



Welcome to the **October 2019** 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.

Message from OCMA Executive Director, Jim Peterson



CMA House of Delegates

During October 25th-27th, more than 500 delegates and alternate delegates from county medical societies, specialty and mode of practices forums and past CMA presidents gathered at the Disneyland Hotel for the **2019 CMA House of Delegates**. OCMA had more than 30 representatives attend HOD and participate in the discussion and **debate of several major issues**. Those issues included:

- * **Augmented Intelligence**
- * **Homelessness**
- * **Cannabis**
- * **Adverse Childhood Experiences**

In addition to the debate, **CMA welcomed its new officers** including **CMA President Peter Bretan Jr., MD**. Joining Dr. Bretan on the **2019-20 Executive Committee** are:

President-Elect **Lee Snook, MD**
Board Chair **Robert Wailes, MD**
Board Vice-chair **Shannon Udovic-Constant, MD**
Speaker of the House **Tanya Spirtos, MD**
Vice Speaker of the House **Jack Chou, MD**
Immediate Past President **David Aizuss, MD**

For the past many years, the location of the CMA House of Delegates alternated between Sacramento and Anaheim (Disneyland). **Beginning in 2020, Los Angeles will be the host city for HOD for the next several years.**

OCMA leadership and staff want to say **thank you to the many OCMA members** taking time out of their busy schedules **to attend and participate in the 2019 House of Delegates.**

Save the Date



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**. More information with details to come!

Preventing Infant Deaths from Pertussis

By: Julie Johnson, M.D. from Public Health Services
Family Health Clinics



In April this year, **Orange County reported its first infant death due to pertussis since 2007**. During 2018, 171 cases of pertussis were reported to Orange County Public Health, including eight cases in infants under three months of age. Seven of those eight cases (88%) required hospitalization. In only one of the eight cases had Tdap (adult tetanus, diphtheria, acellular pertussis) vaccine been administered during the third trimester of pregnancy.

Infants do not begin their pertussis vaccine series until 2 months of age leaving a significant window of vulnerability in which they can contract pertussis from family members and caregivers. **Maternal vaccination during pregnancy is 90% effective in preventing pertussis disease in children under two months of age**. Vaccination during this time stimulates production of maternal antibodies that are passed on to the infant, offering protection to the baby against pertussis during the first few months of life.

[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.

How to Mitigate the Risk of a Sexual Harassment Lawsuit Against a Medical Practice

Jehan N. Jayakumar, Founding Partner of Carlson & Jayakumar LLP, an OCMA Business Partner, recently authored an article **on steps medical practices can take to mitigate the risk of a sexual harassment lawsuit**. The article was published in San Diego Physician magazine, a publication of the San Diego County Medical Society.

The article discusses Business and Professions Code Section 726 and Business and Professions Code Section 729, two important statutes related to sexual conduct. In addition, **the article discusses the importance of a clear, zero-tolerance anti-harassment policy** in an employee handbook, and steps medical practices can take to ensure acknowledgement of its policies.

Establishing a zero-tolerance policy requires clear guidelines for sexual harassment, responsive channels for employees to report incidents of harassment, and thorough investigations, which include interviews and proper documentation.

To read the article in its entirety, visit: https://cjattorneys.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/SD_Physician_0919_v5Article.pdf

Carlson & Jayakumar LLP has a history of providing legal counsel and guidance to medical practices and providers with respect to their employment matters. To learn more, contact **Carlson & Jayakumar LLP at (949) 222-2008** or visit www.cjattorneys.com.



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