



December 2013

## Newsletter

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### Message from the TMCMS President

By Rachel Reeg, MD

Season's Greetings!

The recent cold snap has certainly made celebrations seem more seasonable. It is encouraging to see so many physicians celebrating by participating in fundraising for hospital foundations and other groups supporting patient care. Likewise, those who volunteer services for the Olympia Free Clinic and Project Access inspire us all in their altruistic efforts. Thank you for all you do for members of our community.

Next quarter we will have the TMCMS annual meeting, please see below for more details. We will briefly conduct some business, voting on new members and bylaws changes, and then hear from an exceptionally knowledgeable speaker who will help us learn more about ACOs and how this will practically impact physicians.

Until then, keep warm and may you enjoy the season not only by continuing your efforts in the community, but relaxing with your family and friends.

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### "What Now? The Affordable Care Act and ACOs – Incentives for Physicians"

How has the Affordable Care Act changed the landscape for payments in health care? These changes create new incentives for payers and providers. Plan to attend the TMCMS 2014 annual meeting to find out what these changes mean for physicians.

Our guest speaker this year is Dennis Stillman, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Washington. In addition to teaching, Dennis provides interim CFO services and leadership education to health care organizations. Prior to teaching, Dennis was the Chief Financial Officer at the University of Washington Medical Center and PacMed.

The TMCMS annual meeting is Thursday, February 6 at 6:30 PM at the Indian Summer Golf and Country Club. Come and enjoy a dinner with society members, participate in society leadership by voting in new board members and gain insights and practical advice on practicing medicine within the Affordable Care Act.

Look for your invitation to the TMCMS annual meeting coming soon.

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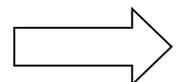
### TMCMS is Seeking New Board Members

Are you a passionate advocate for the art, science and practice of medicine and the practitioners who pursue those goals? Do you have ideas to protect and improve public health in Thurston and Mason County? Can you provide strong leadership for the medical society in this upcoming year of uncertainty and change in our health care system?

On February 6, 2014 at the Thurston-Mason County Medical Society's annual dinner and meeting, we will be electing new board members for the upcoming year and are looking for interested physicians.

Our board members set the priorities for the medical society for the upcoming year. In addition one of the possible benefits of board membership is reimbursement for the annual WSMA leadership conference in Lake Chelan. In order to serve on the board you must be an active or retired member in good standing with the medical society. Your primary responsibilities as a

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board member will include attending monthly board meetings and serving as a delegate to the WSMA annual meeting in September. This year that meeting will be at the SeaTac Marriott on September 20-21, 2014.

If you would like to serve on the board of trustees or would like to nominate someone please contact Jena Layton at [jlayton@comcast.net](mailto:jlayton@comcast.net) or [360-352-1417](tel:360-352-1417).

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### WSMA Policy Priorities for 2014 Legislative Session

The WSMA Board of Trustees have approved the following policy priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

- **Health care reform:** Supporting health care reform efforts that promote patient access to care.
- **Access to care and workforce shortages:** Protect and increase funding for Graduate Medical Education; continue funding for Washington's primary care physicians and other providers from Medicaid to Medicare levels beyond two years and study increased access to care as a result of the increase.
- **Transparency and all-payer claims database:** Support the development of physician-friendly policies when implementing a statewide all-payer claims database.
- **Access to care and telemedicine:** Support programs and policies that encourage access to care, such as coverage for delivery of services via telemedicine.
- **Preserve funding for providers and patients:** Defend against payment cuts to physicians and physician assistants and programs delivered through state-run health care programs.

WSMA's policy priorities are those of its members and their patients. Make sure your voice is heard by legislators in our state capitol by joining the WSMA at its 2014 Legislative Summit, Monday, February 10 in Olympia and help the WSMA take its message directly to legislators. Please visit the WSMA website for more information

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### Navigating the Health Benefit Exchange

The WSMA has partnered with *Washington Healthplanfinder*, and can help connect physicians and patients to resources that will answer your questions and help you navigate the new marketplace. The WSMA has redesigned their dedicated Health Benefit Exchange resources page at [www.wsma.org/health-benefit-exchange](http://www.wsma.org/health-benefit-exchange). You will find comprehensive resources for physicians, including a section on what to tell your patients, and a section on what you need to know for your practice. Also included are instructional videos, on-demand webinars, and information on provider contracts.

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### Renew Your Medical Society Membership Early and Save

WSMA and TMCMS dues are paid on an annual basis beginning January 1. This year you can renew your membership online early and save money while helping the WSMA go green.

Here is how it works: Pay your dues online and save \$25 on your WSMA membership if you pay online by December 31, 2013 and save \$15 on your WSMA membership if you pay online by January 31. This discount applies to WSMA full dues members only. Visit the WSMA website to join your state and local medical societies and receive your discount.

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### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- The 2014 TMCMS Annual Meeting is Thursday, February 6 at 6:30 PM at the Indian Summers Golf and Country Club in Olympia.
- The 2014 WSMA Legislative Summit is Monday, February 10 at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia.
- The 2014 WSMA Leadership Development Conference will be held May 16-17 at Campbell's Resort in Lake Chelan.
- The 2014 Annual Session of the WSMA House of Delegates will be held September 20-21 at the SeaTac Marriott Hotel.

*In partnership with:*

Washington State Medical Association **WSMA**

For membership information, please contact the  
Medical Society office at 360.352.1417.

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