



Tulsa County  
Medical Society

# TULSA MEDICINE

A Newsletter for the Medical Community

August 2021



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MD

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# TCMS PRESIDENT'S LETTER

DIANE M. HEATON, MD

As we head to the fall of 2021, I wanted to review some of the accomplishments of organized medicine in Oklahoma and the reasons for joining and being a member of TCMS and OSMA. To borrow from the venerable now bearded and reclusive late night host David Letterman I'll do it as a top ten list.



**Diane M. Heaton, MD**

*TCMS President*

1. By far number one, OSMA and TCMS fight the fights that are important to you, your patients and even your hospitals. The best example is Medicaid expansion. OSMA led the litigation that was able to represent to the Oklahoma Supreme Court that the Health Care Authority lacked the authority to implement Medicaid managed care thus saving health care dollars for our patients not the health insurers bottom lines. This benefitted the patients, Oklahoma hospitals, and Oklahoma Healthcare employees who do a wonderful job with low overhead. The providers and hospitals will not be pitted against each other for increasingly narrow plans and margins. The managed Medicaid playbooks top 2 plays are denying care and reimbursements. This means money is not put aside for upgrades, small hospitals close, small practices close typically in areas that can least afford to lose services. Oklahomans taking care of our own always is the best there is, no magic sauce. Less dollars mean less care.
2. History. Over 100 years we have been there for physicians solving the issues of the day. Medical Malpractice carriers essentially left the state, so we built a medical malpractice carrier and ran it with basically volunteer physicians. Health insurance levied major fees for our small health businesses. Again, the physicians in the state built a health insurance company and continue to manage and grow with physicians recruited within the organization. More recently when independent physicians had difficulty getting immunized, TCMS literally overnight rallied and was able to immunize 400 of its members and staff in January of 2021. This willingness to solve problems and work as a team in an organization, I am proud to be a member.
3. Opportunities for leadership. There are multiple layers to the organization from local committees, state committees, and nationally in the AMA. The old quip, those not at the table risk being on the table, seems to be playing out and every physician should be participating to ensure the patients, staff and practices are represented at each level. Please develop an idea you want to see changed. We have the processes and people to help form and develop an idea into legislation, Op Ed pieces, or other mechanisms that benefits

the Tulsa County Medical community.

4. TCMS Physician Wellness program. I know of no one who was not adversely impacted from 2020. The ability to access therapists who can help address issues before they cause damage is invaluable. We want every physician to succeed and find excitement and joy in our wonderful profession. Physicians unfortunately are often reluctant to seek help and the program was developed to insure confidentiality and rapid access. This program is in many states and has proven to be effective.
  5. CME opportunities. TCMS supports CME on many levels and at a state level we have many opportunities for education.
  6. Up-to-Date articles and searches through the OU Schusterman library.
  7. Project TCMS. Nearly \$8 Million in donated specialty care has impacted low-income, uninsured Tulsa County residents since 2012.
  8. Meeting colleagues from other hospitals. We live in silos, but patients are individuals and regardless of what major EMR salesforces say, patients cross boundaries. Being known by your colleagues is important and helps insure better patient care and allows physicians to know who the patients are seeing and assists with care.
  9. Support of students. We have student organizations student leadership at the board level and opportunities for members to help students understand the medical landscape. There is no better antidote to frustration of the current medical industrial complex than interacting with our medical students.
  10. Some major hospitals discourage participation in organized medicine. That would have to be the number one reason to join. Organizations with billions of dollars of medical care billing are discouraging participation in a small professional organization, we must be doing something right.
- There are many more reasons, several of which are listed on page 4. I encourage each of you to reach out to your partners and colleagues to get involved or join if they are not yet members. *For new members*, those who join now will receive the rest of their 2021 membership included in their 2022 dues and reduced COVID rate is also available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Diane Heaton MD".

Diane M. Heaton, MD  
TCMS President

**TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY**  
Physicians Advancing Health Care

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## TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY & TCMS FOUNDATION

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# VALUE & BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP IN TCMS & OSMA



## PHYSICIAN WELLNESS PROGRAM

Members can receive up to 8 FREE sessions a year with a licensed counselor to help you address any problems or concerns you may be experiencing. You do not need to be in crisis, but confidential access is available.



## ADVOCACY FOR YOUR PROFESSION

A bipartisan lobby team reviews over 2,500 bills each legislative session for you to address health-related issues and determines how they will impact Oklahoma physicians and patients.



## EDUCATION TO EMPOWER PHYSICIANS

Essential updates on topics impacting your practice and legislative alerts on healthcare issues. OSMA offers the state's highest-rated CME for FREE or at discounted member pricing.



## LIBRARY ACCESS WITH UPTODATE ARTICLES AT OU SCHUSTERMAN

Members receive access to the OU Schusterman Library. Library staff use UpToDate® to search for online articles. Members can also use Interlibrary Loan (ILL) to request full text for articles.



## PUBLICATIONS TO INFORM ON STATE AND LOCAL ISSUES

Each month members receive "Tulsa Medicine" a newsletter with info about upcoming events, CME, and local issues affecting your profession. Members also receive the OSMA "Journal".



## PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS ACCESS TO CARE

Project TCMS has provided \$7.9 million in access to specialty care for Tulsa County residents. Since 2004, the Drug Recycling Program has collected over \$26.7 million in recycled medication.



## INSURANCE TAILORED FOR YOU (OSMA HEALTH)

OSMA Health is the health benefits program created by physicians, for Oklahomans, available exclusively to members of the OSMA and TCMS, their employees, and their families.



## A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Built in 2001, TCMS and the TCMS Foundation constructed our building at 53rd and Lewis. If you are needing a board room for 14 or large room for 100, TCMS has a place for you.

Contact the TCMS Office for more information or to reserve a room.

## SO MUCH MORE...

All told, **over \$2,339 in value** are provided through membership in TCMS and OSMA per member.

Your membership is vital to organized medicine in Tulsa and the State of Oklahoma. We hope that you will take this opportunity to share this information with your colleagues, partners, and friends.

You can direct them to our website, [www.tcmsok.org/join](http://www.tcmsok.org/join) which also lists the benefit and value of membership or contact our office at 918.743.6184.

# BAKER ELECTED TO AMA COUNCIL ON MEDICAL EDUCATION



“The challenge now is to establish a process for determining which students to interview,” Baker said. “Residency program directors will need look at each applicant holistically, but that’s difficult when you receive 400 applicants for 10 spots.”

In addition, the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills (CS) exam is being eliminated. Previously, medical students would travel to one of five places in the country to perform a complete history and physical exam on a standardized patient. However, nearly everyone passes the exam and the process is extremely expensive, Baker said, adding that the assessment is better managed within each college.

The council also will address changes brought about by COVID-19. The pandemic has been a time of challenges and sorrow, Baker said, but it also sparked innovation in medical education. Telehealth will likely remain a major part of clinical care, which means students will need to be taught skills for interacting with patients virtually. To teach hospital-based care, physicians in some areas of the country wore cameras as they rounded on patients, allowing students to watch the delivery of care remotely.

“There are some positives that came out of the pandemic from a medical education standpoint; we just need to figure out what these innovations are going to look like for the long term,” she said.

Similarly, the council will focus on how advances in artificial intelligence and machine learning will affect students’ future careers in medicine. In the not-too-distant future, physicians may no longer need to read an EKG or CT scan; instead, that will be done by artificial intelligence.

“I’d like to see medical education be more proactive – we know that today’s students are not going to be practicing medicine the way that we do today,” Baker said. “We have to be thinking about what they need to know when they’re practicing 10 years from now. Technology advancements are great, but we can’t lose the doctor-patient relationship. That’s something we need to teach – that technology should be used as a tool that gives you more time to spend with your patients.”

Sherri Baker, M.D., Associate Dean for Admissions for the OU College of Medicine and a pediatric cardiologist at Oklahoma Children’s Hospital OU Health, has been elected to the American Medical Association (AMA) Council on Medical Education.

Baker joins an elite group of 12 people on the Council on Medical Education who study and evaluate all aspects of the medical education continuum and recommend policies to the AMA’s House of Delegates. Baker was elected by nearly 600 physicians representing every state and medical specialty. She was nominated by the Oklahoma State Medical Association and is only the second person in Oklahoma to have been elected to a national position with the AMA. She will serve a four-year term.

“I’m very excited to get started,” Baker said. “I believe the 14 years I’ve led our admissions process at the OU College of Medicine, in addition to teaching students and residents, will be helpful to the council.”

The Council on Medical Education assesses numerous aspects of medical education. Recent topics have included improving access for students and applicants with disabilities; the availability of child care for students and residents; and policies for accepting the training of international medical school graduates. Other changes that will be addressed involve the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE), a multi-step examination for medical licensure in the United States. Recently, Step 1 of the USMLE was changed to pass/fail rather than a scored test. For years, residency program directors have used students’ scores on USMLE Step 1 to determine who is invited to interview for positions, an option that is eliminated with pass/fail.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### AUGUST 21, 2021

OSMA Board of Trustee Meeting  
10:00 AM - Meeting  
OSMA Headquarters  
Inaugural & Awards Ceremony  
**(CANCELED Due to rising COVID cases)**

### AUGUST 26-27, 2021

Explore Healthcare Summit 2021  
Norman, OK  
Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center

### SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

TCMS Foundation Board Meeting  
TCMS Office  
6:00pm

### SEPTEMBER 24-26, 2021

OKACOG District VII Annual Meeting, LIVE  
Hyatt Regency, 100 East Second Street  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Meeting Details: <https://bit.ly/3jrpdMd>  
Hotel Reservations: <https://bit.ly/3xs2Vz>  
Registration is Open: <https://bit.ly/3xtYSZ2>  
For more information contact Brandi Redo, [district7@acog.org](mailto:district7@acog.org)  
*Coding Workshop*  
*Friday, September 24th, 8AM-Noon*  
*Register Online*

### OCTOBER 13, 2021

TCMS Board of Directors Meeting  
TCMS Office  
6:00pm

### NOVEMBER 7, 2021

OSMA Board of Trustees Meeting  
Details to come

### PROPER PRESCRIBING VIRTUAL CME

Upcoming Dates  
Friday, September 17, 12-1pm  
Thursday, November 18, 6-7pm  
Friday, December 3, 12-1pm

To sign up or for more information, contact Sandy Deeba, 405-601-9571 or visit [www.okmed.org](http://www.okmed.org)

\*Signed into law in 2018, Oklahoma’s Senate Bill 1446 mandates that all physicians complete one hour of CME in pain management per year. To help Oklahoma’s physicians better understand how this new law impacts their practice and patients, the Oklahoma State Medical Association is hosting special CMEs in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. This one-hour event offers insight to the legal issues affecting pain management and an overview of the new laws connected with prescribing opioids to patients. All Oklahoma physicians with a DEA license are required to take this one hour course annually.

# TCMS INVITES MEMBERS TO JOIN NEW EDITORIAL BOARD

Tulsa County Medical Society is seeking input and participation in a New Editorial Board to write and publish articles for the Tulsa World and other publications.

Brian Macha, MD, TCMS President Elect, is on the Tulsa World Editorial Board and will provide oversight of this group. The key objective is to promote the science and art of medicine and the betterment of the public health.



Critical Objectives discussed will be:

- To maintain the highest standards of editorial integrity independent of any special interests
- To publish original, important, valid, peer-reviewed articles on a diverse range of medical topics
- To foster responsible and balanced debate on important issues that affect medicine, health, health care, and health policy
- To enable physicians to remain informed in multiple areas of medicine, including developments in fields other than their own
- To improve health and health care internationally by elevating the quality of medical care, disease prevention, and research
- To inform readers about the various aspects of medicine and public health, including the political, philosophic, ethical, legal, environmental, economic, historical, and cultural
- To achieve the highest level of ethical medical journalism and to produce a publication that is timely, credible, and enjoyable to read

**If you would like to participate in these efforts, please contact Mark McElreath, Executive Director, at 918.743.6184 or [mark@tcmsok.org](mailto:mark@tcmsok.org).**

## IN MEMORIAM

### Harold Lee Stratton, M.D.

TCMS Member since 1963



*Harold Lee (Hal) Stratton, skilled physician, faithful friend, husband, father, and provider of exceptional advice to his many friends, children, and grandchildren, passed away on July 15, 2021 at the age of 90. Hal Stratton was born in Ellsinore, Missouri, the son of Dewey and Grace Stratton. He was the youngest of four brothers, James, Claude, and Dewey Jr., whom all preceded him in death.*

*Hal graduated from Southeast Missouri State University with a bachelor's degree in Chemistry, and obtained his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Missouri and Washington University Schools of Medicine before completing an internship in Surgery and a residency in Anesthesiology. He served in the Naval Reserve as a radioman for three years while in high school, and upon completion of his anesthesia residency he joined the United States Air Force as a*

*Flight Surgeon. Following his honorable discharge from the Air Force in 1966, after almost 8 years of service, he began a long and rewarding career as an anesthesiologist with Anesthesia Associates, Inc. in Tulsa, Oklahoma until he retired.*

*Throughout his life, he pursued numerous hobbies leading to many cherished memories with his family and friends. He was an early adopter of computers, and his love of flying complemented his spirit for adventure and travel. He, along with his wife MiCha, was an avid golfer and enjoyed sharing this hobby with his children and grandchildren.*

*He is survived by his wife, MiCha, half-sister Glenda Alexander, his sons Harold Stratton Jr. and Douglas Stratton, daughters Cynthia Dutton and Allison Uhren, six grand children, and seven great grandchildren.*

*Funeral Service was held Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at Floral Haven Funeral Home Chapel.*

*From Floral Haven, at [floralhaven.com](http://floralhaven.com).*

*Our deepest sympathies and condolences to the friends and family*

If you would like to make a contribution in the memory of these individuals, please mail your donation to TCMS Foundation at 5315 S. Lewis Avenue, Tulsa, OK 74105 or call our office at 918.743.6184.



# TULSA MEDICINE

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5315 S. Lewis Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74105-6539

**EXPLORE**  
HEALTHCARE SUMMIT 2021

- Thursday, August 26 – Friday, August 27: EXPLORE Conference  
Saturday, August 28: OAFP's Scientific Assembly
- Norman, OK  
Embassy Suites Hotel & Conference Center
- Register by July 1  
and Save

## BENEATH THE SURFACE

**Dive deeper. Go beneath the surface.  
Impact the future of medicine.**

Information fatigue is real, but experts inside and outside the field can help keep you afloat when the industry tides turn.

**EXPLORE** Healthcare Summit is an opportunity to engage with colleagues and learn from nationally recognized speakers in keynote and breakout sessions.

We are pleased to announce our partnership with the Oklahoma Academy of Family Physicians to host their annual Scientific Assembly at **EXPLORE** with an additional day of education available Saturday, August 28. Join us for **EXPLORE**, the 2021 event you don't want to miss.



Join us live, or take advantage of our first-ever virtual conference! [explorehealthcaresummit.com](https://explorehealthcaresummit.com)

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**YOU BEGIN BY LISTENING.**

## **FINANCIAL GROWTH AND SAFETY BEGINS WITH A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR GOALS.**

For 40 years, Oklahoma families have trusted us to manage their assets because we listen to their plans, needs and hopes. We then respond with guidance held to a fiduciary standard.

We are here to manage your investments, help you plan for a successful retirement, and assist your family when the time comes to transfer your lifetime savings to the next generations.

We stand ready to act as your trustee and manage your assets with professional objectivity. And because we are located only in Oklahoma, you will always speak directly to the professionals who are responsible to you.

Let's schedule a time to discuss your plans and needs. You'll find us to be very attentive.



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PROTECTING YOUR ASSETS.  
GROWING YOUR WEALTH.  
ADVISING YOU FOR LIFE.

**TRUST YOUR WEALTH TO TRUST.**