Message from the President

Thank you for letting me serve as your TMGMA president in 2018. I am so excited to begin this journey with you. We have an outstanding new board that is here to serve you. Also, we can’t leave out our Executive Director, Rebekah. She has been a wonderful addition to our team. The board’s goal this year is to work together to provide you, our members, with timely information and communications about important events or happenings in regards to our medical practices in Tennessee. If you ever have any questions or concerns, know that you can come to myself or any of the board members for assistance at any time. It is our job to serve you!

Are you ready to go on a cruise? Pack your bags, bring your tropical shirts and get ready for the 2018 TMGMA cruise experience. We will be cruising out of Gatlinburg, TN on April 11th. Our theme this year is “Anchor Up: All Healthcare Professionals on Deck”. I think that it is a very fitting topic. As administrators and managers today we need to be ever vigilant to the changes happening in health care, and to do this we have to get on board or the ship will cruise off without us. While you will be enjoying the cruise experience, I want to assure you that we are preparing a conference that you won’t want to miss. The board has worked very hard to provide you with the best speakers, covering the most up to date topics in our industry. We will be finalizing our agenda in the next few weeks. Registration will be open December 1st!

One of the things that I am most excited about this year is the collaboration that TMGMA will have with Western Governors University (WGU). As many of you are aware, the ACMPE will be changing the qualifications required to attain certification. The ACMPE testing format will change and in 2019 a bachelors degree will be required for ACMPE certification. WGU has a wonderful opportunity for TMGMA members to get their advanced degrees at a discount. More information about this will be coming soon.

Finally, I encourage you to support TMGMA and your local chapters. It is important to have the support as well as the networking opportunities that we get from each other and from our affiliate members. I have always believed that the information I received and the contacts that I have made through TMGMA and Nashville MGMA have made me the Administrator that I am today.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your president. I can’t wait to work with you in 2018!

Myriam Bagwell, CMPE
President, Tennessee Medical Group Management Association
Make 2018 YOUR year before the 2019 changes!!

After 2018, a Bachelors Degree will be required for certification and fellowship status.

Become a **NOMINEE** working towards a **CMPE** (Certified Medical Practice Executive) with the final achievement of **FACMPE** (Fellow in the American College of Medical Practice Executives).

**NEW! January 2019 Certification Program Enhancements:** MGMA is introducing TWO pathways for certification. Become **Board Eligible** by passing Objective Exam part one. Become **Board Certified** by passing Objective AND Scenario Exams, parts one and two. A bachelors degree is not required to become Board Eligible, but is required for Board Certification. Please visit [2019 Enhancements for ACMPE Board Certification](#) for details. *Current Nominees who do not meet the new education requirements have until December 31, 2018 to achieve certification.*

**NEW! January 2019 Fellowship Program Enhancements:** Fellowship qualifications and requirements will be changing. January 2019 you will be required to hold a bachelors degree and have 7 years healthcare experience with 2 years in a leadership role to become a Fellow. For 2018 there is an additional professional paper type – the Business Plan. In 2019 the paper submission option will be ONLY the Business Plan. Please visit [2019 Enhancements for FACMPE](#) to learn about this new update. *Current Certifieds who do not meet the new education requirements have until July 2018 to achieve fellowship.*

**NEW! January 2019 Fellowship Maintenance Requirements:** Fellows will be required to maintain fellowship status by obtaining 50 continuing education credits every 3 years, 30 of which must be through MGMA resources with 12 through face to face events at national or state conferences. Fellows will also be required to volunteer for 6 hours per term.

Please contact me with your questions or if you’re needing assistance.

*Bethany Daniels, FACMPE*  
TMGMA ACMPE Forum Representative  
bethanydaniels@manchesterpain.net

### Upcoming Exam dates:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exam Dates</th>
<th>Registration</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 10 - 24, 2018</td>
<td>Jan 22 - Feb 8, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9 - 23, 2018</td>
<td>Apr 23 - May 7, 2018</td>
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<td>Sept 8 – 22, 2018</td>
<td>July 23 – Aug 7, 2018</td>
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<td>Dec 1 – 15, 2018 <em>final testing date before changes</em></td>
<td>Oct 22 – Nov 6, 2018</td>
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Exam sites can be found [online](#).  
Registration information is located on [mgma.com/exams](http://mgma.com/exams).  
Exam preparation resource materials are available in the [MGMA store](#).

### 2018 Fellowship deadlines:

**NEW! Additional Professional Paper option:** See the new Business Plan

Outline Due: April 6, 2018  
Manuscript Due: July 20, 2018  

[Requirements and resources](#) for Fellowship are available at MGMA’s website. See [2018 enhancements](#) for the NEW professional paper type in addition to the current accepted manuscripts.
**Study Groups:**

For **Certification**, there are 8 weekly webinar modules covering the 6 domains in the Body of Knowledge, which are open to members and non-members. See the webinar series in the MGMA store for more details. There is also a Tennessee MGMA study group in the member community hosted by Deborah Hudson. [Tennessee ACMPE Study Group](#)

The **Fellowship study group** webinar series is designed to help individuals considering Fellowship to learn more about the process and requirements. All webinars are now available on-demand.

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**Showcase Your Expertise by Becoming a Certified Medical Practice Executive or Fellow in the American College of Medical Practice**

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**Upcoming Webinar**

December 12 @ 1:00pm (EST)

**Getting Ready for 2018: The Reimbursement Landscape for Medical Practices**

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**Anchor Up! All Healthcare Professionals on Deck**

Tennessee MGMA 2018 Spring Conference

April 11-13, 2018

Park Vista Hotel, Gatlinburg
TMGMA Legislative News

TMGMA works closely with both the MGMA and TMA Government Affairs staff to provide our members with the latest legislative & regulatory information. TMGMA members are encouraged to participate in grassroots activities, anecdotal surveys, and contacting your elected officials on issues of importance to medical practices. For more information on how you can get involved or questions on any legislative issue, contact your TMGMA Legislative Liaison DeAnna Brown, FACMPE, CPC at dbrown@tnvalleyurology.net.

Join me! I am very honored to be serving you again in this role. The TMGMA board will be meeting November 4 for orientation. Orientation is the time that the President, Myriam Bagwell and the TMGMA board will provide the committee chairs with strategic planning goals for 2018. I can’t wait to see what’s in our future!

Are you interested in serving on the TMGMA Legislative Committee? We are currently in the process of looking for committee members for this year’s Legislative Committee. Volunteer by emailing me at dbrown@tnvalleyurology.net

DAY ON THE HILL:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! DAY ON THE HILL is March 6, 2018! If you’re not at the table…you’re on the menu! Please make plans to attend with your physicians.

- It’s time to pay IMPACT dues – your financial support to IMPACT, allows contributions to legislators who are friendly to medicine, who sit on important committees, hold leadership roles, and who represent you and your profession.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA FOR 2018:

TMA Legislative Committee has been working over the summer to develop and finalize the issues that TMA will support, oppose, or remain neutral on. I will have a complete list of the 2018 Agenda Items soon.

DOCTOR OF THE DAY:

TMA is recruiting for the Doctor of the Day program. TMA works with the Tennessee General Assembly each legislative session to provide volunteer physicians who serve the medical needs of lawmakers and their staff. Volunteers spend one day in Nashville and have the unique opportunity to interact with legislators on the House and Senate floors, attend committee meetings and get a first-hand look at the legislative process, while giving something back to the public servants who support physicians’ issues.

For the past two years Residents have been able to serve alongside of Physicians as the Resident Doctor of the Day. Please keep residents in mind as you begin your marketing efforts. I would like to have at least 5 doctors sign up. If you know of someone who might be interested, TMA will be happy to reach out to them to see if they are interested. Sign up here: http://www.tnmed.org/TMA/Government_Affairs/Grassroots_Program.aspx?WebsiteKey=d3f4c24b-0587-43f9-9671-02683da3720f&hkey=e186a0c2-547b-4bb6-b373-3982555f8dfe&Ways_to_Get_Involved=4#Ways_to_Get_Involved

Volunteers must have an active, unrestricted medical license and be a current TMA member to participate.

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Tips for Contacting Your Legislators

As this new year approaches and opportunities present themselves for us to be heard. I wanted to provide you with some tips for contacting your Senator or Representative. I think that many people shy away from making contact because they simply don’t know how to. So I hope these tips will help you make that connection.

Whether in person or written, your legislators really do want to hear from you. Here are some helpful hints to make your time with them effective:

**In person:**

- Be punctual and courteous.
- Be patient, expect that they may run late due to a hectic schedule or an extended meeting.
- Be flexible, interruptions most likely will happen.
- Be concise, provide key facts along with any written documentation supporting your position.
- Share your personal experience and how the issue has impacted you or will impact you.

**Writing your legislators:**

- Always be courteous and respectful.
- Make your point with facts and not emotion.
- Make sure you time your correspondence in accordance with the legislation. A letter or email can be lost, missed, forgotten if it’s delivered too early or too late.
- Keep the letter or email to one page and one issue per letter/email.
- The first paragraph should state your purpose for writing using the bill number, ie S.B. #_______  
  H.B.#_______
- Use examples and personal experience to support your position.
- Email addresses may be found on the TN General Assembly website at [www.capitol.tn.gov](http://www.capitol.tn.gov)
- The most effective correspondence are from a legislator’s constituents; so be sure to include your address and tell the senator/representative that he or she represents you.

**Phone:**

- Find your senator’s or representative’s phone number by going to the Tennessee General Assembly website at [www.capitol.tn.gov](http://www.capitol.tn.gov)
- If you are unable to speak to the legislator, ask to speak with the aide who handles that particular issue.
- If speaking to the aide, explain that you would like to leave a message “please tell Senator/Representative ______ that I support/oppose and then give the bill number. State the reasons you support or oppose.
- You may request a written response to your telephone call.

**Some additional tips:**

- Only contact legislators hearing a bill or working in a committee where the issue that you are concerned about is being introduced. Remember timing is everything.
- Don’t allow your party affiliation to restrict your contact with legislators. You may find that some issues will cross party lines and they really do want to hear from you.
- Always try to start and end the conversation/correspondence on a positive note.

Coordinate your efforts with the TMA Government Affairs Division, you may contact Rebecca Lofty at [Rebecca.woods@tnmed.org](mailto:Rebecca.woods@tnmed.org). Don’t forget about Dialogue in the District!