

# Canadian GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

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

Summer 2004

## ALBERTA CHAPTER



Colleagues

I have recently returned from the Annual Session in New Orleans, which was a resounding success. As is usual, the meeting was well organized and the scientific program excellent.

PIER continues to grow and I would encourage you to make it a part of your CME and information - gathering sources. It is a powerful educational tool which provides updates on over 300 topics of importance to practicing internists and is free to ACP members.

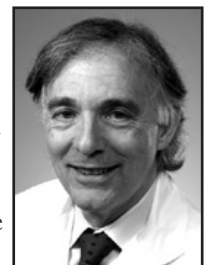
On a sad note, I would like to report the death of Dr. J. A. L. Gilbert in Edmonton last fall. Dr. Gilbert was a Master of the ACP and a leader in Internal Medicine in Canada for many years. His contributions as an educator are legendary.

The Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine Conference is scheduled for November 18-20th at the Banff Park Lodge. This meeting is co-sponsored by the ACP and the advisory committee chaired by Dr. Robert Herman of Calgary has developed an excellent program. A combined meeting for the Western Canadian Chapters has been scheduled for November 19th as a part of the meeting and all Fellows, Members and Associates are urged to attend. A detailed program will be forwarded to all ACP members later this spring so mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend.

**Charles H. Harley, MD, FACP**  
Governor, Alberta

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

The new Governor for British Columbia is **Barry Kassen, MD, FACP**. Dr. Kassen was elected to replace Dr. Noel Buskard, who due to an illness, needed to step down from this role. Dr. Kassen attended his first Board of Governors meeting this past April at Annual Session and heard first hand the deliberations which affect policy on the national level. British Columbia is joining forces with Alberta and Manitoba/Saskatchewan in offering the first Western Canada chapter meeting, to be held in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine Meeting in November. Come join us for a delightful and educational exchange of ideas and information.



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## ATLANTIC PROVINCES UPDATE

The Atlantic Provinces Chapter meeting will be held in St. John's NL in October. Times, location and speakers will be circulated when finalized. The meeting next year will be held in Halifax.

I have met with Medical Students at Memorial University and Dalhousie and encouraged them to become student members. I met with the Class of 2007 on June 9 in Halifax. I also had an opportunity to present the Associate research award at the Residents spring party in Halifax .

The winner of the Memorial University ACP Associates Research Award of \$500 and an ACP Certificate of Merit was **Dr. Terrance McPherson** a first year resident. His research looked at the development of atrial fibrillation in patients who had pacing heart catheters inserted when they were in sinus rhythm at the time of the insertion. This was important information as many of these patients are at risk of stroke and embolism without anticoagulants. Congratulations to Terry and his supervisor **Dr. Sean Connors**.

The newly appointed Chair of Medicine at Memorial University is **Dr. Anne Sclater**. Anne is a graduate of Memorial Medical School and did some of her early training in Internal Medicine at MUN. She is a geriatric specialist and had experience at McMaster, Alberta and the US before returning to Memorial. Anne is a member of ACP and I hope she will shortly become a Fellow. Congratulations to Anne.

**Dr. Ann Colbourne** FACP has been named head of the medicine program at the St. John's Health Care Hospitals in Newfoundland. Congratulations to Ann.

Dr. Sclater and Dr. Colbourne were instrumental in identifying ACP student members at MUN who were awarded Pass Outstanding in their clerkship rotations in Internal Medicine. I was pleased to present these students with a Certificate of Merit and a book prize to recognize their achievement.

Congratulations to **Dr. Craig Butler** who was the 2004 winner of the Associates research presentations at Dalhousie.

The Annual Scientific Session was a success. The presentations were of high standard and well received. I had an opportunity to meet with many of you and all were pleased with the meeting and location.

Congratulations to **Ms Tamara Spaic** a medical student at Memorial University who was invited to compete in the poster competition at the Annual Scientific Session in New Orleans.

**Dr. Paul Handa** Professor of Medicine and a Nephrologist at the Saint John Regional Hospital in New Brunswick has been awarded the Chapter Laureate Award for 2004. His biographical sketch is included in this newsletter for your reading enjoyment.

**Dr. Ford Bursey** FACP has been named Chair of the nominating Committee to identify a new Governor after my term finishes in April 2006. I encourage you to become active in this process and help make our Chapter strong.

All the best.

**Harry Edstrom, MD, FACP**  
**Governor, Atlantic Provinces**

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW FELLOWS!

Danuta M. Balicki, Montreal, Quebec  
David S. Collins, Orillia, Ontario  
Hugh D. Fuller, Hamilton, Ontario  
Jonathon C. Ginsburg, Grimsby, Ontario

Stephen W. Hwang, Toronto, Ontario  
G. V. Ramesh Prasad, Mississauga, Ontario  
Michael B. Sawyer, Edmonton, Alberta  
Chidambaram Yegappan, Hamilton, Ontario



## QUEBEC CHAPTER UPDATE

New Orleans played host to the Annual Meeting last month. Once again, it was an event of exceptional quality with over 250 presentations of varying sorts, with something to please almost anyone practicing Internal Medicine or its subspecialties. Just about every educational format was in evidence from the traditional lecture to Meet The Professor sessions to hands-on teaching of procedures and clinical skills. Presentations of various electronic gadgetry to streamline both office and hospital practice were particularly popular. Both the Associates Poster and Clinical Vignettes competitions were of the highest caliber. I look forward to seeing entries from Quebec

next year. It is an excellent opportunity for our residents to compete with their peers south of the border. The Canadian Governors hosted a reception for Canadian members and it was encouraging to see a big turnout of Quebec Associate members. At the convocation ceremony Dr Danuta Balicki of Montreal was awarded a Fellowship of the College.

Collaboration between the Canadian chapters of the ACP and the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine was discussed at the Canadian Governors meeting. Both groups share a number of common goals and many Canadian general internists are members of both. Further discussions will take place at the Annual Meeting of the CSIM in Quebec city in June. Reduced fees for Canadian Associate members were also discussed. While the creation of different fee structures for Associates in different countries poses a problem for the ACP other membership options for Associate members are presently under discussion.

It appears that many members are not familiar with PIER (Physicians' Information and Education Resource) which is available on the College's website. It is an evidence-based guide to clinical care which is constantly expanding as new modules are added. If you have not yet used it I encourage you to give it a try.

Lastly, a date for your calendar: ACP Annual Meeting, April 14-17, 2005 in San Francisco

**Timothy Meagher, MBBCh, FACP**  
**Governor, Quebec Chapter**

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## ONTARIO CHAPTER REPORT

As of the beginning of this year, I have taken over as Governor for the Ontario Chapter from Dr. Paul Tanser who has moved to New Zealand. It is a great privilege for me to serve as your Governor and I shall strive to make my term as Governor an interesting and rewarding one. Currently, I am busy to acquaint myself with my new tasks and have received very valuable help during the College's Annual Session held in New Orleans in April. I was very pleased to note that a considerable group of Fellows, Members, Associates and students attended the Annual Sessions and that I was able to meet with some of you personally.

The Annual Sessions provided excellent and very practical, high standards presentations; the great variety of topics assured that everyone could find something of interest. As a reminder, attendance at the sessions of the Annual Meeting qualifies as an accredited group learning activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

At the Governors' meeting a great deal of discussion was devoted to the topic of "re-vitalization" of internal medicine and to revive its attractiveness. Organizations like the American College of Physicians, through its membership, will be able to raise the profile of internal

medicine. Therefore, I encourage medical students to join the College and residents to consider Associate membership; it is relatively inexpensive, but offers a wide range of educational material. Membership can be done on-line with the only requirement being the signature of the respective program director. Also, I would like to ask everyone to consider suggesting eligible members for promotions to Fellowship. The respective information can be obtained from the College's website at <http://www.acponline.org/acpnet> or from me. It requires a fellow or a member of the College to propose the promotion to fellowship and another fellow or member to second the proposal.

I am planning to have a chapter meeting (most likely a two-day event) sometime in February next year, preferably in Toronto as this seems accessible for most participants. I would welcome any respective suggestions. Please note that my temporary e-mail address is:  
**pbolli@xenomix.com**

I am looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible during my term as governor.

With best wishes,  
**Peter Bolli MD, FACP**





## MANITOBA/SASKATCHEWAN UPDATE

As the new Governor for the Prairie Provinces of Saskatchewan and Manitoba I would like to take this opportunity to greet all ACP Members in our region and to encourage them to contact me regarding any suggestions they might have as to how to become more personally involved with our chapter and with the ACP in general. I would also like to thank Dr. Jim Fenton, our previous Governor, for all of his efforts on our behalf during his term of office. Thanks Jim!

The Annual Session in New Orleans was an outstanding event! Of course, the discovery of a land without the drudgery of frost and Spring blizzards offered a most welcome reprieve to those of us who had managed to survive a most challenging few seasons. I hope that our members will try to attend next year's Annual Session which will be held in the most charming of cities San Francisco! This should be an event not to be missed. Put it on your calendar and register early!

Governors from nearly all of the Canadian chapters were in New Orleans and we had the opportunity of discussing some of the challenges and opportunities for all of us as ACP members living in Canada. The Western Canadian Governors will be working with the ACP and with the University of Calgary to schedule a regional chapter meeting at the Rocky Mountain Internal Medicine Conference in Banff (November 18-21, 2004). I hope to see many of my colleagues from The Prairie Provinces at that meeting.

As part of what I would like to call the Border Neighbors Program I am pleased to announce that **Dr. David Williams**, Governor for Minnesota, will welcome our attendance at the Minnesota Chapter Meeting at the Convention Center in Minneapolis in early November. Many of us on the Prairies may find this meeting an attractive opportunity to visit Minneapolis, meet new friends, and participate in an excellent educational event. For those traveling by air I believe that there is non stop service on Northwest from Regina, Saskatoon, and Winnipeg to Minneapolis.

Another Border Neighbors initiative involves the invitation of **Dr. Robert Byron**, Governor for Montana, and his colleagues to the Banff Conference. I hope that these events will stimulate future initiatives between the Canadian and the U.S. ACP chapters. At the very least we will have an opportunity, in Banff, of arguing the relative merits of each of our health care "systems" over a few beers near a roaring fire!

I was pleased to learn that **Dr. Mahmoud Sharaf**, one of the U. of Manitoba's medical residents, has been selected to serve on the ACP Council of Associates. He just returned from a meeting of colleagues in Philadelphia and has many ideas about how we can encourage and support additional involvement in the ACP by both medical students and residents. Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any suggestions or if you would like to find out how to get more involved.

Looking forward to seeing many of us in Minneapolis and/or in Banff.

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### NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS:

Raja S.	Bobba	Hamilton	ON
Kelvin K.	Chan	Toronto	ON
Sherrie-Anne	Chisholm	Vancouver	BC
Yves	Girard	Baie Comean	PQ
Surinder	Khinda	Fort McMurray	AB
Sharon A.	Le Clercq	Edmonton	AB
Frances	Lester	Hamilton	ON
Sharon M.	Morrin	Ottawa	ON
Shailendra	Prasad	Kamloops	BC
Stuart J.	Rosser	Winnipeg	MB
David X.	Sam	Winnipeg	MB
Aram	Shahparaki	Vancouver	BC
Edemariam	Tsega	Hamilton	ON
George C.	Willis	Pembroke	ON
Moiz M.	Zafar	Burlington	ON

## **ATLANTIC PROVINCES LAUREATE PRESENTED TO PROFESSOR S. PAUL HANDA, MD, FRCPC, FACP, DSC (HON)**

**Professor S. P. (Paul) Handa** is a Professor of Medicine (Nephrology), Dalhousie University and Director and the AHSC Hypertension Research Clinic. He also has an appointment in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics, Dalhousie University and holds a position on the Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University (initially in the Division of Community Medicine and recently in the Department of Medicine).

He was chief of Medicine at Lancaster DVA Hospital, subsequently known as West Saint John Community Hospital, Saint John, NB and also Assistant Director of postgraduate teaching program in Internal Medicine, Dalhousie University for the province of New Brunswick. He was the founder and executive coordinator of the Academy of Medicine in Saint John. In pursuit of enhancing scholarly activities, he also published the Saint John Regional Hospital Scientific Medical Bulletin from 1980 to 1988.

He was the founding member of the NB Branch of the Kidney Foundation of Canada, and served as Chairman of its Medical Advisory Board on two terms, in all for more than 14 years. He was also Vice Chairman of the National Medical Advisory Committee. For all his contributions, both the National and Provincial branch Foundations have accorded him with many Honor and Recognition Awards.

In the late 1960's Dr. Handa was instrumental in establishing the Provincial Renal Dialysis and an affiliate Kidney transplant program in New Brunswick. Because of the shortage of Nephrologists he was left alone to care for patients with end stage renal disease for more than 25 years. In spite of that and in addition to his clinical commitments, he became the first Maritime physician to launch Blood Pressure screening surveys in 1976 and helped the public and medical community to become aware of Hypertension, its consequences and the importance of medical interventions. In this realm, he also introduced echocardiography and Ambulatory Blood Pressure monitoring in New Brunswick.

He has over 100 medical publications including one recent book and other under preparation. He contributes information, guidelines and other areas of importance in the fields of renal disease and hypertension for publications by the various health agencies. As a local Principal investigator for several clinical trials, he succeeded in bringing in more than 1.5 million dollars to Saint John, a medical center away from the main University medical school. His initiatives in medical research encouraged and stimulated others also to engage in medical research in the greater Saint John.

He has been the recipient of many awards, including an accolade from the University, Department of Medicine for his scholarly activities at Saint John Campus, meritorious Service Award for 25 years service to Dalhousie University and an award for his pioneering role to establish the organ transplant program in Atlantic Canada. In Official recognition of his outstanding service to the medical profession, Dr. Handa received Order of Merit from the NB Medical Society in 1998. A year later, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada accorded him with an award for his outstanding qualities in medical educator. In year 2002, The Canadian Medical Association presented him with a senior membership award for his lifelong contributions. The award also recognizes the recipients' integrity and compassion to his Community and the medical profession. He was awarded the commemorative medal for the Queen's Golden Jubilee at the 2003 CMA Meeting. The same year, Dr. Handa became the recipient of DSC (Doctor of Science) at the University of New Brunswick. He is also a nominee from the Regional Advisory Committee 5 for the James H. Graham Award of Merit of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in the year 2004.

He served the American College of Physicians first as a member of the Regional Council and later as Governor-elect and Governor for the Atlantic Provinces Region. He was a member of the international subcommittee and was ACP delegate to invitational Colloquium on interdisciplinary international Primary Health care and education. He promoted and provided contents, for the Canadian Governor's Newsletter. He initiated the annual ACP visiting speakership program and in his name an endowment had been established to support the Lecture on Saint John, NB

## CANADIAN GOVERNORS

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