The Public Health Committee met three times by conference call over the year. The following items were reviewed:

**Tennessee Maternal Mortality Review Process**
Along with TMA Legal Staff, Dr. Adele Lewis, Chair, represented the committee at a meeting with the Tennessee Department of Health to discuss the formation of a maternal mortality review process in Tennessee. This is an effort to better track maternal deaths and ultimately reduce deaths. Although this item did not make the TMA’S 2016 Legislative agenda, it was picked up by another association and supported by TMA. HB1757/SB2303 is still pending at the time of this writing.

**Resolution on Misleading Healthcare Representation**
The 2015 TMA House of Delegates Resolution No. 14-15 “Prevention of Misleading Health Care Representation” was assigned to the committee for review and recommendations. After discussion with the author, Dr. Phillip Langsdon, the committee suggested rewording of the resolution to specify the spa industry and resubmission at MedTenn16.

**TMA Medical Marijuana Statement Update**
The committee also reviewed the TMA Medical Marijuana statement previously developed by the TMA Public Health committee and approved by the TMA Board. They felt new Tennessee legislation legalizing the use of cannabis oil did not alter the original statement.

**Physician Assisted Suicide**
At the request of the TMA Board, the committee reviewed the AMA policy statement on Physician Assisted Suicide. They unanimously agreed with the AMA statement and recommended TMA should continue to abide by this policy.

**Mandatory Immunizations in Tennessee**
The TMA Board also tasked the committee to review the need for all exemptions but medical be deleted from the Tennessee mandatory immunizations requirement. After a report from invited guest, Mrs. Ruth Allen, Executive Director of the Tennessee Academy of American Pediatrics, the committee learned less than 1% of the Tennessee public kindergarten population was opting out of mandatory vaccinations. The committee felt pursuing this issue at this time was not prudent. Therefore, they made a recommendation for no change.
Joint Public Health Award with Tennessee Public Health Association
The committee continued to work with TPHA in the selection of the 2016 nominee for the annual TMA/TPHA joint William Schaffner Public Health Hero award. This year, TMA will be responsible for presentation details and the award will be presented at the TMA annual meeting.

Public Health Information Update
The committee worked with the TMA Communications department to disseminate relevant and current Public Health information on the TMA Public Health webpage and on social media. The committee also reviewed materials from the Governors Foundation for Health, a web-based application initiative to promote physical activity and healthy diets in Tennesseans.

Respectfully Submitted,

Adele Lewis, MD, Chair

2015-2016 Committee Members
Yasmine Ali, MD
Mark Anderson, MD
Valerie Arnold, MD
O. Lee Berkenstock, MD
Barry Jarnigan, MD
Michael Miller, MD
Tara Sturdivant, MD
James Batson, MD, Board Liaison
Pam Slemp, TMA Staff Liaison