



Opportunities for Participation

General Participation-Networks and Collaborative Relationships

The Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) welcomes your involvement and encourages you to take advantage of the following opportunities. If you have any questions, contact the HCMS office, 713-524-4267, or e-mail Membership Development Coordinator, Regina Palasota at regina_palasota@hcms.org.

HCMS Branch Societies

With nearly 11,000 members spread out across the Greater Houston area, HCMS believes it is important to reach out to all of its members in their communities. As a result, HCMS has six branch societies (Central, North, West, Southwest, East, Southeast) that meet three times a year to offer continual medical education seminars (often ethics) on topics that focus on practice management, medical legislation and medical liability. The meetings offer excellent networking opportunities and provide information on HCMS/TMA member benefits, services and events. All HCMS physicians are designated to a branch based on their primary address and are welcome to attend.

The branch meetings are held three times a year at various locations within each branch area. Meetings generally start at 6 p.m. and last approximately two hours. The branches are: Central (includes the area within the 610 Loop); East (includes Baytown, Channelview, LaPorte, Highlands, and Crosby areas); North (includes Humble and Tomball areas); Southeast (includes Pasadena and Clear Lake areas); Southwest (includes Alief, Sharpstown, Bellaire, and Sugar Land areas); and Western (includes Memorial, Spring Branch, and Katy areas).

First Tuesdays at the Capitol

Since 2003, physicians, Alliance members (spouses of physicians), medical students, and medical societies from around the state have converged on Austin on the first Tuesday of each month during the legislative session for *First Tuesdays at the Capitol*.

Legislative sessions occur in odd numbered years and take place during the months of February, March, April, and May. While physicians are encouraged to attend as many of the First Tuesday events as possible, all levels of participation are welcomed. Each First Tuesday visit is a full-day commitment. HCMS makes the appointments and provides briefing papers and key insights on the officials. Physicians interested in a future elective position on the HCMS Board of Medical Legislation have found this is a good place to start.

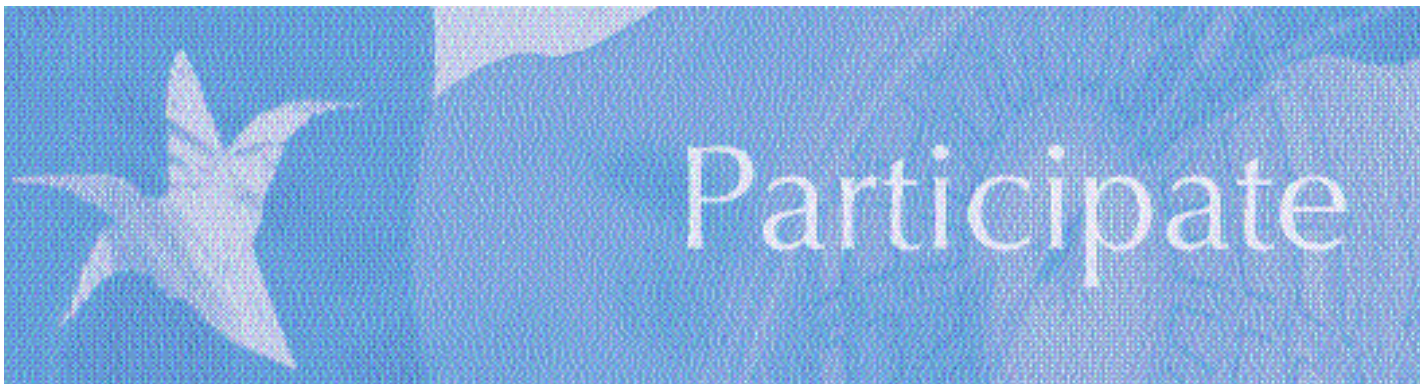
Texas Medical Association Political Action Committee (TEXPAC)

There are many ways for physicians to make their voices heard in the political arena but one of the most direct ways is to join TEXPAC. For \$125, physicians can become a part of the bipartisan, political arm of the Texas Medical Association that support medicine-friendly candidates for state and federal office.

TEXPAC membership entitles physicians to participate in the process to determine which candidates TEXPAC supports. TEXPAC meetings are usually held in Austin, in conjunction with TMA meetings. Spouses also may join and participate. For those interested in an elective position on the HCMS Board of Medical Legislation, this is another good entry point.

Council of Young Physicians

The HCMS Council of Young Physicians offers a variety of programs throughout the year to foster networking for referrals and collaboration with colleagues. The council holds two meetings per year as well as the HCMS New Member & Young Physician Reception, which is held annually in August at the John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science. The reception offers physicians the opportunity to earn CME credit while their children are cared for and entertained onsite. Young Physicians are 40 years of age or younger or have been in practice eight years or less. For those interested in future elective positions this is a good place to start. Council leadership begins with a position as a Young Physician Ambassador.





Opportunities for Participation

Appointed Positions – Lead and Gain Experience to Seek Elective Office

The Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) welcomes your involvement and encourages you to explore the opportunities to actively participate in your society and obtain experience needed to seek elective office. Committee appointments are made by the HCMS president elect beginning in November of each year. If you are interested in serving on one of the following, contact Vanessa Manohar, 713-524-4267, ext. 260, or e-mail vanessa_manohar@hcms.org.

Branch Officers

Serving as a branch officer is an ideal way to begin service with HCMS and get to know physicians in your community. Branch leadership begins at the Secretary/Treasurer level and on the fourth year of service becomes the branch president. A branch leader is required to attend his/her branch meetings. The branch president is also required to also attend the eight HCMS Executive Board meetings.

Community Health Improvement and Communications Committee

This committee oversees the Society's internal and external communications to members, the media and the public on issues related to health care trends, health care costs, quality care and the business of medicine, and our community service activities.

Emergency Care Committee

The committee represents HCMS in all matters pertaining to emergency care and disaster planning, including educational programs for physicians, emergency medical personnel and the public; advances in emergency medical communications and equipment; and liaison with emergency departments, medical staffs and community emergency services.

Health Plan Liaison Committee

The committee discusses and finds solutions to managed care issues through meetings with health plan medical directors. Service on this committee provides experience for physicians interested in election to the HCMS Board on Socioeconomics.

Medicaid Forum

The forum facilitates communication between Medicaid health plans and physicians and/or their office staff. This forum convenes two times each year at 4 p.m. at the HCMS offices. Meetings are scheduled on Wednesdays.

Membership Committee

The committee brainstorms and actively engages in new and creative ways to promote membership in HCMS and Texas Medical Association. Through the committee, strategies are developed to strengthen HCMS' recruitment and retention efforts.

Mini-Internship Committee

Mini-internships allow members of the community (legislators, journalists and community leaders) who affect health care policy or public opinion to have a close-up experience of a day in the life of a physician. The committee members participate by hosting one intern for half a day. Hosting involves having an intern shadow the physician as the physician goes about his/her day.

Physicians Counseling Committee

The committee offers help to physicians dealing with substance abuse problems. This advocacy group encourages physicians to seek treatment, supports those in recovery and monitors progress.

Texas Medical Association Political Action (TEXPAC)

There are many ways for physicians to make their voices heard in the political arena but one of the most direct ways is to join TEXPAC. Locally, active TEXPAC members can be appointed as a district chair or vice-chair and help coordinate local political activities. Interested physicians may get involved in local candidate races and/or host a fundraising reception.

Young Physician Ambassadors

The Ambassadors are young physicians appointed from each of the six branches of HCMS to help increase attendance and participation of young physicians at HCMS events and meetings. Each Ambassador also has an appointment on the Membership Committee. Young Physicians are 40 years of age or younger or have been in practice eight years or less. The Ambassadors will attend three branch meetings, three young physician events/meetings and two membership committee meetings.





Opportunities for Participation

Elected Positions-Lead the Society

The Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) welcomes your involvement and encourages you to seek an elective position. The HCMS Nominating Board is responsible for selecting candidates for elective office. The Board takes into consideration a physician's interest in serving and previous service to HCMS. The Board is composed of the presidents of the six HCMS branch societies, immediate past president and the president-elect of HCMS, and the chair of the Board of Ethics. If you have any questions or would like to nominate yourself or another physician, please contact Vanessa Manohar, 713-524-4267, ext. 260, or e-mail vanessa_manohar@hcms.org.

Alternate Delegate to the Texas Medical Association (TMA) (renewable by election every two years with good attendance)

The TMA House of Delegates, TMA's policy making body, is convened during TexMed which is held annually in April or May. It is a two day commitment. There are three local evening meetings held in the spring to prepare for the meeting. Alternate delegates participate in all aspects of the process. Most will have an opportunity to vote at the TMA House of Delegates. Alternates are promoted to delegates based upon attendance and seniority.

Board of Ethics (three-year term)

This Board is charged with supervising the ethical conduct of member physicians and counsels individual members, if warranted. The Board investigates and approves or disapproves applicants for membership. Service on a Hospital Peer Review Committee is helpful.

Board of Medical Legislation (four-year term)

This Board stays abreast of legislative matters and proposals affecting the profession and keeps the membership informed. The Board also meets with elected officials to educate them about organized medicine's or the profession's positions. Service with TEXPAC, the HCMS Delegation to TMA, or *First Tuesdays at the Capitol* is helpful. This Board meets monthly during the Texas legislative session and less often during non-legislative years.

Board on Socioeconomics (three-year term)

This Board stays abreast of medical economic matters that affect the profession (Medicare, Medicaid, managed care, etc.) and keeps the membership informed. Service on the Health Plan Liaison Committee is helpful.

Executive Board Member at Large (four-year term on HCMS Executive Board)

A Member at Large serves as an officer of the Houston Academy of Medicine. Several years of service to HCMS are required to serve in this position.

President Elect (one-year term on HCMS Executive Board)

A physician must have previous service on the HCMS Executive Board, served in numerous positions on committees, councils and boards, and demonstrated leadership qualities in order to be considered for nomination for this position.

Vice President (one-year term on HCMS Executive Board)

The vice president assists the president and should have prior service on a board, council or committee.

Secretary/Treasurer (one-year term on HCMS Executive Board)

Reports on the finances and meetings of HCMS and should have prior service on a board, council or committee.





Opportunities for Participation

Volunteer Opportunities – Provide Outreach to Our Community

The Harris County Medical Society (HCMS) welcomes your involvement and encourages you to volunteer and serve our community. If you have any questions, please contact the HCMS office, 713-524-4267 or e-mail Membership Development Coordinator Regina Palasota at regina_palasota@hcms.org.

Physician Health Network

Gateway to Care Provider Health Network (PHN), a physician-led community-partnership program addresses the problem of uninsured residents in our community. PHN combines donated physician care, hospital services, medications, transportation assistance, ancillary services, and care coordination to physicians and hospitals and to improve patient outcomes by delivering needed medical care when it should be given. PHN also assists physicians with caring for their own uninsured patients by coordinating all administrative aspects of their care. Patient care will be offered at the volunteering physician's office. Those interested in joining should call 713-783-4616, ext. 222. More information can also be found at www.gatewayto care.org. (Although PHN is not an official HCMS activity, HCMS supports its efforts.)

John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science

John P. McGovern Museum of Health & Medical Science (The Health Museum) is an interactive and entertaining science learning center for all ages that promotes understanding and appreciation of the human body. Volunteers are critical in providing museum guests with an experience that will inspire a lifelong commitment to health and wellness. The Health Museum has a variety of on-going volunteer positions in science education, marketing, exhibits and special events. (HCMS physicians founded The Health Museum in 1996.)

Boy Scout Physicals

Physician volunteers are needed to provide the required annual physicals for boys in the Urban Scouting Division, so they may participate in sports and attend camp. Many of these young men lack the necessary resources to get the required physicals. The Urban Scout Division, established in 1987, encourages at-risk boys to become involved in scouting, providing them with leadership skills and challenges in nature. This event is held annually on the first Saturday of June from 8 a.m. to noon at the the Sam Houston area council, Boy Scouts of America office in Houston..

Science and Engineering Fair

Physicians, residents and medical students are needed to be volunteer judges for one day at the annual Science Engineering Fair of Houston, held in the spring. Medical students will be paired with physicians to judge in the following divisions: Junior, Ninth grade, Senior Laboratory and Senior Non-Laboratory of Health and Medical Sciences. This is a great opportunity to help and guide young minds toward a future in medicine.

D-Tag Program

The "D-Tag" Tattoo Removal program helps former gang members re-enter mainstream society by removing tattoos that may indicate gang affiliation. Plastic surgeons and dermatologists who are certified with Advanced Ambulatory Inc. are needed to volunteer their time and services. This cooperative effort between HCMS and the City of Houston's Operation Gang Together began in 1997, and has helped thousands of former gang members get a fresh start in life. The tattoo removal sessions take place one Saturday a month, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Judson W. Robinson Jr. Community Center.

