

Arizona Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

ACP
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

Spring 2004

Richard W. Carlson, MD, PhD, FACP,
Governor, Arizona Chapter

ARIZONA FALL CHAPTER MEETING



Make your plans now to attend the ACP Arizona Chapter meeting which is scheduled for **October 23-24** in Scottsdale at the Sunburst Resort. The theme for the meeting this year is "Habits of Excellence".

This year the meeting will include:

- Safety & Quality: Improving Chronic Illness Care
- Liability Reform Through the Health Policy Filter
- Multiple Small Feedings of the Mind
- Putting Technology and EBM into Action
- Best Practices Interactive Session
- Washington Update, ACP College Update, Town Hall Meeting
- Resident Oral Vignette Presentations and Competition
- Resident Poster Presentations and Competition
- Many vendor displays

On Saturday night the after-dinner speaker will be **Dr. Howard Cutler**, co-author with **The Dalai Lama** of *The Art of Happiness*. This thoughtful book was on the *New York Times* Best Seller list for nearly two years. Dr. Cutler, who went to medical school at the University of Arizona and did his residency at Good Samaritan, practiced psychiatry in Phoenix. He now writes and lectures nationally on the science of human happiness. His presentation will be open to registrants, spouses and friends. Please plan to attend.

Once again this year residents are encouraged to compete in the poster and oral vignette competitions. There will be special categories in the poster competition for medical students and PGY-1 physicians.

Your program director or coordinator will be distributing details soon. Or, visit the ACP website and download the abstract forms and instructions at your convenience.

Go to: <http://www.acponline.org/chapters/az/>.

In This Newsletter	Page
Chapter Meeting	1
Annual Session 2004	2
Chapter Receives Two Awards	2
New Fellows	3
Arizona New Liability Law on Expert Certification	3
New Annal Website offers Enhancements	3
Survey Results	4
Physicians "On the Move"	4
New Dean Of University of Arizona College of Medicine	5
OAT Activities	5
Chapter Website	5



ANNUAL SESSION IN NEW ORLEANS APRIL 22-24, 2004

The ACP hosted another dynamic Annual Session this year. New Orleans was an excellent venue for the meeting and more than 75 Arizona physicians were in attendance.

As part of the Annual Session the Board of Governors' met as they do each year during the meeting. Some highlights from the meeting included:

- ◆ The Governors Class of 2005 will be holding a silent auction at either the next Board meeting in Tucson this October or at the next Annual Session in San Francisco in April, 2005. The auction will raise money for the ACP Foundation.
- ◆ Presentations were made and discussion was held about the recertification process. The ACP has reaffirmed its commitment to recertification and quality, but has some issues with the process and definitions and believes the process should be relevant but not burdensome or overly expensive. There are also issues of general medicine versus subspecialty recertification and whether subspecialists should have to re-certify in general medicine.
- ◆ Presentations were also made on performance measures and public health, tort reform and patient safety, revitalization of internal medicine, and an update from Washington.
- ◆ Approximately twenty resolutions were heard at reference committee hearings, including testimony for and against each. These are a few that were passed on to the BOR for consideration:
 - 1-S04. Providing a Venue for New Scientific Information at Annual Session
 - 3-S04. Allow the Council of Subspecialty Societies to Submit Resolutions to BOG
 - 6-S04. Recertification Strategy
 - 8-S04. Study to Determine Influence of Education Debt on Medical Specialty Choice
 - 12-S04. Expanding the ACP Website as a Physician Referral Tool
 - 21-S04. Reimbursement for Screening for Cognitive Function
 - 23-S04. Development of Strategies to Assist Physicians Bear the Costs of Electronic Data Retention

For a complete list of resolutions recommended to the BOR and a list of those not recommended visit: <http://www.acponline.org/governors/announcements/res04.htm>

During the Annual Session Chapter Governor-Elect rheumatologist **Paul Howard, MD, FACP, FACP** participated as faculty with a joint injection presentation. The Chapter held a reception on Friday evening at the Hilton and more than 35 Arizona physicians and guests attended the gathering.

The keynote speaker was Nobel Laureate Joseph L. Goldstein, MD, FACP, whose pioneering work on cholesterol metabolism paved the way for the development of cholesterol lowering drugs.

Each year physicians who attend the National ACP meeting comment on the dynamic, energizing experience and the high quality, practical information provided in the scientific presentations. Make plans now to attend the next **Annual Session - April 14-16, 2005 in San Francisco.**

CHAPTER RECEIVES TWO AWARDS

The Arizona Chapter was selected to receive a Chapter Excellence Award for 2003. To win this award a chapter must demonstrate successful chapter management. The chapter was also honored to receive an Evergreen Award for the OAT (Opportunities for Arizona Trainees) project. The Evergreen was given to only twelve chapters this year.

NEW FELLOWS

The Chapter recognizes and congratulates the following Arizona physicians who were inducted as Fellows in the College this year:

Bruce A. Bethancourt, MD, FACP - Phoenix
Scott M. Bolhack, MD, FACP - Tucson
Kent M. Johnson, MD, FACP - Litchfield Park
Anthony Vitelli, MD, FACP - Fort Defiance

James Lindgren, MD, FACP - Phoenix
Timothy P. Salmon, MD, FACP - Scottsdale
Howard M. Shulman, DO, FACP - Phoenix

Fellowship is an honor achieved by those recognized by their peers for personal integrity, superior competence in internal medicine, professional accomplishment, and demonstrated scholarship. If you are interested in advancing to Fellow, please go to <http://www.acponline.org/college/membership/classes.htm?hp> for more information or contact **Karen** at **480-419-7558** to request an application.



ARIZONA NEW LIABILITY LAW ON EXPERT CERTIFICATION

To curtail the number of frivolous medical malpractice lawsuits, Arizona Governor, **Janet Napolitano** signed legislation (S.B 1113) that adds “health care-related lawsuits to the class of lawsuits that requires expert certification before a case can proceed.”

The bill becomes effective 90 days after the Legislature adjourns (late April). The bill requires all medical malpractice lawsuits to have expert certification before the case can proceed and includes claims against licensed health care professionals who are not parties to the litigation but may have a portion of fault assigned to them by the health care professional accused of medical malpractice. Additional information can be found at: http://www.azleg.state.az.us/DocumentsForBill.asp?Bill_Number=1113&x=15&y=5.

NEW ANNALS WEBSITE OFFERS ENHANCEMENTS

Having trouble keeping up with the *Annals* and other medical readings? Two recent developments, the moving of *Annals of Internal Medicine's* Internet edition to Stanford University's HighWire Press and the release of a PDA version of the *Annals* give subscribers many new conveniences.

The Internet edition, <http://www.annals.org>, makes it easier to find articles and related content. Users can locate articles by browsing issues, entering search terms or perusing collections of related articles. *Annals'* collections include clinical guidelines, updates from the Annual Session, and essays from *On Being a Doctor* and *On Being a Patient*. After finding an article, subscribers can either print a high-quality copy or read it online. Online reading offers many additional features such as links to full texts of referenced and related articles. We are developing links from the online *Annals* to Pier.

The new Web site also gives most PDA users easy access to *Annals*. Subscribers with Palm devices can register to receive an e-mail alert that provides a link to download the latest issue to their desktop computer, allowing synchronization with hand-held computers. Back issues and collections, such as ACP's practice guidelines, Annual Session updates, and essays from *On Being a Doctor* and *On Being a Patient*, are available.

To take advantage of this service, register at <http://www.annals.org/pda>. Users with Pocket PCs or PDAs with wireless Internet access can learn about accessing the *Annals* at <http://www.annals.org/pda/issues.shtml>. More information on these and other new features is online at <http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/139/10/860>.

ARIZONA CHAPTER MEMBER SURVEY RESULTS

Thanks to the 194 physicians who participated in the recent chapter member survey. Complete results will be presented at the Fall Chapter meeting in October. A few key findings from the survey include the following:

- ◆ Top ranked “issues and concerns” were:
 - My own health, fitness and general well-being
 - Keeping abreast of the literature
 - Balancing work and personal/family time
 - Government regulations, compliance issues and other “red tape”
 - Keeping my practice financially viable

- ◆ Top ranked ACP “services and benefits” were:
 - Annals of Internal Medicine
 - ACP’s voice on public policy at the national level
 - ACP Journal Club
 - Other CME opportunities
 - Prestige associated with being an ACP Member, Fellow of Master

- ◆ On the question of re-certification . . .
 - 59 physicians plan to re-certify in general internal medicine
 - 36 plan to re-certify in a medicine and a sub-specialty
 - 57 plan to do neither

135 members said the Chapter should become more involved politically at the State level. Frequently mentioned suggestions in this area were tort reform, liability/malpractice, and access to healthcare.

The overwhelming majority of respondents would like for the Annual Chapter meeting to continue to alternate yearly between Phoenix and Tucson.

ARIZONA PHYSICIANS “ON THE MOVE”

Ana Maria Lopez, MD, FACP has been named one of only eleven physicians nationwide as a National Hispanic Medical Association Leadership Fellow for 2004. To be considered for this prestigious fellowship a physician must demonstrate qualities necessary to assume leadership roles in health policy development and advocacy on health issues important to the Hispanic community. The fellowship involves development of a health policy project with NYU, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service. Dr. Lopez will be working with legislators in Washington, DC this Fall and will present the final results of the project at the NHMA meeting next Spring. Dr. Lopez is Associate Professor of Clinical Medicine and Pathology at the University of Arizona School of Medicine in Tucson. Congratulations Dr. Lopez!

Have you received an award, appointment, certification or other honor? Have you done interesting volunteer work, had an article published, received a promotion? We'd like to share your good news in this section of the newsletter and post the information on our Chapter website. Please e-mail items of interest to karen@karenchildress.com. Thanks!

NEW DEAN OF UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Keith A. Joiner, MD, MPH is the new Dean of the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Prior to assuming his position in Tucson in March, Dr. Joiner was Professor of Medicine, cell biology and epidemiology, and Chief of the Section of Infectious Diseases at Yale University School of Medicine. He also served as Director of the Yale Investigative Medicine Program. Dr. Joiner is the author or co-author of more than 200 articles and lectures internationally. The Chapter welcomes Dr. Joiner to Arizona and we look forward to working with him.

OAT ACTIVITIES - Opportunities for Arizona Trainees

Journal Club

The Chapter is now hosting Journal Club meetings for Arizona Internal Medicine Residents. Thus far, three meetings have been held in Phoenix and one in Tucson. Attendance was excellent at all of the dinner meetings and plans are to continue with two to three meetings each year. The goal of the Journal Club is to provide a forum to residents from different programs to interact, learn from one another and become better acquainted.

Transitions Newsletter

The third issue of Transitions: The Newsletter for Internal Medicine Physicians in Training was published in May. The six-page newsletter goes out to residents around the State as well as to the Internal Medicine Interest Groups at the medical schools. It includes news from residency programs, feature articles, interviews, book reviews, and news of upcoming events.

Community Based Teaching

Each year the Arizona Chapter helps sponsor with scholarship funding several University of Arizona medical students who do rotations with internists practicing in rural or non-metropolitan areas of Arizona. This summer the students and their mentors will be:

Student

Kelly Dale
Victoria Fox
Danielle Guffrey
Renee Pedersen

Mentor

Brian Sabowitz, MD -- Lake Havasu City
Steve Savoia, MD -- Cibecue/Whiteriver
Ismail Bokhari, MD, FACP -- Kingman
Devin Mikles, MD -- Sedona

The Governor's Council voted at their last annual meeting to present these scholarship funds in memory of Dr. **Morton Fuchs**, former Chapter Governor. The certificates will be awarded in the name of The Morton Fuchs Community Based Teaching Program.

–VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE–

<http://www.acponline.org/chapters/az>