician and they all came and sat in the back of the room. A white physician got up and stretched a sheet in front of them. All except one politely got up and left. In 1921, the medical society did help by providing money and medical instruments to black physicians who lost everything in the race riot.”

Dr. Bate said of his history, “there were things that happened that you just could hardly believe. But, I always understood that it just takes a little yeast to leaven a whole lot of bread. Dr. Flack and others encouraged white doctors to work with us and help us.”

In 1989, Dr. Bate published a book on the history of Oklahoma Black medical providers. The title of Dr. Bate’s book is, “It’s Been A Long Time And We’ve Come a Long Way.” Dr. Bate passed away in February 2004. The memory of Dr. Bate continues through a $5,000 scholarship awarded each year to a Tulsa County Medical Student. Dr. Bate’s family attends the scholarship awards dinner each year to meet the scholarship recipient.

As we move forward, I know we will lean on each other as colleagues and members of a profession that has overcome many obstacles and continues to see and make change happen.

Respectfully,
Karen

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS


**FRYE NAMED INTERIM COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH**

Col. Lance Frye, M.D., OSU Center for Health Sciences residency program director and interim department chair and clinical professor of obstetrics and gynecology, was named interim Oklahoma Commissioner of Health by Gov. Kevin Stitt on Friday, May 22.

Frye also serves as State Air Surgeon and senior medical officer for the Oklahoma Air National Guard. He was appointed to the governor’s Solution Task Force, a multi-agency group tasked with strengthening the response to the COVID-19 outbreak in Oklahoma.

“Col. Frye is a proven leader and highly qualified medical expert who has faithfully served our country and state with a focus on the health of those around him for over 25 years,” said Stitt. “As a respected health care professional who has vast experience operating under pressure, I have full faith in his ability to continue upon the momentum we have seen the Oklahoma State Department of Health undergo over the past eight months and lead this critical agency as we respond to the worst pandemic in a century.”

Frye thanked Stitt and Secretary of Health and Mental Health Jeremy Loughridge for giving him the opportunity to serve Oklahoma during such a critical time.

“Gov. Stitt has said his number one goal is to protect the health and lives of Oklahomans, and that is a mission I am honored to carry out,” Frye said. “We are all in this together, and I am confident we will continue the great progress we have made in our fight against COVID-19.”

Frye graduated from Loma Linda University School of Medicine in 1993 and a residency in obstetrics and gynecology in 1997. After several years of practicing medicine, he joined the Air Force in 2005 as a flight surgeon and was deployed in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He then transitioned to the Air National Guard and moved to Tulsa 2010.

"Col. Frye is an outstanding Airman. He has always looked out for the best interest of those he serves with, and I am sure he will do the same in his new role as interim Commissioner of Health at OSDH."

-- Maj. Gen. Michael Thompson, Adjutant General for Oklahoma

Loughridge has been serving alongside Frye for the past several months on the state’s COVID-19 response.

“I can definitively say he evinces all of the character, experience and get-it-done attitude that we need to lead our Department of Health,” Loughridge said. “I have no doubt he will bring his experience as a servant-leader to bear in vital ways as he provides guidance to one of our State’s most important agencies and works toward the objective of helping all Oklahomans flourish.”

Dr. Frye is a member of the Tulsa County Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (OB-GYN Society).

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**PPE SOURCE DIRECTORY**

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce has partnered with the Oklahoma Manufacturing Alliance, Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce and the Tulsa Regional Chamber of Commerce to provide a directory of companies supplying Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other supplies needed for operating according to guidelines set forth by the CDC and in the Open Up & Recover Safely Plan.

The directory lists common items available as PPE and other essential supplies.

**Protective Equipment Listed:** N95 Masks, KN95 Masks, Surgical Masks, Gloves, Gowns, Shoe Covers, Hair Covers, Face Shields, Space Shields, Dividing Curtains

**Supplies Listed:** Thermometers, Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Surface Cleaners

For the complete Directory visit: [https://www.okcommerce.gov/ppe-source-directory/](https://www.okcommerce.gov/ppe-source-directory/)

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**MEDICAL DEBT FORGIVEN**

In late May 2020, letters were sent to 3,211 families in Tulsa County letting them know their medical debt has been purchased and forgiven. They owe no more money; no strings attached.

These long-lingering, outstanding bills have been taken care of by a project launched nearly six months ago by Tulsa residents Mark and Mona Whitmire, former TCMS & TCMS Foundation Executive Director.

"It’s a bit of good news in the middle of much hardship. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, more people will be incurring debt as they get sick. Some of these patients already owe medical bills. This may cause a delay in seeking medical treatment, causing a public health concern."

For the complete story visit: [https://bit.ly/2BEGN3A](https://bit.ly/2BEGN3A)

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**TCMS FOUNDATION, PROJECT TCMS FUNDRAISER**

**“THE BEST MEDICINE, A NIGHT OF COMEDY” CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19**

Last year, the TCMS Foundation’s Project TCMS Fundraiser “The Best Medicine A Night of Comedy” was a huge success. The event drew nearly 200 patrons and raised over $52,000 in support of Project TCMS. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the TCMS Foundation Board of Directors and staff decided that for the health and safety of our donors, supporters, and guests to cancel this years fundraiser.

To date, Project TCMS has provided over $6.9 million in donated care, representing 1,171 patient referrals, and 4,386 services to uninsured, low income residents of Tulsa County. We could not have accomplished this without the participation of our volunteer physicians, community partners, donors, and foundations who support the program.

**HOW YOU CAN HELP?**

To make a contribution to Project TCMS,

**Online:** [http://tcmsok.org/online-payment/tcms-foundation/](http://tcmsok.org/online-payment/tcms-foundation/)

**Mail:** 5315 S. Lewis Ave., Tulsa, OK, 74105 (make checks payable to TCMS Foundation)

**Call:** 918.743.6184

Any gift, no matter the size, will make a difference.

Thank you and we look forward to seeing you in 2021 at The Best Medicine, A Night of Comedy.
ALBERT W. BROWNLEE, MD
TCMS Member since 1965

Albert Walter Brownlee was born in Guthrie, Oklahoma, on June 8, 1932, and passed away on his 88th birthday surrounded by his loving family in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He was the only child of the late Albert and Viola Brownlee.

On July 11, 1953, he married his high school sweetheart, Geraldine (Jerri) Tontz Brownlee, in Virginia while he was serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean war. They were married for nearly 67 years. The training he received in the Army as a medic inspired his lifelong love of medicine and caring for those in need.

Upon discharge from the Army, he was accepted to the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine after attending Central State College to the University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine after attending Central State College for five years before completing a second residency in pediatrics, with an emphasis on pediatric allergy.

The family moved to Tulsa in 1969, where he joined Springer Clinic before becoming a founding partner in the Children's Clinic of Tulsa. In the late '70s he founded Children's Allergy Clinic. He loved children and spent his entire career, striving to improve the health of his patients.

Al and Jerri traveled the world, but most enjoyed the time with their children and grandchildren at their cabin on Grand Lake. Favorite activities included boating, campfires, riding Seadoos, and the annual Duck Creek fireworks show.

Al was a mentor and educator and was proud of his position as a Clinical Associate Professor at OU College of Medicine. Many of his former students, as well as patients, are now practicing medicine in Tulsa.

An active member of Boston Avenue United Methodist Church and the Wesley Homebuilders Level of closeness, peacefulness, and fun that the core of his life up until his passing. He began his residency at Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa, then returned to Guthrie, where he was a general practitioner for five years before completing a second residency in pediatrics, with an emphasis on pediatric allergy.

In Christ, Percy exemplified walking with Jesus in his heart. He often shared his faith with others and had great love for Ashbury Methodist Church for which he and Vesta have called their Christian home since 1973. His 'Happy Christians / Word Finder' family provided great bliss and joy. His dinner time prayers, although sometimes verbose are cherished memories by his family.

Family was prominent in Percy's life. Percy and Vesta were married in 1963 and spent 56 devoted years together. Percy and Vesta together exemplified love for family. Time together, trips, and weekends at the lake are memories cherished. The positivity, encouragement to help others, and the example of working hard are attributes that we, as his children will never forget.

Percy's love for healing and medicine was the heart of his life up until his passing. He began his 58-year medical career in 1961 and practiced up until earlier this year. His medical calling included family medicine for the community of Tulsa and finishing his career with the Cherokee Nation for which he was named Doctor of the Year. He also assisted Tulsa University Athletics for many years. Medicine was 24/7 for 'Dr. Percy'. No matter what day, time, year, if someone was sick, Dr. Percy would assist. He was also known to stop by a house to either make a quick check of a friend or deliver some news that a phone call would not provide the care and personal touch he was known for.

Percy was a proud alumnus from the University of Oklahoma Medical School. While this began his medical career, it was also the beginning of a love for Sooner football. Attending countless games throughout his life. It was common to see Percy wearing red OU shirts, his go to for casual attire. His other favorite activity was life at Grand Lake, especially fishing and boating. It brought a level of closeness, peacefulness, and fun that could not easily be found anywhere else to our family.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Ashbury United Methodist Church or to Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, 1301 S. Boston Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74119 Attn: Children's Scholarship Camp Fund of B.A.C. or to Oklahoma Methodist Manor, 4134 E. 31st Street, Tulsa, OK 74135 Attn: Supplemental Aid Fund.

From the Tulsa World, June 14, 2020

HENRY PERCY SMITH, MD
TCMS Member since 1965

Jesus called Percy Smith, 85 years of age, to be by his side on Sunday, June 7, 2020. He passed away at Saint Francis Hospital in Tulsa, OK due to complications of a blood disorder. Percy was born April 4, 1935 in Frederick, OK. He was a devout Christian, loving father, and had a passion to heal others. Christ, family, friends, and even strangers were the core of his life.

Percy is survived by loving wife, Vesta; children and family, Brad, Jenni, Maddie, and Brett Smith of Springfield, MO, Lisa and Nate Roper of Edmond, OK, and Scot, Linda, Stephanie, and Brooke Smith of Cheshire, CT. He is also survived by lifelong friend, Drude Faulconer, of Richardson, TX. He was preceded in death by his Mom and Dad, Elsie and Robert Smith; his brother, Bobby Lee Smith; and his sister, Faye Beth Smith.

In Christ, Percy exemplified walking with Jesus in his heart. He often shared his faith with others and had great love for Ashbury Methodist Church for which he and Vesta have called their Christian home since 1973. His 'Happy Christians / Word Finder' family provided great bliss and joy. His dinner time prayers, although sometimes verbose are cherished memories by his family.

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In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to Ashbury United Methodist Church in his memory or your favorite charity. The church address is 6767 S. Mingo Rd., Tulsa, OK 74133 or at ashburytulsa.org. Greer's Southlawn 918-663-2233. Share memories at www.moorefuneral.com

From The Tulsa World, June 12, 2020

OKLAHOMA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING 2020

Saturday, August 8
9:00 a.m. Board of Trustees Meeting
1:00 p.m. House of Delegates Meeting

Call for Delegates
If you are interested in serving as a delegate at the 2020 House of Delegates virtual annual meeting August 8th, please submit your name to Mark McElreath at 918.743.6184 or mark@tcmsok.org.

Resolutions and more information can be found at: https://www.okmed.org/web/Online/Events/2020 _Annual_Meeting.aspx
TULSA MEDICINE

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