



OSMA News Now

*The Latest News, Views, Updates, and Information for Physicians
from the Oklahoma State Medical Association*

March 28, 2008

Legislative Update

HB 3060 by Representative Hamilton and Senator Gumm, passed out of Senate Health and Human Resources Committee yesterday. HB 3060 would direct the Oklahoma State Department of Health to create a public cord-blood bank for Oklahomans, as long as the funding was available. The OSMA supports Rep. Hamilton and Senator Gumm's effort in HB 3060.

HB 1647 by Representative Pam Peterson would allow a radiologist to use the services of a radiologist assistant, as long as they were licensed by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, to practice radiology assistance. The radiologist assistant would be under the direct supervision of a physician licensed by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision or the State Board of Osteopathic Examiners and certified by the American Board of Radiology or the American Osteopathic Board of Radiology. This bill passed out of the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee and the OSMA is monitoring this bill.

Physicians' Foundation Sending Survey To Every Primary Care Doctor In America National Group Seeks to Give Physicians A Voice

What is the state of primary care practice in America today? Can primary care physicians continue to provide patient care in the face of rising costs, reimbursement cuts and pervasive government regulations? What do primary care doctors themselves have to say about the direction of medical practice in America?

The Physicians' Foundation for Health Systems Excellence (PFHSE), a not-for-profit group composed of medical societies and physician leaders, is seeking answers to these questions by undertaking one of most ambitious physician surveys ever attempted. Beginning in May 2008, PFHSE will send over 300,000 surveys to primary care physicians and selected medical specialists throughout the country. The survey will be sent to virtually every active primary care physician nationwide, and to specialists in small, independent practices.

"We have heard from the pundits about the state of medical care in the United States," notes Louis Goodman, Ph.D. president of PFHSE and executive vice president of the Texas Medical Association. "It's time we heard what physicians have to say."

According to Dr. Goodman, the survey asks primary care physicians about the state of their practices and whether or not they can maintain patient care services in light of regulatory and financial burdens. The key question posed by the survey, Dr. Goodman observes, is can doctors meet the needs of patients under current practice conditions?

"If the survey indicates that medical practice itself is in jeopardy, that urgent message needs to be heard by policy makers and the public," states Walker Ray, M.D., vice president of PFHSE and former president of the Medical Association of Georgia.

PFHSE has partnered with the national physician search and consulting firm Merritt, Hawkins & Associates to develop and mail the survey. Tim Norbeck, executive director of PFHSE and longtime former executive director of the Connecticut State Medical Society, notes that physicians around the country will soon be receiving the survey and he urges them to participate.

"This is a critical chance for doctors to have their voices heard," Mr. Norbeck says. "The more physicians who participate, the more persuasive their voices will be."

About PFHSE

The Physicians' Foundation for Health System Excellence is a national grant making foundation dedicated to improving the quality of the medical practice environment. PFHSE was established in 2004 as part of a settlement in an anti-racketeering class action lawsuit involving physicians and medical societies against the managed care industry. Its board is comprised of physician leaders and medical society members from around the country. For additional information, access www.physiciansfoundation.org

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2008 OSMA Annual Meeting will be held at the Tulsa Renaissance Hotel and Convention Center April 11 & 12, 2008. Letters have been sent to the County Presidents requesting Delegates. If you are wanting to participate as a Delegate please contact Donna Bartlett at 405-843-9571 or bartlett@osmaonline.org . Please go to www.okmed.org for complete information regarding Informational Reports, 2008 Nominations and the Registration Form.

You are cordially invited...

This year's Inaugural Dinner is set for Friday, April 11th to honor Lee E. Schoeffler, MD, as the incoming OSMA President and the incoming OSMA Alliance President, Marty Laughlin.

Dr. Schoeffler has been in private practice in Ophthalmology in Tulsa, Oklahoma for 33 years. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine in 1970. Dr. Schoeffler is the Past President of the Oklahoma Academy of Ophthalmology and has served as the Chairman of the OSMA Board of Trustees. He is currently Vice-Chair for Education, Department of Ophthalmology, University of Oklahoma, Tulsa Campus. Dr. Schoeffler is married to Carol Schoeffler and has two children, a son, Michael, a daughter, Amy Diane Warren and four grandchildren.

Marty Laughlin is married to Richard, a radiologist practicing in Tulsa. They have one son, Brian. She has volunteered over 20 years with the Adult Literacy Service in Tulsa. She enjoys reading, cooking, movies, traveling, and family. Marty has a degree in Art History.

The evening will be kicked off with the OSMA Foundation Reception and Silent Auction that will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the dinner will be held at 7:00 p.m. Entertainment will be provided by the Sounds of Music Orchestra, Inc., a non-profit corporation created to sustain Big Band music in Tulsa and provide area musicians and audiences with an opportunity to experience this wonderful form of entertainment. Tickets can be purchased for \$75.00. Please contact the OSMA at 1-800-522-9452.

OSMA *Calendar*

APRIL 2008

- 03 Center for Medicaid Medicare Services/ Health and Human Services Electronic Health Records Pilot Project 12:00pm
- 09 Audit and Finance 5:30pm
- 09 MGMA Board 10:00am
- 11-12 OSMA Annual Meeting
Tulsa Renaissance Hotel

- 11 Board of Trustees 9:00am
Tulsa Renaissance Hotel
- 12 OSMA Health Board 1:30pm
Tulsa Renaissance Hotel
- 15 Council on State Legislation 5:30pm
- 16 Geriatrics Subcommittee 5:30pm
- 22 Accreditation Review Committee 6:00pm
- 28 Oklahoma Society of Clinical Oncology 10:00am