

### Upcoming Events

BREAST CANCER SURVIVOR  
DINNER WORKSHOP  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24,  
2009, 6:00 PM  
HOPKINS CLUB, 3400 N.  
CHARLES STREET

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### Governor's Message



Dear ACP Colleagues,

2009 looks like it will be bringing new and difficult challenges for internists in all walks of life. Our physician workforce issues are becoming critical in Maryland for many reasons. We educate many physicians for the country and the world but we do not provide the best practice environment for our many graduates. Visas to work in Maryland are hard to obtain, our insurance rates for malpractice insurance are high, and our payment rates are low. We have critical shortages in primary care and specialty care. The Maryland Chapter of ACP has been active with MedChi and the Maryland Hospital Association in conducting and publicizing these issues after last year's critical analysis of these trends.

So what should we as internists do to help Maryland become a better state for internists in primary care and specialty care?

1. Encourage our students and residents to contemplate careers in our specialty by mentoring and demonstrating the deep satisfaction of an internal medicine career.
2. Work to improve public awareness of the value of having a trusted doctor to guide patients through life's medical challenges.
3. Continue to negotiate strongly and effectively with the insurance industry to pay fairly for preventive care, care coordination, and good longitudinal care.
4. Participate in demonstration projects of the Patient Centered Medical Home.
5. Try to move our practices into the electronic era with electronic health records, and e-prescribing.
6. Become active political advocates for our patients and our practices by joining ACP committees, state and local medical organizations, and speaking frankly with our patients and colleagues about making Maryland a leader in delivering better care.
7. Work hard to reduce unnecessary and duplicative care which is squandering our health care dollars on expenditures of little or no value.
8. Make sure we have adequate rest, recreation and pleasure so that our balanced lives will sustain us for many years of practice.
9. Ask our medical schools to work on reducing student indebtedness while really fostering a commitment to developing primary care physicians for our communities. This should begin at the admissions level.

10. Maintain a sense of hope that we can build a better system of health care in our state which gives all of our citizens access to care both in the hospital and the doctor's office.

May 2009 be a year of growth, health, learning and prosperity for all of you!

Mary Newman, MD FACP  
Governor Maryland Chapter

## MD ACP STILL WORKING FOR YOU!

In Maryland, we are fortunate to have such an active ACP chapter. Our Council and committee chairs try to develop and implement programs that will interest all of our members. See below for just a few of the activities that have been implemented during the last several months.

In September, our WIM held their 3rd annual Women in Medicine month workshop designed for and by women in medicine. This year's meeting focused on the practicing clinicians with information on EHR, micro practice model and contract negotiations.

In October, our Chief Residents Association of Baltimore (CRAB) met to discuss and develop plans for a number of interesting projects including, a Survival Guide for Spouses, a communication system to allow for prompt response in providing information on patients being seen at different hospitals throughout the area, and a morning report survey.

In October, emails were also sent to the entire membership soliciting members for our Student Mentoring project. Almost 75 students from Johns Hopkins and University of Maryland Schools of Medicine were interested in being placed with an ACP mentor for 2008/2009. The group was extremely pleased that so many members were willing to give of their time to allow for a student to be mentored for this project.

In November, our Health & Public Policy Committee held an ACP on the Road in Columbia, Maryland. The program entitled "*Reimbursement Enhancements for 2009 and Beyond*" featured presentations on Eprescribing, PQRI, and the medical home plan. The committee was very pleased to have approximately 30 members in attendance at this meeting. The presentations as well as additional information on these enhancements can now be found on our ACP website.

In December, our Student committee met to discuss several plans for 2009. These include hosting a reception for our students and mentors scheduled for February 2009, participation in the Steps to Success meeting for students in the DC and Maryland area held in April; our ACP IM 2009 scheduled for April in Philadelphia, and ACP Leadership Days.

Our other committees were also very active during the past few months including our Program committee which developed our Chapter meeting program for February 6-7, 2009, our Health & Policy Committee which is in the process of reviewing several legislative items, and our WIM group which is also planning a number of activities for 2009.

## OUR HEALTH & PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!!!

In January 2009, our Health & Public Policy Committee hosted its first meeting of the year. We are pleased to report that **Dr. Robert M. Greenfield**, a practicing internist, in the Annapolis area, was kind enough to take over the role as Committee chair. **Dr. Harry Oken** had served as the committee chair for a number of years, and was unable to continue in this capacity for 2009. We thank Dr. Oken for his many years of service on behalf of this committee.

Dr. Greenfield is hoping to take the committee in several new directions including new health legislation initiatives, and a public relations project. Dr. Greenfield states "*there is not enough quality comprehensive primary care in Maryland. Few medical students and residents are choosing this field and those of us retiring are not being replaced....The only way to move the interests of primary care forward is to educate the citizens and legislators of Maryland in how these issues impact their access to quality health care and the budget.*"

This could include well written letters to the editors of our newspapers to developing a wide range of public relations programs.

But, we need the support of our membership to accomplish some of these activities. If you are interested in becoming a member of the committee, and work in the development and implementation of these projects, please be sure to contact **Maryellen Woodward**, our Chapter staff assistant at [mew4work@aol.com](mailto:mew4work@aol.com). If you are not able to join the committee, but would like to identify additional problems or opportunities in medicine in Maryland which the committee could pursue through public relations and legislative efforts that would improve health care or decrease its costs, we would appreciate your feedback. We look for your support of these new projects.

## JOIN US FOR MARYLAND ACP CHAPTER MEETING – FEBRUARY 6 & 7, 2009

The Program Committee co-chaired by **Drs. Ali Afrookteh** and **Stephen Sisson**, has been very busy during the last several months planning this year's chapter meeting. Since this is one of the largest specialty society meetings in Maryland, the committee continues to focus a number of its presentations for the practicing clinician with updates on diabetes, prostate cancer, and perioperative guidelines for anticoagulation. This year's Point/Counterpoint format should prove to be a very lively and interesting session. There are also several presentations planned specifically for our students, residents and young physicians including the Multiple Small Feedings of the Mind, the Doctors Dilemma contest for residents and students, as well as the breakout session on "Financial Planning for 2009 and Beyond." The entire brochure can be found on our Maryland website. Please be sure to register TODAY!

## STUDENT CORNER

The Student Subcommittee of the Maryland ACP chapter has had an exciting, productive 2008. Students from the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins, and Harbor Hospital are cooperating in several projects. We have established a mentorship program to introduce junior medical students to the field of internal medicine and family medicine by pairing them with local physicians. We have begun to expand the program and currently have roughly 70 students who have expressed interest and are being matched. In addition, we successfully expanded our annual Community Care Initiative health fair to 2 days in 2 locations and have plans to increase involvement from community and national organizations this coming spring. This past year's joint Maryland/DC ACP student conference was a success as well, drawing students from around the area to participate in hands-on activities, converse with physicians, and submit posters of research and case reports. Plans are well under way for the conference this year, which will again be held on the USIS campus in Bethesda. Student representatives from both the University of MD and Hopkins attended Leadership Day on the Hill and lobbied for changes in Medicare reimbursement as well as delayed loan repayment for residents. We are looking forward to continuing our activities and expanding our current programs in the new year.

Emily Pfeil, Co-Chair (Johns Hopkins)

Thom Reznik, Co-Chair (University of Maryland)

## Women in Medicine Subcommittee

Our 3rd Annual 'September is Women in Medicine Month' event on September 6, 2008 at Upper Chesapeake Health Center, was a great success, even with the unfortunate appearance of Hurricane Hannah.

Thanks to **Dr. Jean Antonucci**, a Faculty member and practitioner of the Ideal Medical Practice (IMP) Project, who spoke on the Ideal Micropractice (IMP) Model, and shared her experiences regarding this unique innovative practice model. The IMP Model focuses on the use of low overhead and high-technology to make practicing primary care a rewarding and efficient experience for both the physician and the patient. Thanks to **Maria Rudolph, MPH**, formerly of ACP Information and Quality Improvement, who spoke on Electronic Health Records and E-Prescribing. Thanks to **Jama Allers**, MedChi Practice Consultant who spoke on the impact of

Pay for Performance on current practices, as well as Insurance/Vendor Contract Negotiation and Credentialing.

Attendees were inspired and educated on ACP's efforts to bring this unique IMP model which is a Patient-Centered Medical Home as well as up-to-date practice management information to its members. Due to the current crisis of primary care, we thought this year's program would be important to share with other ACP chapters to spread information about innovative practice models and up-to-date practice management information. We subsequently have submitted a nomination for the program for an Evergreen Award in a new category for Practice Management and Patient-Centered Medical Home.

Please mark your calendars for our next event as part of the Maryland Chapter Scientific Meeting in February, 2009 at Turf Valley Resort & Conference Center. On February 7, at 12:45 pm, Women in Medicine together with the Council of Young Physicians, Chaired by **Dr. Sapna Kuehl**, will host a Breakout on the topic of *'Managing Your Finances in 2009 and Beyond'* which is especially timely in these difficult economic times. We hope to see you there – so bring your questions and concerns to our speaker **Ms. Nicole Cole**, an experienced accountant and financial planner. Please look for further updates as we are also planning additional "socials" for the spring and summer of 2009.

\*\*In addition, as people are the driving force behind the ACP, we are looking for members who are interested in participating and growing with WIM – If you are interested, please contact **Maryellen** at: [mew4work@aol.com](mailto:mew4work@aol.com), or **Claudia** at: [claudiakrokerbode@hotmail.com](mailto:claudiakrokerbode@hotmail.com).

Thanks to everyone for their support!

Claudia Kroker, Chair, WIM  
Regina Gan-Carden, Co-Chair, WIM  
Nareesa Mohammed, Co-Chair, WIM, Northeast

## MEMBERS IN THE NEWS!

*Please be sure to send your Congratulations and Best Wishes to:*

**Dr. R. Dobbin Chow**, our new elected Governor-Designee. Dr. Chow will become our Governor-elect after the close of IM 2009 and will take office in 2010. Dr. Chow is Program Director and Vice Chairman, Department of Medicine, Good Samaritan Hospital.

**Dr. Nareesa Mohammed**, who has been selected to the ACP National Council of Young Physicians representing the northeastern zone. Dr. Mohammed has been a very active member of our Women in Medicine and Young Physician Councils. If you have any ideas or suggestions that might be of interest to our young physicians, please be sure to contact Dr. Mohammed.

**Dr. Philip Mackowiak**, who is this year's recipient of the Nicholas E. Davies Memorial Scholar Award in recognition of his unique contributions to the history of medicine. Since 1995, Dr. Mackowiak, who is currently the Professor and Vice Chairman of the University of Maryland School of Medicine and the Chief of the Medical Care Clinical Center, has hosted an Historical Clinicopathological Conference (CPC) on behalf of the VA Maryland Health Care System and the University of Maryland. The historical CPC has achieved international acclaim, generated over a dozen peer-reviewed articles in addition to a recently released book entitled, *Post Mortem, Solving History's Great Medical Mysteries*.

**Dr. Steven J. Kravet**, a member of our MD ACP Council, has been named the new president of Johns Hopkins Community Physicians. Dr. Kravet is currently an assistant professor of medicine and serves as the medical director for Ambulatory Services, chief medical officer for Quality and Patient Safety, and deputy director for clinical activity in the Department of Medicine at Johns Hopkins. As a practicing primary care physician, Dr. Kravet certainly understands the challenges facing primary care and plans to continue to advance the missions of JHCP and Johns Hopkins Medicine.

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TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009, 6:00 PM  
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This program is intended to educate healthcare providers and trainees about the healthcare needs and challenges that are unique to cancer survivors.

For more information or to register for this FREE meeting, please contact Maryellen Woodward, MD ACP Chapter staff at [mew4work@aol.com](mailto:mew4work@aol.com) or 410-332-8444

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

LINK to MHA Maryland Physician Workforce Study – Summary of Findings

[http://www.mdhospitals.org/mha/Health\\_Policy\\_Issues/Physician\\_Workforce\\_Study/Executive\\_Summary.pdf](http://www.mdhospitals.org/mha/Health_Policy_Issues/Physician_Workforce_Study/Executive_Summary.pdf)

Visit the Chapter Website at

[www.acponline.org/about\\_acp/chapters/md](http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/md)