



Welcome to the **June 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](mailto:happelbaum@ocma.org).

## President's Message

**By: Diana E. Ramos, M.D., MPH, MBA**

It has been an incredible honor and a privilege to have served as your OCMA President. We have been propelled into a surreal reality, one that no one could have ever predicted. For many of us, this "Time of COVID" may have felt like a crisis, personally and professionally. **In Mandarin, the word 'crisis' is composed of two characters. One represents danger and the other opportunity.**



With sheltering in place, our homes became school, daycare, offices and clinics. The traffic we faced was that of bandwidth, with everyone needing to be on the internet. But in all seriousness, **we cannot overlook the shortage of personal protective equipment( PPE) , the race to learn as much as we could about COVID-19 and the basic public health behaviors that are now second nature to us: social distancing, washing our hands and using a face mask when needed.**

[Learn more](#)

## Linda Johansen to retire after 29 years of service

**Linda Johansen**, who has held numerous administrative positions with OCMA, **will retire on June 26th**. "Linda has been such a valuable resource to our physician members and staff leadership for nearly three decades, **she will be very missed and will never be replaced**," stated Jim Peterson, OCMA executive director. "I know everyone with OCMA and in the Orange County community wishes Linda the very best in her retirement."



**There are very few areas within OCMA that Linda has not worked in over the years.** For the past many years, she has served as office manager and direct assistant to the CEO/executive director. She also helped to organize all of OCMA's major events, CMA's Legislative Day, board and related leadership meetings, to name just a few of her other many responsibilities.

**Always friendly and helpful, Linda represented the excellence of OCMA in everything she did.** On behalf of the OCMA board of directors, staff, and the many, many member physicians and past staff who got to know and work with you over the years, **thank you, Linda, for your service, your contributions, your friendship and for just being you. We wish you the best of luck!**

On June 2, the Orange County Board of Supervisors began the **transition to a new CalOptima Board of Directors** by appointing six new members and reappointing one member. Each member will serve a four-year term beginning in August 2020.

During the June 4 CalOptima Board meeting, outgoing Board members were recognized for their service. **CalOptima expressed appreciation** to the following directors:

- \* **Paul Yost, M.D.**, an anesthesiologist affiliated with CHOC Children's and St. Joseph Hospital, who is the Board chair for the past three years during his current term and was also on the Board previously from 2001-09
- \* **Lee Penrose**, a health care executive, who represents hospitals since November 2011 and was previously vice chair for six years
- \* **Dr. Nikan Khatibi**, an anesthesiologist, pain specialist and addiction medicine physician, who is the current vice chair
- \* **Ria Berger**, CEO of Healthy Smiles for Kids of Orange County
- \* **Ron DiLuigi**, a retired health system executive
- \* **Alexander Nguyen, M.D., MPH**, a psychiatrist and assistant clinical professor at VA Long Beach Healthcare System and UC Riverside

[Learn more](#)

## Provider Alert:

### Distribution of CARES Act Provider Relief Funds

On April 24, 2020, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act H.R. 266 ) was signed into law. **Also known as the COVID-19 Phase 3.5 bill, the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act allocated an additional \$483 billion to replenish segments of the CARES Act**, expand coronavirus testing, and provide more support to hospitals and providers during this pandemic. This includes **\$175 billion Provider Relief Funds** for hospitals and health care providers responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit <https://www.congress.gov/116/bills/hr266/BILLS-116hr266enr.pdf> to view H.R. 266 in its entirety.

On June 9, 2020, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the distribution of Provider Relief Funds, with hospital safety net funds scheduled to be distributed that same week.

Through the Health Resources and Humans Services Administration, **HHS expects to distribute approximately \$25 billion Provider Relief Funds**. This includes \$15 billion to eligible providers that participate in state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) programs (Medicaid Relief Fund) and have not received a payment from the Provider Relief Fund General Distribution and \$10 billion to safety net hospitals

[Learn more](#)

## O.C. Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit

One in 5 mothers and 1 in 10 fathers in Orange County are affected by perinatal depression and anxiety within their baby's first year of life. As these rates are expected to rise due to COVID-19 related stressors and social isolation, the **Orange County Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorder Collaborative** has compiled resources to help all those working with young families to confidently address the issue.

[Click here](#) to read the Orange County Perinatal Mental Health Toolkit.



## OCMA/CMA Member of 53 Years Passes Away

### Paul A. Constantine, M.D.

Dr. Paul A Constantine entered the world on March 16, 1937 in Philadelphia. It seems fitting that someone who dedicated his life to the service of others was born in the "city of brotherly love." Paul's father, Abraham Constantinides, had immigrated to the United States from Greece and joined the U.S. Army during World War I, at which time his last name was changed to Constantine.



After the war, Abraham returned to Athens to marry his bride, Helen Myratis, and together they traveled to Philadelphia to begin their new life. Their only child, Paul, grew up in the shadow of the Great Depression and World War II, but thanks to his parents' examples, he emerged with an ethic of hard work and sacrifice for the greater good. Paul attended Philadelphia Central High School, went on to Ursinus College as a pre-medical student, attended Temple University Medical School, and completed his residency at Nazareth Hospital.

[Learn more](#)

## Welcome New OCMA Members

### Arturo Acosta, MD

Family Medicine  
*Santa Ana*

### Mariam Bishara, MD

Internal Medicine  
*Anaheim*

### William Castro, MD

Family Medicine  
*Huntington Beach*

### Tiffany Damikolas, MD

Pediatrics  
*Santa Ana*

### Vincent Ayroso, DO

Family Medicine  
*Garden Grove*

### Rajni Boparai, MD

Family Medicine  
*Huntington Beach*

### Josephine Choa, MD

Internal Medicine  
*Santa Ana*

### Julius Dang, MD

Family Medicine  
*Huntington Beach*

### Erum Bajwa, MD

Cardiovascular Disease  
*Orange*

### Michael Brandt-Zawadzki, MD

Diagnostic Radiology  
*Newport Beach*

### Bryan Choi, MD

Internal Medicine  
*Garden Grove*

### Uyen Dang, MD

Family Medicine  
*Garden Grove*

[Learn more](#)

## Musical Offerings

Long-time OCMA/CMA member and talented singer/composer **Mark P. Miller, M.D.** re-wrote "**Happy Days Are Here Again**" in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

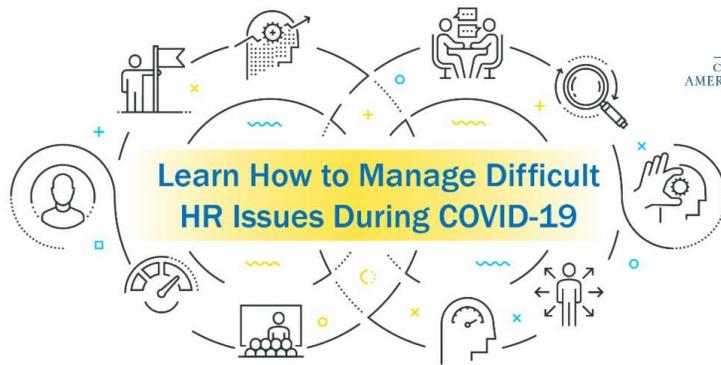
[Click here](#) to listen and enjoy.

## 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](mailto:happelbaum@ocma.org).



### Free On-Demand Webinar: Managing Difficult HR Issues During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Are you struggling with balancing the health and well-being of your staff with the reality of reduced income due to decreased patient visits during the COVID-19 crisis? To support physicians, the **Cooperative of American Physicians, Inc. (CAP)** presents a **free on-demand webinar, Managing Human Resources During the Pandemic**, to provide you with the knowledge to deal with employment issues effectively and legally.

[Watch Now](#)

Presented by experts in HR and employment law, **this webinar addresses common concerns such as:**

- \* The need to downsize staff or reduce hours due to decreased patient visits
- \* Employees who become sick or are caring for sick family members
- \* Employees who are unable to come to the office due to childcare needs
- \* Employees who are afraid to return to work
- \* Understanding the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
- \* Maximizing Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan expenditures for forgiveness

CAP, a leading provider of medical malpractice coverage for California physicians, offers these types of free webinars and resources as a service to its members. To learn more about CAP and to receive a no-obligation quote by email, please [Request a Quote](#).

For assistance and questions, please contact **Tom Mortimer** via phone at 213-473-8790 or via email at [TMortimer@CAPphysicians.com](mailto:TMortimer@CAPphysicians.com).

## Business Partner Profile

## Morgan Stanley

### Morgan Stanley's Investment & Market Perspectives

Insights into global stock markets and economic trends from Morgan Stanley's Chief Investment Officer and other thought leaders of the firm.

[https://advisor.morganstanley.com/the-m-group/investment\\_market\\_perspectives](https://advisor.morganstanley.com/the-m-group/investment_market_perspectives)

Provided Courtesy of The M Group at Morgan Stanley. Please feel free to reach out to Jim Moos at Morgan Stanley Newport Beach.

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