

Georgia Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2004

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Governor, Georgia Chapter



FROM THE GOVERNOR'S CORNER

The ACP Georgia Chapter 2004 annual meeting is fast approaching - and a terrific meeting it promises to be. This issue of the newsletter includes information about:

- Our tandem Spring Meetings
 - Annual chapter scientific meeting
 - Fundamental Critical Care Support (FCCS)
- The Fall Board of Governors meeting
- Legislative and public policy initiatives
- Associates' and students' activities

First, the **Spring Meetings**: I hope you will join us in Savannah for the Annual Chapter meeting **March 26-28, 2004** and perhaps also for the Fundamentals of Critical Care Course March 24-26, 2004. Both meetings will be held at the Hyatt on the riverfront in Savannah. You should have received a brochure and registration form in the mail. You may also view the meeting brochure and print a registration form at website: www.acponline.org/cme/regmtg/ga-2004.pdf.

Georgia Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting: Joyce Doyle and Harold Szerlip, co-chairs of the scientific meeting program planning committee, have done a superb job creating an outstanding agenda that includes updates in internal medicine, health and public policy, and Associates and Students' programs. The theme of the meeting is "Internal Medicine: From the Office to the Bedside and Beyond". The program will include practical updates, practice management, and public policy issues. The presentations will feature lectures, interactive sessions using an audience response system, workshops, oral and poster abstracts, discussions, and, of course, time for informal interaction with friends and colleagues.

Fundamental Critical Care Support Course: Vince Nicolais is directing a nationally acclaimed critical care course, developed by the Society of Critical Care Medicine especially for non-critical care physicians. We are extraordinarily fortunate that Vince was willing to direct the course as a contiguous part of our annual state meeting. He has assembled a group of

renowned faculty to teach the didactic and hands-on course. I am very grateful that Bill Browne has arranged for us to use state-of-the art critical equipment from Eisenhower Army Medical Center for the practical stations.

While you are enjoying these excellent meetings (and earning valuable CME hours - 17.5 for the Chapter meeting and 16 for the FCCS), your family can enjoy a spring weekend in Savannah. The 69th Annual Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens, and the Savannah Music Festival will both be held during our meeting.

Fall Board of Governors Meeting: The two major topics of the Fall Board of Governors meeting were the Revitalization of Internal Medicine Summit and recertification.

- Revitalization: There is a widespread perception that internal medicine is in a state of crisis: many internists feel disillusioned with national directions in health care, and frustrated with bureaucracy, reimbursement, and diminishing personal time. While student applications to medical school are increasing, the number of students choosing a career in internal medicine is not. In response to observations like these, the ACP convened a Revitalization of IM Summit November 1-2, 2003. Summit participants included the Council of Subspecialty Societies, the American Board of Internal Medicine, the Society of General Internal Medicine, the Society of Hospital Medicine and the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine, comprised of the Association of Professors of Medicine, the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine, the Association of Subspecialty Professors, the Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine, and the Administrators of Internal Medicine. Participants identified priority issues, including redesigning systems of care, relationships, resource allocation, and rethinking components of training.

- Recertification remains a major concern of the ACP as indicated by the several resolutions that were introduced at the meeting. The Recertification Liaison Committee, recommended by the ACP, is working with the ABIM to ensure the recertification process is fair, allows judicious use of time, and consists of multiple pathway options. There has been no change in the recertification process yet. However, I am convinced a fair, equitable, and mutually acceptable solution will be reached.

HEALTH & PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

National Scene - The Medicare Prescription Bill
President Bush signed the Medicare prescription drug bill into law in December. It will replace the 4.5% cut in physician payments scheduled for 2004, and includes a positive update of at least 1.5% in 2004 and again in 2005. The bill also includes other measures strongly supported by ACP, including:

- regulatory relief provisions to reform the Medicare audit process
- improvement of carrier performance
- requiring testing of alternatives to onerous Evaluation and Management paperwork requirements
- incentives--rather than mandates--for electronic prescribing

State Scene - Tort Reform

We are working closely with MAG (Medical Association of GA) coordinating efforts at the grassroots level. MAG has had tort reform rallies throughout the state. Hopefully you supported the one in your area. Please visit the MAG website at www.mag.org and scroll down the right column of the home page to visit MAG's "PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY RESOURCE CENTER." There you will find everything you need to know about the tort reform issue at the grassroots, state and national levels. An excellent article clearly outlining the issue in Georgia is available there: Georgia's Emerging Crisis in Medical Liability by MAG's Executive Director David Cook, presented at the October 2002 Advanced Health Care Law seminar sponsored by the Health Law Section of the Georgia Bar Association. (PDF format)

On October 16, House Speaker Terry Coleman appointed the Special Advisory Committee on Tort Reform. The Speaker stated that the committee would "look at ideas and explore options in the areas of civil justice, insurance and health care issues." Their first meeting was on December 16. It is important that committee members hear from physicians around the state regarding the negative impact that the current medical liability environment is having on the access and cost of health care for the patients of Georgia. The members of the committee and contact information are listed below. You may also reach these legislators via email through the MAG website at www.mag.org.

- Representative Tom Bordeaux (D-Savannah) Co-Chair 912-233-7180
- Representative Butch Parrish (D-Swainsboro) Co-Chair 478-237-7032 E-mail: lparrish@legis.state.ga.us
- Representative Stephanie Stuckey Benfield (D-Decatur) 404-377-7014 E-mail: stuckey@mindspring.com
- Representative Mike Boggs (D-Waycross) 912-338-0350 E-mail: mboggs@legis.state.ga.us
- Representative Mark Burkhalter (R-Alpharetta) 770-418-9098 E-mail: mburkhal@legis.state.ga.us
- Representative Tom Campbell (R-Roswell) 770-640-6243

- Representative Buddy Childers (D-Rome) 404-656-5141 E-mail: embuddy@comcast.net
- Representative Ron Dodson (D-Lake City) 404-803-6612 E-mail: dodson.ron@worldnet.net
- Representative Keith Heard (D-Athens) 706-353-1772 E-mail: kheard@legis.state.ga.us
- Representative Lester Jackson (D-Savannah) 912-233-7970
- Representative Curtis Jenkins (D-Forsyth) 478-994-4257
- Representative Jimmy Lord (D-Sandersville) 478-552-9910
- Representative Randal Mangham (D-Decatur) 404-525-0100
- Representative Greg Morris (D-Vidalia) 912-538-1062
- Representative DuBose Porter (D-Dublin) 478-272-5522
- Representative Jimmy Skipper (D-Americus) 229-924-9316
- Representative Lynn Smith (R-Newnan) 770-253-9427 E-mail: lysmith@legis.state.ga.us

MARK YOUR CALENDER!!

Primary Care Physician Legislative Day at the Capitol, Wednesday, March 10, 2004. Contact me by email: jwfincher@compuserve.com if you can participate.

Jacqueline Fincher, Chair
Health and Public Policy Committee

GEORGIA CHAPTER ESTABLISHES LEADERSHIP AWARD

I am honored to announce David Satcher, MD, will be the inaugural recipient of the newly established American College of Physicians Georgia Chapter Leadership Award. The award honors key leaders whose contributions embody the core principles of the ACP to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care, public health policy, and/or medical education. Unlike recipients of the prestigious Laureate Award, Leadership Award recipients do not need to be physicians or residents of Georgia.

You will not want to miss Dr. Satcher's keynote address at the annual chapter meeting on Saturday, March 27, 2004 at 3:15 PM. He will receive the Leadership Award at the Awards Banquet that evening. Dr. Satcher is a remarkable man. He served as Surgeon General of the United States, Assistant Secretary for Health, Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, President of Meharry Medical College, and is currently Director of the National Center for Primary Care at the Morehouse School of Medicine. His extraordinary contributions have resulted in enduring advances in numerous domains such as diminishing racial and ethnic disparities in health, enhancing preventive and mental health care, and diminishing morbidity and mortality from substance abuse. Healthy People 2010 has already had a major impact on medical education and preventive healthcare.

Who shall we choose as our second recipient in 2005?

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY ELECTED FELLOWS

Congratulations to the 11 Georgia Chapter members elected to Fellowship at the November meeting of the Credentials Subcommittee. Our new Fellows are:

Ferdinand Alclaide	Andre Kallab
Julie Gerberding	David Propp
Ephraim Bassey	M.J. Williams
W. Greg Berkley	David Roberts
Anita Dhople	John Brice
James Hipkens	

I hope all of the new Fellows will attend and participate in the convocation at the annual national ACP meeting in New Orleans April 22-24, 2004. I am already looking forward to participating with you in the procession. Congratulations, and don't forget to sign your name with an additional suffix, FACP!

Are You Eligible for Advancement to Fellowship? If So, Apply!

Applications for advancement to Fellowship may be submitted anytime, but the Credentials Subcommittee reviews applications and selects new Fellows only twice annually. Applications must be submitted by June 1 for the November meeting and December 1 for the May meeting. Henry Patton, chair of the Georgia Chapter Membership Committee, and I are eager to increase the number of ACP members and Fellows in Georgia. If you are board certified, licensed to practice medicine, and have been a member of the ACP for at least two years, you may be eligible for advancement to Fellowship. The four pathways to fellowship are outlined below.

Prerequisites

- Be certified by the ABIM, RCPC, or AOBIM (May be waived in extraordinary circumstances)
- Have a license to practice medicine
- Have completed residency training, been an ACP member at least 2 years, and been in clinical practice or academic medicine for at least 2 years
- Be proposed and seconded by 2 Masters or Fellows*
- Have a commitment to lifelong learning and professional development

*Nancy Brady and Rhee Fincher will be glad to help identify Fellows/Masters to serve as nominator and seconder if you are not sure who is a Fellow.

Then, Qualify by the guidelines of 1 of the 4 Pathways

Note: Pathways are not mutually exclusive; "combinations" are permissible.

Pathway 1- The Academician

- Have an academic appointment as a clinician-investigator, clinician-educator, or administrator
- Write and publish scholarly works such as scientific research papers, review articles, or book chapters.

Pathway 2- The Scholar/Teacher/ Multiply Certified Internist

- Actively participate in community service activities, contribute as a teacher in Continuing Education and Professional Development activities
- Have at least one of the following credentials:
 - Re-certification by the ABIM
 - Dual board certification/advanced qualifications (e.g., certified by ABIM plus a medicine sub-specialty or BIM plus added qualifications in geriatrics)
 - Completion of MKSAP for a score (must submit score, but specific level not required)

Pathway 3- The Active ACP-ASIM Member

- Have been a member of the ACP for at least 10 years
- Be active in ACP national and/or state meetings and committees

Pathway 4- The Senior Physician

- May have been a longstanding Member or have joined ACP later in life
- Have demonstrated longstanding professional activity in the community, in teaching, in patient care, or in service
- Be a role model for other physicians and health professionals

Note: Community service, especially voluntary provision of medical care and participation in ACP activities, significantly enhance the likelihood of advancement in all four pathways.

Encouragement: The application process is not "that bad". . . and I am sure you will not regret the effort. For an application please contact:

Nancy Brady
nbrady@mail3.newnanutilities.org;
214 White Oak Drive, Newnan, GA 30265

I understand it is acceptable to append your CV and write "see CV" in response to questions that are answered in your CV (be sure to mark the appropriate lines in your CV). Nancy will be glad to supply a list of Fellows in your region if you are uncertain who to approach as a nominator and seconder.

I am eager for all members who deserve to be Fellows to advance to Fellowship! Please help make 2004 "The Year of the Fellow" by:

- Nominating at least one member for advancement to Fellowship if you are a Fellow or Master
- Applying for advancement to Fellowship if you are an eligible member
- Advancing to membership if you completed residency training at least one year ago

ASSOCIATES' COLUMN

The State Chapter Meeting -What's in this for Associates?

As I reflect back upon my recently completed residency training (all six months that have passed), some of my fondest memories center on the scientific meetings that I was fortunate enough to attend. Among the most enjoyable and informative of these meetings was the yearly gathering of the Georgia Chapter of the American College of Physicians. The opportunity to take a short hiatus from the hospital, to present scientific work to an interested audience, and to enjoy the fellowship of my colleagues from sister institutions within the region were all valuable experiences. In addition, the possibilities to network as graduation approaches, and to be mentored by leaders in medical education are endless. This year's meeting will provide all of the above!

The Georgia Chapter of the ACP will enjoy another vibrant Associates' Program, complete with resident research and clinical vignette presentations in poster and podium format. Seventy-eight abstracts were presented for judging, over double from any previous year's submissions! Notification of abstracts selected for presentation will be made after judging is complete, and should be around January 13, 2004. The quality of the work submitted is amazing, and reflects the excellence of the training programs within our chapter. The entire weekend should provide the perfect combination of education and enjoyment for housestaff and practicing internists alike.

The Associates' Program is not all about lectures! For the competitive spirits among you, Medical Jeopardy will again be featured in the program. Fresh off their victory from last year, the Medical College of Georgia returns to Savannah to defend their state title against competition hungry for revenge. It is our chapter's version of March Madness! Aside from pride on the line, also at stake is a trip to the National ACP meeting as the Georgia State Representative! You had better bring your "A Game" to this venue, as housestaff teams from each institution display lightning fast reflexes rivaled only by their quick minds.

For any questions regarding the Associate's Program at the Georgia Chapter meeting, or any suggestions, please feel free to contact me anytime:

Matt Pantsari

Chief Resident Eisenhower Army Medical Center

Matthew.Pantsari@se.amedd.army.mil,

706-787-2325 See you in Savannah!

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE FOURTH ANNUAL LITERARY RETREAT NEW DATE - SAME LOCATION

Evan Weisman, MD, FACP, has announced the Fourth Annual Literary Retreat sponsored by the Georgia Chapter of the ACP will be held November 5-7, 2004 at the beautiful Amicolola Falls State Lodge. You and your spouse or guest are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

Previous retreat attendees have given "rave reviews" with respect to the literary discussions, location, and collegiality of the group. This year's topic, "Plague and Community", is remarkably timely in light of emerging diseases and their impact on global health. The books that will form the basis for the discussion address human communities affected by plaque or other calamitous outbreaks and how such tragedies stimulate identification of common bonds and bring diverse communities of human beings together. Albert Camus' *The Plague* will be one of the books discussed.

The retreat is not only an opportunity to participate in engaging literary discussion with people who share common interests, enjoy a beautiful part of the state, and meet new friends but also provides ten CME credits. You do not need to be an avid reader or have expertise in literary discussion to enjoy and benefit from this retreat. Please give it a try! If you do, I predict you will want to return.

A brochure and registration materials will be sent to all state ACP members and will be posted on the chapter website:

www.acponline.org/chapters/ga

The registration fee of \$130.00 per couple includes one set of reading materials and complimentary Saturday morning breakfast. Dinner and lodging (special group rate) are not included in the registration fee, but are tax deductible.

**Mark your calendar for the
Fourth Annual Literary Retreat**

Date: November 5-7, 2004

Location: Amicolola Falls State Lodge

Evan Weisman, Chair, Literary Retreat

—VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE—

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

ANNUAL SESSION APRIL 22-24, 2004 IN NEW ORLEANS

Register for and make the most of the Annual Session and your visit to New Orleans. In addition to attending the excellent scientific sessions, come early and take advantage of the pre-session courses April 20-21. Don't forget to make some time to enjoy the city itself, as there are many New Orleans attractions in addition to The Quarter.

More than 260 sessions provide comprehensive coverage of internal medicine and its subspecialties, as well as issues in practice management and health care policy. Whatever your learning style or educational interest, the Scientific Program offers something for you.

After a busy day of learning, meeting colleagues, and reacquainting with old friends, take some time to enjoy the eclectic city you are visiting. Enjoy some jazz, the heartbeat of New Orleans, as well as its world famous Southern food and hospitality. Additionally, New Orleans is replete with architecture with Spanish and French influence, numerous art galleries, a rich literary tradition, and fascinating history. Your family, including children, would enjoy the city.

Start planning for the 2004 ACP Annual Session in New Orleans (but only AFTER you register for the 2004 Georgia Chapter ACP Annual meeting in Savannah!).

“HATS OFF” TO JACQUELINE FINCHER!

Jacqueline Fincher, MD, was a “very good” resident who has blossomed into a wonderful internist. I have known Jacqueline since she and I worked together as resident and attending in her resident Continuity Care Clinic on Friday afternoons at the Medical College of Georgia. She and her husband, Jamie Lemley, MD, have been partners in McDuffie Medical Associates, Thomson, Georgia since she completed residency training in 1988.

Almost from the day she joined the practice with her husband, his father, and his brother, Jacqueline has been highly respected, admired, and “loved” as a superb physician. She has become a highly respected and integral part of her community. I will mention only a few of the many ways she has impacted and supported her patients, peers, and community.

- Jacqueline has led a monthly breast cancer support group for the past ten years, since she was faced with the diagnosis of breast cancer as a young woman. Jacqueline not only faced her own mortality and successfully negotiated the physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges of her illness, but also has become an inspiration for numerous women who are struggling with breast cancer.
- Jacqueline has been a leader in the American Heart Association (AHA) at the local, state, and national levels. In 2000, she received the Physician of the Year Award by the AHA, the most prestigious award given by the Association.
- Jacqueline has been a tireless worker for the ACP Georgia chapter during the tenure of several governors. She promised to be a partner and remain a leader in the chapter if I were elected. She is certainly a woman of her word. Jacqueline accepted the monumental responsibility of heading the entire health, public policy, and advocacy domain of the ACP Georgia Chapter when I became governor, and has done a noble job. She has been a leader in state and national Leadership Days, and has contacted, met with, and gotten to know her legislators personally. She is leading collaboration between our chapter and the Medical Association of Georgia (MAG) in an effort to strengthen our united legislative impact.
- Former Governor Joe Stubbs asked Jacqueline to lead the MEDlinePlus patient education project for the state when Georgia was selected to be one of two states in which the ACP-National Library of Medicine project would be pilot tested. As always, she is doing a great job.
- In her “spare” time, Jacqueline is a terrific internist, wife, and Mom to daughter, Laura. Hats Off and thanks to you, Jacqueline!

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR NEWLY FORMED WOMEN PHYSICIANS' COMMITTEE

Hina Trivedi and T Gongaware, co-chairs of the Women Physicians' Committee, extend a special invitation to join and contribute to the committee. All chapter members who are interested in health care issues that affect women or in supporting the career development of women physicians are encouraged to join. As many "women's issues" are really "physician issues", Hina and T are eager to assemble a diverse group of women and men as well as Associate and student members.

The goal of the Committee is to increase involvement, particularly by women, in physician affairs, provide mentorship and support, foster leadership skills development, nurture the career development of women physicians, and support all physician colleagues.

More specifically, the committee aims to:

- (1) Increase membership, especially women
- (2) Provide mentorship for women medical students and physicians
- (3) Explore how the more naturally "female" qualities can work to the advantage, and sometimes disadvantage, of professional women
- (4) Provide a forum to discuss problems commonly faced by women, including juggling roles at home and work, and childcare issues.

Please let **Hina Trivedi** (e-mail: hinatrivedi@hotmail.com), **T Gongaware** (e-mail: tgongaware1@comcast.net), or **Nancy Brady** (e-mail: nbrady@mail3.newnanutilities.org phone: 770-252-1858) know if you would like to join the group.

ELECTRONIC PATIENT CARE RELATED TOOLS

Please visit the following websites that are valuable patient education and patient care resources.

www.medlineplus.gov: This is a wonderful patient education site, created collaboratively by the ACP and National Library of Medicine. It contains educational materials regarding numerous diseases and links to other patient education sites.

www.acponline.org/specialreports: This site contains educational tapes and handout materials for patients. Not only are they high quality materials, but also are FREE and available in English and Spanish.

http://pier.acponline.org/index.html?hp: PIER (Physician's Information and Education Resource) contains more than 300 modules and is an excellent, concise, easy-to-navigate resource for clinical care. PIER provides high quality patient management information related to diagnosis and management.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Georgia Chapter Annual Meetings (Double Header!)
in Savannah
Fundamentals of Critical Care Session
March 24-26, 2004
Hyatt Regency

Annual Meeting of ACP Georgia Chapter
March 26-28, 2004
Hyatt Regency

National Annual Session in New Orleans
April 22-24, 2004

Leadership Day - Georgia
March 10, 2004

Leadership Day - Washington DC
May 18-19, 2004

Literary Retreat - Amicolola Falls, Georgia
November 5-7, 2004