

Dear Colleagues,

I'm happy to report that 2021 has already started off as a very successful year for TSGE. On June 5th, the TSGE board met IN PERSON for the first time in over a year. Personal connections are especially important at TSGE, and web-based meetings do not compare to face to face. It was great to see everyone, reconnect and review our high expectations for the upcoming year.

TSGE has been remarkably busy despite the pandemic. The 2021 Texas legislative session moved forward per usual and TSGE was able to help successfully shepherd several legislative priorities important to gastroenterology and the house of medicine to passage. I invite you to read the legislative summary for more details.

Membership is the foundation for everything we do. The board took up the challenge of recruiting new society members in 2021 from all over Texas. While this process has been fruitful, it became apparent there are still many solo and small (3 or fewer) practices in Texas that are not active in the society. On the heels of this discovery, the clinical practice committee sent out a survey to the membership to take a deeper dive into this area and this critical data is still being collected. If you are in the solo/small practice category and have received the survey, please complete it. Better yet, please join our newly formed solo/small practice committee by sending an email to Ky.camero@texmed.org. TSGE wants to focus on increasing involvement from those doctors and providing their practices with the advocacy, education or information they need. Membership is a critical process. We need everyone in TSGE to help us increase membership to represent every GI physician and advanced practice provider we can.

Have you marked your calendar for the TSGE Annual Conference, September 24-26th at the Westin Galleria in Dallas? If not, please do it now! **This is not a meeting you will want to miss.** Registration will open soon, and it is going to be an event to remember. In addition to an outstanding program, we plan to celebrate the first IN PERSON GI conference most of us have participated in over eighteen months. The program starts on Friday, September 24th with our GI fellow's symposium and an outstanding GI Video Forum on Friday afternoon. Friday afternoon finishes with the Welcome Reception. Saturday will be filled with lectures, panel discussions, a nurse's track, the business luncheon, and awards. Spouses and other life partners will not be left out. We will have a special spouse/guest tour of the Dallas Arboretum on Saturday morning. Look for more details about the tour on the TSGE website and in the meeting brochure. Finally, we have a big celebration planned for Saturday night. Everyone registered will be invited with their guests for an evening of food, fun, live music, and dancing. This is our way of thanking you for being a member of TSGE.

Our goal is for TSGE to be the finest state professional society in the country and to improve your professional life. I look forward to seeing you in September. Watch your email for more conference details, social media events (Twitter Talk in July) and ways to get more involved.

Very Sincerely,

Louis Wilson, MD