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From the Governor

It has been just over a year since I stepped into the shoes of **Dr. Jim Bonner**. They are big shoes to fill and I continue to thank him for the excellent organization and planning he bequeathed to me. It has allowed me to transition from a fear of being overwhelmed by College activities to one of paddling as fast as I can and now sinking so far.

We just completed our Chapter Meeting. **Dr. Wick** Many put together an outstanding program and he is already working on next year. Attendees heard about community-acquired MRSA, pain management, practicing evidence based medicine, nonalcoholic liver disease, and the integration of primary care and the hospitalist. The vignettes were superb and competition at medical jeopardy was fierce. I'm fortunate I wasn't on one of the teams. There were a lot of tough questions! Our first poster competition was a huge success and will return next year. **Dr. Joel Levine**, immediate past chair of the Board of Regents, ably served as our College Representative. Also in attendance was **Dr. Bob Centor**, newly elected Regent from the state of Alabama. Congratulations to him. It will be exciting to have someone from our state sit on the Board of Regents. The last person from Alabama to achieve this was **Dr. Robert Kreisberg**.

I was asked to serve on the ACP National Marketing & Communications Committee. We recently held our first meeting of the 2008-2009 year. The committee will focus on ways to promote the profession and the practice of internal medicine. Of particular interest is the dissemination of knowledge about the Patient Centered Medical Home. Knowledge about this practice model must be expanded - to patients, to payors, and to physicians themselves. There is great concern both nationally and in our state about the loss of general internal medicine practitioners. There is no single answer and no easy fix, but the College is turning significant resources toward the problem and I am hopeful that I will continue to have an internist care for me as I age.



Leadership Day 2008

ACP-Health Services **President Ross Vaughn**, and former Alabama ACP **Governor Jim Bonner** attended ACP Leadership Day on Capital Hill in Washington, D.C., May 13th and 14th 2008. They met with the offices of all seven congressmen and both senators from Alabama lobbying for legislation to provide 18 months of positive

and predictable payment updates under Medicare. Our congressional delegation assures us there is bipartisan support for not only providing positive updates short-term, but also for a long-term solution to the flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula.

There is an immediate shortage of primary care physicians in Alabama. Our congressional delegation has been asked to act to preserve access to primary care. The ACP has developed a comprehensive legislative proposal to preserve access to primary care services. This bill includes: payment reforms that support primary care, recruitment and retention incentives, and investment in our future medical graduates. The ACP is calling on Members of Congress to work with the College to develop and introduce this important legislation. And, as a first step, Congress should include targeted increases in primary care payments in legislation to halt the SGR cuts.

It is also important that we enhance care coordination through the Patient Centered Medical Home. Nationally, the College has asked Congress to provide \$500 million in dedicated funding to the PCMH Demonstration Project changing it from a demonstration project to a pilot project that will allow for more rapid expansion of the program if it is successful on measures of quality, beneficiary satisfaction, and cost efficiency, which we are certain it will be.

On the state level, a task force of your ACP-Health Services Committee is developing a pilot project of the Patient Centered Medical Home called Alabama's First Primary Care Initiative. In association with the state chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Practice we are working with members of the business community and presenting a proposal to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama that would incentivize primary care physicians and reward them for providing Medical Homes for their patients.

We invite each of you become an ACP Key Contact and let your voice be heard in the halls of Capitol Hill. It is urgently important to contact **Senators Sessions** and **Shelby** to encourage a compromise solution in the Senate allowing legislation to proceed that would reverse the July 1, 2008 Medicare SGR payment cut.

WELCOME TO NEW FELLOWS

The chapter congratulates the following members who were elected to Fellowship in the College in the last six months:

Khaleel K. Ashraf, MD, FACP	Birmingham
David. N. Pate, MD, FACP	Mobile
Charles Michael Soppett, MD, FACP	Dothan

Remember there are four Pathways for advancement to fellowship. In addition to the basic requirements of board certification, two years of ACP membership and professional activities, members can choose one or combine parts of two pathways.

Pathway 1:	Skill in written medical communication.
Pathway 2:	Scholarly activity such as continuing certification activities, teaching, MKSAP for score, subspecialty certification, recertification, and community activities.
Pathway 3:	Active membership for 10 years with participation in ACP programs.
Pathway 4:	Distinguished professional activity in teaching, patient care or professional service over many years.

We now have 310 Fellows throughout the state. If you would like to advance to fellowship or would like to recommend someone for advancement, please get in touch with **Dr. James Bonner** at jbbonner@uab.edu.

CHAPTER AWARDS

The Alabama Chapter welcomes three new awardees this year. Recipients of the Laureate Award are **Bill Boyd, MD, FACP** and **Dennis Delgado, MD, FACP**. The Chapter Advocacy Award was presented to **William Curry, MD, FACP**.

Dr. Boyd, a native of York, Alabama, graduated from Yale University and the University of Alabama School of Medicine. He completed Internal Medicine training and a Pulmonary Fellowship at the University of South Alabama. He previously served as Vice President of Medical affairs and Systems Medical Director for Montgomery's Baptist Health System. He currently works in emergency medicine with the Central Alabama veterans Healthcare System. He is very active in chapter activities, including the Literature and Medicine Retreat, and has served as a past officer of the Chapter's Board of Directors.

Dr. Delgado was born in Tampa, Florida and graduated from the University of South Florida and the University of Miami School of Medicine. He completed Internal Medicine training and an Infectious Disease Fellowship at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. His previous positions include faculty at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa and private practice at the Watson Clinic in Lakeland Florida. Fortunately for our state, he returned to Carraway where he serves as Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program and Associate Clinical Professor of Medicine at UAB. He has received the Excellence in Teaching Award eight times from the Carraway house staff and has been named to the Best Doctors in America in Infectious Disease for the past 6 years. Dr. Delgado is an active member of our chapter serving on the Board of Directors and working with Associates.

Dr. Curry, a native of Columbus, Mississippi, is a Professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine at UAB and Associate Dean for Primary Care and Rural Health in the School of Medicine. A graduate of the University of Alabama and Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Dr. Curry completed Internal Medicine training including a position as Chief Resident at Vanderbilt. In addition to his other duties at UAB, he is involved in Quality Improvement educational initiatives for the UAB Health System. He serves the Secretary of HHS as a member of the advisory Committee on Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry and is a member of the Clinical Committee of the Alabama Medicaid Transformation Task Force. Dr. Curry has been named one of America's Best Doctors four times and in 2007 was listed in Who's Who among Executives and Professionals in Healthcare. A past recipient of the Laureate Award, he has previously served on the Board of Directors for the Alabama Chapter and remains a vital part of our chapter.

Chapter Board of Directors

I would like to thank the Class of 2007. With the exception of **Dr. Ennis** who remains as part of the Education and Informatics Committee, the following physicians will rotate off the Board. I sincerely appreciate their time and their talents. I have learned much from each of them.

Randall Ayers, MD	Tuscaloosa
David Ennis, MD	Birmingham
Marcia Littles, MD	Mobile
Sanjiv Chatterji, MD	Mountain Brook

Welcome to the class of 2010. The following physicians have graciously accepted my call to serve a three-year term on the Chapter Board. I look forward to working with them.

Cal Dodson, MD	Birmingham
David Fahey, MD	Huntsville
James Lyman, MD	Birmingham
Mike Soppett, MD	Dothan

Members continuing on the Board include the following:

Class of 2008	Bill Boyd
	Robert Marks
	Loren McCoy
	Lydia Stefanescu
Class of 2009	Anne Davis
	Beverly Carraway-Handley
	David MacRae
	John McDuff

Samuel Eichold II, MD, FACP Metabolic Award

In concert with the family of **Dr. Samuel Eichold**, the Alabama Chapter is working with the College to create a National Award to be given at the annual meeting in honor of **Dr. Eichold**.

Sam Eichold was a graduate of Tulane Medical School in 1940, a veteran of WWII, founder of Camp Seale Harris for Diabetic Children, and Professor of Medicine at the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. He stressed tight metabolic control of Type I diabetes for many years prior to the Diabetic Control complication Trial (DCCT) study results being published. "Medical therapy should emulate normal physiological function," he said. During his life he applied, taught, and often preached his five "D's" - discipline, desire, determination, discretion, and duty. His focus included patients, students, colleagues, and friends.

Creating a new national award entails significant effort, considerable financing for the endowment, and lots of coordination with the College. The Alabama Chapter is currently accepting donations in memory of **Dr. Eichold**. All monies will go directly to the endowment fund. If you would like to contribute, please send your check to **Ms. Teri Dingle**, Alabama ACP Executive Director, PO Box 1900, Montgomery, AL 36102. Please include a notation that the contribution is for the Eichold Fund. If you have any questions, please contact **Dr. Maryella Sirmon**, Governor, at mdsirmon@aol.com

Caught in the Act



Dr. Ross Vaughn, Tuscaloosa, and President of Health Services, portrayed the infamous Dr. John Drish, an early physician, during the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society's first ever Cemetery Tour during Heritage Week. We are told that Dr. Vaughn played an exceptional "Dr. Drish".....does this mean a future in acting???

INTERNAL MEDICINE 2009

- Choose from more than 260 CME courses in internal medicine and the subspecialties presented by faculty unsurpassed in their field.
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- Learn "hands-on" at the Herbert S. Waxman Clinical Skills Center. Update your skills and learn important new techniques in physical examination, communication skills, office-based procedures and more.
- Join your colleagues and get involved in the College! Take advantage of the broad array of networking and social opportunities for physicians at all career stages. Meet fellow internists from around the world and around the corner at special receptions and College events held throughout the meeting.
- Learn "hands-on" at the Herbert S. Waxman Clinical Skills Center. Update your skills and learn important new techniques in physical examination, communication skills, office-based procedures and more.

Photo Gallery



Dr. Maryella Simon, Governor, and Dr. Billy Boyd enjoying the Laureate Reception



Dr. Billy Boyd receives the Laureate Award



Dr. Dennis Delgado receives the Laureate Award



Dr. William Curry receives the Chapter Advocacy Award



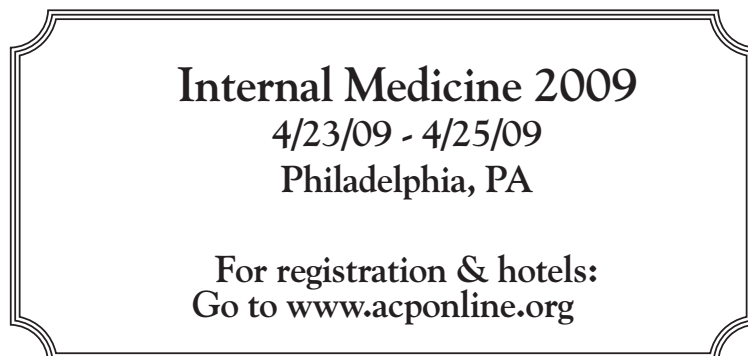
The first poster competition at the Alabama Chapter meeting proved to be a huge success!

One of the 5 Medical Jeopardy Teams prepares for Competition



Jennifer Sohn, MD, winner of the Clinical Vignettes

- Join your colleagues and get involved in the College! Take advantage of the broad array of networking and social opportunities for physicians at all career stages. Meet fellow internists from around the world and around the corner at special receptions and College events held throughout the meeting.



It's never too early to plan for the Annual Meeting. I will be there and hope to see many of my fellow Alabama physicians!

Maryella Sirmon

UPCOMING ALABAMA CHAPTER MEETINGS

The chapter meetings continue to be held at the Perdido Resort in Orange Beach due to popular demand!

Future dates:

5/28/09 - 5/30/09

5/27/10 - 5/29/10

Come join us for fun, sun, and CME!!

Literature and medicine retreat

This year marked the 17th annual literature and medicine retreat. Attendance continues to be good but there is room for more participants. You don't have to be an "expert" - and no one is going to ask you any hard questions about the works discussed!

Works for next year include:

The Satanic Verses - book by **Salman Rushdie**

The Dubliners - short stories by **James Joyce**

"The Dead" - movie by **John Houston**

"1000 Clowns" - play by **Herb Gardner**

The poetry of **Thomas Hardy**

Next year's meeting will be 1/30/09 - 2/2/09. it will continue to be located at the legends capitol hill, Prattville, Alabama. The Alabama Shakespeare festival will be performing "Bear Country" during this time. By **Michael Vigilant**, this is the World Premiere of his work as part of the Southern Writers' Project.

If you are interested please contact **Dr. John Bass**. He can be reached at jbass@usouthal.edu or Ph: 251-471-7900

Our Program Chair, **Dr. Wick Many** is already planning for next Chapter meeting. He is interested in suggestions for particular topics or speakers. He can be reached at wjmany@uabmontgomery.com.

ACP Associates Activities 2007-2008

Martin Rodriguez, MD

Chair of Associates, Resident Division

This was an exciting year for Alabama ACP Associates as you can see from the photos in this newsletter.

Alabama sent its team to the national "Doctor's Dilemma" competition at Internal Medicine 2008 in Washington, DC in May, 2008. Members of the team were:

Nader Dbouk, University of Alabama Birmingham
Hilary Dye, University of South Alabama
Sailendra Upendram, UAB Montgomery

Manasi Kekan, Baptist Health Systems
Kris Srivatsa, Physicians Medical Center Carraway

Our team represented the state very well. The Alabama Chapter provided funds for these resident to attend this exciting conference through monies budgeted for Associates Programs each year.

William (Bud) Marsteller from UAB represented Alabama in the Clinical Vignette Competition at Internal Medicine 2008 in Washington DC. He did a superb job with his poster presentation describing a case of scurvy and hemarthrosis. Our chapter had four additional posters presented by **Saadia Kahn** (2 posters), **Urvi Patel**, and **Ravi Prasad**, all from UAB Montgomery.

Congratulations to all these individuals!

Plans for Internal Medicine 2009 are already underway. Competition among the Clinical Vignette presenters and the Doctor's Dilemma teams was brisk at our Chapter meeting in Perdido. We have an excellent group of young physicians who will be representing us in Philadelphia in April, 2009.

For the first time this year the Chapter added a poster competition for Associates at our state meeting. We had 12 posters presented - 8 clinical and 4 research. They were extremely well received by the meeting attendees and we will continue this next year.

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