OSMA Files Brief in Support of Cigarette Fee

Today, OSMA filed an *amicus* brief with the Oklahoma Supreme Court in support of the $1.50 tobacco fee passed by the legislature during the last days of session.

The Big Tobacco industry filed suit against the new law, alleging it violates a state constitutional provision which prohibits passage of revenue-raising measures in the last five days of the session. However, prior court precedent has held that such measures may be permissible if the fee in question has proven public benefit and the funds raised are ancillary to the purpose of the bill.

OSMA has long been in support of increasing the cost of tobacco products. Numerous studies have shown that price is the single-largest determinant of how likely youth are to take up the habit. Very simply, increasing the cost of tobacco will save lives. While there are certainly those who are focused on the potential revenue gain from the tobacco fee, the public health benefit is indisputable.

OSMA was joined in the filing by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network and the American Lung Association of Oklahoma. The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments on the case August 8.

Stay Ahead of the Curve with a *Master in Healthcare Practice Management Certificate*

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Contact OSMA’s Melissa Johnson, (405) 601-9571
Any Oklahoma physician can qualify for tuition discounts by joining OSMA.
House Committee Approves Research Funding Increase

The U.S. House Appropriations Committee this week passed a health and human services appropriations bill that would **increase medical research funding by $1.1 billion**. Oklahoma Congressman Tom Cole has been spearheading this effort to increase federal research funding, and we are grateful for his diligent work to see it through.

This is just one step in a lengthy appropriations process and President Trump’s budget proposal called for **cutting research funding to the National Institutes of Health by nearly $6 billion**. It is not a done deal yet, but we look forward to continuing our work with Congressman Cole and the rest of our congressional delegation on this important funding initiative.

Quality Improvement Process Mentors Needed

**Is healthcare quality improvement process development your strength?**

**Are you aware of a cross-institutional project worthy of a QI study?**

Lend your expertise as a mentor to OU residents identifying projects and improving understanding of QI studies and reporting.

OSMA will again sponsor the OU GME Resident Quality and Patient Safety Day in April. Poster and abstract presentations of year-long QI projects will be given then by residents. Throughout the year, periodic consultation with experienced physicians outside the academic setting can greatly enhance project development and learning.

Contact Elisa Crouse, M.D., OU College of Medicine associate dean for graduate medical education, at elisa-crouse@ouhsc.edu, to learn more.

Spotlight on State’s Opioid Epidemic

Clear Your Calendar Now to Attend

**What Physicians Need to Know:**

**The Opioid Epidemic and How We Change This!**

**Thursday, Nov. 16, Oklahoma City**

**Friday, Nov. 17, Tulsa**

CME Sponsored by OSMA, Oklahoma Health Professionals Program, Oklahoma Medical Licensure Board & PLICO

Wednesday, *The Journal Record*, an Oklahoma City-based business newspaper, hosted a roundtable discussion with representatives from state agencies, physicians and nonprofits on the state’s opioid epidemic. “The nation’s modern-day Black Death,” was how Jason Beaman, D.O., chair of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at OSU Center for Health Sciences, characterized it, **comparing it to the plague in the 14th century and HIV/AIDS in the 1980s**.

Jessica Hawkins, prevention services senior director at the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, said that as many as **800 Oklahomans are turned away from drug treatment**.
daily due to lack of agency funding. Julia Jernigan, executive director with the Oklahoma Behavioral Health Association, said it’s critical for the public to understand that opioid addiction is a brain illness as agencies and nonprofits request more taxpayer dollars to address the issue. “We would never ask anyone with diabetes to wait until they were in a coma to get treated.”

The challenges for doctors in rural areas were also discussed. Data shows disparities in addiction between rural and urban areas. Yet, rural physicians often don’t have pain management or addiction specialists to refer patients to nearby.

Opportunity for Primary Care Providers in North & South Central Oklahoma

Make Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Gratifying and Efficient

Are you concerned about the devastating effects of opioid use disorder (OUD) on your patients and communities but overwhelmed at the prospect of offering treatment for OUD in your own practice?

American Institutes for Research (AIR) is currently recruiting 45 providers practicing in these north central and south central counties:


The Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Expansion Project aims to support PCPs in 39 rural Oklahoma counties as they learn how to deliver and expand access to MAT services for persons with OUD. MAT is an evidence-based strategy for treating persons with OUD that combines the use of medications with counseling and behavior therapies to provide a whole-patient approach to treatment. AIR offers practical, hands-on assistance to you and your office team through training, case-based consultations with addiction specialists, and mentoring by experienced MAT providers. Practices will receive a stipend to facilitate data collection for a planned evaluation of the project. PCPs should either currently hold or desire to obtain a DATA 2000 or CARA 2016 authorized waiver for buprenorphine for the treatment of OUD.

Benefits of Participation

- PCPs will receive education to enable them to obtain a Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) or Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA 2016) authorized waiver for prescribing buprenorphine in office-based settings.
- PCPs can earn continuing medical education (CME) credits for a variety offered trainings, with an option to complete the requirements of the new ASAM Fundamentals of Addiction Medicine 40-Hour Program.
- PCPs and their staff will receive practical, case-based teaching and mentorship on treating patients with OUD. Webcams are provided for remote ECHO-model consultations with peers and addiction specialists.

Recruitment ends September 1, 2017.

- Selected providers will implement the program from December 2017 to September 2019.

American Institutes for Research (AIR) is conducting this project in partnership with the state of Oklahoma, the ECHO Institute at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).

Complete a brief eligibility form at http://OklahomaMAT.org

Email the AIR team at OklahomaMAT@air.org or call 866-236-4285.

Unsubscribe to News Now at OSMA@okmed.org or call (800) 522-9452.