

# Alaska Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

ACP  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

Fall 2005

Jay C. Butler, MD, FAAP, FACP  
*Governor, Alaska Chapter*



## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

2005 has been an exciting year for the Alaska Chapter with new Members, Associates, Fellows, and Masters added to our ranks. **Brian McMahon, MD**, became the chapter's third Master at the Convocation Ceremony at the ACP Annual Meeting in San Francisco this past April. In addition, three members of the Chapter were recognized as new Fellows at the Convocation-Mike Herndon, MD, FACP, **Michele O'Fallon, MD, FACP**, and **Buffington "Buff" Burtis, MD, FACP**.

In November of this year, **Keith Brownsberger, MD, FACP** was announced as the fourth member of the Alaska chapter to be elected to Mastership in the College. Masters comprise a small group of highly distinguished physicians, selected from among College Fellows, who have achieved recognition in medicine by exhibiting preeminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor, or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine. Dr. Brownsberger has been a member of the College since 1963 and a fellow since 1978. He served as governor for the Alaska Chapter from 1989 to 1993 and is elected Master in recognition of his long career of providing care to his patients, inspiration to medical students and colleagues, and leadership for the development of internal medical practice in Alaska.

Dr. Brownsberger came to Alaska as a Public Health Service (PHS) officer over 40 years ago after completing his education at Stanford University and training in internal medicine. He was assigned to the Alaska Native Health Services, where he served in a number of leadership roles, including Chief of Internal Medicine at Alaska Native Medical Center. After completing his PHS assignment in 1968, Dr. Brownsberger went into private practice in Anchorage. While developing his practice and caring for patients, he also became a leader among physicians in Alaska. He was President of the Medical Staff at Providence Hospital, 1976-77. He served as Chief of Medicine, 1997-98, and Chair, Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, 1985-90. In addition to his statewide leadership responsibilities as the Governor of the Alaska Chapter of the College during 1989-93, he was President of the Alaska State Medical Association during 1984-95, and he has been a member of the State Medical Board since 1994. While continuing to practice medicine, Dr. Brownsberger serves as a source of inspiration to all physicians and physicians-to-be. He has been a mentor to dozens of medical students in the WWAMI Medical School. He has chaired the Alaska WWAMI Medical School Admissions Committee since 1991.

On a personal note, I consider Dr. Brownsberger a valued colleague and count him among the reasons why I find Alaska to be a rewarding place to work in medicine. He participates actively in medicine Ground Rounds and in our annual chapter Scientific Session. His questions are always insightful, reflecting a unique blend of up-to-date scientific knowledge and clinical wisdom acquired through decades of patient care. He also participates in our chapter's "active" social activities--ask anyone from the chapter who has participated in the chapter's annual climb up Flattop Mountain that occurs immediately after the Scientific Session. Even 50 years after completing his time at Stanford, where he excelled in track and field, Dr. Brownsberger continues to be an intellectual and athletic inspiration to his younger colleagues and patients.

Dr. Brownsberger will be awarded the title of Master, American College of Physicians at the Annual Session Convocation in Philadelphia, April 2006.  
**Congratulations, Keith!**

### INSIDE

	Page
<b>What's Up on the Board of Regents</b>	2
<b>Photo Gallery</b>	2
<b>Chapter Meeting Registration</b>	3

## WHAT'S UP ON THE BOARD OF REGENTS

By Richard Neubauer MD, FACP

It has been a pleasure to serve on the ACP Board of Regents since completing my term as Governor of the Alaska Chapter in April and handing over the reigns of our chapter to the capable hands of Jay Butler. Here is a perspective of what is going on in the Board of Regents and what you may expect in the near future.

First, I believe that our leadership has done an excellent job of positioning the College to guide the country in innovative and carefully planned health policy. Preeminent in positioning the College in this fashion has been the development of a series of policy papers that outline and guide our positions on subjects such as Quality Initiatives, Ethics, Industry Support of Medical Education, and Pay for Performance and Electronic Health Records and other innovative information technologies. At the same time, ACP has been developing, coordinating, and refining medical information tools such as PIER, ACP Medicine, and MKSAP to maintain the College's position as the foremost organization for continuing medical education and knowledge resources.

These are trying times in many ways for internal medicine as our nation struggles to deal with burgeoning access to care issues, the problem of the uninsured, and disparities and dysfunctions in the payment system and other issues that have discouraged students from choosing internal medicine careers (especially as generalists). Right now, the focus of ACP advocacy efforts have been to prevent medicare cuts, and to support the growing value based purchasing movement that aligns with ACP policies. However, it is recognized by the College that these are only first steps and there is also recognition that major structural changes in the payment system will need to be made in order to address the problems within our health care system.

*continued on page 3*

## PHOTO GALLERY



**Brian McMahon (middle) is "hooded" as a new ACP Master by ACP President Charles Francis (left) and ACP Board of Regents Chair Brian Larson (right) at the Annual Session Convocation in San Francisco**



**Other Chapter participants in the Convocation Ceremony were, left to right, Rich Neubauer, Governor and member of the Board of Regents; Mike Herndon, new Fellow; Michele O'Fallon, new Fellow; Jay Butler, incoming Governor; and Buffington Burtis, new Fellow.**



**The Chapter support 14 medical students from the Alaska WWAMI program to attend the Annual Session in San Francisco.**



**2006 ALASKA CHAPTER ACP MEETING REGISTRATION**

**Travelers Medicine  
Thursday to Saturday  
June 22-24, 2006**

Registration fee is \$275, and includes catered dinner on Friday evening, as well as refreshments and lunches during the meeting. There is a late fee of \$25 for registering after June 1, 2006. Guests are invited and encouraged to attend the dinner on Friday evening at \$60 per guest. Direct telephone inquiries to: Richard Neubauer MD, FACP, (907) 263-2200, or Jan Oistad at (907) 263-2207. E-mail to Dr. Neubauer: [stuckagain@alaska.com](mailto:stuckagain@alaska.com) or Jan Oistad: [bjnw@alaska.com](mailto:bjnw@alaska.com).

Make checks payable to: Alaska Chapter ACP. Detach form and mail with check to:

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**Please type or print:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Designate**

MD \_\_\_ DO \_\_\_  
RN \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_  
ACP Associate \_\_\_ ACP Member \_\_\_  
ACP Fellow \_\_\_ ACP Master \_\_\_

**Fees**

Registration @ \$275 each \_\_\_\_\_  
Late Fee (after June 1) \$25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Dinner Guests @ \$60 each \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \_\_\_\_\_



**WHAT'S UP ON THE BOARD OF REGENTS** *(continued)*

Working on these difficult issues will require a very special kind of leadership that can aggressively make the case for change while at the same time uniting the many voices and organizations that comprise the internal medicine community. The College's focus on the welfare of patients as a guiding principle has also been very important in positioning us as a loudly heard voice. However, establishing a consensus will require a lot of work and at this time is not assured. From what I have seen first hand, I think that ACP has that kind of leadership and also the courage and fortitude to pull off such a task.

One last thought: ACP is a membership organization and your continued support is key to the success of the College's efforts. Membership has been growing, and our financial status at this time is quite good. The Alaska Chapter has grown significantly, especially in medical student members. It is also wonderful to see **Brian McMahon** and **Keith Brownsberger** become masters in the College, and I know several members of our chapter are applying for fellowship. I look forward to continuing my service on the Board of Regents and watching our chapter continue to thrive and grow under Jay's leadership.