AZ-ACP Monthly MACP Showcase

Masters comprise a small group of highly distinguished physicians, selected from among Fellows, who have achieved recognition in medicine by exhibiting preeminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor, or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine. Masters must be highly accomplished individuals. Evidence of their achievements can come from many types of endeavors, such as research, education, health care initiatives, volunteerism, and administrative positions. The Master must be distinguished by the excellence and significance of his or her contributions to the field of medicine.

James E. Dalen, MD, MACP

James E. Dalen, MD is the Arizona Chapter’s newest Master of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Dalen graduated from the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, Washington in 1961. He did both his residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Cardiovascular Disease in Boston, MA.

Dr. Dalen came to Arizona in 1988 and is board certified in both Cardiovascular Disease and Internal Medicine.

Arizona Chapter, American College of Physicians: We’d like to start by having you speak a little bit about your career - how did you originally become interested in pursuing medicine?

Dr. James E. Dalen: I became interested in Medicine when I was in Junior High. My family physician was my role model.

ACP-AZ: What are some of the different settings in which you’ve practiced medicine? How did you get where you are today?
**JED:** After I completed my residency in Internal Medicine and my fellowship in Cardiology, I joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School from 1964 until 1975.

In 1975 I joined the faculty of a new medical school, the U of Massachusetts as the first chief of cardiology, then Chair of Medicine and then Interim Chancellor.

In 1988 I came to the U of Arizona as the Dean of Medicine. Later I also served as Vice President for Health Sciences. Since retiring from the full time faculty in 2001 I have been the Executive Director of the Weil Foundation, and I teach in the College of Medicine and the College of Public Health.

**ACP-AZ:** How long have you been a member of the American College of Physicians?

**JED:** I became a Fellow in 1974, and I served as Governor for Massachusetts from 1981 until 1985.

**ACP-AZ:** Why did you originally decide to join the ACP and why have you remained a member throughout the years?

**JED:** I enjoy the educational programs.

**ACP-AZ:** What are some of your proudest academic or professional achievements?

**JED:** Editor, Archives of internal Medicine, 1986 until 2004.
2010 Alumni Award of Merit, Harvard School of Public Health.

**ACP-AZ:** How do you maintain a healthy balance between work and the rest of your life?

**JED:** I enjoy work, and I enjoy the rest of my life!

**ACP-AZ:** What are some of the challenges that you think the current health care system is facing?

**JED:** I believe that the most important national challenge is to achieve universal health care access for all of our citizens.

**ACP-AZ:** What advice would you give to our physicians in training?

**JED:** It is all worth it! I can't think of anything more worthwhile than being a good physician.

**ACP-AZ:** Dr. Dalen, thank you for taking the time to correspond with us!