

The Louisiana
Chapter
of the
ACP-ASIM

**American College of Physicians—
American Society of Internal Medicine**
190 N. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1572

GOVERNOR'S CORNER

I encourage all members to attend our Annual Louisiana Chapter Meeting March 13-15, 2003, at the Wyndham Hotel in New Orleans held in conjunction with the Mississippi chapter. Our theme this year will be "What the Clinician Wants and Needs to Know," and we have an excellent cast of presenters. A detailed schedule follows on page 3 of this newsletter. I believe this year's meeting, featuring prominent experts and timely topics, will be most enjoyable and instructive. There is no other meeting that offers such an economical, convenient source of continuing education for a busy internist. I know Drs. Fred Lopez of LSU and Jeff Wiese of Tulane, Co-Directors of the 2003 Meeting, have been working diligently with their Planning Committee on giving you the best possible learning experience and environment. We are planning a few surprises for you this year too! We're introducing a Mentoring Breakfast this year on Saturday morning, which is sponsored by the LA Chapter Diversity Committee. The breakfast is free and open to all levels of membership. You'll receive your registration packet in the mail from nationals in early December 2002. It should be a wonderful time and a great learning experience. Get it on your calendar, day-timer, palm pilot now! And, please encourage your friends and colleagues to join us. We welcome them and hope that you take advantage of all the benefits of our great organization. I want to assure you that I will make every effort to help you in the process of participating in our College.

Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the Fall Board of Governors' Meeting in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada held September 26-28, 2002 due to the dangerous weather conditions of Isidore. I'll highlight the information discussed at this meeting that I've gleaned from other chapters. Most significant at this time, is the beginning of a coming together of representatives of the ABIM and ACP-ASIM. We agreed on a proposed "Memorandum of Understanding" that had been drafted by the appointed representatives from both organizations. This is a compromise, but truly a step forward toward simplifying the recertification process, and the best we can do presently. We shall see what comes forth. There is a national concern about the flattening curves of new College membership, and retention of Associates as Members, let alone moving up to Fellowship. A number of ideas and suggestions for improvement were proposed. There is recognition that internal medicine needs to be revitalized, and both the BOG and the Board of Regents see this as one of ACP-ASIM's highest priorities in the College's strategic planning process. Specific areas of attention, but not limited to these, are: the scope of practice for internal medicine, student debt, the need for positive role models, and support for the practicing internist. Particularly emphasized is the need to revitalize the personal lives of internists. The College continues to be concerned about "access to care," and continues to promote these issues in Washington to Congress. The proposed program by the College's representatives has been well received, but whether Congress is prepared to move on it at this time is debatable. Also of immediate concern is Medicare cuts, and all Governors (and probably a lot of you) have contacted your senators in this regard. If you haven't done so yet, I seriously encourage you to seek out your congressman through the College's Legislative Action Center web page. It's very useful, including drafted letters for your use on college issues! Thank you — and please keep up your enthusiastic participation! Let me know if I can do anything to help you at csande@lsuhsc.edu.

SOME IDEAS ON YOUR MIND?

Please share them with us by submitting articles
for our next publication to:

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OR

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

2003 LA-MS Chapters' ACP-ASIM Meeting

We would only offer you the very best. . .

2003 LA-MS ACP-ASIM Meeting:

"What the Clinician Wants and Needs to Know"

Thursday, March 13, 2003, 5-7 PM, Registration

Friday, March 14, 2003

7:00 AM	Registration and Breakfast
7:15	Louisiana Council Meeting and Mississippi Council Meeting
8:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks Charles V. Sanders, MD, FACP, ACP-ASIM Governor, Louisiana Chapter
8:05	Joseph Dalovisio, MD, Chief of Infectious Diseases, Ochsner Medical Foundation Update on Antimicrobial Resistance and New Antimicrobials
8:40	Questions and Answers
8:50	Jeanette Magnus, MD, PhD, Executive Director of the Tulane/Xavier Women's Center Update on Women's Health Issues
9:25	Questions and Answers
9:35	Luis Balart, MD, Chief of Gastroenterology, LSUHSC Update on Hepatitis C
10:10	Questions and Answers
10:20	Break: Visit exhibits and college display
10:35	Frank Svec, MD, PhD, Chief of Endocrinology, LSUHSC Update on Evaluation and Management of Obesity
11:10	Questions and Answers
11:20	Charles V. Sanders, MD, FACP, Edgar Hull Professor and Chair of Medicine, LSUHSC Update on Bioterrorism
11:55	Questions and Answers
12:05	Lunch
1:05	Chapter Business Meetings: Louisiana Chapter and Mississippi Chapter
2:00	Update on College Activities Munsey Wheby, MD, FACP
2:30	Town Meeting
3:00	Break: Visit Exhibits and College Display
3:15	Clinical Vignette Presentations by Louisiana and Mississippi Associates (4 from LA; 3 from MS)
4:45	Posters and Break: Visit Exhibits and College Display
5:00	Jeopardy Competition: Internal Medicine Residency Programs from Louisiana and Mississippi Chapters
6:30	Cocktails
7:00	Laureate Awards and Dinner

Saturday, March 15, 2003

8:00 AM	"Mentoring" Breakfast: Sponsored by the LA Chapter Diversity Committee
9:00	Muncy Wheby, MD: Approach to Anemia
9:50	Questions and Answers
10:00	"Unknown Cases" Forum: Presentation of the Cases and Discussion
10:50	Break and Visit Exhibits and College Display
11:00	"Unknown" Cases: Answers and Update of the Literature
12:00	Adjourn

NATIONAL ANNUAL SESSION MEETING IN SUNNY SAN DIEGO IN 2003!!!

If you've never attended an ACP-ASIM Annual Session Meeting, you're missing a real treat. It is the country's premiere educational meeting for internists and sub-specialists. This year, the meeting will be held in San Diego, California April 3-5th, 2003. Hopefully we'll see a good Louisiana contingency represented there, like we usually do at this meeting.

ACP-ASIM ADVANTAGE E-NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS TO REPLACE COLLEGE UPDATE

ACP-ASIM Advantage, a monthly electronic newsletter for College members, recently replaced the *College Update* newsletter. ACP-ASIM **Advantage** covers new College programs, products and services, and also keeps members updated on ACP-ASIM's advocacy efforts on behalf of internists. The nearly 50,000 members who have provided the College with their e-mail addresses receive the newsletter the first Wednesday of each month; recipients have the opportunity to opt-out of receiving the publication at any time. The electronic newsletter provides brief articles (150-250 words) about College activities and services that directly affect members. Readers who wish to learn more about a particular topic are referred to more information on the Web (when available). Members may access the newsletter on ACP-ASIM Online at www.acponline.org/advantage. For more information, please contact Allison Ewing at 800-523-1546 or aewing@mail.acponline.org.

COLLEGE MOUNTS PUBLIC AFFAIRS EFFORT ON EXCESSIVE MEDICARE CUTS

The College's Public Affairs office has mounted a campaign to educate the public about the recent cuts in Medicare and what they will mean to the future quality of care in the U.S. In mid-March 2002, ACP-ASIM released a video news release featuring **College President William Hall, MD, FACP**, which dramatized the impact of excessive Medicare cuts on patient care. The release, titled "Medicare Cuts May Mean Trouble Ahead for Patients and the Physicians Who Treat Them," noted that Medicare patients may soon be faced with a serious reduction in available physicians and services if Congress doesn't act soon. A nearly 30% decrease in physician reimbursement over four years is forcing physicians to cut practice expenses and reconsider their participation in the Medicare program. In Dr. Hall's geriatric practice in New York state, a 5% cut in funding has already led to the reduction of two staff positions. The College is working with Congress to avoid additional cuts that will force further reductions in services for Medicare patients between now and 2005. In addition to the video news release, Public Affairs is working with members around the country to write and place op-ed letters in local newspapers. Op-ed pieces are an excellent tool to reach a broad audience with a targeted message. Physicians who are interested in lending their name and support to an op-ed piece may contact Carolyn Albert in the Public Affairs office at 800-338-2746 or at calbert@mail.acponline.org.

**LA CHAPTER
ASSOCIATES' MEETING
OCHSNER MEDICAL FOUNDATION
JANUARY 23, 2003**

Contact Dr. Amy Broussard, LSUHSC Internal Medicine Chief Resident at 504-568-4600
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