

Kentucky Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Governor, Kentucky Chapter



FROM THE GOVERNOR

On this cold February night I am worried. Normally, I am a cheerleader for medicine and still believe that this is the best “job” on earth. What other life's work combines such intimacy, compassion, and humanness with the powerful tools of scientific medicine? Living the life of a physician is indeed an honor like no other. Often times I hear some of us say that they would not encourage their children to go into the profession of medicine. I still encourage young people to consider medicine. We need the best and brightest to continue with the highest standards of the profession.

But I am worried. Specifically, I am worried that we are about to expend a great deal of effort to “improve the quality of health care” through a tweaking of our fatally flawed payment system. As I am writing, the US House of Representatives has passed a resolution that paves the way for the Medicare reimbursement formula to now have a “0% update”. I don't know what's up about “0%” but I guess it is better that the 4.5% drop that we faced on January 1, 2006. The problem is much deeper than the amounts of payment. I was educated to be a “Doc” but I am paid to be a “Documentarian”. The payment system, created by Medicare and followed by all third party payers, is based on a very complex coding system of documentation of a face to face encounter between a “health care provider” (Hello, I am David Bybee. I am a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Health Providers-I THINK NOT!) and a client (patient). In fact, what we do is care and provide knowledge and access to therapies for the benefit of the patient and accrue great responsibilities for this caring. What matters is the outcome for the patient, not the documentation of the process. I think that we in America spend more money on health care with less effect than most of the developed nations of the world. Our lawmakers think so as well. They are looking at “pay for performance” to change the way we practice. What this will mean is that we will be paid on the same system as before and either rewarded (or not punished) if we meet certain targets of outcomes to be determined by either medical specialty groups (the House of Representatives version) or non-medical groups (the Senate Version).

There are some issues here. First, the incentives to provide health care are misaligned to meet any purported goal or mission of health care, particularly the care provided by internists. Second, there is no clear mission for American Health Care. The payment system creates a “piece work mentality” according to a fellow Governor of the College and I think he is on target. Our system is beautifully constructed to respond to acute crises such as coronary artery surgery and trauma, but not at all constructed to care for chronic illness or the prevention of illness. Internal medicine is all about the latter two circumstances, yet we are paid on a model set up for the former. While we are at it, let's examine the American Health Care System. If you discount the VA and some large organized systems such as Kaiser-Permanente, there is no “American Health Care System”. The “system” for the great majority of American citizens is the staff that works in your office and in mine. They are not connected by any protocols or information systems and if payments to our practices are reduced, they will be the first to go. This will erode and destroy the “American Health Care System” for our citizens.

To this end I want every internist in Kentucky to be aware of the “Medical Home” proposal being considered and developed by the American College of Physicians. This idea, proposed by **Alan Goroll**, MD FACP, Governor of the Massachusetts Chapter is a major departure in the concept of the way health care is financed and needs our thought and input.

All of this hinges on information. There can be no “American Health Care System” without workable systems of sharing health information. This is the next big thing in medicine. In Kentucky we have a state law establishing a commission for

a Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) and the February 6 edition of the Courier-Journal contained an article about the establishment of an information system for the market of Greater Louisville. This apparently will be a private enterprise and issues of the transparency as well as the ownership and control of the data will be critical to the process. We should not be against the development of these information systems but we should be very concerned about “the who” and “the what” as they develop. The state of Rhode Island has made considerable progress with this type of effort. Rhode Island approximates Jefferson County, Kentucky, in size, population and medical resources. Perhaps we can learn from them before too much is cast in stone. The Electronic Health Information System and its effect on the way we handle information is the biggest revolution in medicine we will live to see. This transformation in how medicine proceeds is larger than the development of penicillin, the advent of heart transplant (or as reported on the recent television news-face transplants), or even passage of Medicare and the ill- fated experiment of “managed care”.

Quality requires the establishment of the best operational definition of “the goal” that can be devised, followed by the development of the best method of achieving that goal and continual review and revision of the goal, operational definition and methods as time progresses. We are a long way from this kind of quality medicine. Our current payment system is the greatest barrier to achieving quality medical care. And, we might as well face it, we have learned how to work this flawed system pretty well to our advantage and we are reluctant to give it up.

I remain worried. I fear that the system will only change when a crisis occurs. If this happens, the only way that we will be able to help ourselves is through our collective efforts in the American College of Physicians. Please be active. Make your voice heard. Recruit a colleague for membership. Advance to fellowship. Serve on a committee. Don't be passive. This is my last letter to you, THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST OF KENTUCKY MEDICINE, may your future be bright and please always remember, we are honored to have “the best job on earth!”

MEET MARY BURKE DUKE, MD, FACP

Please welcome the next Governor of the Kentucky Chapter, American College of Physicians, **Mary Burke Duke MD, FACP**. Dr. Duke is a native of LaGrange, Illinois and is a graduate of the University of Illinois for both her undergraduate and medical degrees. She also is a graduate of the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine completing a fellowship in General Internal Medicine-Ambulatory Care at the VA Medical Center, Seattle, Washington. Prior to that experience she completed a residency in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine and is board certified in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics.

Dr. Duke has published on subjects of clinical teaching, chronic fatigue syndrome in the pediatric population and others. She has received several awards for her teaching skills and has been program director for the Med-Pedes Program at UK. Dr. Duke has been instrumental in the success of the UL-UK Residents Day at Shakertown event sponsored by the Kentucky Chapter. This is our signature Associates Event.

Mary Duke is married to Don Duke, a Kentucky native and writer. She resides in Lexington and is active in community affairs. She has been a member of the Council of the Kentucky Chapter, American College of Physicians for more than 10 years and served as the Chair for the 2005 Annual Meeting.

She has already been a force representing the Kentucky Chapter in the national American College of Physicians Board of Governors. Please welcome and support Mary Burke Duke, MD, FACP your next Governor of the Kentucky Chapter, American College of Physicians.

—VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE—

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

HISTORY OF INTERNAL MEDICINE IN KENTUCKY:

By Charles C. Smith, Jr. MD, FACP

Dr. Smith is a former Governor of the Kentucky chapter of ACP. He has served many roles for the ACP, Jefferson County Medical Society, and KMA. A Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, Dr. Smith has a long abiding interest in the history of medicine. This is the third in our series on the history of Internal Medicine in Kentucky.

J. Murray Kinsman MD MACP

Dr. Kinsman was born in Nova Scotia, Canada in 1899. He graduated from Mount Allison College in New Brunswick and received his medical degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada in 1922. He trained in medicine at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts where one of his friends was Tinsley Randolph Harrison. In 1925 he joined the faculty of the University Of Louisville School Of Medicine.

He immediately began private practice in Louisville where he rapidly became known as an excellent diagnostician. But he also was active in the laboratory. His 1929 article in the American Journal of Physiology on cardiac output determination by dye dilution became one of the most quoted of all time. At last count there have been 665 references to it in the Science Citation Index.

During World War II he was chief of medicine at Walter Reed Army hospital and was a prolific author on subjects as meningitis and viral pneumonia. After the war and his return to the University of Louisville, his many publications were in the cardiovascular field on the emerging anti-arrhythmic and antihypertensive drugs.

He became a full Professor of Medicine in 1947 and Dean and Chairman of the Department of Medicine in 1949. He shepherded the school into the age of research while expanding it for the influx of students after World War II. He founded the Institute for Medical Research funded by state monies in the early fifties when Louisville was still a municipal university, paving the way for state supported status.

At the same time he was active on the national scene as Governor of the ACP 1948-54, Regent of ACP 1954-60, and First Vice President 1960-61. He was tapped by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) to head the new Educational Council for Foreign Medical Graduates. He led the development of testing methods to select quality candidates from this new source of physicians who wished to train in the United States. Kinsman also helped the AAMC select sites for the establishment of new medical schools during those same years.

He was a founder of the Innominate Society for the Study of Medical History in 1926. (The founders could never agree on a name.) This Society still meets monthly during the fall, winter and spring.

As the School of Medicine grew he relinquished the chair in medicine in 1956 but continued to serve as Dean until 1963. He then moved up, becoming the first "Vice President for Health Affairs" at the University of Louisville helping to guide the UL School of Medicine through the complex and rapidly expanding environment for medical schools during that time.

In 1963 he returned to the private practice of medicine on retiring from the University. Dr. Kinsman died in 1979. He had excelled as clinician, academician and clinical scientist and especially as a shepherd of the medical school at Louisville during a time of extreme change. One might say that he insured the survival of a municipal medical school during an era when its time was past and he pointed the way to the future.



THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 15 IN LOUISVILLE

The 2006 Annual Meeting will include the Scientific Session featuring a focus on information useful in your practice. The Scientific Session will occur on Friday afternoon in the Kentucky International Convention Center in conjunction with the KMA meeting. On Friday evening we will enjoy our Annual Business meeting and banquet beginning with a cocktail reception at the Hyatt Regency Hotel Louisville. Make plans now to join us in our celebration of Internal Medicine in Kentucky.



LEADERSHIP DAY 2006

The fourteenth annual Leadership Day on Capitol Hill 2006 will be held **May 16-17** at the **Wyndham Washington, DC Hotel** (M and 14th Streets). This two-day event provides chapter leaders with advocacy training, an update on the College's priority legislative issues and time to meet with their federal legislators. Advocacy training for first time attendees (and others who want to sharpen their skills) will begin at 9:00 am on Tuesday, followed by lunch and the afternoon program at 12:15. The Chapter would like to have a delegate to Leadership Day from every Kentucky US Congressional district. If you are interested, please contact **Lori O'Bryant** at **502-587-6010**.

FOUNDATION HEALTH TIPS

HEALTH TiPS are tools created to assist your patients in managing their chronic conditions. These two sided 4" x 6" cards contain clinical content developed through PIER, ACP's electronic, Web-based, decision-support tool designed for rapid point-of-care delivery. Content for HEALTH TiPS is created at or below a fifth-grade reading level. Currently, HEALTH TiPS pads are available for pain and hypertension in both English and Spanish. Pads for other chronic conditions are under development.

The Foundation created a Medicare Part D HEALTH TiPS in response to the opportunity for people with Medicare to enroll in a Medicare approved plan. The Medicare Part D HEALTH TiPS describe the two basic plans Medicare offers as well as important dates to participate in the insurance plan. This tool prepares physicians to speak with patients about what they can expect from the Medicare Part D plan. Pointers on financial assistance and precautions to take during enrollment are outlined in the HEALTH TiPS. The Medicare Part D HEALTH TiPS are available on the Foundation website <http://foundation.acponline.org/medicaretip.htm> and the College website www.acponline.org.

DR. JOHN S. THOMPSON RECEIVED LAUREATE AWARD

Dr. John S. Thompson was awarded the 2005 Laureate Award at the Annual Meeting held in Louisville on September 16th 2005. He is an emeritus professor of medicine at the University of Kentucky and has served as chair of the department of medicine and continues to serve in the research and teaching life of the College of Medicine. The Laureate award is the highest award of the chapter. Congratulations Dr. Thompson. In addition to the Laureate Award the Kentucky Chapter presented awards to outstanding students in medicine to **Bill Saliba Majdalany** (UL) and **Amy M. Schell** (UK). This year is the first time we have recognized a student from the Pikeville College School of Osteopathic Medicine. The 2005 recipient was **Kristin Nicole Fugate**. The outstanding Associate Awards went to **Lauren C. Brierly**, MD (UL) and **Christie Deep**, MD (UK). Outstanding faculty recognition awards were presented to **Christopher A. Feddock**, MD (UK) and **Nancy Taylor Kubiak**, MD (UL). A special community service award was presented to the Supplies Over Seas.



FREE PATIENT EDUCATION MATERIALS

ACP offers free patient education materials (<http://www.acponline.org/catalog/campaign/>) which focus on specific health problems commonly treated by internists. These include videos (with guidebooks) and brochures. All materials are free.

2005 CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD RECIPIENT

Congratulations to the Kentucky chapter of the AC, winner of the 2005 Chapter Excellence Award. This award recognizes chapters that meet a basic set of criteria for managing a chapter and in addition conduct at least six additional activities. Let's all keep up the good work!

PAY YOUR DUES ONLINE

For your convenience, you can now pay your dues online. The process of paying your dues online is easy. All you will need is your user ID and password (instructions are on the site, should you need to register). To ensure your privacy and maintain security, open your Internet browser, go to <http://www.acponline.org> and click on the “Pay Your Dues” link. The new online payment option is designed as a convenience for members, although all College members will still receive print bills for the upcoming year and will be able to also pay dues by mail, phone or fax. If you wish to pay by phone, please call Customer Service at 1-800-523-1546, ext. 2600 or directly at 215-351-2600 (M-F, 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET). You can also submit your credit card payment by faxing us at 215-351-2799.

WARNING: NOT ALL LABELS ARE CREATED EQUAL

Proper use of prescription medication directly affects health outcomes, and yet there are fourteen separate organizations that currently manufacture prescription warning labels, each using its own format.

Inconsistencies result in more than 1 million patients per year being put at risk of injury due to medication errors, according to the FDA.

The ACP Foundation is funding a research project to build a case for improving prescription bottle labeling. The preliminary findings of this project were presented at the ACP Foundation's Fourth Annual Health Communication Conference, Practical Solutions to the Problems of Low Health Literacy, on November 30, 2005. For preliminary project information visit: <http://foundation.acponline.org/news/LabelReform.htm>

KENTUCKY CHAPTER ON THE WEB

Have you ever finished reading an article and wondered what other activities my chapter has been involved in or what upcoming meetings I am missing out on? Your Chapter's Web site has the answers for you. Visit <http://www.acponline.org/chapters/ky/> to satisfy your desire to learn more.

We have recently transformed the Chapter's Web site to offer a new design that allows users to quickly obtain the information most wanted without scrolling through a great deal of text. We have added fresh content and include new features which will allow you to communicate directly with your Chapter's Governor to offer comments or questions.

Navigating the site

Make the most of your visit to our chapter's web site:

Visit “News & Meetings” for the latest newsletter, announcements about CME opportunities and local activities in your chapter.

Search “Public Policy and Advocacy” to locate research the College's positions on key health issues and contact your legislators.

Access “Local Links and Resources” for a comprehensive resource list of practice management web sites for the Internist.

Read “About the Chapter” to find your Chapter's Leadership including your Governor, Governor-elect and Chapter Staff and learn about past award recipients and governors.

Stop in “Residents and Medical Students” to discover all the resources, residency program information, career guidance and local activities.

Offer feedback, suggest topics or contact us with questions.

Subscribe to receive email alerts on the Chapter and the College. Send us your updated email address. Access the Kentucky Chapter Web site online at <http://www.acponline.org/chapters/ky/>.