

Welcome to the August issue of OCMA Connect, our new 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.

Message from OCMA CEO Jim Peterson

I have just celebrated my first year as OCMA's CEO and I want to extend my sincere appreciation to our physician leaders, members and staff for the warm hospitality and support.

"If there is anything the OCMA staff can do for you, never hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your membership!"

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2016 OCMA Leadership Installation and Presidential Inauguration

On July 16, 2016, OCMA held its 2016 Leadership Installation and Presidential Inauguration at The Center Club in Costa Mesa. Darla S. Holland, M.D. was installed as OCMA President. Joining her on the Executive Committee are President-Elect William M. Thompson, IV, M.D., Secretary-Treasurer Paul B. Yost, M.D., and Immediate Past President Abhay Parikh, M.D.

The 2016-17 District Representatives include Christopher Celio, M.D. (District I), George Garcia, M.D. (District III), Smita Tandon, M.D. (District IV), Michael Eilbert, M.D. (District V), Diana E. Ramos, M.D., MPH (District VI), Khaliq Siddiq, M.D. (St. Jude Heritage), Paul Lubinsky, M.D. (CHOC PSF), and Jason Cord, M.D. (Southern California Permanente Medical Group). Duy Nguyen, D.O. serves as the Resident Representative and Axana Rodriguez-Torres, MPH is the Medical Student Representative.

Several legislators and legislative aides attended to honor outgoing President Abhay Parikh, M.D. Those in attendance included Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez, Senator John Moorlach, Assemblywoman Young Kim, Donovan Higbee representing Congresswoman Mimi Walters, and Chris Wangsaporn representing Assemblywoman Ling-Ling Chang. Also attending were Senator Lou Correa, Irvine Mayor Steven Choi, Ph.D., and Newport Beach Council member Scott Peotter.

Attendees were treated to the music of singer and guitarist Adam Lasher, who was a finalist on the 2015 season of *American Idol*.

Please [click here](#) to view photos from the event. (Photo credit: Photography by Tony Kawashima, Inc.)

Video message from Eric G. Handler, M.D., O.C. Public Health Officer

Earlier this month **Eric G. Handler, M.D., County of Orange Public Health Officer**, visited the OCMA offices to discuss issues of importance to him. These include Zika and West Nile Virus, social determinants of health (homelessness, hunger and racism) and drowning. Another area of focus is joining together behavioral health and primary care to provide an integrated system of care for individuals with severe behavioral issues as well as returning veterans.

Click [here](#) to listen to Dr. Handler's entire message.

Sudeep Kukreja, M.D. to Receive Dev A. GnanaDev Membership Award

OCMA is delighted to announce that the CMA Board of Trustees has selected **Sudeep Kukreja, M.D.** as a 2016 recipient of the **Dev A. GnanaDev Membership Award**.

CMA's GnanaDev Award honors a CMA member who, during the past year, demonstrated a special or unique effort resulting in membership growth in their local area.

Dr. Kukreja will receive this award on October 16, 2016 at the opening of Sunday's session at the 145th CMA Annual House of Delegates.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Kukreja on this important accomplishment.



"Ask Mitzi"

OCMA's Physician Advocate Mitzi Young answers your questions on practice management issues.

I am not a provider for Medi-Cal patients. When I see a Medi-Medi patient, am I allowed to collect the 20% that Medicare does not cover?

[Learn More](#)

Medical Board is Seeking Expert Reviewers

The Medical Board of California is seeking physicians to serve as Expert Reviewers in disciplinary cases. The [attached](#) MBC staff report lists 1) the Medical Board's usage of expert reviewers by specialty and 2) the specialties in which additional experts are needed.

As of July 2016, expert reviewers are needed in the following specialties:

- * Addiction Medicine with additional certification in Family, Internal Medicine or Psychiatry
- * Colon and Rectal Surgery
- * Dermatology
- * Family Medicine
- * Neurological Surgery
- * Neurology
- * OB/Gyn
- * Pathology
- * Pain Medicine
- * Pediatric Cardiac Surgery
- * Pediatric Pulmonology
- * Plastic Surgery
- * Psychiatry
- * Surgery
- * Urology
- * Vascular Surgery

Physicians interested in serving as expert reviewers for their specialty can find out more information and apply at the Medical Board website (http://www.mbc.ca.gov/Enforcement/Expert_Reviewer/). Participating physicians are reimbursed \$150 per hour for conducting case reviews and oral competency exams, \$200 an hour for providing expert testimony, and usual and customary fees for physical or psychiatric exams.

For more information about the Expert Reviewer Program, contact the Medical Board at (818) 551-2129.

MACRA: Tools and Information to help physicians understand the Medicare payment reforms

On April 16, 2015, President Obama signed into law the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015 (MACRA), reforming the way physicians will be reimbursed in the future. CMA and AMA and nearly every other physician organization supported MACRA because it was intended to provide stable payment updates, significantly reduce the quality reporting program burdens, reinstate bonus payments, and allow innovative, physician-led alternative payment models.

MACRA repealed the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) payment system, which governed how physicians and other clinicians were paid under Part B of the Medicare program. It replaced the SGR, and its fee-for-service (FFS) reimbursement model, with two paths: The Merit-Based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) and Alternative Payment Models (APMs). The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will begin measuring performance for eligible clinicians in 2017, with payments based on those results beginning in 2019.

Confused? Don't know where to start? Click [here](#) to start learning the basics using resources and tools from CMA, AMA and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Morgan Stanley

The M Group at Morgan Stanley in Newport Beach has been the wealth management team servicing the Orange County Medical Association and its members for nearly a decade.

The M Group Financial Advisors Jim Moos, CFP®, CIMA®, CRPS® and Nick Dolle, CFP®, CRPS® manage OCMA's foundation investments and the corporate retirement accounts. They have held educational classes on various financial topics for members and staff.

[Learn More](#)

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