



Governor's Message

We have been waiting for summer to come to send out the summer issue of the Governor's Newsletter. As I look out the window, I see termination dust down to about 4,000 feet on Wolverine and O'Malley and much yellow in the trees of the lower Anchorage Hillside. It has become apparent that Mother Nature plans to skip summer in Alaska and go straight to fall. So we are skipping the summer issue and going straight to the fall issue of the Newsletter with a summary of our excellent chapter meeting in June. It will include a report of Internal Medicine 2008 and Leadership Day in Washington, DC last May. Also, included, is a message from chapter Governor-elect **Bob Bundtzen**, and a variety of chapter news items.

The 2008 Alaska Chapter Scientific Meeting

Richard L. Neubauer MD, FACP

The 2008 Alaska Chapter Scientific meeting "*The Physician as a Patient*" was very special to me. It marked my 18th consecutive year of organizing and executing the chapter meetings. It was also the 68th medical symposium I organized in Anchorage since 1988 in my work as Medical Education Director first at Alaska Regional Hospital and then in the Department of Internal Medicine at Providence Hospital. Following is a list of the titles of the 18 chapter meetings I had the privilege of organizing:

- Update in Rheumatology, June 1991*
- Clinical Virology Symposium, July 1992*
- Clinical Decision Making Symposium, August 1993*
- Endocrinology Symposium, June 1994*
- Lessons from the Past, June 1995*
- ICU Medicine Symposium, June 1996*
- Back to Basics, June 1997*
- Medical Informatics-Computers in Medicine, June 1998*
- Emerging Infectious Diseases, June 1999*
- Immunology at the Millennium, June 2000*
- Cardiovascular Diseases: Congestive Heart Failure, June 2001*
- History of Medicine: A Look Back and a Look Ahead, June 2002*
- Women's Health Symposium, June 2003*
- Geriatric Medicine Update, June 2004*
- Rheumatology Symposium, June 2005*
- Travel Medicine, June 2006*
- Internal Medicine Update Featuring ABIM SEP Modules, June 2007*
- The Physician as a Patient, June 2008*

Another very special thing about this year is that I hand over the reigns for next year's meeting to **Dr. Julie McCormick** with whom I co-chaired this year's meeting.

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Bob Bundtzen, Molly Southworth and Rich Neubauer, Leadership Day 2008

The meeting this year was special in other ways as well. I knew that it was a risky venture, and that it might be viewed as a meeting with little clinical relevance. I myself regarded the meeting as a bit of an experiment; there was little or no precedent I could find for a meeting themed on the topic.

Suffice it to say that my expectations were exceeded. The speakers addressed various aspects of the general theme including: communication issues with physician-patients and physician care-givers, issues faced by physicians caring for their children, similar difficulties faced by physicians caring for a spouse, and insights on how physicians caring for other physicians can do that work optimally. At least three of the speakers were in tears during their presentations, and there were many times during the meeting when you could hear a pin drop - such was the audience concentration. The presence of **Ted Kooser**, former US Poet Laureate 2004-2006 and his description of how poetry helped him struggle through treatment for cancer was also greatly moving. The ACP college specific part of the meeting was particularly timely. As the national organization focuses more efforts on promoting the Patient Centered Medical Home, **Dr. David Dale** summarized those activities well. During the meeting (held June 26-28), our Washington representative, **Bob Doherty** gave a blow-by-blow of the congressional failure to avoid deep Medicare cuts in physician reimbursement, but also emphasized the College's many advocacy activities and outlined hope for a change in Washington with respect to health policy in this election year. This was really a great way to "go out" as the Alaska Chapter meeting coordinator. It has been a great privilege to have served in this capacity, and I look forward to **Julie McCormick** taking the lead in the future.

It is also important to note that while I organized these meetings over the years, the meetings were, in the end, the work of many individuals working together - too numerous to acknowledge separately. Finally, our Alaska ACP chapter members, and non-member physicians who have attended our meetings over the years need to be mentioned. We have one of the most vocal, interactive groups I've encountered anywhere. To have a great meeting, you have to have a great audience and we have that in spades.

Thank You to Members of the AK ACP Chapter

Zach M. DeBoard, Alaska WWAMI E-07

It is with great appreciation that I write this letter after attending Leadership Day in Washington, DC. I wish to thank you for providing the finances to participate in the ACP 2008 Conference. I cannot express how much of an enjoyable experience the conference was - the speakers were top notch, I was able to learn a wealth of clinical pearls and participate in some hands-on activities and interact with providers and students from across the country. I think it is truly exceptional that the chapter is able to assist with first-year medical students' traveling to the conference. There were multiple comments from members of other states about the presence of Alaskan members and students in all aspects of the conference.

I was also fortunate enough to participate in the Leadership Day activities. As I had a large body of experience in policy, economics, and ethics from undergrad, I was excited to have the opportunity to expand upon my interests. Hopefully we were able to convey the messages of the ACP, Alaskan health care, and medical students. The day on Capitol Hill was incredibly motivating for future lobbying and staying active in progressive healthcare reform.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to experience the conference, explore a city I have never been to, and broaden my medical education. If there is any way I can help with the chapter please let me know and I hope that the incoming classes in the future of AK WWAMI are able to participate in the conference.



WWAMI Students meet with Senator Stevens in Senate Dining Room

A NEW ACP MASTERSHIP IN ALASKA

Tom Wood, MD, MACP

Dr. Tom Wood has been honored with a coveted Mastership from the American College of Physicians. Dr. Wood has recently retired from the private practice of Nephrology but continues to contribute to the practice of medicine at the Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center. Dr. Wood began practice in the Alaska in 1971. He was Governor of the Alaska Chapter from 1985 to 1989. Dr. Wood was instrumental in establishing an emergency response team in Anchorage; in establishing renal dialysis for Alaska; and in establishing organ procurement program for transplantation in Alaska. This honor is well deserved. He joins other Masters of the ACP in Alaska - Drs. Keith Brownsberger, Norman Wilder, Brian McMahon and the late Rod Wilson.



Dr. Tom Wood

Mark Your Calendar!

The Alaska ACP Annual Meeting
will be held on Thursday & Friday
June 25 & 26, 2009
in Anchorage.

New Fellows

Alaska Chapter has four new Fellows - Molly Southworth, Kristin Mitchell, Gerald Morris, and Eric Meier. Fellowship is an honor and is a testament to an extra contribution to the ACP, Internal Medicine and to the community.



2008 Internal Medicine Convocation: Rich Neubauer, Geronimo Sahagun, Kristin Mitchell, Jay Butler, Molly Southworth, Gerald Morris and Barbara Creighton

Message from the Governor-Elect

Bob Bundtzen, MD, FACP



As you may know, I am the Governor-Elect for the Alaska Chapter of the ACP. During the next nine months, I will be learning what is required to manage the chapter from **Jay Butler**. I will continue to support the efforts of **Julie McCormick** in her endeavors to bring excellent CME relevant to the practice of Internal Medicine in Alaska. I believe that the Chapter should continue its support of our WAMMI students to encourage them to enter the field of Internal Medicine. Membership is the lifeblood of our organization and I encourage all members to recruit fellow internists to become members. The ACP offers an excellent spectrum of continuing education, an extensive fund of information for the practice of Internal Medicine, and thoughtful position papers on the practice of Internal Medicine and health care in general. These resources are available on the ACP website. Through resolutions via the Board of Governors, members can have direct input on ACP policies. Contact **Jay Butler** or me for any input that you may have.

2008 Laureate Award

Richard Neubauer, MD, FACP



Dr. Richard Neubauer has been awarded an ACP Laureate Award, which he received at the awards ceremony at the annual meeting. Dr. Neubauer has been the key person responsible for the annual continuing education meeting for the Alaska Chapter of the ACP for 18 years. The quality of the education year after year has been exceptional and has undoubtedly had a significant impact on patient care in Alaska. Dr. Neubauer was Governor for the Alaska Chapter from 2001 to 2005. He has been a Regent of the College for the last 3 years and has just been elected to a second 3-year term. Dr. Neubauer received the Key Contact of the Year Award from the College for his role in the ACP PAC. His contributions to patient care, to the Alaska Chapter and to the College have been exceptional and this award is well deserved.

2008 Leadership Day in Washington, DC



Alaska participants in ACP Leadership Day with Senator Lisa Murkowski

In May, the Alaska Chapter was able to send a large delegation to Washington for Leadership Day. The delegation included **Jay Butler, Rich Neubauer, Molly Southworth, Ian Carroll, Kristin Mitchell, Bob Bundtzen**, and four first-year WWAMI students.

The delegation was able to meet all of Alaska's congressional delegation. We were honored to have lunch with **Senator Stevens** in the Senate cafeteria. Both **Senator Murkowski** and **Representative Young** also gave significant amounts of time to the delegation. The SGR cuts to Medicare reimbursement, medical education, student debt, primary care, physician shortage; costs of practice and other topics were discussed. All three of our congressional delegations were receptive to input from the Alaska Chapter.

If you are interested in traveling to Washington next May for the next Leadership Day, contact **Jay Butler, Rich Neubauer** or **Bob Bundtzen**.

Alaska ACP Forges New Territory!

Kris Rahm, Executive Director

The national ACP organization has encouraged all state chapters to address its administrative needs in a creative manner to meet ever-increasing demands on state Governors and the state chapter leadership. The Alaska ACP chapter has been a pioneer in meeting not only its own needs, but also assisting sister state chapters nationwide via the concept of sharing the skills of a "Regional Executive Director". In November 2007 I launched my own independent business by contracting with 3 other state ACP chapters for my expertise and administrative skills while maintaining my eight-year career with the South Dakota Chapter.

As a "Regional Executive Director", I now work full-time for four ACP chapters in the western United States - South Dakota, Wyoming, Alaska and Nebraska (SWAN). This concept of a shared Regional Executive Director will improve liaison activities with the national office and between state chapters, alleviate the workload for the leadership at the state level, and encourage the sharing and reduction of common administrative expenses. The business model that I created has proven to be a "win-win" for me and all of my client state chapters, and was discussed as a model for other chapters during the 2008 Internal Medicine meeting in Washington, DC.



Kris Rahm with Governors Jay Butler, Alaska; Rick Holm, South Dakota; Eric Wedell, Wyoming; and Tom Tape, Nebraska

Visit the Chapter Website at

www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ak