



Edward J. Donahue, M.D.

**DO IT
OURSELVES!**

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You may be wondering why some of my predictions regarding the Presidential primaries are not up-to-date. The answer is not as exciting or mysterious as one would think. I submit my editorial for the President's Page one month in advance of *Round-up's* publication date. The time lag from submission to production, printing and mailing of the magazine makes any predictions more like reflections.

If my calculations are correct, the desert is full of blooming wildflowers this month, the likes of which we haven't witnessed for many years. This phenomenon is actually, quite predictable. Fall and winter rains in the desert bring bountiful spring flowers. Sadly we cannot make such predictions when it comes to the direction of health care here in the United States. We physicians are in crisis mode as we look toward the future.

The fall election will present us with two starkly different approaches to the 'repair/reconstruction' of health care in America. As different as they might be, both have a common element – minimal input from physicians or patients in the formulation of these plans. The corporate forces have created a seemingly unbreakable stranglehold on the direction of healthcare in America, be it a single payer system or a 'better management' of the current system (e.g. decreased reimbursement for physicians and hospitals, guaranteed profits for the insurance companies). As I see it, the exclusion of physicians and patients is both a glaring weakness,

and a tremendous opportunity. Physicians must become educated regarding these health care issues and the consequences of their implementation, and I believe we have to accomplish this ourselves. No one ever learned/acquired basic science skills and clinical judgment for us—WE HAD TO DO IT

OURSELVES. We must learn about these healthcare issues ourselves. There are several sources of information for physicians. Look for the links to these sites on our Society webpage. Join the discussion of these issues on our Weblog at www.mcmonline.com.

Patients also need to know about the catastrophic health care spiral that is approaching. One group of medical professionals is best positioned to perform this task. You guessed correctly. Us! Where would you prefer that patients get the facts regarding this most important issue – from television news or a one paragraph entry from the pages of the nation's favorite newspaper, or from Us? The Society will provide you with talking points regarding these issues that can be shared with our patients. We can create a learning opportunity here

in Phoenix that can be repeated in every medical office/clinic in the United States. Properly educated and informed, physicians and millions of their patients can make their voices heard both in their own States as well as in Washington, DC. This issue is very important and in my opinion well worth fighting for. No one will do this for us, and if we choose not to be involved we will reap the penalty of non-involvement.

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Our listening tour began at Banner Thunderbird last month, where Dan Mitten and I spoke to a group of approximately 60 physicians. We were well received and several ideas were exchanged. Our visits to the combined medical staff meeting at the Scottsdale Shea campus and the St. Joseph's Hospital in March were well received as well. Applications and information regarding Society benefits and services were provided to all physicians in attendance.

The Society has approached the staff of Senator John McCain to see if he would be willing to address a gathering of physicians here in Phoenix to discuss his vision for the future of healthcare in America.

And lastly, details are nearly complete regarding a social event for all members at the Phoenix Art Museum. Stay tuned for details.

If you have any comments, please contact me at edonahue@mcmsonline.com.

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President



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Medical Professional Associates of Arizona (MedPro), the largest multi-specialty group in Metropolitan Phoenix, is seeking a full time physician who is BC/BE in Gastroenterology. The practice provides comprehensive medical and specialty services for inpatient and outpatients at Maricopa Medical Center.

Maricopa Medical Center (Website: www.MIHS.org) is a full-service, 449-bed hospital that sees nearly 20,000 inpatient admissions every year. The hospital features advanced medical services including burn care, pediatric and adult emergency care, and has been recognized by U.S. News and World Report in its report on "America's Best Hospitals."

Medical Professional Associates of Arizona P.C. (MedPro) is a professional corporation owned and governed by its professional staff, providers who represent all the major medical and surgical specialties as well as subspecialties. Our providers direct all residency programs at Maricopa Medical Center. The Internal Medicine residency program is a major affiliate of the University of Arizona and the Mayo Clinic Scottsdale. Many MedPro providers hold active academic appointments with Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and the University Of Arizona College Of Medicine.

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