



Governor's Message

H **healthcare Reform:** I am writing this at a very special time in the history of healthcare in the USA. It is unclear what will happen when Congress returns to D.C. but there is no question there is lots of room for improvement. ACP has four principles that we are advocating for healthcare in 2009. First: Provide all Americans with access to an affordable health insurance plan that does not exclude or discriminate against those with pre-existing conditions; Second: Create incentives to increase the numbers of general internists and other primary care physicians; Third: put an end to the annual cycle of Medicare payment cuts due to flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula; and Fourth: Reform the medical liability system and reduce the administrative burdens imposed by health insurers.

Disaster and Public Health preparedness: Most of us are not prepared for a disaster, whether it be personal, local, or national, either natural or at the hands of terrorists. Are you prepared to evacuate your town or city if there is an earthquake or a dam breaks? Is your office prepared to be able to respond to a major virus epidemic such as one with the potential of the novel H1N1 flu virus? Are you familiar with your local City and County Disaster Plans? Your hospital's plans? The AMA, in conjunction with multiple organizations including ACP, has formed a National Disaster Life Support Foundation. A recent publication called, *What to do Before, During, and After an Emergency or Disaster* is available through the AMA web site. AMA is also developing three courses: Core Disaster Life Support, Basic Life Support, and Advanced Disaster Life Support, to help physicians and other health care personnel prepare for a disaster. Please stay tuned as these programs come online.

Malpractice coverage for volunteer physicians: A recent workforce evaluation of the Medical Board of California has revealed:

- First: The overall supply of MD physicians in the state is 17% lower than that estimated by the AMA Master file data;
- Second: The number of primary care physicians actively practicing in California is at or below estimated needs at 63 per 100,000 population;
- Third: There is an abundance of specialists in the state, at 115/100,00 population; and
- Fourth: Rural counties suffer from low physician practice rates, and from a diminishing supply of primary care physicians. Yet, California is one of only seven states that does NOT provide some kind of malpractice coverage for volunteer physicians who want to give care in free clinics or county clinics. By the time this reaches our readers the Medical Board of California will have had a meeting to discuss this issue in Sacramento on September 2 regarding AB 2342 and possible liability insurance solutions for physicians who provide voluntary, unpaid services.

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Assembly Bill 2342

Existing law, the Medical Practice Act, creates the Medical Board of California and makes it responsible for issuing a physician's and surgeon's certificate to qualified applicants and for regulating the practice of physicians and surgeons. Existing law waives the fee for issuance and renewal of this certificate for a physician and surgeon who provides voluntary unpaid services, as specified, to indigent patients in medically underserved or critical need population areas of the state.

This bill would require the Board, in conjunction with the Health Professions Education Foundation, to study the issue of its providing medical malpractice insurance for physicians and surgeons who provide these services and report its findings to the Legislature on or before January 1, 2008(sic). The bill would make implementation of its provisions contingent on an appropriation of funds for that purpose, as specified.

Northern California Annual Meeting 20-22 November 2009: I want to invite you all to the annual Northern California Chapter meeting to be held in Sacramento at the Radisson Hotel (free hotel parking) on 20-22 November. Highlights will be the annual all-day SEP review on Friday for those working toward recertification; a half-day course on Friday afternoon by Steve Roey, FACP, that is patterned on ACP's LEAD program; the program on Saturday focuses on genomics and its applications in certain pulmonary, GI and breast diseases; poster competition and Jeopardy; a heavy hors d'oeuvres reception Saturday evening with drawings for books and electronics (one MAC book); and workshops on dermatology, joint injections and coding. In addition, for those not attending the scientific sessions, we will offer docent guided tours of the State Capitol (limited to 25 persons; no cost) and the California State Railroad Museum (limited to 25 persons, cost \$9.00). We look forward to meeting you and enjoying the education and fellowship.

REGISTER ONLINE NOW:

https://www.acponline.org/atpro/timssnet/meetings/tnt_meetings.cfm?action=long&primary_id=RM1016

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MUST BE REGISTERED TO RECEIVE CME CREDIT AND ADMISSION TO PROGRAMS AND MEAL FUNCTIONS. THANKS!

CONGRATULATIONS AND CONDOLENCES

The Northern California Chapter welcomes and congratulates 35 new Fellows from the past 6 months:

Sergio A Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD FACP, Sacramento

Yasser A AL-Antably, MBBCh FACP, Gold River

Anthony P Albanese, MD FACP, El Dorado Hills

Andrew D Auerbach, MD FACP, San Francisco

Emily K Bergsland, MD FACP, San Francisco

Henry F Chambers, MD FACP, San Francisco

Alexander Chan, MD FACP, Stockton

Harold A Chapman, MD FACP, San Francisco

Vincent Chung, MD FACP, Azusa

Anne M Cummings, MD FACP, Greenbrae

Tonya L Fancher, MD MPH FACP, Sacramento

Margaret Fang, MD FACP, San Francisco

Mark G Glatt, DO FACP, Roseville

Joseph P Iser, MD FACP, Yolo County

Renee J Kanan, MD FACP, Sacramento
George A Kaysen, MD FACP, Davis
Craig R Keenan, MD FACP, Sacramento
R Jeffery Kohlwes, MD FACP, Mill Valley
Barbara M Livermore, MD FACP, Sacramento
Reginald Inman Low, MD FACP, Sacramento
Ramin Manshadi, MD FACP, Stockton
Maya M Mitchell, MD FACP, Sacramento
Mithu S Molla, MD FACP, Sacramento
Kathryn D Newell, MD FACP, Sacramento
Michael C Okimura, MD FACP, Sacramento
Jennifer L Osborn, MD FACP, Rancho Cordova
Chris J Palkowski, MD FACP, Granite Bay
Pamela Prescott-Kim, MD FACP, Sacramento
Justin P Quock, MD FACP, San Francisco
Niraj L Sehgal, MD FACP, San Francisco
Bradley A Sharpe, MD FACP, San Francisco
Richard A Sundberg, MD FACP, Tiburon
Louise Walter, MD FACP, San Francisco
Clifford C Wang, MD FACP, San Jose
Shagufta Yasmeen, MBBS, Sacramento

Tonya Fancher, FACP is the first recipient of the Putnam Scholars Program grant from the American Academy on Communication in Healthcare for her project improving interaction and understanding between physicians and patients within the Southeast Asian community of Sacramento County.

Harry Hollander, FACP has been recognized by the UCSF medical school as one of their 2008-2009 Master Clinicians.

Nora Goldschlager, MACP was the honoree of the UCSF Class of 2008 AOA Faculty Award.

Dr. Kanu Chatterjee, MACP has retired from UCSF as of June 2009, but starts a half-time position at the

CONDOLENCES

We send condolences to the family members of the following physicians known to have died in the past 12 months:

C Harmon Brown, MD FACP, San Mateo, 11/09/2009
A M Evans, MD FACP, Palo Alto, 12/06/2008
S Fred Kaufman, MD FACP, San Jose, 10/31/2008
Jerome Lengyel, MD, Eureka, 02/09/2009
Herbert W Waechtler, MD, Napa, 12/07/2008
Ralph O Wallerstein, MD MACP, San Francisco, 05/31/2009
Marie B Webster, MD FACP, Santa Rosa, 09/17/2008
Harry Weinstein, MD FACP, San Francisco, 11/02/2008

Ralph O. Wallerstein died in Glen Ellen, CA on 31 May 2009. He served for many years as clinical professor of Medicine and Laboratory Medicine at UCSF, and as Chief of Staff at Children's Hospital. **Dr. Lloyd H. Smith**, associate Dean Emeritus of the UCSF medical school called **Dr. Wallerstein** "a superb generalist at a time when narrow specialization has become the mode." He served as president of the American Society of Hematology, chair of the American Board of Internal Medicine, and president of the American College of Physicians. He was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1982. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, **Betty Christensen Wallerstein**; a son, **Richard Wallerstein**; a daughter, **Ann Story**; a sister; 7 grandchildren and one great grandson.

LEADERSHIP ENHANCEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

ACP is trying to help develop its young physicians into our next leaders. To do this the College offers a Leadership Development pre-course before the Annual Meeting. The Northern California Chapter will offer a similar four hours, aimed at developing leadership skills, on Friday afternoon 20 November 2009, at the annual Chapter Meeting (at no cost).

A LEAD Certificate can be awarded to any ACP member who has completed at least five out of seven of the leadership development activities within a 3-year time frame:

- 1) Attained or maintained active Fellowship status within the College (LEAD activities are designed to help non-Fellows achieve Fellowship status)
- 2) Attended at least 7 hours of CME focused on leadership competencies, at least 3 of which are sponsored by ACP at the local or national level
- 3) Took a leadership role in the local chapter
- 4) Served on a national workgroup, committee, or council of 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, such as chairing a hospital committee or council; serving on a steering committee for a church, synagogue, or temple; serving on a Board of Directors for a local youth, sports, or arts group

WARNING

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has become aware of a scam where perpetrators are sending Faxes to physician offices posing as the Medicare carrier or Medicare Administrative Contractor (MAC). The Fax instructs physician staff to respond to a questionnaire to provide an account information update within 48 hours in order to prevent a gap in Medicare payments. The FAX may have the CMS logo and/or the contractor logo to enhance the appearance of authenticity.

Medicare FFS providers, including physicians, non-physician practitioners, should be wary of this type of request. If you receive a request for information in the manner described above, please check with your contractor before submitting any information. Medicare providers should only send information to a Medicare contractor using the address found in the download section of the CMS.gov website found at <http://cms.hhs.gov/MLNGenInfo/> or <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MedicareProviderSupEnroll>.

University of Iowa

ACP Foundation

The ACP Foundation's role is to improve patients' ability to understand and act on health information. The following is an update of their programs:

New -EVERYDAY GUIDES I

1. *Living with COPD: An Everyday Guide for You and Your Family* is a clinician/patient tool, available in English and Spanish, that helps patients manage their COPD effectively. The guides will be launched in September 2009 and will be available for order by contacting the Foundation at foundation@acponline.org or (877) 208-4189 or online at www.acpfoundation.org. In conjunction with the COPD guide, four short videos have been developed to demonstrate how to use common inhalers. The videos are free for anyone to view online at <http://foundation.acponline.org/videos>. The videos use real patients and doctors and give clear, simple instructions for patients to use inhalers correctly.
2. A Post MI Guide will be launched in 2010.

HEALTH TIPS

HEALTH TIPS are designed to help patients understand what they need to know to manage their health. Currently, there are 22 topics available on 4x6 pads and in electronic format online. All *HEALTH TIPS* are FREE and can be ordered at <http://foundation.acponline.org/hl/htips.htm>.

Novel H1N1 (Swine Flu)

1. Due to the recent outbreak of the Swine Flu, also known as H1N1, the ACP Foundation, in collaboration with ACP, developed Swine Flu HEALTH TIPS. To download a copy, go to the Foundation's web site at <http://foundation.acponline.org> and click on HEALTH TIPS Swine Flu.
2. HEALTH TIPS for the H1N1 Vaccine is currently being developed.
3. There will be a special presentation on Novel H-1N-1 (Swine) flu at the annual meeting on 21 November 2009. Please visit the College table at the upcoming CANO Chapter Meeting on 21/22 November 2009 for more information on both HEALTH TIPS and the Guides. Visit the Foundation's website, www.acpfoundation.org, to order health literacy tools and learn more about the Foundation's programs.