

Welcome to the **May 2017** 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 the OCMA Executive Director Jim Peterson

Please Welcome Katie Tomarchio to the OCMA Family

After nearly a decade of service to OCMA, Donna McPride retired on May 12th and is beginning the next chapter in her life with a move to Boise, Idaho. All of us with OCMA thank Donna for her years of service--she will be missed.



I do, however, have the great privilege to introduce **Katie Tomarchio, Director of Member Benefits**. Katie joined OCMA in late April in a newly created staff position. In addition to managing OCMA's impressive Business Partners Program, **Katie will be focusing on helping and supporting solo and small group physicians**. Katie, with the help of a solo-small group committee of physicians chaired by George Garcia, M.D., will work as a liaison between solo and small group physicians and the many benefits and services provided by our business partners, CMA and OCMA. Her goal will be providing assistance and value to this important segment of our membership.

Katie brings abundant experience to the position. She has worked in fundraising, organizational management, community relations and communications for several political consulting firms and has worked for the Republican Party at the federal, state and local levels. Originally from the East Coast, Katie now resides in Newport Beach.

"I'm very pleased to be a part of this important and viable organization," stated Katie. "I'm very honored to have this opportunity to work with physicians and their staff and to provide resources and information to help them serve their patients and manage their practice more effectively."

Please join me in welcoming Katie to the OCMA family. Katie can be reached at ktomarchio@ocma.org.

Call for Nominations

OCMA 2018

Nominate Now

Physicians of Excellence Honor

Deadline: June 1, 2017

Revision to OCMA Bylaws

Dear OCMA Membership,

The **Bylaws Committee of the Orange County Medical Association** has reviewed and updated the organization's bylaws. **The revisions have been approved** by the Board of Directors and will be **approved at the General Membership Meeting on May 25**.

The revised **Bylaws** can be found by [clicking here](#).



OC Health Care Agency Celebrates Mental Health Awareness Month

**By: Jessica Good, Public Information Officer
County of Orange Health Care Agency**

The OC Health Care Agency will celebrate **Mental Health Awareness Month** this May with a social media campaign **geared toward shining the spotlight on simple behaviors our community members can implement in their everyday lives that will positively lift the spirits of their friends, loved ones, and neighbors while simultaneously improving their own mental health and wellbeing**.

Did you know? According to a [research article](#) published in 2015 titled, "Prosocial Behavior Mitigates the Negative Effects of Stress in Everyday Life," **engaging in prosocial behavior may be an effective strategy for reducing the impact of stress on emotional functioning**.

Community members, campaign partners, and anyone interested in talking part and spreading some positivity are encouraged to follow the OC Health Care Agency on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), where they will be able to re-Tweet/share our messages throughout the month of May. All we ask that you please use the hashtag **#UpliftOC** on any Tweets/posts related to **Mental Health Awareness Month** messages, events and information to ensure we're all supporting the same campaign and using our collective efforts to make a stronger impact.



[Learn More](#)



Upholding CalOptima's Mission Amid Possible Medi-Cal Changes

There's no bigger national news in health care right now than the passage of the American Health Care Act (AHCA). But I would like to share observations that are decidedly local. After all, **CalOptima has a unique responsibility to deliver access to care for low-income people who live inside the boundaries of Orange County.**

Most basically, AHCA would enact two changes that impact CalOptima's Medi-Cal program, and both changes would start January 2020. **First, the bill would gradually wind down the Medi-Cal Expansion program**, which started in 2014 as part of the Affordable Care Act and now covers more than 234,000 people in Orange County. AHCA would effect this change in part by imposing strict rules about breaks in eligibility that could shrink the number of Medi-Cal Expansion members more readily. **Second, AHCA would reduce federal funding to states** by transitioning to a per-capita based cap model from payments based on state expenditures. This means Medi-Cal would receive a set dollar amount per person, and that amount would be lower.

California leaders have been vocal about the massive financial burden AHCA creates for our state - \$6 billion in costs in 2020, growing to \$24 billion in 2027. However, AHCA would provide some flexibility for states to make changes to their programs given the potential for budget difficulties. **Tough decisions are likely ahead as states consider ways to cut costs, such as imposing work requirements, trimming benefits or implementing co-pays.**

Still, action on AHCA is not final. Even though it passed the House, the bill must be considered by the Senate, where leaders are signaling changes might be made to the provisions.

In uncertain times and if benefits or access change, your role as a trusted health care professional supporting the health care safety net becomes that much more essential. **As we progress toward implementation of a final bill, CalOptima will work to keep our provider community informed.** In our more than 20 years of operation, this is not our first time of transition, nor will it be our last. But through it all, we have recognized the value of your partnership and intend to continue fulfilling our mission.

*Michael Schrader, CEO
CalOptima*

Make a difference by serving on a CMA Council or Subcommittee

The California Medical Association (CMA) is guided by the expertise of its members to make smart policy choices that influence CMA's positions on legislation, regulations and other changes to the health care system. **By serving on a council or subcommittee, CMA members can share their knowledge and expertise to directly affect health policy and help shape the future of medicine.**

The application process for 2017-2018 CMA council and committee positions **begins in May 2017**, with an **application deadline of June 13, 2017**. Any member of CMA may submit an application or nominate another member.

[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 has recently 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: Lee & Associates



Established in 1983, **Lee & Associates - Orange has completed some of the most significant commercial real estate transactions in Orange County history. They offer a unique combination of leadership, experience, in-depth market knowledge and negotiating expertise.**

Lee & Associates provides a broad mix of services focused on the successful acquisition, leasing, and sale of medical properties and healthcare facilities, as well as mixed-use projects, land for development, multi-tenant buildings/commercial investments. They have extensive experience representing hospitals, physician groups, private practice physicians, HMO'S, medical developers, medical REIT'S and medical investors. **Lee & Associates emphasizes strategic consultation, rather than focusing merely on the transaction, as the best path to comprehensive real estate planning. It's their client's best assurance that Lee & Associates' strategies are in sync with their goals.**

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

Lee & Associates - Orange is representing two medical office listings and is offering them for your consideration. Click on the links below for details.

<http://leeorange.net/3771-Suite-300-Sublease>

<http://leeorange.net/Lot-14>

<http://leeorange.net/817>

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