



Welcome to the **November 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.

OCMA Election Wrap-Up

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

Dear OCMA Members,

Another midterm election is behind us, and many are now considering the potential impact on the future of the Affordable Care Act, prescription drug affordability, Medicare for All, the response to the opioid crisis, and many other issues. **The election saw record midterm voter turnout** in a cycle that was **largely a referendum on healthcare and the economy**.



On the state level, Democrats performed extremely well. Although the Governor's race wasn't competitive, **Governor-elect Gavin Newsom's presence** on the ballot **assisted democratic candidates up and down the state** - walking away with a super-majority in the legislature.

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An Inaugural Address

By: Darla S. Holland, M.D., OCMA Past President

The **first week in November 2018** was especially **memorable** for the **Orange County Medical Association**. Not only did an election take place with unprecedented voter turnout, fueled largely by citizen concerns for the future of their health care, but also OCMA hosted the inaugural Women in Medicine Conference. Titled **Women in Medicine: Leading Through Change**, the conference featured addresses and discussions by some of the leading women physicians from California and the nation. **With the intent to engage, educate and inspire**, the event garnered support from **practicing physicians, medical students, high school students, women physician leaders, legislators**, and others involved in government relations. Concluding a week that resulted in **many women** assuming the **mantels of leadership in our nation**, the conference provided a framework for women physicians to do the same in our field.



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Each Mind Matters

By: Bhavana Rao, Ph.D.
Program Manager II
Children, Youth & Prevention
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County of Orange Health Care Agency

Every day, millions of people face stigma related to mental health because they or their loved ones are facing a challenge. Many of these people feel isolated and alone, going many years before receiving any help. Recognizing this, the Orange County Health Care Agency (HCA) supports the **Each Mind Matters** movement **which strives to put an end to mental health stigma**, thereby creating a community where everyone feels comfortable reaching out for the support they deserve. **The Each Mind Matters campaign is an initiative implemented by The California Mental Health Services Authority (CalMHSA), to improve mental health outcomes for individuals, families and communities.** By focusing on Stigma and Discrimination Reduction efforts, Suicide Prevention and Student Mental Health, CalMHSA's goal is to transform the community mental health system from a crisis-driven system to one focused on prevention and wellness. As part of this initiative, **HCA has participated in many collaborative activities promoting the importance of mental health awareness and suicide prevention by initiating conversations and educating the community about mental health and wellness.**

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David Ramirez, M.D., Joins CalOptima As CMO

Board-certified internist **David Ramirez, M.D., joined CalOptima as Chief Medical Officer in October.** He is charged with overseeing the medical aspects of CalOptima's four programs - Medi-Cal, OneCare Connect, OneCare and Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly - and with upholding CalOptima's longstanding commitment to quality. **He succeeds Richard Helmer, M.D., who retired in September.**



Dr. Ramirez brings a **diverse background of leadership in both clinical and health plan settings.** Most recently, he worked for a national Medicare plan for six years in positions of increasing responsibility from Medical Director to Chief Quality Officer. Prior to that, Dr. Ramirez lived for 10 years in Austin, Texas, where he cared for patients in hospitals and ambulatory care centers as a practicing physician.

"My commitment is to members and their positive health care experience," Dr. Ramirez said. **"By working with our provider partners, I will focus on ensuring that CalOptima's nearly 780,000 members have access to compassionate, coordinated care across Orange County."**

Underpinning Dr. Ramirez's clinical and management skills is a **distinguished medical education.** He earned a bachelor's degree in Human Biology from Stanford University and medical degree from Harvard Medical School. Dr. Ramirez completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Whole-Child Model Transition Date Moves to July 2019

The following is an **important update** related to the timing of the integration of California Children's Services (**CCS**) into Medi-Cal managed care, an initiative known as the **Whole-Child Model (WCM).**

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) announced its intention to implement the WCM in three phases, with **CalOptima's transition taking place in Phase 3 on July 1, 2019, six months later than originally planned with Phase 2 on January 1, 2019.**

The state has determined that more time is needed to plan the transition based on the size of our population and the structure of our delivery model. **CalOptima has nearly 13,000 CCS-eligible members, which is the largest population of the five County**

Organized Health System plans participating in the WCM. In addition, CalOptima has a unique delivery system of delegated health networks, which requires a thorough review to ensure the delegated arrangement does not impede members' access to care.

The goal of this change is to uphold the intent of the transition - creating a system of care that's integrated and easier to navigate, with robust numbers of CCS-paneled providers prepared to deliver quality care that focuses on all of a child's needs, rather than just the CCS condition. **Until WCM implementation, CCS-eligible members enrolled in CalOptima will continue to receive services for their CCS conditions through the county CCS program.**

CalOptima will be sharing more details with you in the coming weeks as we coordinate with DHCS to communicate the new implementation date to members and providers. Thank you for your continued support to ensure a successful transition.

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

HMWC CPAs & Business Advisors



HMWC CPAs & Business Advisors specialize in business strategies for **healthcare** professionals. We offer a wide range of services, including sophisticated techniques to **help your practice improve productivity, reduce costs, and maximize reimbursement:**

- * Tax Services (Planning and Preparation)
- * Financial Statement Preparation
- * Payroll Processing
- * Budget Development and Analysis
- * Quickbooks Training
- * Emergency Finance Director Services

For additional information regarding our tax/ financial services please contact **Jay Wikum**, Healthcare Partner, 714-505-9000.

Don't forget to RSVP for our presentation, **"New Tax Law and your Practice 2018"** on **November 28, 2018** at the OCMA offices. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

Connecting Practices to
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