

Communicator

KMA Secures Wins for Patients and Providers During Successful 2019 Session

The 2019 Kentucky General Assembly will likely be remembered as one of the most successful 30-day sessions for the Kentucky Medical Association (KMA) in recent years. Short sessions always result in quick sprints to the finish, but it was the swift action taken by so many engaged physician members that led to KMA's success.

Prior Authorization

Senate Bill 54, KMA's top legislative priority in 2019, will take effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

The law will address a number of prior authorization issues, including enhancing access to prior authorization information, establishing one-year approvals for chronic disease medications, enhancing the review process, standardizing review times, increasing access to electronic prior authorizations and requiring insurers to post prior authorization procedures on their website and maintain a complete list of services for which prior authorization is required. It will also remove several roadblocks for patients trying to access medications and treatment and allow providers to make decisions regarding care instead of insurance companies.

KMA President Bruce Scott, M.D., traveled to Frankfort several times during the session to



Sen. Ralph Alvarado, M.D., R-Winchester, left, and KMA President Bruce Scott, M.D., testified about the importance of Senate Bill 54, KMA's top legislative priority in 2019, which addressed much-needed improvements to the prior-authorization process and removed several roadblocks for patients. *Photo courtesy of KET*

provide expert testimony on the bill, which was well-received by lawmakers. Upon its passage, Dr. Scott also published an op-ed that appeared in papers across the state.

"Our state representatives did the right thing, putting patients first and passing legislation that brings much-needed improvements to a prior-authorization process that's outdated, inefficient, and can harm patients," he said.

Tobacco-Free Schools

An exciting finish to the session was made possible by the last-minute passage of another top KMA priority, House Bill 11, which will enact a statewide tobacco-free schools law. The bill was sponsored by Rep. Kim Moser and enjoyed backing by a large number of organizations, including the Smoke-Free

(See KMA SECURES WINS, Page 10)

P2 / PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KMA President Bruce Scott, M.D., reflects on the successes of this year's legislative session and encourages members to advocate for medicine throughout the year.

P5 / FOCUS ON HEALTH

Focus on Health, KMA's patient newsletter, focuses on Hepatitis and how to help prevent it. KMA encourages you to share this information with your patients.

P8 / KMA ANNUAL MEETING

KMA and KET to collaborate for television special during 2019 KMA Annual Meeting.

P11 / MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KPLI and CCLP grad Philip Hurley, M.D., values lifelong learning and service.



President's Message

Advocacy Works

I could not be more thrilled with the results of KMA's advocacy efforts during the 2019 legislative session. In a historic win for Kentucky physicians and patients, we were able to secure the passage of Senate Bill 54, which will vastly improve the prior authorization process, as well as House Bill 11, which will enact a statewide tobacco-free schools law. While the KMA advocacy team certainly goes to the mat for us in lobbying for these vital issues, I think it's important to point out that member engagement in this arena is key to continuing such success.

I know it's been said before, but it bears repeating that advocacy can't just be confined to the weeks of the legislative session, and it isn't just about what happens in the halls of the Capitol. To be effective, advocacy must be practiced throughout the entire year.

Fortunately, members of the Kentucky Medical Association take this responsibility seriously, and frequently take time out of their busy schedules for the betterment of the practice of medicine and the health of

their patients, both in Frankfort and beyond.

For example, take KMA and the Kentucky Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC)'s public health campaign, *Focus on Flu*. Dozens of members volunteered as a part of this effort, whether through the penning of op-eds, being featured in patient-focused videos, attending community events, or contributing on social media. They are the driving force behind what has made this campaign so successful. *Focus on Flu* was highlighted on every television station in the state this past fall, and it has also allowed the Association to foster important relationships with outside organizations such as the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, the Kentucky Health Departments Association, Passport Health, Aetna, and of course, our partners in this effort, the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

While media coverage and bridge-building are certainly beneficial to a campaign like this, our true goal is of course to impact the lives of patients. A Kentucky Health Issues Poll released in December showed that *Focus on Flu* has likely had an impact across the state when it comes to vaccination rates. According to the data, more than half (54%) of all Kentuckians surveyed reported getting a flu vaccine within the last twelve months. To put that into perspective, the vaccination rate in Kentucky last year was just 41%. That is a huge increase, and is incredibly encouraging as we wrap up this flu season and begin to look forward to the next.

Public health advocacy tends to come naturally for physicians. We are healers, after all. However, many of our members took this work one step further by advocating for our profession and patients in Frankfort during the legislative session. The importance of this cannot be overstated. This year, several KMA members (myself included) testified in front of legislative committees on issues of great importance to medicine. These individuals took time away from their practices to serve as the voice for thousands of Kentucky physicians. Having been present for many of these meetings, I can't emphasize enough



how influential it is for a legislator to hear testimony directly from someone on the front lines of care. KMA is highlighting those members who advocate in such a manner with its Advocacy in Action campaign at kyma.org and on social media, and I'd encourage you to take a look at their testimonies.

The KMA has seen many advocacy successes in the last several years. But we can't rest on our laurels. Our mission as an organization is to work on behalf of physicians and patients to ensure the delivery of quality, affordable healthcare. Whether advocating for improvement through public health initiatives or on Capitol Hill, our members are indeed the key to our success. I urge you to get involved and help us continue this progress throughout the rest of 2019 and beyond.

BRUCE SCOTT, M.D.
2019 KMA PRESIDENT



Khalil Rahman, M.D., left, and KMA Past President Fred Williams Jr., M.D. during the 2019 Physicians' Day at the Capitol.

KMA PHYSICIANS' DAY AT THE CAPITOL 2019



Students from the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville medical schools were among those in attendance at the KMA Physicians' Day at the Capitol in February.



KMA Past President David Bensema, M.D., left, and KMA Board Chair Michael Kuduk, M.D., right, talk with Sen. Ralph Alvarado, M.D., center.



Physicians from around Kentucky visited the Capitol in February to meet with legislators and discuss KMA priorities in the 2019 legislative session. At left, Tuyen Tran, M.D., Bruce Scott, M.D., Monalisa Tailor, M.D., and Wayne Tuckson, M.D. Above, Frank Burns, M.D., left, and Sen. Morgan McGarvey, Photos by Emily Schott



Medical students from the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville, in photo at left, joined physicians from across Kentucky for the KMA Physicians' Day at the Capitol in February. Physicians in attendance included David Bensema, M.D., of Lexington with Robert Couch, M.D., of Louisville, center, and KMA President Bruce Scott, M.D., right, of Louisville.

KMA and Madison County Health Department Announce Partnership

In January, KMA joined forces with the Madison County Health Department (MCHD) to announce a strategic partnership that will allow the organizations to combine resources to tackle five key health issues where Kentuckians rank behind the rest of the country.

KMA and MCHD will work towards identifying solutions to barriers impacting smoking, diabetes, obesity, drug abuse and flu/pneumonia. These issues are the focus areas of KMA's *AIM for Better Care: Administrative Improvements in Medicine* initiative, which launched in early 2018.

The relationship grew from the success and visibility of KMA and the KFMC's 2018 public health campaign, *Focus on Flu*.

The partnership is the first of its kind in Kentucky between the physician association and a local public health department and will allow both groups to share research and findings and strategize solutions for patients to live longer, healthier lives.

"We are excited to partner with the Madison County Health Department and think this

represents the beginning of a very beneficial relationship for both organizations and residents of the Commonwealth," said KMA Executive Vice President Pat Padgett. "KMA members have been very active in advocating for public health issues and we look forward to advancing that work in Central Kentucky with the Madison County Health Department."



Nancy Crewe, Public Health Director for Madison County, said the partnership between physicians and the health department will be impactful. "MCHD regards our new partnership with KMA as a much-welcomed and effective way to reinforce and

amplify important public health messaging on the common focus areas we share with the *AIM for Better Care* initiative."

KMA and the MCHD will begin their work by uniting around several prevention projects that both organizations are already working on. This includes a handwashing initiative focused on flu and other disease and virus prevention, as well as a promotional campaign regarding Hepatitis Awareness Month, which is in May.

In February, the *Richmond Register* gave KMA a "Thumb's Up" for the partnership and praised "the efforts of both organizations in order to undertake the state's five key health issues. Both entities will focus on combating issues of smoking, diabetes, drug abuse, obesity and flu/pneumonia, all issues in which Kentucky falls behind nationally."



PASSPORT
HEALTH ★ PLAN



**Together, in network,
for a healthier Kentucky**

FOCUS *on health*

Physicians Caring for Kentucky

HEPATITIS A

Hepatitis A is a viral infection. It is in the family of hepatitis viruses, along with hepatitis B and hepatitis C, which may be more well known. Symptoms usually last less than two months, but in some cases can last for as long as six months.

How is it contracted/spread?

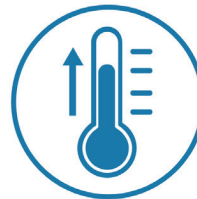
Hepatitis A usually spreads when a person unknowingly ingests the virus from objects, food, or drinks contaminated by small, undetected amounts of stool from an infected person. Hepatitis A can also spread from close personal contact with an infected person such as through sex or caring for someone who is ill.

Can it be prevented?

The best way to prevent hepatitis A is through vaccination with the hepatitis A vaccine. Practicing good hand hygiene – including thoroughly washing hands after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food – plays an important role in preventing the spread of hepatitis A.

In the United States, chlorination of water kills hepatitis A virus that enters the water supply, so you don't need to be worried about catching hepatitis A from most drinking water sources. For known areas of hepatitis A contamination, bleach water solution is recommended for cleaning. Heating to 180 degrees for one minute will kill any potential virus on contaminated food.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF HEPATITIS



FEVER



FATIGUE



NAUSEA/VOMITING



LOSS OF APPETITE



JOINT PAIN



DARK URINE



YELLOW SKIN AND EYES



CLAY-COLORED STOOL



ABDOMINAL PAIN

SOURCE: Lori A. Caloia, M.D., Medical Director, Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness

ECONOMIC IMPACT IN KENTUCKY

Nearly **50%**
of all ill adults
are hospitalized

While the exact value of the economic impact of the hepatitis A virus in Kentucky is unknown at this time, it is an expensive disease. With nearly 50% of all ill adults being hospitalized, those costs add up quickly. Couple that with the time an ill individual may spend out of work, and there are significant economic losses.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT IT?

Get vaccinated

The hepatitis A vaccine is a very effective way to protect yourself against the virus. A single hepatitis A vaccine protects almost 100% of people for up to 10 years. For lifetime protection, a second vaccine should be administered six months after the first. For those who need the hepatitis B vaccination, a combination vaccine is also available (hepatitis A-hepatitis B vaccine) that can be given in three doses, with the second dose coming one month after the first and the third dose six months after the first.

No serious side effects have been reported from the hepatitis A vaccine. Soreness at the injection site is the most common side effect reported. As with any medicine, there is always a small risk that a serious problem could occur after someone gets the vaccine. However, the potential risks associated with hepatitis A are much greater than the potential risks associated with the vaccine. Since the licensure of the first hepatitis A vaccine in 1995, millions of doses have been given in the United States and worldwide.

Wash your hands

Always wash your hands, especially before eating or making food, and after using the bathroom.

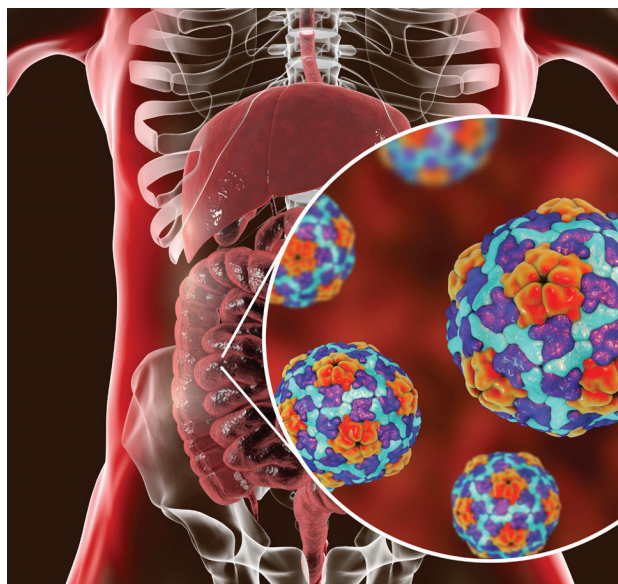


Who is at risk?

Although anyone can get hepatitis A, some people are at greater risk, such as those who:

- Travel to or live in countries where hepatitis A is common
- Have sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis A
- Use recreational drugs, whether injected or not
- Have clotting-factor disorders, such as hemophilia
- Are household members or caregivers of a person infected with hepatitis A

SOURCE: U.S. Department for Health and Human Services



Did you know?

Effective July 1, 2018, all Kentucky students in kindergarten through 12th grade must receive two doses of the hepatitis A vaccine to attend school or receive a provisional certificate of immunization (unless their parents claim an exemption).

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month

The stories and information in *Focus on Health* are for your enlightenment and enjoyment as well as to inform you of contributions being made to Kentucky life by members of the medical profession across the state. No article appearing in *Focus on Health* should be considered diagnostic. If you have questions concerning any health related issue, please talk with your physician. *Focus on Health* is published quarterly by the Kentucky Medical Association, 9300 Shelbyville Road, Suite 850, Louisville, KY, 40222. www.kyma.org

Important Legislation Regarding Licensing of Physicians



RANDEL GIBSON, D.O.
President,
Kentucky Board
of Medical Licensure

On behalf of the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure, I am pleased to report that our agency recently completed the annual renewal cycle for medical and osteopathic physicians practicing in the Commonwealth. As in past years, I am happy to report the renewal process went very smoothly this year with 17,484 physicians renewing their medical/osteopathic licenses for 2019. In the coming weeks, our staff will be finalizing a more detailed report on physician licensure data and will make it available to the KMA. In the event that a physician has allowed his/her license to lapse, they can simply contact the Board office for instructions on how to reactivate it.

This time of year also marks the annual end of the Kentucky General Assembly's legislative session, which resulted in an important piece of legislation regarding the licensing of physicians being made into law. SB 22, filed by Senator Ralph Alvarado, M.D., and signed by Governor Matt Bevin enacts the language that allows Kentucky to enter into the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC). For those not familiar with concept of an Interstate Compact, the IMLC is an agreement between 29 states and one territory and the 39 Medical and Osteopathic Boards in those states and territory. Under this agreement, licensed physicians can qualify to practice medicine across state lines within the Compact if they meet the agreed upon eligibility requirements. Approximately 80 percent of physicians meet the criteria

for this voluntary expedited pathway to licensure for qualified physicians who wish to practice in multiple states. The IMLC mission is to increase access to health care for patients in underserved or rural areas and allow them to more easily connect with medical experts through the use of telemedicine technologies. While making it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states, the Compact strengthens public protection by enhancing the ability of states to share investigative and disciplinary information. The application process is expedited by leveraging the physicians existing information previously submitted in their

“While making it easier for physicians to obtain licenses to practice in multiple states, the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) strengthens public protection by enhancing the ability of states to share investigative and disciplinary information... The Board would like to thank Sen. Alvarado for his work to make Kentucky's participation in the IMLC a reality.”

state of principal license (SPL). The SPL will verify the physician's information and conduct a fresh background check. In the coming weeks, the Board will be working with staff from the IMLC to implement the systems changes required to enact this important legislation. The Board would like to thank Sen. Alvarado for his work to make Kentucky's participation in the IMLC a reality.

In addition to legislative changes, the Board is pleased to announce it recently elected a new slate of officers to serve in leadership positions for this year. Randel C. Gibson, D.O., of Mayfield, was elected to serve as Board President. Dale E. Toney, M.D., of Lexington, was elected as Vice President and serves as Chair of the Board's Inquiry/Hearing Panel A. Sandra R. Shuffett, M.D., of Lexington, was elected to serve as Secretary and also serves as Chair of the Board's Inquiry/Hearing Panel B. The Board also has several new

members appointed by Governor Bevin and welcomed the appointment of Caren Daniels, M.D., who practices Emergency Medicine in Morehead, replacing Russell E. Travis, M.D., whose term expired. The Board also welcomed Angela Dearing, M.D., who practices Internal Medicine in Lexington, who was appointed to fill the vacancy left by C. William Briscoe, M.D., whose term expired. David Wallace, M.D., a Family Medicine physician in Shelbyville, was appointed to fill the vacancy left by Waqar A. Saleem, M.D. Finally, the Board welcomed two new consumer members to the Board, with the appointments of Kristen

Ann Turner, Esq., an attorney from Alexandria, replacing Mr. John McConnell, whose term had expired and Philip D. Williamson, Esq, an attorney from Ft. Thomas, to fulfill the remainder of the term previously held by W. Duncan Crosby III, Esq., who resigned his position. The Board would like to take this opportunity to express

its deepest appreciation to Dr. Travis, Dr. Briscoe, Dr. Saleem, Mr. McConnell, and Mr. Crosby for their years of service to the citizens of the Commonwealth and their dedication to public protection.

As always, the Board appreciates the assistance and support from the KMA. In the event that you may have a question regarding a Board matter, please feel free to contact our office at (502) 429-7150.

KMA 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Lights, Camera, Action! KMA and KET to Collaborate for Television Special During 2019 Annual Meeting

Planning is underway for an exciting and informative 2019 KMA Annual Meeting, to be held Sept. 20-22 at the Louisville Marriott East. This year's theme, *Moving Medicine: Together for Tomorrow*, will celebrate and encourage the unification of physicians around issues of importance, particularly public health advocacy.

The signature event for this year's gathering will be a one-of-a-kind television experience, with KMA members being featured in a forum-style show produced by Kentucky Educational

Television (KET). *Prescription for Health: A KET Forum* will be held on Saturday, Sept. 21 during the KMA Leadership Academy. It will include a panel of KMA physicians discussing some of the state's most pressing public health issues. It will be moderated by award-winning *Connections* host Renee Shaw, with *Kentucky Health* host and Greater Louisville Medical Society President Wayne Tuckson, M.D. interviewing additional physicians in the audience. CME will be provided, and the special will be aired across the state sometime in the fall of 2019.

Space for this event is limited, so members are encouraged to register for the Annual Meeting as soon as possible. Registration is available online at www.kyma.org/2019-annual-meeting. Hotel reservations at the Louisville Marriott East can also be made by visiting the Annual Meeting webpage.



MOVING MEDICINE

TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW

KMA 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 20 – 22, 2019

KET

Call for Resolutions

In accordance with KMA bylaws that were adopted by the 2014 House of Delegates, all resolutions being submitted for consideration during the 2019 KMA Annual Meeting must be received at KMA headquarters no later than Aug. 21, 2019. All resolutions received after the deadline will be considered new business at the House of Delegates and must:

- Show that the issue addressed by the resolution either did not exist or was unknowable until after the deadline;
- Be accepted by the House as new business with unanimous consent; and
- Acquire an affirmative vote of three-fourths of those Delegates present and voting for adoption.

Please submit your resolutions to KMA at hartz@kyma.org or by fax at 502-426-6877.

Elections – KMA House of Delegates

Sept. 22, 2019

KMA officers and trustees for the 2019-2020 Association year will be elected by the KMA House of Delegates at its meeting, Sunday, Sept. 22, during the KMA Annual Meeting at the Louisville Marriott East. A listing of positions to be filled is available at www.kyma.org/2019-annual-meeting. Email schott@kyma.org to submit a nomination.

The following positions will be filled at the September 22, 2019, KMA House of Delegates' meeting:

General KMA Officers

Term	Office	Incumbent
1 year	President-Elect	To be elected from state at large
1 year	Vice President	Dale E. Toney, M.D., Lexington
3 years	Speaker	Danesh Mazloomdoost, M.D., Lexington
3 years	Vice Speaker	Monalisa M. Taylor, M.D., Louisville

Trustees and Alternate Trustees

The KMA Bylaws provide that the Trustees and Alternate Trustees to be elected will be nominated by the Delegates of their respective Districts at the time of the Annual Meeting. It is the obligation of the Districts to communicate to the Nominating Committee their nominations at the Annual Meeting. Trustees and Alternates are elected for a three-year term, and may be re-elected once.

Term	District	Trustees	Alternate Trustees
3 years	1	** Carolyn S. Watson, M.D., Paducah	* Evelyn Montgomery Jones, M.D., Paducah
3 years	3	* Alan J. Thorner, M.D., Madisonville	* James M. Donley, M.D., Madisonville
3 years	4	* K. John Yun, M.D., Elizabethtown	* John A. Godfrey, M.D., Elizabethtown
***2 years	7	*** Vacant	*** Vacant
***2 years	9	*** Vacant	*** Vacant
3 years	12	* David L. Brabon, M.D., Wilmore	* Naren James, M.D., Stanford
3 years	14	* Jyotin V. Chandarana, M.D., Hazard	* H. Michael Oghia, M.D., Jackson

*Has served one full term (and/or partial term vacated by another Trustee or Alternate) and is eligible for another full term.

Has served two full terms and is **not eligible for re-election.

***District will serve two years to complete partial terms.

AMA Delegates and Alternate Delegates

AMA Delegates and Alternate Delegates are elected from the state at large for a term of two years. There is no limit on the number of terms they may serve. KMA has four Delegate positions and four Alternate Delegate positions to fill; all are for two-year terms.

Current AMA Delegates are David J. Bensema, M.D., Lexington; J. Gregory Cooper, M.D., Cynthiana; Bruce A. Scott, M.D., Louisville; and Donald J. Swikert, M.D., Union. Current AMA Alternate Delegates are Robert H. Couch, M.D., Louisville; Shawn C. Jones, M.D., Paducah; William B. Monnig, M.D., Edgewood; and Robert A. Zaring, M.D., Louisville.

REGISTER FOR THE KMA ANNUAL MEETING:

<https://2019kmaannualmeeting.eventbrite.com>

Questions? Call Miranda Mosley at 502-814-1393

2019 KMA Annual Meeting Capsule Schedule

Friday, September 20

- 10:00 a.m. General Registration
- 11:30 a.m. KMA Executive Committee Meeting/Lunch
- 12:00 p.m. Kentucky Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy Meeting
- 3:00 p.m. KMA Board of Trustees Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. **VIP Board Reception and Dinner**

Saturday, September 21

- 7:00 a.m. General Registration
- 8:00 a.m. KMA Reference Committee Hearing
- 7:45 a.m. Breakfast Buffet
- 8:00 a.m. Nominating Authority Open Meeting
- 8:00 a.m. - 10 a.m. Open for Nominations
- 10:30 a.m. **Kentucky Physicians' Leadership Academy**
- 10:00 a.m.-Light Breakfast and CME Sign-In Open
- 10:30 Program Begins
- 12:00 p.m.-Lunch for attendees
- 5:00 p.m. **Leadership Reception**
- 7:00 p.m. **KMA Leadership Dinner (Presidents' Installation & Awards Presentation)**

Sunday, September 22

- 7:30 a.m. General Registration
- 8:00 a.m. KMA Board of Trustees Meeting/Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Rural Caucus/Coffee and Tea
- 10:00 a.m. Lexington Medical Society Caucus/Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Greater Louisville Medical Society Caucus/Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Northern Kentucky Medical Society Caucus/Breakfast
- 12:30 p.m. KMA House of Delegates (box lunch provided)
- Following HOD: KMA Board of Trustees Reorganizational Meeting

KMA Secures Wins for Patients and Providers

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Tomorrow Coalition, of which KMA is a steering committee member.

House Bill 11 will prohibit use of

tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, by students, school personnel, and visitors in schools, school vehicles, properties, and activities by the 2020-2021 school year. The bill is estimated to protect 275,000 children and teens from cigarette smoke and vapor from e-cigarettes.

Screening and Genetic Testing

Another win for Kentucky physicians and patients came with the passage of Senate Bill 30, sponsored by Sen. Ralph Alvarado. The bill will require health benefit plans to cover any genetic tests for cancer risk that are recommended by certain providers if the recommendation is consistent with specific genetic testing guidelines published by the National Comprehensive Cancer Network or any other criteria or guidelines published by national medical societies that are determined to be relevant and reliable by the Kentucky Department of Insurance. It will also amend current state law by lowering the age eligible for colorectal cancer examination and testing coverage from 50 to 45. The law will take effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

Medical Licensure Compact

Senate Bill 22, also sponsored by Sen. Ralph Alvarado, passed favorably from both chambers and was signed by the Governor on March 25. Due to KMA advocacy, the final language does not contain the unfriendly amendments KMA opposed that were attached at one point by the Kentucky Coalition of Nurse Practitioners and Nurse Midwives (KCNPNM). The amendments were intended to expand APRN scope of practice by phasing out a requirement for advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) to have a collaborative agreement (CAPA-CS) with a physician in order to prescribe controlled substances. The final and amendment-free bill language will allow Kentucky to enter the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) and provide an expedited, multistate licensure procedure for physicians who qualify.

Successfully Defeated This Session

The KMA advocacy team also worked tirelessly to oppose several pieces of legislation that would have posed threats to Kentucky patients and the practice of medicine.

Scope of Practice

Senate Bill 132 would have expanded the prescriptive authority of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs). KMA members were instrumental in contacting their legislators to express concerns about the bill.

at www.kyma.org/advocacy-in-action/ and will also be featured on social media.

Physicians' Day at the Capitol

More than 90 physicians from across the state traveled to Frankfort on Feb. 21 for KMA's 2019 Physicians' Day at the Capitol (PDAC). The most well-attended PDAC in recent years, a majority of attendees donned their white coats, helping KMA stand out among a number of other groups who were also in Frankfort that day. The KMA advocacy team received much positive feedback



Sen. Ralph Alvarado, M.D., R-Winchester, left, and Jeff Goldberg, M.D., represented physicians during a House Banking and Insurance Committee hearing on SB30, which requires health benefit plans to cover genetic tests for cancer risk within certain guidelines. *Photo courtesy of KET*

Medical Cannabis

Legislation pertaining to the legalization of medical cannabis was successfully defeated during this session. However, KMA expects this item to be revisited in 2020 and will continue advocating for further research prior to the enactment of any cannabis legislation.

Advocacy in Action

With the books officially closed on the 2019 session, KMA has once again taken the opportunity to thank its members who helped secure so many wins for Kentucky patients and physicians. The "Advocacy in Action" initiative highlights the work of members who testified in front of legislative committees, spoke publicly regarding priority issues or generally went "above and beyond" to assist with KMA advocacy efforts. The complete listing of 2019 Advocacy in Action recognition is available on the KMA website

from members of the General Assembly on the impact of meeting face-to-face with physicians.

KMA would like to thank its membership for contributing to yet another successful legislative session. Many members signed up for KMA's new Legislative Texting Service, which allowed them to stay up-to-date and engaged with happenings in Frankfort, and countless more sent messages of support through the General Assembly's Legislative Message Line or through direct contact with their senators and representatives. These efforts certainly advanced the priorities of physicians and patients across the Commonwealth and allowed for the Association to continue moving the practice of medicine in Kentucky forward.

KMA Member Spotlight

KPLI and CCLP Graduate Philip Hurley, M.D., Values Lifelong Learning and Service



Philip Hurley, M.D., is a self-proclaimed life-long learner. "A mentor once told me, 'If you reach the point where you think you've learned it all, then it's time to retire,'" he said.

Dr. Hurley is a board certified orthopaedic surgeon who started his practice with Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine Owensboro, PSC in 1990.

He's also a graduate of two of KMA's leadership programs, the Kentucky Physicians Leadership Institute (KPLI) and the Community Connector Leadership Program (CCLP).

Already a leader in his practice and in his community, Dr. Hurley saw these programs as an opportunity to learn how to become a better leader and communicator in both areas.

His leadership roles and community involvement are extensive.

He is a Second District Alternate Trustee on the KMA Board of Trustees and serves as Co-



Haitians receive care thanks to physician volunteers like KPLI and CCLP grad Philip Hurley, M.D., who travels to Haiti with the St. Luke Foundation.

Chair of the Physical Education and Medical Aspect of Sports Committee.

He is also on the board of the Daviess County Medical Society, has served as chairman of various committees in hospitals over the years and is on the National Federation of High School Sports Medicine Advisory Committee. He has been a Cub Scout troop leader and is the sports team physician for Owensboro

High School. "I also have a full-time practice," he said with a laugh.

"If you're not going to volunteer and try to make things better, then when things are not going well, then you really shouldn't complain," Dr. Hurley said. He said a lot of people are reluctant to get involved because they're afraid they may wind up being stuck running something. "If you tell me your participation doesn't matter, you're wrong," he said. "I friend of mine has a saying, 'If you think you're too small to make a difference, you've never spent the night with a mosquito in your bedroom.'"

"Most physicians are blessed with the ability to solve problems," he said. "That's what we're doing every day with our patients. That should give us enough experience to get involved."

He credits the KPLI program with expanding his network and helping him get to know the KMA staff. "We met people from government and healthcare businesses related to the delivery of medicine," he said. "That fact alone made (KPLI) worthwhile." Now when he faces a problem, he says he knows who to contact.

"It's affected lots of areas in my career," he said. "I used a lot of the ideas we were exposed to in simply managing my day-to-day practice and in my interactions with hospital administrators."

When it comes to physician burnout, Dr. Hurley is no exception. "I think a lot of us don't recognize it when we have it," he said. The 2010 earthquake in Haiti was his wakeup call. "It afforded me to opportunity to focus only on patient care and to not have to deal with all of the rest of the mind-numbing aspects of modern health care delivery," he said.

He arrived in Haiti ready to assist a week after the earthquake. "By then, there were a lot of wounds you could have done wound salvage in the U.S., but we were in a hospital that was running off of a generator with exhausted supplies," he said. "The first two trips I made, amputations were the most common operation."

His first trip was a life-changing experience. "It was something I wished I would have experienced much earlier in life—just the opportunities never presented themselves," he said. "It's a classic example of it's more

blessed to give than receive."

He has since made 20 medical mission trips to Haiti over the past 19 years. Now, his work involves mostly primary and secondary fracture care. He also helps train residents who are responsible for follow-up care.

Dr. Hurley travels to Haiti with the St. Luke Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides healthcare, education, and humanitarian outreach to the least served populations.



KPLI and CCLP grad Philip Hurley, M.D., has made 20 medical mission trips to Haiti, providing primary and secondary fracture care and training residents.

He said they're in need of donations, supplies and volunteers. "Any medical professional in any specialty can go, not just physicians," he said. "Physical therapists, nurses, occupational therapists, nurse practitioners, surgery techs, and people who deal with artificial limbs are especially needed."

"In the U.S., everyone who works for St. Luke is a volunteer," he said. "Ninety-eight percent of your donation will go to Haiti to pay for the Haitian providers and hospital staff, supplies used in the hospitals and the operating rooms."

To learn how you can be involved, visit <http://www.stlukehaiti.org/>

In his spare time, Dr. Hurley owns land that he likes to use for camping, hunting, fishing and cookouts. "I do a lot of the maintenance work, which I really enjoy, because it's relatively stress-free compared to the practice of medicine," he said.

To learn more about the CCLP program, contact Emily Schott at schott@kyma.org. To learn more about the KPLI program, contact Miranda Mosley at mosley@kyma.org.



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