

Indiana Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER



American College
of Physicians
American Society
of Internal Medicine

Winter 2003

Ramon Dunkin, MD, FACP
Governor, Indiana Chapter

GOVERNOR'S COLUMN

The dominant topic at the September Board of Governors' Meeting in Quebec was "Enhancement of Internal Medicine as a Field of Medical Practice".

ACP-ASIM has focused much effort on finding why internal medicine has declined in appeal to medical students and why many of us express increasing dissatisfaction with the practice of internal medicine. ACP-ASIM has launched initiatives to address both aspects of the problem. Several of these are referred to in another part of the newsletter.

Most of ACP-ASIM's programs are directed toward enhancing our quality of professional life with practice enhancement tools, educational opportunities both at meetings and self-directed study at home. The college's legislative advocacy efforts try to reduce the hassle factors in practice, insure fair reimbursement for our services, and optimize healthcare for our patients.

Unfortunately part of our human nature tends to focus on the negative aspects of life and take the positive for granted. As we look around at the problems faced by other fields of medicine and other professions and businesses, we may not be that bad off.

We need to keep in mind the satisfaction and privileges we enjoy in the practice of internal medicine and those who serve as mentors or role models for trainees at any level should demonstrate both in actions and in words what is great about internal medicine.

FALL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The Chapter's Fall Scientific Meeting November 15th and 16th was well attended and covered a broad range of topics for the internist. The program committee chaired by **Bob Lubitz** provided excellent updates on geriatrics, diabetes, herbal therapy, respiratory infections, and general medical topics. Workshops included practical issues in cardiology, health policy issues, patient safety, eye and skin problems, cardiac consultation, and coding and billing

issues. An excellent workshop presented by the Family Practice Center at St. Vincent Hospital addressed cultural and spiritual aspects of healthcare; not a high priority for most of us, but will become more of an issue as our population changes.

ELECTION RESULTS

All members and fellows had the opportunity to vote this fall for governor-elect and new councilors.

Dr. Robert Lubitz, Director of the Internal Medicine Program at St. Vincent Hospital, will serve as Governor-elect for one year starting in April 2003, and as governor for four years starting April 2004. New councilors are: **James Poulos** of Lafayette, councilor at large; **Michael Shaw**, Indianapolis, IU Medical Center; **Robert Lubitz**, 317/Metro; **Jeanne Rowe** of Fort Wayne, 260; **Robert Buynak**, Portage-219; **Robert Clausen**, South Bend-574; **Caitilin Kelly**, Bloomington-812. Their terms started in November 2000. **Dr. Richard Dexter** chaired the nominating committee.

AWARDS

At the fall meeting, laureate medals were awarded to **Dr. Glenn Irwin**, Dean Emeritus and Chancellor Emeritus of the IU. Medical Center, and **Dr. William Nasser**, Practicing Cardiologist Extraordinaire. See their biographies in this newsletter. Also at the fall meeting, **Dr. William Golden**, College Regent, presented our Chapter with an Evergreen award for the associates' newsletter.

At the national meeting in April, Masterships in the ACP-ASIM will be awarded to **Dr. Craig Brater**, Dean of the IU School of Medicine, and to **Dr. Lawrence Einhorn**, Chief of Oncology at the IU. School of Medicine.

Nominations for these awards are screened by the Chapter Awards' Committee chaired by **Dr. Lindley Wagner**.

MEMBERSHIP

If you feel as I do that membership in ACP-ASIM is important to enhance the environment of healthcare for you and your patients, it behooves us all to encourage our non-member internists to join ACP-ASIM. Personal contacts are more effective than mailings. Your Councilor has a list of non-member internists in your area. Contact membership Chairman **Dr. Ram Prasad** at his e-mail address ramspras@yahoo.com and he will be glad to send membership applications to any interested candidate.

THE INTERNAL MEDICINE STUDENT INTEREST GROUP

The IMSIG continues to meet regularly with presentations on internal medicine careers. They participated in a fall student orientation in an effort to recruit more IMSIG members. They again took part in a Westside Clinic health fair.

Stephanie Jeske continues to represent the students' concerns at the Chapter council. The Chapter will pay for several students' attendance at the national meeting.

INDIANA CHAPTER LIST SERVE

Current member e-mail addresses are important to allow us to keep our members informed. Please mail any changes or new e-mail addresses to **Carolyn Downing** or to a member of our Communications' Committee: **Michael Sha** <msha@iupui.edu>, **Cheryle Southern** <csouthern@pol.net>, or **Robert Clausen** <Robert.w.clausen.1@nd.edu>. All members are encouraged to visit the national ACP-ASIM web page and from there go to the Indiana Chapter web page.

PIER - THE PHYSICIANS' INFORMATION AND EDUCATION RESOURCE

New modules continue to be added to this very useful evidence-based source of information on disease management, screening, and prevention, complementary and alternative medicine, ethics and legal issues, procedures, and drug information. **PIER** is accessible by way of the ACP-ASIM web page or directly at <<http://pier.acponline.org>>.

ASSOCIATES' ACTIVITIES

Our associate members continue to be active locally and nationally. The associates had an excellent scientific meeting November 15th. They have started a volunteer project at Wheeler Mission and invite all members and fellows to participate.

Michael Shaw who is the Chapter council associate representative now is chair of the National Council of Associates.

Wildon Farwell, current Chapter Associates' Council chair and Council Associate representative is a member of the AMA Residency Review Committee and a candidate for the ACP-ASIM Joseph E. Johnson Associate Leadership Award.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Making Internal Medicine More Attractive to Medical Students

Hypothesis 1: Students are choosing not to pursue General Internal Medicine (GIM) because of relatively poor remuneration at a time when their expenses, both real (educational debt) and perceived (generational expectations of earning power), are daunting.

Action - Explore loan repayment option (currently, full earning potential is recognized at an earlier state in career than in the past)

Message - Publicize average salaries of the different specialties (the difference may not be so great)

Message - Emphasize job security

Message - Emphasize lower medical liability insurance premiums

Message - Highlight advocacy efforts of College (ACP-ASIM is a large organization that has successfully lobbied to protect internist reimbursement and job quality)

Hypotheses 2: Students are choosing not to pursue GIM because they believe their life style (time away from work) will be worse.

Message - Emphasize diversity and flexibility of career path

Message - Broad scope of practice opportunities (subspecialties, hospitalist, academic, private practice, healthcare executives)

Hypothesis 3: Students are choosing not to pursue GIM because they perceive the general internists a second-class citizen in the current health environment of the United States.

Message - Internist as care facilitator/coordinator (IM is still KING - we choose what specialists the patient sees)
Message - We are the doctor' doctor - internal medicine is REAL medicine, the basics that make anyone a better doctor

Message - We CARE (Patient Advocacy) - Every adult patient in the hospital would benefit from having an internist in charge of their care.

Hypothesis 4: Students are choosing not to pursue GIM because a career in primary care (As they understand it) will not fulfill personal needs that their generation finds important.

Message — Long-term relationships with patients

Message — Constant intellectual stimulation, the camaraderie of internal medicine

Message — We are the primary advocate for patients

Mechanisms for Delivering the Message:

A. Article series: “Being an Internist is STILL a GREAT career!”

1. for the Observer, Annals supplement, Impact, ? other publications as well

2. mass mailing to medical schools

3. can consider external grants from foundations concerned about primary care

B. We FA at acponline.org

C. Advocate for a required career education day during medical school second year, and prepare materials to provide to medical schools about internal medicine

D. Intern and resident educational seminars (on how to involve and attract medical students). Perhaps written materials available to program directors and chiefs.

E. Early exposure of medical students to continuity clinics

F. Lunch seminars at medical schools about lifestyle/professional issues at specified programs (programs with large numbers or low % IM applications targeted)

G. Use existing Club Meds at medical schools to disseminate this information

H. Contact and work with the entertainment media — create internist characters (ER, Scrubs)

Excerpt from Council Assoc. Chapter Leadership

HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The Health and Public Policy Committee continues to meet every couple of months by teleconference. We are trying to establish good communication with our legislators,

and have had recent discussions with both **Representative Peggy Welch** and **Senator Pat Miller**. Currently, we are focusing on Medicare and Medicaid. Members of the committee were encouraged to rally local physicians at their own hospitals to write letters to their legislators opposing Medicare cuts. At one hospital, we were able to get over 150 signatures in a few days for a letter in this regard, that was sent to **Senators Lugar** and **Bayh**. We will continue to keep our colleagues up to date on upcoming medical legislation and perhaps help them set up “legislative update” centers in their waiting room to help educate patients on important issues. We welcome all members to attend any or all of our meetings and we will be happy to discuss any issues you bring to us.

THE ISMA PREPARE DOCTORS TO HELP SMOKERS QUIT

Thanks to Indiana Tobacco Prevention and Cessation (ITPC) grant monies awarded this year, the Indiana State Medical Association (ISMA) is boosting physicians' efforts to help smoking patients quit.

New online CME programming at www.MedEd.CME.com offers practical, office-based techniques for the diagnosis, assessment, and behavioral and pharmaceutical treatment of tobacco dependence. More importantly, the program can educate physicians for free anytime, anywhere and takes only one-hour to complete, offering 1.5 hours of continuing medical education credit.

Coupling education with reminders

However, the effort doesn't stop with education. The ISMA has produced two cards to prompt physicians about smoking cessation issues.

The Smoking Cessation Coding and Coverage Card has coding assistance for physicians who are helping smokers. Suitable for a bulletin board, the card lists diagnosis codes plus office visit procedure codes for evaluation and counseling.

The Motivation and Counseling Card can easily be carried in a pocket. It lists the “5 R's” of motivating a patient to quit smoking and the “5 A's” of cessation counseling. These are simple steps a physician can follow to help patients give up tobacco.

Two colorful chart stickers can serve as additional reminders. The “Ask About Cessation” sticker was designed for use in the charts of patients who smoke, to remind the physician to encourage quitting. The “I Quit”

sticker can be attached to the charts of patients who gave up tobacco. These stickers prompt doctors to encourage and praise those patients who have quit smoking.

The goal of the ISMA's grant is to increase up to 5 percent by 2004 the number of physicians who provide tobacco cessation counseling. To receive a supply of the cards and stickers or to order more, contact Rhonda Roth at (800) 257-4762, (317) 261-2060 or email her at <rroth@ismanet.org>.

NEW PDA STORE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

The College has just signed a one-year, non-exclusive agreement with **PDA Verticals** of Seattle, Washington to provide members with access to the latest PDA hardware and software. The new web site is called PDA MD, and members accessing the site receive a 5% discount on hardware and software purchases. This brings the hardware price within range of current retail pricing.

Members have access to the latest models of PDAs as well as a wide array of medical software to include specially priced "ACP-ASIM Bundles" for internal medicine, geriatrics and childcare. Experienced PDA buyers who want to "build their own" can do so using the "build to order" section of the web site. Within 3-5 days of placing their order, the PDA will arrive on the physician's desk, loaded, charged and ready to go. With this option there are no downloads, no mistakes and no troubles. For first time buyers, there are help screens and articles to help the novice become acquainted with the PDA world.

In November, ACP-ASIM Observer will publish a 12-page supplement on PDAs that will provide some extremely valuable information and background for the new user and experienced member alike. A recent survey from Observer indicates that 47% of College respondents own and use a PDA and 38% of non-users plan to be using one in 2002.

For more information, please visit the PDA MD site, or contact **Robin Bartlett** at <rbartlett@mail.acponline.org>.

ANNUAL SESSION 2003 IN SUNNY SAN DIEGO!!

Make Your Plans to Be There - Internal Medicine's best and brightest are coming to San Diego, California. ACP-ASIM's **Annual Session 2003** will be held **April 3-5**, in Sunny San Diego. Pre-Session Courses will be held April 1-2, 2003.

Make plans now to be in San Diego, April 3-5, 2003 for ACP-ASIM's Annual Session! Visit <<http://www.acponline.org/cme/as/2003/index.html>> for additional information>.

AMA'S CARING FOR HUMANITY INITIATIVE

The American Medical Association is launching a new initiative called "Caring for Humanity," which extends medicine's mission for the sick and suffering beyond U.S. borders. The first Caring for Humanity project is WorldScopes, a campaign to collect 100,000 stethoscopes from U.S. physicians and distribute them, with the help of humanitarian organizations, to communities around the world where medical supplies are scarce.

The AMA is seeking the support of ACP-ASIM and its members for this initiative by encouraging online purchases of one or more stethoscopes at the following web site www.caring4humanity.org. Stethoscopes ordered online are shipped directly to one of the AMA's partnering humanitarian organizations for distribution around the world. The AMA receives no royalty for the sale of stethoscopes for WorldScopes and each stethoscope donation is tax deductible.

The success of WorldScopes depends upon leaders like yourself and members of the U.S. physician community acting individually and collectively to donate stethoscopes to their colleagues abroad. Your participation matters. Please do not hesitate to contact **Katherine Rouse** at (312)464-4075, or <Katherine_rouse@ama-assn.org>, if you have any questions.

INDIANA CHAPTER LAUREATE AWARD

The Laureate Award honors those Fellows and Masters of the College who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research, and service to their community, their Chapter, and the American College of Physicians — American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM).

Recipients of this award shall bear the title Laureate of the Indiana Chapter.

Awards shall be made at the Annual Scientific Meeting. The awardee should accept this recognition in person, unless excused by the Governor. The awardee is to be nominated by a process that may originate from the Awards Committee or any member of the Chapter. The nomination must document the attributes and accomplishments of the nominee.

Awardees generally are senior physicians and Fellows or Masters of long-standing, with acknowledged excellence and peer approval in the field of internal medicine. In addition, awardees should have served their Chapter with distinction. Exceptional circumstances may modify these requirements.

It is with distinct pleasure that the Indiana Chapter honors **Dr. Glenn W. Irwin, MD, FACP** and **Dr. William K. Nasser, MD, FACP**. These physicians are long-standing and loyal supporters of the College, have rendered distinguished service to their Chapter, and have upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the ACP-ASIM is known.

We salute and honor them on this occasion, and we wish them well in the future.

Ramon Dunkin, MD, FACP
Governor, Indiana Chapter

Glenn W. Irwin, MD, FACP

Glenn W. Irwin, Jr., MD, is Dean Emeritus of the Indiana University School of Medicine and Chancellor Emeritus of IUPUI. He received the following degrees from Indiana University, a BS in 1942, MD in 1944, and LLD in 1986.

He is a Diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine and Fellow in the American College of Physicians. He was appointed Instructor in Medicine in 1950, one of three full time members at the time. With the encouragement of **Dr. JO Ritchey**, Chairman of the Department of Medicine he established clinics and rounds in the fields of diabetes, endocrinology and thyroid disease. He was active in the AMA, state and local medical associations, and the American College of Physicians, serving a term as Governor of Indiana.

He served as Dean of the Indiana University School of Medicine from 1965 to 1973. He and his advisors devised programs to increase the number of physicians in Indiana, to improve the relationship between organized medicine

and the medical school administration and faculty, and to change the clinical faculty compensation. The first issue was managed by devising the statewide medical education plan, which was endorsed by a state commission, approved by state legislative bills, and implemented by creating the "seven medical education centers" throughout the state. The second program was handled by the involvement of physicians throughout the state in the statewide system. The number of full-time and total medical faculty soon doubled in number. The third issue was necessary and timely because the federal Medicare legislation and later Medicaid passed in the mid 1960s, which allowed a large population the ability to have payment for professional medical services. Departmental compensation plans were developed to support programs and faculty compensation, now a major source of funds for USA medical schools.

Major medical facilities were added with the first two phases of the new Indiana University Hospital. A major addition to the Riley Hospital and one to the Medical Sciences Building were completed.

During Dean Irwin's tenure the medical enrollment increased from 205 to 305 entering students. The number of interns and residents in the state increased from 428 to 678, and the total medical faculty increased from 650 to 1154. The research and sponsored income more than tripled to just under \$18 million.

In 1974, Dr. Irwin was appointed Chancellor of IUPUI and served until his retirement in 1986. During this time the campus and institution changed dramatically. With the construction of new facilities, the campus on five different Indianapolis locations was reduced to two. Over \$200 million of new buildings were added, including new classrooms, new athletic facilities, conference center and hotel, and medical center additions. Major growth occurred in external research, student enrollment, faculty, degrees offered, and the operating budget. A close partnership developed with the city of Indianapolis and with the state especially through the statewide medical education program.

Dr. Irwin is a member of numerous boards, some of which include the Greater Indianapolis Progress Committee (past chairman), Riley Memorial Association, Walther Cancer Institute, Wishard Memorial Association (past chairman), and Eiteljorg Museum (vice chairman).

He has received numerous honors including Distinguished Alumnus Award, IU School of Medicine, 1972, Indiana Academy, 1986, Otis R. Bowen Service Award, JO Ritchey Award, Honorary Degrees from Indiana University and Marian College, Sagamore of the Wabash (3 Governors), and IU Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

In retirement he is active in speaking and writing about the history of the School of Medicine and IUPUI. He has continued to be active in fund raising for the Schools of Medicine and Nursing and continues service to boards, committees and community service. He is Chairman of the IV Commission on Health Care.

William K. Nasser, MD, FACP

William K. Nasser, MD entered Indiana State University in Terre Haute, Indiana in 1951, but his education was interrupted 2 years later when he was drafted into the Army. After serving as a machine-gunner in Korea, he returned to Indiana State University in 1955, and graduated with a BS degree in 1957. He received his medical degree at the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1961, followed by an internal medicine residency and a cardiology fellowship at the Indiana University Medical Center. He was an assistant professor of medicine on the Indiana University Medical Center medical staff from 1966 until 1973.

Starting as a solo private practitioner of cardiology at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis, Dr. Nasser built a group practice of 40 cardiologists and 30 primary care physicians in locations throughout Indiana. In 1999, Nasser, Smith & Pinkerton Cardiology, Inc. merged with Northside Cardiology at St. Vincent Hospitals and Health Services, and Storer Schmidt Cardiology at Methodist Hospital, Indianapolis, to form The Care Group, which today consists of 88 cardiologists, 48 primary care physicians, and 780 employees at 37 sites in Indiana.

During this time, he remained active in teaching students, residents and fellows and was named Clinical professor of medicine at the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1984.

Dr. Nasser's career in both practice and research parallels the evolution of clinical cardiology. Early publications and teaching considered the diagnosis and management of congenital and valvular heart defects, moving them to pioneering studies in the use of diagnostic ultrasound, and finally to the development of techniques for the diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery disease. His publications exceed 50 in addition to book chapters and abstracts.

In "The Golden Age of Cardiology," an article he authored in *The American Journal of Cardiology* (73:94), Dr. Nasser concluded that cardiology's golden age is not over, but is yet to come. He points out that almost every major advance in cardiology has taken place within the past 3 decades.

Dr. Nasser has received numerous awards and honors. He was named Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by his

alma mater, Indiana State University in 1975. He received the Otis R. Bowen Distinguished Leadership Award from the Dean's Council of the Indiana University School of Medicine in 1994 and the Distinguished Alumnus of the Year by Indiana University School of Medicine in 1995. In 1997, he was the first physician to be named Indiana Entrepreneur of the Year, in addition to receiving the Outstanding Contribution to the Health Industry, World of Difference Award. In 1998, he received the Distinguished Physician of the Year Award from St. Vincent and an honorary Doctor of Science Degree was bestowed on him by Indiana State University. In 2000, St. Vincent Foundation presented him with the Physician Servant-Leader Award. The American Heart Association honored him with the Cor Vitae Award -For Outstanding Service in 2001. His medical class of 1961 distinguished him with the Achievement of Professional Excellence in May 2002. He is a Kentucky Colonel and has been recognized as a Sagamore of the Wabash by 2 Governors of the State of Indiana. He is member of the Indianapolis Medical Society, Indiana State Medical Association, and Indiana University Medical Center Alumni Council. He is presently Chairman of the St. Vincent Foundation board of Directors.

Dr. Nasser is now semi-retired, but visits his office daily. He is active in civic affairs, volunteer work and professional activities. He is devoted to his wife Wanda, 3 children and 5 grandchildren, and enjoys weekends on his boat.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR NATIONAL COUNCIL?

The Council of Associates has held two meetings since Fall 2002. We are discussing a number of topics important to ACP-ASIM Associate members, ranging from how to better promote internal medicine as a specialty to the next recipient of the Joseph E. Johnson Leadership Award.

The Council is in full support of continuing to protect residents from prolonged working hours with a concurrent effort at improving their pay and decreasing their indebtedness. We welcome the upcoming College position paper on resident working conditions. The Council also joins the College in supporting efforts to limit medical liability and separately to keep programs in place that attract doctors to serve in low income and rural areas.

The Council is also focused on improving healthcare access. We are committed to the College's Seven Year Plan for solving the problem of uninsured, but we remain concerned about Americans living in areas without adequate access to primary care. We supported the College's successful lobbying efforts for the J-1 visa waiver. We helped to develop new College policies endorsing Title VII programs. And, this spring, the Council will sponsor a resolution for full funding of the National Health Service Corps.

The Council is discussing plans for Associates programs at upcoming national ACP-ASIM meetings. At the 2003 Annual Session, we will be hosting several workshops including the always well-received Heart Sounds Workshop. The recipient of the second annual Joseph E. Johnson Leadership Award will also be announced at this spring's Annual Session. This Award honors an Associate member who has displayed exceptional leadership within the College locally and nationally.

Last, there is exciting news from Latin American Associates, where there has been a 300% increase in Latin American Associate membership and a 2700% increase in medical student membership in the ACP-ASIM! The Council extends its appreciation to Sigfrido Miracle-Lopez, MD, our Latin American representative.

For further information on what is new and exciting for Associate members, access the ACP-ASIM website at <www.acponline.org> or stop any Associate Council member at **Annual Session in San Diego** this spring. We hope to see you there!

— VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE —

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

ACP-ASIM

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