INTRODUCTION:

The Oklahoma State Medical Association – Medical Student Section (OSMA-MSS) is the largest extracurricular group at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine and consists of the Oklahoma City and Tulsa Chapters. A few students at the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine have participated in activities of the MSS throughout the year. The large membership and continued support from the OSMA allows participation and sponsorship in many activities that appeal to a broad spectrum of medical students. The purpose of the Medical Student Section is to introduce students to organized medicine and the issues that affect the practice of medicine.

Student Members:

The AMA shows that at the end of 2015, there were 484 student members in Oklahoma. The majority of the students joined through the OSMA and a portion of their membership dues were paid through OSMA/PLICO sponsorship. Others joined the AMA directly.

- The OSMA hosts a welcome reception for the first year medical students at OU-OKC each August. A reception for the 2019 incoming class was held Tuesday, August 25, 2015 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Samis Education and Conference Center at Children’s Hospital in Oklahoma City. The 2019 class size on the Oklahoma City campus was 148.
- OSMA and TCMS hosted a lunch for first year medical students at OSU in Tulsa, on Tuesday, August 4th. The class size was approximately 120. During the event, OSMA waived state student membership dues, the OSMA Foundation sponsored $34, and TCMS sponsored $17, making the 4-year AMA student dues only $17. From that recruitment effort, a total of 105 students joined TCMS, OSMA and AMA. The membership for these students will begin in January 2016 and run through December 31, 2019.
- TCMS also hosted a similar luncheon for first year medical students at the OU–Tulsa campus on Thursday, August 20, 2015. The first-year incoming 2019 Tulsa class size was 28. TCMS and the OSMA Foundation offered the discounted $17 rate for students joining the AMA for 4-year membership during the event and all of them joined.
- During the student events in Oklahoma City, OSMA waived state student membership dues and the OSMA Foundation sponsored half of the $68 AMA four-year student dues.
- AMA provided membership incentives of the student’s choice of Netter’s Anatomy Flash Cards or Rapid Review Pathology (both valued at over $30) for students joining the OSMA/AMA for the discounted 4-year membership.
- TCMS also hosted a lunch event for Tulsa medical students and residents on Saturday, August 29, 2015 at the Tulsa Zoo. During the lunch OSMA, TCMS, TCMS Foundation and TCMS Alliance leadership discussed public health and legislative advocacy initiatives. Students and residents had the opportunity to join TCMS, OSMA and AMA at discounted rates.
- Further recruitment occurred at the College of Medicine Interest Group Fair on September 15th, at which OSMA-MSS students from other class years were also recruited to join the OSMA/AMA with one-half of their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year AMA dues amount sponsored by the OSMA Foundation. This recruitment effort helped recapture some medical students from other classes that did not join OSMA/AMA during their first year of medical school.
- The OSMA hosted a “meet and greet” reception on September 25, 2015 at Fassler Hall Beer Garden for OU – OKC 1st and 2nd year students following their test block. Nearly 100
students joined OSMA leadership and staff for a fun-filled afternoon. Additional receptions will be held for other classes after test blocks in 2016.

- As a result of the efforts mentioned above, OSMA gained 232 new student members from the Class of 2019. Those numbers will be reflected in the 2016 student membership numbers.

REVIEW OF OSMA-MSS ACTIVITIES:

2015 AMA Annual Meeting:

The 2015 AMA Medical Student Section Meeting was held June 4-6, 2015 in Chicago, Illinois. Michael Quinton (MS1), Kanika Garg (MS1), Allen Wang (MS3), and Drew Cameron (MS2) represented the OSMA-MSS during the meeting. In addition to electing Governing Council (GC) officers and debating 50+ resolutions, the over 600 medical students attended presentations by Apple Development Executive, Vin Capone, and AMA Board of Trustees member, Dr. Barbe. An especially important resolution was the Resolution 1, which discussed standardizing the residency match system and timeline, specifically exploring why ophthalmology and urology specialties were non-NRMP.

Officers elected for the Oklahoma City Chapter for 2015-2016 include:

President: Helga Skaftason
Vice President: Michael Bellew
OSMA-MSS Delegate: Allen Wang
AMA-MSS Delegate: John Carradini
Advocacy Chairs: Sarabeth Williams
Press Secretary: Mitchell West
Treasurer: Crista Horton
Service Chair: Brady Iba
Student Council Representative (2): Austin McCullough, Zackary Burrow
AMA-MSS Region 3 Delegate: John Carradini
AMA-MSS Region 3 Alternate Delegate: Brady Iba
Immediate Past-President: Jack Test
Advisor: Mary Anne McCaffree, M.D.
Sponsor: Kathy Musson of the OSMA

Fall OU – Oklahoma City On-Campus Meetings (Lobbying and Performance Based Contracts):

The second OU-OKC meeting (first non-recruitment meeting) of the semester occurred on October 5th in the College of Medicine’s East Lecture Hall. Attendance was decreased due to the beginning of anatomy for first year students, but approximately 30 students attended. OSMA Director of State Legislative and Political Affairs, Wes Glinsmann gave a brief overview of Advocacy and Lobbying efforts by OSMA. Allen Wang gave a presentation on Performance Based Contracts and the impact of replacing fee-for-service payment structures. The students broke into small groups to explore the pitfalls faced by future physicians and potential solutions under new payment structures.

Fall OU – Oklahoma City On-Campus Service and Advocacy Project:

OU-OKC capitalized on the politically charged atmosphere with the impending presidential primaries and hosted a campus-wide voter registration drive. The MSS supplied voter registration forms for students to fill out, and submitted them to the election board for registrants. At the registration table was a letter that students could choose to fill out and sign. The letters were addressed to Senators Lankford and Inhofe and focused on protecting Graduate Medical Education funding. We were able to register both medical students and students from other colleges including Nursing, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Allied Health, and the Graduate College and had hundreds of registrants and letters.
AMA Interim in Atlanta (November 12-14, 2015):

Along with 750 medical students from across the nation, Alexa Papaila (MS1), Brady Iba (MS1), Alexander Smith (MS3), Jeff LaCroix (MS3), and Allen Wang (MS4) from the OU-OKC campus, John Carradini (MS1) from the OU-Tulsa campus, and Bob Aran (MS3) and Matthew Else (MS4) from the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine in Tulsa attended the AMA Interim Meeting in Atlanta. Thanks to its generous funding, OSMA was instrumental in the number of attendees from OU & OSU. A number of resolutions and reports were discussed and many of them were forwarded on to the AMA House of Delegates for further action. Highlights include passed resolutions on communication deficits in medical school curriculums, comprehensive integrative medicine, and implementation of an Annual Mental Health Awareness and Suicide Prevention Pilot Program in medical schools. The OU College of Medicine and the OSU Osteopathic School is already working on communication and integrative medicine. Activities included a Save GME Advocacy Workshop and a lecture on end of life talks and death with dignity. Speakers included AMA President Steven Stack and creator of First Aid for the USMLE, Tao Le. John Carradini (MS1) was seated as an AMA Regional Medical Student Delegate and Brady Iba (MS1) was seated as an AMA Regional Medical Student Alternate Delegate.

OSMA State Legislative Council:

A number of medical students are serving as volunteers on the OSMA’s Council on State Legislation. This Council begins meeting just prior to and during the legislative session to review bills relating to health care and help OSMA define the Council’s positions on each piece of legislation.

Spring Semester OU – OKC On-Campus Meetings:

The OU-OKC Medical Student Section hosted a meeting with the Tobacco Interest Group on February 17, 2016 at the College of Medicine. Drs. McCaffree provided box lunches to 40 attendees. OSMA lobbyist, Jim Dunlap, and OSMA Director of State Legislative and Political Affairs, Wes Glinsmann, discussed the importance of advocacy and OSMA membership. Dr. Robert McCaffree discussed the year’s tobacco specific legislation.

OSMA-MSS Advocacy Day:

On March 7, 2016 Advocacy Chair Sara Williams hosted Advocacy Day at the state Capitol. There were presentations from Carly Putnam of OK Policy Institute and State Senator Ervin Yen. In addition, Sara Williams presented bills of interests, as well as resources for effective lobbying, through a packet. Approximately 30 students were in attendance. Following the presentations, students were encouraged to visit their representatives.

OSMA Medicine Day Legislative Reception:

On February 16, 2016, despite overlapping with a Student Council meeting, a handful of medical students participated in OSMA’s Medicine Day. They joined Oklahoma physicians from around the state at the OSMA headquarters for the annual legislative reception.
AMA Medical Student Advocacy and Region Conference in Washington, DC (February 10-12, 2016):

Helga Skaftason (MS2) and Sara Williams (MS1) from the OKC campus and Teresa Sciortino (MS1) from the Tulsa campus attended the AMA Medical Student Advocacy and Region Conference in Washington DC. Things were done differently this year by combining the Advocacy events with the region conferences. The students made visits to the offices of Senators Inhofe and Lankford, as well as, Representatives Russell and Bridenstine and advocated on two issues pertinent to medical students:

1. Maintaining the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program
2. Maintaining and expanding graduate medical education (GME) funding

This was the first time these students had lobbied in Washington DC and it was a great educational experience on the importance of policy awareness and advocacy in medicine. Through the conference, the medical students received training in effective lobbying techniques and on current pressing issues, including the two listed above as well as telemedicine. The conference also included a presentation on effectively dealing with the journalists and the media in general.

The Region 3 conference was incorporated into the conference and occurred on the last day. Region 3 bylaws were amended with no major change. There was much debate about changing language to allow Region 3 officer positions to be held by multiple people from the same state, but the amendment did not pass. Specifically the language would have changed from saying that multiple offices could not be held by people from the same state to multiple offices could not be held by people from the same school. Further updates from the region were also given.

AMA-MSS Annual Meeting in Chicago (June 9-11, 2016):

A number of medical students are planning to attend the 2016 AMA Annual Meeting, which will be held in Chicago on June 9–11. Many educational programs are presented during the meeting. Also planned is a Medical Specialty Showcase, which allows students to interact with physicians from various specialties to receive information and assistance in career decision-making. OSMA, through PLICO and the OSMA Foundation, provide some financial assistance to students who attend.

Match Day:

The Class of 2016 celebrated Match Day on March 18, 2016. Match Day has been a long standing day of celebration for graduating medical students across the country when the future physicians are simultaneously notified of their residency placements and specialty choices. The event was attended by the graduating medical student body as well as faculty, mentors, family, and friends of the class and always proves to be a day filled with both tension and excitement. A total of 42 students from the OU 2016 class matched in residency programs in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Goals for the MSS:

The main goal of the OSMA-MSS is to educate and recruit more medical students to get into organized medicine.

We are at a crossroads in our Medical Student Section with the last partial “Tulsa track” class leaving for Tulsa’s School of Community Medicine to begin their third year. This will be the final class to experience OU medical school at both the Oklahoma City and Tulsa campuses. With this in mind, we have four goals:
1. **Restructuring the OSMA-MSS Constitution through OU Student Council to create positions that knit together both campuses and more effectively serve the medical student section in terms of work and continuity.**

   We wish for both OU campuses to function as one because a) the Tulsa program is very small and easily overshadowed and b) we compete for the same resources. To this end each campus will have the following officers, which will be drawn from the indicated year in medical school:

   **OKC Officers:** President (MS2), Vice President (MS2), Secretary (MS2), Treasurer (MS1), Advocacy Chair (MS1), Recruitment Chair (MS2), 1-2 Student Council Representative(s) (MS1)

   **Tulsa Officers:** President (MS2), Secretary (MS1), Advocacy Chair (MS1)

   Tulsa or OKC: OSMA Board Representative (MS3 or MS4)*usually a past president

   The offices of President and Advocacy Chair will be expected to liaise with their counterparts in the other campus. In addition, the office of Secretary in Tulsa will be asked to liaise with OSU Medical School. Two first year positions in Tulsa were allotted to ensure continuity of leadership should one of the first years require a leave of absence.

2. **Including in the OSMA-MSS Constitution a protocol for selecting qualified members to attend interim, annual, and advocacy conferences.**

   Annual and Interim meetings will be attended by the OKC President, OKC Advocacy Chair, and one of the officers from Tulsa. One to two additional attendees will be chosen from either OKC or Tulsa campuses based on applications reviewed by the President and Advocacy Chair. These one to two (depending on funding) additional spots are open to the general student body as well as remaining OSMA-MSS officers. This would leave one to two (depending on funding) positions available for students from OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine to attend. Advocacy Day would be attended by the Advocacy Chairs from both OKC and Tulsa campuses, as well as, a student from OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine.

3. **Communicating more effectively between OSMA headquarters and the MSS**

   The following reports and updates (less formal than a report) will be submitted annually to OSMA’s Associate Executive Director, Kathy Musson, at the indicated time and authored by the indicated positions below:

   - **August:** Officer election results and recruitment update*, author: MSS Recruitment Chair, with listing to be provided to OSMA Headquarters.
   - **November:** AMA Interim Conference Report, author: MSS President
   - **February/March:** AMA Advocacy Conference Report, author: MSS Advocacy Chair
   - **March:** Annual Medical Student Section Report, author: MSS President
   - **April:** Officer election results update*, author: outgoing MSS President, with listing to be provided to OSMA Headquarters.
   - **June:** AMA Annual Conference Report, author: upcoming MSS President

4. **Liaising more effectively with OSU’s Medical School**

   The office of Secretary in Tulsa will be asked to liaise with the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine. In addition, the OSMA Board of Trustees will be asked to explore the possibility of amending its bylaws and student representative positions from each campus.

   The OSMS-MSS Chapter continues to be an active part of the OSMA and appreciates the support provided by the Association leadership and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Helga Skaftason, MS2, OSMA-MSS Chapter President
Kathleen A. Musson, Associate Executive Director *(Staff Liaison)*