



President's Message

November 2015

Dear Friends and Colleagues: 2015 is coming to an end, and the holiday season is upon us. Happy holidays to everyone!

We look forward to this season all year, but when it finally arrives, it seems to fly by right before our eyes. This time of year brings joy, happiness, heart-warming light displays, comforting family traditions, and a giving spirit. It is time to rejoice and rejuvenate! It is also time to make New Year's resolutions. May they come true for ya'll!

Those who attended the 40th Annual Texas meeting in Fort Worth would agree that we had a very successful and well-received meeting. It was possible only due to the hard work of our program co-directors Drs. Rajesh Putcha, Joseph Shelton, Josh George, the Educational committee, and our ever-available staff. I would like to raise a toast to the co-directors and our executive director Ky Camero, Cheers! The invited faculty was pleasantly surprised by the wonderful Texas reception of the program, and they all look forward to an invitation to next year's program.

For the next year, our program co-directors Dr. Jeffrey Lee and Dr. Ben Havemann are already at work with the help of the educational committee, putting together another wonderful program for you. The 41st Annual Program will be in beautiful Austin at the Hilton from Sept 23th to Sept 25th. Mark your calendars!

Texas Legislative Update

It was a busy year politically for TSGE as the society was one of the lead organizations to remove the 'Professional Occupations Tax' from license fees. The removal of this tax amounts to 20% cut in our license renewal fees. Success! TSGE was also involved in the out-of-network billing issue. Last session, legislators considered several options including allowing patients to take all disputed payments to mediation. TSGE Leadership played a key role in keeping a protection in place for you and your patients with the help of a threshold.

As the New Year begins, TSGE will be engaged in the Sunset Process of the Texas Medical Board (TMB) that takes place every 12 years. This review will establish the guidelines for gastroenterology and endoscopy licensure and discipline. We will be working to help protect our profession and ensure high and fair professional standards. The issue of "surprise medical bills" or out of network payments remains very much a debated topic around the country. We anticipate a robust discussion both in and out of the House of Medicine. TSGE will be participating in future forums to ensure our input.

The election season is already upon us with the Texas Primary election happening on March 1, 2016. As President, I encourage you to reach out to local candidates by inviting them to your

clinics or hosting them for coffees. Our ability to share the stories of our patients and the work our profession is doing in the community is our greatest resource. Be a key contact and voice for TSGE!

Marcel Patterson- Robert Nelson Award

During the 40th Annual Texas Program, a TSGE member was recognized for his service to the organization and its members and their patients. The Marcel Patterson-Robert Nelson award, named after two of TSGE's founding members, was presented to a physician who embodies the spirit of these two gentlemen and has made significant contributions to the field of gastroenterology. This year's recipient was **Dr. Thomas Deas**. Congratulations to Dr Deas!

Practice Management

As you probably have heard by now, we currently face decreased reimbursements for our services, especially for colonoscopy procedures, despite the efforts by all three of our national societies. I would encourage you to review all the changes coming for 2016 so that you can prepare your practice.

GI Roundtable (GIRT), the premier GI practice management meeting, is coming to Fort Worth, Texas this year, thanks to Dr Deas, the co-director for the meeting. The meeting will be held at Worthington Renaissance Hotel in Fort Worth from March 10 to March 12th. I would encourage you to attend this meeting to learn more about the ever-changing landscape of practice management. More information is available at www.giroundtable.com

TSGE Website enhancement and Members dues

We have added another feature to the TSGE website. You can now access contact information for your colleagues who are TSGE members. This information is for members only and requires a login. If you would like to opt out, please contact Ky Camero at the TSGE office.

It is that time of year again to renew your dues for 2016. By now, you should have received notification by mail and/or email. The dues will continue to provide members with the opportunity to receive quality education along with a 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 the success of TSGE, so pay your dues today! You can pay your dues at the TSGE website. (www.tsge.org)

Encourage your colleagues who might not yet be members to join TSGE.

If you have any questions or concerns, call our administrative office at 512-370-1626, or please e-mail Ky Camero at Ky.Camero@texmed.org.

Harish Gagneja, MD, AGAF, FASFE, FACG

TSGE President

TSGE would like to thank the following companies for sponsoring the 2015 meeting.....

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Many thanks to our 40th Annual TSGE Sponsors

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