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Governor's Message

Dear Colleague:

It is my pleasure to report that the Ontario Chapter's Annual Scientific Meeting held on February 21-22, 2009 was very successful. We had 135 registrants, an increase of about 15 attendees over last year. **Dr. David Bronson**, Immediate Past Chair of the ACP Board of Governors' was the ACP College Representative. He spoke on "Patient Safety". And "What the ACP Can Do For You." Other speakers who focused on patient and hospital safety were **Dr. Susy Hota** "Clostridium Difficile Associated Disease: Causes, Prevention and Treatment", **Dr. D. William Cameron** "Management of Infection in the Immunocompromised Patient", **Dr. Michael Gardam** "Drug Resistant TB in Ontario" and **Dr. Alexander Turpie** "Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism". Updates were presented on Cardiac Pacemakers and ICD's, Management of Congestive Heart Failure, Subclinical Hypothyroidism, Diabetes, Thyroid Nodules, Osteoporosis, Critical Care Issues, and Irritating Bowel Complaints. **Dr. Ross Morton** presented an overview of "What's New in Internal Medicine-Critical Advances in 2008" and **Dr. Ganraj Kumar**, winner of last year's "Thieves' Market" presented a mystery case of adrenal insufficiency.

Congratulations to **Dr. Peter Fernandez** who won the ACP Laureate Award. This award is presented by Chapters to individuals within the Chapter who have contributed in a major way to the strength of the Chapter. We thank Peter for his contributions and congratulate him on receiving this honour.

A lively Doctor's Dilemma Competition was held. It was won by the University of Western Ontario team. We are looking for more "Doctor's Dilemma" competitors. Try your luck!!! **Dr. Umjeet Jolly** has been elected the Associate representative from Canada to the ACP Associates' Council. He will be communicating with other Ontario residents who have expressed interest in the ACP and hopefully will be helping us set up an Ontario Chapter Residents (Associates) Council. One of their first priorities will be to try to establish more Ontario Chapter programming for residents including Doctors Dilemma competitions. We still hope to send the UWO team to the ACP 2010 Scientific Meeting and it would be great practice for all teams if we can have some competitions during the year.

An active poster competition was held at the Ontario meeting. Excellent posters were presented. Two students presented posters on research topics. **Tom Appleton** won first place and his brother **Andrew** won second prize.

There were ten resident's posters, all in the "clinical vignette" category. First prize winner was **Mohamed Panju** and colleagues with their report "A Case of Cavernous Sinus Thrombosis Secondary to Mucormycosis Infection in the Oral Cavity". **Naveed Iqbal** and co-authors placed second and **Stephen Chihrin** and others won Third Prize. **Dr. Panju** and co-authors are invited to present their poster at the 2010 ACP International Meeting to be held in Toronto next year. Congratulations to all the authors for their excellent submissions.

Next year in 2010 the Ontario Chapter will not hold a separate Ontario Meeting. The National ACP meeting will be held in Toronto. **Dr. Peter Bolli** and I as well as **Dr. Christopher Mody**, Governor for Alberta were on the Scientific Planning Committee for the 2010 meeting so Canada was well represented. The Ontario Chapter is planning an evening program for one evening during this event. Many Ontario members who advanced to Fellowship during the last few years haven't had the opportunity to attend Convocation. We encourage as many of you as possible to come to Toronto in 2010 and formally be inducted as Fellows into the College. Start planning now!!!

The ACP Board of Governors meeting was held in April. Agenda items included Health Care Reform including physician payment issues and reform and the ACP's approach to Health Care Reform. There was a lot of optimism that the US would move ahead with health care reform with its' new administration. Another major agenda item was the ACP's current financial issues. As with many institutions' at this time it's investment income is down and challenging budget decisions are being made. These should not impact on the College's delivery of education and service to its members. However unfortunately one of the budget cuts will be to cut the college representative program. The Ontario Chapter will still have access to the International Speakers program. Print newsletters will probably also be cut in favour of email updates.

Probably of most interest to Ontario Chapter members are the meetings of the International Governors. The agenda for the breakout session this year included IM 2010 Promotional Activities, preparation of an agenda for the next International Council Meeting, Impact of the Economic Crisis on Internal Medicine in ACP International Chapters, International Dues Rates for 2009/2010 and recruitment issues. There are now 7184 international members with significant growth in Argentina, China, India, Nigeria, Pakistan and Paraguay. An active international speakers program exists within the ACP to support these chapters. Canada is well represented on the ACP International Council by **Dr Linda Snell** of Quebec and **Dr Walter Schlech** of Atlantic Provinces.

The ACP Internal Medicine Meeting was held in Philadelphia in April with topics focusing on rethinking heparin for strokes, adult immunizations, drug interaction, predicting risk for breast cancer, drug interactions, and aspirin and other agents considered for colon cancer. It was again well attended and well received.

Your nominating committee has received excellent nominations for the position of Governor Elect and you will soon be receiving election material. The governor elect will attend Board of Governor meetings with me in 2011 and advance to Governor in 2012.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and look forward to seeing you in Toronto in 2010.

Janet Roscoe

Visit the Chapter website at

www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/canada

Tracking Progress on BOG Resolutions

Participating in the BOG Resolutions Process gives ACP members a voice and allows them to shape College policy that impacts the practice of internal medicine. Have you ever drafted a chapter-sponsored resolution or provided input on one and wondered about its status? The Electronic Resolutions System (ERS) is a resource available to you as an ACP member -- visit the ERS from the "Advocacy" section of your chapter's website. Proposed resolutions as well as previously submitted resolutions are all tracked with follow-up stored in the ERS for retrieval. View "How to Conduct a Search on the ERS" for simple steps that walk you through the search process.

Did you know ACP also permits members to monitor College committees'/councils' discussion about a resolution as it evolves? The ACP "Committees, Boards, and Councils" webpage provides information about the charge/mission of each group and stores meeting agendas and minutes for your access, too (from ACP's homepage, choose "About ACP" and "Committee & Councils" from the left navigation bar). Catch the recap of critical goings-on at committee meetings where ACP prepares to formalize its policy positions and debates the status of resolutions, too. Visit the ERS or the Committees, Boards, and Councils webpage and find the answer to your burning questions.

Help Recruit Medical Students and Residents for ACP Membership!

ACP is currently in the midst of two major recruitment programs, one for medical students and one for Associates. The Internal Medicine Interest Group Sponsorship Program (IMIG) and the Recruit-a-Resident Program reward medical schools and residency programs that recruit their students and residents to become ACP members.

Medical schools that participate in the IMIG Sponsorship Program will receive funding from ACP to use toward their club activities. Participating schools will receive \$300 in funding in September, and have the opportunity to earn additional funding based on their ACP membership numbers as of December 31. At the close of the program, schools with less than 30% ACP student member participation receive an additional \$1 per student member. Schools with 30% or greater participation will receive \$2 per student member. Total sponsorship for an individual IMIG cannot exceed \$1,000 (including the \$300 initial funding.) To participate in the program, eligible schools must complete the online application located at <http://www.acponline.org/imig>, by August 1, 2009.

The Recruit-a-Resident (RaR) Program rewards residency programs that recruit 90% or more of their categorical residents for Associate membership. All of the Associates must be members in good standing. Residency programs that reach the 90% goal by December 31, 2009 will receive free educational products from the College. This year's rewards include, 2009 MKSAP® Update for Residents, an interactive product featuring more than 100 multiple-choice questions from MKSAP 14 Self-Assessment Updates. The program will test your knowledge of recent changes and best practices in internal medicine. In addition, each resident will receive handouts from Internal Medicine 2009, which include content from the meeting sessions. For details about the Recruit-a-Resident program, please visit http://www.acponline.org/residents_fellows/resources/recruit_a_resident/.

We would sincerely appreciate your help in encouraging the schools and programs in your chapter to participate in these programs.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact **Katie Buell**, Coordinator, Membership Programs and Services at kbuell@acponline.org or by calling 800-523-1546 ext. 2611.