Happy 2014 to all and best wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous New Year.

I do wish to apologize for not keeping you better informed over the past several months. No excuses just a sincere apology. In the final 18 months of my tenure as your Governor, I will endeavor to keep you better informed regarding activities with state and national ACP.

As most of you are aware, Tavo Heudebert, Professor of Medicine and Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education at UAB has been advanced to Mastership in the College. This is one the highest honors that the College may bestow on any member. Tavo is indeed deserving of this recognition for his service to medical education for many years and is active participation in ACP at the local and national level.

In addition, Tavo Heudebert has been elected by the membership of the Alabama Chapter to be the Governor-Elect. He will assume his responsibilities as Governor (whew!!!!) following the national ACP meeting in Boston in April, 2015. The chapter was indeed fortunate to have two superb candidates for Governor and will continue to have the expertise of Ross Vaughn (Tuscaloosa) as Chair of the most important Health, Public Policy, and Medical Services Committee of the state Chapter.

Congratulations also needs to be extended to our entire Chapter for receiving the Chapter Excellence Award (again) for 2013. Much of the work (and credit) to be eligible for this award was performed by Teri Dingler, our Executive Director. Though the honor is nice, what is even sweeter is that the Chapter receives some extra cash from national ACP for winning the award!

If you have not yet accessed ACP Smart Medicine, you need to so ASAP. This authoritative clinical decision support tool is FREE with your ACP membership and provides point of care evidence based medicine- written by internists for internists. ACP Smart Medicine can be downloaded as an app on any hand held device (smartphone, Ipad, etc.) and requires the same log in that you utilize for all other ACP on line services or products. The information is concise in bullet point format and provides tables and links to resources and guidelines. And an even nicer aspect is that you may receive both CME hours and credit toward Maintenance of Certification when you use ACP Smart Medicine. What more can one ask for? So go to smartmedicine.acponline.org and begin reaping yet another benefit of your ACP membership.

The Winter Meeting of the Alabama Chapter Council will be held on Saturday January 18th, 2014. If you have items that you wish to be placed on the agenda, please respond by return e-mail or give me a call at (334) 551-2000. I have also attached the listing of the membership of the Council with contact information if you prefer to speak directly with someone in your community or institution.
Finally, please save the date for the 2014 Alabama ACP Scientific Meeting to be held from May 28th until June 1st, 2014 at The Grand Hotel at Point Clear, AL. Ryan Kraemer (Program Chair) has assembled a diverse group of speakers and topics that I am confident will be of interest to general internal medicine physicians, sub specialists, and hospitalists. There will be a Sunday morning SEP Module workshop which will provide credits toward Maintenance of Certification. Plus, there will be ample time to chill out by the pool with an adult beverage or two. So put these dates on your calendar, arrange for someone to cover your practice, and plan to be with your colleagues both old and new at this year’s meeting. If you are not there, you will be missed.

Again, best wishes to all for a very Happy New Year. Keep in touch!