



Governor's Message

Greetings! Not long ago I was in Philadelphia for IM 2009 and have just returned from our Chapter Meeting at the Perdido Resort. Both were invigorating and instructive.

The National Meeting continued the ACP tradition of educational excellence with opportunity for much fun and camaraderie. The scientific sessions were diverse and those I attended were very well done. I regret only not having time to get to more of them. Philly is a wonderful city with a mixture of history, unique cultures, and great food. All were enjoyed by the Alabama contingent. Our Chapter continued to co-host a tri-state cocktail party. It provided ample food and libations as we visited with friends from Alabama and near-by states. You will find photos of the get-together in the newsletter.

Our Associates represented themselves and our state very well. My congratulations to each of them! Convocation saw six new physicians inducted to Fellowship in the College. I encourage you to consider this for yourself if you are not a Fellow. If you have any questions regarding the process, please feel free to contact me.

The Chapter Meeting was a tremendous success. It continues to be a wonderful combination of education and fun in the sun with family and friends. The addition of medical student poster presentations this year was very well-received and will continue along with our Associate poster competition. Congratulations to our Medical Jeopardy and Clinical Vignette winners for 2009. They will be travelling with us to Toronto in 2010. It isn't too early start your planning for next year. I hope to see you at IM 2010 in April and at our Chapter Meeting in June.

As I pass the mid-point of my tenure as your Governor, I want to offer my appreciation to all of those physicians through out our state for all you do – the care you provide for your patients, the voice of advocacy you speak with, and your support of me and the College.

Board of Directors

Duties as Governor as made easier with the help of the Chapter Board of Directors. The Board consists of twelve individuals that serve for terms of three years. Thus each year four members of the board rotate.

Dr. Maryella Sirmon would like to extend her sincere appreciation to the outgoing board members for all their help and to welcome the new Class of 2010.

Retiring members:

Dr. Robert Marks

Dr. Loren McCoy

Dr. Lydia Stephanescu

New additions:

Dr. Errol Crook

Dr. Dennis Delgado

Dr. Steve Presley

Dr. Bill Boyd has graciously agreed to serve a second term on the board and will remain for three additional years as the fourth member of the Class of 2010. If you are interested in becoming active on the Chapter Board, please contact **Dr. Sirmon**. Past members may serve again if interested.

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Samuel Eichold Award



The Alabama Chapter is very pleased to announce the creation of a new National ACP Award in memory of **Samuel Eichold II, MD, FACP** (5/27/16 – 5/25/2006). The award honors the late **Dr. Eichold**, whose lifelong passion was the care of the diabetic patient. There are only a handful of National Awards and this is the first to originate from a Chapter. It was officially established on October 25, 2008 and will be awarded for the first time at IM 2010 in Toronto.

Many of you will remember **Sam** and his lovely wife **Charlotte** as they were regular attendees at every chapter meeting. **Sam** led by example and by his passionate involvement in medicine, student and resident education, and the lives of his family, his friends, and his patients. He often reminded those listening of the four "D's" – discipline, desire, determination, discretion, and duty. He taught us all that these qualities would carry one far in life. And he always reminded us that the purpose of life is "to leave the world a better place."

The award will be given to a member of the American College of Physicians or to an organization that has made important health care delivery innovations for diabetic patients resulting in improved clinical or economic outcomes; or a member of the ACP who has conducted research that has significantly improved the quality of care of clinical management of diabetes. The Eichold Award is designed to honor **Dr. Eichold** and also recognize **Dr. Eichold's** high regard for the Alabama Chapter of the ACP.

ALABAMA ASSOCIATES ACTIVITIES

This was an exciting year for Alabama ACP Associates! Alabama sent its team to the national "Doctor's Dilemma" competition at Internal Medicine 2009 in Philadelphia in April 2009. Members of the team were as follows:

Sana Makhdami – UAB Montgomery

Srilatha Nadipineni – UAB Montgomery

Urvi Patel - UAB Montgomery

Satish Sarvepalli – UAB Montgomery

Our team represented the state well and made it to the semifinals. Our chapter provided the funds for these residents to attend this exciting conference through the money budgeted for associates programs each year.

Jennifer Sohn (UAB) represented Alabama at the clinical vignette competition at Internal Medicine 2009 in Philadelphia, and did a superb job with his poster presentation describing a case of Cushing's syndrome. Alabama had two additional posters presented by **Satish Sarvepalli** and **Andrea Braun**. Again Chapter funds were used to stimulate resident interest in ACP and support these programs.

The June 2009 Chapter meeting was a great success for associates and students. The "Doctor's Dilemma" Jeopardy competition was intense with the UAB team winning. The annual clinical vignette presentations were very good leaving the judges with their own dilemma, but UAB emerged victorious here also.

Last year for the first time the Chapter meeting hosted a poster competition for associates and it was a huge success. This year student poster presentations were added. A total of twenty four posters were presented by associates and students in both clinical and research categories.

A complete listing of this year's winners as well as photographs can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Martin Rodriguez, MD
Chair of Associates, Resident division
Alabama State ACP

Associate and Student Winners Alabama Chapter Meeting June, 2009

Clinical Vignette Winner:

Ryan Kraemer, MD, UAB

Doctor's Dilemma™ Winners:

UAB Team:

Ryan Kraemer, MD

Ricardo La Hoz Chunga, MD

Chris Douglas, MD

Marc Usrey, MD

Associate Poster Competition:

Research: **Mustafa Ahmed, MD**

Clinical: **William Hicks, MD**

Medical Student Poster Competition

Research: **Sanjay Maniar**

Clinical: **Rashi Singhal**

Young Physicians Get Involved in State's & National's ACP

We are living in interesting times. There are many potential changes on the horizon that will impact our healthcare system. To ensure that everyone has a voice, national ACP is encouraging everyone to get involved. ACP recognizes the importance of input provided by its members, in particular those still in the early stages of their career. As such, the Council of Young Physicians was established in 2005 to ensure their voice was heard. The Alabama Chapter of ACP has also been making changes to actively involve more members at the state level. As an example, the Chapter began the Associate poster competition last year to encourage more Associate member involvement. This year the Chapter is excited to announce that it will be establishing a state Council of Young Physicians. This will be a challenging but very rewarding process for all of us. We may be calling on various members throughout the state to offer guidance and assistance to ensure that the Council of Young Physicians is the best that it can be. So please spread the word to all young physicians (those within 16 years of completing residency) in the state who might be interested in being a member to stay tuned and keep active in our ACP chapter. As we move forward in this process we will be seeking members to serve on the council. For young physicians in the state, these are very exciting times indeed.

Sincerely,

T.J. Hundley, MD

ACP Member

Assistant Professor

Department of Internal Medicine

University of South Alabama

Visit the Chapter's website at

www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/al

ACP Health Services News

This is a potentially transformative time in medicine as Congress is considering sweeping legislation that may change health care delivery in our nation for generations to come. The President has declared health care reform as one of his top priorities this summer and Congress has a target date of August 1, 2009 to have a bill on the President's desk.

Reform is already underway. SCHIP has been reauthorized, the economic stimulus package included increased funding for health information technology and primary care training, and the President's 2010 budget outline supports a permanent fix to the Medicare payment system.

The ACP's top priorities in Health Care Reform include:

1. Ensure that all Americans will have access to affordable coverage.
2. Pilot test new Medicare payment models that re-align incentives to support effective, efficient, patient-centered, coordinated care.
3. Improve Medicare fee for service system payments to make primary care competitive with other specialties.
4. Establish a national workforce policy to ensure efficient numbers of primary care and other physicians.

In May, legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives that reflects the bulk of ACP's priorities. On the heels of the introduction of the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act (H.R. 2350) by **Rep. Allyson Schwartz** (D-PA), over 400 internists from across the nation descended on Washington for the ACP Leadership Day on Capitol Hill. Representing Alabama, **Bob Centor**, Associate Dean of the UAB-Huntsville Campus and member of the ACP Board of Regents, and I visited each of our congressional and senate offices to share ACP's vision for health care reform with the legislative staff. **Dr. Parker Griffith**, Member of Congress for the fifth district, has already signed as a co-sponsor to H.R. 2350, and we personally met with congressmen **Robert Aderholt** (4th district) and **Jo Bonner** (1st district) requesting their support.

The ACP theme in Washington is "*Primary care is the best medicine for better health and lower costs.*" In their statements, the President and leadership of the Senate Finance Committee, Senators Baucus and Grassley, have responded and seem to understand the need to shift the focus of our health care delivery system to primary care. The Institute of Medicine reports we need 16,000 primary care physicians to meet the current need, and the shortage of primary care physicians for adults is expected to grow to more than 40,000 by 2025 according to two recent studies. The fact that Medicare consistently undervalues primary care physicians, and instead rewards physicians for the volume of services provided, is the single biggest reason why young physicians are not choosing primary care and many established ones are leaving the field. We encourage Congress to implement comprehensive payment reforms to make primary care competitive as a career choice, transition to patient-centered models of care, such as the medical home, and replace physician payment cuts under the flawed SGR formula with positive, predictable updates.

In June, **Senators Maria Cantwell** (D-WA), **Susan Collins** (R-ME), and **Sheldon Whitehouse** (D-RI), introduced the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act to address two fundamental problems in health care: a critical shortage of primary care physicians and inefficient Medicare reimbursements that do not reward a coordinated approach of patients' health care needs. The legislation aims to provide efficient, cost effective, prevention oriented care throughout the country, especially in underserved and rural communities.

Each Alabama ACP member should take a moment to call or email his or her congressman and our senators to urge support for the House and Senate versions of the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act. For more comprehensive information on ACP's positions, please visit the Advocacy section on ACP Online, <http://www.acponline.org/advocacy>.

Ross B. Vaughn, MD, FACP
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Photo Gallery



UAB Doctors Dilemma Team Heads to IM 2010 as this year's winners!

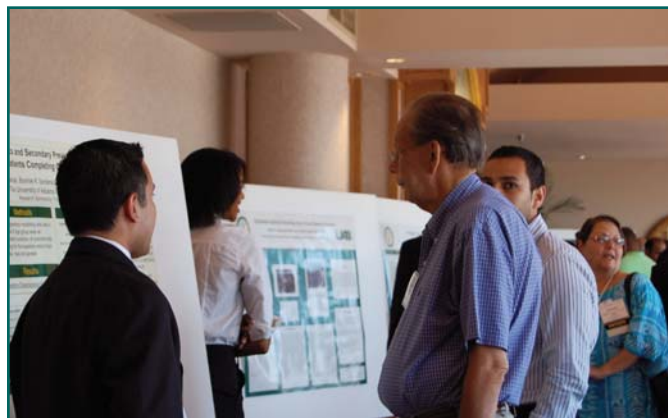


Dr. Robert Luke, ACP Regent, serves as judge for Associate Posters

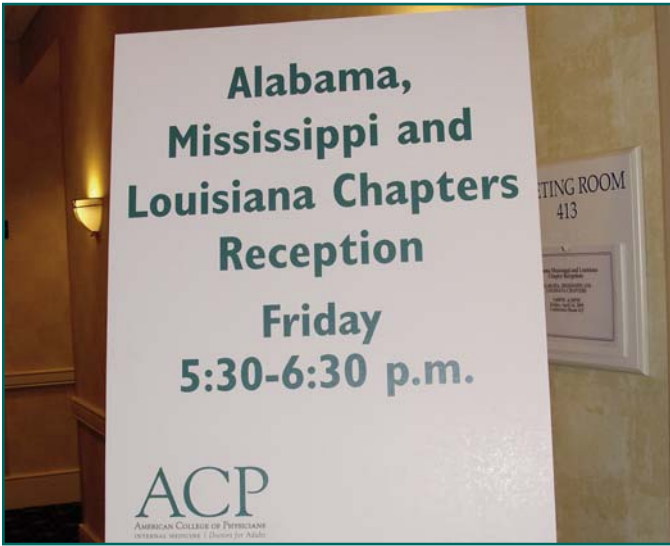
Medical Student Poster Competition



Medical Student Posters reviewed by meeting attendees and judges



IM 2009
Reception





New Fellows



Laureate Awardees for 2009: Robert Centor, MD, FACP, Dr. Maryella Sirmon, Governor, and Dr. Wick Many, MD, FACP



Ross Vaughn, MD, FACP accepts the Chapter Advocacy Award