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From the Governor

General Internal Medicine remains front and center in our healthcare system both nationally and in Maine. The College continues to strengthen and diversify its support of Internal Medicine both through advocacy and educational programs.

The TUFTS/MMC Program in Undergraduate Education is a reality – the first student class will begin in August 2009. Refer to the “Newsflash” regarding progress and opportunities to participate. The Maine Multi-Payer Pilot of the Patient Centered Medical Home is underway. Although the application deadline has passed, several ACP member practices have applied. We will keep you apprised of this very important endeavor to transform medical care and implement payment reform. For those of you teaching, the College has made available slide sets of common clinical problems.

Please refer to the following items in the newsletter for details.

Our Chapter will again be sending a group too Washington in May to visit and lobby our Congressional delegation on healthcare issues. **Drs. Lesley Mansfield, Nancy Hasenfus, Jim VanKirk and Doug MacQueen** (resident) will attend Leadership Day on our behalf. There is a current overview of policy issues in the Health and Public Policy Section of the ACP website.

**Save the Date: Maine Chapter Meeting
 October 16-18, Sunday River**

This year our clinical theme will be nutrition in health and disease. In addition there will be workshops to address “things they didn’t teach you in medical school but you need to do in practice”. Topics will include wound care, fall assessment, ADHD management. There will also be a session on the unique medical problems of returning military veterans. As always there will be a legislative update, College representative presentation and Town Meeting discussion. We will continue the successful poster presentation session . This year we have strayed from sea level (Bar Harbor) but hope to have a stimulating meeting – “medicine with altitude” at Sunday River!

Visit the Chapter Website at
www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/me

Chapter Meeting Poster Session

Dear ACP members and Associates:

We are pleased to announce our plans for the third annual poster session at the Maine ACP fall meeting in October 2009. This will include submissions of clinical vignettes, quality improvement activities, educational innovations, and research (including works in progress). We encourage submissions from students, residents, faculty, and practicing clinicians who plan to attend the meeting.

Submitted items should be no longer than 500 words, and should be structured according to the submission category, as below.

Clinical vignette: Presenting symptoms, Clinical Course, and Teaching Points/ Discussion
Quality Improvement: Problem or Background, Intervention, Measures/Outcomes, and Discussion

Educational Innovation: Introduction or Background, Innovation/ Change, Outcomes, and Discussion

Research: Background, Methods, Results or Preliminary Findings, and Discussion

The abstract deadline will be August 15th. We will be sending an additional reminder in the summer.

All submissions should be via email to **Dr. Kathleen Fairfield**, at fairfk@mmc.org

Maine Patient Centered Medical Home Pilot

Update – December 2008

The Patient Centered Medical Home offers an exciting and promising approach to transforming healthcare as it addresses both the practice transformation and the payment reform required to needed to improve care. Dirigo's Maine Quality Forum, Quality Counts, and the Maine Health Management Coalition are convening a multi-stakeholder effort to develop, implement, and evaluate a Maine Pilot of the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model as the first step in achieving statewide implementation of a PCMH model. The ultimate goal of this effort is to sustain and revitalize primary care both to improve health outcomes for all Maine people and to reduce overall healthcare costs.

Following an initial 6-month planning period, the conveners plan to launch a 3-year Pilot to implement the PCMH model with 10 –20 primary care practices from across the state in 2009. Practices wishing to participate in the PCMH Pilot will need to be able to demonstrate structures and processes consistent with the medical home model, and will need to commit to targeted quality improvement and waste-reduction initiatives that demonstrate the value of the enhanced payment model. Applications will be solicited from interested primary care practices in Jan 2009. Practices will be selected for participation by mid-March, and following a 6-month "ramp-up" period, are expected to be active in the Pilot by fall 2009.

Practices interested in applying for participation in the Pilot will be asked to initially complete a free, web-based practice self-assessment developed by the AAFP's "TransforMED" initiative, the Medical Home-IQ (MHIQ). The MHIQ is available at www.transformed.com/MHIQ/welcome.cfm (click on the "Medical Home IQ" link to start the assessment). The MHIQ provides a cross-walk to the longer NCQA Physician Practice Connection – Patient Centered Medical Home (NCQA PPC-PCMH) tool. One criteria for practice selection as a Pilot site will be an MHIQ score that correlates with the practice's ability to meet at least a Level 1 designation on the NCQA PPC-PCMH tool. Practices selected for participation in the Pilot will be required to achieve Level 1 NCQA PPC-PCMH designation within six months of being selected for participation.

The four major commercial payers and MaineCare have participated in the planning of the Pilot, and have committed to working with the Pilot practices to develop alternative payment for primary care that recognizes the infrastructure and system investments needed to deliver care in accordance with the PCMH model and rewards practices for demonstrating high quality and efficient care. The Pilot will be evaluated using a comprehensive approach that includes nationally recognized measures of quality, efficiency, and patient-centered measures of care that reflect the six aims of quality care identified by the Institute of Medicine (i.e. safe, effective, timely, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered care).



NEWSFLASH!
Update on MMC-TUSM
Medical School Partnership



February- March 2009

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| Governance | *The next Steering Committee meeting is April 14th at MMC. |
| Curriculum | <p>*The next Curriculum Committee meeting is March 25th.</p> <p>*TUSM submitted a request to the LCME [Liaison Committee on Medical Education] to increase the class size to 200 students, and Dr. Rosenblatt was recently notified of the approval. Dr. Tom Norris, from the WWAMI program, will help us conduct a mock LCME visit Monday May 11th.</p> <p>*A feasibility study was completed to assess conducting the Integrated Clerkship model at the MMC campus. We will have a mixed model [i.e., 8 students in the Integrated Clerkship and others on traditional block rotations]. Students in the rural sites will be having an Integrated Clerkship experience.</p> <p>*Orientation in Maine for the 1st class begins August 3, 2009. Our 1st McKusick Lecture will be given by Diana W. Bianchi, M.D., Vice Chair for Research and Academic Affairs at Tufts University School of Medicine. A celebratory event is being planned. Please mark your calendars!</p> <p>*Doug Salvador, MD, along with other TUSM faculty, has been selected to present at the Millennium Conference 2009: Patient Safety - Implications for Teaching in the 21st Century in May, sponsored by the Carl Shapiro Institute for Education and Research. Eight other medical schools [out of 22 submissions] will also be presenting.</p> |
| Admissions | <p>*Offers of acceptance are being made on a rolling basis. 21 students have reserved a slot in the Maine-Track. 119 students total ended up applying to the Maine-Track.</p> <p>*27 more interviews have been scheduled for March.</p> <p>*16 applications from Maine college students for the Early Assurance program have been received, and it is anticipated many of these students will be interviewed in early April.</p> |
| Health Professions Pipeline | *A work group, led by Peg Cyr, MD, and Virginia Eddy, MD, [project co-leaders], met again February 25th. Plans are being developed for a 1-week summer "Mini-Medical School" experience at MMC for Maine college students, June 1-5,2009. Maine students may also participate in the National Youth Leadership Forum day at MMC this summer. |
| Innovations in Education Grants | Two of the six submitted Innovations in Education Grants by MMC faculty were recently approved. Congratulations to Carol Fleishman, MS [Developing and Assessing Cultural Awareness and Competence in Medical Students], and Jenny Skolfield, MS/Bob Trowbridge, MD [Novel Delivery of a Faculty Development Program: The Web-based Objective Structured Teaching Encounter]. |
| Faculty Appointments | *The TUSM Faculty Handbook describes the criteria for academic rank and promotion; please contact Vanessa Green [greenv@mmc.org] if you would like a copy. |
| Miscellaneous | *MMC faculty who are interested in getting involved should check the website below: www.mainehealth.org/workfiles/mmc_residencies/mmc_tusm/mmctufts_involvement.pdf Dr. Scott Epstein, TUSM Dean for Educational Affairs, has extended an invitation for any MMC faculty to participate in teaching the 1st and 2nd year basic science courses. Please contact Vanessa Green [greenv@mmc.org] for a list of course directors. |

Planning and implementation of the Pilot is supported by contributions from the Maine Quality Forum, the Maine Health Management Coalition, Martin's Point Health Care, the Maine Health Access Foundation, and Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield. A multi-stakeholder PCMH Working Group provides guidance and direction for the Pilot.

Look for regular updates on the PCMH Pilot in e-mails and newsletters from the Maine Medical Association, the Maine Osteopathic Association, Maine Academy of Family Physicians, Maine Chapter of the American College of Physicians and Maine Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, or check the "News" and "Resources" sections of the Quality Counts website at www.mainequalitycounts.org.