Responsibilities – 2020
Member of the Harris (HCMS) Delegation to the TMA House of Delegates

Serving as a member of the Harris (HCMS) Delegation to the Texas Medical Association (TMA) House of Delegates is an honor that carries with it the responsibility of representing the physicians of Harris County and provides an opportunity to influence the policies of organized medicine. A delegation member may put forward policy and provide testimony on a variety of issues that would be beneficial to all our colleagues around the state and the patients we serve.

The TMA House of Delegates establishes policy by debating and passing resolutions. A Delegate or Alternate Delegate may introduce a resolution on his/her own or at the request of a colleague. Resolutions are reviewed by the HCMS Delegation and, following local debate, may be sent to the TMA House for consideration. Some resolutions that are adopted by the TMA House provide the framework for the development of legislative bills or for TMA to work with a state regulatory body to change state law. Other adopted resolutions might be forwarded to the AMA House of Delegates to work for change at the national level.

RESPONSIBILITIES: County medical societies are given 1 seat in the House of Delegates for every 100 members. With over 9,700 active members, HCMS must seat 98 delegation members. Full HCMS representation is especially important when HCMS has nominated a candidate for election to TMA office or submitted resolutions for consideration. Both Delegates and Alternate Delegates are expected to be present during House debate and become familiar with the issues. If a delegation member has a conflict and is unable to attend the House meetings, the member must notify HCMS staff as soon as possible so that another member can be found to take his/her place.

2020 LOCAL MEETINGS: The HCMS Delegation will meet in Houston in the evening at the HCMS offices two times prior to the TMA House of Delegates Annual Session at TexMed 2020. Our first local business meeting will be held in late winter to organize the delegation and consider resolutions submitted by our delegation members. Our final business meeting will be held in mid-spring, shortly before TexMed, to consider the TMA reports and the resolutions submitted by other counties and TMA sections. We also hold an orientation meeting just before the start of our first business meeting to provide an opportunity for our newer delegation members to meet the delegation leadership and learn more about the processes.

2020 STATE MEETINGS: The TMA House of Delegates meets annually during TexMed, which is held in April or May, rotating among the large cities in Texas. TexMed 2020 will be held May 1-2 (Friday-Saturday) in Fort Worth.

ATTENDANCE: A delegation member is expected to attend all HCMS Delegation meetings and TMA House of Delegates sessions. If a delegation member is unable to attend a local or state meeting, he/she must request an excused absence in writing to the HCMS office prior to the meeting.

For more info, please see the HCMS Delegation website www.hcms.org under Advocacy/Delegation. Questions regarding service on the HCMS Delegation may be directed to Doug Abel or Alison Rutland, HCMS staff assigned to the delegation, 713-524-4267.

Sherif Z. Zaafran, MD  Bradford S. Patt, MD  Charles E. Cowles, Jr, MD
2019 Chair  2019 Vice Chair  2019 Secretary

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