

Indiana Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 2004

Robert M. Lubitz, MD, MPH, FACP
Governor, Indiana Chapter



Robert M. Lubitz

GOVERNOR'S COLUMN

Note- This Newsletter was written by Dr. Dunkin before leaving office....

Preparing this, my last Governor's Column, leads me to reflect on the past four years as Governor of the Indiana Chapter.

Our Chapter plays an important role in trying to keep our State Legislators informed about our issues. We try to keep our members updated on local as well as national issues. We provide an excellent Annual Scientific Meeting to help keep our members updated scientifically. Our State ACP Chapter council members, including house staff and student members, have been faithful in attending monthly council meetings providing invaluable input. The Chapter provides input to the ISMA via the resolution process; Medicare

Care Advisory Committee; and Medicaid system. The Governor represents your concerns to the National organization at the semi-annual Board of Governors' meeting and frequently via e-mail in the interim.

Unfortunately for most ACP members, most of the "action" is at a national level leading to a lack of appreciation of the size, breadth of activities, depth of expert leadership, and influence legislatively.

Each time I attend a Board of Governors' meeting, I am impressed by the high quality of leadership in the organization and their outstanding staff support.

Over the years that I have attended the Board of Governors' Meeting, it has been gratifying to see the progressive democratization of the leadership of the organization and increasing attention to the socio-economic health-care issues facing patients, practicing physicians, and academicians. Many of us old-time ASIM loyalists feared these issues would get short shrift with the merger of ACP and ASIM, especially with the name change to ACP. That certainly has not occurred and I think the evolution of the healthcare system and our farsighted leadership will prevent that from ever happening. A good example is the evolution from "PAC" being considered a dirty word, to the acceptance by leadership of a PAC as a necessary aid to being heard in Washington, D.C.

Our Chapter will be well represented by Bob Lubitz who assumes the governorship in April 2004. He will need your input and support to address all of your concerns nationally and locally.

My thanks to all who have served on the Council, on committees, and others who have provided valuable input and excellent presentations at the scientific meetings. Last but not least, I want to thank our invaluable staff, Carolyn Downing, without whom I would have floundered badly.

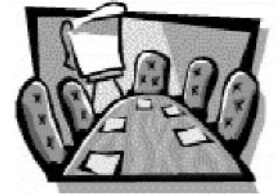
Ramon S. Dunkin, M.D.
Past Governor, Indiana Chapter

MINUTES HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

February 12, 2004

Present: **Jim Poulos, Linda Abels, Cheryl Southern, Jeanne Rowe, Lois Lambrecht, Caitilin Kelly**

Past resolutions written by the HPPC for the ISMA HOD were briefly reviewed and discussed.



Dr. Abels presented the agenda for the upcoming Medicare CAC meeting. Everyone expressed frustration with the difficulty in getting many lab tests covered for appropriate reasons. In addition, the reduction of reimbursement for any psychiatric diagnosis was felt inappropriate and possibly discriminatory. Dr. Abels will try to contact Brent Baker to find out who/what group determined these specific rules and the rationale behind them. With this information the HPPC hopes to be able to more lobby more effectively for change.

Dr. Southern gave a Medicaid update. She has attended two meetings since our last meeting-one of them an all day meeting.

- If a patient does not meet his spin down for four consecutive months, he/she will be dropped from Medicaid. It is unclear if Medicaid will try to determine each individual's eligibility every four months.
- Pharmacists have been having problems because they will swipe a patient's card that states that they have met their spin down, only to later find that the spin down had not been met and they receive no payment.
- Patients who have a spin down cannot be in the chronic disease program. The Medicaid Select program reimburses at such a low rate that not many individual or small group practices can afford to participate. Dr. Rowe wondered if Dr. Greg Wilson, Indiana State Health Commissioner was aware of how serious the problem has become and the true extent of the developing access to care problem. The HPPC will send out a survey to members asking how many physicians see Medicaid patients, take new Medicaid patients and how many participate in the Medicaid select program.

Four possible resolutions for the ISMA HOD were discussed.

1. Recommending that Insurance companies cover treatment for obesity as a cost effective action.
2. Something regarding the need to improve access to care. The ACP division of Government Affairs and Public Policy recommends legislation to assure that all Americans with incomes up to 150% of the federal poverty level have access to affordable coverage no later than January 2007. Dr. Kelly wondered how many of the over 42 million without insurance coverage would still be without coverage if this goal was met. The IOM goal is more aggressive and recommends all people have coverage by 2010. Dr. Poulos would like to know the numbers prior to choosing between these two.
3. Recommend that physicians not be financially responsible for interpreters and signers. This is an unfair burden to place on physicians and should be the responsibility of the government to provide.
4. Recommend that it be legal to reward employees for not smoking.

Our next meeting is March 25th. All chapter members are invited to attend by conference call. For details contact Carolyn Downing cdowning@ismanet.org.

SUCCESSFUL FALL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

The November Chapter Scientific Meeting attracted a record attendance for the 1-1/2 days of excellent scientific and practice-oriented presentations based on the Best Practices Theme. A wide range of topics was covered including Neurology, congestive heart failure, diabetes, obesity, women's health, infectious diseases, patient safety, and mobile computers.

The Marten House Conference Center was an excellent and convenient venue for the meeting. Hopefully we can meet there again this fall.

Dr. Clement McDonald, a Master and Regent of the ACP, provided excellent local and national perspectives on computers in medicine.

The associate members had an excellent scientific meeting for the preceding day.

AWARDS NOMINATIONS

It is time again to ask for nominations for the Laureate Award given at our fall Chapter meeting, and for Mastership and Teacher of the Year Awards given at the National meeting. If you wish to nominate a Fellow of the college for these awards, you can find the criteria on the ACP website or contact **Dr. Lindley Wagner**, Chair of the Awards Committee at **LhWag@aol.com**.

ACP NET

Solving Our Problems Together: The ACPNet Practice-Bases Research Network **By William J. Hall, MD, MACP**

Practice-based research has been a way of life for me throughout my professional career. I was fortunate enough to have the early mentorship of my father-in-law, Burtis Breese, MD, who published over 150 articles relating to streptococcal pharyngitis during his 50-year career as a practicing pediatrician. Over the years my colleagues and I have studied a wide variety of clinical issues ranging from our approaches to common respiratory symptoms, such as cough, to more complex issues such as the epidemiology of respiratory tract infections in the community. My partners and I have also tried to understand how we can enhance our communication methods with our patients. More recently, my interests have followed the changing medical needs of my patients, most of whom are now older adults. Now I concentrate on understanding how we can continue to provide comprehensive quality care and preventive measures to these older adults even given the enormous constraints on time and resources.

During my recent year as President of ACP, I attended regional meetings in over 25 states. I don't think I ever participated in a Chapter meeting when I wasn't impressed by the quality and import of observations of practicing internists at those meetings. The tragedy is that such insight usually remains in the local community, much to the detriment of our over 150,000 members and our patients. It is for that reason that I am so enthusiastic about ACPNet, as it provides a venue for all of us to contribute key information to improve medical care, and to enhance our intellectual life. I hope you will strongly consider having your practice join this vital network.

For more information or to join ACPNet, please contact Peter Martelli using the following contact information:

Website: <http://www.acponline.org/acpnet>
E-mail: pbrn@acponline.org
Fax: 215-351-2594
Phone: 215-351-2844 or 351-2603

NEW ANNALS WEB SITE OFFERS IMPROVED SEARCHING, PDA ACCESS, FULL-TEXT CITATIONS, AND OTHER ENHANCEMENTS

Having trouble keeping up with the Annals and other medical readings? Two recent developments, the moving of Annals of Internal Medicine's Internet edition to Stanford University's High Wire Press and the release of a PDA version of the Annals give subscribers many new conveniences.

The Internet edition, <http://www.annals.org>, makes it easier to find articles and related content. Users can locate articles by browsing issues, entering search terms or perusing collections of related articles. Annals' collections include clinical guidelines, updates from the Annual Session, and essays from On Being a Doctor and On Being a Patient. After finding an article, subscribers can either print a high-quality copy or read it online. Online reading offers many additional features such as links to full texts of referenced and related articles. We are developing links from the online Annals to Pier.

The new Web site also gives most PDA users easy access to Annals. Subscribers with Palm devices can register to receive an e-mail alert that provides a link to download the latest issue to their desktop computer, allowing synchronization with hand-held computers. Back issues and collections, such as ACP's practice guidelines, Annual Session updates, and essays from On Being a Doctor and On Being a Patient, are available. To take advantage of this service, register at <http://www.annals.org/pda>.

Users with Pocket PCs or PDAs with wireless Internet access can learn about accessing the Annals at <http://www.annals.org/pda/issues.shtml>.

More information on these and other new features is online at: <http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/139/10/860>.

NEW ACP WEB SITE IDENTIFIES EMERGING HEALTHCARE ISSUES

ACP members now have access to a Web site that identifies emerging healthcare issues and anticipates trends over the next few years.

The ACP Environmental Assessment (EA) project identifies trends in the healthcare environment that are important to internal medicine and the College. It describes and documents important issues so that they may be considered in ACP's strategic planning process for each fiscal year. It also serves as an up-to-date information resource for ongoing issues and topics in medicine and health.

The EA is formatted as a series of predictive statements, accompanied by citations for the evidence on which the statements are based. Statements identify and describe important issues and predict the likely course of events in areas such as care delivery, the insurance industry, biomedical research funding, graduate and continuing medical education, technology in medical practice, physician workforce, a variety of professional and practice issues, public health, and the demography of the US patient population. The project is updated annually.

View the ACP Environmental Assessment online at <http://ea.acponline.org>.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHAPTER THROUGH CHAPTER DUES

Chapter dues are the backbone of local activities and vital to the success of our chapter. While we are provided some financial support from the national office, the chapter dues collected provide the majority of financial support for local activities. Educational meetings, mentoring programs for medical students, local Associates' research competitions, advocacy with state legislators, and participation by chapter leaders in Leadership Day on Capitol Hill are just some of the activities supported by your chapter dues. Many of these activities are orchestrated by unpaid volunteer leaders in our chapter. However, the increase in activities at the local level has created the need for additional staff support to help manage the day to day operation of the chapter. Your chapter dues help support the cost of local staff and provide funding for new and existing chapter initiatives. When you receive your dues notice, please remember to include the chapter dues in your payment. You will be contributing to the success of many grass roots activities happening right here at home.

**ACP-ASIM, INDIANA CHAPTER
2003-2004 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSTER**

		Term	Expires
Ramon Dunkin MD 3266 N. Meridian Street Indianapolis, IN 46208	Governor 317-924-8315 Fax: 317-924-8324 E-mail: rdunkin@memclin.com	4 yr.	April '04
Robert Lubitz, MD 2001 W. 86th St., 3rd Fl. Indianapolis, IN 46260	Governor-elect 317-338-2172 Fax: 317-338-6259 E-mail: rmlubitz@stvincent.org	1 yr.	April '04
Ram Prasad, MD 1730 Timberwood Lane Munster, IN 46321	Councilor - At Large 219-662-5079 M,W,F 708-756-5454 T, TH E-mail: ram.prasad2@med.va.gov	4 yr.	Fall '04
Jeanne Rowe, MD 1818 Carew St., Suite 110 Ft. Wayne, IN 46805	Councilor-260 219-483-2211 Fax: 219-484-1686 E-mail: Qball38@aol.com	4 yr.	Fall '04
Matthew Neal, MD 2525 University Ave., #300 Muncie, IN 47303	Councilor-765 765-781-2000 Fax: 765-281-2040 E-mail: jneal@chs.cami3.com	4 yr.	Fall '04
Caililin Kelly, MD 1004 West First Street Bloomington, IN 47403	Councilor-812 812-333-2800 Fax: (H) 812-333-0725 E-mail: cakelly@indiana.edu	4 yr.	Fall '06
Robert Clausen, MD 211 North Eddy @ LaSalle South Bend, IN 46634	Councilor - 574 574-237-9217 Fax: 574-239-1451 E-mail: Robert.w.clausen.1@nd.edu	4 yr.	Fall '06
Vacant (Lubitz)	Councilor-317 Metro	4 yr.	Fall '06
Michael Sha, MD 4410 East 116th Street Carmel, IN 46032	Secy-Treasurer/Councilor - IU 317-310-4494 Home 846-0522 Fax: 317-846-1818 E-mail: mcsha@iupui.edu	4 yr.	Fall '06
Robert Buynak, MD 3630 Willowcreek Road Portage, IN 46368 E-mail: buynak2@att.net	Councilor-219 219-759-4884 Fax: 219-759-8817	4 yr.	Fall '04
Timothy Pettigrew, MD 3820 Tansel Road Indianapolis, IN 46334	Councilor-IU 317-274-8660 Fax: 317-274-7263 E-mail: tpettigr@iupui.edu	4 yr.	Fall '04

continued on mailing panel...

		Term	Expires
James Poulos, MD 2600 Greenbush Street PO Box 5545 Lafayette, IN 47903	Councilor - At Large 765-448-8000 Fax: 765-448-8858 E-mail: poulosj@arnett.com	4 yr.	Fall '06
Mubishar Khan MD 4431 Eagle Creek Pkwy., #205 Indianapolis, IN 46254	Associates Council Chair Pager: 317-312-0350 299-0070 E-mail: mubkhan@iupui.edu	1 yr.	
Marla Schrock, MS Laura Terry, MS Linda Abels, MD Cheryle Southern, MD Ram Prasad, MD Caitilin Kelly, MD Lindley Wagner, MD	Internal Medicine Student Interest Group Rep. Internal Medicine Student Interest Group Co-rep Medicare CAC Representative Communications Chr./Medicaid Adv. Rep. Membership Chairman Health & Public Policy Committee (HPPC) Chr. Awards Committee Chairman /Masterships/Laureate Nominating Committee Chairman	Marla_schrock@hotmail.com lmtery@iupui.edu dr.lindaabels@aol.com csouthern@pol.net ram.prasad2@med.va.gov cakelly@indiana.edu	
Richard Dexter, MD		rdexter@iupui.edu	