

## **SCMS has exciting plans for 2023. Join us!**

I am honored to begin 2023 as President of the Spokane County Medical Society. Spokane is truly home for me. I am Spokane born and raised, a proud graduate of Lewis and Clark High School (go Tigers!) and a Whitworth alumna (go Pirates!). After completing my training and early career in far-flung areas of the country (from the Bronx to Colorado to Montana), I'm glad to have joined the medical community in my hometown six years ago. Not long after returning to Spokane, I was invited to join the SCMS. Through the SCMS I learned about how I could advocate for our profession on the state level through the WSMA annual meeting. From there I was invited to join the Board of Trustees where I learned more about the inner workings of the Medical Society and met many physicians and physician assistants who are passionate about the goals of our local medical society.

In early 2020, I made it to one Board of Trustees meeting in person before the pandemic hit and everything was transitioned to online. During the pandemic, I also transitioned from working with a multispecialty group to doing telemedicine as an independent contractor. While I have relished the flexibility this affords me, I have missed daily contact with my colleagues. The community of colleagues I have found with SCMS has helped to bridge that gap and has provided the added value of introducing me to colleagues across organizations, a benefit that wouldn't exist without the Medical Society.

As for all of us, the last three years have been hard on SCMS. Many traditional activities such as mixers and summer cruises had to be cancelled. We missed seeing each other in person, and we lost membership. I want to personally thank Dr. Stephen Pakkianathan, Barry Linehan, PA-C, and Dr. Dawn Elise DeWitt for guiding SCMS through these last three challenging years. In the past year, as things have reopened, we have increasingly been able to meet together in person. Events have included the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf Classic in June, a Women in Medicine Symposium in August, a summer mixer in August, and the annual Medicine CME event in September. SCMS also co-hosted a dinner with the Shikany organization recognizing outstanding teachers of medicine in our community. We have advocated for community water fluoridation and affordable housing in our city. We look forward to more in person events in the coming year, including another bigger Women in Medicine Conference (all genders welcome!), more mixers, and of course our annual Medicine CME event in the fall. We're also considering additional events, including a resolution writing evening for the WSMA annual meeting and medical case review discussion groups. If any of these sound like something you would enjoy participating in, or if there are other things you would like to see SCMS do, or if you would like more information on getting involved, please contact Shelly or myself.

SCMS continues to be committed to its 4 Pillars of Focus: Community Engagement, Member Collegiality/Volunteerism, Support of Medical Education, and Medical Advocacy. Won't you join us by renewing your membership today? And please, talk with your colleagues about SCMS and encourage them to join as well. Together, we can keep the Spokane County Medical Society strong and continue its mission in our medical community.

Erin Rose Medina, MD

2023 President, Spokane County Medical Society