

2022

King County
Medical Society



ANNUAL REPORT





Introduction

Letter from Nancy L. Belcher, Ph.D., MPA
CEO, King County Medical Society & Community Foundation



Nancy L. Belcher, Ph.D., MPA

To Our Valued Members

Every success King County Medical Society (KCMS) has achieved reflects our physician members' trust and value in us. And that faith has led to records in virtually every key measurement at KCMS:

- Active memberships
- Varied and impactful collaborations
- Expanding revenue sources
- New committees
- Increased and diversified staff
- Enhanced political awareness and impact
- Increased physician engagement
- Scholarships for students in medicine

We are committed to continuing to build a medical society that treats all stakeholders—members, collaborating organizations, employees, colleagues, vendors and partners, and communities—with inclusivity, honor, and respect.

A Changing World

The medical world is changing fast, and is being noticed like never before. The traditional expectations of care are breaking down worldwide. This ever-changing healthcare environment is where KCMS operates and is succeeding. At KCMS, we have embraced and championed the concept of physician empowerment.

Working to Improve Healthcare

Whittling down KCMS's activities over the past two years is challenging, but I will try.

- KCMS distributed tens of thousands PPE units throughout WA state. We are humbled by the overwhelming response to our PPE efforts.

- In collaboration with the WA-DOH, KCMS served as the 'Covid-19 Phase Finder' for King County and oversaw the equitable distribution of thousands of vaccines to physicians and their staff.
- Developed free CMEs in:
 - Lead Poisoning Prevention
 - Firearm Safety
 - Racism in Medicine
 - Opiate Regulations and Training
- KCMS created a scholarship to support medical students underrepresented in medicine (URiM).
- Provided critical messaging throughout the pandemic via our newsletters and social media.
- KCMS hired its first lobbyist to support the work of the KCMS Delegate Council's work in Olympia and beyond.
- Illuminated the need to increase transparency in the death investigation.
- Lifted physician voices by collaborating with media sources.
- Created an inclusive community where physicians could bring diverse perspectives to improve healthcare for all.

The Future for KCMS

Today, we are better positioned than ever to build on the approach of empowering physicians and welcome a growing number of physicians.

KCMS delivers tangible ways to engage, quality service, transparent and low member prices, and leverages our assets to operate efficiently and profitably. In 2022 we will continue to:

- Engage members in legislative decisions,
- Continue investing in our members by offering services and events, like our upcoming awards ceremony,
- Focus on KCMS sustainability.

You can help KCMS attain these priorities by engaging in one of our committees, encouraging colleagues to join, donating to our foundation and simply renewing your membership.

Conclusion

Thanks to our exceptional Board of Trustees and specifically the leadership of Dr. Teresa Girolami, Dr. Rajneet S. Lamba, and Dr. Michelle Terry, the past four years have been remarkable for KCMS. From the depths of the Covid-19 crisis to the highs of getting those first doses of vaccines distributed, one thing has remained unchanged: ***our commitment to empowering physicians to improve the future of healthcare.***

Every day, we ask ourselves how we can use the power of KCMS to best serve our members. Using inclusivity as our guide, we have welcomed fantastic growth at KCMS.

I will close where I started—with a sincere thank you. Thank you to our valued members, and thank you to our diverse and influential stakeholders. Your trust and confidence in KCMS have helped us build upon a remarkable organization, one whose future has never been brighter!

Warmly,



Letter from the Outgoing President **Rajneet S. Lamba, MD**

It has been a great honor to serve for the past two years as President of our state's oldest professional society for physicians and work within an organization with a 134 year history.

Starting my tenure with King County facing the country's first wave of COVID-19 infections led to high engagement and enthusiasm from our members. The KCMS Board, staff, and I thank you all for your work over the past two years.

We all adapted to changing work and social expectations and gave our time to support the pandemic response at institutional, county and state levels. Personally, serving on the front lines as a hospitalist during this time was an emotional experience that I will

continue to reflect on throughout my career. Working with KCMS, this unforgettable journey included supporting fellow physicians with our PPE and Telehealth fundraiser and early deployment of vaccines with Public Health – Seattle & King County.

Increased attention to the role that racism plays in our field led to an exciting collaboration with the University of Washington. In 2020, we created a CME on Racism in Medicine, a topic which became increasingly evident during this pandemic. You can find this seminar on our home page to be viewed for CME credit. We additionally have an available CME and CNE on the prevention of childhood lead poisoning.

The KCMS Community Foundation scholarship fund is open for donation to support medical students. We recently received a community grant to support this work and plan to begin disbursement this year with attention to those underrepresented in medicine. Seeing our work resonate with physician members

and the community has been very gratifying.

It is quite a task to summarize the work of the past few years, hence I would like to refer you again to the bullets listed above by our CEO, Nancy Belcher. I would like to thank her for the nimble, inclusive and creative approach she has brought to leading this organization during unprecedented times – it has truly been a pleasure.

Ongoing priorities include lobbying to improve tracking of vaccination data in our state, preventing firearm injury and death, better lead testing in schools, curbing onerous prior authorization practices, and demanding scientific death investigations in our state.

We appreciate your support as members and remain open to any ideas for future projects and collaboration. Thank you for spreading the word about our organization amongst your colleagues and for any of your input that could support the growth and mission of the King County Medical Society.



Letter from the President **Michelle Terry, MD**

A future physician's professional identity starts in childhood via natural curiosity, love of learning, and a desire to help. The practice of medicine encourages individuals to develop excellence in clinical care,

education, advocacy, and service. Values of integrity, compassion, collaboration, and innovation lead doctors to apply scientific principles while centering their patients' experiences.

Sharing knowledge encourages professional growth to advance skills and support patients to recuperate. The King County Medical Society's programming and partnerships led by our talented executive director and staff allows access to continuing medical education; elected leaders; policy strategy; and medical

innovations. **Most importantly, KCMS offers access to each other** – a diverse physician community devoted to improving the practice of medicine. Rolling out a new project to encourage the next generation of physicians, KCMS is developing a virtual mentoring platform that will introduce premedical students to practicing physicians.

As you read about KCMS's many accomplishments in this annual report, please remember that our most significant legacy in medicine is measured by what we accomplish in service to others.



Doctors James Eagleson and Clarence Smith, after the Seattle fire of 6-6-1889. The slate on a tent pole was used for appointments. When one doctor had a patient, he pulled down the flap of the tent and the other doctor went for a walk.

KCMS History

Founded in 1888, the King County Medical Society (KCMS) promotes its founders' vision to "improve the quality of life, the relief of pain and discomfort, and the attainment of each individual's fullest physical, social, and emotional health."

In 1852, the first physicians arrived in Seattle, WA. As the city's population grew, local physicians began raising awareness of public health issues and provided health services to those who could not afford them.

During the summer of 1888, 23 Seattle physicians identified the need for an organization to assist the city in dealing with public health problems and formed a society to establish and uphold high medical practice standards in King County.

Even before Washington became a state in 1889, KCMS existed. The founding physicians were Dr. Gideon A. Weed and Dr. Thomas T. Minor. Both men served as mayor of Seattle and most KCMS physicians were involved in political, social, and business activities that helped define King County and the formation of WA state.

KCMS served as a way to promote public health, protect the growing population from questionable medical practitioners, and to provide a forum for physicians to share medical knowledge. Dr. Weed settled in Seattle in 1870, opened a private hospital in 1874 and often paid for patients' treatments from his own pocket.

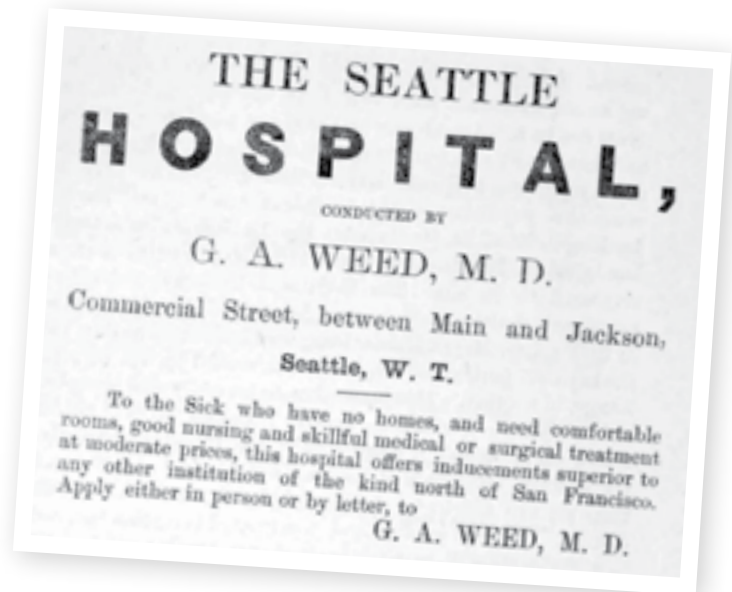
In 1886 and 1887, Weed was elected mayor of Seattle. In 1888 he founded and served as the first president of KCMS. As Seattle's health officer, Weed significantly reduced the impact of a small pox epidemic.

Weed and his wife, Adaline, also a doctor, had settled in Seattle after previously practicing hydropathy in Nevada and Oregon. Adaline was the first female physician in Oregon.

Their marriage deserved special mention in their medical school newspaper, "A Wedding on Hydropathic Principles" took place between Dr. Gideon Allen Weed and Dr. Adaline M. Willis. Classmates at Trall's Hygeio-Therapeutic College "have now united in hands, hearts, fortunes and diplomas."

In one of its earliest meetings, KCMS members took steps to outlaw medical advertising to protect the gullible from the many charlatans on the frontier.

The personal stories of these founding physicians go well beyond their daily medical practice. Some of the KCMS founders' contributions included:



- Aiding in the formation of the Washington State Constitution.
- Election and appointment to political offices that shaped the future state health policies.
- The foundation of state and regional medical libraries and publications.
- The establishment of hospitals and universities.
- Introduction of the latest medical advances such as the state's first bacteriology laboratory and regional x-ray machine.

King County Medical Society continues this rich history of advocacy for improved healthcare. KCMS has always been and always will be a powerful voice and political advocate for physicians and patients at the local, state, and federal levels.



KCMS Vision

About the King County Medical Society

With more than 4,000 members and over 12,500 physicians in the county, King County Medical Society (KCMS) is among the largest county medical societies in the United States.

KCMS represents the collective voice of its member physicians who practice in King County – Washington state's largest and most urban county. KCMS was established in 1888 and, over the past 134 years, has supported physicians and worked to improve the quality of life for doctors and their patients by promoting the highest ideals and standards of medical practice.

Goals and Directives

- Ensuring that healthcare workers are supported and protected during the practice of providing healthcare;
- Help the medical profession meet its collective responsibilities to the public in resolving health care delivery issues;
- Unite county physicians to advocate for themselves and for the public health;
- Nurture a favorable public perception of the profession by helping people understand and appreciate medicine's contribution to the public welfare;
- Protect the public against exploitation;
- Monitor and improve payment methods for medical services;
- Promote and advance the art, skill, knowledge, and interest in the field of medicine to improve health.

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Membership Memo

The past few years we have all lived through extraordinarily challenging circumstances. Your King County Medical Society has worked diligently to empower and protect doctors and to enhance the practice of medicine. **Renewing your membership helps us continue this great work!**

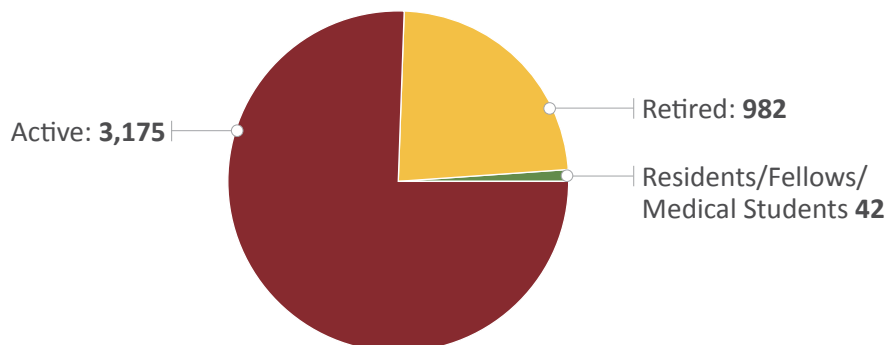
Group membership rates are also available. Ask your leadership team how all physicians at your organization can become members of KCMS. Please contact us directly to find out more about reduced group membership rates info@kcmsociety.org

Please remember, CME money can be used to pay for your membership. Dues can be paid by going to kcmsociety.org or by check.

Checks made payable to:

King County Medical Society, 200 Broadway, Seattle, WA 98122.

Where is membership now?



Want to get involved?

We encourage you to join one of our 5 active committees:

1. Public Health
2. Scholarships
3. Events & CMEs
4. Mental Health
5. Historic Speaker Series

We encourage you to become a member of the KCMS Delegate Council which works directly with elected officials to write resolutions that improve healthcare.

Amplify your voice, shape healthcare policy and create a better future.

Email us at info@kcmsociety.org

or call us at (206) 627-0501.

We'd love to have your voice at the table!

[Renew Your Membership Today!](#)



Our Impact on Our Community

KCMS has been busy! To highlight some of our work, KCMS has:

- Worked long days (and many nights), in collaboration with the WA Dept. of Health (DOH), to serve as the 'Phase Finder' for Covid vaccinations for King County 1A physicians, dentists, and their staff. KCMS continued to work for months helping people in other vaccine phases to get their vaccines.
- Kept frontline workers safe and connected to their patients during the pandemic by providing thousands of units of telehealth equipment and tens of thousands of units of PPE, which we manufactured through our "Frontline PPE" effort.

KCMS has also:

- Through the work of the KCMS Delegate Council, lobbied for improvements in firearm injury and death prevention.
- Changed outdated legislation to provide for more thorough and equitable death investigations.
- Championed the successful effort for lead testing in schools.
- Collaborated with state elected officials to complete the Healthcare Worker Vaccine Database which equipped the DOH to track the Covid-19 vaccine distribution.
- Effectively advocated for, and continues to seek, enhanced telehealth parity.
- Developed and offered FREE and unique CME's and CNE's focused on inequities in healthcare, and the impacts of childhood exposure of lead.
- Advocated for decreased physician's licensing fees, and increased focus on physician wellness.

- Regularly engaged with local and national media to have our physician's voices heard.
- Continued to promote universal access to health care.
- Met with State Representatives to discuss community health & airport operations-related pollution.
- Created a free podcast series for premedical students titled, "Let's Get You a White Coat" to supplement the limited opportunities for student shadowing in clinic and hospital settings.

While the Society's activities have evolved over time in response to advances and challenges in health care delivery, its core mission has remained the same - ***To be a powerful voice and political advocate for physicians and patients at the local, state, and federal levels.***



Our Impact on COVID



5,339

**COVID-19 VACCINES
SCHEDULED**



1,000

**NEARLY 1,000 UNITS
OF TELEHEALTH
EQUIPMENT**

Headsets, webcams, rally cameras, ipads and laptops for physician use.



150k

**OVER 150,000
UNITS OF PPE**
(masks, gloves, faceshields, and gowns)

ORGANIZATIONS DONATED TO

Swedish Health Services • Seattle Cancer Care Alliance • EvergreenHealth • Overlake Medical Center • Catholic Community Services of Western Washington • Virginia Mason Franciscan Health • Seattle Children's Hospital • The PolyClinic • Kaiser Permanente • UW Medicine (UW Medical Center, UW Valley, Harborview, UW-NW) • Battalion 3 Medic 1 • Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences • Family Care Network • Friends of Youth • Numerous private medical practices and clinics • Seattle Fire Department • The Everett Clinic • Providence • Prestige Post-Acute and Rehab Center • Roots Young Adult Shelter • BelRed Internal Medicine • Life Care Center of Kirkland • Eastgate Family Medicine • Masks for Docs • Interlake Medical Center • Woodinville Pediatrics • Bellevue Lasik & Cataract • Washington Chapter of the American College of Physicians • and many more.



>\$400,000

**CASH AND IN-KIND DONATIONS
FOR PPE AND SCHOLARSHIPS**



James Paribello
Lobbyist

Improving Healthcare Legislatively

KCMS is more active in shaping policy at every level of government than ever before and making sure that your voice is being heard. We are focused not only on improving the quality of your daily work but the quality of health care for all residents of King County and beyond.

This past year the KCMS Delegate Council has connected with elected officials, healthcare stakeholders, and media outlets to spread our message and fight for better protection, better access, and better standards of care.

Beyond the legislation passed during the 2022 session, this year's state budget provides an influx of new spending atypical of supplemental budget years, thanks to one-time federal relief funding and a state revenue surplus. The supplemental state Operating Budget increases spending by \$3.2 billion to address educational funding needs, struggles in the behavioral health, long-term care, and developmental disability workforces, and to expand access to childcare.

The state Capital Budget focuses primarily on infrastructure and public works projects and includes more funding for Housing (\$440 million) and Behavioral Health and Crisis Stabilization (\$98 million).

Death Investigations and Forensic Pathologists

Thanks to the legislation championed by KCMS last year (ESHB 1326), funding is provided in the state Operating Budget to develop a medicolegal forensic investigation training curriculum, adopt standards for the medicolegal training academy, and certify successful completion of the training. This will ensure that our coroners and medical examiners have an appropriate level of training and certification and are held to a new higher standard.

Forensic Pathologist Shortage Study

Also included in the budget is \$100,000 provided to conduct a study of the critical shortage of board-certified forensic pathologists and recommend to the legislature what steps the state can take to foster a robust forensic pathology community.

The study shall cover issues related to Conrad 30/J-1 visa waivers and measures to encourage enrollment in the University of Washington (UW) and Washington State University (WSU) forensic pathology residency programs. This study must also include recommendations on how to create two new forensic pathology fellow slots,

one in conjunction with the UW and one in conjunction with WSU.

The Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners shall directly report their findings and recommendations to the governor and the appropriate committees of the legislature by December 1, 2022.

A total of \$300,000 of the general fund for the fiscal year 2023 was provided for the Department of Health (DOH) to create the Criminal Justice Integrated Data System Task Force by December 1, 2022.

The task force shall report to the legislature detailing recommendations, including a staffing plan for the DOH to create a violence and death investigation resource center to collect and analyze vital statistics on violence and deaths in the state to:

- Identify localized and statewide trends;
- Survey medical examiners and coroners in the state to identify the critical needs of the offices;
- Develop systems to facilitate information and data sharing between medical examiners and coroner offices; and
- Develop best practices for death investigations in the state.



King County Medical Society's Excellence in Medicine Awards Ceremony

King County Medical Society is hosting the Excellence in Medicine Awards Ceremony to recognize the outstanding contributions of physicians, administrators, staff, and legislators. This event will be held in the Fall of 2022, assuming Covid restrictions allow.

The Award Selection Committee will review all submitted nominations. Please, click below to submit your nominations for any and all categories! The survey will take about 5 minutes. [Click here to submit your nominations!](#)

Categories:

I. Lifetime Achievement Award

Purpose: The award honors outstanding individuals who have demonstrated career-long service to patients and has promoted the highest ideals and standards of medical practice.

II. Leadership Award

Purpose: The award honors physicians who serve as clinical role models, teachers, highly accomplished professional leaders and sources of inspiration for physicians who work with and for them.

III. Legislative Advocacy Award

Purpose: This award recognizes legislators who consistently advocate for the improvement of the medical profession, promote the service of physicians and advocate for the highest ideals and standards of medical care.

IV. Reducing Health Disparities Award

Purpose: The award recognizes an individual who has made outstanding contributions to reducing health disparities due to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, age, education, disability, geographic location, sexual orientation, and other determinants.

V. Teaching/Mentor Award

Purpose: Recognizes physicians who have been practicing for 20 years and takes steps to mentor and teach medical students, early-career physicians and other individuals in the medical field.

VI. Covid-19 Leadership Award

Purpose: This award recognizes a physician who has worked tirelessly to exemplify leadership, promote health equity, and serve and protect their communities during the uncertainty of the Covid-19 Pandemic.



King County Medical Society COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

KCMS formed the nonprofit, charitable organization, King County Medical Society Community Foundation (KCMS-CF) with many goals we hope to accomplish.

1. To unify the medical profession, and provide ways for organizations to collaborate in order to improve the health of the people in and around King County.
2. To continue the Society's enduring commitment to advance the profession of medicine and to preserve the value of the physician-patient relationship.
3. To create a lasting, positive legacy for KCMS.

Here are just some of the ways we are going about accomplishing these goals.

URiM Scholarship

URiM stands for UnderRepresented in Medicine. The KCMS-CF acknowledges the historical and enduring effects of racism against Black and Indigenous people as well as other People of Color. We also acknowledge the unique structural challenges that URiMs face during medical training and throughout their careers. With these two facts at the forefront of our minds the KCMS-CF is offering scholarships to support URiM medical students.

General Scholarship

The KCMS-CF recognizes the extraordinary financial needs of medical students. Recognizing these shortcomings the KCMS-CF is planning on issuing several scholarships each year.

Memorial Wall

Donate your directed gift in memory or to honor an outstanding physician! What a great way to provide a lasting memorial to their commitment to health care.

By donating you can purchase a plaque with their name which will be placed on the KCMS Memorial Wall.

[DONATE HERE TODAY!](#)



Comments from Our Members

“ KCMS has excellent leadership, strategic management, and collaborative skills – is nimble and responsive. To quote Hamilton, “we get the job done!” ”

“ Doctors cannot be passive observers; we want to set the standards, not have someone else tell us what the standards are. ”

“ Questions about the latest medical news? Our doctors are at the front lines! ”

“ If you’re not a member of the KCMS I would suggest that you’re missing out. Their publication (forwarded) is the best of its kind; an example of genuine quality and efficiency in communication. Take that left-over CME money and join this year to support your local medical society. ”

“ I’m a great believer in the physician as an advocate focused on the welfare of patients. ”

“ I just wanted to take a moment to say THANK YOU to the KCMS for your efforts in getting community healthcare providers vaccinated. You are the only agency who has made such an organized effort on our behalf. Thanks for your hard work! ”



Thank you.



Key Bank
Johnson & Johnson
Regence
Public Health - Seattle & King County
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health
Proliance Surgeons
UW Medicine
Harborview Injury and Prevention and Research Center
The Everett Clinic

Microsoft
Expedia
Other hospitals and health systems
Independent physicians and practices
Minority health boards
Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility
Washington State Medical Association
Specialty and County medical societies



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