



CMA

## ABOUT SCMA

**THE SONOMA COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**, a component medical society of the California Medical Association, supports local physicians and their efforts to enhance the health of the community. SCMA and CMA offer a wide array of legal, collegial and advocacy benefits to their members, and they are involved with several community health initiatives.

**Founded in 1858**, SCMA is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit association governed by a board of directors composed of local physicians. SCMA welcomes all physicians, respects diverse interests and acts as a unifying force in the community. Interested physicians with MD or DO degrees can join both SCMA and CMA by completing a simple, one-page application form.

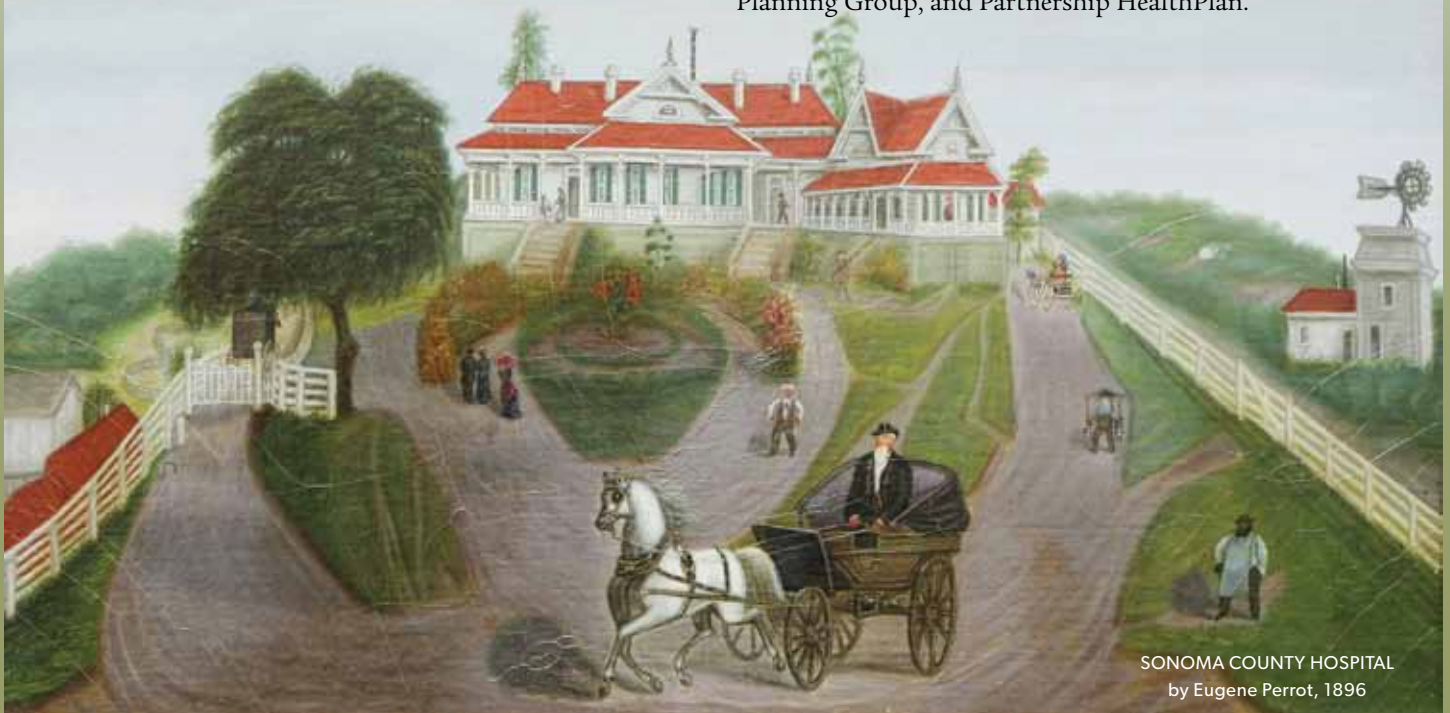
## COMMUNITY HEALTH INITIATIVES

SCMA ENHANCES THE HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY by helping local residents gain the knowledge, motivations and opportunities needed to make informed decisions about their health. The medical association supports local, state and national efforts to promote healthy behaviors, create healthy environments and increase access to high-quality health care. Current SCMA health initiatives include:

**Sonoma Specialty Access.** This initiative seeks to improve access to specialty care for uninsured and underinsured patients in Sonoma County. Physicians, safety net providers, community organizations and regional hospital systems are working in collaboration to create a specialty referral system for uninsured and underinsured patients throughout the county.

**Primary Care Workforce.** Recognizing that primary care is the foundation of an effective health care delivery system, SCMA supports efforts to strengthen the local primary care workforce. The medical association is a strong proponent of the Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program and of the Health Action Primary Care Workforce plan, which seeks to ensure that every local resident has access to a patient-centered medical home.

**Community leadership.** SCMA members serve in leadership positions for many local health organizations, including Health Action and its iWALK and Primary Care Collaborative, the Specialty Access Task Force, the Children's Health Initiative, the Sonoma Health Alliance, the Perinatal Substance Abuse Council, the Residency Program Collaborative, the Oral Health Planning Group, and Partnership HealthPlan.



SONOMA COUNTY HOSPITAL  
by Eugene Perrot, 1896

## MEMBER BENEFITS

**BENEFITS AND ACTIVITIES** for SCMA/CMA members include legal and financial services, collegial events, and legislative advocacy.

**Free medical-legal information.** SCMA/CMA members can contact local attorney Larry McLaughlin for free medical-legal information on contracts and agreements, subpoenas, employer/employee relations, collections, confidentiality, and records retention. Members can also call the **CMA Member Help Center at 800-786-4262** for assistance with general, legal and reimbursement issues. In addition, members can access the **CMA Medical-Legal Library**, an online resource containing over 3,000 pages of medical-legal, regulatory and reimbursement information. These documents are free to members; nonmembers pay \$2 per page.

**Collegial Events.** SCMA encourages physician collegiality in Sonoma County by sponsoring two annual events. During the popular **Awards Dinner**, held in the fall, SCMA presents Outstanding Achievement awards to local physicians and

community members. The informal **Wine & Cheese Reception**, held at a different winery each spring, allows physicians to interact with their colleagues in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere.

**CMA Meetings.** SCMA/CMA members regularly participate in meetings sponsored by the California Medical Association. Each fall, delegates from SCMA attend the **House of Delegates**, which establishes the policies that guide CMA. During the spring, SCMA/CMA members enroll in the **CMA Leadership Academy**, which helps physicians develop leadership skills and understand the latest trends in health care.

**Legislative Advocacy.** Physicians consistently indicate that influencing public policy is a top priority. SCMA/CMA members regularly meet with local representatives and with candidates for public office. Members are also invited to participate in the annual **Legislative Day**, when physicians from around the state convene in Sacramento to meet with legislators and other government officials.

## PUBLICATIONS

**ONE OF THE KEY FUNCTIONS** of SCMA and CMA is to help physicians stay current with medical news and trends. Members receive free subscriptions to several publications, including:

**SCMA News Briefs.** This monthly electronic newsletter covers the latest local, state and national medical news.

**Sonoma Medicine.** Each issue of this award-winning quarterly magazine focuses on a particular medical topic, with articles by local physicians and other experts.

**Sonoma County Physician Directory.** This annual publication features detailed listings for SCMA members, including their specialties, board certifications, special medical interest and medical training.

**CMA Publications.** SCMA/CMA members can receive one or more free newsletters from CMA, including *CMA Alert* and *CMA Practice Resources*. In addition, the **CMA On-Line Bookstore** offers a wide array of legal handbooks, practice management guides and patient education materials.

## SCMA COMMITTEES

**MEMBERS WHO ARE INTERESTED** in influencing public policy, upholding professional standards or reviewing publications can sign up for SCMA committees, including:

**Awards.** Oversees the nomination process for the annual Outstanding Contribution awards.

**Editorial Board.** Approves editorial content for *Sonoma Medicine* magazine.

**Health Careers Scholarship.** Provides scholarships to students interested in pursuing health careers.

**Legislative.** Organizes meetings with local legislators and candidates for public office.

**Medical Review.** Reviews medical malpractice claims involving SCMA members. Also investigates the quality or efficacy of medical services and tries to resolve complaints through mutual understanding and education.

## HOW TO JOIN SCMA AND CMA

Any medical doctor (MD) or doctor of osteopathy (DO) is eligible to join the Sonoma County Medical Association and the California Medical Association. You can apply online at [www.scma.org/join](http://www.scma.org/join) or request an application form from Rachel Pandolfi at [rpandolfi@scma.org](mailto:rpandolfi@scma.org) or 707-525-4375.

## CONTACT SCMA

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