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## Governor's Corner

**G**reetings and welcome to my first newsletter as your Governor. I am extremely honored and excited and look forward to the next four years. I have spent the last year as the Governor-Elect working closely with **COL Greg Argyros** to ensure a smooth handover. I have been impressed with the outstanding support that I have received from both the National ACP and our former Governor. I am very glad that Greg will remain only a phone call away because I and the Chapter can continue to benefit from his experience and personal dedication. It is also heartening to know that another former Army Chapter ACP Governor, **COL (ret) Nathan Erteschik** is also readily accessible. Nathan was a great mentor when he served as both Governor and the Internal Medicine Consultant. He managed to make every single Program Director feel like we were his favorite. Sorry, guys and gals, I know I was. It was refreshing to see at this year's National ACP that no pharmaceutical logo was on the distributed canvas bags. This was an unpopular position that Nathan took years ago. He truly was ahead of his time. There is currently even a resolution for replacing the current canvas bags with environmentally friendly, re-usable "green" grocery bags.

I am just finishing up my 20th year in the Army and have had the opportunity to work at four of our major military treatment facilities and run across fantastic mentors every step of the way. I did my Internal Medicine residency at William Beaumont Army Medical Center followed by a Pulmonary/Critical Care fellowship at Madigan AMC. **COL Bernie Roth** (your recently past IM Consultant was one of the junior pulmonary staff), **COL Joseph Pina** was my fellowship classmate, and **LTG Schoemaker** was the Chief, Department of Medicine. My first staff assignment was at Tripler Army Medical Center working for **COL (ret) Benjamin Berg** and with **COL (ret) Joseph Parker, COL Vincent Grbach. COL (ret) Dale Vincent** served as Chief, Department of Medicine. I returned to William Beaumont AMC and spent four of my six years there as Program Director, Internal Medicine with **LTC Jennifer Thompson** serving at one time as the Associate Program Director. Wow, what a fantastic group of pulmonary physicians I worked with in El Paso to include **LTC Stuart Roop, LTC Alex Niven, LTC David Dorsey, LTC Jennifer Wink** and **COL Kevin Kumke**. In 2005, I was selected as Chief, Department of Medicine, Brooke Army Medical Center and in 2008 as Chair, San Antonio Military Medical Center, Department of Medicine.

In looking through our Chapter roster it is striking how many of our Army senior leaders are members or fellows of the ACP. These include **LTG Eric Schoomaker, MG James Gilman, BG Steven Jones, and BG Joseph Carvalho**. Our future is also very secure. Army Internal Medicine has many challenges, but ability, aptitude, and academic excellence are not lacking as evidenced by the outstanding presentations at both our Chapter meeting and National ACP conference.

Past Governors:

<b>MG (Ret) Leslie Burger, FACP</b>	1978 -1980
<b>COL (Ret) Julius Bedynek, FACP</b>	1980-1982
<b>COL (Ret) Leonard Wartofsy, MACP</b>	1982-1987
<b>COL (Ret) Prentice Thompson, FACP</b>	1987-1990
<b>BG (Ret) Michael Kussman, MACP</b>	1990-1991
<b>LTG (Ret) Ronald Blanck, MACP</b>	1991-1993
<b>COL (Ret) Arlene Zaloznik, FACP</b>	1993-1997
<b>COL (Ret) Charles Bolan, FACP</b>	1997-2000
<b>COL (Ret) Nathan Erteschik, FACP</b>	2000-2005
<b>COL Greg Argyros, FACP</b>	2005-2009

## Internal Medicine 2009: Philadelphia

I am delighted to report that there was an excellent turn-out to IM2009 with over 7000 attendees and more than 250 educational venues. The Army Chapter again was well represented at the Honors Convocation and with Associate Member participation in posters, presentations, and Doctor's Dilemma competitions. Associates can be invited to the national conference either through the Army Chapter, state chapter or at large. I have served as an on-line abstract judge for the past several years and there are literally thousands of quality abstracts with only a fraction being accepted at large for presentation. Congratulations to all our Army Associate competitors and to **Rhonda Deen** (member) whose poster was selected for presentation at the first Young Physicians Poster Competition.

Doctor's Dilemma Team Participants:

**MAMC: Ramesh Venkataraman, Shawn Corcoran, Dustin Little** representing the Washington Chapter

**WRAMC: Matt Laquer, Angelo Paredes, Rosco Gore** representing the Army Chapter.

**TAMC: John Downs, Anthony Cardile** representing Hawaii Chapter

**SAMMC: John Symons** representing the Air Force chapter (3rd place finish)

Associate Members Podium Presentations:

**Jacob Collen – research (WRAMC)**

**Frank Cheng – clinical vignette (MAMC)**

Associate Members Poster Presentations:

**Christopher Cowan – research (WBAMC)**

**Mike Cheezum – research (WRAMC)**

**Chris Pickett – research and vignette (WRAMC)**

**Jenny Ryan – clinical vignette (MAMC)**

**Mazer Ally – vignette (WRAMC)**

**Merica Shrestha – vignette (WRAMC)**

**Ryan Kwok – vignette (WRAMC)**

**Mark Kwok – vignette (WRAMC)**

**Brian Haney – vignette (SAMMC)**

**John Downs – vignette (TAMC)**

**Anthony Cardile – vignette (TAMC)**

## Young Physicians Poster Presentation

**Rhonda Deen (Ft Riley, KS)**

### **Convocation:**

**COL Greg Argyros** again served as Marshal of the Convocation so **Dr. Lou Pangaro** had the honor of leading in the new Army Chapter fellows who marched in full academic regalia at the Honors Convocation. They included: **LTC Brian Cuneo** –Bethesda, MD, **Dr. Roberta Ficke** – San Antonio, TX, **MAJ Julia Lim** – Aiea, HI, **MAJ Travis Richardson** – Bowie, MD. Remember civilian physicians that work at your MTFs are also welcome to be nominated as fellows via the Army Chapter.

## **New Fellows of the American College of Physicians Selected April 2009**

### **Congratulations to the Army Chapter's newest Fellows:**

**COL John E. Atwood, MC, USA -- Washington, DC**

**LTC Brian M. Cuneo, MC, USA -- Bethesda, MD**

**LTC Ethan E. Emmons, MC, USA -- Fort Sam Houston, TX**

**LTC Daniel G. Gates, MC, USA -- Fayetteville, NC**

**MAJ Samuel C. Ngwu, MC, USA -- Dallas, TX**

**LTC Myreon Williams, MC, USA -- Grovetown, GA**

There are several pathways toward Fellowship. Although scholarly publications remains one of the pathways, continued medical education, teaching, mentoring, volunteer community work, and work for the College are all pathways toward Fellowship. The details are available at [www.acponline.org](http://www.acponline.org). Please check the website because there have been some recent changes to streamline the process. For example, there is no longer any need for you to submit CME documentation which was a cumbersome task in the past.

A current Fellow or Master must write nominating and supporting letters. If you have any questions about the process, or need the names of Fellows in your area, please contact me. I have replaced **COL Argyros** on the ACP Credentials Sub-Committee which makes the final recommendation for advancement to fellowship. I have already attended one meeting and I am very impressed with the professionalism of the ACP staff and the efforts that go into vetting candidates. This is not a rubber stamp selection process, but truly a reflection of academic or professional accomplishment.

Myth: Fellowship will increase my dues.

Fact: There is a one-time \$150 processing fee but your dues will not change.

## **New Members of the American College of Physicians**

**COL Bobby Wayne Jones, MC USA-Richmond Hill**

**LTC Bryce C Mays, MC USA-Fort Campbell**

Thanks for choosing to belong to the largest medical specialty society with over 126,000 members and supporting the College's mission – to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine. These goals further reflect our Army core values.

## DOD Representative to the Council of Associates



**CPT Tatjana Calvano** was recently selected as the new Department of Defense Associates Council Representative. **CPT Calvano** will soon be starting her PGY3 Internal Medicine residency year at the San Antonio Military Medical Center. She replaces **CPT Christine Mount** who recently had the honor of serving as Chair for the Associates Council.

## Young Physicians Committee

Now is your chance to have an increased voice at the Chapter and National ACP Level. The Army Chapter is forming a Young Physicians Committee. The ACP defines Young Physicians as individuals that are Members or Fellows (not Associates) and are < 16 years out from medical school graduation. **MAJ Rhonda Deen** will be the initial Chair for this important committee. Please e-mail me soonest if you would like to be considered for membership. Time will be allotted at the Army/AF Chapter meeting for the Army Chapter Young Physicians Committee. This is a good way to get involved or stay involved in college activities and have voice in local chapter and national activities.

## In Memoriam

CPT Joseph McLean (Associate Member)



**Dr. Joseph McLean** died unexpectedly on 4 February 2009 in Bethesda, MD at the age of 34. Joe graduated from medical school at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in 2003 and completed a Family Practice internship at Womack Army Medical Center at Ft Bragg in 2004. He transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center and was an Internal Medicine Resident from 2004-2006. Joe's first duty station was at William Beaumont Army Medical Center where he made an immediate impact as an attending physician and played a large role in resident education. In July 2008, he began an Endocrinology Fellowship at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. While working as a fellow, Joe was involved with thyroid cancer research. Although Joe was an excellent physician, his true passion was cooking and baking. Joe also had an affinity for sports cars, gourmet chocolates, and nice wine. He deeply touched and impacted many people in his short life on earth. Memorial services were held at WRAMC, WBAMC, and BAMC. He is survived by his wife Stephanie.

## College Happenings:

The ACPs top two priorities for 2009 are 1) affordable healthcare for all and 2) to reverse the shortage of primary care providers. **Dr. John Tooker**, Executive Vice President for ACP, missed the first day of the Governors' meeting at IM 2009 because he was testifying at a round table discussion at the Senate Finance Committee. Below are some related hot topics.

1. Health Care Reform: **Bob Doherty**, our Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Policy spoke at the April 22nd Board of Governor's meeting and shared a recent survey indicating that 69% of the public feel that complete or major health care reform is needed. The greatest dissatisfaction was with the rising cost of health care and the lack of coverage for everyone. You can access Bob's comments at <http://blogs.acponline.org/advocacy>. **President Obama** has made health care reform one of his top priorities stating in World Health Summit on Health Reform (5 March 2009) that "*Health care reform cannot wait, it must not wait, and it will not wait another year*". The ACP is taking a lead in developing and prioritizing policies, being at the table and building coalitions, and engaging/informing its members. The ACP is one of two professional physician groups (the other the AMA) who participated in the Health Reform Dialogue consensus process. Jeff Harris, last year's ACP President, was on the short list of physicians invited to the March White House Summit. The ACP's views are being heard regarding the role of primary care, the importance of the Patient Centered Medical Home, payment reform, student debt relief, and EHR incentives.

While somewhat insulated, what is happening in the civilian sector will influence military medicine and the way we deliver primary care. MHS and MEDCOM are already looking closely at the Patient Centered Medical Home model and several MTFs have started pilot projects to include BAMC, MAMC, and National Naval Medical Center (Bethesda, MD). One might argue that the "*single payer system*" we incorporate in the military is an effective model – although we have not proven ourselves to be cost efficient. Our DoD experiences with EHRs (good and bad) will be helpful as policies and implementation are advanced. Certainly, we are also feeling the effects of the paucity of physicians choosing Internal Medicine and even a smaller percentage opting for a long-term career in primary care medicine. Our subspecialty case load and diversity is suffering from loss of a robust primary care population base. Our internal medicine residencies do not have enough applicants to fill all programs with second order effects of loss of fellowship positions to off-set a decreased number of Internal Medicine graduates available for assignment.

The Board of Governors serves as advisors to the Board of Regents, the policy-making body. One of my missions as your Governor is to ensure that our Chapter has a method to provide input for resolutions on local and national issues. Please feel free to contact me with questions, comments, and suggestions.

2. Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act (PPAPCA): The College endorsed **Allyson Schwartz's** (D-PA) PPAPCA. Ninety-five per cent of the bill is consistent with College policy with the majority of the wording taken directly from the College's policy. Specifically the PPAPCA would help provide efficient, prevention-oriented care throughout the country. It would also reward Medicare providers that offer well managed primary care and incentivize other providers to adopt better practices by: Establishing scholarships and loan forgiveness in exchange for primary care service commitments in critical shortage areas; Creating grants for medical school mentorship programs and primary care training in community health centers; Increasing Title VII and National Health Service Corps funding for primary care training; Removing caps on the number of residencies funded by the Medicare GME program with a preference for the new residencies given to primary care; Eliminating barriers to increased training in ambulatory care settings for primary care trainees; and, Enacting Medicare payment reforms to support the value of primary care in improving quality, coordinating care and reducing costs, and a transition to a new payment system based on the Patient Centered Medical Home.

The portion of the bill that is causing some angst amongst ACP members is the provision in the PPAPCA that would permit nurse practitioners to direct patient-centered medical homes. This does not deviate far from College policy that allow for testing of NP-led medical homes in demonstration projects if they are acting within their state licenses, meet the same qualifications and eligibility standards as physician-led practices, and if the payments and evaluation metrics take into account differences in case mixes.

3. Pri-Med: Pri-Med is a for-profit producer of live CME meetings that was initially founded in 1994 in close association with Harvard Medical School, but now works for several other institutions. Their courses are sponsored by pharmaceutical vendors which keeps the registration fees fairly low (\$35-\$75). The College, in a rather controversial move, that was in part financially motivated, is now affiliated for a trial period through 2012 with Pri-Med. The concern from many Governors was the relationship between physicians and the pharmaceutical industries in a time of increasing scrutiny and even the perception of a conflict of interest. Equally concerning was the effect of the Pri-Med meetings on Chapter meeting attendance since in many states and localities the meetings are in close proximity. The agreement with the ACP allows Chapters to link their meeting to a Pri-Med offering. Pri-Med provides time for the Governor to speak briefly, provides a free desk or booth to distribute materials, and Pri-Med would provide meeting space for a full day after the Pri-Med meeting and/or during the evening between the two days of Pri-Med clinical program. If space is not utilized the day after the Pri-Med meeting, Pri-Med will pay the Chapter \$2500.

Fortunately, because of the construct of our Chapter, the Pri-Med meetings should have limited effect on our Army/Air Force Chapter meetings. For some smaller state chapters the liaison with Pri-Med might actually help with cost constraints and in the absence of an alliance with Pri-Med the meetings were going to take place anyway. The vast majority of the Governors though would like to maintain the independence and integrity of their Chapter meetings and are very concerned about the growing influence of Pri-Med. For example, the Texas ACP meeting is Nov 14-15 in San Antonio with Pri-Med hosting a large meeting (350 attendees expected) in Houston, TX on 20-21 November and 15-16 December in Dallas, TX. The ACP assures us that Pri-Med will make a more concerted effort next year to schedule meetings less proximal to the ACP Chapter meetings. Just for your information, both Greg and I opposed the Pri-Med alliance. More to follow, but I wanted to ensure you had a better understanding when you see the ACP logo in Pri-Med mailers.

## Recruit a Colleague Program

Recruit one colleague and receive a \$100 credit toward your 2010-11 annual dues. Recruit two colleagues and receive an additional \$100 credit toward your 2101-11 annual dues. Recruit three new members and enjoy free annual dues in 2010-11. Plus for every member recruited, you will receive an entry into a grand-prize drawing for a trip to Internal Medicine 2011 in San Diego, CA that includes registration, airfare (up to \$500) and four days of hotel accommodations. Details are available at: [http://www.acponline.org/acp\\_news/misc/recruit\\_colleague.htm](http://www.acponline.org/acp_news/misc/recruit_colleague.htm). If you are active duty or GS and win this trip, please contact me or the area in your hospital that deals with proffers so that you are provided the information on how to accept this grand prize and travel legally in a TDY status.

**The Army Chapter would like to thank the following members for recruiting colleagues:**

**CPT Alexis D. Rivera and Col Stephen M. Salerno.**

## LEAD

The Leadership Enhancement and Development (LEAD) Program targets internists early in their careers and offers a variety of activities designed to provide participants with the skills, resources, and experiences necessary to become effective leaders in any setting.

A LEAD Certificate can be awarded to any member who has completed at least five out of seven of the following leadership development activities within a three-year time frame:

1. Attained or maintained active Fellowship status within the College;
2. Attended at least seven hours of CME focused on leadership competencies. At least three of these must be sponsored by the ACP at the local or the national level;
3. Participated in at least two pathways to leadership at the chapter level;
4. Served on a national workgroup, committee, or council of the ACP;

5. Served as a mentor/facilitator in at least one ACP sponsored mentoring event or program;
6. Participated in Leadership Day on Capitol Hill or similar state legislative activity;
7. Demonstrated leadership competencies in the community setting. Examples include chairing a hospital committee or council, serving on a steering committee for a church/synagogue/temple, serving on a Board of Directors for local youth, sports, or arts group.

Certificates will be awarded at the College's Internal Medicine Meeting every year. Additional information is available at [acponline.org](http://acponline.org).

**COL Donald "Skip" Mondragon, FACP** is the first and only Army Chapter Lead Certificate recipient. I know there are many more eligible. Join me in pursuing this additional designation.

## ACP Awards, Mastership, and Fellowship:

Start thinking now, about candidates for nominations for advancement to Mastership in the College and for other awards for the 2010-2011 cycle for IM 2011. The deadline for most awards is 1 July with the exception of the Joseph E. Johnson Leadership award for Associates which has a 1 April deadline. Information about this process can be found at the following url:

[http://www.acponline.org/about\\_acp/awards\\_masterships/call\\_for\\_nom.htm](http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/awards_masterships/call_for_nom.htm)

We have many worthy current and former members of the Army chapter that may be candidates for these awards or for consideration for advancement to Mastership. Please contact me if you have any recommendations.

### Army Chapter Masters of the American College of Physicians (MACP)

**Ronald R. Blanck**

**William E. Duncan**

**Michael J. Kussman**

**Sterling G. West**

**Kenneth D. Burman**

**Kurt Kroenke**

**Yancy Y. Phillips**

## 2009 ACP Army/Air Force Chapter Meeting

The 2009 Army/Air Force Chapter Meeting will be held in the San Antonio Convention 18-22 November 2009. The host hotel this year will be the Marriott Plaza San Antonio with the Opening Reception set for Wednesday 18 November from 1830 – 2100. The final session ends Sunday 22 November at noon. The Meeting Planners include **LtCol Rechell Rodriguez** for the Air Force and **MAJ Nathan Shumway** for the Army. Subspecialty Breakout Coordinators have been selected and more information about the meeting will be coming out soon. **MAJ Kevin Chung** will be the Army scientific coordinator so all Army abstracts will be submitted through him to the various breakout coordinators. As in past years, I anticipate the abstract deadline to be the end of August.

### Army Chapter Breakout Coordinators

Allergy: **LTC Kirk Waibel**

Endocrine: **LTC Jack Lewis**

Heme/Onc: **MAJ Ben George**

IM: **MAJ Raul Rivera**

PCCM: **LTC(P) Ethan Emmons**

Chief of Residents: **CPT Matthew Lincoln**

Cardiology: **MAJ Robert Eckart**

GI: **MAJ Michael Piesman**

ID: **MAJ Matt Griffith**

Nephro: **MAJ Jay Bucci**

Rheum: **MAJ Hang Nguyen**

Scientific Coordinator: **MAJ Kevin Chung**



## **Dates to Remember**

**2009 Army/Air Force Chapter Meeting: Nov 18-22, 2009 – San Antonio Convention Center**

**Internal Medicine 2010: April 22-24, 2010 Toronto, Canada**

**2010 Army/Air Force Chapter Meeting: November 17-21, 2010 – Bethesda Hyatt Regency**