



Your TMCMS Board of Trustees takes great pride in the work they do for members and their families. Below is just a snapshot of our 2021 activities. As always, we look forward to collaborating with all of you to improve our medical society. If you have feedback for us, feel free to send us an email or attend a board meeting. Let's come together to better our profession, improve the wellbeing of the community, and celebrate the joy of practicing medicine.

Vaccination of our most Vulnerable

A priority for TMCMS in 2021 was to make sure our most vulnerable neighbors had access to vaccinations. Not only did our team vaccinate 71 unsheltered people, but we also provided basic medical care and, in some cases, life-saving interventions. This important work continues in 2022. We want to extend our great appreciation to The Olympia Free Clinic and our local outreach workers for making this work possible.

Legislative Wins

In 2021, all the WSMA/TMCMS priority bills were passed by the legislature, including the following:

- Mandating commercial insurers reimburse providers for PPE expenses
- Extending coverage and payment parity for audio-only telemedicine services
- Establishing COVID-19 liability protections
- Promoting health equity through continuing medical education

State budget writers responded to the COVID crisis and sought to foster economic recovery. The final budget did not increase taxes on physicians and funded all our priority budget items including **\$140 million for Medicaid rate increases, \$147 million for foundational public health services, \$1.1 billion to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and \$34 million for medical educational supports.**

Click here for the complete [2021 WSMA Legislative Report.](#)

Membership Events

Annual Meeting In February, we hosted our annual membership dinner and meeting (virtually, of course). Our topic was *Healing our Healers: Preventing Provider Suicide*, with keynote speaker Dr. Pamela Wible. Sponsored by Mason Health and Providence, this program honored the lives of Drs. Matthew Seaman and John Hautala, who died by suicide. Nearly 100 members attended this important event.

Legislative Update & Happy Hour In June, we hosted a 2021 legislative update and outdoor happy hour with Representative Jessica Bateman, vice chair of the Healthcare Committee and Jeb Shepard, WSMA policy director. Also in attendance was Senator Sam Hunt. It was a fun and informative event for TMCMS members.

Thurston-Mason Health Care Champions The Health Care Champions awards ceremony is in its 15th year, created to recognize the everyday heroic acts, steadfast dedication, extraordinary service and professionalism seen frequently in our community's medical offices, clinics, hospitals, emergency services and related organizations of our community. This year, we honored organizations, staff, and front-line workers that have been working tirelessly to fight the ills of the pandemic. They are:



- Keylee Marineau, Thurston County Homeless Response Coordinator
- Providence's Lisa Humphrey, Dan Donahue, Corey Nygaard & Crystal Billings
- Mason Public Health & Mason Health
- Physicians of SW WA
- The Olympia Free Clinic

CME 1: Gut Club of Southwest Washington In October, we brought to you Food as Medicine: *Diet, the Microbiome, and Metabolic Syndrome*, featuring Dr. Bruce Silverman, our local gut expert. This event was wildly popular with over 80 people in attendance. And, in partnership with Providence, **we were able to offer members 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits, free of charge.**

House of Delegates

Did you know that we have one of the most active societies in the state? We send the second most members of any society to the annual WSMA House of Delegates meeting – second only behind King County. Another robust delegation represented members this year, which took place virtually at the end of September. We presented the following resolutions, all of which were passed:

- Homelessness as a Public Health Priority
- Measures to Reduce Respiratory Illnesses
- Violence Against Asian Americans

Our delegates also took an active role in defeating harmful updates to the WSMA bylaws that would have silenced the voices of our members. [Click here for the Official Actions of the 2021 WSMA House of Delegates.](#)

Charitable Giving

We have continued to build relationships in the community with local organizations working to improve the health of the public. Through our charitable giving program, we made small donations to the following nonprofits based on your recommendations:

- Pizza Klatch
- Olympia Free Clinic
- Community Youth Services
- Quixote Village – Thurston and Mason counties

Unfortunately, we are halting this important work in 2022 so we can revamp our giving process. But don't worry. We're coming back stronger than ever in 2023!

And So Much More

Referred dozens of patients to member offices

Produced the 2021 TMCMS Membership Directory for distribution to each member

Generated twenty-four informational newsletters and/or event notifications and updates to members

Authored an op-ed which appeared in local newspapers promoting the safety and effectiveness of vaccines

Coordinated efforts on important issues with medical societies from around the state