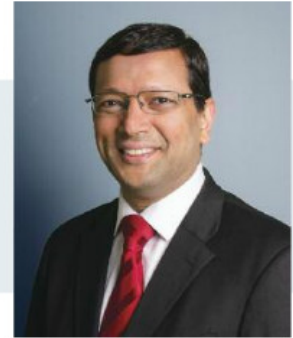


## BEXAR COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY'S PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

Our new home is where  
"Every Physician Counts and Every Patient Matters"

*By Dr. Jayesh Shah, 2016 BCMS President*



It does not matter whether a physician is in academia, private practice or military service. It does not matter whether they are hospital-employed, insurance-employed or a researcher. It does not matter whether they are in their first five years of practice, or in their 40th year of practice, or whether they are in a small practice or a large group. Our medical society provides a perfect platform for members to address common issues that affect all aspects of our medical practice, including patient care, practice management and dealing with managed care.

As physicians, we are currently facing unprecedented challenges. I feel there are many flaws in our healthcare system and we need to understand the issues in depth. When the numbers of physicians are declining and the numbers of administrative personnel are going up, then there is something wrong. When lesser trained health care professionals are asking for independent practice, then there is something wrong. When non-medical retail establishments are opening clinics as profit centers, then there is something wrong. When healthcare is run with little or no physician input, then there is something wrong. When physicians are spending more time in front of the computer rather than in face-to-face interactions with their patients, then there is something wrong. When our country's health care expenses are sky rocketing and our health care indices like infant mortality rate are still high, then there is something wrong.

A physician is like a mother of health care. In every home, there is a saying "if mama ain't happy, then no one is happy." If our physicians are not happy then our healthcare system will suffer.

### **But let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today my friends.**

Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream for our profession and we will fulfill our dream for health care in Bexar County through our new home. I have a dream that all Bexar County physicians and Texas physicians are helping me to realize. Because it takes a village, no single person can revolutionize a system. Every single one of us — physicians and empowered patients alike — must say YES to our calling and do what we can to heal the system from the inside out — one physician/patient relationship at a time.

I have a dream that one day physicians will rise up to the challenge. They will start entrepreneurial businesses, and they will start reforming the system from inside out. They will interface with the pharmaceutical industry, the managed care systems, politics, and academia.

I have a dream that one day we will have empowered patients who will be willing to rewrite the story of medicine with us! That's where all of us come in. Physicians have the capacity to heal health care from a grassroots level. Every one of us is needed. Thank you for your contribution to bring the CARE back to health care, which is where it should belong.

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, knowing that one day we will have a health care system:

*Where Individual physician practice will thrive*

*Where midlevel providers will work in collaboration with physicians*

*Where Electronic Medical Records and health information exchanges and telehealth technology will seamlessly interface with each other, physicians and payers*

*Where physicians will be fairly reimbursed and compensated*

*Where hospitals administrators and physicians work in cooperation with each other*

*Where the healthcare system will allow physicians to follow the Hippocratic oath that they have taken*

*Where physicians will treat a patient holistically focusing first on prevention of diseases and increasing patient participation in wellness programs and then managing diseases*

This is our hope, and faith and I am sure every physician's dream will come true in our new home at BCMS — where every physician counts and every patient matters.