



## Governor's Message

The spring has been a busy time for ACP activities. The Board of Governors met for their Spring meeting, April 21-22, 2009 in Philadelphia. Charles Cutler, MD, Governor of Pennsylvania Southeastern, welcomed us to Philadelphia with a review of Philadelphia historical importance as well as a review of interesting facts and people from this great city that were important in the formation of our country. **Jeffrey Harris, MD**, ACP President 2008-2009, reviewed the many activities that have occurred over the last year that re-enforce the recognition of ACP by our government and other entities as a major resource for advice and policy development about our health care system. **James Stackhouse, MD**, Treasurer, reviewed the financial status of our organization. While ACP has weathered the recession fairly well, there is no denying that market declines have seriously impacted our fiscal resources. The recession as well as the unknown consequences of potential reductions from pharma has required significant belt tightening and potential future program cuts. It is vital that all members remain current in their dues payment and encourage our non-member colleagues to join ACP.

An entire afternoon was spent reviewing the status of health care reform. Our Chief Executive Officer, **John Tooker, MD** reviewed the events of the previous day at the Presidents' Roundtable at which Dr. Tooker represented us. ACP was one of a handful of medical organizations invited to this Roundtable. **Glenn Hackbarth**, an attorney who sits on the Medical Practice Advisory Committee, reviewed the opinions of many that the annual percentage increase in the cost of health care cannot continue. A reimbursement system must be developed that is not based on volume alone. The system should not penalize physicians for doing the "right thing" for patients. Our own **Donna Sweet, MD** presented the AMA's stance on health care reform which is similar to ACP's in many important ways. **Robert Doherty**, Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Policy Management, reviewed survey results suggesting that public sentiment certainly supports a change in the way health care is delivered and efforts to control the annual rise in the cost of health care. All presenters agreed that most constituents, payers, businesses, patients and organized medicine concur that change is essential to ensure a future of affordable, high quality health care for all of the people in our country. It is clear that your ACP has and will be "at the table" as the shape and form of new models of health care delivery are developed. Now, more than ever, it is important to support our organization.

I wish to recognize **Donald Hatton, MD** who was elected in 2007 to chair the Board of Governors this last year. He organized this year's BOG meetings and represented the BOG at a number of executive meetings of the ACP leadership over the last year. Don was recognized by the BOG for his excellent leadership. As a tribute they noted the leadership skills that he shares with many other celebrities who share his first name, including Don King and Donald Trump. Fortunately, Dr. Hatton did not fire any current Governors at the meeting. Don, the Kansas Chapter thanks you for the tireless efforts you have given to our national organization and for representing Kansas so well over the last year.

The Internal Medicine 2009 meeting occurred immediately after the BOG meeting at the Philadelphia Convention Center, April 23-25. As is tradition, the meeting provided a broad menu of timely educational updates by respected leaders in Internal Medicine. There is no other meeting that provides the wealth and breadth of practice-oriented updates to the entire spectrum of internists. A number of physicians from Kansas were in attendance. One highlight was to accompany **Robert Rate, MD**, Hutchinson, Kansas and **Marius Pacioianu, MD**, Topeka, Kansas, as they marched in full regalia at the evening convocation to be officially recognized for their advancement to Fellows of ACP. Congratulations to **Drs. Rate and Pacioianu**. I encourage all eligible members to review the criteria for advancement to fellowship and consider applying.

Another highlight of the meeting was representation of our associates and medical students at the poster sessions. **Drs. Riad El-Fakih** and **Jeremy Deutsch** represented Associates from Kansas and **Erin Zahradnik** and **David Lerner** represented Medical Students with their poster presentations. An invitation to present one's poster at the annual meeting is a great honor and acknowledgement of the skill of our Associates and Students. Congratulations to **Drs. El-Fakih** and **Jeremy Deutsch**, and Medical Students **Erin Zahradnik** and **David Lerner**.

I encourage all to consider attending Internal Medicine 2010 in Toronto, Canada, April 22-24, 2010. If interested in attending, be reminded that a current passport is now required to re-enter the United States from Canada. You can find information about IM 2010 on the College Web site at [http://www.acponline.org/meetings/internal\\_medicine/2010/](http://www.acponline.org/meetings/internal_medicine/2010/).

**Drs. Kathleen Sandness** and **James Gardner** attended Leadership Day in Washington, DC on May 19 and 20. They met with **Senator Brownback**, **Representative Jenkins**, **Representative Tiahrt** and the legislative assistants of **Senator Roberts**, **Representative Moore** and **Representative Moran**. They discussed the efforts needed to ensure an adequate primary care workforce, the cost effectiveness of the patient centered medical home, and ideas for consideration as health care reform legislation is crafted. Our Senators and Representatives were clearly interested in our thoughts and well informed of the problems in our health care system. I appreciate the efforts of **Drs. Sandness** and **Gardner** to carry our message to Washington, DC.

The Kansas Chapter meeting will be held September 11-12, 2009 at the Holiday Inn Select in Wichita, Kansas. The program will include national updates from **Regent Barbara Turner, MD** and a Washington Update from **Robert Doherty**. By that time, we may know much more about the shape of legislation to modify our health care deliver system, so these sessions should be very informative. Also, Associates' podium and poster presentations will occur, the Delp award and lecture will take place at the luncheon, and a variety of medical updates will be given by distinguished colleagues. Please plan to attend!

## Help Recruit Medical Students and Residents for ACP Membership!

ACP is currently in the midst of two major recruitment programs, one for medical students and one for Associates. The Internal Medicine Interest Group Sponsorship Program (IMIG) and the Recruit-a-Resident Program reward medical schools and residency programs that recruit their students and residents to become ACP members.

Medical schools that participate in the IMIG Sponsorship Program will receive funding from ACP to use toward their club activities. Participating schools will receive \$300 in funding in September, and have the opportunity to earn additional funding based on their ACP membership numbers as of December 31. At the close of the program, schools with less than 30% ACP student member participation receive an additional \$1 per student member. Schools with 30% or greater participation will receive \$2 per student member. Total sponsorship for an individual IMIG cannot exceed \$1,000 (including the \$300 initial funding.) To participate in the program, eligible schools must complete the online application located at <http://www.acponline.org/imig>, by August 1, 2009.

The Recruit-a-Resident (RaR) Program rewards residency programs that recruit 90% or more of their categorical residents for Associate membership. All of the Associates must be members in good standing. Residency programs that reach the 90% goal by December 31, 2009 will receive free educational products from the College. This year's rewards include, 2009 MKSAP® Update for Residents, an interactive product featuring more than 100 multiple-choice questions from MKSAP 14 Self-Assessment Updates. The program will test your knowledge of recent changes and best practices in internal medicine. In addition, each resident will receive handouts from Internal Medicine 2009, which include content from the meeting sessions. For details about the Recruit-a-Resident program, please visit [http://www.acponline.org/residents\\_fellows/resources/recruit\\_a\\_resident/](http://www.acponline.org/residents_fellows/resources/recruit_a_resident/).

We would sincerely appreciate your help in encouraging the schools and programs in your chapter to participate in these programs.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact **Katie Buell**, Coordinator, Membership Programs and Services at [kbuell@acponline.org](mailto:kbuell@acponline.org) or by calling 800-523-1546 ext. 2611.



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*David Lerner, medical student, KUSM-Wichita presented a poster presentation.*



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