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Governor's Message

This is my first newsletter as ACP Governor for Idaho. I would like to introduce myself to the members of the ACP in Idaho, and get to know each of you as well.

First, I want to thank **Steve Montamat**, the past ACP Governor of Idaho. Steve has helped me tremendously in the transition period to my term as Governor. Steve has represented Idaho exceptionally well at the national level, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his service.

I am currently practicing General Internal Medicine at Cassia Regional Medical Center in Burley, Idaho. My practice is similar to other internists in small, rural hospitals. I care for a panel of mostly elderly patients with a multitude of medical problems. I also care for my patients when they are hospitalized, including in the intensive care unit if necessary.

I have set several goals for myself during my term as Governor.

First, I would like to increase membership in the ACP among the internists in Idaho. I ask for the assistance of existing members of the ACP. We should encourage all of our internist colleagues to become members of the ACP, and participate in ACP activities at the national and the state level.

Second, I want to work towards getting more of our members in Idaho advanced to Fellowship status. Achieving Fellowship in the ACP represents an important professional milestone, and represents an acknowledgement by your peers of your professional accomplishments as an Internist.

Third, I would like to improve the input of the members of the ACP into the national agenda. We are in a critical phase in the development of our future healthcare system. It is more important than ever that physicians, and especially internists, become actively involved in designing our healthcare system.

The ACP is promoting a vigorous legislative agenda, which includes promotion of the Patient-Centered Advanced Medical Home. Internists will be instrumental in implementing this concept into the healthcare system of the future.

I would like to hear from all the internists in Idaho. I would like to forward your views to the national leadership of the ACP, and make sure our voices are heard. I welcome your comments and input, and ask that you contact me via e-mail at duane.Jeffers@imail.org. I thank you in advance for your comments..

ACP Chapters Health Literacy Awards Program

During the 2008 Annual Internal Medicine meeting, the ACP Foundation announced its new Health Literacy* Awards Program for ACP Chapters. There will be five \$10,000 grants available to ACP Chapters in 2009. Interested ACP Chapters may submit a proposal to the Foundation. This program was created to raise awareness of health literacy and the Foundation at the chapter level. The ACP Foundation focuses not just on internists but on the care and health of their patients.

There are five priority areas that ACP Chapter projects can address to improve health literacy:

1. Improve patient care by enhancing health communication among the patient, family and care team.
2. Increase quality of health literacy communication skills for medical students and practicing health care professionals.
3. Reduce medical errors by identifying and enhancing patient self-care practices, including their ability to take medication properly.
4. Improve communication with patients about what they need to know to take care of themselves.
5. Reduce cultural and language barriers to improve health literacy.

All ACP Chapters are eligible to submit a grant application for a project. Applications are available at http://foundation.acponline.org/hl/hlawards/hl_awards.htm

Proposals are due by September 15, 2008.

The winners of the ACP Chapters Health Literacy Awards Program will be announced December 15, 2008.

* Health literacy is defined as "the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions."

Please contact your Governor if you'd like to work with your chapter to increase health literacy in your area.

Leadership Enhancement and Development (LEAD) Program

The College is committed to providing leadership development opportunities for its members and has developed the Leadership Enhancement and Development (LEAD) Program with this in mind. This program provides younger members first-hand experience and guidance from seasoned leaders. For more information regarding LEAD, please e-mail at lead@acponline.org or go to www.acponline.org/lead.

Visit the Chapter Website at
http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/id/



The American College of Physicians and the Idaho Chapter encourages its 124,000 members to help strengthen the voice of internal medicine by recommending ACP Membership to colleagues. By becoming ACP Members, your colleagues will enrich their clinical knowledge and skills and have access to the wide variety of professional assistance that you enjoy as part of your membership.

To thank you for your dedication to our organization, ACP offers dues incentives to members who recruit new Members through the Recruit-a-Colleague program. In addition, successful recruiters are entered to win a trip to Internal Medicine 2009 in Philadelphia, PA, that includes registration, airfare (up to \$500), and hotel accommodations.

To learn more about the Recruit-a-Colleague program, please visit www.acponline.org/recruitacolleague.

Join ACPNet Today!

ACPNET is the American College of Physicians' Practice-Based Research Network with the purpose to study clinical quality improvement tools and techniques and to educate office-based physicians on evidence-based "best practices". ACPNET currently has more than 800 volunteer members located in all 50 states. The main goals of the network are: 1) To study clinical quality improvement tools and techniques; 2) To educate office-based physicians on evidence-based "best practices"; 3) To help clinicians to analyze their practice patterns; 4) To effectively improve clinical practice; and 5) To improve patient management.

ACPNet has been involved in numerous quality improvement and research projects since its inception in 1997. Participation in the network is voluntary, depending on the physicians' time availability and interest in the project. Past projects include quality improvement for chronic disease conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, and depression. In addition, physicians have earned Continuing Medical Education (CME) and American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) by participating in various projects. As a member you will: 1) become a physician researcher, 2) develop and answer clinically relevant questions, 3) apply research methods in ambulatory care settings, 4) better understand your clinical practice patterns, and 5) contribute to important and relevant evidence to medical knowledge. ACPNet will not disrupt your practice as you will control how much time you want to spend within the network. Participation in any project is voluntary and only if you find the project beneficial and interesting. At the completion of a project, we will send you a certificate identifying you and your practice as a PBRN site. Significant advances will be awarded with ACPNet Pioneer Medal. It might also give you an opportunity to present results from your practice at the ACP's Annual Session.

ACPNET is currently actively seeking to enroll physicians and expand the network for various current and future projects. If you are interested in becoming an ACPNET member, please visit us at <http://www.acponline.org/acpnet/> or email us at pbrn@acponline.org or call us at (215) 351-2847.