

THURSTON-MASON COUNTY

Medical Society

June 2014

## Newsletter

### *TMCMS Board of Trustees*

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### MESSAGE FROM THE TMCMS PRESIDENT

*By Kevin Roscoe, MD*

June is here! It is the halfway point, the start of summer and the month with the longest day of the year. I hope you can all find time to enjoy these warm summer days which never seem to last long enough here in the Northwest.

The WSMA leadership development conference at Chelan last month once again proved to be an enlightening and educational event. In addition to providing timely and interesting material it is always a great opportunity to enjoy time with physicians from around the state.

I especially enjoyed listening to Claudia A. Finkelstein, MD discuss the importance of building resilience in our medical practices. We all have become so accustomed to the stresses that surround us as physicians that we can easily neglect ourselves. This is where I learned the phrase, "the fish is the last one to discover water". That phrase can apply to the physician who is immersed in raising young children, working long hours, navigating multiple stressors from institutions, colleagues, patients, regulations, societal demands, as well as dealing with relentless change and an uncertain future in the practice of medicine. It was very encouraging to hear about how to add joy, creativity, and compassion into our everyday lives. I was introduced to the strategy of mindfulness, as well as how to redevelop curiosity. I hope that you are encouraged to explore, examine and read more on this important subject - you!

This month we will celebrate our 2014 Health Care Champions! I encourage you to attend and hope to see many of you there to show your support to your fellow providers who have made significant impacts in the local community this year.

### 2014 HEALTH CARE CHAMPIONS

TMCMS and the Thurston County Chamber of Commerce are hosting the annual Thurston County Health Care Champions event this month on June 17 at 5:30 P.M. at the Heritage Room at Capitol Lake in Olympia.

Please join us as we honor and celebrate leaders in health care who have made a significant impact in the community. We are recognizing the heroic acts, steadfast dedication, extraordinary service and professionalism that are seen every day in our community's medical offices, clinics, hospitals, emergency services and related organizations.

This year we are recognizing the following physicians for their service to our community.

**Dr. Rodney Joe for the Safety Net Award**

**Dr. Mariella Cummings for the Community Impact Award**

**Dr. Michael Matlock for the Distinguished Service Award**

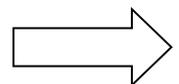
To register for this event go to [www.thurstonchamber.com](http://www.thurstonchamber.com) or call 360-357-3362.

### EXCHANGE "GRACE PERIODS" – CONSUMER PROTECTION OR COSTLY POLICY?

Patients who receive insurance through the Exchange are entitled to a 90-day grace period if they fall behind on their premiums. Conceived as a consumer-protection provision, this policy could have substantial financial implications for your practice as claims incurred during the final 60 days of a patient's grace period will not be reimbursed by insurers.

During the 2014 legislative session, the Washington State Medical Association secured passage of a bill to ensure physicians are notified of a patient's grace period status – the first legislation of its kind in the nation to address this issue.

1800 Cooper Point Road SW, #7-A  
Olympia, WA 98502  
(360) 352-1417



This summer your TMCMS is hosting a presentation by Sean Graham, the Associate Director for Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at the WSMA that will address these issues. Please plan to attend this membership meeting to learn more about the implications of this law and the options available to your practice to manage patients that are in the grace period. **Date and location will be available soon.**

### RESOLUTIONS NEEDED FOR THE WSMA ANNUAL SESSION OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

The annual meeting of the WSMA House of Delegates will be held on September 20-21 at the Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center. Your TMCMS delegates once again plan to serve our members' interests by bringing important resolutions to the meeting. Resolutions that are passed at the annual meeting help direct the WSMA legislative strategy for the 2015 Legislative Session.

If you have ideas for potential resolutions we would like to hear from you. Please plan to attend one of our board meetings this summer. In June and July the second half of our meetings will be devoted to discussing resolutions. The TMCMS has a long history of presenting meaningful resolutions at the state medical society annual meeting. Last year we were successful in getting passed the Good Samaritan Resolution. The WSMA legislative team drafted a bill based on that resolution and worked to get it passed during last year's legislative session. Though the bill did not pass, it will be part of the WSMA legislative agenda again in 2015.

The next TMCMS board meeting is June 25 from 6:30-8:00 at the Olympia WSMA offices. If you would like to attend a meeting please contact Jena Layton at [jlayton@tmcms.org](mailto:jlayton@tmcms.org) or call 360-352-1417 for additional information.

If you have ideas for resolutions but are unable to attend the meeting please contact Jena Layton as well and she will work with you to present your information to the board for consideration.

### WSMA CODING HOTLINE

Did you know that the WSMA offers a free coding hotline for its members?

For better or worse, codes determine your reimbursement. Correct coding also keeps the auditors away. Guidance on CPT,

ICD-9 and HCPCS coding is available from the WSMA's certified coders through the WSMA Coding Hotline.

The WSMA Coding Hotline is available by calling Michelle M. Lott, CPC, CPMA at (206) 441-9762 or 1 (800) 552-0612 or [mml@wsma.org](mailto:mml@wsma.org).

### DON'T MISS THIS INFORMATIVE WEBINAR CME OPPORTUNITIES

The WSMA Foundation for Health Care Improvement is offering CME opportunities through the Clinical Performance Improvement Network (CPIN). These webinars are designed to assist physician practices efforts on quality improvement. The last webinar in this series is on **Patient Communication**. This webinar will be Wednesday, June 25 from 12:15-1:15. For more information and to register for this webinar please visit [www.wsma.org/wsma-foundation](http://www.wsma.org/wsma-foundation).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- The "**What's New in Medicine**" internal medicine and infectious diseases CME conference will be held September 12 & 13, 2014 in Kennewick, WA. For additional information go to the following website [www.whatsnewinmedicine.org](http://www.whatsnewinmedicine.org) or contact by email at [wnim2014@gmail.com](mailto:wnim2014@gmail.com).
- WSMA Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates September 20-21 at the Hilton Seattle Airport & Convention Center in SeaTac, WA.
- Northwest Association of Occupation and Environmental Medicine **2014 Annual Scientific and Clinical Education Conference** is on October 3-5, 2014 at the Alderbrook Resort and Spa in Union, Washington. For additional information contact the NAOEM Office at 206-956-3642, or email to [ddw@wsma.org](mailto:ddw@wsma.org).

*In partnership with:*

Washington **WSMA**  
State **Medical**  
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