

From Where I Sit

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It's that time of the year for us. There has been a lot of activity in the Board of Medicine since our spring edition newsletter. Here's a snapshot of what we have been up to.

RENEWALS: We are in the last month of our renewal cycle. Renewals began on October 1 and this cycle has been like the Tale of Two cities—the best of times and the worst of times. Though I am pleased that our IT department was able to upgrade our system so that we are now finally compatible with Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome and Safari, and they added a shopping cart feature which allows an applicant to renew and pay for multiple health professional licenses simultaneously, I must apologize for the delay many of you experienced with respect to obtaining your license in a timely manner after renewing. We have been undergoing major software updates and improving our IT infrastructure. Unfortunately, the work taking place behind the scenes with our vendor has led, in large part, to the problems many of you encountered. However, the changes are necessary and will allow us to ultimately improve our services to you in the future and allow for greater efficiencies and transparency in 2015. Once again, we apologize for any inconvenience to those that were affected.

I do hope that overall the renewal experience has improved for the majority of you. Let me know what you think! Please share your feedback with us at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/renewfeedback>.

ER/LA OPIOID CME event.

On September 24, 2014, the Board hosted a successful pain management CME event. The event was made possible through a grant received from the Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB). Keynote presenter, Beth Murinson, MD, gave an engaging and informative presentation to a packed auditorium of multi-disciplinary healthcare professionals, that included physicians, dentists and nurses. see page 6.

BOARD TASKFORCES

Medspa and Telemedicine guidelines have been posted to our website. DC Board of Medicine Guidelines/ Position Statements are intended to aide a healthcare practitioner in the practice of their profession, the public when interacting with health care professionals, and Board staff when processing licenses, complaints or performing enforcement responsibilities. Guidance/ Position statements are meant to assist in the administration or application of law or regulations. Guidelines will be promulgated into regulations during this fiscal year. Please visit the following <http://doh.dc.gov/node/120812> to learn more about the guidelines.

INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT

The DC board voted in November to join several other state boards in endorsing the IMLC. In October, I had the pleasure of making a presentation to attendees of American Association of Osteopathic Examiners during the 2014 OMED meeting in Seattle, Washington about the Compact. The Compact represents the efforts of state medical boards to develop a dynamic, self-regulatory system of expedited licensure for physicians looking to practice in multiple states. The Interstate Compact requires that a physician operating a multistate practice is under the jurisdiction of the state medical board where the patient is located. Only

physicians that meet certain criteria would be eligible to seek licensure through the Compact. The Compact in no way eliminates the traditional pathway for obtaining licensure in a state. Read more on page 7.

COLLABORATIVE PRACTICE

The Board of Medicine and the Board of Pharmacy have been working collaboratively on developing the regulations that will govern collaborative practice. A signed collaborative agreement between a licensed physician and licensed pharmacist will allow a pharmacist to initiate, modify or discontinue a patient's drug regimen. Collaborative Practice Agreements are used in many states and are seen as a way to expand access to care.

WELCOME

New Board Member—

I am pleased to introduce to you our new consumer member, Treazure Johnson, Esq. Treazure is a partner at McKenna Long & Aldridge in the Litigation Division. Meet her on page 4.

New Staff Members—

I am pleased to introduce you to our new Health Licensing Specialist, Aisha Nixon, and Health Licensing Assistants Hanna Minaye and Cameron Windham. Meet them on page 11.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

During the Opioid CME event in September, the Board received a DC Council Resolution from Councilmember Yvette Alexander declaring September 24, 2014 as Board of Medicine Recognition Day in the District of Columbia. Kudos to all of our dedicated board members who unselfishly volunteer their time to protect the public.

I would also like to take this time to recognize our board chair, Janis Orłowski, MD, on her recent appointment as

the chief health care officer of the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC). Congratulations Dr. O! Read the press release on Page 13.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Board adopted the FSMB guidelines on the Appropriate Use of Social Media and Social Networking in Medical Practice. Visit <http://doh.dc.gov/node/968432> to learn more.



TWEET! I have decided to finally take the plunge. I have joined the

Twittersphere and will send at least one tweet of the week (TOTW) on noteworthy topics that I hope will help to inform you, in real-time, about important state regulatory board and/or health-related issues. Please follow me [@jwatsondcgov](https://twitter.com/jwatsondcgov).

Before I go, I would like to thank Team Awesome! My staff at BoMed who all worked tirelessly this year to support the many activities we were engaged in. They worked to improve our processing times (>90% of clean applications are approved within 72 hours upon clearing the processing division), they have been recognized by our customers for the exemplary customer service they have been providing, and they were instrumental in allowing us to host a successful CME event in September. THANK YOU Team Awesome. Meet them on page 11.

That's all for now. Happy Holidays to all and we look forward to improving our services to you and the public in 2015.

Until next year, Be Safe, Be Well, and Be Happy.

SAVE THE DATE—September 30, 2015. The board will host its 3rd biennial symposium for the public. Stay tuned for more.