

# Message from the Chair



WASHINGTON  
**Medical  
Commission**  
Licensing. Accountability. Leadership.

## Thank You and Farewell

### John Maldon

This newsletter will be brief providing some reflection, introductions and acknowledgments as I close out my Washington Medical Commission career.

My term as Washington Medical Commission Commissioner and Commission Chair comes to an end on June 30, 2022. Overall, it seems to have been a pretty good run. The last two years of COVID-19 pandemic resulted in being the first and hopefully the last near total virtual Commission Chair. Being a virtual chair is not something I would recommend. Working in a virtual vacuum provides for little acknowledgment of performance other than perhaps the number of complaints received, which is not a good indicator of performance. There have been a few bumps along the way that have been appropriately managed by commission staff and me leaving a relatively smooth surface for the in-coming commission leadership.

A very experienced and capable commission leadership team was elected in May of this year and will assume their responsibilities effective July 1, 2022. Dr. Jimmy Chung will be the new Commission Chair. Dr. Karen Domino assumes the role of Chair Elect and Dr. Terry Murphy fills the Vice Chair position. Christine Blake, Public Member, rounds out the new leadership team as Policy Chair. I will continue to be part of the leadership team in an advisory role as Past Chair. It is my firm belief that the Commission constituents will be well served by this new leadership team.

I want to acknowledge the incredible commission staff under the leadership of Executive Director Melanie de Leon. The Commission staff have continued to outperform their responsibilities while adjusting from working in an office setting to working virtually. Licensing, Investigations, Informatics, Quality and Engagement and Legal staff were able to maintain productivity while continuing their work during these most difficult times.

Lastly, a warm thank you to the dedicated commissioners who give their time to assure quality medical care is delivered to the residents of Washington State.

The Medical Commission has 21 members; 13 physicians, two physician assistants and six public members appointed by the Governor. Commissioners spend endless hours evaluating complaints filed with the Commission regarding patient care, reviewing medical records, formulating standard of care opinions, participating in a variety of public hearings, formulating guidance documents for licensees, participation on work-groups and committees that manage current issues, providing expertise and testimony before the legislature and many more activities dictated by necessity.

Serving on the Medical Commission has been an extremely rewarding experience for me while serving the patients and licensees in Washington. I want to say thank you to all who have supported me for the past eight years. I could not have served my commissioner role without you.



## Buprenorphine for OUD and Chronic Pain

July 21, 2022 - 5:00 PM PST

Register

Topics and Educational Objectives

- Review the pharmacology of buprenorphine and use in opioid use disorder (OUD) and pain.
- Review the legalities of prescribing buprenorphine for OUD and perceived obstacles.
- Empathize with patients taking buprenorphine for OUD

The Federation of State Medical Boards designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit™*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

