

## Upcoming Events

**Louisiana-Mississippi ACP  
Scientific Meeting  
March 12-14, 2009  
Windsor Court Hotel  
New Orleans, LA**

**Internal Medicine 2009  
April 23-25, 2009  
Philadelphia, PA**

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## Introduction

It is a pleasure to update everyone in the Louisiana ACP on the activities of our chapter and its members. We are all cognizant of the challenges to health care (see below) and it is a privilege to be able to work with such a dynamic chapter to promote internal medicine, health care quality agendas, and professional development for health care providers at all stages. This newsletter highlights the accomplishments of several of our members at both the local and national level and also provides details regarding upcoming Associate activities for the chapter as well as complete information and links to registration for the annual Louisiana-Mississippi ACP Scientific Meeting which will be held March 12-14, 2009, in New Orleans. I would like to encourage all of you to attend as the list of speakers guarantees a rewarding and thought-provoking meeting. Participants will include **David Dale, MD, FACP**, Regent and Immediate Past President of ACP, **John Tooker, MD, FACP, MBA**, CEO of ACP, **Bill Cassidy**, Louisiana Congressman, and other distinguished speakers who will provide updates in Internal Medicine. Associate activities including medical JEOPARDY for the Internal Medicine training programs from Louisiana and Mississippi should also contribute to an exciting agenda. I look forward to seeing everyone in New Orleans and wish all of you a safe, healthy and happy 2009!

**Fred A. Lopez, MD, FACP**  
**ACP Governor, Louisiana Chapter**

## ACP Member Election to Congress



ACP member **William M. Cassidy, MD**, a gastroenterologist and Louisiana state senator from Baton Rouge, was recently elected to Congress from Louisiana's 6th District. A Republican, he defeated Democratic Congressman **Don Cazayoux**.

Dr. Cassidy is an Associate Professor of Medicine at LSU Health Science Center and teaches at Earl K. Long Hospital. He served as the Louisiana state senate's Health and Welfare committee's vice-chair during his nearly two years in the state senate.

The Congressman-elect's Web site reports, "*In the medical community Bill has led in finding solutions to healthcare issues facing Louisiana. He co-founded the Greater Baton Rouge Community Clinic which provides free dental and health care to the working uninsured. He has developed public health programs such as the School-Based Hepatitis B Vaccination program. Over 6 years, this public-private coalition*

vaccinated over 36,000 public, private and parochial school children in 10 parishes at no cost to parents, schools, or state and local government. He worked with the Centers for Disease Control developing programs to increase flu immunization rates. When Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana, Bill led a group of volunteers that converted an abandoned K-Mart building with inadequate plumbing, wiring and air conditioning into a functioning field hospital within 30 hours."

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## Louisiana Associates Meeting 2009

The Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans will host the annual Louisiana ACP Associates Meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2009. Approximately 90 abstracts have been received from medical students and residents from across the state and those chosen for poster and oral presentation should prove outstanding. In addition, last year's popular Master Clinician discussion of unknown cases will be included in the program. For further details, please contact **Lee Engel**, Louisiana ACP Associates liaison, at [lengel@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:lengel@lsuhsc.edu).

## Louisiana-Mississippi Chapters Scientific Meeting 2009

The Louisiana-Mississippi ACP Chapters Updates in Internal Medicine Scientific Meeting will be held March 12-14, 2009, at the spectacular Windsor Court Hotel in downtown New Orleans. An exciting program has been created and will include updates in hospitalist medicine, stroke care, cardiology, critical care medicine, the medical home, and hematology. In addition, abstract presentations from Associates from both Louisiana and Mississippi will be included as well as the ever popular JEOPARDY competition for Internal Medicine training programs from both states. **William "Bill" Cassidy**, the recently elected congressman from Louisiana's 6th District is scheduled to speak on public policy and health care. **David Dale**, Immediate Past President of ACP and professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, and **John Tooker**, CEO of ACP, will be in attendance. Please visit the following website for registration information:

<<[www.acponline.org/about\\_acp/chapters/la/news\\_meet.htm](http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/la/news_meet.htm)>> We have reserved a block of rooms for individuals attending the meeting. These rooms are on a first come-first served basis so make your reservation as early as possible by calling the hotel directly at 504-523-6000. Please make sure that to mention that you will be attending the ACP Louisiana/Mississippi Chapter meeting. The opportunities available at this meeting will help you meet not only your needs as a physician, but also the needs of the patients you serve. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans.

## Internal Medicine 2009

Philadelphia, PA plays host to ACP's annual scientific meeting from April 23-25, 2009, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. Choose from over 260 sessions providing comprehensive coverage of internal medicine, its subspecialties, and issues in practice management and healthcare policy. Join your colleagues throughout the internal medicine community at this exceptional experience. Register online now at:

<[https://www.acponline.org/atpro/timssnet/meetings/tnt\\_meetings.cfm?action=long&primary\\_id=ANUAL09](https://www.acponline.org/atpro/timssnet/meetings/tnt_meetings.cfm?action=long&primary_id=ANUAL09)>

## Philadelphia Information

Famous as the birthplace of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, Philadelphia offers much more than cobblestone streets and historical landmarks. Cultural, culinary, artistic and ethnic treasures abound in this city and its surrounding countryside. What makes Philadelphia so memorable is its unique blend of experiences that you have to discover in person. By day, explore four centuries of history and architecture, beautiful neighborhoods, remarkable museum collections and endless shopping. After the sun sets, the city heats up with acclaimed performing arts, candlelight tours, delectable dining and vibrant nightlife.

If you're on the hunt for a family vacation destination that meets these criteria, you can stop the search. Philadelphia is affordable, accessible, educational - and fun! These four magic words make the Philadelphia region perfect for your family getaway.

It's no wonder that kids love Philadelphia. This town is made for fun! Here history, science and art really do come to life. Watch the excitement on your kids' faces when they see the Liberty Bell up-close for the first time or stand next to a Tyrannosaurus Rex at our Academy of Natural Sciences. You'll be surprised at just how many of our fabulous museums are kid-friendly and kid-focused. Getting around with the kids is easy and entertaining too, with plenty of carriage, trolley and boat rides to enjoy.

## Contemporary yet Historic

It's just one square mile, but the area between Front to 7th Streets and Spruce to Race Streets covers three different neighborhoods, all jam packed with restaurants, galleries, shops and attractions. Each puts its own distinctive spin on history. And together, they make up Historic Philadelphia.

Throughout Independence Mall, America's most sacred historic sites stand side-by-side with the hustle and bustle of a 21st-century city. The residents of Society Hill welcome visitors to stroll their cobblestone streets and take in the architecture of the centuries-old homes, churches and landmarks that make this neighborhood so picturesque. And when artists, boutique owners and restaurateurs landed in Old City, they added a funky energy to this former warehouse district.

## The Unique Taste of Philadelphia

Those who think cheese steak when thinking Philly food: Think again. Philadelphia, long known for American history, passionate sports fans and, yes, cheese steaks, continues to emerge as one of the country's finest culinary destinations. More than a decade of development has transformed the region's dining scene from merely memorable to absolutely abundant. Throughout the city and beyond, four-star dining rooms coexist with unassuming, note-perfect neighborhood bistros; boisterous upscale taprooms counterbalance romantic food hideaways; and family-operated Bring-Your-Own- Bottle (BYOB) establishments share the sidewalk with high-profile restaurants owned by star restaurateurs.

Information provided by the Official Visitor Site for Greater Philadelphia, [www.philadelphiausa.travel/acp](http://www.philadelphiausa.travel/acp).

## ACP Announces New Fellows

Fellowship is an honor achieved by those recognized by their peers for personal integrity, superior competence in internal medicine, professional accomplishment, and demonstrated scholarship. It may be achieved by either advancement from ACP Membership or, in exceptional cases, by direct election. Honorary Fellowships are granted to presidents or their equivalents of medical societies abroad who attend ACP's annual Internal Medicine meeting.

Fellows are authorized to use the letters FACP (Fellow of the American College of Physicians) in connection with their professional activities for as long as their membership remains current. They have the right to vote, hold office, and sponsor applicants for Membership and Fellowship. Fellows are inducted at a Convocation ceremony held during ACP's annual Internal Medicine meeting. The Louisiana ACP is proud to recognize that four of its members were elected to fellowship on July 1, 2008: **Mohammed Saeed Baig, MBBS, FACP** (Baton Rouge, LA), **Derrick W. Spell, MD, FACP** (Baton Rouge, LA), **Jason J. Picard, MD, FACP** (Livonia, LA), and **Dawn M Puente, MD, FACP** (Kenner, LA).

## ACP Announces New Masters for 2009

The Awards Committee is pleased to announce that the Board of Regents has approved three members of the Louisiana ACP to receive Masterships at Internal Medicine 2009. Masters comprise a small group of highly distinguished physicians, selected from among Fellows, who have achieved recognition in medicine by exhibiting preeminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor, or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine. They are recommended by the Awards Committee for election to Mastership by the Board of Regents. Masters are authorized to use the letters MACP (Master of the American College of Physicians) in connection with their professional activities for as long as their membership remains current.

**Please join me in congratulating these accomplished new Masters of ACP.**

### **Daniel E. Banks, Shreveport, Louisiana**



Dr. Banks is Professor and Chair, Department of Medicine, Louisiana State University in Shreveport as well as Physician-in-Chief, University Hospital. He is a graduate of Wayne State University School of Medicine in Detroit. He trained in Medicine at LSU at Charity Hospital in New Orleans and was a fellow in Pulmonary Diseases in the Public Health Service. He was a junior faculty member at Tulane University in New Orleans and then took the position of Chief, Pulmonary Diseases Section at West Virginia University School of Medicine. In this position, he was the first Program Director for the Critical Care training program and was named the N. LeRoy Lapp Professor of Medicine. He has research and scholarship interests in the field of occupational lung disease and in medical education. With over 20 extramural funded projects, he has several

hundred publications. He has edited five books addressing issues in occupational and environmental lung disease and is beginning a new book on medical education. He has given nearly 100 invited lectures worldwide. He has been active in leadership roles in both the West Virginia and Louisiana ACP chapters.

### **Luis R. Espinoza, New Orleans, Louisiana**



Dr. Espinoza is Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and Chief of the Section of Rheumatology at the LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans as well as Director of the Rheumatology Fellowship Training Program and Attending Physician at MCLANO. His strongest interest is in promoting the teaching of rheumatology, particularly in developing countries. He has been President of the Louisiana Rheumatism Society, serves on the Executive Committee of the International League of Rheumatology Associations, and is currently President of the Pan American League Against Rheumatism (PANLAR). In addition, he was recently named Master of the American College of Rheumatology.

### **Sandra Abadie Kemmerly, New Orleans, Louisiana**



Dr. Kemmerly is Associate Head for the Section of Infectious Diseases at the Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans as well as Medical Director for Clinical Practice Improvement, Mid Level Providers, Infection Control, and Employee Health for the Ochsner Health System. With a heavy commitment to Ochsner leadership and intensive clinical involvement, she has some 50 publications and as many presentations. She serves as a Director on the Board of the Infectious Diseases Society of America and was President of the New Orleans Academy of Internal Medicine. She served as Governor of the ACP Louisiana Chapter from 2003 to 2008, a five year term due to complications stemming from Hurricane Katrina, sat on the Credentials Subcommittee and the Awards Committee, and was a member of the Governor's Council some years before. The

Louisiana Chapter won multiple Chapter Excellence Awards and an Evergreen Award under her leadership. She has given courses at ACP Annual Meetings on lessons learned post-Katrina.

## **Recruit-a-Colleague: Good for You and Your Chapter**

### **Take Advantage of the Recruit-a-Colleague Chapter Rewards Program**

The Recruit-a-Colleague program has been expanded to include chapter rewards for recruitment at the local level. We encourage you to take advantage of this great opportunity to help build membership while also helping your chapter build revenue and your members earn dues credits.

The national Recruit-a-Colleague program rewards successful recruiters with \$100 dues credits for each new full Member recruited and a chance to win a trip to the annual Internal Medicine meeting. The program runs each year from April through March.

The chapter program still rewards the individual recruiter as stated above, but it also:

- Provides a \$100 reward to the recruiter's chapter for each new member recruited (Please note that international chapters will receive a monetary reward equal to 25% of the newly-elected Member's dues)
- Provides one free registration to Internal Medicine 2010 for the chapter per every 10 new members recruited
- Provides an additional \$25 reward to chapters for each of the first two years that a new member who is recruited through this program renews his/her membership

Accessed at < <http://www.acponline.org/cln/rac.htm> > November 28, 2008

## Primary Care Provides Patients with Better Outcomes at Lower Cost, Urgent Need to Prevent Shortages of Primary Care Physicians

*Literature Review Documents Critical Importance of Primary Care as Part of Solution Sought by President and Congress for Health Care Reform (Washington) A white paper, How is a Shortage of Primary Care Physicians Affecting the Quality and Cost of Medical Care?*, released today by the American College of Physicians (ACP) documents the value of primary care by reviewing 20 years of research. An annotated bibliography based on a literature review of more than 100 studies documents the evidence to support the critical importance of primary care in providing patients with better outcomes at lower cost, and the urgency of the need to prevent shortages of primary care physicians.

"The evidence for the value of primary care is clear," said **Jeffery P. Harris, MD, FACP**, president of ACP. "It manifests itself in better quality of life, more productive longevity, and lower costs as a result of reduced hospitalization, improved prevention and better coordination of chronic disease care. The nation must take immediate steps to address the issues that threaten primary care's survival."

The ACP paper notes that policymakers are more likely to take the steps necessary to assure a sufficient primary care workforce if they are aware of the research on the importance of primary care to a high-performing health care system. Featuring more than 100 studies, the white paper provides an overview of current trends in the primary care physician workforce, the importance and value of primary care, and the growing demand for primary care services in the United States.

ACP calls on the federal government, large employers and other purchasers, health plans, and the medical profession itself to take immediate action to create a comprehensive national health-care workforce policy. ACP holds that the policy should:

- focus on primary care;
- adopt a patient-centered physician guided model of health care delivery to provide Americans with optimal care; and
- restructure payment policies to support the value of care provided by primary care physicians.
- provide debt relief to those pursuing careers in primary medicine.
- The consequences of failing to act, the College says, will be higher costs, greater inefficiency, lower quality, more uninsured persons, and growing patient and physician dissatisfaction. Averting the collapse of primary care is the best cure for an ailing health care system, ACP says.

"The research, literature and policy all clearly demonstrate that primary care physicians deliver high-quality care, reduce mortality, provide continuity of care, and reduce health care costs," Dr. Harris concluded. "President-elect Obama and the new Congress should embrace these recommendations as they look for primary solutions to the triple challenge of improving access, improving quality and controlling costs."

In addition to this white paper, ACP is developing a new policy paper to provide a comprehensive set of recommendations to assure that the supply of primary care physicians is sufficient to meet current and future needs. Many of ACP's ideas are reflected in the Patient Access to Primary Care Act, H.R. 7192, introduced by **Rep. Allyson Schwartz** of Pennsylvania. This bill will be reintroduced by **Rep. Schwartz** in the 111th Congress, and Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington is expected at that time to introduce a companion bill in the Senate. Later in 2009, ACP will release a position paper that will make recommendations on how primary care itself needs to change to meet the needs of an aging population with more chronic diseases.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 126,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internists specialize in the prevention, detection and treatment of illness in adults.

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