



ISMA
INDIANA
STATE
MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION



The Indiana State Medical Association: What We Do, Why it Matters

Why ISMA? | ISMA maximizes the impact and leadership of physicians and medical students through advocacy, education and professional resources. Our vision is to make Indiana one of the best states in which to practice medicine, and for Hoosiers to be among the healthiest people in the U.S. We believe that quality health care depends on physician-led health care teams, and that physicians can do more together to bring about positive change than they can individually. Physician well-being and fulfillment are also priorities for ISMA.

Stronger together | As part of the state's largest physician organization dedicated to the profession of medicine, physicians and medical students help shape ISMA's legislative priorities and, as a result, drive the future of health care in the Hoosier State.

Maximizing physician impact | ISMA membership can improve the health of Hoosier patients through policy making that strengthens the physician workforce and through our collaborative influence on key issues at the state and national levels.

Physicians supporting physicians | ISMA supports physicians in every specialty and at every stage of their careers. By investing in scholarships, developing leadership opportunities for medical students, residents and young physicians, and promoting wellness to prevent burnout, ISMA is helping physicians achieve a rewarding, lifelong career in medicine – including in retirement.

Strategic alliances | ISMA is a founding member of the Indiana Physician Coalition, an alliance of 14 state specialty societies working to protect patients through physician-led care.

Who makes up the ISMA?

Over 9,000 Total members

1,000 Young physicians

600 Resident physicians

1,900 Medical students (MU-COM + IUSM)

2,000 Retired physicians

ISMA's Support of Physicians and Medical Students

- **Advocacy** – ISMA provides access to Indiana legislators and agencies and a focused voice for physicians. ISMA educates lawmakers on important topics, such as medical malpractice, prior authorization and scope of practice.
- **Free, convenient CME** – ISMA members receive free access to hours of CME content; this includes CME on opioid prescribing and abuse required to renew a CSR in 2023. Using the ISMA Online™ mobile app, members can earn CME anywhere and at any time.
- **Malpractice protections** – One of organized medicine's top priorities is keeping the cost of practicing medicine in Indiana low. ISMA was instrumental in medical malpractice reform legislation in 1975, and our ongoing defense of the Medical Malpractice Act against legal and legislative challenges has kept Indiana's malpractice insurance rates 40% to 70% lower than in surrounding states.
- **Policy making** – Through the House of Delegates and the resolution process at ISMA's annual convention, all members have the opportunity to shape ISMA policy on the practice of medicine and public health.
- **Leadership opportunities** – ISMA is a physician-led association. That means individual members representing health systems and independent practices can make a difference in the direction of the organization and in the health of Hoosiers.
- **Workforce** – ISMA's strategic plan includes new initiatives to improve physician retention and recruitment. ISMA offers services addressing physician burnout and substance abuse, including the Physician Assistance Program, to assist physicians experiencing issues that could jeopardize their license. These services also help employers avoid the costly process of replacing a physician.
- **Resident and medical student support** – ISMA has dedicated funding and staff to support our membership and leadership pipeline of nearly 2,500 Medical Student Society and Resident/Fellow Society members. And, in 2018, ISMA seeded \$1 million endowed scholarship funds at each of Indiana's two medical schools to support future physicians in the state, bringing our donation total to over \$6 million over the decades.

Now is the time. Your ISMA physician colleagues around the state need you to join them to make a stand for your profession and patients! We look forward to working with you to maximize the leadership and impact of physicians and medical students in Indiana. Visit www.ismanet.org/join now to become part of ISMA. If you have any questions, please contact Katie Kluger at kkluger@ismanet.org or Vicki Riley at vriley@ismanet.org.

