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

Now more than ever, Tulsans are relying on physicians to help guide them through these difficult times. While the outbreak of COVID-19 has created tremendous uncertainty throughout our communities, we have seen countless physicians put their own health and safety at risk to treat people facing a new, deadly disease.

Often our patients turn to us for counseling and guidance, but who can we turn to when we need to talk through an issue or get some coaching for how to handle the stresses in our lives? Too often the answer is “no one,” and that is regrettable because it is important that we be as healthy as possible in our role as health care providers.

It is important that we function at our best in all areas of our life. By addressing areas of difficulty, we can decrease our stress levels and increase our level of resilience and effectiveness.

During this spring and summer, the Physician Wellness Program committee and TCMS staff have worked diligently to initiate a new service and benefit for our membership. TCMS Members can have up to 8 Free sessions with a licensed counselor. The program is completely confidential. No insurance will be billed and TCMS will not be given any information about those who utilize the program.

How is the program funded? Through the TCMS Foundation, tax-deductible donations can be made in support of the Physician Wellness Program. I want to thank the OSMA Foundation for making physician wellness a priority by making a $10,000 donation to support this effort.

How to make an appointment:
1. Contact Cheryl Kilpatrick, PhD at 918.749.6935 or 918.749.7605.
2. Inform her that you would like to use the Tulsa County Medical Society Physician Wellness Program. She will verify membership using our roster and schedule your appointment.

If there are any questions about the Physician Wellness Program or how to contribute, please contact TCMS Executive Director Mark McElreath at 918.743.6184 or mark@tcmsok.org.

As stated in the August Newsletter, due to COVID-19 we are having our Annual Meeting virtually. Please mark your calendar for Tuesday, November 17, 2020. More details will be made available as we get closer.

Lastly, if you have an interest in leadership in TCMS or OSMA, please contact Mark McElreath. The nominating committee will be meeting in the coming weeks. Ultimately, members like you define the course of TCMS.

Karen P. Gold, MD, MSCI
PLICO OFFERS RISK MANAGEMENT EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR, “LEGAL ISSUES IN THE CARE OF ADOLESCENTS”

PLICO is pleased to present a Risk Management educational seminar, Legal Issues in the Care of Adolescents, specifically designed for physicians who provide health services to adolescent patients. Experienced defense attorney, Jennifer Annis, Esq will present topics including statutes on the rights of minors to consent, issues related to providing care related to sexual heath, federal and state laws related to confidentiality, and release of medical records. Strategies to manage both on-going and newly identified risks faced by physicians and other healthcare providers in this evolving healthcare environment will also be presented. We will explore opportunities to mitigate potential risks to improve patient outcomes and experiences as well as protect the clinician from litigation.

PLICO is pleased to offer this complimentary seminar to our insureds and the members of the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians and the OKACOG-District VII.

The seminar will be offered in a virtual live-streaming event on the following dates:
Tuesday, September 15, 2020             Wednesday, September 16, 2020
6:00pm-8:00pm                                            6:00pm-8:00pm

The OSMA designates this live streaming activity for a maximum of 2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Application for CME credit has been filed with the American Academy of Family Physicians. Determination of credit is pending.

PLICO/MedPro insureds will also be eligible for 4% Risk Management credit on their 2021 renewal. We hope you will join us. Please call 405.815.4803 for additional questions. You can also register at https://cme.okmed.org/a/GDKCRI.

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

Soon we will be launching our newly designed website. We wanted to make the new website faster, easy to navigate, and user-friendly. We strive to provide our members and the general public with the most accurate, up-to-date information.

Our goal with this new website is to provide our visitors an easier way to learn about Tulsa County Medical Society and the TCMS Foundation, along with benefits and services we offer. The new website will give better access to the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How of TCMS and the TCMS Foundation. Stay tuned...

KUDOS TO MONA AND MARK WHITMIRE

At our annual meeting in February we honored Mona Whitmire on her retirement as the Executive Director of the Tulsa County Medical Society and TCMS Foundation. Mona told us that she and her husband, Mark, through the Whitmire Family Foundation were supporting a program to reduce individual medical debt of Tulsa County residents through the RIP (Rest in Peace) Medical Debt organization which bought debt for $1 for each $100 outstanding and paid that debt. At the beginning of 2020 there was about $28 million outstanding. Because of the great efforts of Mona and Mark and a recent grant of $242,000 by the Tulsa based Morningcrest Foundation the total debt has been paid.

What a gift this has been for so many unfortunate Tulsa County families and we are so proud of Mona and Mark.

The following website is the recent Ginnie Graham Tulsa World article announcing this gift. https://bit.ly/3bjEWPh

From John Minielly, MD – Lifetime Member, Golden Oldies Chair, and TCMS Foundation Board Member
PROJECT ECHO
OSUCHS - HIGH RISK OB ECHO

The collaboration of Oklahoma State Department of Health, The Perinatal center and The Oklahoma State University Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology will together greatly increase access to High Risk Obstetric (OB) guidance, get expert knowledge in a virtual training network and support and improve maternal outcomes across Oklahoma- impacted by high risk obstetrics, including opioid use disorder and other related substance use and addiction medicine issues.

Why HIGH RISK OB ECHO?
1. High Risk OB ECHO provides education, training and consultation utilizing the Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) model to support the State Maternal Health Innovation Program.
2. For the past 18 years in the state of Oklahoma, an average of 11 women died of complications related to pregnancy every year.
3. Nationally, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 700 women die every year related to a pregnancy or from delivery complications.
4. Most maternal deaths happen before or soon after the mother has given birth, usually within a few weeks or months postpartum.
5. According to March of Dimes, 41 out of 77 counties in Oklahoma are classified as maternity care deserts with no birthing hospital and no obstetrician- gynecologist or certified nurse midwife to provide care.

Visit https://health.okstate.edu/echo/high-risk-ob.html for details. For more information contact Nishitha Gali, Clinical Coordinator – Project ECHO, at 918.232.7255 or email: ngali@okstate.edu.

SHOP ONLINE?
Use AmazonSmile to Support the TCMS Foundation

In addition to your regular giving to the TCMS Foundation in support of scholarships, Project TCMS, and more if you shop online using Amazon, consider using AmazonSmile which donates 0.5% to the foundation. Use the link below and shop.

Tulsa County Medical Society Foundation link for AmazonSmile:
https://smile.amazon.com/ch/73-1393227

IN MEMORIAM

BILLY RAY SEVIER, MD
TCMS Member since 1972

Billy Ray Sevier was born on January 3rd, 1941, and died on August 12th, 2020, at the age of 79. He was born in and grew up in Conway, Ark. In junior and senior high school, he excelled at football. The two years prior to graduation he was on the all-state roster and was team captain his senior year. He attended Boy’s State his junior year and returned as a counselor the following year. After graduation he was selected to play in The Arkansas All-Star game.

Bill was offered football scholarships by The U. of Arkansas and Oklahoma State. He decided on the U of A where he played under coach Frank Broyles and roomed across the hall from Barry Switzer of OU and Dallas Cowboy fame. Also on the team was Freddy Akers who later became the head coach of the U of TX.

The next year, he married Catherine Pence and transferred to the U of Central Arkansas (formerly ASC) where they were both students. They had a daughter, Julie. He once again played football and made All-AIC his junior and senior years. Majoring in Biology and Chemistry, he earned double degrees and was selected “Scholar Athlete of the year”. He often noted that he was proud to be the first in his family to graduate from college.

In 1962 he was accepted into the U. of Arkansas School of Medicine in Little Rock. At the same time, he was invited to attend the Chicago Bear’s professional football team for a try out. He selected medicine.

With an academic scholarship Bill made all A’s except for one course during the time he had a melanoma resected. His freshman and senior years, his classmates and faculty awarded him the Budahon Key for most outstanding medical student.

A medical internship and three-year residency at Parkland Hospital in Dallas followed. He then returned to Little Rock for a two-year fellow/research associate position with the VA hospital. While still in Dallas he had a son, David. After divorcing, he met and married his wife of 49 years, Vija Ozols. They had one daughter, Kimberly.

In 1972 they moved to Tulsa to join “The Diagnostic Physicians of Tulsa”, an internal medicine subspecialty group. This group later split and some of the partners started “Tulsa Internal Medicine”. He was also a Fellow in the American College of Endocrinology. In addition to practicing medicine he taught in the OU Tulsa Medical College achieving the rank of Professor of Medicine and in the Tulsa University School of Nursing as an Adjunct Clinical Professor of Medicine. Bill retired from practice in 2000.

Following many years of interest, he and a friend formed “C and B” Nature Photography and achieved modest success selling ink jet prints for about three years. Bill then turned to a community outreach program, “Neighbor for Neighbor” where he helped remodel homes for the needy.

In 2004 he pursued an interest in horticulture and completed the training to become a Tulsa County Master Gardener. This led to a new project in 2006 when he launched a weekly column entitled, “Ask a Master Gardener” published in the “Tulsa World” newspaper. He was always passionately learning new things and loved teaching others. He voluntarily retired after 10 years and turned the project over to younger faces.

Vija also trained to become a MG enabling them to work together on many projects. The most notable of these is the establishment of “Tulsa Blooms”, the containers of pink petunias in several city locations. These were inspired by their photos of street plantings in Vernal, Utah. They loved driving trips and visited most of the national parks and many wildlife refuges to take scenic and animal photos.

Bill was proceeded in death by his parents, Galley H. Sevier and Katherine Merle (Huie) and his sister, Mary Belote (Temple, Texas). He is survived by his wife, Vija; daughters, Kimberly (spouse CJ Maico) of Tulsa and Julie (Anna Ziegler, daughter) of Fayetteville, Ark.; son, David (spouse Karen) of Little Rock, Ark.; sisters, Gladys Watson (daughter Polly Rhodes) of Hot Springs, Ark., and Wynetta Reed (spouse Bob), son Mitchell Copeland, daughter Casey Gommert and family of Temple, Texas; sister Mary’s daughters, Christi Curb (spouse Billy), Cindy Adamson (spouse Mike), Lisa Thompson (spouse Steve), son Scott Belote (spouse Vera) of Killeen, Tex., and extended family.

The family cannot thank enough all their friends for the kind words and support. A private family service is planned. In lieu of flowers they suggest donations to Saint Francis Hospice, Tulsa; Parkinson Foundation of Oklahoma, tulmastergardeners.org or the charity of choice.

From The Arkansas Democrat Gazette, published August 19, 2020

Visit https://health.okstate.edu/echo/high-risk-ob.html for details. For more information contact Nishitha Gali, Clinical Coordinator – Project ECHO, at 918.232.7255 or email: ngali@okstate.edu.
The OU-TU School of Community Medicine, Department of Internal Medicine is seeking faculty physicians for our ambulatory practice in Tulsa. Our outpatient setting provides care coordination for a broad range of patients and was the first in the area to receive NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Tier Three recognition. We are recruiting candidates interested in a career in ambulatory Internal Medicine. Responsibilities include clinical care, as well as supervising and teaching residents and medical students. We provide faculty development programs for all faculty members to learn and improve teaching skills.

Applicants must hold an MD or DO degree, be Board Certified in Internal Medicine, and be eligible for Oklahoma licensure.

You can read more about the School of Community Medicine at:
http://www.ou.edu/content/tulsa/community_medicine.html

Interested applicants should send their CV to:
Jennifer-vogt@ouhsc.edu

The University of Oklahoma is an EO/AA Institution http://www.ou.edu/eeo/
Individuals with disabilities and protected veterans are encouraged to apply.