



## Governor's Message

Greetings ACP Colleagues!

**2**008-09 has been a busy and productive year in our chapter of ACP. We have had opportunities to advance the cause of internists at the state level in Sacramento and at the national level in Washington, D.C. As a result of efforts by the ACP, the "Draconian" cuts in Medicare for office visits were avoided in 2008. This required an override of the President veto (by many legislators of his party who were convinced of the need for SGR reform for the cause of healthcare). ACP efforts were advanced by Washington based lobbyists and local members of our region calling on their respective legislators. Southern California Region I, again had an outstanding contingent present with 16 local ACP Chapter representatives making the trip. Included were 6 residents from local programs.

The regional fall scientific meeting in Indian Wells was very successful as detailed in our January newsletter. **Drs. Soma Wali and Neil Page** received the ACP Laureate Award and the poster competitions drew over 110 Associate clinical vignette submission and 60 Associate research abstracts. Over 15 medical students participated. Region I winners for the clinical vignettes included **Hatim Husain, MD**, 1st Place, **Ajaz Bulbul, MD**, 2nd Place, **Seint Yee, MD**, 3rd Place and for research **Reza Rafie, MD**, 1st Place, **Tarik Ngab, MD**, 2nd Place and **Paresh Giri, MD**, 3rd Place. The Jeopardy team from USC residency defeated the UCLA-Olive View team in the final contest. A total of 9 residency teams participated.

At the annual ACP meeting 5 members from Region I were inducted into Fellowships in the American College of Physicians. Those so honored were **Ron Ben-Ari, MD, Robert L. Buckingham, MD, Ifeoma Izuchukwu, MD, Sharon Orange, MD** and **Jerome Wang, MD**. Pictured below are some of these inductees. **Drs. Chester Choi** and **Dr. Alexandria Levine** were also advanced to the status of Masters of the American College of Physicians. **Dr. John Michael Criley** who is already a Master received the Jane. F. Desforges Distinguished Teacher Award.

At graduation, **Erin Eileen Atkinson** received the ACP award for an outstanding graduate of the Keck School of Medicine at USC and **Andrea Oh** received the same award from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. **Dr. Ron Ben-Ari**, from USC, was honored by our chapter for his excellence in medicine education. In the past year, the number of Masters in the ACP in Region I has from 17 to 19; Fellows have increased by 1s to 899; Members have grown by 117 to 1634; Associates increased by 3 to 697 and medical students grew from 268 to 495.

*Dr. Dennis W. Cope, Governor of ACP Region I, with Fellow Inductees in Philadelphia*

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*Dr. Carmen A. Puliafito, Dean, Keck School of Medicine at USC, presents ACP Regional Student Award to Erin Eileen Atkinson*

*Dr. Dennis W. Cope, Governor of ACP Region I, presents the same award to Andrea Oh at graduation from the David Geffen School of Medicine UCLA*



*Dr. Dennis W. Cope, Governor of ACP Region I, presents Ron Ben-Ari, MD, FACP with ACP Award for Excellence in Medical Education and Humanism*

In this issue **Dr. Mark Richman** reports on our activities of the National Council for Young Physicians and **Dr. Susan Sprau**, the current president of the California Chapters of ACP Services, Inc. reports on our HIPPA Committee and activities of the State ACP. Thanks to each of you for your involvement!

## **ACP Leadership Day**

**By: Mark Richman, MD**

Health care reform is among the President's top priorities and is essential to thwart impending Medicare bankruptcy and escalating national debt. In May 2009, 14 members of S. California Region 1 went to Washington, D.C. to reinforce ACP's voice in this discussion. Among them were 4 Residents.

Chapter members met with legislators (or their staff assistants), including **Henry Waxman, Adam Schiff, Howard "Buck" McKeon, and Ed Royce**. We promoted ACP's priority issues surrounding this common theme: *Primary Care: The Best Medicine For Better Health & Lower Costs*

- guaranteeing access to affordable health insurance coverage,
- enhancing care coordination through the Patient-Centered Medical Home,
- strengthening the future of primary care by

- o establishing a national medical workforce policy,
- o enacting payment reform to align incentives with value through increasing reimbursement for primary care physicians and eliminating the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate formula for reimbursement,
- o reducing medical student debt

It was an exciting time to advocate for health reform, as there is significant momentum. The day we advocated was the same day the Senate Finance Committee met to discuss options for paying for health care reform.



*ACP Southern California Region I Leadership Day delegation*

Prior to meeting with legislators, we attended sessions to make our advocacy more effective. Robert Kocher (Special Assistant to the President) presented the President’s plans and priorities. Panelists discussed legislation and key proposals for health care reform and improving the state of primary care and the availability of primary care physicians. **Paul Begala**, a regular commentator on CNN’s “The Situation Room” regaled the audience with humorous insights into the process of and prospects for meaningful legislation in this political and financial climate. **Allyson Schwartz** (D - PA), primary sponsor of bill H.R. 2350 which includes many of ACP’s priority issues and has 100 co-sponsors, spoke to us on the morning of our advocacy.

Please join us next year with ACP in Washington, D.C. as we continue to advocate for health care reform that benefits patients through affordable access to health care and to primary care in particular.



*Delegates from ACP Southern California Region I at Washington Leadership Day dinner*

## Report of the President, California Chapter ACP Services, Inc. (C6)

By: **Susan Sprau, M.D.**

This summer we Californians are confronted with a major overhaul of the health care delivery system at the national level as well as unprecedented cuts in healthcare at the State level.

Our ACP members have been active on both fronts: **Alice Chen, M.D.**, So. Calif. Region 1 was invited, as President of Doctors for America, to speak at **Governor Schwarzenegger's** Healthcare Forum in Los Angeles in April. You can read her account of the experience on our chapter website: [http://www.acponline.org/about\\_acp/chapters/ca/chen.htm](http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ca/chen.htm).

**Darin Latimore, M.D.**, No. California, presented ACP's vision of the patient centered medical home to the California Medical Association's Council on Legislation this spring. His presentation helped shape CMA's position on AB 1542 which would define in law the patient centered medical home. **Carole Warde, M.D.**, So. Calif. Region 1 is chairing a statewide ACP committee on determining how to best support members so they may incorporate the patient centered medical home principles in their practises.

Sacramento Leadership Day, 2009, included more members and physicians in training than ever before from across the state. This was made possible by several attendees voluntarily funding their own and others travel/hotel expenses. We met with **Herb Schultz**, from the Governor's Office (a first for ACP), in addition to legislative leaders. If you are interested in participating in meeting with State Legislators in 2010, please contact your Governor and **Natalie Kaczur**, C6 Executive Director, at [Califacp@aol.com](mailto:Califacp@aol.com) (and please indicate if you are willing/able to cover your own hotel/travel expenses as we have limited budget funds.)

Measure P, a Beverly Hills city ballot initiative which Calif. ACP encouraged members to oppose because it would increase business license fees for most physicians, was successfully defeated in May. This is the first ballot initiative on which our Calif. Chapter has taken a position.

The California Chapters' Washington Leadership Day 2009, organized by **Jerry Tilles, M.D.**, So Calif. Region 2, was again a success. Additional members were able to be included this year because of their willingness to pay their own expenses. Our delegation's activities were covered by So. Calif. National Public Radio (a first.) For details and a link to the KPPC podcast go to: [http://www.acponline.org/about\\_acp/chapters/ca/lobby.htm](http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ca/lobby.htm)

**Gus Chavez**, ACP Staff, So. California Region 1, represented ACP at a May, 2009 MLC cultural competency conference. We are looking for residents and medical students who are interested in participating in this program.

**Randy Smart, M.D.**, No. California, represented ACP at the CMA Leadership Academy. His account of the meeting can be read at: [http://www.acponline.org/about\\_acp/chapters/ca/cma09\\_recap.htm](http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ca/cma09_recap.htm).

On the educational front, **Mahar Roman, M.D.**, So. Calif. Region 2 and President-Elect of our C6, has organized the 11th annual California ACP Internal Medicine Review Course which is being held in Redlands on July 25-26, 2009.

**Glenn Littenberg, M.D.**, So Calif. Region 1, chairs the statewide Medical Services Committee which has worked to resolve member problems with Palmetto-GBA, the Medicare Carrier for California. In addition they are working on clarifying the rules for the RAC (fraud and abuse) audits which just started. If you are having problems with payments from any third party payer, please notify **Natalie Kaczur**, C6 Executive Director.

Natalie will also be representing ACP at a CMA conference in August on how California physicians can utilize the Health Information Technology portions of the US Government stimulus package. Our State ACP's 2008 resolutions to CMA regarding problems with the transition from NHIC to Palmetto-GBA and problems with CMS's PQRI program have resulted in improvements in both areas. If we speak up, we can make a difference! Deadline for submitting ACP resolutions to CMA for the 2009-2010 year is August 18, 2009. Please email any proposed resolutions you have to **Natalie Kaczur** or myself at [sesacp@aol.com](mailto:sesacp@aol.com).

**Debra Stottlemeyer, M.D.**, So. Calif. Region 2, has been elected as Secretary/Treasurer of our C6 Board of Directors. We also welcome student members, **Jo Everett**, So. Calif. Region 2, and **Rebecca Mitchell**, No. Calif., who will alternate their participation on the C6 Board of Directors and Health and Public Policy

Committee this year. Our C6 Board of Directors has approved a request for a bylaws change that would allow a student from each of our 4 chapters participate on the Board of Directors. Our C6 Annual Meeting will be in conjunction with the Northern California Chapter Scientific Meeting in Sacramento, November 22, 2009. Please contact me or **Natalie Kaczur** if you have any items you would like to be included on the agenda. Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Chapter Councils of Physicians, Associates, and Student Members Up and Running

**By: Mark Richman, MD**

The Chapter has established local versions of ACP's national Council of Young Physicians, Council of Associates, and Council of Student Members. The Chapter Council of Associates (CCOA) has representation from Olive View, Harbor, USC, and Kaiser. The Chapter Council of Student Members has representation from UCLA, **Charles Drew**, and USC. One or more members of each Council attend the quarterly Governor's Advisory Council Meetings, contributing ideas relevant to their cohort, reporting back on recruitment efforts, and absorbing advice for recruitment/local ACP events. All attendees have participated enthusiastically. ACP provides financial support for medical school Internal Medicine Interest Groups (IMIGs); USC's IMIG is registered with ACP, and UCLA's is in the process of registering. Council members agreed to speak at local Residency programs and medical schools regarding ACP and issues of importance to ACP.



*(Left to Right) Michelle Munoz, Berenice Nava, Dr. Soma Wali, Leticia Rolon, Dr. Hatim Husain, and Dr. Mark Richman*