



Team Work Our Key to Success



Become a part of the Harris County Medical Society and Texas Medical Association Team!

Together, HCMS and TMA represent the majority of Texas physicians, which make us the largest county and state medical associations in the nation.

Because we represent nearly 11,000 physicians in Harris County and approximately 45,000 in Texas, we have a strong voice in Texas. This gives us significant impact on medical legislation and socioeconomic issues that affect YOU — physicians and your patients.

In any given year, more than 500 HCMS physicians participate on HCMS boards, councils and committees to set our priorities and accomplish our goals. Many more participate in HCMS functions and volunteer efforts. Because of member support our achievements reflect our size. Here are a few of our successes:

- **Reducing medical liability premiums by approximately 30% through liability reform.** HCMS and TMA were instrumental in passing and maintaining, medical liability reform that serves as a national model.
- **Assisting physicians in collecting more than \$16 million in reimbursements from health insurance companies through the HCMS Payment Advocacy Program in the past 10 years.** Additionally, HCMS & TMA have brought about changes in insurance policies, resulting in millions of dollars of savings for academic institutions and community physicians.
- **Advocating for true, positive Health System Reform for both patients & physicians.** We gathered input from our town hall meetings held throughout Texas (3 in Houston), and member surveys. TMA created TMA Principles of Health System Reform. *From your input HCMS & TMA continue to advocate and support these principles. (TMA Principles for Health System Reform can be viewed at www.hcms.org, and click on Health System Reform Update).*
- **Working with the Texas Medical Board (TMB), to change harsh public sanctions for minor administrative infractions as well as reduce the amount of time it takes to resolve administrative violations and credential physicians.**
- **Assisting physicians in making their practices more profitable and efficient through "Business of Medicine" seminars, newsletter articles and e-mail distribution lists.**
- **Embracing the diversity of our members and their interests,** we facilitate communication among our specialty societies, hospitals, young physicians, international physicians, medical students, and academic institutions.
- **Convening health care leaders to guide state lawmakers in Ike Recovery,** which resulted in the Texas Legislature providing funding to rebuild The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and support local trauma/emergency medical service programs.
- **Creating and distributing disaster preparedness materials for physicians on hurricanes and H1N1** as well as coordinated physician volunteer initiatives and disaster relief efforts.
- **Advocating for legislation that is physician and patient friendly!** *Holding health insurance companies accountable for the decisions they make and developing a health insurance code of conduct; Protecting the hard-won 2003 medical liability reforms; Stopping the unsafe expansion of non-physicians' scope of practice; Preserving physicians' autonomy from hospital and corporate ownership and interference; Additional funding for Graduate Medical Education; and Improving Texas' fiscal and physical health, were some of our achievements in 2009.*

With your membership and participation — We Can And Do Make a Difference!

To join HCMS and TMA call **713-524-4267**, or join online by going to **www.hcms.org** and click on "Membership".

To keep abreast of issues affecting your practice, go to **www.hcms.org** and **www.texmed.org**.