

TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF LONG TERM CARE PHYSICIANS
Supporting Quality Care for the Nation's Most Vulnerable Seniors
May 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am proud to serve as your president, representing the interests of long term care physicians. I interact with many SNFists - physicians who have a career focused on long-term care practice. They are an enthusiastic and caring group of colleagues. It is no secret that patients are increasingly referred to post-acute care settings with greater and greater medical needs. Providing appropriate care for these individuals and ensuring smooth transitions back to the community are a national priority. Join with me in helping to promote quality care for this important patient population. Ralf Habermann, MD, CMD

AMDA ANNUAL CONFERENCE REPORT

The Tennessee Association of Long Term Care Physicians was well represented at the 2018 Annual AMDA – Society for Post-Acute and Long Term Medicine Conference in Grapevine, Texas in March with dozens of TN physicians in attendance. AMDA is committed to educating all healthcare professionals working in LTC regarding value-based purchasing and new models of care across the continuum and new quality metric reporting tools. Jim Powers is a member of the Transitions of Care Guideline Update Committee. Re-elected to office: Ralf Habermann, TALTCP President, and Jim Powers, General Secretary/Treasurer TGS/TALTCP.

TRI-MED-18

We invite and encourage you to make plans to attend the TMA-TriMED 18 Education Summit at Music City Center, Nashville on Saturday, September 15. TMA will offer many hours of CME programming. TGS/TALTCP will host a geriatrics track focused on transitions of care. The Tennessee ACP Chapter will also be presenting on perioperative care, diabetes and antibiotic stewardship. There will also be special presentations on pain and opioid management by the Tennessee Pain Society. We hope to have a successful program matching the attendance of 57 in 2017 who attended the palliative care weekend hosted in collaboration with Alive Hospice.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our balance stands at \$5919, with 49 members. Annual expenses are \$5510. TALTCP/TGS membership has voted to donate \$500 to AMDA's Educational and Research Foundation to fund scholarships for fellows and residents to attend the Futures Educational Program in LTC Medical Direction.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 2018 federal budget renewed the Older Americans Act with an approximately 7% increase over FY 2017, enhancing food assistance and elder abuse programs, and the State Health Insurance Program which helps individuals in obtaining Medicaid as well as assisting low income individuals with Medicare Part B payments. Tennessee's 110th General Assembly had several regulatory decisions impacting medical care. The Governor's Tennessee Together Initiative limits initial opioid prescription fills to 5 days. Medical cannabis failed efforts to promote legalization. The legislature imposed work requirements as a condition for enrollment for all "able-bodied" TennCare recipients without young children. The legislature determined not to expand TennCare, the state's Medicaid program, leaving some 300,000 Tennesseans without health insurance, with Tennessee remaining at 46th in the nation with regard to the overall health status. A Chancery Court Elder Trust Settlement granted a total of \$35 million over a 3 year period for direct funding for Tennessee seniors in four areas: 1) dental care, 2) transportation assistance, 3) legal needs, and 4) housing modification.

Tennessee Association of Long Term Care Physicians
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TENNESSEE GERIATRICS SOCIETY
Improving the Quality of Life and Medical Care to Older Tennesseans
May 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The American Geriatrics Society continues to promote the advancement of geriatrics in our country and remains an organization over 6000 strong . The value of geriatric care models has never been more evident as we transition to value-based healthcare. We are pleased to continue to promote the growth of our field, providing representation on the AGS Council of State Affiliates, and guiding training programs for healthcare professionals including specialty training for Geriatrics Fellowship. James Powers, MD, CMD

AGS ANNUAL MEETING

Tennessee was well represented at the annual AGS Meeting in Orlando in May. There were many sessions on best practices and a pre-view of the next Beers update on potentially inappropriate medications. This year marks the retirement of two major supporters of geriatrics in the Veterans Administration, Richard Allman, Chief Consultant , Geriatrics and Extended Care, and Ken Shay, Chief of Geriatric Programs. Both the Oregon and Western Pennsylvania Geriatric Societies were honored for their growth in membership fostered by partnering with community organizations and hosting educational meetings for clinicians. TGS is one of the old the state affiliates, starting in 1986.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our balance stands at \$9448, with 31 members. Annual expenses are \$2183. Please help support your organization and our dues paying members by sending in your dues today.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The US healthcare system is undergoing a value—based transformation. Value-driven healthcare has three goals: to improve access to healthcare by increasing healthcare insurance coverage, to improve the patient's experience and quality of care, and to slow the rate of increase in healthcare costs. The Affordable Care Act remains in force largely due to the desire of most Americans to have affordable health insurance. In 2019 the individual mandate requiring health insurance will be retired, with uncertain effects on the health insurance market. Many factors affect access to health insurance and consumer cost including level of deductibles, limits on insurance profits, mandatory uniform health benefits coverage, and exclusion of pre-existing conditions. Regardless of structural modifications of government financing of healthcare, value-based purchasing for healthcare is likely to remain a constant feature of the healthcare horizon, driving quality metrics which are publicly reported and serving as important levers for changes in healthcare delivery. There is evidence that the rate of growth in healthcare costs has slowed, and that a number of quality metrics are improving: decline in the 30-day rehospitalization rate, improved control of diabetes and hypertension, and fewer hospital-acquired infections. More patient engagement and increased participation in one's own care could also help improve population health status.

TENNESSEE GERIATRICS NEWS

The Tennessee Advance Directive Coalition, which includes the Tennessee Medical Association, the Tennessee Hospital Association, and the Tennessee Department of Health supports Tennesseans in discussing their choices for care at the end of life. The coalition marked National Healthcare Decision Day, April 16, 2018. Many activities were held including employee health fairs at Tennessee hospitals, press announcements by the Health Department, and a proclamation by the Governor.

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