Dallas surgeon Don R. Read, MD, is the 2018 TMA Young at Heart Award recipient. Doctors from the TMA Young Physician Section presented the award to him during TexMed, May 18–19 in San Antonio.

The YPS chose Dr. Read for his commitment to helping young physicians become tomorrow’s leaders in the association, and for inspiring them to speak out for the health of all Texans. “As I got involved in Texas Medical Association activities and learned how TMA policy is made, I realized how great the potential for good was,” Dr. Read said. “I have tried to encourage all medical students, residents and young physicians to get involved in policymaking and political action with the Legislature.”

A colon and rectal surgeon for more than 40 years, Dr. Read practices at Texas Colon & Rectal Specialists in Dallas. He is TMA immediate past president and a DCMS past president.

“Dr. Read has been a champion for patients and their physicians for decades as a leader in Texas medicine,” said Dallas nephrologist Gates Colbert, MD, a YPS member. “He continues to advocate for making Texas a great place to practice medicine and ensuring patients receive the highest level of care.”

Dr. Read’s role as a patient advocate grew after he contracted neuro-invasive West Nile virus in 2005 and had to fight for his life. He founded a West Nile Support Group in Dallas in 2006 to discuss managing symptoms of West Nile and effects of other mosquito-borne illnesses.

“Dr. Read’s local and statewide involvement in advocacy is inspiring the next generation of great doctors,” Dr. Colbert said.

DMJ
Lee Ann Pearse, MD, completed seven years of service on the TMA Council on Legislation at TexMed.

Lauren Fine, MD, and daughter, Zoey, review the handbook supplement. Zoey’s dad, Benjamin Morrissey, MD, also is a new delegate.

Mike Vengrow, MD, joins some 400 delegates at the opening session of the House of Delegates.

Drs. Matthew Pompeo and Bob Fine take a break during reference committee discussions, while Turner Lewis III, MD, reviews the Reference Committee on Science and Public Health report.

As first-time TEXPAC member Gabriela Zandomeni, MD, knows that Texas physicians are more effective in large numbers.

Drs. Jodi Jones and Ben Lee listen during the House of Delegates meeting while their children Jason and Lauren are otherwise occupied.

UT Southwestern medical students bring their high energy to TexMed. Among them are Stephen Haff, John Menchaca, Christian Davidson, Taylore King, and Al Gilani.