



# President's Comment

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*President*

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“The heights by great men reached and kept were not attained by sudden flight, but they while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night.”

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

This quote embodies what I believe the unwritten axiom of the practice of medicine throughout all time. We as physicians, practitioners of the healing arts, are called by a sense of duty and willingness to serve others. We American Doctors of Medicine do this at the expense of our personal health, family obligations, caring for patients and not enough time nor unlimited infallibility. However, we “practice medicine” in a time of great peril in that big brother is no longer just watching but is NOW in control. The day of the solo practice is quickly fading. The time of the “fiercely independent El Paso physician” is in transition. Notice I did not say it is over because that will only happen if we let it!

Sadly, the government(getting bigger), lawyers(lots), and insurance companies(Mo' money) are over regulating & litigating while under funding with a goal to contract textbook medical care and high statistical “good” outcomes. They do not go to school for many years to become educated at great expense nor sacrifice to be skilled in medical care, but they know what is best.

If you get the picture, the preceding is a call to battle stations. We cannot reform American healthcare by an army of one. For example, by joining forces in 2003 with Medical Societies along the length of Texas border and Texas Medical Association we successfully passed Prop#12. Now your malpractice premium cost is more affordable than your home mortgage or local taxes. This is a very good outcome for organized medicine as we did not just roll over, we took action.

I would encourage all El Paso physicians to become more involved and active in the El Paso County Medical Society and Texas Medical Association. There is strength in our few numbers. We doctors need to be in control of healthcare and not the other way

around. Please read the list of activities of what your medical society has done just this past year for you and your patients to improve healthcare in El Paso.

I am most privileged to have served you all as 2007 President El Paso County Medical Society.

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