



From the Governor.....

Communication: If you are reading a paper copy of this chapter newsletter, this probably means that ACP does not have an active email address for you. The College distributes these newsletters to its members as a pdf document that is archived on our chapter website http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/de/news_meet.htm and this link is provided in an email to the member from ACP.

There are several important ACP member benefits that are distributed by email, only. These include ACP Internist

Top Headline News, distributed to members by email every Monday, including important breaking news with content that is clinical, regulatory, policy related, and of other interest to internists. Another important recent benefit is ACP Journal Club Plus, a customizable personalized literature updating service which provides reports of recent articles/abstracts from the medical literature, released to members by email every Thursday. ACP also informs its members of new products and services that are available from the College, periodically. With regard to the activities of our Chapter and other important announcements, I will send out email announcements to our membership approximately monthly by email.

Many physicians are concerned that their email address may be misused or otherwise distributed without their permission to other parties by organizations to which they belong. ACP's privacy policy, which can be found on the website at <http://www.acponline.org/help/privacy>, specifically prohibits such misuse of a member's personal information, including their email address. If you are one of the 21% of our chapter members for whom ACP does not have an active email address, you can update your personal information on the ACP website, or you can send me an email at drjho7@verizon.net, and I'll ask ACP to update it for you.

E-prescribing: Beginning in January, 2009, CMS will provide a 2% bonus on payment of medicare claims to physicians who use electronic prescribing of medications in the daily care of their patients. This 2% bonus is slated for 2009 and 2010, dropping to 1% in 2011 and 2012, and importantly, physicians who are not using e-prescribing by 2012 will be penalized by a 1% drop in their reimbursement. Electronic prescribing can be done through a component of electronic medical records software, and also by stand-alone eprescribing systems that are available. The exact mechanism by which physicians are to report their electronic prescribing to CMS has not, to my knowledge, been announced yet. I will update the members of our chapter by email when that information becomes available. Check out the excellent article on e-prescribing in the September edition of ACP Internist at http://www.acponline.org/clinical_information/journals_publications/acp_internist/sep08/erx.htm for more information.

Electronic Medical Records (EMR/EHR): the State of Delaware has been selected by CMS as one of 12 sites throughout the country from which 100 practices (in each of the 12 sites) will be recruited, starting around May of 2009, to participate in a 5 year study of the adoption and use of EMR. The practices that are recruited will include those that have already implemented a fully functioning EMR, and those that anticipate doing so within the first 2 years of the study. The study will focus on the use of the EMR, through its data management and reporting capabilities, to better manage populations of patients with certain chronic illnesses, and to measure outcomes. Substantial financial assistance will be provided to participating practices to partially offset the cost of implementation of the EMR and the time and effort

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required to participate in the study. If you've been considering the implementation of EMR in your practice, now may be the time to take the next step of pre-selection practice work flow evaluation and preliminary assessment of the best available products for your type of practice, in light of the upcoming CMS project.

ACP has several resources available to help physicians who are considering this process. The EHR Partners Program is a new ACP member benefit that is designed to help internists who are in the process of selecting and implementing an EMR in their practice. In this program, 8 of the companies that produce CCHIT certified EMR's have provided detailed product information to ACP so that this info can be provided to members on a comparative basis, to help in the selection process. Interested members should check out the program on the website at https://www.acponline.org/running_practice/technology/ehr/partner_program where the application process is simple. ACP has established a Roadmap for the Adoption of EHR that should be helpful to members who are considering the process, and this can be found at https://www.acponline.org/running_practice/technology/ehr/roadmap.

The ACP publication, Electronic Health Records, 2nd Edition, is an excellent print resource for those who are interested in the selection and implementation process, and more information can be found at https://www.acponline.org/atpro/timssnet/products/tnt_products.cfm.

Quality Insights of Delaware, telephone: 302.478.3600, website <http://www.qide.org/de>, will be involved in the selection process for these 100 Delaware practices in 2009, and has expertise in assisting physicians with the selection and implementation of EMR, also.

A fact sheet on the CMS EHR Demonstration project is available at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/downloads/EHR_Fact_Sheet_Site_Selection.pdf.

For a summary of the CMS payment methodology with examples for this project, go to <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/downloads/EHRPayment.pdf>.

Parag Bakshi Fellowship: The Delaware Chapter congratulates two of our Associate Members, **Dr. Jonathan Kaufmann** and **Dr. Ben Goodgame**, on the acceptance of their proposals for trips to foreign countries which will involve a clinical rotation in the medical system of those countries. Dr. Kaufmann is currently in the Himalayan Mountain Region of India, and Dr. Goodgame has planned a trip to Kenya for March of 2009. The Delaware Chapter provides financial assistance to approved applicants for this Fellowship. The program was started in 2005, and the Delaware Chapter has received an Evergreen Award from ACP for this innovation. We look forward to hearing from these colleagues about their experiences.

International Health Sub-Committee (IHSC): In 2006, **Dr. Javed Gilani** and several colleagues worked to establish a committee of physicians interested in global/international health. They conducted a survey of the DE ACP Chapter membership and received over 50 responses regarding their interests and involvements in this area. We have put a page on the DE Chapter's website regarding the survey, which is posted with anonymous responses, and the structure and activities of the IHSC at http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/de/ihs Subcommittee.htm. Physicians interested in sharing their experiences or interests in this area should contact Dr. Gilani at mjgilani@usa.net.

Lower Shore Symposium: This year's 10th Annual DE ACP Lower Shore Symposium was held at Ruddertowne in Dewey Beach on September 20th, hosted by Past-Governor, **Dr. Mansour Saberi**, and **Dr. Bandu Palekar**. This unique CME meeting was well-attended and well-received, thanks to the excellent quality of the speakers and the hospitality of its hosts. The DE Chapter recognizes these physicians for their hard work in producing this worthwhile and anticipated annual meeting in Delaware's beach resort community.

Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting: I had the privilege of attending the ACP BOG meeting in Minneapolis, September 18-20th. At the meeting, 22 resolutions were presented by the chapter Governors for consideration by the board. Two resolutions were adopted: one requiring that DME companies provide patients with information on the cost of the prescribed equipment to help them with decisions regarding rental vs purchase of the equipment, and one requiring that ACP provide its chapters with dues support for all first year new members, and additional dues support if the chapters participate in recruitment efforts of the College.

Five resolutions were adopted as amended, and among these were a resolution that called upon CMS to rebalance the disparity in physician payment between E&M and other procedural codes, and another that called upon CMS to cover the home administration of iv antibiotics and the costs associated with their administration and monitoring. There were

expressions of support for the development of loan forgiveness programs for medical students who committed to primary care careers, for the provision of seed grants to chapters that participate in Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) pilot projects, and for defining the role of subspecialist internists in the evolving PCMH concept. 8 resolutions were referred to committees for study, including one that dealt with the evaluation of Doctors of Nursing Practice (DNP's) and their potential role in the provision of health care in the US. Six resolutions were not adopted.

Multiple educational and brainstorming sessions were held, particularly focusing on recruiting and retaining new members. The Governors received briefings on advocacy priorities of the College and prospects for health care reform in the context of the upcoming presidential election. An important aspect of these meetings are the many opportunities we have to network with colleagues from throughout the country (world!) and exchange ideas.



ACP Governor Class of 2012, "Rookie year" at the BOG in Minneapolis, MN

Council of Associates Conference: The Delaware Chapter is privileged to have 68 Associate Members, and most of these physicians are residents in the IM, Med/Peds and EM/IM programs at Christiana Care Health System. In the past, our Chapter has sponsored Journal Club activities for the residents, twice per year. We will be continuing this activity, but in light of the upcoming presidential election, we have scheduled a special lecture for the residents and interested attending physicians. On Friday, October 24th, in rooms 1926-7 in the Women's/Maternity/ObGYN wing of Christiana Hospital, from 12:30 to 1:30 pm, our Chapter, in conjunction with the Internal Medicine Residency Program, will host a lecture regarding prospects for health care reform, and the health care platforms of the presidential candidates. The speaker is **Robert Doherty**, Senior Vice President, Governmental Affairs and Public Policy, from the Washington, D.C. Office of ACP. Bob is a frequent presenter at the annual Internal Medicine session each year, and his expertise and clarity of presentation make for a compelling talk. Don't miss this one!

Leadership Day 2009: The DE Chapter will send a delegation of internists to Capitol Hill on May 19th and 20th, to meet with our legislators regarding important legislative priorities for internists and their patients.

Internal Medicine 2009: ACP's premiere annual scientific meeting will be held at the Philadelphia Convention Center on April 23-25th. I hope that Delaware internists will have record attendance at this outstanding CME event. Many of our recently elected Fellows will have the opportunity to march in the convocation ceremony. Our Chapter will be co-hosting a special Chapter Reception with the Pennsylvania Chapter at one of the local Philadelphia restaurants on Friday evening, the 24th - I'll send out more information on this as we get closer.

DE Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting: our annual Newark CME meeting will be held Saturday, February 21st, 2009, at Clayton Hall, on the campus of the University of Delaware. Our program planning committee, under the leadership of **Dr. Stephanie Lee**, has worked hard to put together a meeting that will surpass the expectations of the members of our chapter. We've attached a preview of the program for this meeting in this newsletter. Please make sure to save the date - we look forward to seeing you there!

New Fellows: The Delaware Chapter offers congratulations to the following physicians who were elected to fellowship in the College as of 7/01/08:

Hasaan Farhat, MD, FACP, Rehoboth Beach, DE

John Gomez, MD, FACP, Lewes, DE

As I have stated before, the Delaware ACP Chapter is your Chapter. If you have a concern, some negative or positive feedback, a new idea, a potential resolution for the Board of Governors, the desire to advance to Fellowship, and/or the desire to participate in the leadership of the Chapter, please don't hesitate to contact myself, or one of the members of our governor's advisory council.

With best regards,

John H. O'Neill, Jr., D.O., FACP

Chapter Governor

Drjho7@verizon.net

Cell: 302-650-0211

ACP PHYSICIANS - WE NEED YOU...

...to attend a FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION to identify systemic problems that you face every day in caring for patients with Diabetes

WHY?

So that we can design interventions to address the most important barriers to obtaining the highest quality outcomes

WHAT DO I DO?

Sign up for one of the meeting times below (6pm start)

October 21	Harry's Savoy Grill	Wilmington
October 30	1776	Rehoboth Beach
November 6	Café Gelato	Newark
November 11	Smith and Company	Milford

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Use the sign-in sheet or
contact **Daniel Elliott, MD MSCE**

302-733-6387

delliott@christianacare.org.

These meetings are sponsored by the Delaware Collaborative for Diabetes Management and are a partnership between the Delaware Academy of Family Physicians and the Delaware Chapter of the American College of Physicians

Delaware Chapter February 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting

Saturday, February 21, 2009

7:30 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

7:50 **Welcome**
John H. O'Neill Jr., DO, FACP, Governor, ACP Delaware Chapter

Morning Session: Moderator: Stephanie A. Lee, MD, ACP Member

8:00 **Cheerleaders, Chihuahuas, and Big Pharma: Blockbuster Drugs You Can Stop**
Thomas E. Finucane, MD, FACP

8:50 **Innate Immunity Comes of Age: What Really Keeps You Safe**
Steven M. Holland, MD

9:40 **The Renal Top 10: Helpful Hints for the PCP**
Prayus T. Tailor, MD

10:30 **Break: View posters and exhibits**

11:00 **Associate Winner Presentation**

11:15 **Panel Presentation on Prostate Cancer**
*David J. Cozzolino, MD; Viroon Donovanik, MD, FACR;
and Stephen S. Grubbs, MD, ACP Member*

12:15 p.m. **Break: View posters and exhibits**

12:30 **Lunch**
Chapter Awards and Announcements
John H. O'Neill Jr., DO, FACP, Governor, ACP Delaware Chapter
Fostering Excellence in Internal Medicine: 2009
David C. Dale, MD, MACP

Afternoon Session: Moderator: Terry L. Horton, MD, ACP Member

2:00 **Multiple Small Feedings of the Mind: Psychiatric Tidbits for the Hungry
Primary Care Doctor**
Neil S. Kaye, MD

Topics in Sleep medicine
Ilene M. Rosen, MD, MSCE, ACP Member

3:00 **Adjourn**



Help strengthen the voice of internal medicine - recommend ACP Membership to your colleagues!

The need for a strong voice to speak on behalf of medicine and, in particular, internal medicine has never been greater than it is today. It is critically important that we unify to address the specific needs of our medical specialty. There are advocacy efforts to champion, practice management issues to simplify, and a time-honored profession to foster. We must work together.

To thank you for your time and effort, we offer the following recruitment program. Between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009:

- Recruit one colleague and receive a \$100 credit toward your 2009-10 annual dues.
- Recruit two colleagues and receive an additional \$100 credit toward your 2009-10 annual dues.
- Recruit three colleagues and enjoy free annual dues in 2009-10.

But wait, there's more. For every Member recruited within the promotional period, you will receive an entry into a grand-prize drawing for a trip to Internal Medicine 2010 in Toronto, Canada that includes registration, airfare (up to \$500), and four days of hotel accommodations. So, the more Members you recruit, the greater your chances are at winning the grand prize.

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To be considered a "recruited" Member, your colleague must:

- Be a nonmember who is eligible for the "full" ACP Member category and pay \$99 or more in dues.
- Submit a Membership application, along with his or her dues payment, between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009.
- Write your name in the recruiter box on the top of the Membership application**.