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**Supporting Your Chapter through Chapter Dues**

**Y**ou may have noticed that your dues statement from ACP looks a little

different this year. Don't forget to include payment of your chapter dues along with your ACP dues -- it is only through your direct financial support that we can deliver valuable programs and services to members of our chapter.

Your support allows us to offer local meetings with prominent experts focusing on timely clinical issues. National ACP leaders attend these meetings and report on the future of internal medicine and how ACP is representing your best interest. Your contribution also enables us to offer mentoring programs for medical students and local Associates' research competitions. Additionally, your dues support our advocacy efforts with state legislators on local issues and enables our chapter leaders to participate in Leadership Day on Capitol Hill so that your voice is heard in Washington. Many of these activities are coordinated by unpaid volunteer leaders in our chapter. However, local staff support is critical to help manage the day-to-day operation of the chapter, special activities, and chapter meetings. Your chapter dues help support the cost of local staff, as well as funding for new and existing chapter initiatives.

When you receive your dues notice, please support your chapter by sending your chapter dues of \$75.00 along with your national dues. You will be contributing to both the national and local success of ACP.

**Medicare Pay-for-Reporting Program Started July 1, 2007—Details and Assistance**

The ACP Practice Management Center (PMC) has released preliminary guidance on Medicare's upcoming pay-for-reporting program, the Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI). The Medicare PQRI began on July 1, 2007 and run through December 31, 2007. The program was established under a federal law enacted in December 2006.

Under the PQRI, CMS will pay physicians for reporting on specified quality measures. Internists will need to successfully report on three of 74 different quality measures to receive the 1.5% bonus to their Medicare payments.

Physicians do not have to register in advance for the program, just include the applicable quality measure code on the same claim form used to bill the Medicare service. CMS will know which physicians are participating in the voluntary program when it processes the claims.

As CMS releases further details about the program, the PMC and ACP will provide additional information related to the PQRI—information describing the program and information aimed at helping interested members to participate with minimal burden.

PMC's publication is available to registered ACP members at

<http://www.acponline.org/private/pmc/pqri.pdf>

ACP Members who have not yet picked a username and password for ACP's website can gain access by registering online now at

<http://www.acponline.org/cgi-bin/register.pl>

More information on the PQRI from CMS is online at

[http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri/01\\_overview.asp](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/pqri/01_overview.asp)

## **Alabama Clinical Vignette Winner Shares National Experience**

**By Supriya Koya, MD**

As ACP Alabama Chapter clinical vignette winner, I went to San Diego on April 18 to present my clinical vignette. I would like to share my experiences at one of the largest Internal Medicine meetings.

The meeting was held at the San Diego Convention Center in the heart of the city. There were physicians from all over the US and abroad with a wide variety of subjects and options to choose to attend. On line display boards and very receptive volunteers and ACP staff to guide the audience made life easy and a pleasurable experience.

I attended interactive work shops on pulmonary auscultation sounds, mechanical ventilation and ankle-brachial pressure index. These were workshops provided hands on experience making them both educational and entertaining.

The big day arrived! I presented my oral presentation of my clinical vignette along with other state winners plus research presentations from the residents from across the country. It was a very interesting experience to hear to the other residents presentations.

In addition to meeting my old college class mates, I had an opportunity to interact with and make friends with residents and physicians from different states.

Evidence based medicine lectures on cardio-

vascular disease in women and on colon cancer & lung cancer from the specialists in the field were state of the art.

We had a cozy dinner party for the ACP state winners at one of the nicest restaurants in town, which was an experience of great professional value to me.

The night life, places to shop, visiting sites and beautiful weather were additional attractions that made the trip so very enjoyable.

Overall, the ACP national meeting in San Diego provided a platform to interact with other physicians and learn new things making it an educational, entertaining and memorable experience.

## **ACP Associates Activities 2006-2007:**

### **Steven Presley, MD FACP**

This was an exciting year for Alabama ACP Associates! Alabama sent its first team to the national "Doctor's Dilemma" competition at Internal Medicine 2007 in San Diego, April 2007. Members of the team were as follows:

**Sandra Gilley**-Baptist Health System, Birmingham

**Stephen Landreneau**-USA, Mobile

**German Luy**-UAB

**Prashanth Sankara**-UAB, Montgomery

**Vijay Vidyasagar**-Physician's Carraway, Birmingham

Our team represented the state well, making it into the semi-final round of the competition!

Our chapter provided the funds for these residents to attend this exciting conference through the money budgeted for associates programs each year.

**Supriya Koya, MD** (UAB-Montgomery) represented Alabama at the clinical vignette competition in San Diego and did a superb job with her oral presentation.

For the first time in recent years, Alabama had three additional at-large posters presented (including residents from BHS, Carraway, and UAB) at Internal Medicine 2007.

Each program has been given the opportunity to use state ACP funds to stimulate resident interest in ACP. BHS has used those funds to sponsor one resident (the one with the most improved ITE score) each year to attend Annual Session (now "Internal Medicine 2007", etc.). Carraway has used those funds to bring additional residents to the state meeting, and

other programs have been able to increase ACP involvement through the use of those funds as well.

Several residents in the Birmingham area have had the opportunity to be involved in providing indigent healthcare through the local M-Power clinic. Manasi Kekan (associates representative to the ACP council) has been instrumental in not only volunteering of her time but helping to recruit other resident volunteers. This has been just one way that the associates are able to "give back" to the community.

2007-2008 will be another busy year for the associates, starting with the second annual "Doctor's Dilemma" and the annual vignette competition at the state meeting in June.

It has been a pleasure to work with Dr. Bonner, Dr. Hoesley, the Internal Medicine Program Directors, Teri Dingler, and others in order to make our associates program one of the best in the nation.

**Steven Presley, MD FACP**  
**Chair of Associates, Resident division**  
**Alabama State ACP**

## **Leadership Day a Success**

**Wally Retan, MD**

Quite frankly, I signed on for the ACP leadership day experience with fairly low expectations, but with family I could visit in the DC area in any event. I came back thoroughly impressed with the quality of work that has gone into developing ACP positions, and with the skill with which we amateurs were turned into effective lobbyists for the ACP.

The session began with the arrival of a booklet describing the agenda and a list of participants. The top ACP priority issue is to replace Medicare's sustained growth rate formula with a much more equitable physician payment incentive. The ACP supports encouragement of primary care, a patient centered medical home, the reauthorization of SCHIP, an expansion of coverage to more uninsured persons, professional liability reform, adequate funding for several of the health programs whose funding has been in doubt, and student loan debt relief. Each of the positions was described in detail, and accompanied with a "leave behind" sheet to be left with the congressional staffers that we would meet. Roughly half of the day was devoted to educating us "activists" by explaining those positions. The other half focused on techniques of being effective advocates.

I had the opportunity to visit my congressman's office, and had a substantial conversation with his legislative counsel, a young man who was already well versed in the issues, but who was attentive, interested, and appeared open to hearing what I had to say. I also had a chance to talk with Congressman **Marty Kaptur** who introduced the HealthCARE Act on the day of our visit. That act embodies many of the specific positions advocated by the ACP.

Thinking ahead to next year, I'd offer one suggestion. Most of the people who were there had made appointments with their congressman or senators or both prior to coming to Washington, something that I had not had the foresight to do.

## **Chapter Advocacy Award**

The Chapter Advocacy Award this year is presented to Dr. **Peter Morris**, MD, FACP. Dr. Morris is a native of Birmingham, Alabama. He graduated from the University of Alabama where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He received his MD degree from the Medical College of Alabama in 1956, followed by a medical internship and residency at University Hospital in Birmingham. His house staff training was punctuated by two years of service in the medical corps of the US Navy. He then completed a fellowship in Hematology and Oncology at Duke University and practiced Internal Medicine and Hematology in Birmingham from 1963 to 2006.

Dr. Morris has been very active in the Jefferson County Medical Society since 1963, holding numerous offices and serving as President in 1981. He is also active in the Medical Association of the State of Alabama, serving in many capacities for our state. He served as President of MASA in 1992-1993.

Expanding his talents to the national level, Dr. Morris has served the AMA since 1963, serving as AMA alternate delegate from 1992 - 1998 and as delegate since 1998. He has also served on the national Reference Committee for Constitution and By-Laws.

Dr. Morris has served two terms as President of the Birmingham Society of Internists and is Past President of the Alabama Society of Internal Medicine. He is a long-time member of ASIM's Executive Committee and was selected as "Internist of the Year" in 1993.

Always interested in the quality of health care in Alabama, he has been an active participant in the Alabama Quality Assurance Foundation, serving as Chairman of the Board and President. He continues

to be active in the ACP and is an integral part of the Alabama Chapter Council where his experience in health and public policy is regularly utilized and greatly appreciated.

Dr. Morris received the Laureate Award from our chapter in 2000, as well as the Paul W. Burleson Award from MASA that year. In 2006 Dr. Morris was awarded the Garber Gailbreath Medical Policy Award from the Medical Alumni Association of the University of Alabama.

The Alabama Chapter of the American College of Physicians is proud to honor Dr. Peter Morris with the Chapter Advocacy Award for his many years of excellent service to our state and to the College.

## **17th Annual Literature and Medicine Retreat**

This January will mark the 17th annual Literature and Medicine Retreat for the Alabama Chapter of ACP. The retreat will be held the last weekend in January (25-27th), 2008 at the Marriott in Prattville which is the resort associated with The Legends Golf Course, part of the Robert Trent Jones Trail.

The resort features relaxing, well-appointed accommodations opening out onto the course. If you don't play golf, the grounds provide a delightful backdrop for long walks between sessions.

For those of you who have not ventured into the realm of literature, you should try it. No prior experience or talents are required. Everyone is free to comment as they wish or to quietly reflect on the thoughts of the moderator and other participants. Typically two movies are shown - one of the selected play and a second that deals with one of the other works.

Each year selections include one novel, one play, a set of short stories, and poetry. Something for everyone.

This year's selections are:

**The Second Coming by Walker Percy**

**"Beowulf", translation by Seamus Heany**

**"The Night of the Iguana" by Tennessee Williams**

**The Collected Stores of Amy Hempel**

The movies this year are:

**"The Night of the Iguana" with Richard Burton and Ava Gardner**

**A selection dealing with Beowulf - "The Thirteenth**

## **Warrior" with Antonio Bandaras is a possibility**

**Walker Percy**, a native of Birmingham, AL received his MD from Columbia University in 1941. After contracting tuberculosis performing an autopsy, he chose the life of a writer rather than that of a physician, saying that he would study 'the pathology of the soul rather than that of the body'. He is the author of multiple works, including *The Moviegoer* which won the National Book Award for Fiction. A lifelong friend of **Shelby Foote**, Percy was instrumental in promoting Southern literature, including getting John Kennedy Toole's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel *A Confederacy of Dunces* published over a decade after Toole's suicide. Walker Percy died in Louisiana of prostate cancer in 1990. *The Second Coming* features a heroine just completing a course of electroconvulsive therapy which leaves her amnesic. She rediscovers lost knowledge through a letter she wrote herself prior to treatment.

"Beowulf" is considered by many as the major surviving work of Anglo-Saxon heroic poetry and has risen to the prominent position of England's national epic. It is a story of legends and was composed in the 5th century primarily for entertainment. The new translation by Seamus Heany is outstanding.

**Thomas Lanier Williams III**, better known as 'Tennessee', was born in Columbus, Mississippi and is considered an icon of Southern theater. He died at the age of 71 after choking on a bottle cap in a New York hotel room. His plays include the Pulitzer-Prize winning "Streetcar Named Desire", the Tony-Award winning "The Rose Tattoo", and "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof". Set in a Mexican hotel of the 1940's "The Night of the Iguana" gives literature several characters indelibly etched into the cast of American theater including the self-loathing minister, his old friend, and the friend's enigmatic visitor.

**Amy Hempel** resides in New York where she is a professor at Bennington College. Generally classified as a 'minimalist' writer, she is one of a few authors whose reputation is built on short fiction alone. Her stories are crafted and compelling tales no reader will want to miss.

Hopefully this lure will entice the reader to try the annual chapter literature retreat. Come once and you are almost certain to return again.

## ACP Program Chair to Speak at UAB Commencement

The Alabama Chapter would like to congratulate **Craig Hoesley** on his selection as speaker at the UAB School of Medicine Commencement Ceremony. Previously known as the Honors Convocation, the ceremony was held in the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center Concert Hall on May 20, 2007. Dr. Hoesley has been Program Chair for the Alabama Chapter for the past four years. He is a strong advocate for internal medicine and has served as clerkship director at UAB and leader of the ACP internal medicine student interest group there since 2002.

Dr. Hoesley received his MD from the University of South Florida College of Medicine in Tampa followed by house staff and fellowship training in infectious diseases at UAB. He also served as Chief Medical Resident. He has been honored regularly for his teaching abilities. He was awarded the C. Glenn Cobbs and Edwin J. Rutsky Award for Clinical Excellence in 2001 and was named Clinical Professor of the Year and received the Tinsley Harrison Award for Teaching Excellence in 2002.

**Congratulations to Dr. Hoesley.  
The Alabama Chapter is proud of his  
accomplishments.**

## ACP Alabama Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting

**May 29-June 1, 2008  
Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, AL**

**Wick Many**, MD, FACP is the new Program Director for the Alabama Chapter. He is already beginning to plan for our chapter meeting in June of 2008. Dr. Many would like input regarding specific topics you would like to hear about and suggestions of particularly interesting or excellent speakers. You can e-mail him at [wmany@uabmontgomery.com](mailto:wmany@uabmontgomery.com).

## Photo Gallery



*Dr. Jim Bonner, Immediate Past Governor, receives the "Laureate Award"*



*"2007 Clinical Vignette Presenters"*

*Dr. Steve Davis, Laureate Award Recipient*



*Dr. Peter Morris receives "Chapter Advocacy Award"*

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# **Alabama Chapter Governor's Newsletter**

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