



President's Comment

Jose Aun, M.D.

President

El Paso County Medical Society



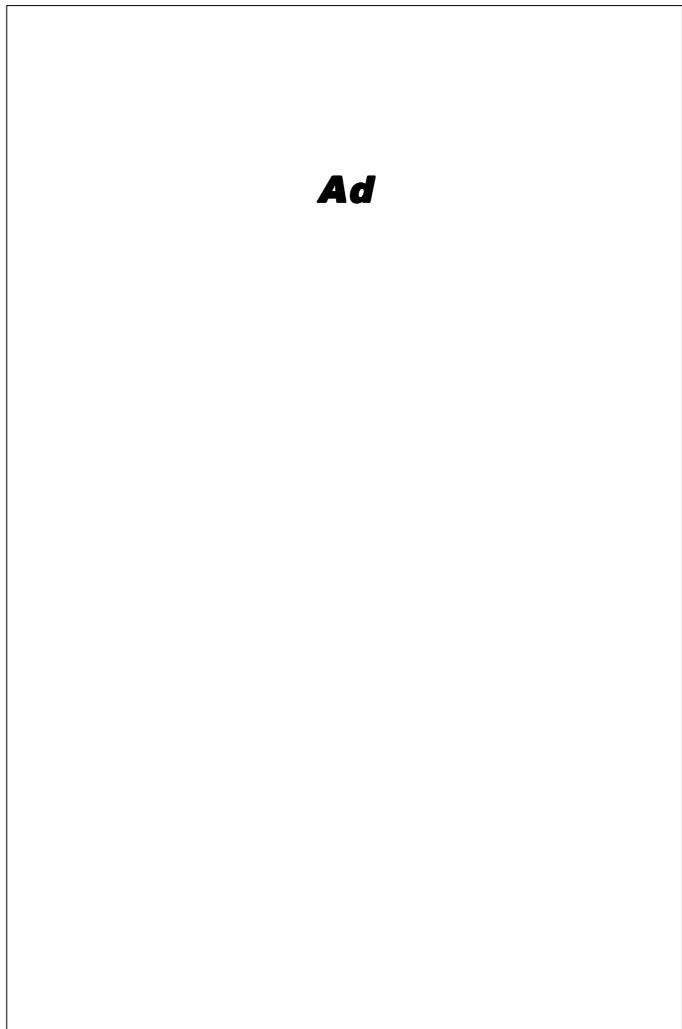
It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone. I would like to thank the membership of the El Paso County Medical Society for the honor and opportunity to serve as President of this wonderful organization. My gratitude goes out to Dr. Andres Enriquez for the wonderful job he did as President. As for continuity of the organizations knowledge and our issues, I will continue to rely on his counsel and that of the former Presidents as I embark on this year.

Many challenges face organized medicine this year. The Texas legislature is in session this year and faces a budget shortfall of 20 to 25 billion dollars. State leaders are looking to cut public services including Medicaid and mental health services. They have proposed a ten percent reimbursement cut to providers. This is on top of the two percent cut that providers have endured over the last six months. This is not acceptable as this will decrease the number of providers who are willing to take care of this population. Those patients will not be able to find a medical home and will end up utilizing emergency rooms for their care. This is the most expensive place to receive non emergent medical care and this cost will be passed on to local taxpayers. The medical society and the Texas Medical Association will be actively lobbying against these cuts by participating in First Tuesdays. Physicians and medical students in white coats as well as alliance members converge on the capitol and lobby our representatives. We will be attending as a Society on April 5 and invite the membership to participate in this experience.

Another continuing problem is Medicare reimbursement cuts at the federal level. Congress has temporarily delayed the current cuts for the next year but refuses to address the flawed SGR formula. This is the formula which calculates what reimbursement is paid to providers. We will be attending the Border Health Caucus conference in June 22nd and 23rd of this year. It will take place in Washington, D.C. and is hosted by Congressman Reyes. At this conference, we will not only address important border health issues but will also actively lobby the Texas delegation in the House and Senate. The focus of the lobbying will be to prevent Medicare cuts and for a permanent fix to the SGR formula. I invite all of you to attend this very informative and important conference.

I look forward to a productive year and ask for your prayers and help.

Jose Aun, M.D.
President, El Paso County Medical Society



*2011 President Installation
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