



# TULSA MEDICINE

Tulsa County Medical Society | A Newsletter for the Medical Community

July 2023



**Wishing Everyone a  
Safe and Happy 4th of  
July!**

We hope you have a great  
2023 summer.

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# TULSA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY PRESIDENT'S LETTER



**TULSA COUNTY  
MEDICAL SOCIETY**  
Physicians Advancing Health Care

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Here it comes, y'all....the HEAT!! Welcome to Oklahoma!!

July is typically one of our hotter months and for those of you who have recently moved to the area to begin new careers and to start residency, we wish to welcome you to our version of "Sun-Kissed".

For those of you reading this and starting your first year of residency, welcome to the worlds of "is that correct?" and "is that all?" You will be spending these next few years putting into practice many of the principles that you have learned over the past four years. Can you do it? Why, yes you can! Getting to this point in your training certifies that you have what it takes and that you are already successful – now walk in that truth and work your way into becoming the best physician that any patient could ever hope to have. If you should stumble along the way (as we all have), regain your footing and proceed on your path because that is the only way to get to the finish line. Your attending physicians are your allies and your cheerleaders because we recognize that your success directly determines our future. The Tulsa County Medical Society is here to help support and uplift you as you make your way on this journey. Congratulations!

We have wrapped up our 2023 Legislative season where we and the Oklahoma State Medical Association successfully lobbied and fought for a \$30M state appropriations bill to help pay for the connection fees associated with the statewide Health Information Exchange. These funds will help defray the costs for healthcare providers who must participate in this mandate. Thank you for your phone calls and for reaching out to your representatives in order to help achieve this goal.

The OSMA has been successful in so many efforts aimed at protecting physicians and allowing us to practice evidence-based medicine professionally and without underhanded oversight. Please take some time to read the newsletters that are periodically sent regarding the work that they are doing on our behalf and the opportunities for CME.

For those of you who were able to join us for our Drillers Night, thank you for coming out to fellowship with one another and with the TOMS group. If you missed it this year, fret not. Hopefully, we will be able to co-host again next year. The TCMS Foundation is working on member appreciation activities for the fall so stay tuned.



**Sharon C.  
Smallwood, M.D.**  
TCMS President

The summer is a great time for relaxing, grilling, and socializing. July is a month recognized annually for these things as most vacations occur during this month. If you are traveling, travel safely. If you are spending time at the beach, wear that sunscreen. If you are just taking time off to relax, enjoy!

The start of this month concludes the first half of my role leading TCMS. It has been a pleasurable learning experience as I have been afforded the opportunity to meet so many talented individuals who have helped craft the medical landscape in our community. I have also appreciated the value of "checking in". Sometimes we are so busy that we forget to check on others and on ourselves. So, please remember to reach out to your friends and colleagues and let them know that you are thinking about them. We have technology now, so you can send a quick message that does not have to be filled with fluff or mush. Just a quick, "Hey, I was thinking about you and hope all is well" can be the text that changes the course of someone's life. Be that friend...

Sharon Smallwood, MD  
2023 TCMS President

*"Living your best life also means giving your best you."*



# HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE (HIE) RESOURCES

The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) recently established an [UPDATED set of guidelines](#) regarding various types of HIE exemptions that can be provided for physicians who may not need to be included. In addition, OHCA has updated the exemption form and is requiring providers who have previously requested an exemption to complete the UPDATED form.

## HIE Begins July 1, 2023

Do You Need an Exemption? [Click Here for More Details](#)

If you need an HIE exemption, please review the most UPDATED guidelines and submit an [exemption request](#) using the UPDATED form if you do not fall under one of the broad-base exemption options for both transmitting data and utilizing the health information exchange.

**UPDATE: What Will This Cost?** *For those physicians with a compatible EMR, there should be no additional costs. For those contracting directly with MyHealth, costs could be up to \$5,000 for initial setup. The Legislature has appropriated \$30 million to fund these costs. We have been told OHCA plans to pay MyHealth directly and that physicians will not be required to pay for the initial setup and then be reimbursed. However, as of this writing, OHCA has not put out anything officially saying how this process will be handled.*

Please note that if you completed an exemption request previously, you must also submit the updated form. Requests will not be processed as the UPDATED form must be submitted. If you have questions about the exemption process or forms, please contact OHCA at [OKSHINE@okhca.org](mailto:OKSHINE@okhca.org).

To help physicians better understand Oklahoma's HIE program, [OSMA has developed a FAQ](#).

### OKSHINE On-Demand Webinar

FREE to OSMA Members (Click Image Below)  
Recorded 3/29/2023



The Oklahoma State Medical Association  
presents  
**OKSHINE: What You Need to Know About Oklahoma's HIE Requirements**

On-Demand CME

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## July 4, 2023

Happy Independence Day from TCMS, TCMS Foundation, and Project TCMS. Our offices will be closed Tuesday, July 4th.



*"Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth."*  
- George Washington

## July 12, 2023

TCMS Board Meeting at TCMS - 6 PM

## July 12, 2023

Putting the PRODUCTIVE in Reproductive  
10:00 AM to Noon  
The Sun Building 907 S. Detroit Ave Tulsa  
OK 74120 - [Click Here](#) for more info

## July 18, 2023

OSDS Regular Scheduled Series  
Amelia's Wood Fired Cuisine - 5:30 PM  
RSVP to [jocetta@tcmsok.org](mailto:jocetta@tcmsok.org)

## September 14, 2023

SAVE-THE-DATE - Project TCMS and TCMS  
Member Appreciation Day at the Tulsa Zoo  
*More details to come*

## September 29 - October 1, 2023

District VII 2023 Annual District Meeting  
2023 theme, Your Best You: Succeeding at  
Life and Work  
Tulsa, Oklahoma  
Stay tuned for more details, including  
registration and exhibiting opportunities!  
If you have questions, send them to  
[district7@acog.org](mailto:district7@acog.org)

## PROPER PRESCRIBING VIRTUAL CME

Friday, July 21, 2023; Noon - 1 PM  
Friday, September 15, 2023; Noon - 1 PM

*To sign up or for more information, contact  
Sandy Deeba, 405-601-9571*

\*Signed into law in 2018, Oklahoma's Senate Bill 1446 mandates that all physicians complete one hour of CME in pain management per year. To help Oklahoma's physicians better understand how this new law impacts their practice and patients, the Oklahoma State Medical Association is hosting special CMEs in Oklahoma City and Tulsa. This one-hour event offers insight to the legal issues affecting pain management and an overview of the new laws connected with prescribing opioids to patients. All Oklahoma physicians with a DEA license are required to take this one hour course annually.

## TULSA DRILLERS NIGHT A SUCCESS

Thank you to all those who attended our 2nd Annual TCMS Drillers Night! Members, Residents, Medical Students, and Life Members enjoyed a fun and exciting Night at the Drillers on May 27. We thank the Tulsa Osteopathic Medical Society for joining us as well.



## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS OPEN JULY 1

Tulsa County Medical Society Foundation is now receiving applications from eligible medical students for its 2023-2024 Scholarship Awards. Visit <https://www.tcmsok.org/scholarship-program> or click the link below to apply.

To be eligible, students must be in good standing and enrolled in their 2nd, 3rd or 4th year (in the 2023-2024 academic year) at OU School of Community Medicine-Tulsa or OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine-Tulsa. Applications must be received by Monday, August 31st.

Scholarship awardees will be recognized at the TCMS Annual Meeting in November.

[Click Here to Apply](#)

For 100 years, the Oklahoma Medical Board has promoted the Health, Safety and Well-being of the citizens (patients) of Oklahoma by requiring high levels of qualifications, standards and continuing education for regulated medical licenses.

We take pride in our agency's ability to ensure that qualified healthcare professionals are available to the citizens of this state.



Learn more about our purpose and vision at [www.okmedicalboard.org](http://www.okmedicalboard.org)





# IN MEMORIAM



## **John Edward Kauth, MD**

November 9, 1929 - June 8, 2023

TCMS Member 1959 (64 Years)

John "Jack" Kauth, 93, died June 8, 2023 peacefully at home surrounded by family members. Jack was born November 9, 1929 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, to the late Harold

and Clara (Stallman) Kauth. Jack graduated from the University of Minnesota undergraduate and medical schools and went on to complete his residency in Radiology in Baltimore, Maryland.

Jack and his family then moved to Tulsa, where he had lived for the past 64 years. Jack helped establish the Radiology Department at St.

Francis Hospital and practiced there for over 40 years. Since retirement, he has been a dedicated volunteer at Xavier Clinic and enjoyed playing the area golf courses with family and friends. He will be remembered as a good husband, father and physician.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Beverley; son, Michael; grandson, Matthew; and sister, Mary Eileen Chambers. He is survived by his sons and daughters-in-law, David and Pat Kauth, Bixby, and Thomas and Dian Kauth, Dallas; daughters and sons-in-law, Susan and David Ruen, Mason City, Iowa; Ann and Terry Russell, Tulsa; and Mary and Brent Brown, Melissa, Texas; 14 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren, the latest born just a few days ago on June 6th; and many nephews and nieces. Friends are contributing in his memory with donations to: Xavier Clinic, 10711 E. 11th St., Tulsa, OK 74128.



## **William J. "Bill" O'Meilia, MD**

January 2, 1922 - June 4, 2023

TCMS Member since 1952 (71 Years)

William J. "Bill" O'Meilia, MD, age 101, passed from this life on June 4, 2023, in Tulsa,

OK. Bill was born on January 2, 1922, in Chicago, Ill., to William Edmund and Georgene Sylvia (Lauferweiler) O'Meilia. After graduating from Tulsa Central High School in 1940, Bill attended St. Edward's University in Austin, Tex., graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1944. That same year, he married Dolores Marie Bohn, whom he met at St. Edward's.

From an early age, Bill wanted to become a doctor like his uncle, John Lauferweiler, so he applied and was accepted to St. Louis University School of Medicine in St. Louis, MO, earning a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1946. Bill returned to Tulsa, where he began an internship and residency at St. John Hospital. But duty called, and from 1948 to 1950 Bill and his young family lived in Germany, where

he served as Captain 1st Class in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. After returning to Tulsa, Bill completed his residency at St. John Hospital in 1951 and began private practice in Internal Medicine with Rayburn Goen, MD. During Bill's 60 years of practicing medicine, he served as St. John Hospital's VP of general staff (1958) and both chairman and vice chairman of the Dept. of Internal Medicine (1962). He also served as Chief of Staff at Saint Francis Hospital in 1967. After retiring from private practice in 1989, he worked as Associate Director of the Oklahoma State Medical Association Health Professionals Recovery Program until 2006.

Bill is survived by his seven children, Anne Talley and husband, Mack, Patrick O'Meilia, Kathleen Mahaffay, Michael O'Meilia and wife, Mary, Kevin O'Meilia and wife, Cheryl, Sharon O'Meilia, Denis O'Meilia; 21 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. Bill was preceded in death by his loving wife of 59 years, Dolores; and his three brothers, Raymond, Rolly and Jay. Bill and Dolores were dedicated, lifelong Catholics and founding members of the Church of Saint Mary. In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to Catholic Charities, Doctors Without Borders, Meals on Wheels, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



## **James Allen Rodgers, MD**

September 1, 1951 - May 17, 2023

TCMS Member since 1990 (34 Years)

Dr. James Allen Rodgers was born September 1, 1951. He completed his medical school prerequisites at the University of Tulsa in 1972, where he was a part of the Delta

Omega Chapter of Sigma Chi. He graduated with honors from the University of Oklahoma Medical School in 1976 before becoming a renowned neurosurgery specialist in eastern Oklahoma. Later in life, Dr. Rodgers received the Significant Sig Award in 2022.

After completing his internship and residency in neurosurgery in 1981, he opened a solo practice in Muskogee, Oklahoma, returning to Tulsa in 1989. In his solo practice, he focused on cervical and lumbar spine problems. One of the founders of Tulsa Spine and Specialty Hospital,

Dr. Rodgers had nearly 50 years of diverse experience in neurosurgery, touching many lives with his admirable surgical skill, caring personality, and love for rock & roll in the surgical gallery, where he gained his vastly known nickname "Doc Roc." He is known by all as a great surgeon, a good father, a loving husband, and a man whose indelible legacy includes revitalizing the legendary Cain's Ballroom and founding one of Oklahoma's most successful physician-owned hospitals.

Dr. Rodgers leaves behind his wife, Patsy; two sons, Chad and Hunter Rodgers and their mother, Alice; daughter-in-law, Alison Rodgers; two granddaughters, Maryn and Marlee; sister, Paula Patterson; stepdaughters, Amanda and Taylor; and stepgrandchildren, Dawsen, Sawyer, and Rowan. His family and friends will remember him for his radiant personality, contagious smile, and kind heart. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Dr. James A. Rodgers Memorial Scholarship with the Sigma Chi Foundation, Tulsa Boys Home, or Boy Scouts of America Troop 153 in Tulsa.

*Our deepest sympathies and condolences to the friends and family of these members.*



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Tulsa County Medical Society

5315 S. Lewis Avenue

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**You chose a path to care for others.**

We're here to protect and defend you every step of the way.



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