



THE FLORIDA INTERNIST

Newsletter of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians

Volume 10, No. 1

Spring 2009

ACP
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | Doctors for Adults

website address
<http://www.acponline.org/chapters/fl>

In This Issue

From the President

Council of Associates - Get Involved - Make a Difference!

Council of Young Physicians: Call to Serve

Malcolm T. Foster, Jr, MD, FACP Recognition Dinner

Associate Meeting Highlights

Member Speaks Out

Legislative Report

Membership Corner

(more on the Chapter website: www.acponline.org/chapters/fl)

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From The Governor



Stuart B. Himmelstein, MD, FACP
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As Governor of the Division of Education and Membership of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians, I take great pleasure with this newsletter for the opportunity to update the members on the happenings over the past few months and defer to my fellow Governor of the Division of Advocacy and Industry for topics related to those subjects.

Before the annual Associates meeting for the Florida chapter of the ACP members in residency training at the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure in Weston, Florida on the weekend of March 13-15, 2009, our governing council met for its spring meeting. Among other things, I welcome Jason Goldman, MD as the Chair of the membership committee and I cannot stress enough the importance of being active in one's own professional group. Who but a physician can best express the concerns of physicians? A list of member benefits of membership can be found in this newsletter. I also welcome Joshua Lenchus, MD as our representative in our new Council of Young Physicians. If you think that because you finished training within the past decade and a half and believe you cannot relate to what seems to be the old codgers of the organization, then stay tuned as this branch of the organization just may be what you're looking for.

On the weekend of March 13 to 15, 2009, the chapter's annual Associates meeting took place and we were privileged to hear excellent oral presentations by residents on topics of clinical and research interest to them. The residents from eight residency programs active in the chapter who are associate members of the

Florida Chapter of the ACP were selected by their programs for entry into competition. This was followed by poster presentations by residents selected by their programs on topics of clinical and research interest that the respective residents have been working on. Both of these activities were judged by a panel of academic and clinical members of our chapter and winners determined by score on presentation, significance and originality. Congratulations to Carolina De la Cuesta, MD for the impressive work winning the oral presentation competition and congratulations to Charles Hunley, MD and Marlow Hernandez for coming in first in the resident and medical student poster presentations. Although only one can take first place in a competition, I was impressed and inspired by the enthusiasm and energy that these physicians in training demonstrated and think that regardless of the outcome of the competition, all of the participants are winners. Congratulations to all of you who participated!

Following this, and the Associates meeting, we concluded on Sunday morning with the traditional game of Doctor's Dilemma, or Medical Jeopardy, where eight teams representing Internal Medicine residency programs at Mount Sinai in Miami, University of Miami /JMH, Cleveland Clinic, Orlando Regional, University of South Florida, University of Florida, University of Florida Jacksonville, and Mayo Clinic Jacksonville battled it out in fierce competition testing wits and knowledge of medical fact and theory with University of Florida, University of Florida Jacksonville and University of South Florida winning their respective rounds and advancing to the next level of competition before a possible showdown at the national level. Congratulations to all of you.

My message would not be complete without welcoming Bridget Anderson as the new director of the Division of Education and Membership of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians who, along with Dawn Moerings, will help keep us on track and able to get through the business of it all. I thank Alice Sutton for everything she did in the past to help us make this a successful organization and for her many years at this helm and wish her well in her future endeavors.

-Stuart Himmelstein, MD, FACP
ACP Governor for Florida
President, Div of Education & Membership

Council of Associates

Get Involved-Make a Difference!

Lior Shamai, DO

Chair, Council of Associates

The day of my white coat ceremony was an emotional day for me as it marked my journey into a career of helping people. Little did I know what had changed for me as I entered the world of real medicine and ventured out of the shielded environment of medical education. It was also an exciting day when, as a second year medical student I went on my first shadowing experience with a local internist. Needless to say, I was not ready for his words of advice. They did not include any secret tips for answering any questions correctly; they did not solve any life mysteries, but they simply stated a harsh reality, "this business is hell"! Business, I thought to myself, was not something I thought was applicable to this noble profession. Little did I know the overwhelming evidence that medicine now involves more than being a noble profession.

I quickly learned that, as with all aspects of our life, medicine is to a large degree a business. Furthermore, the actual decision makers are not always the most qualified. In fact, the overwhelming majority of these decision makers have little knowledge of what physicians actually do. The real decision makers in life are the "professional decision makers", AKA politicians! They possess the legal task of legislating life as we know it, including the way we practice medicine. Politicians, on a daily basis, confer authority on issues that affect the practice of medicine. During my experience in working with the legislature, I learned that every year, a relevant and heroic battle occurs in Tallahassee and Washington, DC. Just like every other profession and business we must have representation with a clear and unified voice so the legislators will know our concerns.

This is the only way the ideals of the medical profession can be preserved. In some cases, we are no longer able to practice medicine as we deem appropriate. Unknown to many physicians, yearly struggles with scope of practice issues, decreased compensation, increased liability and many other issues take place in legislative halls. Amazing battles and feats often are not covered in the media, nor noticed by physicians until the laws that will affect them are set. In my short career as an "advocate", physicians have won and lost battles and then revisited these battles on a recurring basis. I must admit on occasion the thought of letting the battle go on without me has occurred. It takes time to stay involved. It can be frustrating.

continued on page 5

Malcolm T. Foster, Jr., MD, FACP Recognition Dinner



Doctor Malcolm T. Foster, Jr. was honored for his contributions to medicine at a dinner at Amelia Island Plantation on Friday, January 23, 2009. The dinner was held in conjunction with the University of Florida College of Medicine's Department of Medicine annual Update in Internal Medicine. Over 80 people came to celebrate Dr. Foster's contributions to medicine and in many cases to their professional and personal growth. Twelve of Dr. Foster's previous chief residents during his tenure as Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Florida-Jacksonville were in attendance and had the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make new ones.

Doctor Richard Milani, a previous chief resident spoke to the audience of Doctor Foster's significance in his life, not only professionally as a mentor but personally as well. Dr. Milani is Vice Chairman of Medicine at The Oschner Clinic in New Orleans. Malcolm Foster, III, MD also spoke about the influence that his father has had on his life. He is an invasive cardiologist in Knoxville, Tennessee. Dr. Yank Coble, a long time friend and colleague of Doctor Foster's, described Doctor Foster's passion for medicine, his compassion for patients, his love for his family and his commitment to the advocacy of physicians. Doctor Coble is the Director of the Center for Global Health and Medical Diplomacy at the University of North Florida. Based on the wonderful turnout and the comments made, it is evident that Doctor Foster has touched the lives of many individuals and continues to do so. Others present included Doctor Arshag Mooradian, Chairman of the Department of Medicine, Doctor Kay Mitchell, Immediate Past Governor of the Florida Chapter of the American College of Physicians and Doctor Alan Harmon, Treasurer of the Florida Medical Association.



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The Florida Internist is the official publication of the Florida Chapter, American College of Physicians. It is published three times a year.

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Continued on Page 4



From The President

Malcolm T. Foster, Jr., MD, FACP
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We have reorganized the Florida Chapter of ACP. Both the Educational and Advocacy Divisions are now headquartered in Jacksonville under the direction of Dawn Moorings with able assistance from Bridget Anderson. Ms Moerings has already instituted some major cost savings. Our new office will be in the FPIC building. Under major consideration are eliminating one meeting a year and expanding the other meeting in order to accommodate the Associate Members.

In order to balance our budget, the dues for the coming year will be \$70.00, which is down from \$100.00 two years ago, but up from \$60.00 last year. The cost of the annual meeting will be \$50.00 for ACP members who attend. The net result is a leaner chapter but a chapter that can continue to provide all the major initiatives as in the past.

Beginning in 2010 the Florida Chapter along with National ACP will partner with PriMed to offer outstanding scientific programs. Currently under discussion will be four programs a year in different areas of the state. The cost to an individual attendee will be negligible and the Florida Chapter is guaranteed a modest amount of money from the meetings. The intellectual content will mirror the high standards of ACP. The scientific meetings will be open to all practitioners not just ACP members. We will continue to have a business meeting for Florida ACP members at the same time as one or more of the PriMed meetings.

We continue to have an aggressive lobbying program in Tallahassee and Washington under the leadership of Chris Nuland and Dawn Moerings. In the future we will limit the number of participants in these lobbying efforts. Members can expect continued communication from the Governors through our newsletter, voter voice, and electronically.

Our new Governor elect, Mike Zimmer, is already playing an active role, which will help bridge our relationship with FMA. Our Junior Governor, Stu Himmelstein, is well thought of by National ACP and his counsel is often sought by them. Stu has a bright future in National ACP as does our prior Governor, Kay Mitchell, who is running to become a Regent of the College.

All of us in leadership positions are working hard to improve what is a gloomy outlook for general internal medicine. We feel your pain! Clearly, we as a nation are headed for a revolution in health care. I and others want to help "guide the ship", but there are many stakeholders including industry, insurance companies, consumers, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies, and government. The house of medicine is often divided as well.

Internists must distinguish themselves by doing high quality work, by assuming positions of leadership, by working within organized medicine and by donating time and money. Stay involved!

-Malcolm T. Foster, Jr., MD, FACP

Council of Young Physicians: Call to Serve

Joshua Lenchus, DO, FACP, Chairman

The Florida Chapter has recently approved the creation of a Council of Young Physicians. Those members within sixteen years of completing their training are eligible to join at no additional cost. The purpose of this council is to focus on issues of importance to that section of the membership, from the relatively novice to the more experienced. Over the next few months, we will be creating a membership list and soliciting input and feedback about activities. Those interested in participating, regardless of level of intended involvement, should contact Joshua Lenchus, DO, FACP directly at jlenchus@med.miami.edu or by contacting Bridget Anderson at the Chapter Office at flacp@comcast.net or (800) 542-8461.

(Council continued)

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Congratulations to the Winners of the Associates & Medical Students Competitions !!

Florida Chapter ACP Associates Meeting
March 14 - 15, 2009 ~ Weston, Florida

Oral Competition

These four residents will present at the Florida Chapter ACP Regional Meeting, Sept 11 - 13, 2009 in St Pete Beach.

- First** Carolina De la Cuesta - Mt Sinai
The Masquerader
- Second** Teresa Dean - UF
Forgotten Territory in Abdominal Pain
- Third (tie)** Hemali Patel - USF
Disseminated Histoplasmosis: A Likely Suspect in the Immunocompromised
- Third (tie)** Manuel Ribeiro - UM
A Case of Microscopic Polyangitis: Lessons Taken From the Initial Presentation Until the Unexpected End

Poster Competition

- First** Charles Hunley - Orlando
Value of Esophageal Pressure Monitoring in Measuring Transpulmonary Pressure in a Porcine Model of Intra-Abdominal Hypertension
- Second** Jonathan Williamson - UF
Classic Presentation of a Rare Case of Metastatic Hepatocellular Carcinoma
- Third** David Steiger - UF
A Case of Inclusion Body Myositis Presenting with Dyspnea and Pulmonary Function Tests Indicating Extrathoracic Restrictive Disease

Student Poster Competition

- First** Marlow Hernandez - NOVA
Relationship of IL-19 to the Metastatic Potential of a Lung Tumor
- Second** Marcia Slone - USF
Guillain-Barre and Myelodysplastic Syndromes: Unusual Complications of Treatment-Resistant Multiple Myeloma
- Third** Yasser Rodriguez - UM
Emergency Medical Services-to-Balloon Improvement Program in a Large Public Hospital: Impact on English and Non-English Speaking Patients



*Student Poster Competition Winner
Marlow Hernandez - NOVA*

*Poster Competition Winner;
Charles Hunley - Orlando
accepts his award from Dr.
Himmelstein and Dr. Pravia*



Doctors Dilemma

Congratulations to the following Doctors Dilemma finalist teams from the Florida Chapter ACP Associates Meeting! They will compete again at the Florida Chapter ACP Regional Meeting in September at the Tradewinds in St Pete Beach. The winning team from the Regional Meeting will then compete at the 2010 ACP National Competition



University of Florida

Susmeeta Tewari, MD
Iman Imanirad, MD
Stasha Novakovic, MD



University of South Florida

Robert Ledford, MD
Stephanie Pezzo, MD
Mike Small, MD



UF Jacksonville

Toufik Kabbani, MD
Siva Suryadevara, MD
Naveen Seecheran, MD

Member Speaks Out

In my 24 years of being a practicing internist I have had the privilege in using my training in a variety of settings. My road has traveled through community health medicine, upscale private practice, managed care, leadership roles in all facets of medicine including public health service, managed care, private group practice and hospital administration. All had challenges. All had one thing in common: trying to find ways to deliver health care to the citizens of their community or region. They chose different paths to achievement but they made a decision and followed it. The key to succeeding is finding the resolve to make a decision or series of decisions, expend the financial or human capital to execute the decisions, evaluate the decisions and do it again, until you achieve the goal or goals. I agree with Stu and the executive council when we discuss reinventing ourselves as internists. That is a virtual impossibility until we get enough internists to buy into the understanding that we do control "some" of our destiny and that the challenges of internal medicine are not on an automatic downward spiral despite all of our efforts. Let the nurse practitioners get their Ph.D.s and call themselves doctors. The American people only want one thing: quality and affordable health care and you and I want the same thing. We must change our attitude toward the competition and embrace and improve on the strategies they employ. While I agree with my colleague on the debt of becoming a physician, that is the way it is. But let's be real. We, society, put the premium on obtaining a medical degree and the cost of the degree varies depending upon the location of the training. Other professions carry a stiff price tag as well so we are not alone. I don't negate the \$\$ value of obtaining a medical degree or the time to obtain the degree but these are choices we make with our eyes wide open. The resultant debt or reflection on time spent obtaining the degree must cease to be the focal rebuttal to our current situation. We need a new rebuttal that brings society and the value we provide to society into the discussion.

Stu speaks of reinventing ourselves. I will add we must reinvent our image and the model should center on the humanistic and compassionate side of what a doctor represents. Now, before you throw tomatoes, let us all do our homework, be objective and see the picture beyond our individual practices and ourselves. Physicians are revered in general, but we have lost a lot of our luster because as a percentage of the total, far too few of us are extending

our reach into the populations that need medical care. Of the 40+ million without insurance coverage we don't have enough of us opening our offices to assist on a pro bono level or enough volunteers donating 1-2 hours a week in clinics helping to provide some of the basics of primary care. Instead, we, as a whole, are sitting back waiting to see what the government is going to propose. I don't buy the liability response to this lack of altruism because the literature is clear that serving these populations alone is not the reason for an increase in liability claims. On a practice scale, we tend to ignore the wisdom of improved communication including the strategies of focusing on the patient without distractions, utilizing proven communication techniques, communicating effectively with our specialist colleagues to understand the care being provided and serving as the complete manager of our patients' health issues. We chronically allow our offices to run in inefficient manners that offer long waits and lost productivity for our patients yet allow patients to leave with the impression that we don't care and that their time is not as valuable as ours. These are but a few of the palpable issues we as internists can fix. But we must take the lead.

The vocal few in our communities must challenge the silent majority to step up. Moral persuasions will not work. We have to work with existing programs to make the job of volunteering easy and efficient. Sovereign immunity programs in Florida are available for volunteer work. Our societies must continue to pressure our legislature to create the opportunity to lead by serving in efficient manners. We must change the perception that serving the underserved is somehow distasteful and less than we want in our practices. At this stage of the economic downturn, we all know high rollers who are unemployed and underutilized, many of them our friends. And we need to take credit for stepping out there and serving. We must make the "invisible visible". Embracing common communication techniques such as greeting our patients and apologizing for extended wait times, looking them in the eye when discussing their issues, patiently listening without interruption, asking if there is "something" else we can do for them before they leave and thanking them for their patronage, will go a long way to establishing and re-establishing relationships.

-Continued on Page 6

Legislative Update

Christopher L. Nuland, Esq.

With less than three weeks left in the Legislative Session, the Florida Chapter is on the verge of a momentous session. Going into 2009, the Chapter committed to preventing ARNPs from being able to prescribe narcotics, passing a prescription database bill, and improving Medicaid reimbursement. While I hesitate to claim victory with 16 days left, it appears that the ARNP Prescribing Bill will not pass, that a prescription database bill will pass after six years of effort, and that physician Medicaid rates, while not increasing, will be one of the few budget items not cut in this recession year.

That is not to say that we have been successful in all of our efforts, our managed care reforms still languish in committee, and we continue to fight efforts to make electronic records a condition of licensure, although we are working with the sponsors to promote the use of EHR without such mandates.

Especially in this difficult year, special thanks go to those physicians who took two days out of their practices to lobby with us in Tallahassee. There can be no doubt that much of our success, and that of all of Organized Medicine, is due to the selfless sacrifice of these dedicated doctors.

Get Involved - *(continued from Page 2)*

However, I realize that no one would represent my values and views of my profession if no one participated. Therefore, I have learned that those issues that concern me are best represented by me! Concepts that were foreign to me only a short time ago such as scope of practice, SGR, and medical home are now very clear to me and at the core of my fight for professional survivorship. My yearly "toast of sorrow," as I refer to it now, is timed with the yearly results of these not so foreign concepts. I now wake up with the realization that "they" will try to outlast me. This has convinced me to shrug my shoulders, suit up and go right back into the political ring. On my most recent trip to Tallahassee the majority leader sat with the ACP delegation and told us that our concerns would not be met since "the cry we carry did not bring enough pain". No matter the issue, politicians respond to pain of their constituents. What will it take to get our message across to the decision makers? It will take you, my colleagues and fellow physicians to suit up and join me!

Help, join in, speak, rejoice and get actively involved because we hurt when we lose. Not only do we hurt but our patients hurt. We are the voice for them as well as the medical profession.

I know that I will continue to be there to fight for our profession and I hope to see you there beside me on the hill next time as our strength is in our unity and purpose of action.

Lior Shamai, DO
Chair, Council of Associates

For additional information please contact Lior Shamai, DO or Dawn Moerings at FloridaChapterACP@comcast.net or 800-542-8641.

Membership Corner

Jason M. Goldman, MD, FACP - Membership Chairman

When I first joined the American College of Physicians, I often wondered where my membership money went and as time went on, I realized that it allowed the college to perform many worthy and beneficial services to its members. As the Chairman of Membership, I see the importance of our members and what they mean to the college. Every member helps to fund this great organization that primarily focused on the betterment of the profession of Internal Medicine.

Your dues are vital to the continuance of this organization and have been used to foster the academic and advocacy divisions. Without this support, we would not be able to have associate meetings and scientific sessions. The continued education of our physicians would be curtailed without our members. In addition, great strides have been made to safeguard the profession against various laws and groups that would weaken our learned profession. The advocacy division coordinates key meetings with members of the Florida legislature in Tallahassee and members of Congress in Washington. Reformation of the medical system is a steady process requiring the involvement of our physicians dedicated to advocacy. Without your support as a member, none of this could be possible.

I want to thank all the current members who continue to support our organization and encourage them to apply for fellowship in the college. I also hope that each member will speak to their non-member colleagues and encourage them to join the college. We can make a difference by all being a part of college.

"Some of the Membership Benefits Available to you":

- ~Legal Services (Associates receive one free contract review)
- ~Malpractice program member discounts (FPIC)
- ~Workers' Compensation Program (Comp Options)

Member Speaks Out - *(continued from Page 5)*

It is relationship that ARNPs and PAs are selling to our patients. Ask your patients who has the better personality and sense of caring. OK, we have the MD but they have the patient's heart. Which would you rather have? I would rather have both. We must manage our front office like Disney. Our tolerance of our staff ignoring patients or their needs must change. Visit a doctor's office and observe how customers, yes, customers are treated. We must do better and hold our staffs to a higher level of accountability to enhance our name and reputation.

Yes, it is time for a change. We have the knowledge and the expertise is inexpensive to obtain. Do we fight the windmill or do we beat the competition at their own game. It is not whether you agree with me and my comments, but that we realize that a change in our tactics is necessary. The tactics to reinventing ourselves are hampered only by our desire to do things differently. The work is not hard. It is just different and sometimes doing things differently makes all the difference in the world. I do this stuff everyday and it works. Find others in your community who do the same. Be a champion in reinventing internal medicine, not just for patients, but for ourselves.

-Michael L. Howell, M.D., MBA, FACP



It Pays To Be a Member *of*

**The Florida Chapter of the
American College of Physicians**

The Florida Chapter of the American College of Physician's is pleased to announce our endorsement of Florida based First Professionals Insurance Company (FPIC) as the official provider of professional liability insurance for Florida Chapter ACP members.

Members in good standing of the Florida Chapter ACP are eligible for a 5 percent discount on malpractice premiums. Florida Chapter ACP members may also be eligible for additional claims-free discounts for even greater savings up to 25 percent.

With FPIC There is a Difference:

- ◆ Florida's largest malpractice carrier
- ◆ Unmatched record of defending Florida doctors
- ◆ Physicians insured with FPIC receive legal defense coverage for investigations by the Florida Board of Medicine and other state and federal agencies at no additional charge.



First Professionals Insurance Company

For more information visit our website at www.firstprofessionals.com or contact Angie Nykamp, Director of Society Relations, FPIC, 800.741.3742, ext. 3071, or by e-mail at angie.nykamp@fpic.com

Florida Chapter

BG8096

MARK YOUR CALENDAR !!

~Florida Chapter Scientific Session ~

September 11-13, 2009

TradeWinds Island Grand Resort ~ St Pete Beach, FL

The University of South Florida will be responsible for the scientific program.