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LETTERS TO THE
EPCMS

E.P.C.M.S.

El Paso County Medical Society 2007 Annual Accomplishments

We have continued to build a stronger coalition that forms the Border Health Caucus those partners with fourteen Texas Mexico Border County Medical Societies. With the recognition that this coalition received by the politicians we are continuing to hold regular BHC meetings dovetailing with all TMA meetings. We are sending medicine's message to the politicians that medicine is in a crisis mode. In 2008 we will hold another Border Preceptor Program in all the major counties. The Border Preceptor Program brings politicians from other counties to El Paso so as to inform them of our Border issues. It is a two day forum with visits to the colonias, clinics and local physicians. Dr. Alvarez has stepped down as Chairman of the caucus and Dr. Manny Acosta has assumed his duties as Interim chair. We traveled to Washington in September of 2007 and met with respective Congressman and Senators. The group continues to conference call as needed.

We have presence on the following boards and committees:
Chamber of Commerce-Board member (Dr. H. Singh)
Chamber of Commerce-Health Council
El Paso City/County Environmental District-Board chair (Dr. E. Barron)
Board of Councilors-TMA -Dr.L. Acosta
Texas Medical Association Council on Socioeconomics-TMA-Dr. A. Rios
Texas Medical Association Council on Legislation—TMA-Dr. M. Alvarez
Texas Medical Association TEXPAC chairman-Dr. M. Acosta
Texas Medical Association Committee on Medicaid-Drs. G. Handal/ D. Palafox
Texas Medical Association Maternal & Perinatal Health-Dr. C. Jesurun
Texas Medical Association Council on Medical Education-Drs. D. Palafox/M. DelaRosa
Texas Medical Association Committee on Physician Ownership-Dr. L. Urrea
Texas Medical Association Committee on Professional Liability-Dr. K. Zerbach
UTEP Advisory Board for the College of Health Sciences and the School of Nursing-Dr. D. Palafox
Texas Medical Association Physician Payment Advisory Committee -Dr. F. Raudales
El Paso Safe Communities-Dr. D. Palafox, Dr. J. Tune, Blanche Tune, Patsy
Cancer Consortium of El Paso- Vice-chair (Patsy)

Rio Grande Cancer Foundation-Board (Patsy)
Community Voices-Advisory Board (Patsy)
BioTerrorism Task Force (Dr. M. Feliberti/Patsy)
Paso Del Norte PR/Marketing Advisory committee- (Patsy)

Physicians have participated in the mission/vision forums for the Medical Center of the Americas in addition to the design "charettes" for the center-Dr. K. Zerbach, Dr. D. Taber, Dr. L. Nickey, Dr. D. Palafox, Dr. L. Urrea, Dr. H. Singh, Dr. J. Heydemann, Patsy Slaughter.

We have provided staffing for the following seminars open to all physicians and their staffs, provided by the TMA:
Prompt Pay seminar
Blue Cross/Blue Shield Seminar Mini consults X2
Mini consults with Insurance Issues with the TMA (x2)
Medical Records in the Real World
Economic Survival

With the strong leadership of Dr. Tune, the PAC Continues to be a force on the El Paso political scene. The PAC has hosted many interviews of the local politicians and attended many fundraisers. With elections occurring 2008, they will continue to play a major role in judicial races.

Surveys have been sent to membership regarding charity and write-off care at the request of Dr. L. Urrea. Medicare cuts at the request of Dr. Taber and the Children's hospital at the request of the Executive committee.

We produced 12 "El Paso Physician" television programs with a wide array of topics. In addition, we have produced 5 issues of the "El Paso Physician" magazines and 6 issues of the "El Paso Physician" newsletter. Dr. R. Marwah is the Executive Producer for these live television programs airing on the last Thursday of every month on KCOS. Dr. J. Gonzalez is the Editor-in Chief for the magazine and newsletter.

We are currently working with the Chamber of Commerce and federally qualified Healthcare clinics on a Project Access to be implemented in El Paso early 2008. Participants are Dr. D. Taber, Dr. D. Palafox, Dr. J. Luna, Patsy along with chamber representation and other healthcare leaders.

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El Paso County Medical Society 2007 Accomplishments (Continued)

We worked closely with Dr. DelaRosa in the negotiation of the Medical Heritage Foundation collection that will be hopefully donated to Texas Tech early 2008.

Fifty one physicians continue to volunteer time and effort to treating the underserved at the Baptist clinic.

We have created and sent resolutions to the TMA House of Delegates. Those representing the physicians at the state level are: Dr. J. Aun, Dr. J. DelaRosa, Dr. A. Rios, Dr. H. Singh, Dr. L. Urrea, Dr. K. Zerbach and Dr. D. Palafox. They attend meeting twice a year to represent the physicians and the El Paso community.

These are just some of the highlights of the work performed by the physicians and staff of the EPCMS. There are many more committees and meetings that are attended on behalf of the physicians so as to remind the community that the physicians of El Paso care about this community. We encourage you to thank them for their services.

Most recently, several physicians have agreed to work on a pilot program associated with HRSA and Doctors for Donation. They are: Dr. A. Martinez, Dr. J. Gibson, Dr. T. Pinaroc, Dr. A. Bender, Dr. M. Spalding, Dr. A. Lopez-Coronado, Dr. Z. Ahmed, Dr. B. Personet, and Dr. J. Perez.

Staff has worked closely with the Central Appraisal District to hold the yearly tax rate to the 2006 appraisal on the Turner Home.

We acquired \$2000.00 from TMLT and \$500.00 from TMAIT to

assist in the induction of Dr. D. Taber, President-Elect in early 2008. We also invited Dr. Hinchey, President of the Texas Medical Association to be guest speaker for the event.

We continue to work on advertising income for both the television and magazine projects.

The staff continues to work with individual physicians on their current issues-i.e.-closing a practice, patient issues, medical board, referrals, CME, etc.

We are currently monitoring El Paso Physicians that have Board orders in the Physician Health and Rehab Committee. This committee meets on a monthly basis. Physician committee members are Dr. K. Wiant (chair), Dr. E. Gorby (TMA Regional chair), Dr. W. Ghans, Dr. J. Hatchett, Dr. A. Martinez, Dr. J. Monsivais, Dr. D. Palafox, Dr. H. Singh, Dr. D. Kruzick (psychologist). There is a large amount of paperwork and follow-up that the staff assumes the responsibility for throughout the month i.e. drug screens, letters to the board, AA meetings, and follow-up to the compliance department of the TMB and TMA.

Patsy Slaughter is continuously working with the TMA on membership and strengthening our numbers.

We are always looking for a "few good men or women". If you are interested in participating at any level or committee, please feel free to contact our offices at 533-0940.