



OSMA News Now

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

June 20, 2008

MARY ANNE McCAFFREE, M.D., ELECTED AMA BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBER!

The American Medical Association (AMA) announced Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at its Annual Meeting the election of Oklahoma neonatal-perinatal medicine specialist, Mary Anne McCaffree, M.D., as a member of the AMA Board of Trustees (BOT).

In this position, Dr. McCaffree plans to help lead the transformation of health care to ensure that all patients have access to quality health care. "I am grateful for this honor to serve physicians and patients, continuing our AMA mission to improve the health of Americans," Dr. McCaffree stated.

Currently, Dr. McCaffree is the chair of the Council on Science and Public Health, a prominent advisory committee to the AMA, and a member of the Pediatric Section Council of the AMA. Outside the AMA, she is the chair of the Committee on Federal Government Affairs for the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). As chair of the AAP's committee, Dr. McCaffree successfully represented the AAP on many legislative issues, including renewing the government program on uninsured children.

Dr. McCaffree served as the first female president of the Oklahoma State Medical Association (OSMA). In 2005, she received the Ed L. Calhoun, M.D., Leadership in Medicine Award, honoring an OSMA member physician in recognition of distinguished leadership and service to organized medicine. She also was awarded the OSMA Woman in Medicine Award and the Abraham Jacobi, M.D., Award, presented to a physician who has successfully served the AMA and the AAP at the highest levels.

Dr. McCaffree is a professor of pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center in Oklahoma City, Okla., and is recognized as an experienced researcher and leader. She is committed to ensuring that all patients receive quality health care and previously led the state of Oklahoma to expand care for sick newborns, working within the medical community groups to implement changes to improve care for infants and children.

Over 175 Physicians and Office Administrators Attend TrailBlazer Workshop

Earlier this week OSMA, in collaboration with the Oklahoma County Medical Society sponsored a workshop with TrailBlazer Health Enterprises, the new Medicare Part A and Part B administrator in Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. TrailBlazers began administering Oklahoma's Medicare Program on March 1, 2008.

Physicians and their claims reimbursement staff heard from Debra Patterson, MD, Lead Medical Director for TrailBlazer Medical Review and Provider Education Activities. The meeting provided Oklahoma physicians with an opportunity to hear from Dr. Patterson about the transition and to raise any questions and/or concerns with her about Medicare reimbursement delays and denials that have developed since the transition on March 1 of this year.

Dr. Patterson also provided attending physicians with valuable information and tips on how to navigate the TrailBlazer website—the primary interface for physician reimbursement. She also provided all physician attendees with a copy of the E & M guidebook.

As expected, a number of questions and problems were raised by attendees and Dr. Patterson stayed late into the evening answering questions and providing guidance on how to resolve problems with the new TrailBlazer system.

The workshop provided attending physicians with two AMA PRA Category 1 Credits and prior to Dr. Patterson's presentation the Physicians Liability Insurance Company (PLICO) sponsored a dinner for the 179 attendees. OSMA plans to sponsor additional training and educational opportunities for physicians with Dr. Patterson in the future.

**What do the 2008 Presidential Candidates Think About Health Care Reform?
--Your Patients Will Want to Know What You Think!**

First the good news: health care reform is a top priority for both presidential candidates—an opportunity to fix a broken and outdated system for our patients. Now the bad news: health care reform is a top priority—bad reforms could make a broken delivery system even worse.

How much do you really know about each candidate’s health care reform proposals? Over the next few months leading up to the November election, your patients will seek your advice and insight and now you can be well informed. Here’s a short and easy way to start:

OSMA has linked on its home page to three very useful sites:

- AMA national health Care Policy Agenda
- Republican Candidate Link
- Senator John McCain (R-Arizona)
- Democratic Candidate Link
- Senator Barack Obama (D-Illinois)
- Kaiser Family Foundation’s interactive online tool to create a side-by-side comparison of 2008 Presidential Candidates. <http://www.health08.org/sidebyside.cfm>

These are three valuable sites to help you develop your health care reform IQ for you and your patients.

OSMA encourages you to review the key advocacy priorities and to keep these issues in mind when evaluating the proposals and platforms of the presidential candidates. Your patients will want to know what you think—here’s a quick way to you to get up to speed.

Fundraisers for Dr. Doug Cox

As you may know, OSMA physician Dr. Cox is running for re-election to the Oklahoma House of Representatives and he needs our financial help.

As the only physician in the State Legislature, Dr. Cox has been our champion and advocate on our three major legislative priorities:

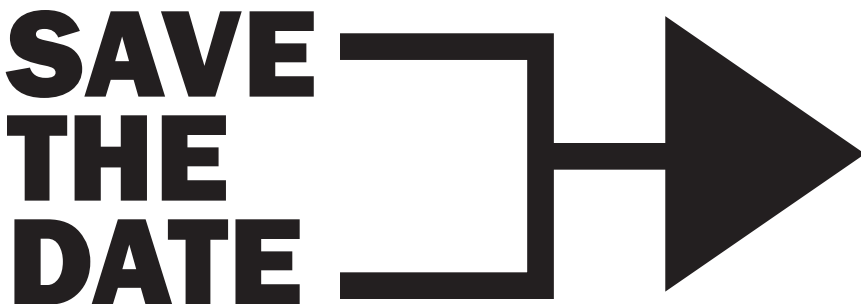
- * Tort Reform;
- * Scope of Practice; and
- * Medicaid Physician Reimbursement.

Two fundraisers are planned for Dr. Cox next week—on Monday, June 23 in Oklahoma City and on Thursday, June 26 at the Tulsa County Medical Society—invitation details are attached. Please join us if you can—here are the details:

Monday, June 23, 2008
Dr. Amalia Miranda and Dr. Paul Silverstein
4801 Bocage Lane
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73142
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 26, 2008
Tulsa County Medical Society
5315 South Lewis
Tulsa, Oklahoma
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

This year, there is no more important House race than Dr. Cox’s race. Our most forceful advocate and organized medicine’s reputation and credibility with other state lawmakers are at risk. Please help us raise the funds Dr. Cox needs to bring him back to the Legislature.



August 23, 2008
OSMA Board Orientation/Retreat
9:00 a.m. - Noon
OSMA Board Meeting
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
at the OSMA Headquarters