

# Fresh Air, Fresh Wins for Advocacy

By Chirag Patel, MD



It's finally back into the 70s and 80s as we head into the month of May. I personally love this month as the pollen levels start to fall, and the weather is perfect for some outdoor fun! I recently had a chance to travel to Orlando, where I attended the Community Oncology Alliance (COA) conference (see picture). The conference focused on advocacy for community oncology and inspired the attendees to advocate for each other and our patients. I am sure you know advocacy is important; as a physician or PA, we must ensure our patients obtain proper care. However, I often feel many professionals deem their voices as insignificant. They feel powerless, especially when they do not know how to advocate. I don't fault you if you feel stuck in this boat; I think this issue stems from faults associated with medical education that often leave students and trainees unprepared for navigating this space. Luckily, MCMS is here to support you and give you avenues to get involved!

Just recently, a few members of our group traveled to Raleigh for White Coat Wednesday with NCMS.

The group found the event meaningful as they spoke with legislators about their concerns. We were ecstatic to hear HB 434 (CARE FIRST Act) passed the House; this bill aims to reform prior authorizations to allow physicians to make timely decisions when caring for patients. The physicians who attended established strong relationships with legislators, allowing them to serve as a resource to legislators in the future.

I recognize the challenge the distance to Raleigh poses for many, so MCMS is trying to ease this burden by having our legislators come to Charlotte to meet with us! Come join us for a joint event with NCMS on June 3rd and casually meet some of our legislators. Our executive director, Kiki, will be sending more information soon. We will be having a town hall later this summer or fall to discuss some key policies with legislators.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

MCMS Social - May 15 - District 57

Safe Alliance Walk a Mile - May 17 - Truist Field

NCMS Social - June 3 - Legion Brewing

Women Physicians - June 4 - Reproductive Specialists

Gala - October 3 - Mint Museum Randolph

