



President's Comment

Andres S. Enriquez, M.D.

President

El Paso County Medical Society



2010 has been a trying year, filled with challenges as well as its ups and downs. We continue to battle the Medicare cuts which have been put on hold by the government until the November elections and once again the can gets kicked down the road. We will soon be facing the new implementation of the new Health Care Reform Laws and what they mean to our practice. The first of which involves EHR, I caution physicians not to jump into a system just to take advantage of the new federal incentives.

Physicians who qualify as "meaningful users" of EHR technology through the Medicare program can receive up to \$44,000 over 5 year, and those who qualify through the Medicaid program can earn about \$64,000. But that may not cover the costs of a new system, so physicians should have other reasons for making the switch. While the government has released regulations defining meaningful use requirements, as well as requirements for certifications, there are currently no certified products on the market. I urge you to proceed with caution, and talk to other physicians who already have EHR in their office.

On a separate note; I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Werner Spier and the Spier family for all they have done with the El Paso Medical Heritage Foundation. Most of you may not know that Dr. Spier has been in charge of the El Paso Medical Heritage Foundation for over 40 years. He and his wife along with different colleagues have been very instrumental in starting and preserving the incredible museum on the second floor. According to Dr. Spier, the collection began in the 1960's when a doctor would pass away the spouse would call him up and offer to donate all the old medical equipment in his office. Before he knew it the basement of the Turner house was filled with incredible old equipment. He is also responsible for the continued care and meticulous work which is done to maintain the historical Turner House. The home celebrates its 100th birthday this year. Dr. Spier has been a witness to past presidents who have attempted to sell or turn the Turner house into an array of different entertainment establishments. Dr. Spier is a man of vision and commitment to our profession. He has graciously stepped down as the chair of the Foundation and in his place and equally enthusiastically and assertive physician takes his place, Dr. Luis Urrea.

The El Paso County Medical Society will continue to work hard and put the interests of our profession first and foremost. We will be attending the TMA 2010 Fall Conference "Moving Forward in a Post-Reform World" on October 15 thru 16 in Austin, Texas. I urge you to sign the petition on the Medicare Melt down, we will continue to fight the on going Medicare Meltdown.

This has been a trying year for all of us, I sometime feel that my career choice is in jeopardy and the future of medicine as we know it hangs on the balance of a few votes. These are ten rules I go by in order to keep my sanity and these trying time;

1. Devote 30 minutes to meditation-have some quiet time.
2. Develop interests outside of medicine-sports, volunteer work, hobbies
3. Develop a sense of humor-laugh at yourself, don't take yourself so serious.
4. Do your best to keep your mind on the pleasant things in life.
5. Concentrate your energies on matters you can have a positive influence.
6. Maintain yourself confidence-remember your past success, your future is full of possibilities.
7. Don't try to wear too many hats, its ok to say no.
8. Realize you don't have to obtain perfection in everything you do.
9. Be playful, lighten up, have some fun, be spontaneous in acts of kindness and generosity.
10. Find something bigger than yourself to believe in and be a part of.

Andres S. Enriquez, M.D.

President, El Paso County Medical Society

SAVE THE DATE

**El Paso County Medical Society
Installation**

January 19, 2011

**Incoming President
Dr. Jose Aun**