

WHAT WE DID FOR YOU IN 2019

Thurston-Mason County Medical Society (TMCMS) had a successful and exciting 2019. With your help, we were instrumental in **fighting for legislation that supports you** - our members - and your practices. Our members testified in front of both legislative chambers, met with senators and representatives, sent numerous emails, and phoned in our support of important bills that:

- **Raised the purchase age for tobacco and vapor products**
- **Eliminated the personal and philosophical exemption for the MMR vaccine**
- **Expanded physician whistleblower and peer review protections**



Along with supporting bills, we also strongly opposed the B&O tax increase on physicians, which resulted in a 47% lower increase than what was originally drafted in the bill.

TMCMS President Dr. Chelsea Unruh recently sat down with Senator Steve O'Ban and fellow TMCMS member Dr. Sung Wong-Kim to discuss the tax-increase impact on independent rural physicians and patient access to care. You can find a link on our website.

In 2019, we organized several educational and social events for members. These included:

- **WSMA Legislative Summit Happy Hour**
- **2019 Annual Meeting** – guest speaker *Jason McGill, Senior Policy Advisor for Governor Jay Inslee*
- **Legislative Update** – guest speaker *Katie Kolan, WSMA Legislative and Government Affairs Director*
- **2019 SW Washington Gut Club – Food as Medicine – Diet for Non-Surgical Weight Control: Best Practice** – guest speaker *Dr. Bruce Silverman, MD*
- **TMCMS Summer Social at the Hands On Children's Museum**
- **Best Practices: Improve and make your LNI practice more efficient** – *various guest speakers from the medical community*

We also partnered with the Thurston County Chamber to bring you the annual **Thurston-Mason Health Care Champions** awards ceremony, where three of our members were honored:

- **Mason General Hospital CEO Eric Moll** - *Innovation in Rural Medicine*
- **Dr. Lucinda Grande** - *Innovative Community Service Award*
- **Dr. Chelsea Unruh** - *Healthcare Pioneer Award*

TMCMS members were active in the House of Delegates process and submitted several resolutions, all of which were passed. They included the following:

- **Eliminating the Buprenorphine Waiver**
- **Opposing coercion of Physicians/Surgeons by Internet or Telephonic threats**
- **Supporting Payment for Patient Health Care Data Collection**
- **Supporting a Low Carbon Fuel Standard for Washington State**
- **Supporting the Rights of Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Patients**
- **Providing Medicaid on Re-entry from Incarceration**



Our members also took an active role in providing feedback on other resolutions and offered substitute language, information for or against the resolution, and were not afraid to speak up for what they believe in. You can find a link to the Official Actions of the 2019 WSMA House of Delegates on our website.

At the House of Delegates meeting, our President, Dr. Chelsea Unruh, was honored to receive a 2019 WSMA Apple Award for their support of issues impacting independent physician practices.

Dr. Lucinda Grande also received an Apple Award for her advocacy around opioid use disorder treatment.

We've **built relationships in the community** with local organizations working to improve the health of the public. One of the ways we've accomplished this goal is through expanding our charitable giving program. In 2019, we made donations to the following nonprofits:

- **Pizza Klatch**
- **Shelton YMCA**
- **Interfaith Works**
- **Community Youth Services**

In 2020, we are **committed to continuing this important work**, and we'd like to hear from you. If you have a charity or group you that you think is deserving, please let us know!

We look forward to collaborating with all of you to improve our medical society. If you have feedback for us, feel free to send us an email or attend a board meeting. Let's come together to better our profession, improve the wellbeing of the community, and celebrate the joy of practicing medicine.