

**November 2013**  
**President's Message**

**As the year draws to a close...**

Did you attend the TSGE 38th Annual Texas Program? The Hilton Americas in downtown Houston was the site for the always impressive annual program. With over 350 nurses and physicians in attendance, all were able to expand their knowledge in the areas of IBD, IBS, Hepatitis C, Cirrhosis and many more. I would like to thank the co-program directors, Drs. Bincy Abraham and Andrew DuPont for taking the time to put together an outstanding program. In addition to the excellent general sessions, the live endoscopy course was well received. Broadcasted from St. Luke's in the Houston Medical Center, Dr. Isaac Rajzman and his staff coordinated some great case studies. I would like to thank Dr. Rajzman and his staff for hosting the event. And, as always, this annual program couldn't be done without the guidance of the TSGE Education Committee---thank you!

As you look at your calendar for 2014, please save the date for the 39th Annual Texas Program at the Hilton Austin, September 19-21st.

**Marcel Patterson- Robert Nelson Award and the Patient Advocacy Award**

During the 38th Annual Texas Program, two TSGE members were recognized for their service to the organization, its members and their patients. The Marcel Patterson-Robert Nelson award named after two of TSGE's founding members, is presented to a physician who embodies the spirit of these two gentlemen—someone who has made significant contributions to the field of gastroenterology. This year's recipient was Dr. Wm. Kern Deschner.

The Patient Advocacy award is given to a TSGE member that goes above and beyond advocating for patients in the field of gastroenterology. The recipient of this award went to Dr. Bruce Levy.

Congratulations to both recipients!

**Texas Legislative Update**

As we approach the holidays, do not forget that the election season is in full swing. You may have heard, there is extremely high turnover anticipated in the Texas political scene this election cycle. Already, highly contested elections for the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Comptroller, Attorney General, and other statewide offices are being waged. The changes in these important offices can impact our important Tort-Reform protections, tax codes, scope of practice models just to mention a few.

Many of your local officeholders may also be in contested races. I encourage you to get involved with your local elected officials regardless of any partisanship. As physicians, we face challenges and opportunities from all sides and political stripes. Your relationship with your elected officials may be the deciding factor in an issue facing our profession in the future.

Your TSGE Board of Directors recently pledged to become more engaged with our own local elected officials and become 'key-contacts' for those that represent us in Austin and Washington. I encourage you to do the same. After the past few years, it has become apparent to me that if we do not take an interest in politics, politics will take an interest in us!

## **TSGE Member Dues**

It is that time of year again to renew your dues for 2014. By now, you should have received notification by mail and/or email. Please note that the board voted to increase the dues to \$200. The dues increase will continue to provide you, as a member, with the opportunity to receive quality education along with CME at the annual program. It also gives you representation at the state capital and with national organizations, as well as the ability to network and share information with other gastroenterologists. Each member is an essential part to the success of TSGE—pay your dues today! **Click here to pay your dues.**

Finally, please do not hesitate to let us know how we can help you. Encourage your colleagues who might not yet be members to join TSGE.

Michael Guirl, MD, FACP  
TSGE President

If you have any questions or concerns, call our administrative office at 512-370-1626 or please e-mail me at [president@tsge.org](mailto:president@tsge.org).