

Arizona Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 2006

Paul F. Howard, MD, FACP, FACR
Governor, Arizona Chapter

GOVERNOR'S CORNER



2006 brings a new year - and a new structure of ACP Arizona. We have expanded the opportunities for members to become involved in the largest medical society in our state by restructuring the volunteer leadership at ACP Arizona. Volunteer leadership means YOU, if you decide to act and become involved.

New committees, including advocacy and membership, are focused on areas of intense interest and extreme importance to you - our members. I encourage you to review the new structure of our organization in Arizona and consider becoming a member of one of the councils. If we are going to help our patients and ourselves as medicine enters in to another phase of change, we need your participation!

Do you want to be part of the change? You will be, no matter what you do! Instead of remaining passive and being swept along with the changes, add your voice to those of your colleagues. Be heard and help guide the impending transformations!

- **Where can you invest your energies and talents?** Review the ACP -Arizona structure on the Chapter's Web site <http://www.acponline.org/chapters/az/about.htm>

Each Council has an outline of its focus and mission, along with an assigned Chair and assistant Chairperson. Each Council will set goals at the beginning of the year with definable and measurable yearly outcomes.

- **How much time will it require?** Most Councils will meet by phone conference (30-60 minutes) 3 times a year and once a year at a face-to-face meeting, most likely at the Annual State meeting.
- **How can you become involved?** Decide which area appeals to your interests and send me an email or call me directly. I will forward your reply to the Chair of the appropriate council to include you in upcoming activities.

Email: paul.howard@arthritishhealth.net. Phone: 602-738-8853 (direct line). I look forward to hearing from you!

SAVE THE DATE! Arizona Chapter Meeting, Wyndham Buttes Resort, Tempe

November 3: SEP Modules Inpatient Internal Medicine Module 88-G, and
General Internal Medicine Module 00-A

November 4 & 5: General Session

Registration details coming soon. Watch the website!

ACP SERVICES, INC. FORMS PAC

ACP Services, Inc. has formed a political action committee to help promote internists' participation in the political process. A PAC is an entity permitted under federal law to make contributions to political candidates running for office at the state and/or federal level. More and more national medical specialty societies are forming political action committees to enhance their government relations activities and increase their political influence.

Because of its tax status as a charitable organization, ACP cannot establish a PAC. However, ACP Services, Inc., a separate and distinct organization from ACP established in 1998 to provide advocacy, practice management, and other services for internist-members, has a different tax status that allows it to establish a PAC. Members of ACP automatically are also members of ACP Services, Inc.

ACP Services PAC is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors that researches and analyzes the voting records of congressional candidates and determines who should receive contributions from the PAC. Chaired by **William Golden, MD, FACP**, from Little Rock, Arkansas, the board is composed of internal medicine leaders selected from various areas of the country by the ACP Services Board of Directors. The PAC board considers candidates' record of support on issues important to the profession, membership on key health committees, and leadership positions in the Congress, among other criteria, when deciding who to support. The PAC began making donations to congressional candidates running in the 2006 election cycle, which started in Jan. 2005.

For more information on the PAC, contact **Laura Allendorf**, ACP Services PAC Director, at Lauraa@acponline.org.

ACP COUNCIL OF YOUNG PHYSICIANS

Cheryl O'Malley, MD

The ACP Council of Young Physicians (CYP) was formed in 2005 to support the enhancement of the professional development and quality of life for young physicians, foster young physician involvement in College activities, and ensure that young physicians' needs are being met. For these purposes, "Young Physician" Members have been defined as a physician member of ACP who is within the sixteen (16) years of graduating medical school and who is not a Student Member or Associate Member of ACP. The intent of this definition is to identify Members who are early in their professional development such as those Members who are younger than 40 years of age and those Members who have entered the medical profession by a nontraditional professional development pathway.

A few of the activities that we have been involved in so far include the "In Their Own Words" campaign in Washington D.C. to describe the impact of the Medicare sustained growth rate cuts on physician small business and patient care, representation on the AMA Council of Young Physician, most of the ACP national committees and the ABIM licensing and recertification committee, and planning sessions for the ACP annual sessions. The Council's input is actively sought for all resolutions proposed at the Board of Governors and Board of Regents. Representatives from PIER, Annals of Internal Medicine, MKSAP, the Practice Management Center and other ACP products all are extremely interested in the ideas that young physicians offer.

Our first opportunity to formally meet with Arizona Young Physicians was the chapter meeting in Tucson. Doctors **Cheryl O'Malley, Kim Lucas, Veronica Pimienta, Jaya Raj** and **Nustrum Iqbal** met with Dr. Howard to discuss issues relevant to young physicians and make suggestions for future offerings at the chapter meetings or events. Some ideas that have been proposed are a mentoring breakfast, panel discussion on balancing family/personal with career, dealing with insurance companies, coding, office based procedures, and becoming a Fellow of the ACP.

If you would like to comment on any of these topics or if you are interested in becoming a member of Arizona's Chapter Council of Young Physicians, please contact **Cheryl O'Malley** at Cheryl.O'Malley@bannerhealth.com.

Annual Session Highlights for Young Physicians:

1. Young Physicians Networking and mentoring breakfast on Friday, April 7, 2006, 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m., in the Philadelphia Marriott, Grand Ballroom, Salon H. A continental breakfast buffet will be served.
2. Practitioner's Report: Pulmonary, Cardiology and Infectious Disease cases that are commonly seen by Internists presented by members of the Council of Young Physicians with clinical questions answered by one of the Masters in the College.
3. How to be an Effective Leader on Friday April 7, 2006 2:15-3:45

RECERTIFICATION MODULES AT 2006 CHAPTER MEETING

Michael Keberlein, MD

Due to the overwhelmingly positive response to our pre-course SEP modules at the 2005 Arizona State Chapter meeting, the Chapter plans to present two more SEP modules again this year. We will cover Inpatient Internal Medicine Module 88-G, and General Internal Medicine Module 00-A, both in one day with a lunch break in between. Each module is worth 4.5 CME credits. Once again we will be covering each question in the respective modules with adequate discussion to ensure that all participants understand the relevant information leading to the correct answer choice. The presentation style will emphasize the use of the ACP PIER web site to find answers to clinical questions in real time. "Teach someone to fish and they will eat everyday."

Midwestern University has again agreed to donate their confidential electronic polling software and equipment. This equipment allows us to visualize participants' initial responses in a graph. Our discussions are then tailored to the responses which pose the greatest difficulty or controversy.

Our objective, as before, will be to make these sessions serve as a relatively entertaining and painless way for members to fulfill a significant portion of their ABIM recertification requirements. We have fun preparing for these sessions, and the modules this year will tie in quite well with the theme of the Chapter Scientific Meeting itself. We hope that everyone who can do so will join us in these lively discussions of the ever-changing knowledge base we use in everyday practice - and get two ABIM SEP modules completed in one day.

HSAG TO TRAIN DOCTORS ON ELECTRONIC RECORDS

Abbreviated version of the February 21, 2006 Arizona Republic Article

Hoping to help Arizona doctors switch from manila folders to electronic health records, Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), a Valley health care consulting group is launching a series of free training sessions on the new technology. HSAG offers an introduction to electronic health records, or EHRs, and a more detailed "EHR University" from March through June. The sessions are open to primary care physicians and their staffers in small to midsize practices. The training is being offered free under the group's contract with the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The firm runs the centers' Doctors' Office Quality Information Technology, or DOQ-IT, program for Arizona, which promotes electronic records and improving quality of patient care.

"Doctors need help sorting through all of the available information," said **Scott Endsley**, medical director of system design at HSAG. "EHRs will soon be an integral part of everyday practice operations. EHR University is designed to help physicians in Arizona prepare for when that day arrives."

Although financial services and airlines have embraced information technology, health care is probably the largest industry still wedded to paper records. But the push is on to change that. **President Bush** has called for electronic medical records for most Americans by 2014, and **Gov. Janet Napolitano** has a committee working on that goal for Arizonans by 2010. Supporters say electronic records would give physicians more information, improve decisions and reduce errors, especially in prescriptions.

The introductory session discusses the pros and cons of paper and electronic records and how the DOQ-IT program can help doctors make the transition. The five-week programs are designed to give physicians and their staffs a step-by-step process for going electronic. They will cover topics ranging from assessing a practice's readiness to selecting a system and using it to improve patient care.

To enroll in EHR University or for more information on the DOQ-IT program, visit www.azdoqit.org <<http://www.azdoqit.org/>> or contact azdoqit@hsag.com.

Source:

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/business/articles/0221EHRtraining.html>. Check the News & Meetings section of our Chapter's Web site for the latest information on EHR University.

PHYSICIANS ON THE MOVE

Congratulations to **William F. Denny, MD, FACP** who has been selected to become **Master of the College**. Dr. Denny will be inducted at the convocation ceremony held in Philadelphia during the ACP Annual Session April 6-8, 2006. To be considered for Mastership, the candidate must have made a notable contribution to medicine. This includes but is not limited to teaching, outstanding work in clinical medicine (research or practice), contributions to preventive medicine, improvements in the delivery health care, or contributions to medical literature.

The Chapter recognizes and congratulates the following Arizona physicians who were elected to Fellowship in the College:

Elected January 1, 2006:

Maqbool A. Halepota, MBBS, FACP - Scottsdale

Fredrick V. Osorio, MD, FACP - Gilbert

Holenarasipur R. Vikram, MD, FACP - Phoenix

Elected October 1, 2005:

Kirk B. Anderson, MD, FACP - Scottsdale

Ives R. De Chazal, MD, FACP - Tucson

Maqbool A. Halepota, MBBS, FACP - Scottsdale

Gary B. Lake, MD, FACP - Tuba City

Fredrick V. Osorio, MD, FACP - Gilbert

James M. Parish, MD, FACP - Scottsdale

Holenarasipur R. Vikram, MD, 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.

DR. RICHARD CARLSON RECEIVES THE 2005 VOLUNTEERISM AWARD

The Arizona Chapter of the ACP is pleased to announce that the winner of this year's Volunteerism Award goes to **Dr. Richard Carlson**. For the past four years Dr. Carlson has been diligently studying Spanish and he put those skills to good use by going on an exploratory medical mission to Caracas, Venezuela and rural areas throughout that country in September.

Working closely with his host, **Dr. Thomas Sanabria**, a cardiologist in Caracas, Dr. Carlson toured clinics which are being set up by a foundation that Dr. Sanabria helped start. These clinics are intended to provide medical care to indigenous people in the region, some of whom are located in such remote areas that they live without money or clothing, and certainly without adequate healthcare. The goal of these clinics is not to disrupt the culture of the people they serve, but to improve the quality of their lives. Some of the common health problems in the area include parasites and malaria and a variety of social issues including domestic violence.

On this trip Dr. Carlson enjoyed fifteen hour bus rides, sleeping with mosquito netting in a hammock, landing in small airplanes in muddy fields occupied by farm animals, and being stuck at the airport when **President Chavez** decided to halt all flights for the day due to elections. All of this, and Dr. Carlson says he'd like to return to Venezuela to do more work as soon as possible.

In addition to his recent work abroad, Dr. Carlson has devoted almost his entire career to teaching. He has served as both Treasurer and President of the Internal Medicine section of the Society of Critical Care Medicine and he is the immediate past Governor of the Arizona Chapter of the ACP, which is a volunteer position. During his tenure as Governor he devoted countless hours to the Chapter and to internists in Arizona, most notably in starting the OATS Program - Opportunities for Arizona Trainees.

The Arizona Chapter is delighted to present the Volunteerism Award for 2005 to **Dr. Richard Carlson**.

ACP ARIZONA CHAPTER REDESIGN ON THE WEB - LOOK AT ACP - ARIZONA WEBSITE - IT IS YOURS AND IT IS BETTER!

Have you ever finished reading an article and wondered what other activities your chapter has been involved in or what upcoming meetings I am missing out on? Your Chapter's Web site has the answers for you. Visit our Chapter's Web site at www.acponline.org/chapters/az to satisfy your desire to learn more.

We have recently transformed the Chapter's Web site to offer a new design that allows visitors to quickly obtain the information most wanted without scrolling through a great deal of text. We have added fresh content and include new features which will allow you to communicate directly with your Chapter's Governor to offer comments or questions.

Navigating the site

Make the most of your visit to our chapter's web site:

Visit "News & Meetings" for the latest newsletter, announcements about CME opportunities and local activities in your chapter.

Search "Public Policy and Advocacy" to research the College's positions on key health issues, and contact your legislators.

Access "Local Links and Resources" for a comprehensive resource focal point that provides a detailed list of web sites for the internist.

Read "About the Chapter" to find your Chapter's Leadership including your Governor and Chapter Staff; find out about the Chapter Committees; learn about past award recipients and governors.

Stop in "Residents and Medical Students" to discover all the resources, residency program information, career guidance and local activities.

Offer feedback, suggest topics or contact us with questions.

Subscribe to receive email alerts from the Chapter and the College. Send us your updated email address at **Donna Seawards** at dlseawards@cox.net. Access the Chapter's Web site online at www.acponline.org/chapters/az.

PARTICIPATE IN THE ACP'S CENTER FOR PRACTICE INNOVATION GRANT

The Center for Practice Innovation is a new grant-funded effort which will address some of the many needs of small and medium-sized internal medicine practices. The new Center will enable the ACP to provide novel practice-level support leveraging other activities and resources at the College to test innovative approaches aimed at achieving transformational change in four priority areas - clinical quality improvement, practice management, physician education, and patient safety/disease management.

The Center will test practice redesign strategies in 25-50 representative physician offices across the United States. Ideally, participating practices will be clustered in geographic regions. The goal of the Center will be to help practices improve clinical quality while addressing the impact of such strategies on patient satisfaction, safety, the economics of practice, and the adoption of health information technology.

Full details about the program as well as a link to the on-line application for the premier program are available on the Center's website: <http://www.acponline.org/cfpi?chapter>. The first 100 practices to complete the on-line application will receive a \$50 honorarium. Paper copies of the survey tool are available by emailing cpi@acponline.org or calling 202-261-4500.

—VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE—

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