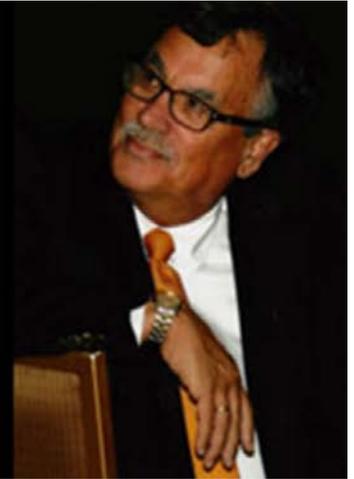


MY VIEW



Founder Wayne Fortin



TIP DOCS

About once a month I carve out an hour of my time to appreciate the difference TIP is making in people's lives and the difference that I am making by being part of TIP. This may seem to be a bit self-indulgent, but spending time away from the details of my everyday working life and just thinking of the difference we/I are making has been key to my longevity in TIP.

Recently my appreciation of TIP and what we do has focused on the young people who join TIP as part of their pursuit of careers in medicine. They come to us to gain real world experience in the emergency medical system, and for a very practical reason....they hope their TIP experience will give them an edge in gaining admittance to medical school. Smart!

I have heard from many of these future **TIP DOCS** that in fact their TIP experience did give them an edge when interviewing for medical school, and that the admissions staff seemed quite impressed with their TIP experience. I often joke with these young people who do get into medical school that it was my letter of recommendation that did the trick. Of course that is absurd, but I enjoy kidding with these young people and being part of a major milestone in their lives.

While I appreciate the role TIP plays in helping our young volunteers get into medical school, what I really appreciate is the fact these young TIP volunteers go on to become better doctors because of their TIP experiences. They are undoubtedly more compassionate toward patients and their family members than they would have been without their TIP experience. They go on for decades touching many lives with the kindness, compassion and skills they learned in some measure from TIP.

I understand that medical schools are making more of an effort than in the past to teach medical students "bedside manner" and they are teaching communications courses which include subjects like "how to do a death notification." But as much as medical schools try, they don't have the capacity to teach what young TIP volunteers learn both in the classroom and in the field about helping survivors of tragedy. As TIP volunteers, these aspiring **TIP DOCS** receive about 50 hours of classroom training and then spend many hours in the field (many in emergency departments) putting these skills into practice. Not to mention the "heart" they develop along the way for those who are suffering.

In "Wayne's World" all those aspiring to become doctors in this country would be required to attend the TIP Training Academy and have a year of TIP experience (I can dream, can't I?)

I'd be surprised if all of you don't occasionally ask the "am I making a difference?" question. Well, add this to the list of what TIP and each of you are contributing... we are training future doctors to be

better more compassionate doctors. Each of us contributes to this effort by welcoming young volunteers and accepting them; by responding to calls with them; by encouraging them; by mentoring them and by forgiving them when on their call reports they refer to any of their clients over 50 as "senior citizens." :)

The following words from a future **TIP DOC** says it all: *"Wanted to share that I received my first interview invitation for medical school yesterday and it was from HARVARD! I'm still in shock and may need to be Tipped. Wanted to thank you for writing the letter and for the incredible TIP experience which has profoundly impacted my life. I will certainly carry my TIP knowledge with me always."*