



President's Comment

David M. Palafox, M.D.

President

El Paso County Medical Society



As we go forward in 2007, as President I wish to state for the record that I am 100% an El Paso Physician. It has been questioned by some that since I have worked for Texas Tech, that I am favor Texas Tech or Thomason issues and not the private sector. I am very cognizant of El Paso's healthcare and patient access problems. My father, an El Paso Orthopedic surgeon for 45 years, opened his first office in 1963 just across from Thomason Hospital on Fullen Street and I cleaned his X-ray processor on the weekends. I did sneak over to TGH for free food. Later I went to Texas Tech Medical School (class of 1980) and completed a Texas Tech El Paso Family Medicine residency. I stayed in my home town to practice medicine. In private practice I have worked at and served on medical staff at all the hospitals in El Paso including Providence, Las Palmas, Sierra Medical Center, Hotel Dieu, Southwestern, WBAMC and Del Sol and many nursing homes. My last private practice position was at Las Palmas in the Emergency room until 2004. I have been an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at TTUHSC since 2001 and until recently worked at the Urgent Care Center in the TGH Emergency Department. A recent personal advancement was my appointment as the Medical Director for El Paso First Health plans, Thomason Hospital District's Medicaid non profit entity. I am totally committed to the EPCMS, to its members who are my colleagues, and to the good people of El Paso whom we are privileged to serve. I am committed to increase our Medical Society membership and to maintain a close working relationship between the private sector and Texas Tech Faculty to help insure the success of the four year El Paso Medical School. My dream is to have more doctors educated in El Paso who will stay and practice here. Our Medical Society now has a very close working relationship with our parent organization, the Texas Medical Association and the Border Caucus to support improvement of healthcare at state and national levels. I have attended, along with many others, many meetings at El Paso Commissioners Court and City Council, El Paso Chamber of Commerce, and have traveled to Austin, Dallas, Houston and Washington D.C. to voice our healthcare disparity problems. I have been an active member of the El Paso County Medical Society since 1983. I am a product of both private and academic practice all rooted by an El Paso experience. I believe my background allow me to see issues from many perspectives.

I thank the many who have brought me here to this position as President. I wish to state for the record that the EPCMS is not the same organization you might remember if you have not visited or been active for a while. Our Turner Home is revitalized and is the only such facility in Texas. Our Medical Executive committee is very active in local, state and national politics to better access healthcare for El Pasoans. Our parent Texas Medical Association is working closely with us and is responding to our border needs. We

have an active PAC and our own Dr. Manuel Acosta is the new TexPac Chairman to help chose political leaders and educate them on our issues. As we go forward with 2007, I hope to see full state funding for our much needed four year Texas Tech El Paso Medical School, a full service City-county Health department and the growth of a stronger and united Medical Society. This is just the beginning, and of course we need for all of you to be proactive and ask your colleagues to join and participate with us in improving the healthcare provided in this city, this county, this state, and our nation. I wish you all a great New Year!

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