



You Make Us Proud

BY SHEILA BUSH




When the planning started for this issue of Wyoming Medicine magazine, we thought 2020 would look far different than it has looked thus far. The magazine editorial group discussed needing updates on the most recent legislative session and deep dives on tobacco laws at the state and federal level. We talked through a lot of options, but nowhere in that list was coronavirus and the havoc that it would wreak on our lives.

Crises have a strange way of bringing clarity to our worlds. In short order, coronavirus refocused every aspect of our lives and raised questions not just around our safety as a society, but how many would find ways to feed their families as they grappled with the challenges of unemployment. As the world came to terms with having more questions than answers, we saw in our vulnerability the power of fear and it became evident that we would all look to health care for guidance and hope.

WMS is proud of our members and all the ways they quickly stepped into the roles of leaders. Historian and adventure writer Peter Stark said, "In a moment of crisis, reactions set the leaders apart from the followers." Our physicians have demonstrated some of the greatest qualities in leadership by asking, "What don't I know?" and continually assuming the best in others. Our physicians did not fall victim to the fears that quickly compelled others to blame and point fingers. Our leaders joined the team and got to work in creating solutions together. When decisions were made with which our members disagreed, they leaned in, strengthened the relationship with our state's leaders, and asked themselves, "What don't I know?" They rolled up their sleeves to identify the ways—even inside disagreement—we could all work together toward a common goal.

Inside this unprecedented time in which every fiber of the health care fabric is being pulled, I want to personally and publicly thank the leaders that make up the fabric of Wyoming's health care community, particularly those who lead and represent WMS. You make us all proud. You take the responsibility of leadership seriously, you're careful and intentional with your words, you act with kindness, and you let intelligent compassion lead your actions by recognizing that there's always more to the story than meets the eye. You are the leaders who will take Wyoming to the other side of this

crisis with your clinical knowledge, your expertise in practice, and by being the men and women who stand tall in the face of fear, giving those around you comfort and hope.

This edition of Wyoming Medicine will in large part remain the same as originally planned, spare a few details here and there. Look for our fall edition which will be a COVID-19 themed publication. In immediate response to this pandemic, WMS has created resource and education pages on our website (www.wyomed.org), and will continue to host Tuesday provider connect calls to bring medicine together to share ideas, ask questions and learn more as we collectively fight this virus as a team, a team of which I'm unendingly proud to be a part. Thank you. 

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