50th Anniversary

Congratulations TSPP
Pedro Ruiz, MD, President, American Psychiatric Association

TSPP has distinguished itself over the years by organizing excellent Continuing Medical Education (CME) programs, especially during the yearly TSPP Annual Meeting, as well as in other TSPP scientific events.

As a President of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) who is also a member of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians (TSPP), it gives me special pleasure to recognize the 50th Anniversary of TSPP. TSPP is one of the oldest and largest of the District Branches within the APA family. TSPP contributions to the profession and field at large over the years has been significant and effective; particularly, in the legislative area and advocacy. As a member of TSPP for 25 years, I feel proud and fulfilled by the achievements of TSPP over the years. Undoubtedly, TSPP has been one of the most active and effective District Branches within the APA.

The history of joint efforts between TSPP and the APA on behalf of our patients, the profession and field of psychiatry has been quite meritorious and extensive. The days, with the challenges faced by the profession, it is imperative that this collaboration be strengthened to its maximum.

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I want to welcome one and all to this, the third year of operations for the Federation of Texas Psychiatry. This organization of professionals has been successful beyond expectation, and I thank my predecessor, Conway McDonald, MD, for his efforts in bringing about this remarkable accomplishment. Conway courageously became the first chairman of the Federation in 2004, a time of uncertainty and turmoil regarding the control of the future of organized psychiatry in Texas. Today, the Federation counts as its member organizations the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians, the Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the Texas Academy of Psychiatry, the Texas Foundation for Psychiatric Education and Research, the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association, and the Texas Medical Association.

As a result, the Federation now speaks for quality psychiatric care in Texas with the backing of over 46,000 physicians of its member organizations. Having a voice this large has already helped greatly in approaching the Texas Legislature on behalf of psychiatrists and our patients. Having a voice this large will enable us to more effectively aid our colleagues in other fields of medicine with their battles for quality medical care. Having a voice this large affords us our best chance at continuing to ensure that non-physicians will not be able to endanger the health of the citizens of Texas by attempting to assume the roles of physicians without the training that all physicians must undergo.

During the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to speak with two of my Waco area legislators, Senator Kip Averitt (R) and Representative Jim Dunnam (D). Senator Averitt spoke a few summers ago at one of our Leadership Conferences; Representative Dunnam is the Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus. Both have supported our efforts over the years, especially with regard to preventing psychologists from gaining prescribing privileges. Both have offered their help to us without fail when we have needed it. Both have related to me how highly they regard the Federation, how well it is recognized in the Legislature, and how great is the respect commanded by an organization of its size and stature. Both have stated to me that the formation of the Federation was the single best step we could have taken to enhance our ability to communicate effectively with all members of the legislature.

By the time this column is published, the 2006 Advocacy and Leadership Conference will have taken place. Learning how to approach members of the legislature, including our own, and learning how to communicate with them effectively, was directly influenced and enhanced by participating in our Advocacy and Leadership Conferences. Joel Roberts, a media expert from California, accepted the offer of returning to Texas to lead the 2006 Conference, as he has done so effectively in the past. He is an outstanding talent and presence, and affords TSPP members and other physicians, as well as the many members of our allied organizations, a special opportunity to improve the effectiveness of our advocacy efforts.

Remember, it takes an effort from all of us to make the success we have realized in the past. Without this hard work and dedication (especially including that of our Federation staff, John Bush and Debbie Sundberg), psychologists even now would be admitting to hospitals and prescribing medications. Texans deserve better, and it’s up to us to deliver.
**First New Mexico. Then Louisiana. Will Texas be Next?**

John R. Bush, Executive Director, Federation of Texas Psychiatry

_“Those who do not do politics will be done in by politics.”_ — French proverb

Since the mid-1980’s, a minority element of organized psychology has religiously worked to gain prescribing privileges through legislative means. In Brent Politt’s article entitled “Psychologists Using Disingenuous Reasoning to Mislead Legislatures into Granting Psychologists Prescriptive Authority,” published in the American Journal of Law and Medicine (Vol. 29 No. 4 2003), the author states: “Psychologists seeking prescriptive authority appear blinded by their own self-interest associated with prescribing medication, willing to dis- tort and totally disregard a multitude of opposing facts, placing patients at harm. Most disturbing about this debate is the unwillingness on the part of the psycholo- gists seeking prescribing privileges to acknowledge a safety issue even exists.”

The author concludes: “While the lack of available psychopharmacological treatment is a serious concern for all healthcare profes- sionals, patient safety must remain para- mount. Increased availability of harmful, substandard treatment is not the solution. The crux of the problem centers on what constitutes satisfactory education and train- ing to grant prescriptive authority. Lowering this standard to allow psychologists to pre- scribe poses too great a risk to patient safety.”

Despite opposition to psychologists pre- scribing privileges posed by psychiatry and other physicians, by psychologists includ- ing the Committee Against Medicalizing Psychology, and by patient and advocacy organizations including NAMI and the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, the New Mexico Legislature in March 2002 and Louisiana Legislature in May 2004 passed bills granting psychologists pre- scribing privileges. These legislative suc- cesses bear out Jesse Jackson’s declaration: “In politics, an organized minority is a political majority.”

The results are achieved by psychologists in our neighboring states embolden their resolve to achieve the same result in Texas. Will Texas be next? The past president of the Texas Psychological Association has stated that prescribing privileges for psychologists in Texas is inevitable. Texas psychiatry has convincingly defuted psychology’s attempt to legislatively gain pre- scribing privileges in Texas three times...in 2001, 2003 and in 2005. Organized psychol- ogy will again file their prescribing bill in the Texas Legislature in January 2007 and will vig- orously pursue its passage.

The barrier to psychology’s success in Texas in 2007 will be the same barrier that prevented their legislative efforts 2001, 2003 and 2005...the Federation of Texas Psychiatry and its member organizations (Texas Academy of Psychiatry, Texas Foundation for Psychiatric Education and Research, Texas Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association and the Texas Medical Association) and its coalition partners from organized medicine: individ- ual practicing psychologists and mental health advocacy organizations. Psychologists’ arguments for prescribing privileges given in New Mexico, Louisiana, Texas and numerous other states where simi- lar bills have been filed, have included the following: 1) psychologists’ education and clinical training better qualify them to diag- nose and treat mental illness in comparison with primary care physicians; 2) the Department of Defense Psychopharma- cology Demonstration Project (PDP) demon- strated non-physician psychologists can prescribe psychotropic medications safely; 3) the recommended post-doctoral training requirements adequately prepare psycho- logists to safely prescribe psychotropic med- ications; 4) this privilege will increase availability of mental health services, espe- cially in rural areas; and 5) this privilege will result in an overall reduction in medical expenses, because patients will visit only one healthcare provider instead of two – one for psychotherapy and one for medication.

These are all examples of why Mr. Politt entitled his article, “Fool’s Gold: Psychologists Using Disingenuous Reasoning to Mislead Legislatures into Granting Psychologists Prescriptive Authority.” Each of these points may be easily rebutted by facts, science, and medical experience.

If this is so, why did the legislatures in New Mexico and Louisiana approve bills granting psychologists prescribing privileges? Science, medical experience and only weapons used to rebut the reasons given by psychologists justifying prescribing privi- leges. But the battle ground is politics. Every Texas psychiatrist can offer numer- ous facts, scientific evidence and practical medical experience to discredit the ill-conceived initiative to allow psychologists to pre- scribe medications to patients. But, is this enough? Didn’t psychiatrists in New Mexico and Louisiana make the same arguments? One must realize that the debate is being waged in the political arena. In the political arena, RELATIONSHIPS often trump the best of arguments.

Every Texas psychiatrist must recognize that the battle is already underway. The bat- tle began in Texas in 2001 when psycholo- gists first introduced their prescribing bill. If Texas psychiatrists and coalition partners wait until January 2007 to enter the battle, when the psychiatrists make their fourth effort to pass their bill, the chances for psychology’s success increases. We can not afford to wait. Every psychiatrist must begin today, and continue through the General Election in November, to proactively form RELATIONSHIPS with their legislators.

Commenting on their legislative victory in New Mexico, a leader of their state psychol- ogy organization, Mario Marquez, PhD, said: “To me, the bottom line is we developed rela- tionships with legislators. We educated them about psychology and we made friends with them in some cases.”

The psychologists in New Mexico, and perhaps Louisiana, clearly understood the importance of engaging in battle in the polit- ical arena and forming relationships with their legislators. They followed the advice of Paul Lazarfeld: “In politics, familiarity doesn’t breed contempt. It breeds votes.”

To launch our initiative in the political arena, the Federation is announcing its Political Advocacy Task Force to coordinate crucial grassroots political activities, recog- nizing the wisdom of former Speaker Tip O’Neill’s adage: “All Politics is Local.” The purpose of all political activities will be to encourage psychiatrists to form relationships with their legislators – one on one. A goal of the Political Advocacy Task Force is for every member of the Texas Legislature to know by name a psychiatrist in his/her District.

How can psychiatrists participate? Activities may include:

1. contacting a legislator or candidate and meeting with them in their District Offices;
2. discussing issues with the staff of the leg- islator or candidate;
3. inviting legislators and candidates to speak at Chapter meetings or other meet- ings of psychiatrists;
4. volunteering to help in elections from putting up yard signs to distributing litera- ture, and financially supporting candi- dates. Your volunteerism will never be forgotten by the legislator/candidate.

In addition to participation in these grass- roots activities, there are other measures you can undertake to help and participate:

1. If you are interested in participating in the Federation’s grassroots activities, please contact the Federation Office.
2. If you already have a relationship with a legislator, please let the Federation Office know.

Why should I be active in the political process? 12 reasons, just to mention a few........

1. All politics is local. – Tip O’Neill
2. Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn’t mean politics won’t take an interest in you. – Pericles
3. One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors. – Plato
4. Those who do not do politics will be done in by politics. – French Proverb
5. All politicians are based on the indifference of the majority. – James Reston
6. I believe there’s something out there watching over us. Unfortunately, it’s the govern- ment. – Woody Allen
7. If I seem to take part in politics, it is only because politics encircles us today like the coil of a snake from which one cannot get out, no matter how much one tries. I wish therefore to wrestle with the snake. – Mahatma Gandhi
8. In politics, popularity is not a handicap. – Napoleon
9. No man’s life, liberty or property are safe while the legislature is in session. – Judge Gideon J. Tucker
10. In politics, familiarity doesn’t breed contempt. It breeds votes. – Paul Lazarsfeld
11. In politics, an organized minority is a political majority. – Jesse Jackson
12. (On the New Mexico victory by psychologists) To me, the bottom line is we developed relationships with legislators. We educated them about psychology and we made friends with them in some cases. – Mario Marquez, PhD, New Mexico Psychological Association

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To the Federation’s political advocacy activities in preparation for the 2007 Texas Legislative Session, keep in mind the old French proverb: “Those who do not do politics will be done in by politics.” With your active participation in the political process, Texas will not succumb to accepting substandard and potentially harmful levels of medical care for the citizens of our State who seek treatment for psychiatric illnesses, as has been the case in two adjoining states.
Welcome Reception
You will enjoy visiting with your colleagues and friends from all areas of Texas at the TSPP Welcome Reception, the first social event on Friday evening, November 3 beginning at 6:30 pm. There will be an opportunity to visit with Exhibitors to learn more about products and services and to thank Exhibitors for their support of TSPP.

Also, a poster session chronicling the history of TSPP and Texas Psychiatry will be available for viewing.

Westin Galleria Hotel
Located within the impressive Galleria (15340 Dallas Parkway), the Westin Galleria Dallas offers instant access to more than 280 exclusive shops, restaurants and entertainment options. Settle into your luxuriously appointed accommodations. Dine, or relax with a drink and catch the big game at Options Restaurant and Bar. Step outside and you’re in the Galleria, the best shopping experience in Texas. Stroll down to Saks Fifth Avenue or start your wish list at Tiffany & Company.
The award-winning Westin is renowned for its luxurious guest rooms and for helping you manage your travel needs. Enjoy the extensive meeting facilities and comprehensive services at the business center. Guests also appreciate the on-site car rental agency.

At the Westin Galleria Dallas, every guest room features a coffee maker, 2-dual-line telephones with data ports and satellite television with movies on command.

To receive TSPP’s discounted room rate of $139, you must register with the Westin Galleria Hotel by October 12 by calling 972/964-9494 or 888/627-8536. Refer to the Group and Meeting Name: Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians’ 2006 Annual Convention.

History of Texas Psychiatry
Over the years, Dan Creson, MD of Houston has video taped interviews with the pioneers and leaders of Texas Psychiatry. Dr. Creson will present highlights from these video interviews which will reflect on the development and growth of psychiatry in Texas. You will not want to miss this historical presentation during the Membership Luncheon on Saturday, November 4 at 12:00 noon.

Special Programs for MIT Members
The Member-in-Training Section is planning a special program for members entitled, “How to Set Up a Successful Private Practice with Minimal Pain and Terror,” William C. Streusand, MD, Austin, presenter. The program will be conducted on Friday, November 3.

Following the Welcome Reception on Friday evening, the MIT Section is planning an “After Hours Social” for members and their families.

Annual Business Meeting
The Annual Business Meetings of TSPP and the Texas Foundation for Psychiatric Education and Research will be conducted at the conclusion of the Scientific Program on Sunday. During the luncheon program, members will be entertained by a visual presentation of photos taken during the many events of the Annual Convention. Each registrant will receive a DVD of the presentation as a memento of the 2006 TSPP Annual Convention and 50th Anniversary Gala.

Scientific Program Accreditation
The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians designates this educational activity for a maximum of ten AMA PRA Category I Credits™. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.
The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians is accredited by the Texas Medical Association to provide continuing medical education for physicians.
The presentation “Medical, Legal, and Ethical Issues in Serious Brain Injuries and Severe Mental Illnesses” has been designated by the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians for two (2) hours of education in medical ethics and/or professional responsibility.

The Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians is pleased to recognize the following confirmed contributors and educational grants to the 2006 Annual Convention and Scientific Program:

**DIAMOND**
Abbott Laboratories
Bristol-Myers Squibb
Eli Lilly and Company
GlaxoSmithKline
Pfizer, Inc.

Texas Foundation for Psychiatric Education and Research
Wyeth Pharmaceuticals

**PLATINUM**
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals LP

**GOLD**
Sanofi Aventis

**SILVER**
Takeda Pharmaceuticals

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Texas

Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians
2006 Annual Convention and Scientific Program

50th Anniversary Gala
A highlight of the festivities during the 2006 Annual Convention will be a special 50th Anniversary Gala Dinner. This black tie optional dinner will be held on Saturday, November 4, beginning at 7:15 pm. The dinner will be preceded by a reception beginning at 6:30 pm. TSPP’s members including Past Presidents and previous Award Recipients will all be recognized for their contributions to TSPP. Following the presentation of an anniversary cake and champagne, the evening will continue with musical entertainment and dancing. Please join us for a festive and memorable celebration of TSPP.

T E X A S S O C I E T Y O F P S Y C H I A T R I C P H Y S I C I A N S
50TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION & SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM
November 3-5, 2006 • Westin Galleria Hotel, Dallas, Texas

Please complete this form and return it with your check, money order or credit card information for your registration fee and event fees to the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians, 401 West 15th Street, Suite 675, Austin, Texas 78701 by October 12 to receive the discounted registration fee. Registration forms and payments by credit card may be faxed to TSPP at 512/478-5223.

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ADDRESS _______________________________________________________________________________________
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CANCELLATION POLICY: In the event of cancellation, a full refund will be made if written notice is received in the TSPP office by October 12, 2006, less a 25% handling charge. No refunds will be given after October 12, 2006.

Return to: TSPP • 401 West 15th Street, Suite #675 • Austin, TX 78701 • (512) 478-0605 • FAX (512) 478-5223

4 TEXAS PSYCHIATRIST AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2006
# DAILY SCHEDULE

## Thursday, November 2
- 2:00 PM: Golf Outing Arranged by Dallas Members

## Friday, November 3
- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM: Registration / Information
- 7:30 AM - 8:30 AM: Foundation Board of Directors Breakfast Mtg
- 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM: DBSA Texas Annual Conference "Transformations"
- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Committee Hospital
- 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Socioeconomics
  - Academic Psychiatry: Dallas Collin Johnson 1 Finnin
  - Physician Advocacy: Collin Johnson 1 Finch
- 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Professional Practices
  - Fellowship: Dallas Collin Johnson 1 Finch
  - Strategic Planning & Coordinating: Collin Johnson 1 Finch
  - Texas Academy of Psychiatry Membership: Collin Johnson 1 Finch
- 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM: Nutrition
  - Federal of Texas Psychiatry Delegate Assembly Lunch Mtg: Ellis委会 Member Luncheon: Dallas Collin
- 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM: Public Mental Health Services
  - Ethics: Dallas Collin Johnson 1 Finch
  - Constitution & Bylaws: Collin Johnson 1 Finch
- 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Continuing Medical Education
  - Forensic Psychiatry: Dallas Collin Johnson 1 Finch
  - Children and Adolescents: Members in Training: ECP Program: "How to Set Up a Successful Private Practice with Minimal Pain and Terror": William C. Streusand, MD, Austin, Presenter

## Saturday, November 4
- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM: Registration / Information
- 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Complimentary Continental Breakfast
- 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM: Refreshment Break

## Sunday, November 5
- 7:30 AM - 8:00 AM: Registration / Information
- 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Complimentary Continental Breakfast
- 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Scientific Program Registrants
- 10:15 AM - 10:30 AM: Refreshment Break

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2006

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30am-8:45am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Johnson 1 &amp; 2</td>
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| 8:45am-10:15am | Post Traumatic Stress Disorder: The Latest Developments  
Jonathan R. T. Davidson, M.D., Duke University, North Carolina | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 10:15am-10:30am | Refreshment Break                                                                                | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 10:30am-12:00pm | The Current Essentials in Diagnosing Bipolar Disorder Today  
Trisha Suppes, PhD, MD, UT Southwestern, Dallas, TX | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 12:00pm-1:30pm | Program Luncheon with Exhibitors                                                               | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 1:30pm-2:30pm | Resident Paper Competition Winner                                                                 | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 2:30pm-2:45pm | Refreshment Break                                                                                   | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 2:45pm-3:45pm | Alcohol and Substance Abuse: Realistic Treatment Options and Pitfalls to Avoid  
Edgar P. Nace, MD, UT Southwestern, Dallas, TX | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 3:45pm-4:45pm | Obesity in our Child and Adult Patients  
Ursula B. Kelley, MD, Presbyterian Hospital, Dallas, TX | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 4:45pm-5:00pm | Closing Remarks                                                                                     | Johnson 1 & 2 |

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2006

**SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am-8:15am</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td>Johnson 1 &amp; 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 8:15am-10:15am | Medical, Legal, and Ethical Issues in Serious Brain Injuries and Severe Mental Illnesses  
Lecture for Ethics Credit: Robert L. Fine, M.D., Baylor Health Care System, Dallas, TX | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 10:15am-10:30am | Refreshment Break                                                                                | Johnson 1 & 2 |
| 10:30am-12:30pm | Toward the Optimal Treatment of Depression  
A. John Rush, MD, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX | Johnson 1 & 2 |

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM SPEAKERS

- **Jonathan R. Davidson, MD**  
  Professor, Dept of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences  
  Duke University Medical Center South Durham, North Carolina
- **Robert L. Fine, MD, FACP**  
  Director, Office of Clinical Ethics  
  Baylor Health Care System  
  Director, Palliative Care Consultation Service  
  Baylor University Medical Center  
  Dallas, Texas
- **Ursula B. Kelley, MD**  
  Clinical Director, Eating Disorders Program  
  Presbyterian Hospital  
  Dallas, Texas
- **Edgar P. Nace, MD**  
  Clinical Professor of Psychiatry  
  University of Texas Southwestern Medical School  
  Dallas, Texas
- **A. John Rush, MD**  
  Vice Chair for the Department of Clinical Sciences  
  Betty Jo Hay Distinguished Chair in Mental Health  
  Rosewood Corporation Chair in Biomedical Science  
  Professor of Psychiatry  
  University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center  
  Dallas, Texas
- **Trisha Suppes, PhD, MD**  
  Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
  Director, Bipolar Disorders Clinic & Research Program  
  UT Southwestern Medical School  
  Dallas, Texas

### SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM TARGET AUDIENCE AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

This CME program is proudly sponsored by the Texas Society of Psychiatrists Physicians on the occasion of the Society’s fiftieth anniversary of service to psychiatrists and their patients. Designed in a format consisting of lectures and direct discussion, the program is designed to provide its primary target audience of Psychiatrists, as well as other specialties of medicine with clinically-relevant information regarding ethics, new developments in treatment, and new directions in research.

At the conclusion of the program, CME participants will be able to:

- Explore, to describe, and to discuss the following areas and topics:
  - Causes of PTSD with an improved ability to accurately diagnose and to implement appropriate treatment
  - The diagnosis, prognosis, and current effective treatments for bipolar disorder.
  - Evaluation and treatment of alcohol abuse and abuse of other substances, with emphasis on realistic treatment outcomes.
  - Recognition of obesity in childhood and adolescent effective means of intervention.
  - The various classes of coma and the implications of each on treatment and prognosis.
- Dealing with ethical dilemmas faced by the families, and the physicians, of patients in coma.
- Current strategies for achieving symptom remission and recovery in major depression.
Physicians are trapped in a health care financing system driven by cutting expenditures today with little care about how it will impact patient care tomorrow. Virtually every private sector and governmental health program has contributed to the dilemma. This situation will only get worse as Texas’ uninsured population continues to grow, straining the state coffers even more.

We must begin to align the practice of medicine with the politics of medicine. Never before has medicine had to confront so many economic, practice viability, and patient care challenges at one time.

For the past year, TMA has worked hard to develop sound political strategies that focus on patient care. We have worked with physician leaders in ad hoc committees on the issues of scope, managed care, Medicaid/CHIP, and responsible physician ownership. Each committee strongly agreed that patient care must not be compromised. We will remain vigilant and encourage legislators to look for long-term solutions that protect the health of all Texans.

When the health plans and hospitals and limited-licence practitioners make economic arguments, we will focus on patient care. When employers and state budget writers talk about the high cost of employee benefits and Medicaid expenses, we will talk about the return on investment from quality patient care.

TMA is prepared to deal with the challenges and opportunities of the 2007 Texas Legislature. Among the issues that medicine is expected to take an active role during next session include:

- **Taxes:** The passage of the new business activity tax during the special session will require modifications to ensure that physician practices are treated fairly and that they reflect the unique nature of services that physicians are delivering to patients.
- **Medicaid/CHIP:** Texas is seeing a continual erosion in the number of physicians, both primary care and specialists, that are willing to treat this population. Rates were reduced by 2.5 percent in 2003 and many physicians are being paid less in 2006 than they were in 1993. TMA will work to restore the cuts, and ensure that Medicaid and CHIP patients have appropriate access to medical care.
- **Patient Safety:** Increased scrutiny is being placed on health care providers regarding the delivery of services and the quality of care. TMA will take a leadership role in ensuring that Texas patients are receiving the highest quality of care and that the Texas Medical Board is pursuing efforts to improve patient safety.
- **Scope of Practice:** Every year, at least one allied health provider group looks to expand the array of services they perform on patients in Texas. TMA is working to perform an-depth analysis of the training, experience, and expertise of limited license providers. This research will help us better assess and make recommendations regarding their legal scope of practice and ensure that patient safety is not compromised.
- **Medical Liability Reform:** The successes during the 78th Legislature and the passage of Proposition 12 have resulted in improved access to care and significant decreases in medical liability rates across the state. New physicians are coming into the state. However, recent articles in newspapers across the state appear to be early skirmishes by opponents to either water down or minimize the reforms during the upcoming legislative session.
- **Managed Care and Insurance:** The 79th Legislature included proposals that would have prohibited out-of-network physicians from billing a patient for the fees that the patient’s health plan would not pay. TMA proposals will ensure that health plans are required to maintain adequate networks, and how physicians can better educate patients and employers on this complex issue. Other issues related to appropriate regulation of health insurance contracts and ensuring patients are protected will be included in a legislative package.
- **Graduate Medical Education:** Reductions in GME funding are threatening to seriously damage the medical pipeline in Texas. Even though some additional funding was achieved last session, a 2005 TMA study showed that nearly two-thirds of the medical students that went out of state to complete their medical training were interested in remaining in Texas but could not find the appropriate slot. Since a majority of medical residents practice close to the area where they complete their graduate training, the state has a vested interest in supporting increased funding.

Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

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**TMS Foundation for Psychiatric Education and Research**

**I am pleased to support the Foundation with a contribution of:**

- $50
- $100
- $250
- $500
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**I am pleased to support the Foundation with a pledge of $_________ payable________________________.**

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**Contact me about a PLANNED GIFT as follows:**

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Please make your check payable to “Texas Foundation for Psychiatric Education and Research” 401 West 15th Street, Suite 675, Austin, Texas 78701.

Thank you for your support!

Your contribution is tax deductible to the full extent of the law.
Texas Academy of Psychiatry
Participate and Benefit...

Affiliation with a professional psychiatric organization affords psychiatrists an opportunity to benefit the profession and patients, while receiving benefits such as information and knowledge to help improve their practice, advocacy that will impact public policy and networking/fellowship with colleagues. Membership in the Texas Academy of Psychiatry provides all of those benefits and more.

The Academy is a young and growing organization. As a member organization of the Federation of Texas Psychiatry, the Academy participates in activities of other member organizations, including CME programs and legislative advocacy programs. Members of the Academy are not required to be members of any other professional psychiatric association.

Therefore, Academy involvement and participation impacts Texas Psychiatry directly. The Academy is the professional home for psychiatrists who want to make a difference in Texas for patients and the profession. Plans are underway for the Academy’s programs in 2007 and your input as a member is essential.

For more information about membership in the Academy, contact our office at 512/478-0865 or visit the Academy on the Federation’s website, txpsych.org.

National Provider Identifier (NPI) — Get Yours Now

Starting on May 23, 2007, your National Provider Identifier (NPI) will be the only identifier that most health plans, both public and private, will use to identify you in all standard transactions such as claims, coordination of benefits, enrollment in health plan networks, etc. (Smaller health entities will have until May 23, 2008 to start using the NPI.)

The NPI will replace the current UPIN (Uniform Provider Identification Number), used under Medicare, and any other identifying numbers currently assigned by insurers. It will function much like a Social Security Number for health care providers. The NPI will be yours for life and will never expire or be recycled. The only time it could be changed would be in the case of identity theft.

So, How Do I Apply for an NPI?

NPIs are issued through the National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES), which can be accessed online at https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov/NPPES/Welcome.do. You can fill the form out online or print out a copy and do it by hand. The information asked for is pretty standard. For individual providers, they want to know: name; SSN (or ITIN if you’re not eligible for an SSN); date of birth; country of birth; state of birth (if born in US); gender; mailing address; practice location address and phone number; taxonomy (for psychiatrist, the code is 2084P0800X, but there’s a popup box that will provide this if you fill out the form online); state license information; and a contact person’s name, phone number, and e-mail address (this can be you or someone who works for you). If you don’t have access to a computer and want a paper form to fill out, you can have one sent to you by calling 1-800-465-2803.

Once I Get My NPI, Can I Start Using It Right Away?

You can start using your NPI as soon as it’s issued to you, but until October 1, 2006, Medicare will want to include your old UPIN on any claims you submit as well. Starting October 2, 2006, you can submit claims just using your NPI if you’d like to. And starting on May 23, 2007, and going into the future, Medicare, Medicaid, and other large health systems will only accept the NPI (as stated in the introduction, smaller plans have another year to start using it). CMS has designated a webpage to the NPI at https://www.cms.hhs.gov/NationalProvIdentStand. You can go there for all the latest information.
Advocacy and Leadership Conference – 2006

The Federation of Texas Psychiatry hosted the 2006 Advocacy and Leadership Conference for the Mental Illness Awareness Coalition on August 12 at the Westin La Cantera Resort in San Antonio. The Mental Illness Awareness Coalition, composed of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Texas, Mental Health Association in Texas, NAMI Texas, Texas Mental Health Consumers, Federation of Texas Psychiatry, Texas Academy of Psychiatry, Texas Medical Association and the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians, have had annual conferences since 1996 featuring programs on association strategic planning, developing legislative agendas, developing media and communications skills and legislative advocacy. The 2006 Conference, “Together, We Do Make a Difference: Advocating with Impact,” focused on sharpening communications skills to be more effective in advocacy activities. The communications program was presented by Joel Roberts, a nationally recognized communications specialist from Los Angeles. Dave Wanser, PhD, Deputy Commissioner for Behavioral and Community Health with the Texas Department of State Health Services, was the featured speaker during the Conference luncheon program. The Conference, attended by 100 physicians and advocates, was a highly successful conference, with attendees unanimously requesting that the annual conference be continued in the future. Written comments about the conference included: “Joel’s presentation and teaching were just outstanding”; “I learned very much. Joel Roberts has a special talent for imparting information.”; “Joel is dynamic.”; “Joel Roberts was amazing! Thank you!”; “I have been to 5 different sessions with Joel Roberts and have learned new things at each session.”

Mike Haligan, Executive Director of the Texas Mental Health Consumers, makes a point (left) as Matthew Levine, MD, Universal City (Texas Academy of Psychiatry) and Joel Roberts look on.

Robin Peyson (Executive Director of NAMI Texas), Andrea Hinckson (Mental Health Association Houston), and Eileen Rosen (Executive Director of DBSA Texas) practice their advocacy messages.

Federation Executive Director John Bush (center) with good sports Heidi and Joel Roberts, displaying their UT National Championship regalia.

The Texas Psychiatric Society is published 5 times a year in February, April, June, August, and October. Members of Federation member organizations are encouraged to submit articles for possible publication. Deadline for submitting copy to the Federation Executive Office is the first day of the publication month. Copy must be edited, acceptable for publication.

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