



From the Governor's Corner

It's been ANOTHER busy spring at the ACP Michigan Chapter. In April, the Advocacy and Policy Task Force met in preparation for the Michigan State Medical Society meeting and the May ACP Board of Governors meeting. We had a wonderfully successful Associates' Day meeting in Sterling Heights on May 9, hosted by St. John Hospital and Health System with our largest attendance ever. In May I attended the Spring Board of Governors meeting, and learned of some strategic initiatives approved by the ACP Board of Regents. Nine of us made up the Michigan delegation for Leadership Day and wore out our shoe leather visiting the offices of both Michigan Senators and 12 US Representatives. The visits were given special urgency by the impending Medicare cuts and special import by the advent of election-induced changes in our nation's leadership and Congress. We inducted 56 new Fellows and 1 new Master at the '08 Convocation, and our resident team from Henry Ford Hospital represented us in the National Doctor's Dilemma finals. Finally, on behalf of the Michigan Chapter, I accepted a Chapter Excellence Award for 2007 - our 13th straight award. The chapter has received this every year since the award was instituted. I describe many of these in short articles events that follow.

Our meeting on September 11-13, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn is poised to attract the largest audience ever at our annual scientific meeting. We will be returning to Grand Traverse in 2009, but are again excited about trying out a new venue for our meeting, as we did last year in Kalamazoo. This year for the first time we are offering single day registration for Saturday. The Program is already out and should be distributed to you very soon. Given our proximity to Detroit, we are organizing buses to take us to a downtown casino on Friday evening. Program Directors who wish to entertain their residents on Friday could take advantage of this fun opportunity. as well as regular attendees and their guests. We will require advance registration for this, so sign up early. We are trying a new Student Poster Presentation session this year that will give students opportunity to provide reflective pieces on their experiences in medicine to date. See additional program detail that follows in this newsletter and on our website: acpmichigan.org.

Finally, I would like to ask each of you to think about how you can contribute to the health care and health system challenges going on in your community and beyond. Whether it's issues of health disparities, problems with access or reimbursement, waste and inefficiency, educational debt, malpractice, workforce concerns, health literacy challenges, community public health, translating scientific achievement to patient care - get involved! The ACP needs you and the Michigan Chapter needs you. Together we can launch a new era of physician involvement and meet our professional mandate. Remember the adage: "bad things happen when good people don't get involved". Please read within about how you might contribute. I hope to see you in Dearborn on September 11-13.

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ANNUAL MEETING TO CONVENE SEPTEMBER 11-13, 2008 IN DEARBORN

The Internal Medicine Updates sessions will continue in the popular "Medical Headlines" format introduced two years ago, this year targeting Travel Medicine, Hepatic Disease, Hypertension and Neurology. We will also have sessions presented by two of our "Masters" on Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and MRSA. **David Scrace, MD, FACP** will make his annual journey from New Mexico to challenge us in "Thieves' Market" and Professors in Action will present three difficult cases for solution. **Robert Doherty**, the ACP's Senior VP for Governmental Affairs will deliver the James Hall lecture on "Will The Election Year Produce a Mandate for Health Care Reform?" and **Kim Eagle, MD, FACP** will deliver the **Boy Frame** lecture on "Acute Aortic Syndromes: Questions that keep me awake at night". **Martha Gray** and colleagues will lead a practice-improvement workshop, this year with focus on adjusting one's practice for the Patient Centered Medical Home.

Our meeting will offer 16.5 CME credits organized in a shortened format - we will conclude by 5PM Saturday, leaving participants time on Sunday to be with family and to enjoy the Detroit/Dearborn area. Join us in Dearborn! If you missed the program mailing, registration detail can be found at our web site: acpmichigan.org.

UPDATE ON CHAPTER DUES ISSUE

This year for the first time, based on a recommendation from a national ACP Task Force, chapter dues will be bundled into national dues, thus becoming mandatory. Chapters were permitted to set their own dues rates, and our Michigan Governor's Advisory Council recommended that we keep our Chapter dues charge unchanged from previous years. Chapter dues are the backbone of local activities and vital to the success of our chapter. While we are provided some financial support from the national office, the chapter dues collected provide the majority of financial support for local activities. Educational meetings, mentoring programs for medical students, local Associates' research competitions, advocacy with state legislators, and participation by chapter leaders in Leadership Day on Capitol Hill are just some of the activities supported by your chapter dues.

FIFTY-SIX NEW MICHIGAN FELLOWS JOIN THE COLLEGE

Fellowship in the College is an honor. It is a mark of esteem from colleagues who recognize accomplishments over and above the practice of medicine. The most important considerations for Fellowship are excellence and contributions made to both medicine and to the broader community in which the internist lives and practices. This spring fifty-six Michigan internists were awarded fellowship and can now append FACP to their names. Fourteen of the new Fellows participated in the 2008 ACP Convocation in Washington, DC as part of Internal Medicine '08 and were toasted at the Michigan Chapter reception. These included:



Khalid Ahmed, FACP

Akhras, Jamil, FACP

Rashid Alsabeh, FACP

Vikas Bajapi, MD, FACP

Sean Drake, FACP

Francesca Dwamena, FACP

Robert Ernst, FACP

Mark Florek, FACP

Nitin Golechha, FACP

Nadarajan Janakan, FACP

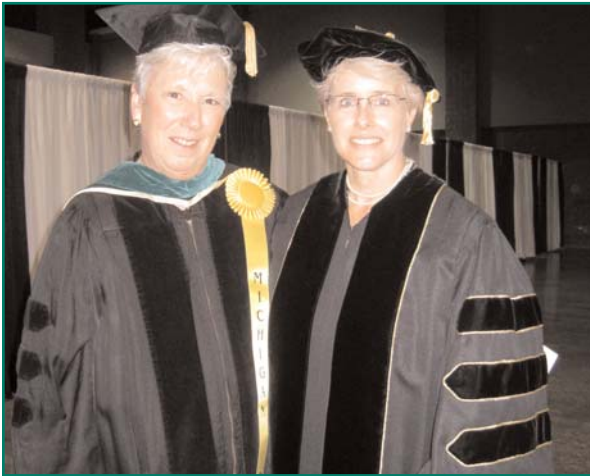
Sean Kesterson, FACP

David Michael McCance, FACP

Seif Saeed, FACP

Michael Wiemann, FACP

MICHIGAN CHAPTER HAS A NEW MASTER



Masters comprise a small group of highly distinguished physicians who have achieved preeminence in practice or medical research, holding positions of high honor, or making significant contributions to medical science or the art of medicine. This year **Mary Nettleman, MD, MACP**, Professor of Medicine and Chair of the Department of Medicine at Michigan State University was recognized for her distinction as well as service to two ACP Chapters: Michigan and Virginia. She was one of 41 US and 5 international internists so honored at the '08 Convocation. **Congratulations to Dr. Nettleman!**

ST. JOHN HOSPITAL HOSTS THE 2008 ASSOCIATES' DAY

On Friday, May 9, under the leadership of **Louis Saravolatz, MD, MACP**, **Raymond Hilu, MD, FACP**, and two Chief Residents, **Drs. Navkiranjot Brar, MD** and **Rama Manohara Pai**, the St. John Program in Internal Medicine hosted the annual Michigan Chapter Associates' Day in Sterling Heights, just north of Detroit. It was our largest meeting ever with 159 Associates in attendance and about 60 ACP members. It was an active day involving 180 abstract presentations in the form of posters and oral presentations by Associates and their mentors. Eighteen programs were represented with scholarly work.



The program for the day included a noontime talk by **Dr. Stephen Thomas**, Director of the Center for Minority Health at the University of Pittsburgh on "Cultural Competence", followed by a panel discussion on the "Ins and Outs of Applying for Fellowship". Thirteen of our residency programs competed in the annual Dr.'s Dilemma contest with four emerging as finalists who will face off on Thursday evening September 11 at the Michigan Chapter Annual Scientific meeting.

Thanks to all the St. John's program people and to **Chapter Assistant Marty Muth** for making this day so successful!

2008 ASSOCIATES' MEETING COMPETITION WINNERS

Oral Case Reports:

1st Place	Anita D'Sousa, William Beaumont Hospital
2nd Place	Jaspreet Grewal, St. Joseph Mercy-Ann Arbor
3rd Place	Anjan Kumar, Oakwood Hospital

Oral Research:

1st Place	Melhem Sohl , Wayne State-Sinai Grace
2nd Place	Shady Megala , McLaren Regional Medical Center
3rd Place	Ketul Patel , Providence Hospital

Oral CQI/EBM

1st Place Winner	Ashima Makol , Michigan State University - East Lansing
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Poster Case Report

1st Place	Tarik Hadid , Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies
2nd Place	Michael Brennan , William Beaumont Hospital
3rd Place	Sarah Kabbani , Wayne State-Detroit Medical Center

Poster Research

1st Place	Teena Chopra , Wayne State - Detroit Medical Center
2nd Place	Tejwant Singh , St. John Hospital
3rd Place	Saad Sirop , McLaren Regional Medical Center

Poster CQI/EBM

Winner	Armine Zakharian , McLaren Regional Medical Center
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2008 ASSOCIATES' MEETING DOCTOR'S DILEMMA FINALISTS

The following Doctor's Dilemma Teams were finalists at the Associates Meeting and will compete on Thursday, September 11th at our fall meeting in Dearborn:

Henry Ford Hospital
Michigan State University-East Lansing
St. Joseph Mercy - Oakland
Hurley Medical Center

ACP PREPARES INTERNISTS FOR ADVOCATING ON CAPITOL HILL

On Tuesday, May 13, the Michigan delegation gathered for a briefing on the issues facing Congress and of concern to the ACP, including a candid assessment of the mood of Congress. There were over 500 attendees from all 52 states attending these sessions, the largest group ever to attend Leadership Day. On Wednesday May 14, the Michigan delegation took the ACP message to Capital Hill.

Issues the delegation brought to Capitol Hill included 1) the pressing need to override the SGR mandate; 2) bringing to light measures needed to create a medical environment supportive of Internal Medicine; 3) stressing the importance of the Patient Centered Medical Home; and 4) requesting a full look at bills in Congress giving debt relief to medical students. In addition, the ACP stressed the importance of laying the groundwork now for cooperation with a 2009 Congress likely to be far different from that seated today.

Of particular importance this year was the urgency for reimbursement relief - a June 30 deadline looms for lawmakers, with a 10.6% Medicare reimbursement cut scheduled. As priority #1, the ACP was requesting NO cuts, and adoption of 18 months of positive updates. 18 months would guarantee no SGR cuts in July 2008 or January 2009 and provide time to work with a new President and a new Congress on a permanent fix. Positive updates are being emphasized by the ACP to stop Medicare payments from falling more behind practice expenses.

MICHIGAN DELEGATION MEETS CONGRESS

Members of the Michigan delegation at Leadership Day in 2008 were: **Joe Weiss, Ruth Hoppe, Anna Lukowski, Martha Gray, Raymond Hilu, Dileep Kumar, Mark Loehrke, Vernon Wendt, and Monique Butler.** The delegation, either together or in smaller groups, visited both Senators and 12 Congressional Representatives.



Their reflections on their experience of Leadership Day follow:

Joe Weiss, MD, FACP, Rheumatology Practitioner, Livonia

"As in the past, this year's leadership day gave participants a tangible feel of how the individual practice of medicine interacts with the national politics of health care. No lecture or book can substitute for that experience."

Monique Butler, MD, Second Year Resident, Sinai-Grace program

"One important concept that will continue to stay with me is how important it is for future physicians to become involved in the public policy and legislative affairs of medicine. The future of course is in our hands. We must as the doctors of tomorrow become intimately involved in affairs that will drastically change how we practice medicine, and ultimately how well we take care of our patients. We must advocate for their welfare; because at the end of the day, our patients are what matter most."

Dileep Kumar, MD, FACP, Hospitalist, Port Huron

"It was amazing to see how knowledgeable the staff of several representatives were about the issues faced by physicians and primary care in particular. Advocacy is the way to get the voice of primary care and internal medicine heard in places that can make a difference."

Mark Loehrke, MD, FACP, Program Director, Kalamazoo

"As a Program Director in an Internal Medicine residency program I have seen first hand the decline in residents who want to become Primary Care physicians. I decided that it was time to stop whining about it and try to become part of the solution. Although I was outside of my "comfort zone" initially, I really enjoyed the two days and felt a real camaraderie with my fellow Internists while we all paraded around Capitol Hill. Hopefully we have accomplished something. I look forward to future days as well!!"

MEDICAL MARIJUANA COMES TO MICHIGAN

In November, medical marijuana will be on the ballot in Michigan. If it passes, Michigan will join twelve other states permitting medical marijuana use. As internists, you may be asked about this in part because the ACP has recently issued a position paper that cautiously advocates for use of non-smoked forms of THC that have proven therapeutic value. The ACP also strongly supports preemption from penalties for prescribing cannabis in accordance with state laws, and calls for research expansion to better determine optimal doses and route of delivery. Michigan internists are likely to be asked their opinions about the use of medical marijuana and the upcoming ballot issue and can get better prepared for such questions by going to the ACP website: <http://www.acponline.org/advocacy>.

Remember, the ACP Charter on Professionalism challenges us to go beyond individual patients and engage in conduct directed at quality of care, improving access to care, and a just distribution of finite resources (www.abimfoundation.org/professionalism).

INTERNAL MEDICINE STUDENT INTEREST GROUPS GROWING IN THE MICHIGAN CHAPTER

There are active Internal Medicine Student Interest Groups (IMIG) in three of our state's medical schools each of which has recently received incentive payments from the ACP for the number of students recruited into the IMIG's. Monies support additional programming for its student members. **Drs. Diane Levine, Dr. Kiran Sarikonda and Courtney Tabaka** at Wayne State University, MSU's College of Human Medicine and MSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine, respectively provide leadership for their groups. Overall, 26% of the state's enrolled medical students are student members of the ACP, placing us 26th among all the states.

Based on a small grant application that was submitted, the Michigan Chapter has also been awarded monies from the ACP to implement programming aimed at the Student Interest Group students. The Chapter already sponsors student attendance at its annual scientific meeting by providing stipends to students for travel and lodging. Special student programs are interwoven into the regular meeting programming, under the leadership of **Joel Appel, DO, FACP**. This year a new program will be developed with the grant monies to sponsor a student Presentation Forum which will encourage students to share experiences, reflective pieces and the like to the Fall Scientific meeting. We will accept all submissions and have a special judging session for these submissions. Students are encouraged to write narratives or create small posters that describe topics such as: "My First Case of _____" (or "My First Patient")

"An Exemplary Example of Teaching That I Observed"

"A Noteworthy Volunteer Experience"

"What I Like in a Mentor"

"My first summer externship"

INTERESTED IN LEADERSHIP TRAINING?

The College has launched a new leadership development program that will unroll over the next three years. The Leadership Enhancement and Development (LEAD) Program is designed to help young Fellows in particular cultivate leadership skills they can use in any setting. Program components include a CME component (courses at the national annual meeting), an online mentoring component, and a chapter involvement component wherein chapters offer early leadership experiences to LEAD participants. An overview of the whole program can be found at: http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/resources/leadership_development/

SHORT NEWS BRIEFS:

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP OFFERED FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Fellow members of the American Academic of Physician Assistants (AAPA) are eligible for Affiliate membership in the ACP at a reduced rate (\$200 annually). This will provide free access to College electronic products and services such as Annals, ACP Journal Club, assistance at the ACP's Practice Management Center, free access to PIER and discounts on College Programs such as Internal Medicine'2009.

ACP JOURNAL CLUB JOINS ANNALS OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

Beginning in March, ACP Journal Club has become a regular feature of Annals of Internal Medicine. A new feature that complements ACP Journal Club is ACP Journal Club PLUS which provides online access to all articles that pass ACP Journal Club criteria.

HEALTH CARE POSITIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

As Governor, I find myself increasingly asked about the positions on health care of the major presidential candidates. Fortunately, the ACP has created a website that provides a summary of where the presidential candidates stand on issues important to internists. You may access this web site from the ACP Home Page and then to Advocacy, Where We Stand, Election 2008.

MEET NEW INTERNISTS

Mark Spoolstra, MD

Mark attended the Chicago Medical School 1980-1984, and residency at Loyola University in Internal Medicine 1984-1987. He has been a faculty member in the Grand Rapids residency program since 1988, serving as an associate program director from 1992-2007. Last year he was appointed Program Director. Mark has added qualification in geriatrics. He practices at St. Mary's Health Care in Grand Rapids, and is the Medical Director of the Wege center for Health and Learning. Mark is married and has 4 children 17, 16, 14 and 10. His main hobbies are boating and coin collecting.

Joyce Leon, MD

Joyce hails from southern California and is a graduate of Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine. She spent her residency in Internal Medicine at Henry Ford Hospital. She has been in private group practice with Integrated Health Associates (IHA) in Canton, MI for the past 5 years. Joyce is the Site Medical Director and describes herself as the "EMR superuser" at her site. She has been instrumental in implementing the EMR, has provided educational sessions for staff, developed new workflows for the office and is now working with other offices as they implement EMR and the new workflows she has developed. She lives with her husband Corey, an urban real estate consultant and their two children, Hazen, age 7, and Zylus, age 4 in a historic home in the City of Detroit's Indian Village neighborhood.

Upcoming Dates

September 11-13, 2008	Michigan Chapter Annual Meeting Hyatt Regency Dearborn, Dearborn, MI
May 2009	Associates Day
September 25-27, 2009	Michigan Chapter Annual Meeting Grand Traverse Resort, Acme, MI