



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

FLORIDA CHAPTER

Florida Chapter ACP, Inc.
Tallahassee Update
January 28, 2008

Over a dozen physician delegates from the University of Florida descended upon Tallahassee to advocate for the Chapter's Legislative Agenda this past week. With just over a month to go before the official start of the Florida Legislative Session, lobbyists and representatives from every profession and specialty were vying for legislator's attention.

For the Chapter, that meant private meetings with members of the House Health Committees and the Alachua County delegation, while staff added meetings with incoming Speaker Dean Cannon and Senate Health Care member Gary Siplin. The Chapter delegation stressed the importance of increased Medicaid reimbursement, the need for responsible supervision of extenders, and managed care payment reform.

An issue that unexpectedly took center stage this week was that of access to emergency room care. Senate Health Staffers introduced a bill that would allow the Agency for Health Care Administration to set rules for call coverage, including potentially mandating coverage for all physicians, prohibiting the performance of elective procedures while on call, and forbidding simultaneous call at more than one facility. We alerted the Committee members to the myriad of problems that such policies would create and received considerable support from many of the Committee members. We also will be working on this throughout the Session.

Special thanks go to UF Associate Program Director Lawrence D. Klima, M.D., Council member Michelle L. Rossi, M.D., FACP, Chief residents Carl Dragstedt, D.O., Janice Lawson, M.D., and Katherine J. Walsh, M.D., along with residents Don Davis, M.D., Ashish Gupta, M.D., Ashleigh Hermansen, M.D., Bryon Herpich, M.D., Abraham Lin, M.D., Mitchell Machado, M.D., and Michael P. Roberts. The Chapter team not only met with experienced Health Care leaders, but also met with freshmen member of the Health Quality Committee.

Chapter members with legislative issues or questions may contact our lobbyist, Christopher L. Nuland, via e-mail at nulandlaw@aol.com.