



Welcome to the **February 2020** 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.

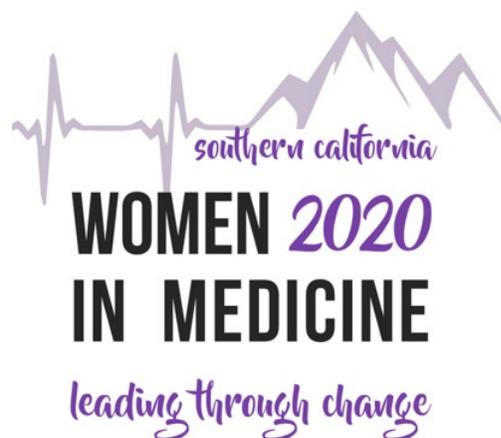
Protect access and control health care costs for CA patients; Oppose the so-called "Fairness for Injured Patients Act"

Late last year, wealthy out-of-state trial attorneys filed an initiative for the November 2020 ballot that would substantially raise health care costs for all Californians, reduce access and exploit patients for profit. While most reporting to date has focused on the proposed changes to California's existing law-the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA)-**this misguided initiative would effectively eliminate California's medical lawsuit limits to create new financial windfalls for California's trial lawyers.**

Proponents of this measure must collect 623,212 valid signatures, which must be verified no later than June 25, 2020. Recent reports show that they're on track to meet those numbers and qualify for the November ballot, which is why **we need your commitment to oppose this dangerous initiative now more than ever.**

In 2014, our coalition fought and handily defeated Proposition 46, clearly saying NO to changes in MICRA that would have quadrupled the cap on non-economic damages. **This measure goes far beyond what Proposition 46 would have done and the cost to taxpayers would be substantially greater.** As recently noted by the independent Legislative Analyst Office, **the "Fairness for Injured Patients Act" will cost California taxpayers tens of millions "to high hundreds of millions of dollars annually" in health care costs.**

Proposition 46 taught us the power of a strong coalition, and this time around it will be even more important. **To learn more about the new initiative, and to donate to the "no" campaign, please visit protectmicra.org.**



Friday, March 20, 2020
Hotel Irvine, 17900 Jamboree Road, Irvine, CA

In November 2018, the **first "Women in Medicine"** conference was a **big success** and attended by more than 115 women physicians, residents, medical students and

even some high schoolers interested in a career in medicine. **Mark your calendars** now for the "**Women in Medicine 2020**" conference scheduled for **Friday, March 20th at Hotel Irvine**. [Click here](#) for the **conference agenda and registration information**.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update



- * Orange County has one confirmed case of novel coronavirus
- * No evidence that person-to-person transmission has occurred in Orange County
- * Risk of infection to public in Orange County is believed to be low

There is an outbreak of pneumonia in China, which has been identified to be caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (or COVID-19). There are ongoing investigations by many countries to learn more about the outbreak, and the situation is rapidly evolving. **On Friday, January 31, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) declared COVID-19 a public health emergency in the United States.** The declaration went into effect at 2 p.m. PST on Sunday, February, 2, 2020.

As part of the emergency declaration, **persons returning to the United States through select airports and considered to be at highest risk are being quarantined** and monitored by public health officials. Locally, it's important to note that **John Wayne Airport is not among this predetermined list of airports**. All other returning travelers from China will face a health screening and face up to two weeks of monitored self-quarantine to ensure they pose no health risk. At this time, **Orange County, CA continues to have only one confirmed case of COVID-19:** a man in his 50s who has recovered. There is no evidence of person to person transmission occurring here. The risk to the public in Orange County, CA and throughout the United States remains low.

For more information visit: www.ocalthinfo.com/novelcoronavirus

HEDIS 2020 Training



CalOptima is required to report Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (**HEDIS**) **rates to** the National Committee for Quality Assurance (**NCQA**), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (**CMS**) and Department of Health Care Services (**DHCS**).

As part of this annual reporting requirement, a medical record review is allowed for a subset of measures known as Hybrid Measures. As a contracted CalOptima provider, we recognize that you play a vital role in promoting good health to our members. That is why **CalOptima has developed a set of online training modules**, each containing annual content to help providers understand the measures specifications and required documentation to meet compliance for each annual measure.

Training modules for HEDIS 2020 are located on the CalOptima website by [clicking here](#)

These training modules are designed to assist you and your staff as you work with CalOptima members every day. We encourage you to review all the modules and share the information with your office staff.

If you have questions or need assistance, email CalOptima at HEDISMailBox@CalOptima.org

CalOptima Program for Seniors Leading the Way in Growth and Access

Dedicated to caring for frail seniors, CalOptima's Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) was recognized for successfully increasing access to services by the National PACE Association, a trade organization advancing efforts so seniors can continue living in the community. **CalOptima PACE achieved a "Supernova" distinction** for an average net enrollment increase of more than 10 participants per month and a **"Shooting Stars" distinction** for growing more than 9% in the fourth quarter of 2019. The National PACE Association includes more than 175 organizations nationwide, and fewer than 10% of member organizations were honored.

[Learn More](#)

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.

Welcome New OCMA Members

Samina Ahmed, MD

Oncology
Anaheim

Anna Marie Angelakis, MD

Internal Medicine
Newport Beach

Sherene Arbabi, MD

Internal Medicine
Newport Beach

Timothy Carpenter, MD

Anesthesiology
Newport Beach

Brian Cauley, MD

Anesthesiology
Newport Beach

David Chavez, MD

Anesthesiology
Newport Beach

Albert Feng, MD

Anesthesiology
Newport Beach

Stephen Fink, MD

Anesthesiology
Newport Beach

Gareth Forde, MD

Obstetrics/Gynecology
Anaheim

[Click here for entire list](#)



Learn about the Latest
Laws and Trends
Impacting California
Physicians



Laws and Trends Impacting California Physicians

In its commitment to help all physicians run safe and successful medical practices, the **Cooperative of American Physicians, Inc. (CAP)** invites you to download and read the latest edition of **Physician Today** magazine. Penned by CAP and associated industry experts, each article in **Physician Today** offers **valuable takeaways to help you stay in the know, and out of the courtroom.**

Inside the latest issue, you will find:

- Current trends and legislative updates impacting California physicians
- California legislation on discharge planning for the homeless population
- The #MeToo movement's potential impact on business owners
- The ins and outs of purchasing life insurance
- Tips on discussing informed refusal with your patients
- And much more!

Download [Physician Today](#) here.

Business Partner Profile



Lee & Associates Medical Office Space Advisors

Do you lease medical office space? Do you want to buy medical office space? Do you own medical office space?

Explore your options and work with an expert to identify what is best for your real estate needs. OCMA stands by and recommends Lee & Associates...they have represented our real estate needs for over 10 years.

[Click here](#) to read the profile of the Lee & Associates healthcare team.

Lee & Associates Commercial Real Estate provides a broad mix of services focused on the representation of medical professionals and their real estate requirements:

- Office Relocations
- Lease Renewals
- Purchase/Sale Negotiations
- Project Leasing
- Opinions of Value
- 1031 Exchanges
- Investment Properties
- Financial Analysis

Benefit: Standard tenant representation at no cost to OCMA members. Any services, including landlord representation that would require compensation to be paid by an OCMA member, would be entitled to a discount of our standard brokerage services fees by 15%.

Contact: Marshal Vogt - Lee & Associates Healthcare Advisory Group, 714-564-7117, mvogt@lee-associates.com

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Find out how we're taking the mal out of malpractice insurance.



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