

Colorado Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Kelly O'Brien, MD, FACP
Governor, Colorado Chapter

FROM THE GOVERNOR

We're looking to a great late mid-winter meeting put together by **Dr. Marianne Novelli** and her program committee. Again, we're meeting at the lovely Broadmoor. This seems to be a site enjoyed by program attendees, faculty and family. Dr. Novelli's committee has selected topics for physicians practicing in both the in-patient and the outpatient settings so there should be something for everyone. In addition, we'll have the "Washington Update" by the very erudite and articulate **Mr. Bob Doherty** of our Washington office.



The ACP Board of Governors met in October in Tucson, Arizona. We continued to get an update on the progress (yes, there is some) of the negotiations with the Board of Internal Medicine regarding the appropriate venue for re-certification. An article describing the current situation is included in this newsletter. We also reviewed the ACP Foundation's newest educational push-Health Literacy.

The Foundation is looking at proven methods to increase the public's awareness of their own health issues as well as national health issues. A better-informed population makes a better-informed patient population, which helps safety, compliance and cost-effectiveness. This is more than a "Know Your Cholesterol" campaign. What has become clear in the early stages is how much less people know and understand than we, treating health professionals, have realized. Only when we discover what we're not accomplishing for our patients can we begin to help.

This Fall meeting was the debut of the American College of Physicians Political Action Committee. Only individuals, not chapters, can donate so as individual concerned citizens who happen to be physicians, we were excited to write our personal checks to the PAC. Other professions, including trial lawyers, have had PACs for years. While this is not necessarily a ringing endorsement, the College feels a PAC will enhance its political clout. For more information on the PAC, contact the national office (1-800-523-1546) or your local governor! As a group, we are probably as divided in political opinions as the rest of the country. We should be united, however, around our goal of optimal patient care, and the patient remains at the center of all decision-making for the College.

I look forward to seeing you at the Broadmoor in February and in San Francisco in April-

Kelly O'Brien, MD, FACP

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

UPDATE ON MAINTENANCE OF CERTIFICATION

The recent Board of Governors meeting in Tucson was marked by genuine enthusiasm regarding substantial progress in ACP-ABIM discussions about maintenance of certification. Over the past six months, intensive discussions between **Drs. Steven Weinberger** (ACP Senior VP for Medical Knowledge and Education) and **F. Daniel Duffy** (ABIM Executive VP) have resulted in a welcome and productive atmosphere of collaboration rather than confrontation between the two organizations, also reflected in simultaneous parallel discussions at the level of the CEOs (**Dr. John Tooker** from ACP and **Dr. Christine Cassel** from ABIM) and the Board Chairs (**Dr. Eric Larson** from ACP and **Dr. Troyen Brennan** from ABIM).

After agreeing upon a set of goals and principles that would form the framework for their discussions, **Drs. Weinberger** and **Duffy** developed initial recommendations that were endorsed by the relevant committees and boards of both organizations. These recommendations took into account the evolution of the recertification process into a 4-part Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process, as mandated by the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS), the umbrella organization for all medical specialty Boards. The four components of MOC are:

- Part 1 - Professional Standing (demonstrated by state licensure)
- Part 2 - Lifelong Learning and Self-Assessment
- Part 3 - Cognitive Expertise (fulfilled by the secure, closed-book exam)
- Part 4 - Evaluation of Performance in Practice

Parts 2 and 4 have so far been fulfilled by completion of 5 ABIM SEP (Self-Evaluation Process) modules chosen from several module types, without a specific requirement that one or more of the SEP modules be of a type that meets the Part 4 requirement.

What is new? Based on the 4-part MOC framework, the ABIM has agreed to accept the combination of MKSAP plus an acceptable demonstration of Evaluation of Performance in Practice to fulfill the Part 2 and Part 4 components of MOC, respectively. The MKSAP option for fulfilling the Part 2 requirement will consist of computer-based completion of pre-selected sets of questions from MKSAP 13 (and future editions of MKSAP), delivered in a way that combines self-assessment with education and immediate feedback. Three 60-question MKSAP modules will substitute for 3 SEP modules and will satisfy the entire Part 2 requirement. Part 2 credit will be based on completion of the questions and not on the candidate's score, which is provided to the candidate as a form of feedback about the candidate's level of preparation.

Given the evolving MOC framework and the growing national movement for patient safety and quality improvement in patient care, both ABIM and ACP agreed on the need for a Part 4 component of MOC, but implemented in a way that is efficient, effective, and not redundant. ACP and ABIM have started working together to develop a "wide door" and a variety of options for fulfilling the Part 4 requirement, which would be instituted at the same time the MKSAP option is available to fulfill the Part 2 requirement.

Finally, ACP and ABIM have established a joint, staff-level workgroup to examine options for improving the Part 3 component of MOC (the secure examination for demonstration of cognitive expertise). The goals are to: a) reduce the anxiety provided by a high-stakes examination; b) increase the relevance of an examination to the physician's scope of practice; and c) consider options that might allow the examination to better reflect the way in which physicians have access to informational resources in their clinical practice. The overall intent is to explore options for improving the Part 3 process in a way that would address physician concerns, but would not compromise the integrity, standards, or quality of the process.

ACP and its staff are committed to continued discussions with ABIM and exploration of innovative ways to ease the MOC process and make it as educational and attractive as possible. A collaborative approach to these discussions has been particularly effective and productive, based upon those principles and goals that the two organizations share for the betterment of the profession and for improved patient care.

ACP NEWS
COLLEGE CREATES NEW AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP CLASS
FOR ALLIED PROFESSIONALS

For the first time, ACP has established a new class of membership that will be offered to certain non-physician health care professionals.

An invitation to become an ACP Affiliate has gone out to fellow members of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA), the only national organization that represents physician assistants in all medical and surgical specialties.

The creation of the new affiliate class was approved by the Board of Regents at its meeting in July. Having physician assistants as affiliate College members “is a milestone,” said ACP Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer **John Tooker, FACP, MBA**, in a College press release. It is the first time in ACP's 89-year history that the College is offering membership to non-physicians.

The new ACP Affiliate members will have online access to Annals of Internal Medicine, as well as to ACP Journal Club. They also will have access to PIER (Physicians’ Information and Education Resource), the College’s point-of-care decision support tool.

Other benefits of affiliate membership will include access to ACP Online <http://www.acponline.org>, as well as to ACP’s Practice Management Center; discounts on College programs, publications and services; and continuing medical education programs at member prices.

More information about the new membership class is online. www.acponline.org/college/pressroom/phys_assis.htm

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JOIN THE FUN IN SAN FRANCISCO- The New West by the Bay

As in the past several years, the Colorado Chapter is joining with several other western states to sponsor a buffet reception as part of our annual scientific meeting in San Francisco. Many chapters and universities sponsor these get-togethers at hotels around the city, allowing members from around the country to catch up each other or visit their alma mater. We plan to recognize our new Fellows from Colorado at this time.

We will be at the Grand Hyatt on Union Square on Friday, April 15th from 6-9 pm. Food and drinks will be available. Whether you do a quick hello before a lovely San Francisco dinner, or decide to bring the kids and camp out by the buffet, we’d love to see you there. If you have friends coming from other states, arrange to meet them at the reception. No reservations or RSVPs are required; dress is whatever you're wearing. We look forward to your arrival!

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MEETING THE GOVERNOR-ELECT

The February meeting at the Broadmoor is an excellent opportunity to spend time with your new governor-to-be. **Dr. Rick Walker, MD**, takes over in April, 2005 for his 4-year term. Dr. Walker practices in a general internal medicine group, doing both in-patient and out-patient care in Grand Junction. He recognizes the challenges of being on the Western Slope, but he feels this will bring opportunity as well. He is hoping to encourage more rural and Western Slope physicians to be active in the College. He’d also like to find ways for the College in Colorado to be more relevant for our sub-specialty members. This is one of the national goals of the College as well. He's hopeful that with the post-election changes in the State Senate and House, our concerns about the uninsured, access, reimbursement, etc., may get a better hearing.

Dr. Walker has been in Colorado for ten years, and active in the College for 30 years. His current e-mail address is acpgovernor@bresnan.net, and he’s already attended a Board of Governors meeting to prepare himself for his new position. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Walker to his new position within our chapter.

**MARK THOSE CALENDARS!
MAKE THAT RESERVATION!
ARRANGE THAT COVERAGE!**

The College has two exciting winter and spring meetings coming up:

February 3-5th: Our annual Colorado Scientific Meeting, this year put together by Dr. Marianne Novelli, covers both inpatient and outpatient medical care. Our social gathering is the evening of Thursday, February 3rd, with the scientific sessions scheduled for Friday and Saturday. Our Banquet will be Friday evening. For members choosing to stay over Saturday night, the Broadmoor offers a lovely spa, several restaurants for dinner and a beautiful Sunday Brunch. Register with Christine Westbrook at cochapteracp@msn.com now.

April 14th-16th: The National annual Scientific Meeting in the great city of San Francisco-come early, stay over. The meeting is an excellent array of presentations, workshops, and updates on a wide array of medical topics. In addition, our Colorado Chapter, along with several other western Chapters, will be hosting a smaller, more personal reception on Friday, April 15th at the Grand Hyatt on Union Square, in which we'll recognize our new Fellows. This is a perfect opportunity to catch up professionally and personally-and is there a better city in which to do that?