



Governor's Message

Dear Maryland Chapter,

Are You Ready for Health Reform?

Skyrocketing costs that are unsustainable have moved health system reform to the center of American attention this spring and summer. Combined with record numbers of uninsured and underinsured in a weak economy, many of our patients are worried about their vulnerability to personal disaster should a catastrophic medical illness hit their family. The American College of Physicians has been representing you and our internist colleagues in a very rapidly evolving political process.

I hesitate to write anything too concrete or specific, since much will happen between now and when you are likely to read this. I do know that I am reading policy papers and commenting very frequently on your behalf for the last few months. I think you will be most impressed by the College's actions to make medicine better for our patients. Here is a brief summary of our key legislative priorities:

1. Ensure that all Americans will have access to affordable coverage from qualified health plans that cover essential services, like prevention and primary care. Such plans should be prohibited from discriminating against or excluding people based on their health conditions
2. Permanently eliminate Medicare payment cuts caused by the sustainable growth rate formula and make compensation for primary care physicians competitive with other specialties within five years. Currently, general internists and other primary care physicians are compensated at 55% of the average compensation for other specialists, which is a principal reason new physicians are not choosing primary care and many established ones are leaving the field early.
3. Pilot test new Medicare payment models that pay physicians for proven interventions that help keep people well and out of the hospital, instead of just how many procedures or visits we bill.
4. Enact other policies to ensure a sufficient physician workforce, including funding for primary care training programs and elimination of medical education debt.

Please publicize these priorities to your patients, your legislators, your hospitals, and your colleagues.

There is also a great deal of activity on the Maryland state front about access to good primary care services in Maryland. **Harry Oken** and I participated in a Primary Care Summit in Howard County on May 21, 2009 which did an excellent job in highlighting the very difficult time Maryland citizens are having finding primary care. We have a shortage of primary physicians, the financial model for primary care is unsustainable and there are too few students and residents choosing primary care careers. Many who would like to be internists are dissuaded when they realize how hard it will be to manage their medical school debt. This group is actively attacking these problems. Please try to help us educate the public and our colleagues about these issues at the state level.

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For those of you who are medical subspecialists, please remember that the issues of health reform concern the importance of recognizing the value of cognitive services, coordination of care, and access to good care. I think we can all be proud of ACP's actions on our behalf.

From Dr. R. Dobbin Chow, MD, FACP Governor-elect, Maryland Chapter

Hello to fellow Maryland ACP members! I am excited, and a little anxious, to serve as governor-elect this year, and as governor next year. It is a daunting task to follow in the footsteps of those who have preceded me. I had the opportunity to attend the Board of Governors meeting this past April, which occurred during the national scientific meeting. All I had to do was to mention that I was from the Maryland Chapter, and they all told me how great Mary Newman was, and what a terrific job she has been doing during her term. As a Chapter, we should be both grateful and proud to have had Mary serving in this important role.

At the Board of Governors' meeting, I could tell it was not business as usual. Like many other industries, the ACP is facing challenging financial times. However, it was my impression that the ACP is fortunate to have in abundance sage leadership, experienced administrators, and thoughtful constituents. The discussion was not necessarily focused on where to cut expenses, but on the moral imperatives and guiding principles of the organization. I could also tell that I am going to learn a lot over the next four years. I am looking forward to serving our Chapter to the best of my abilities. I welcome your input, comments, ideas, and suggestions as we quickly move forward into what I feel will be a new era of medicine. Please feel free to email me at Robert.Dobbin.Chow@medstar.net or at 443-444-4863. I hope to work closely with many of you over the next four years!

THE MD ACP IS AT WORK FOR YOU!

By now you have received your dues bill for the upcoming year, and you are probably reflecting on what membership in the ACP means for you and your colleagues. Here are just some of the highlights of the activities our Maryland Chapter has presented just since January. As you can see we are a very busy and active organization, and we NEED your support to continue these activities. We try to focus on all segments of our membership from students to residents to those in private and administrative practice.

In January, our Students and Residents met to discuss their continued activities including the student/internist mentoring program which had over 75 matches this year; the upcoming Doctors Dilemma contest for residents and students; and a communication system between hospitals which allows residents at hospitals throughout the metropolitan area to communicate directly with each other.

In February, we not only held our Chapter meeting at Turf Valley, but also hosted 2 additional meetings. A Breast Cancer Survivor Workshop presented by a team from the Johns Hopkins Breast Cancer Center designed especially for practicing internists who take care of "survivors" and their continuing medical problems in an outpatient setting. Additionally, a reception at Harbor Hospital for students and their mentors with a presentation by **Dr. Norman Dy**, Program Director, Internal Medicine at St. Agnes Health Care on a Survival Guide for Residents and their Families was held on February 20th.

In March, plans continued to be completed for our several upcoming meetings including our May Mulholland-Mohler Associates meeting, and the Students Steps to Success.

In April, the Steps to Success meeting designed for students in the metropolitan and DC areas was held at USUHS. This is an all day program featuring abstracts, panel and mentoring lunch, as well as hands on and practical sessions on a variety of topics from student advocacy to the residency application process. IM 2009 was also held in Philadelphia this year during April, and the MD ACP financially supported the attendance of the Doctors Dilemma winners, as well 2 Associate abstract presenters from last year's meeting. A reception with the DC ACP was held on Thursday evening and we had a large contingent of our newly elected Fellows in attendance at the reception.

In May, three major events occurred. The first was the Mulholland-Mohler Associates meeting on May 7th at the University of Maryland School of Medicine where almost 200 abstracts were presented but more importantly over 40 "judges" from all over the metropolitan area took some time out of their busy practices to assist us with this meeting. Secondly, was Leadership Day hosted on May 19-20. This year we had a tremendous outpouring of interested members from students to residents to practicing physicians and we had almost 20 members attend Leadership Day from Maryland. Lastly, Dr. Newman participated as a panelist in the Health Care summit on primary care sponsored by the Howard County Health Department. This brought together primary care physicians in a ground breaking summit to discuss the and evaluate action plans to alleviate the primary care crisis in Maryland.

In June, we have already had a Cabinet session to discuss finances for the upcoming year and the impact that cutbacks might have on our activities.

We want to be able to provide all of these activities while keeping within our budget, and we look forward to your continued support for 2009/2010. Thanks for such a great 2008/2009!!!

DR. GREENFIELD RECEIVES ACP KEY CONTACT AWARD

As part of the ACP Leadership Days, a special Key Contact Recognition Award was given to members of the ACP at a dinner on Tuesday evening. In 1995, ACP implemented the Key Contact Awards program to recognize those individuals who have made exceptional contributions to advance ACP's policy agenda. Recipients are selected based on the quality and quantity of responses to ACP's legislative alerts and federal grassroots advocacy initiatives during the year.

Only 11 awards are given each year. We are very pleased to announce that our very own **Dr. Robert Greenfield**, a practicing internist in Annapolis, Maryland was one of this year's winners. In presenting this award it was noted that Dr. Greenfield is Chair of our Maryland Health and Public Policy Committee. He has participated in Leadership Day for the past four years and led the Maryland delegation last year. Dr. Greenfield is a compassionate patient advocate and communicates his concerns constantly and before numerous audiences. For example, on his own initiative, he met privately with **Congressman Stark**, chair of the House Committee on Ways & Means, health subcommittee, to discuss his ideas and concerns for our health care system.

We in Maryland are very happy to have Dr. Greenfield as one of our most active members, and we thank him for his participation on our behalf. Again, our congratulations to Dr. Greenfield.

MULHOLLAND-MOHLER ASSOCIATES MEETING: A GREAT SUCCESS!

This year, the MD ACP Mulholland-Mohler Associates meeting continued its tradition of providing a very interesting, and exciting day for the over 200 students, residents, and physicians who attended. We thank the University of Maryland School of Medicine for allowing us to host this meeting which has grown significantly over the last two years. This year, we had over 160 clinical vignettes, and 20 research presentations with participation by 45 judges from across our metropolitan area. It is so rewarding to see the interest of all of our programs in ensuring that the meeting is well attended and supported by our resident medical community. But, if we did not have the support of the "judges" we would not be able to present such a wonderful program. We want to especially thank them for their continued participation in this program.

Dr. Angeline Lazarus, a current ACP regent who has also served in a number of different capacities in her illustrious medical career, including 27 years in active military duty in the US Navy, presented the keynote address on "*Global Physician Leadership: Integrating Yourself.*" We are also pleased to announce that the recipient of the C. Lockard Conley Award for 2009 was **Dr. Steven R. Gambert**, current Program Director, Internal Medicine at Sinai Hospital of Baltimore. Dr. Gambert received this award for his many years as a physician-scientist-educator and role model for residents and students. Dr. Gambert certainly embodies all of the qualities valued by Dr. Conley and we congratulate Dr. Gambert on receiving this award.

Also see below the list of winners from this meeting. Congratulations to Everyone!

ORAL RESEARCH

1st PLACE

Dr. Theresa Rowe-*Directly Observed Therapy for Patients with HIV/AIDS*, Johns Hopkins Bayview

2nd PLACE

Dr. Zeshan Rajput-*Conclusion of the St. Agnes Hospital Co-Morbidity Projects*, St. Agnes

Dr. Ardalan Enkeshafi-*Emergence of Hypervirulent Strain of Clostridium Difficile*
Good Samaritan Hospital

ORAL CLINICAL VIGNETTE

1st PLACE

Nestoras Mathioudakis, MD-*A Lifelong Smoker with Diplopia*
Johns Hopkins Bayview

2nd PLACE

Celeste C. Lopez-Quianzon, MD-*Lemierre's Syndrome*
Union Memorial

3RD PLACE

Devadatta Sarwate, MD-*The Sting of GIST-Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor*
Franklin Square

Research Posters

1st PLACE

Dr. Sonali Vadi-*The Use of Enoxaparin As A Prophylaxis for DVT*
Maryland General

2nd PLACE

Dr. Arturo Loaiza-Bonilla-*A Phase 2 Study of Vorinostat in Acute Myeloid Leukemia*
Harbor Hospital

Honorable Mention

Dr. Addisu Mengesha-*Thalassemia Among Elderly Population of South East Asia And projection in 2050*
Harbor Hospital

CLINICAL VIGNETTE POSTERS

1st PLACE

Dr. Mikhailia Lake-*Tachycardia Induced Cardiomyopathy*
Johns Hopkins Hospital

Dr. Arturo Loaiza-Bonilla-*A Case of a Patient with Persistent Tn Polyagglutination Syndrome Presenting with Febrile Neutropenia*
Harbor Hospital

2nd PLACE

Dr. Jeet Gandhi-*A Rare Complication of HIV and Hepatitis C*
Harbor Hospital

Honorable Mention

Dr. Markos Kashiouris-*Kimura Disease Associated with Minimal Change Nephropathy in an African American Patient*
JHU/Sinai

Dr. Vanessa Walker Harris-*Amiodarone Induced Thyrotoxicosis*
Johns Hopkins Bayview

Dr. Melissa Morgan-*Elevated Aldolase Level in the Absence of Elevated CK in a Case of Paraneoplastic Myositis*
Johns Hopkins Bayview

Dr. Bo Vaughn-*Modified Treatment of Refractory TTP in Three HIV Positive Patients*
UMMS/VA Medical Center

Dear Women in Medicine,

Do you always know what to do?

Do you have your mentors and a networking group?

Do you find it challenging to be a woman and a physician?

If you said yes to the above then indeed you do not need to read further.

But if you are interested in hearing what we all have to say and how we can help each other as women, than send me an e-mail.

We are a subcommittee of the ACP MD Chapter called Women in Medicine (WIM).

The Maryland Chapter acknowledges and appreciates the substantial differences in the needs of female physicians and their dual roles, as healthcare specialists and family caretakers during all phases of their career: medical school, residency, fellowship, professional practice, and retirement. With that in mind the Women in Medicine Subcommittee (www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapter/md/wim.htm) was organized in December of 2004 to address the many and varied needs of female medical students and physicians within Maryland.

We have a mission:

1. To provide a forum for networking and mentoring amongst female physicians and medical students during all phases of their training and career.
2. To increase the number of female physicians in leadership positions.
3. To explore professional options to sustain and nurture the balance of professional and personal responsibilities.
4. To increase membership and participation in organized medicine.

We need you to participate!!!!!!!!!! We are seeking new members and have some positions available which will open the door to leadership in ACP. We have won the Evergreen award from the ACP twice!!!!

PS: it is fun and does not take a lot of your time. If you want to know more about us or just ask some questions contact me at: claudiakrokerbode@hotmail.com

Claudia Kroker-Bode MD, PhD, FACP
Chair Women in Medicine
Clinical Assistant Professor University of Maryland School of Medicine

LEADERSHIP DAY May 19–20, 2009

As the Obama administration and the Congress attempt to finalize comprehensive health care reform legislation, the American College of Physicians continues to be actively engaged in the debate. The ACP sponsored a two day Leadership event on May 19-20 in Washington, D.C. that allowed physicians, residents and medical students from across the country to meet with their senators, congressmen and legislative aids. On the first day, speakers from President Obama's Health Care Task Force, senatorial and congressional staff members and senior ACP staff members participated in a series of orientation sessions and lobbying seminars. Policymakers noted that the ACP has uniquely been present at most of the major planning sessions and is highly regarded by the Administration,

We began the next day with an address from U.S. **Rep. Allyson Schwartz**, (D-PA), who is the sponsor of H.R. 2350, Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act of 2009. We then visited the offices of our respective senators and congressmen to discuss ACP's legislative objectives, and our principal concern that reform legislation ensure adequate patient access to internists and other primary care practitioners.

ACP's principal objectives regarding health care reform are as follows:

1. Ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, portable insurance coverage without restrictions for prior medical conditions.
2. Modify Medicare's physician's fee schedules to ensure that payments for primary care are competitive with those paid to other types of specialists.
3. Require testing of new Medicare payment models that re-align incentives in support of effective, efficient, patient-centered, coordinated care.
4. Create a national policy to ensure sufficient numbers of physicians, including general internists and other specialists facing critical shortages. Measures to address this objective should include greater support for medical students entering these specialties and residency programs geared towards producing specialist in shortage fields.

The Administration and the Congress are moving very quickly and plan to have legislation out of Committee

in July. How medicine will be practiced in the future and how it will be paid is being defined right now. This is a crucial time for internal medicine and the future of health care in America. Please let your senators and congressmen know your views about the importance of these issues. Visit the ACP legislative action center website at <http://capwiz.com/acponline/home/>

In addition to your political support, your financial support of the ACPs Political Action Committee allows PAC members to lobby for your concerns and those of your patients. Licensed physician members of the ACP may join the political action committee and contribute. Their web site is www.acpservices.org/contribute

Members of the Maryland delegation included: **Mary Newman**, Governor, ACP, Maryland Chapter; **Robert Greenfield**, Leadership Day Coordinator and team leader; **Dobbin Chow**, Governor Elect, ACP, Maryland Chapter; **Ali Afrookteh**, team leader; **Steven Kravet**, team leader; **Jeanne McCauley**, team leader, **Bassel Alkhalil**; **Pankaj Desai**; **Angelita Estadilla**; **Claudia Kroker**; **Christopher Lemon**; **Jamie Morano**; **Emily Pfeil**; **Thomas Reznik**; **Leonard Sowah**; **Alveena Syed**,; **Baligh Yehia** and members of the ACP, Washington D.C. chapter.

Robert M Greenfield, MD, FACP
Leadership Day Coordinator, Maryland Chapter, ACP
Chairman: Health and Public Committee, Maryland Chapter, ACP

STUDENT COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

It has been a busy year for the student sub-committee of the Maryland chapter of ACP. We have accomplished much and continue to make great strides in exposing students to the joys of internal medicine and reaching out to the community of Baltimore through our yearly Community Care Initiative (CCI) health fair.

We completed the third year of our internal medicine mentorship program and this year we paired more than 70 medical students hailing from both University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins with general internists and sub-specialists. The dedicated support of physicians throughout Maryland enables this program to thrive. We are now working to collect feedback from both sides so we can continue reaching out to student early in their training and expand student opportunities.

In April, the committee orchestrated the second annual student Steps to Success meeting for DC and Maryland medical students. The meeting at USUHS in Bethesda, MD exposes students to internal medicine and allows them to present posters and engage in workshops geared towards success in their internal medicine clerkship and residency applications. More than 100 students registered for the event representing all the DC and Maryland medical schools as well as schools in Virginia and as far away as the Netherlands.

Many of our committee members had the opportunity to participate in ACP Leadership Day 2009. We worked tirelessly on the hill over the course of two days meeting with Congressmen and Senators to emphasize the importance of primary care and the needs of the nation. The event energized our members and provided a great look at the non-clinical side of medicine.

We finished the year strong, hosting our annual CCI Health Fair at the Israel Baptist Church in East Baltimore. We focused for the first time on connecting underserved Baltimore communities with long term health services. Both student and professional organizations partnered together to offer screenings, education and longitudinal health and wellness opportunities. In addition to reaching out to many local community members, CCI partnered with the Mattie B. Uzzle Outreach Center to provide basic health and hygiene supplies to a group of local homeless mothers and their children. Community members were excited to attend the event with many taking advantage of the fair's health offerings as well as the sampler bags of healthy food given away to all attendees. We look forward to hosting another successful fair in 2010!

We had a great 2008-2009 year and we look forward to building on the momentum of our Steps to Success meeting as well as our CCI health fair to continue to harness the energy of the internal medicine community in Maryland. We appreciate all the support that ACP members offer to interested student.

Thom Reznik, Co-Chair, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Photo Gallery



Leadership Day



Drs. Mary Newman & Angeline Lazarus from Associates Meeting



Dr. Dobbin Chow and Associate winners



Leadership Day participants



Dr. Dobbin Chow and Associate winners



Dr. Robert Greenfield (winner Key Contact Award at Leadership Day)