

REPORT OF THE OSMA President

A-2011

Subject: Annual Report

Presented by: K. A. Mehta, MD

1 INTRODUCTION:

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3 At the very outset I want to thank all the members of OSMA for putting their trust in me and
4 allowing me to serve as president for this year. I consider this a great honor and privilege to serve as
5 president of OSMA.

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7 Last year, OSMA worked tirelessly to fulfill the needs of our membership. We have had several
8 areas of jubilation and celebration, but also a few times of frustration. Overall, we finished the year on a
9 positive note.

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11 The year started when the House of Delegates passed a resolution in April 2010 to ask Governor
12 and Attorney General to challenge the federal government on the constitutionality of the mandate (under
13 the Affordable Care Act) requiring all citizens to buy health insurance. As expected, the previous
14 administration did not pursue this. But after a Republican Governor and Attorney General (as well as a
15 majority in the State House and Senate) were elected in November 2010, this constitutional challenge
16 was filed by our new Attorney General.

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18 Our legislative team with the help of our lobbyists has been working tirelessly at the State
19 Capitol on our behalf. We were able to get lawsuit reform legislation passed with a cap of \$400,000 for
20 non-economic damages in 2010. This had required formation of an indemnity fund to cover any awards
21 in excess of the cap. This could not be done because the legislation creating this indemnity fund was
22 vetoed by Governor Henry. In the current legislative session, OSMA with the help of several other
23 organizations is working hard to get legislation passed containing a hard cap of \$350,000 for non-
24 economic damages. This legislation was passed recently by Oklahoma House of Representatives. We
25 hope that this will now be passed by the Oklahoma Senate and then be signed into law by Governor
26 Mary Fallin. Efforts are also being made to pass other important elements of tort reform in the House
27 and Senate.

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29 Our Governmental Affairs committee has worked closely in collaboration with the AMA to
30 convince the U.S. Congress to permanently fix the fatally flawed SGR formula. The AMA was
31 successful in avoiding the cuts in Medicare reimbursement until the end of this year. We all are
32 continuing our efforts to get a permanent fix for SGR. This is a work in progress. However, we, the
33 physicians, are held hostage because of the party politics in Washington D.C.

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35 Medicaid reimbursement was on the chopping block three times in the last year. Our
36 perseverance and representation at the Oklahoma Health Care Authority has helped avoid massive cuts
37 in Medicaid reimbursements for the physicians. We will be closely monitoring the budget debate at the
38 state capitol this year and will make every effort to maintain Medicaid funding at its current level.

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40 The Physicians Liability Insurance Company (PLICO) and OSMA Health are both doing well.
41 PLICO has continued to strengthen its financial position and has expanded into several new programs to
42 serve our membership. OSMA Health has done well in spite of many new mandates imposed by the
43 Federal Health Care Reform bill and it is continuing to fulfill a very important need (providing health
44 insurance) to our members and their families.

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2 OSMA is continuing its efforts to increase our membership. We are pursuing our efforts to invite
3 the academic physicians in Oklahoma to join OSMA. We have proposed by-laws changes and
4 continuing the dialogue with the academic physicians to facilitate this process.

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6 We are also embarking on a program to improve health for citizens of Oklahoma. Probably the
7 biggest challenge we are facing is the incidence of obesity and its impact on public health. OSMA is
8 starting an initiative to provide a multidisciplinary weight management counseling (clinic) program. The
9 pilot project clinic is expected to start at St. Anthony Hospital in April 2011. This OSMA project has the
10 support of the Oklahoma Department of Health and several other stakeholders, organizations, and
11 foundations. We will need help from all our members when we expand this program to other areas of
12 state.

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14 Our OSMA building suffered weather related damage due to hail, snow, and rain. There is also a
15 dispute with the building contractor and architect, which is being handled by our legal team.

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17 **CONCLUSION:**

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19 Overall, the year has ended on a positive note. I am sure OSMA will continue to remain strong,
20 continue to provide services to all our members and provide a protective umbrella for all of us to remain
21 united and organized to protect our patients, help us provide best quality healthcare to our patients and
22 preserve the integrity of our medical practices.

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24 I want to thank all of our members for the honor and privilege to serve you as your president. I
25 want to thank the OSMA staff, the members of Executive Committee, and members of the Board of
26 Trustees for all their help.

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28 Thank you,

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30 Respectfully submitted,

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32 K. A. Mehta, MD, FACS

33 President

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