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IMAGes

December 15, 2019

Congratulations to the 2019 IMA Foundation Program Award Winners!

The Idaho Medical Association Foundation grants awards to support Idaho medical education and residency training as well as to support other activities to recruit and encourage physicians to practice in Idaho. The IMA Foundation is a 501(c)3 arm of the Idaho Medical Association.

The awards are based on the following criteria:

- **Background:** Adequate experience, knowledge, and qualifications to perform in accordance with Foundation goals
- **Commitment to Idaho:** Demonstrated commitment to Idaho, including years in the state, where headquartered and mission specific to Idaho
- **Commitment to Underserved:** The extent to which the program focuses on bringing services and solutions to Idaho's rural and/or medically underserved populations
- **Budget:** The extent to which the budget and justification align with Foundation goals
- **Scope of Proposal:** The extent to which the scope of the proposal fulfills Foundation goals, meets an Idaho healthcare need, and does so in a fiscally sound manner

On behalf of IMA Foundation President Keith Davis, MD and the members of the IMA Foundation Board, congratulations to the following award winners:

Ada County Medical Society

FMRI Nampa

Idaho WWAMI

ISU Family Medicine Residency

UW Psychiatry, Idaho Track

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IMA seeks IMAGes articles written by YOU!

New look, same protection.

- Serving the professional liability needs of physicians since 1975
- No profit motive and low overhead
- Vastly superior dividend policy



[Learn more](#)

IMA would like to feature articles from physician members and highlight those members who are making a difference in Idaho. If you would like to write an article for consideration or want to feature yourself or a colleague, please email IMA Communications Director Amika Empey at amika@idmed.org for more information.

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The Idaho Medical Association Welcomes New Members

A warm welcome to these physicians who have recently joined the IMA:

Mara Additon, MD, General Surgery, Pocatello
John J. Burk, DO, Pediatrics, Twin Falls
Jorge De Amorim Filho, MD, General Surgery, Pocatello
Peter L. Duffy, MD, Cardiovascular Disease, Meridian
Scott G. Erpelding, MD, Urology, Boise
Ping W. Fisher, MD, Internal Medicine, Meridian
Edward A. Lisenbey, MD, Emergency Medicine, Emmett
Eric J. Lyall, MD, Emergency Medicine, Boise
Travis S. Marshall, MD, Emergency Medicine, Boise
Joshua Martin, DO, Emergency Medicine, Boise
Sarah J. McDaniels, MD, Emergency Medicine, Boise
Katrina McKellips, DO, Family Medicine, McCall
Timothy B. Neuschwander, MD, Orthopedic Surgery, McCall
Camilla M. Reese, MD, Infectious Diseases, Nampa
Matthew Schreiber, MD, Emergency Medicine, Boise
Zachary J. Shaub, DO, Emergency Medicine, Boise
Brodi Smith, DO, General Surgery, Idaho Falls
Drew D. Thomas, MD, Ophthalmology, Coeur D Alene
James F. Thomson, MD, Family Medicine, Emmett
Jeremy P. Toomey, MD, Hand Surgery, Boise
Michael F. Walton, MD, Psychiatry, Boise
J. Tyrell Webb, DO, Pediatrics, Idaho Falls
Matthew Wilson, MD, Family Medicine, Nampa
Brian S. Wong, MD, Pediatrics, Meridian

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AMA 2019 Annual Conference Update

The AMA Interim meeting was recently held in San Diego, California; November 15-19, 2019. In attendance from Idaho were IMA's CEO, Susie Pouliot; IMA Board President, Beth Martin, MD; President-Elect, Joe Williams, MD; AMA Delegate, Patrice Burgess, MD; Alternate Delegate, Keith Davis, MD; and Young Physician Section Delegate, Sheev Dattani, MD.

IMA representatives participated in the PacWest caucus as well as other caucuses that pertained to their specialties, a variety of educational sessions and workshops, and the reference committees and House of Delegates, where the AMA policy is set. In recent years, the AMA has pared its focus in recent years to 3 main areas: Advancing Medical Education, Public Health Issues, and Promoting the Sustainability of Medical Practice. Some key areas of recent AMA activity include: the surprise medical bill issue, improving Medicare physician payment, regulatory relief, the opioid epidemic, immigrant health, women's health care, drug price transparency, and health equity.

At this meeting, delegates debated resolutions regarding studying the effects of marijuana, veteran's courts, telemedicine and digital health issues, vaping concerns, safety/training around school resource officers, helping residents displaced by hospital closures, continued options for addressing drug costs,

issues around prior authorization, and even childcare at AMA meetings, among many other issues.

The current AMA President is Patrice Harris, MD, a child psychiatrist from Atlanta, Georgia, who has been very active. Dr. Harris speaks across the country about issues that are important to physicians. The AMA is the largest organization of American physicians and all states and major specialties are represented in the House of Delegates. Please take the time to review the [AMA website](#) for more details and consider joining, if you are not already a member. Your IMA delegates are happy to provide more information if you are interested in AMA.

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Comment in Support of Idaho's IMD Waiver

Idaho's final Medicaid waiver has been submitted; the public comment period is now open for Idaho's IMD (Institutions of Mental Disease) waiver.

If approved, the IMD waiver would allow institutions in Idaho with more than 16 beds to receive Medicaid reimbursement for treatments. Currently larger institutions cannot access these Medicaid funds, allowing them to do so would increase the amount of patients with mental illness and substance use disorder who can be treated, and save Idaho counties money.

To learn more and comment in support of the proposal, visit bit.ly/IMDWaiverComment

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MAT Waiver Training

Do you want to be able to treat patients with opioid use disorder but don't know where to get free training? Look no further!

Free MAT Waiver Training: Hosted by ECHO Idaho

Tuesday, February 25, 2020 and Tuesday, September 22, 2020, 12:30 - 5 p.m. MT

Earn your MAT waiver to prescribe and dispense buprenorphine in this two-part training.

- Live 4-hour seminar using video conferencing
- Online modules you complete on your own

Join with Zoom video conferencing from anywhere in the state! Participants must be able to join using a webcam.

The training is for physicians, advanced nurse practitioners (NP, CNS, CNM, and APRN), physician assistants, and anyone interested in auditing the training. The training will be led by Magni Hamso, MD and Todd Palmer, MD of Boise. Both portions of the training are free and approved for CE credits based on your professional designation.

For more specific details, along with RSVP information, visit <https://www.uidaho.edu/academics/wwami/echo> and click on MAT Training. Questions? Contact Kayla Blades at echoidaho@uidaho.edu or 208-364-4569.

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Fewer People From Rural Backgrounds Are Becoming Doctors

Fewer than 5% of medical school graduates in recent years were from rural backgrounds, according to a new study.

Students from rural areas are more likely to return there to practice medicine, but a lack of these graduates could spell a continued shortage of rural physicians down the road. Researchers found that the number of graduating medical school students from rural backgrounds decreased by 28% between 2002-2017.

In 2016 and 2017, rural students made up only about 4% of the whole medical student population in the U.S., the smallest share in the 16-year study period. At the same time, the proportion of doctors from urban areas grew by 35%. Rural students often have lower MCAT scores and other disadvantages, so encouraging medical schools to take a more holistic approach to admissions could help recruit more rural students to medicine, the authors suggest. [STAT, Shraddha Chakradhar]

To see the full Health Affairs study, visit bit.ly/RuralStudentsStudy.

The IMA strongly advocates for Graduate Medical Education in Idaho. Studies like this underscore the need for development and expansion of GME programs to provide in-state options for Idaho trainees in order to address the physician shortage in our state. Physicians are much more likely to practice medicine near the location of their residency training program.

In 2017, IMA worked with State Board of Education to develop a 10-year strategic plan for growing residency seats. We had great success in securing funding for the first two years of the plan. Now, IMA is already working with the Idaho legislature to ensure the third year of funding for this plan in 2020.

To donate to the IMA Foundation, which gives contributions to Idaho medical students, residents and medical training programs, visit bit.ly/GiveToFoundation

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AMA Update on Surprise Billing Legislation in Congress

On December 11, the House Ways and Means Committee issued an outline of that panel's bipartisan proposal for addressing surprise medical bills. Some of the outline details are vague. Nonetheless, direct conversations and written material signal that the committee's approach offers improvements over the recently issued agreement reached between the House Energy & Commerce Committee and the Senate Health, Labor, Education, and Pension (HELP) Committee.

Like other proposals, the Ways and Means plan would limit patients' out-of-pocket costs to the amounts they would have owed if they had the opportunity to choose in-network physicians and facilities to provide their care.

An independent dispute resolution (IDR) system is also included. However, unlike other proposals, Ways and Means does not restrict IDR to claims above a certain threshold amount, nor does it establish a payment benchmark based on in-network payment amounts.

Price and network transparency provisions and protections for patients whose provider networks change during the plan year are also included. Uninsured or cash-paying patients would also have access to IDR if they are given misleading cost information prior to obtaining services.

After the outline was released, Committee chair Richard Neal (D-MA) and Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX) both affirmed their commitment to advancing a balanced approach to address surprise billing early next year, noting that the issue is too complex and important to rush through Congress prior to the holiday recess.

The AMA and IMA will continue to work to shape surprise billing legislation and keep members updated on this issue.

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Walmart Delays EPCS Mandate

Walmart previously announced that it would require electronic prescribing for controlled substances (EPCS) for all controlled substances as of January 1, 2020, with no exceptions. The AMA and multiple medical societies opposed the mandate, urging a delay due to the likelihood for patient harm and how the Walmart policy did not comport with state or federal law.

Walmart now says it will delay its EPCS mandate.

"We recognize not all provider networks and prescribers will have the technology and systems in place to accommodate this requirement, so we will continue to take written prescriptions so patients are not unintentionally negatively affected by this process," Walmart spokeswoman Marilee McInnis said in a statement to USA TODAY.

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Renew Your IMA Membership for 2020!

To renew your membership online, go to www.idmed.org, hover over the “Membership” tab, then click “Join/Renew”. Login using your email. From your member portal, you can view and pay your 2020 membership dues. (Every member has a member profile, please do not recreate yours.) For assistance, please contact our Membership Department at 208-344-7888 or membership@idmed.org.

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2020 IMA Webinar Education Series

Mark your calendars for IMA's 2020 Education Series!

Join us in 2020 for guidance on current coding and reimbursement issues

[Visit idmed.org to register](http://idmed.org)

American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) approval pending

Upcoming courses include:

Jan 22 - Challenges and Changes Series (January): First quarter updates including managing denials and writing effective appeals (1 CEU)

Feb 19 - Medicare Wellness, Illness and Care Management Visits: Reviewing documentation and billing requirements for each service (1 CEU)

March 18 - Risk Management: Documentation risks as identified by a liability carrier. Guest Speaker Kathy Kenady with MIEC (1 CEU)

View the full list of 2020 courses at idmed.org

Value-Based Purchasing for Idaho Medicaid

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare (IDHW), Division of Medicaid is requesting information from physicians related to continuing to transform the Idaho Medicaid program from one that pays for the volume of services delivered to one that pays for value by incenting and rewarding positive health outcomes for our participants. This is a request for information only, not a solicitation. No award will be made based upon the information received from this Request for Information (RFI).

View the full RFI and questions here: bit.ly/ValueBasedPurchasingIDHW

If you are interested in providing any of the information requested in this RFI, please submit your written response by close of business January 3rd, 2020 to MedicaidVBP@dhw.idaho.gov

Hard Copy Responses:

Value Based Payment Request for Information

Idaho Dept of Health & Welfare, Division of Medicaid

P.O. Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0009

Telephone: (208) 364-1804

* Responses will only be accepted by e-mail or hard copy*

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IMA Holiday Office Closure

Please note: The IMA office will be closed December 23-27 and January 1. The IMA wishes you a safe and happy holiday season!

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Medical Practice Opportunities

Family Practice/OB Provider Opportunity with Valor Health, Emmett, ID

Valor Health is looking for a positive, energetic provider to join our strong team who will be engrained in rural community and practice full spectrum Family Practice from clinic, hospitalist, OB/C-section trained, and managing inpatient/swing bed patients. For more information, contact Nicole Bradshaw at Nicole.bradshaw@valorhealth.org or Bill Vetter, MD at bill.vetter@valorhealth.org. We are doing great work in Emmett at Valor Health, check us out at <http://www.valorhealth.org/>.

To place a Medical Practice Opportunities Classified Advertisement, please contact:

Amika Empey, Director of Communications at 208-344-7888 or by email amika@idmed.org.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 22, 2020 Challenges and Changes Series: First quarter updates including managing denials and writing effective appeals (1 CEU)

Additional information and registration forms for seminars are available at www.idmed.org.

Idaho Medical Association

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