Dear Friends & Colleagues,

April & May were a whirlwind of ACP activities with the Board of Governors Meeting, Internal Medicine 2014 in Orlando, and Leadership Day in Washington, DC., and now the summer is already coming to a close. I hope you have had some special time off this summer with friends and family. I know many of our medical students and residents have been in major career transitions over the summer, and we wish them well. Soon it will be time for the Fall Board of Governors meeting and our annual Georgia Chapter Scientific meeting, October 24-26, at the Lodge & Spa at Callaway Gardens. Registration is already open and the Lodge books up quickly, so make your reservations now.

Link to Chapter Meeting Registration (Click here.)

I want to bring you up to date on happenings within ACP since my last newsletter in March. Our Governor-elect, Walter Moore, MD, FACP and I attended the ACP Board of Governor’s meeting in Orlando at the end of April where we represented the Georgia Chapter. I had the pleasure of serving on the BOG Resolution Reference Committee this time and had a greater perspective and appreciation of the very intelligent thoughtful comments by all the Chapter Governors. I submitted comments and recommendations on each of the resolutions, many of which came directly from you. These resolutions have subsequently been reviewed by the Board of Regents and acted upon. Click here for the summary.

Maintenance of Certification

The issue of Maintenance of Certification was discussed extensively at the BOG meeting. It is important for you to know our ACP leadership, (CEO, Steve Weinberger, MD, ACP President, David Fleming, MD, and ACP Chair of Board of Regents, Robert Centor, MD), understands completely how critical this issue is to our membership. They have heard your voices loud and clear, through the Resolutions presented, as well as open and very frank discussions during the meeting. I refer you to the June letter (click here) from our leadership to members following the BOG meeting as well as to the editorial in the Annals of Internal Medicine (click here) written by our leadership.

I also want to make you aware of the plethora of MOC resources on the ACP website, including two new ones, Virtual Patients and MOC Flash cards.

MOC Resources: (Click here.)

Earn CME/MOC points for free. (Click here.)

New MOC Flash cards app. (Click here.)

Immediately following the Board of Governors meeting, Walt and I also attended our excellent national scientific meeting, Internal Medicine 2014. At the Opening Ceremony, the new ACP logo (see above) and tag line was revealed — “Leading Internal Medicine, Improving Lives.” It was accompanied by a wonderful new video that truly reminds us all of why we went into Internal Medicine. I encourage you to take a look. (Click here.)
Convocation

I especially enjoyed our annual Convocation ceremonies welcoming twelve new Fellows (FACP) into our Chapter in addition to honoring our four national award winners from the Georgia. Walter Moore, MD, MACP from Augusta & Robert Lubitz, MD, MACP from Atlanta, were named new Masters in the College (MACP). Stacy Higgins MD, FACP, from Atlanta, was awarded the W. Lester Henry Award for Diversity & Access to Care for her outstanding accomplishments in advancing diversity in clinical medicine and access to care in diverse populations. Jacqueline Green, MD, was awarded the Joseph E. Johnson Leadership Award for her outstanding leadership as an ACP associate in advocacy and health policy. Following Convocation, we had our very enjoyable annual Georgia reception combined with the Florida Chapter, where we honored all our new fellows and award winners and greeted friends and colleagues from the two states. Also of note at IM 2014, one of our very own student members, Caroline Lewis, M2 at the Medical College of Georgia, was one of only five winners in the 2014 National Medical Students Competition and invited to make a podium presentation at the meeting. Additionally, our Associates’ Doctors Dilemma team from Morehouse Internal Medicine Residency Program participated at the national level competition, and we had twelve Residents present their posters at the meeting. The Georgia ACP Chapter truly has outstanding members at every level of education, training, and professional practice. I am so proud of ALL our members and the work we do together on behalf of our patients, communities, and our profession.

ACP Leadership Day

In May, fourteen of our GA ACP members (the largest group ever) attended the national ACP Leadership Day in Washington, DC, where we met with every GA Congressman’s and Senator’s office. Those members included: Henry Patton, Emmett Doerr, Clyde Watkins (w/ graduate student, Ariel Edwards), Cody McClatchey, Len Lichtenfeld, Fred Turton, Danny Newman, Stephen Goggans, Deep Shah, Michelle Clermont, Laura Lemley, myself and our executive director, Mary Daniels. We divided and conquered the sixteen offices and spoke to each one specifically about:

• extending the program that pays primary care physicians and most internal medicine subspecialists no less than the Medicare rates for designated services provided to Medicaid recipients (which, if allowed to expire on Dec. 31, 2014, will cause deep Medicaid payment cuts in most states);

• enacting legislation to permanently repeal the Medicare SGR formula;

• co-sponsoring a bipartisan bill to establish “safe harbors” from malpractice lawsuits for physicians who follow evidence-based clinical guidelines; and

• funding for workforce and Graduate Medical Education programs to address the growing shortage of internal medicine physicians.

In all there were ~ 350 internal medicine physicians, residents, fellows, and medical students from almost every state and DC who were briefed on these
key issues then went to Capitol Hill to make our case. We were reminded by our ACP President, David A. Fleming, MD, FACP, how important it is for each of us as an internal medicine physician “to also be an advocate for policies and practices that will influence the welfare of our patients and the health of our society. We (ACP members) advocate for policies that benefit our patients in accordance with the highest standards of care in practice and our profession.”

As always in my Governor’s newsletter, I like to address the “triple aim” of my focus as your Governor in the areas of Education, Advocacy, and Membership. I refer you to the Reports from each of these Committee Chairmen. Highlights include:

**EDUCATION**
(Brian Ribiero, MD, FACP, Chairman)

Our annual Chapter Scientific Meeting on October 24-26, at the Lodge & Spa at Callaway Gardens, will have a dual tract for hospitalists and ambulatory care internal medicine physicians. Our focus for the meeting will be on High Value Care and Transitions of Care. In addition, the ACP Chair of the Board of Regents, Robert Centor, MD, FACP, will be our guest and will be addressing the ACP High Value Care Initiative and the issue of Maintenance of Certification. We will also be offering, the 2014 General Internal Medicine and the Hospital Medicine SEP modules for MOC points at the Chapter meeting on Sunday morning, October 25.

You will have the option on Saturday to choose your tract OR mix and match to your educational needs. You will receive updates from our chapter Governor on legislative and governmental issues that directly impact your clinical and professional practice. We look forward to our resident and medical student programs which include poster and podium presentations as well as the ever-popular resident and student jeopardy competitions. I am really excited about this year’s meeting and hope to see you in Pine Mountain in October!

[Click here for a LINK to chapter Meeting brochure.](#)

The Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia is a wonderful venue with many outdoor activities from PGA quality golf courses to hiking, biking, and nature watching activities.

Please take note of ACP’s new web-based, mobile-optimized clinical decision support tool ACP Smart Medicine, developed specifically for internal medicine physicians containing 500 modules that provide guidance and information on a broad range of diseases and conditions. Integrated with content from Annals of Internal Medicine, ACP JournalWise, and ACP’s clinical practice guidelines with a display that automatically adjusts to desktops, smartphones, and tablets, the clinical recommendations in ACP Smart Medicine are evidence-based and rated based on the quality of the underlying evidence.

Information is continually updated through triggered updates with new, relevant content and guidelines. Additionally, ACP High Value Care recommendations identify care activities that offer little benefit to patients. ACP Smart Medicine also offers easy access to submit for CME credit. Physicians can select modules from the list of content areas they have reviewed, answer a question, and submit for CME credit. ACP Smart Medicine is available as a free benefit to ACP members and can be purchased by non-members.

**ADVOCACY**
(Emmett Doerr, MD, FACP, Chairman)

See the report [click here](#) from HPPC from the last legislative session review and pictures from Leadership Day in Washington, DC and issues we anticipate in the Georgia Legislature in 2015.

From a national perspective please see the following two reports of the “Top Ten Advocacy Wins for ACP in 2013” [click here](#) and the “2014-2015 ACP Advocacy Priorities” [click here](#).
**NEW Residency Legislative Internship at Georgia Capitol**

The Resident/Fellow Council of the Georgia ACP Chapter would like to present you with a wonderful opportunity to increase your knowledge about the state legislative process by sponsoring a two-week to four-week Health Legislative-Advocacy Internship program at the Georgia General Assembly. You will be working with key members of house or senate office. The program will allow residents and fellows to have the unique opportunity to participate in the political process of organized medicine at the State level. This rotation is for anyone who is interested to learn about how the legislative process works at the state level. In addition, this rotation will help you learn the process and power of advocacy has on your profession, it will help you to stay informed of all advocacy initiatives, and leadership opportunities in your state. In addition, you will learn about public health issues affecting your state, and at the national level such as health disparities, obesity assessment and management, adolescent health, infectious disease, geriatrics, etc. [Click here](#) for a summary of the pilot project from the Resident Council Chairman, Eddie Fatakhov, MD and information about the Internship.

If you have any specific questions or you are considering to apply, email Residents or Fellows interested in applying for this year’s Internship should email mdaniels@gaacp.org.

---

**MEMBERSHIP**

*(Jim Hotz, MD, MACP & Danny Newman, MD, FACP, Co-Chairmen)*

We have just received our end of fiscal year totals on membership in the last week. I am extremely proud to report we had increases in every category of membership this past year!


**Georgia Membership Counts 2013-14**

*Governor: Jacqueline Fincher*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jul-09</th>
<th>Jul-10</th>
<th>Jul-11</th>
<th>Jul-12</th>
<th>Jul-13</th>
<th>Jul-14</th>
<th>% Change from 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Masters</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>4.35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fellows</td>
<td>587</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>573</td>
<td>576</td>
<td>591</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>2.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>1288</td>
<td>1261</td>
<td>1242</td>
<td>1246</td>
<td>1247</td>
<td>0.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Res/Fellow</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>384</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>437</td>
<td>12.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students</td>
<td>575</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>566</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>718</td>
<td>12.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affiliates</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>50.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phys. Affs.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,870</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,814</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,770</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,815</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,894</strong></td>
<td><strong>3,043</strong></td>
<td><strong>5.15%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This across the board increase in membership is a huge accomplishment for our Chapter. I believe internal medicine physicians, general and subspecialists, need our ACP professional organization now more than ever! It is truly our professional home. Spread the word and recruit a colleague through the [Recruit-a-Colleague program](#) and earn major discounts on your own membership.

---

**SUMMARY**

In closing, as internal medicine physicians we have many challenges to confront during this transformational time in health care. I believe as a Chapter and as a national organization, the ACP is working hard to address and meet the needs of our members by providing excellent educational opportunities, advocacy for our profession at the state and national level, practical guidelines and help in transitioning our practices to the future, and providing expertise in undergraduate and graduate medical education.

I look forward to seeing you at our Chapter meeting in October!

Sincerely, Jacqueline
We select and negotiate the best price terms on products and services such as Vaccines, EHRs, Insurance, Pharmaceuticals, Medical and Office Supplies and much more! Members have free access to over 70 preferred pricing solutions!

PLUS...In addition to best pricing, our Vaccines Rebate Program gives our members the opportunity to realize even more savings on vaccines!

Thousands of Practices Saving Millions of Dollars!

We are a nonprofit Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) serving practices of all specialties and sizes nationwide.

No Contract!
Join Today And Save!
FREE Membership!

www.physiciansalliance.com
866-348-9780

www.twitter.com/physall
www.facebook.com/physiciansallianceofamerica

WELLSTAR

WellStar Provider Services
Phone: (470) 644-0039
www.wellstarcareers.org
Save the Date

October 24-26, 2014
at Callaway Gardens

Georgia ACP Annual Scientific Meeting:

The Lodge and Spa at Callaway Gardens,
Autograph Collection

4500 Southern Pine Dr.,
Pine Mountain, Georgia 31822

http://www.gaACP.org/