

WHAT WE DID FOR YOU IN 2020

As we reach the end of an historic year, we want to take the moment to reflect on 2020 and thank each you for your hard work and dedication to the field of medicine during these unprecedented times. Many of you sacrificed so much and it does not go without notice.

COVID Response

When the pandemic hit, your society was at the forefront, engaging with elected officials at all levels of government. We participated in weekly discussions with the Governor's office, our Congressional delegation, and our local legislators. We signed on to letters to our elected leaders urging support for our medical practitioners and the patients they serve. We continue to help direct members to business and financial resources for their practices. And finally, we are closely monitoring the state vaccination distribution plan and are helping members navigate the process.

Legislative Wins

Although the 2020 legislature was almost completely COVID-dominated by the end of session, we still experienced many successes for our members and your practices, including:

- **Telemedicine parity**
- **Prior authorization transparency**
- **Physician Assistant practice changes**, including delegation agreements, physician/PA ratios, and the removal of remote site restrictions.



Celebrating Dr. Chelsea Unruh's 2-year term as board president at the 2020 annual meeting.

Our TMCMS trustee Dr. Eddy Cates brought the issue of health care provider credentialing to his 22nd Legislative District delegation. Sponsored by Representative Laurie Dolan, this bill requires insurance carriers in certain circumstances to retroactively reimburse for services delivered to patients during the credentialing process. Due in part to the effort of your local medical society, this bill passed and went into effect on March 17.

Click here for the complete [2020 WSMA Legislative Report](#).

Membership Events

Annual Meeting In early March, we hosted our annual membership dinner and meeting. Our topic was Access to health: Delivering meaningful care to our houseless community. Meg Martin, Executive Director of Interfaith Works, Michael Matlock, Olympia Free Clinical Director, and State Representative Nicole Macri delivered passionate and powerful messages on the importance of caring for our most vulnerable community members.



Legislative Summit & Happy Hour Our trustees and members were out in force to meet with legislators about priority bills. Afterwards, we hosted our now-annual post-summit happy hour with a record number of attendees for networking and fun!

Thurston-Mason Health Care Champions Although we were unable to have our usual ceremony, the following TMCMS members were recognized for their outstanding work:

- **Dr. Daniel Stein, Dr. Diana Yu, and Dr. Bill Gavin** - *Distinguished Service Award*
- **Dr. Stephen Snow** - *Lifetime Achievement*



Networking (and fun!) in action at the 2020 Legislative Summit Happy Hour.

House of Delegates

We had a robust delegation represent us at the annual House of Delegates meeting, which took place virtually at the end of September. We presented the following resolutions, all of which were passed:

- **Racism as a Social Determinant of Health**
- **Scope of Practice for Manipulative Techniques**
- **Decoupling Healthcare from Employment**

Our members also took an active role in providing feedback on other resolutions and offered substitute language, information for or against the resolution, and were not afraid to speak up for what they believe in. [Click here for the Official Actions of the 2020 WSMA House of Delegates.](#)

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 donations to the following nonprofits based on your recommendations:

- **Family Support Center**
- **Pizza Klatch**
- **PiPe (Partners in Prevention Education)**
- **Community Lifeline - Shelton**

In 2021, we are **committed to continuing this important work**, and we'd like to hear from you. If you have a charity or group you that you think is deserving, please let us know!

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.



Trustees Dr. Bob Lang and Dr. Chelsea Unruh, along with Senator Sam Hunt and Thurston County Auditor Mary Hall, supporting Pizza Klatch at their 2020 Gayla!