

District of Columbia Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Governor, District of Columbia Chapter

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE....

New Governor-Elect

When my term as Governor ends in April 2004, my successor will be **Lawrence E. Klein, MD, FACP**. He will begin his term as Governor-Elect of our Chapter in April of this year at the Annual Meeting in San Diego. **Larry Klein** will officially take over as Governor of our Chapter during the Annual Meeting in April 2004, which will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana.



This orderly transition in Chapter leadership has been in place since 1927 when the DC Chapter was first founded. For a brief history of the DC Chapter and a list of previous Governors, see page 6.

Societal Reciprocity for Physicians

Joseph W. Stubbs, MD, FACP, Governor for the Georgia Chapter and recently elected Regent, pointed out in a recent newsletter that physicians worldwide have been very active in adhering to and improving the principles that benefit patients and society as a whole.

These principles exemplified in The Charter on Medical Professionalism, appeared simultaneously in the Annals of Internal Medicine and the Lancet. The Charter outlines principles and responsibilities that all physicians should follow in order to maintain the highest standards for improving patient health and well-being. During the past several years, however, the following five items have had a major impact on physicians' efforts to practice medicine in the best possible way.

1] **MEDICAL ERRORS**. During the past few years there has been a major focus on the prevention of medical errors. While this is obviously very important, it is not a new concept. As **William Osler** pointed out, well over one hundred years ago, "No two individuals react alike and behave alike under the abnormal condition known as disease. Errors in judgment must occur in the practice of an art which consists largely in balancing probabilities."- **William Osler** 1892.

2] **HIPAA**. Physicians, hospitals, medical schools and other health facilities that care for patients will soon be complying with the many new HIPAA regulations. One of the stated main goals of this program is the safeguarding of patient confidentiality. HIPAA has been slowly gaining strength, fueled by the continued announcements of its imminent arrival. This has created an effect we all experienced during that time of mega hype that was cleverly dubbed Y2K. It would really be refreshing if, in the future, a set of regulations would be created with the principle intent of helping physicians care for their patients rather than create a novel intricate obstacle in the name of patient protection. It would be interesting to know how many individuals who had a hand in the development of HIPAA ever successfully practiced medicine for a significant period of time either in a private or academic setting.

3] **RECERTIFICATION.** Another cause of increased stress and anxiety for physicians is Board Recertification. There are some onerous requirements that have induced many excellent physicians not to recertify.

4] **E/M DOCUMENTATION.** Endless hours are spent for the sake of visit level justification.

5] **REFERRAL FORMS.** This seemingly innocent requirement is the cause of great expense and frustration for both patients and physicians. This mandatory clerical function is responsible for delay in access to care.

These are just some of the requirements of the last few years that have significantly interfered with the physician's allocation of time and resources to care for the patient.

As **Dr. Stubbs** clearly points out, for professionalism to exist not only is it important for physicians to actively demonstrate their explicitly stated responsibilities, but it is also important for society to provide respect and adequate economic resources to fulfill these goals. It is high time that as individuals we make our plea for societal reciprocity louder and increasingly noticeable. For more information on this issue, see the section on Leadership Day 2003 page 5.

Board of Governors' Meeting - Quebec City, Canada

This year the September BOG meeting was not canceled. It took place in beautiful Quebec City and it was extremely well attended. Only two of eighty Governors did not attend. There were many interesting discussions. The highlight was a presentation and discussion for approval or disapproval of the resolutions submitted by the various Chapters. I am happy to report that the resolution presented by the DC Chapter (Eliminating Paperwork Burden) was approved. In the past 2-1/2 years, three of the four resolutions submitted by our Chapter have been approved. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the Health and Public Policy Committee, chaired by **N. Thomas Connally, MD, FACP.**

Profile of the New Governor-Elect - Lawrence E. Klein, MD, FACP

Lawrence Klein, a 1976 graduate of Johns Hopkins Medical School, served his internship and part of his residency at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York. Following a Fellowship in General Internal Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he entered private practice in 1980 when he joined Foxhall Internists in Washington, DC. He has continued to be actively engaged in the clinical practice of Internal Medicine. He is a member of the part-time faculty of Johns Hopkins Hospital in the Department of Internal Medicine and is on the active staff at Georgetown University and Sibley hospitals.



Dr. Klein has been a member of ACP-ASIM since 1980 and advanced to Fellowship in 1986. He has been a very active participant in ACP-ASIM activities and served as ASIM President in 1994 to 1996. He received the Laureate Award from the DC Chapter in 2001. He has served on many influential committees at Sibley Hospital and Georgetown Medical School. He was the Director of the Fellowship Training Program in General Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital from 1980 to 1984. Other areas of involvement are literally too numerous to mention in this limited space. His areas of professional interest and expertise include General Internal Medicine (Clinical Practice), Geriatrics, Pharmacology, Medical Policy and Health Care Research.

Dr. Klein submitted the following Vision Statement when the recent election for Governor took place: *"Having been in academia (Fellowship Director Internal Medicine, Johns Hopkins) as well as in General Medical practice, I would like to think that I can bring to the Governorship a dual perspective. In this era of rapidly expanding medical knowledge and technological options, I think the College must serve a key role in helping internists stay efficiently up-to-date, as well as in nurturing the development of*

medical residents in training. At a time when medicine seems to be literally under attack by the government and insurers, it should be a mission of the College to help the public and its public 'servants' understand the benefit that thorough and caring internists provide to our society. It should also be a role of the College to help clinicians navigate the maze of obstructions impeding their efforts at caring for each and every patient in the best way possible."

Regional Chapter Meeting - November 15-16, 2002

Munsey Wheby, MD, FACP, then president-elect of the ACP-ASIM, was our College Representative. **Dr. Wheby** is Professor of Medicine and Senior Associate Dean at the University of Virginia School of Medicine in Charlottesville. For the past three years our Chapter has been extremely fortunate in having had as our College Representative the ACP president-elects **Dr. Sandra A. Fryhofer, Dr. Sara Walker** and **Dr. Munsey Wheby**.

Dr. Wheby did a superb job as the College Representative, taking part in the Governor's Council Dinner Meeting on Thursday November 14, 2002 at Congressional Country Club. Council members, known for their lively exchanges with College officials and representatives, engaged **Dr. Wheby** on several important issues, such as:

- 1) Recertification.
- 2) Medicare's continued decreased reimbursement to physicians.
- 3) Draconian requirements of insurance companies; mandatory written referrals.
- 4) Declining reimbursements for physicians engaged in primary care such as internists and family practice. This situation has played a major role in physicians' flight from clinical practice, seeking early retirement or employment in alternative institutions that offer financial security.

The Friday afternoon meeting included presentations by Associates and a talk by **Dr. Munsey Wheby**, entitled "Frequently Asked Questions in Hematology." It was well attended by over 200 individuals. The Governor's Award's Dinner took place on Friday evening at Congressional Country Club. Individuals honored for their accomplishments are listed below:

Volunteerism Award - John J. Lynch, MD, FACP

John J. Lynch, MD, FACP received this award because throughout his busy professional career, he has generously given his time and expertise to professional and community organizations. He served as President of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia in 1994. He was President of the Washington DC Division of the American Cancer Society. In 1985 he was a member of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Advisory Panel on Health Planning. Since 1993 he has served as the Associate Medical Director of the Washington Cancer Institute at the Washington Hospital Center. Because of all of these accomplishments, we were very pleased to present **Dr. Lynch** with the Chapter's Volunteerism and Community Service Award.

Community-Based Teaching Awards - Melvin W. Gaskins, MD and Beth Horowitz, MD, FACP

Dr. Melvin Gaskins is a practicing medical oncologist in Washington DC and a graduate of Howard University Medical School. He has been in practice since 1992. For the past five years he volunteered to make inpatient rounds on a medical oncology service at Howard. Recently, he began accepting medical students at his private office in Mitchellville, Maryland. **Dr. Gaskins** has a long history of voluntary service in providing education to medical students and post-graduate physicians, and he is most deserving of this special award.

Dr. Beth Horowitz completed her medical education in 1984 and in 1987 was appointed Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine at the George Washington Medical Center. She served as

Medical Director of the Women's Primary Care Center. She was Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program from 1993 to 1996. She has served as Associate Editor of two medical newsletters and was co-author of a study published in Academic Medicine. For her commitment to the education of medical students in the office setting and her recognition as an excellent teacher and role model, our Chapter was pleased to present **Dr. Horowitz** with this Chapter's Community-Based Teaching Award.



The John F. Maher Memorial Laureate Award

This award is the highest honor that our Chapter can bestow on any of our Members. It was begun in 1993 in memory of a superb physician, friend, teacher and writer who had developed an international reputation in renal disease. This year **Jerry F. Meyer, MD, FACP** and **Michael S. Gold, MD, FACP** were recipients of the John F. Maher Memorial Laureate Award.

Jerry F. Meyer, MD, FACP, a practicing cardiologist, is a Member of the Governor's Council and vice-president of our Chapter since April 2000. He has been very involved in numerous Chapter duties as well as College national activities. He was a member of the DC Medical Care Reform Task Force in 1993, Chairman of the Professional Education Committee of the Nation's Capitol Affiliate of the American Heart Association from 1989 to 1994 and vice-president of that organization from 1992 to 1994. Following the merger of ACP-ASIM, he was appointed to the Governor's Council in 1998 and elected vice-president in 2000. In recognition of **Dr. Meyer's** distinguished career as a clinician, educator and administrator and for his contributions to ACP-ASIM, we are pleased to select him as recipient of the 2002 John F. Maher Memorial Laureate Award.

Michael S. Gold, MD, FACP received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University. He graduated from State University of New York Downstate Medical School. He is now a full-time academic gastroenterologist and maintains a very busy practice at the Washington Hospital Center, as well as being responsible for the supervision of GI Fellows. He has been Chairman of the Section of Gastroenterology and Senior Attending physician at the Washington Hospital Center for the past 25 years. **Dr. Gold** has made outstanding contributions to our Chapter as Chair of the Program Committee since 1996. Under his leadership the Annual Scientific Sessions have been excellent and continue to receive most favorable recognition by leaders in the College who have attended our meetings. He is also a member of the Credentials Committee and the Governor's Council. In recognition of his distinguished career as a clinician, educator, administrator and his contributions to ACP-ASIM we are pleased to select Dr. Gold as recipient of the 2002 John F. Maher Memorial Laureate Award.

Women Physicians in Medicine

On Saturday morning November 16, 2002, a meeting for Women Physicians in Medicine was held under the leadership of **Sharyn Horwitz, MD, FACP**. The meeting was well attended and punctuated with many lively discussions during which **Dr. Munsey Wheby** and I were involved.

Retired Physicians

A meeting for Retired Physicians under the direction of **Richard B. Perry, MD, MACP** and **James Ronan, MD, FACP** was held on Saturday morning, November 16, 2002. This meeting was also well attended and included discussions regarding the Free clinics in Montgomery County staffed by retired physicians from our Chapter. Discussions included future projects in many areas of interest.

MKSAP

At the conclusion of the meeting on Saturday, a raffle was held for all those still present; the winner received a free copy of MKSAP. The winner was **Stuart L. Horwitz**, husband of **Sharyn Horwitz**. **Dr. Horwitz** elected to receive the electronic version of MKSAP. Last year's winners opted for the print version.

INVITATION TO ALL MEDICAL STUDENTS

In order to maintain our organization's fine tradition of service and maintain its strength, it is necessary to welcome future physicians to our ranks. Accordingly, I invite you to join the American College of Physicians by going online to www.acponline.org and completing the short application under Medical Students and Residents topics. There is no charge for your application or for attending local and national scientific meetings. In addition you may obtain useful publications and an understanding of how your flagship organization for internal medicine functions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Associates' Meeting
DC Chapter
USUHS - May 3, 2003

Annual Regional Chapter Meeting
DC Chapter
USUHS- November 7-8, 2003



Annual Session- San Diego- April 2-5, 2003

Our Chapter submitted a resolution to the BOG regarding a decline in the number of general internists. The resolution requests that the Board of Regents direct staff to conduct a survey of graduating medical students to determine reasons for the decline of the number of general internists and that the Board of Regents publicize the fact of the decline and the results of the survey.

Our Annual Session of the ACP, in addition to having superb scientific offerings, humanitarian psychosocial and spiritual activities, also provides a well-rounded, rich experience for all who attend. Many of our Chapter members have never been to an Annual Session. For those of you who have never attended, why not make plans now? Next year's meeting will be held in New Orleans April 22-25.

Three items which are looked at very carefully in applications for advancement to Fellowship are:

- 1) Attendance at National (Annual Session) Meetings.
- 2) Attendance at Regional Scientific Meetings.
- 3) Participation in MKSAP. (Especially if taken for score).

Associates' Meeting - May 3, 2003

Under the leadership of **Linda Green, MD**, Program Director Internal Medicine at Prince Georges Hospital, our tenth annual meeting will take place at USUHS. This meeting has become increasingly popular and excellent. We need judges and I will be calling on you to participate.

Leadership Day 2003

Leadership Day will take place May 13 and 14, 2003. We expect approximately 150 members of ACP. Representatives from every Chapter in the country will gather at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel. As we have done in the past, the DC Chapter will join the MD Chapter led by its Governor, **Philip A. Mackowiak, MD, FACP**. **Drs. Hal Standiford, MD, MACP, Mary Newman MD, FACP and Haya Rubin, MD, FACP**, also from the Maryland Chapter, will attend. Individuals from the DC Chapter who will be joining me on Leadership Day include **Bob Wilkinson, Harold Weiss, Ira Krefting, David Kessler, John Saia, Tom Connally, Jerry Meyer, Michael Gold and Larry Klein**.

This is our opportunity to meet with representatives in Congress, from both the House and Senate. Appointments will be scheduled with Members of Congress representing our areas, which include the District, Maryland and Virginia.

The recent change in Medicare reimbursement from an intended decrease of 4.4 percent to an increase of 1.6 percent was brought about in large measure by the intense lobbying efforts by ACP-ASIM over the past several years. We need additional meaningful changes to occur. We need interested individuals to step up to the challenge and articulate solutions to the many obstacles we continue to encounter. It is hoped that with the ascendancy of Senator Bill Frist, as Majority Leader we will continue to have access to his advice and counsel and thereby have a greater impact on the Members of Congress regarding medical issues.

Maryland Chapter Meeting - CPC Challenge

In early February of this year, my wife and I had the pleasure of attending the Regional Meeting of the Maryland Chapter held at Turf Valley Country Club, graciously hosted by **Governor and Mrs. Phil Mackowiak**. This meeting provided an opportunity to meet many friends, in the past known only via phone conversations, and also to listen to new ideas for educational ventures. **Dr. Mackowiak** presented a fascinating historical CPC of a very famous individual who lived over 2,000 years ago and after a most remarkable life died at the age of 33 from a disease that still affects people today. Perhaps what is most remarkable is that his body was still preserved almost intact 300 years later.

You can access this CPC at <http://www.acponline.org/chapters/dc/cpc.htm> in order to respond to the following questions:

- 1] Who was the patient?
- 2] What was the cause of death?
- 3] How did his body remain intact for 300 years?

If you would like to submit answers to the problems posed by the CPC, you are encouraged to do so. E-mail your responses to CarolM@mail.acponline.org. All individuals giving correct answers will be listed in the next newsletter.

D.C. CHAPTER HISTORICAL NOTES

The D.C. Chapter, chartered in 1927, celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2002. ACP, our National parent organization, was founded in 1915 and is now in its 87th year. The list of former Governors who served and led our Chapter was provided by **Joy Crist**, our Chapter Liaison. Since 1927, fourteen Governors have had the privilege of serving the District of Columbia Chapter. The names and dates of service are listed below.

District of Columbia Chapter Governors From 1927 to 2004

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| 1927-29 M.W. Ireland, Washington, DC | 1976-80 Frank Goodnow MacMurray, McLean, VA |
| 1929-33 William Gerry Morgan, Washington, DC | 1980-84 Wesley M. Oler, Washington, DC |
| 1933-49 Wallace M. Yater, Washington, DC | 1984-88 James A. Curtin, Bethesda, MD (Chair-Elect 1987-88; Chair 1988-89) |
| 1949-58 John Minor, Washington, DC | 1988-92 James J. Leonard, Bethesda, MD |
| 1958-64 Theodore J. Abernethy, Washington, DC (Vice-Chair 1964) | 1992-96 Richard B. Perry, Potomac, MD |
| 1964-70 Thomas W. Mattingly, Washington, DC | 1996-00 Werner F. Barth, Bethesda, MD |
| 1970-76 Henry D. Ecker, Washington, DC | 2000-04 Eugene P. Libre, Kensington, MD |

Of the listed Governors, you will note that the current standard four-year term only began in 1976. Prior to that time there appeared to be no set requirement, except for three six year terms from 1958 to 1976. The most amazing term in office - 16 years - was served by the legendary Washington clinician and teacher **Wallace M. Yater**. **Dr. Yater** was Professor of Medicine at Georgetown for many years. He was the author of an excellent textbook of Medicine. He later founded the Yater Clinic, a standard of excellence for many years in Washington, DC. When **Lawrence E. Klein** takes office in April, 2004 he will be the 15th Governor of the D.C. Chapter.

A NOTE FROM THE ACP D.C. CHAPTER VICE PRESIDENT, Jerry F. Meyer, MD, FACP

Since the last newsletter, our Chapter's most important event, the Annual Scientific Regional Chapter Meeting, took place on November 14 -16, 2002. **Munsey S. Wheby**, President-elect of ACP was our College Representative (CR).

We had a rousing discussion at the Governor's Council meeting, on Thursday, November 14th. I brought up some of the subjects that had been bothering me about ACP. I was impressed that **Dr. Wheby** had read my previous "Newsletter Notes," and he was actually encouraging of my dissenting voice.

The next day, I moderated the Town Meeting, following **Dr. Wheby's** presentation on the College Update and **Richard Trachtman's** update on current health policy issues. **Richard Trachtman** is our Director of Congressional Affairs in the DC office. Of course, I could not resist sending letters to them about those issues that I consider controversial and important to the practicing physician. Let me give you a short synopsis of those subjects and my views:

In view of poor Medicare reimbursements and the planned reductions for 2003, I have been astonished by the refusal of the Board of Regents to continue the PAC that was part of ASIM. Unfortunately, I am not sure ACP-ASIM would take the most beneficial political position. Our organization strongly supports the present defined benefit plan and the formula for determining reimbursement. Support for the status quo does nothing but maintain enforced price controls. It took an immense effort for the College to help secure the tiny Medicare increase of 1.6 percent.

Our organization's campaign pledge of \$1 million dollars to support universal coverage will only be worthwhile if the coverage has adequate fee schedules. It has been my observation that most successful internists are not accepting third party payments. It is therefore hard to accept that universal coverage will solve any problem.

It is interesting that only recently has ACP-ASIM been involved in the recertification controversy. I made my views known on this subject over 15 years ago in the DC Medical Society newspaper in which I

refuted the wisdom of recertification. In ABIM's zeal for mandatory recertification, it has alienated the members of ACP-ASIM and in turn its Boards. It is my opinion that ABIM is an industry that benefits monetarily from this concept. I will not go into details as to its validity at this time, but will just comment that I do not believe an entire profession should be controlled continuously by a small group of people. Continuing education is extremely important and should be encouraged, but recertification is a completely different concept not mandated by other professions such as attorneys or certified public accountants.

Acceptance of the faulty "Institute of Medicine" report was detrimental to the image of medicine. Patient safety is paramount and one mistake is too many, but inflating the death rate was equivalent to yelling "fire" in a crowded theater.

One issue where we may have some chance at success is TORT reform. This issue is, of course, heavily supported by the AMA. Both **President Bush** and **Senator Frist** are strongly in favor of TORT reform, but it is an uphill battle against the trial lawyers. As former Dallas lawyer and judge **Catherine Crier** states in her book, *The Case Against Lawyers*, "Our great cornerstone of democracy, the rule of law, has become a source of power and influence, not liberty and justice."

The above is a summary of some of the topics covered. I realize there is not unanimity of opinion on these subjects within our own group, much less the entire College. But we must work on solidifying our ideas where we agree. I solicit your opinions and thoughts on how ACP-ASIM can be helpful to the practicing physician. Please call me at 202-832-3100 or fax me at 202-832-9475. I expect to revisit these issues in future "NOTES" and because it is an organization of great principle I will continue to invest my time and energy in the College and its advocacy efforts.

I was pleased and honored to receive the John F. Maher Memorial Laureate Award for, among other things, contributions to ACP-ASIM. I was especially pleased because it confirms that our Chapter appreciates my dissension rather than considering it detrimental to the organization.

—VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE—

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