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**FIRST TUESDAYS: GETTING INVOLVED IN TEXAS LEGISLATURE**

The desire to make a difference is articulated in most if not all personal essays submitted in the medical school admissions process. Aspirations of changing the face of medicine and patient care are common themes expressed by eager applicants that though do not quite know how, are impatient to begin their journey. Despite sincere intentions, however, medical students find themselves challenged with a rigorous curriculum; the tribulations of which make it all too easy to lose focus of the big picture. Emphasis is placed on building a strong technical and intellectual foundation, and visions of all other lofty goals are temporarily placed out of thought. Furthermore, students find themselves in a new arena of unfamiliar issues concerning the politics of medicine, and perhaps become even more uncertain of how they can contribute.

What medical students in Texas may not know is that we can in fact play an important role in determining where medicine is headed, and we can directly influence policies that will affect our future as the healthcare providers of tomorrow. The First Tuesdays at the Capitol program gives medical students the opportunity to stand with physicians and other students from across the state to lobby state legislators to advocate for physicians' rights. Students are briefed and provided with talking points prior to meeting with state representatives and senators, and are then invited to be present on the floor at House and Senate sessions. This coming January will mark the 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislative Session and the Texas Medical Association strongly encourages medical students to take part in any of the four First Tuesday sessions scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>, March 5<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

The sea of white coats has come to be a respected symbol of unity at the Capitol, and every voice if of value. Make your voice heard at the upcoming legislative session and take the first step in taking responsibility for the future of medicine in Texas. For more information on First Tuesdays and policies affecting Texas physicians, visit the Texas Medical Association website: <http://www.texmed.org/firsttuesdays/>.

**BE WISE - IMMUNIZE!**

The Texas Medical Association student chapter at Paul L. Foster School of Medicine will be holding a *Be Wise - Immunize* immunization drive on the PLFSOM school campus from 10am-3pm on November 10, 2012. All required vaccines will be provided by the Caring for Children Foundation of Texas free of charge to unin-

sured children ages 0-18 years. The student chapter is also grateful to have Sagrado Corazon Tortilleria & Grill catering this event. Come for the children and stay for the fun!

**CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:**

The El Paso Physician is extending an open invitation to medical students interested in submitting research articles or essays based on their experiences or observations in medical school. The Medical Student section will showcase the perspective of the students throughout different stages of training and career development to physicians in the community. Commentaries on clinical experiences and inspiring interactions with mentors are welcome. Senior students approaching graduation are requested to submit comprehensive reflections on the process culminating in their eminent progression to residency.

Students interested in submitting research abstracts or original articles can refer to the Instructions to Authors document available on the EPCMS website for guideline requirements. For submission of abstracts detailing ongoing studies, students are advised to obtain consent from the principal investigator or project director to prevent conflict with permissions of other journals.

Interested applicants are encouraged to send manuscripts to:  
The El Paso Physician  
1301 Montana Avenue  
El Paso, Texas 79902-5530  
OR email to [epmedsoc@aol.com](mailto:epmedsoc@aol.com)

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