

Welcome to the **April 2018** issue of *OCMA Connect*, our monthly publication focusing on issues specific to Orange County physicians. We hope you enjoy our newsletter and we welcome your input. Please send your comments, ideas or questions to Holly Appelbaum at happelbaum@ocma.org.

2018 CMA Legislative Day Wrap-Up

By: Nikan Khatibi, D.O., Chair, OCMA Legislative Committee

Twenty-eight physicians and medical students from OCMA gathered with more than 500 from around the state in Sacramento on April 18 to bring **the voice of medicine to legislators** for the **44th annual California Medical Association Legislative Advocacy Day**. Wearing white coats, physicians converged on the Capitol to educate legislators about **A.B. 3087 (Kalra), which would increase patient out-of-pocket costs and result in dangerous government intrusion** into the health care market by creating state-sanctioned rationing of health care for all Californians.



A.B. 3087 would establish a government-run commission with nine political appointees to set the prices that health providers (doctors, hospitals, optometrists, etc.) can charge for services based on Medicare reimbursement rates. Physicians are explicitly prohibited from participating even though their licensing fees will fund the commission. **This bill does not require plans and insurers to pass on the cost savings to patients, and it does not prohibit them from changing benefit designs to shift additional costs to patients.** The commission's authority to set prices only applies to the commercial market and explicitly excludes setting prices for Medi-Cal and Medicare. What's more, A.B. 3097 is brazenly self-serving because **the commission would use a portion of those funds to pay the legislation's sponsors to lobby for the commission.**

The activities began with OCMA hosting a dinner with Orange County state elected officials the night of the 17th. Assembly members Brough, Harper, Choi, and Quirk-Silva attended and were joined by State Senators Bates and Newman.

Discussion on access to care, single-payer healthcare and increasing Medi-Cal rates dominated the conversation.

Earlier in the day, the **CMA Board of Trustees endorsed Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom for Governor in the November election.**

[Click here](#) to see photos from the event.

OCMA is now Accepting Nominations for the 2019 Physicians of Excellence Honor

Orange Coast magazine, in conjunction with the Orange County Medical Association (OCMA), will publish its annual list of Orange County **Physicians of Excellence** in the January 2019 issue and is **currently seeking nominations**. The Physicians of Excellence program was designed to honor outstanding physicians practicing in Orange County. The selection criteria that will be used to determine physician excellence were developed by a multi-specialty collaboration of the OCMA. Anyone

can nominate a physician to be considered for the Physicians of Excellence program. Physicians need to be nominated only once to be eligible to apply for selection as a Physician of Excellence. Multiple nominations for the same physician are discouraged. **Self-nominations will not be accepted.** Once nominated, an application packet will be sent to the nominee with the details of the application process. Membership in the OCMA is not a requirement for selection.

Minimum criteria for Physicians of Excellence include:

- Hold board certification within specialty of nomination
- Maintain a primary practice location in Orange County, California for the last 5 years
- Be in good standing with the Medical Board of California
- Exhibit excellence in leadership, teaching/research, and humanitarian services

Nominators are not required to certify that the physician they are nominating meets these criteria.

The deadline to submit nominations is June 1, 2018.

[Click here](#) to download the **2019 Physicians of Excellence nomination form.**

OCMA Has Moved

We are very excited to announce that **OCMA has moved to its new home.** Our new location is **5000 Campus Drive in Newport Beach**, just a short distance from our previous location in Irvine.

New and Noteworthy: Books by OCMA Members

Many OCMA members are physicians who write more than prescriptions. OCMA has dedicated this space to promote new releases by OCMA members.



If you are a member of OCMA who recently has released a book that you would like to announce here, please forward your name, the title of your book and website for the book to Holly Appelbaum at happelbaum@ocma.org.

Business Partner Profile



Bank of America

4 tips for OC Millennials to buy a house

Are you ready to move out and get your own place? Are your rents going up again this year? In Orange County rents have been increasing on average nearly 4% a year.

Buying your first-time house in Orange County expect to face a few headwinds. The Apartment Association conducted a survey on renters to find out how long it takes to save enough down payment to purchase a home. They found that it takes 10 years to save 20% down payment for a median price home. Now that was a national survey with much lower home prices for the most part. I wonder in a high cost area such as ours where the median price home is about \$675,000 how long it would take?

In another survey, it found millennial's will pay about \$100,000 in rent by the age of 30!

So if you have your sites set on purchasing a home, the best time to buy is now, while interest rates are still relatively low. But chances are you are looking in the price range that is seeing multiple offers, and often bidding the prices up over the asking price.

[Learn More](#)