WYOMING MEDICAL SOCIETY

Advocating for doctors since 1903

November 2, 2022

Dear Member,

On behalf of the Wyoming Medical Society Board of Trustees and staff, I would like to welcome you to a new year with the WMS, and offer my deepest gratitude for your membership. As you may well know, my name is Kristopher Schamber and I am a general internist in Sheridan. I joined the medical society as a student representative my first year of medical school. Once in practice, I accepted a nomination to the Board as the Sheridan County representative, and for the last four years I have served on the WMS Executive Committee.

I must first thank you, my brethren. The past two years have been difficult for our entire state. Although the first wave of Covid was thankfully milder here than in other parts of the country, some communities suffered greatly. Then the second wave hit the entirety of the state with a vengeance, the likes of which many have never seen. It pushed our medical systems to the brink of collapse, and uncovered fractures in families, communities, and our healthcare delivery systems. These will be difficult to repair, but hopefully we can come together as a Society in connection with our communities and the state to work on the deficiencies in the delivery systems. You all suffered greatly, doing your best to take care of critically ill people afflicted with a new disease which we knew little about, and with few initial treatments, all the while combating misinformation and withstanding near constant barrage of hateful rhetoric. I thank all of you and offer my deepest gratitude, in particular to those who worked tirelessly on the front lines, for persevering through this very difficult time, continuing to live your oath and care for this state.

I am truly humbled to have been elected to serve as WMS President. I joined the WMS understanding that engagement was necessary, but unsure of my place or purpose in this regard. I quickly witnessed a near constant assault on the institutions of medicine, and the Society's delicate and masterful response, weaving in our ideals through the great many relationships our staff have cultivated. I was empowered to actively participate, engaging with members from across the state, testifying before the legislature multiple times, and fostering regular conversations with legislators and key stakeholders. I have witnessed countless members across the state stand before these same people, delivering impassioned support for our cause. To those physicians, *thank you*!

I hold in high regard the mission of the Wyoming Medical Society, and how that mission is fulfilled in a non-partisan manner. This is no more important than in rendering a vote on the Board. As difficult as it may be, WMS policy decisions should be based on how they will, or may, impact medical practice and the patient-physician relationship, and not on personal or partisan political views. On the surface, each policy stance furthered by the Society will be viewed as either conservative or liberal. And sadly, this will always be the case in our current political climate where there is only one way. However, this approach only leads us away from the mission and vision adopted by our society decades ago, and is truly at odds with our Hippocratic Oath.

The Society as a whole, guided by our accomplished staff, have worked tirelessly to this end. As you well know, the legislative process is often treacherous and the outcomes can be frustrating. History reveals a great track record however, and even in the face of defeat we have been able to secure some great wins that will help forward long sought-after policy stances in the future. The WMS Board, the Executive Director, and her staff have been steadfast in their support of Physician and PA interests, their medical practice, and the patient relationship.

In my time as President of the Society, I will continue to help guide the board and our executive team to develop and communicate unbiased and thoughtful policy decisions. I will continue to fight for medical practice and the Physician/PA-patient relationship. It is your membership, support, and engagement that enables the WMS to maintain respect as the organization which lawmakers and agencies rely on for guidance and advice.

Our Mission and Goals
With the face of medicine changing at such a rapid pace, your support has never been more important in supporting organizations designed to voice the positions of practicing physicians and PAs. This is done with the aim of helping achieve and maintain a practice-friendly environment in which we can all thrive. The WMS enables each of us to care for, and better the lives of our patients. Such advocacy is the sole purpose of our Wyoming Medical Society.

WMS continues to be a highly-respected organization, upon which state lawmakers, the Governor, and state agencies rely for guidance and advice. Your participation is key to maintaining this position of expertise in our state's regulatory landscape.

Thank you for taking the time to explore the membership materials enclosed with this letter. I believe you'll find dozens of compelling reasons to align with your medical colleagues as a member of the Wyoming Medical Society.

If you would like to discuss anything with me, please don't hesitate to E-mail me at:
schambam@gmail.com

Gratefully yours,

Kristopher Schamber, MD, FACP
President, Wyoming Medical Society