

Upcoming Events

The American College of Physicians
 Internal Medicine 2009
 Philadelphia will host the year's
 Premiere scientific meeting for Internal
 Medicine - April 23-25, 2009

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Governor's Message



Hello Everyone,

I hope all have adjusted from the warm days of summer to the cool (getting cooler) evenings of late fall. I had the opportunity to see many of you at our Chapter Meeting earlier this month which again was a success with 220 attending including 120 associates.

In this Newsletter I will review the recent Chapter Meeting, the Fall Board of Governor's meeting which was held in Minneapolis this year, and the fall Governor's Council meeting which preceded our Chapter Meeting. The Council discussed new initiatives addressing our membership, and advocacy as well as hearing updates from Council members.

Fall Board of Governor's Mtg: Minneapolis, Sept. 18-20, 2008.

The ACP Board of Governor's meets twice yearly just prior to the annual national ACP meeting, and in the fall. This year I had the privilege of serving as host Governor for the fall meeting. The weather was beautiful and it was a pleasure to "show off" Minneapolis and our wonderful state. The "Welcome to Minnesota" talk included instructions in "talking Minnesotan".

In addition to sessions devoted to chapter management, there were updates on current College activities such as Pay for Performance, Maintenance of Certification, membership initiatives, and professionalism. At each meeting the Board of Governor's (BOG) reviews and comments on resolutions which are currently before the Board of Regents (the governing body of the College). As you might expect, the resolutions cover a wide range of topics. I am able to solicit input from the MN Chapter Governor's Council prior to the meeting in order to reflect our chapter's concerns. This year the most controversial resolution dealt with a proposal for ACP to join forces with PriMed, a firm which sponsors continuing medical education seminars and is supported by pharmaceutical companies. The issues revolved around conflict of interest, the needs of patients, and use of the ACP brand. Our chapter has completely separated our activities from pharmaceutical support and on behalf of the Chapter, I spoke against the resolution. The discussion was lively, but the vote was 63-4 against the affiliation.

Annual Minnesota ACP Chapter Meeting

Our meeting was held again this year at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The morning session offered plenary sessions on general medical topics and a Med-Peds track. The highlight of lunch was the Laureate Award (see below) as well as an address from our College Representative **David Dale, MD MACP**. David is the immediate past president of the College and spoke on

"Fostering Excellence in Internal Medicine". Following his address, we had a Town Hall meeting with David and myself fielding questions.

During the luncheon, our Chapter received an Evergreen Award for innovation from ACP this year. Accepting the award was **Charlie Reznikoff, MD** who coordinates our poster judging. Charlie instituted "Poster Rounds," for which were recognized. He spends many hours each year organizing the poster sessions and deserves the recognition on behalf of the Chapter.

The afternoon was filled with additional plenary sessions, an update in Internal Medicine, poster viewing and judging, a young physician's session on financial management by **Joel Greenwald, MD**, resident oral presentations, and capped with a reception. Resident poster and presentation winners were announced at the reception. We are very fortunate to have so many excellent speakers in Minnesota for our meeting. All of the talks were excellent. Thanks to all of the speakers who offer their services without compensation. A special thanks to **John Bundrick, MD, FACP** our program chair. John spends countless hours putting this meeting together and its success is directly attributable to his efforts.

We will review feedback from this year's meeting and begin planning for 2009 soon. Our one day format is becoming so full, we will likely look at expanding the meeting back to 1 ½ days. There is interest in including workshops (e.g. injections) and maintenance of certification modules.

All of our IM training programs were well represented with 140 poster submissions. Judging continued with our "Poster Rounds" format and was again well received by both residents and judges. **David Dale, MD, MACP** served as our judge for the final 5 clinical vignettes. All submissions were excellent and the poster experience is designed to have all a "winner".

Clinical Vignette Finalists:

Nathaniel Scott, MD (HCMC)

Douglas Nguyen, MD (Mayo)

Erin Thakeray, MD (Mayo)

John Hoyt, MD (Mayo)

Ann Campagna, MD (U of M)

Clinical Vignette Winner

Ann Campagna, MD (U of M)

Research Winner

Shehla Sheikh, MD (U of M)

Medical Student Winner

Kristin Ritter, (U of M)

Oral Presentations:

Brian Horst, MD (Mayo)

Justin Howard, MD (U of M)

Sandra Soares Herrmann, MD (Mayo)

Junaid Syed, MD (HCMC)

Anushree Bora, MD (HCMC)

Tomas Konecny, MD (Mayo)

Oral Presentation Winner

Junaid, Syed, MD (HCMC)

Fall Governor's Council Meeting

Council members reported on ACP Women's activities (**Sally Berryman, MD, FACP**), Young Physicians (**Cristina Baker, MD**), the upcoming annual meeting (**John Bundrick MD, FACP**), our participation at Leadership Day last Spring in Washington DC (**Michelle Johnson, MD**), and plans for Chief Resident exchanges between the four Internal Medicine training programs in Minnesota (**Jason Szosteck, MD**). We also heard from medical student representatives (**Hannah Shacter** and **Susan Pleasants-U of M, Elizabeth Wilkinson** and **Matt Summers-Mayo**) regarding Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG) activities at both schools. The highlight this fall was a Residency Fair held on the U of M campus and attended by 60+ medical students. All of the Minnesota residency programs were represented as well as one from

Wisconsin. I was able to attend and can attest to the success of the evening. MN-ACP supports the IMIG activities at both Minnesota medical schools.

In addition to regular reports, the council discussed two critical issues. Our membership is very flat, slightly down over the past year. Although our chapter is very successful in attracting medical students and residents, there is a fall off at the time of transition from residency to fellowship, practice, or an academic career. ACP has analyzed why internists join and stay committed to the College. The reasons vary by age: younger members are most interested in access to programs, products, and services. As members age, public policy advocacy, and professional identity become more important.

The College has many attributes to offer an internist at any stage of their career. For students and residents, support of residency fairs and internal medicine interest groups, as well as the Chapter Meeting with its large poster session is the identity of the College. After training, the Annals, MKSAP, the national and state meetings and maintenance of certification take on more importance. At any stage of your career, whether you are a general internist, a sub-specialist, in practice, or in an academic setting, the College is your voice in St. Paul and Washington. It always has been, and will be a voice of honesty and integrity, placing the needs of patients foremost.

The College sponsors several incentives for existing members to recruit new members including the Recruit a Colleague program. This program includes dues credits (\$100) for those existing members who recruit new members. It can easily be accessed at http://www.acponline.org/membership/recruit_a_colleague/. Log on for the details of the program.

The second issue we took up was the worsening shortage of primary care physicians in Minnesota and throughout the United States. General internists are becoming more and more difficult to recruit into our practices. One of the reasons medical students are choosing careers in other specialties is the huge educational debt they acquire during college and medical school. What could MN ACP do to address this vexing problem?

The Council discussed a proposal to partner with the Minnesota Medical Association and our sister professional societies in Family Medicine and Pediatrics to bring forward legislation which would utilize funds from the provider tax to create a loan forgiveness program which could be used by new Minnesota primary care physicians (general internists, family physicians, general pediatricians) who practice in the state. The provider tax is intended to fund uninsured citizens of Minnesota. It however is over funded and has been tapped for projects completely unrelated to medicine. This proposal would utilize these funds more appropriately, and would address a health care issue which is quickly becoming critical.

Obviously this is just an idea; however other ACP chapters (Connecticut) have begun similar projects with some success. Our Council endorsed the idea and we will begin discussions with MMA. More to come later.

Finally, the Council endorsed legislation proposed by the Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants to clarify wording in existing statutes governing physician assistant practice. This does NOT change the scope of practice, but will update Minnesota statutes to be consistent with similar laws in other states. We also endorsed participating with the Minnesota chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Minnesota Academy of Family Physicians, and Stratus Health to help the Minnesota Department of Health conduct an assessment of readiness of Minnesota primary care practices to implement Medical Homes. This is a concept to create an infrastructure to coordinate care for patients with chronic disease including coordination of medical and surgical consultation. The American College of Physicians supports the Medical Home concept and this is an opportunity for our chapter to work with primary care colleagues towards implementation in Minnesota.

Laureate Award

The Chapter was very pleased to honor Heather E. Gantzer, MD, FACP as our 2008 Laureate:

Heather E. Gantzer was born in Sunbury, PA and moved to Carbondale, IL at age six where her father was a professor of chemical engineering at the University of Illinois. She received a Bachelor of Science in Biology (Cum Laude) from that school, and her MD from Washington University in St. Louis. Heather and her husband **Charlie** met while in college. We were fortunate to attract Heather to Minnesota for her residency in Internal Medicine at the Hennepin County Medical Center where she also served a year as Chief Resident in 1989. Subsequent to her formal training in Internal Medicine, Dr. Gantzer has been a member of the staff of the Park Nicollet Clinic in Minneapolis.

Primary care General Internal Medicine, both inpatient and outpatient has been the focus of Heather's clinical responsibilities at Park Nicollet. She however has found time to contribute to numerous other professional activities

including her support of the Minnesota ACP as our representative to the Minnesota Medical Association Inter specialty Council, and as a regular Poster Judge for our Chapter Meeting. In addition, she has been very active in continuing medical education and maintenance of certification activities serving on the Board of Directors of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and as Chair of the Test Writing Committee and Test Question Selection Committee for the ABIM.

At Park Nicollet, Dr. Gantzer serves as the editor of The Bulletin, and on the Board of Directors for the Institute at Park Nicollet Clinic. She also serves on the Professional Education Committee planning continuing medical education programs for primary care physicians. She just completed planning and moderating the breast evaluation course at Park Nicollet. In the local medical community, Heather has been a Council Member and is past President of the Minneapolis Society of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Gantzer is recognized by her patients, peers, and colleagues as an outstanding physician. She has received awards from Minnesota Monthly (Top Doctors for Women), and Minneapolis St. Paul Magazine (Top Doctors). She also has received the Minnesota Governor's Quality Service award and has been cited as Resident Teacher of the Year while at Hennepin County Medical Center. Her colleagues at Park Nicollet regard her as "the internist that we all would want to take care of our family members". She is known for her comprehensive evaluations for patients she admits on hospital night call, and for her efficient and compassionate care of patients.

Heather and her husband **Charlie** have three daughters: **Emma**, a sophomore at the University of Minnesota studying biomedical engineering, and **Edwina** and **Beatrice** who both attend Minneapolis Southwest IB High School. Bird banding, Girl Scouts, piano lessons, and filling in as church organist more than fill Heather's days away from work.

It is with distinct honor and pleasure that we name **Heather E. Gantzer, MD, FACP** as **Laureate of the American College of Physicians, Minnesota Chapter**. Dr. Gantzer exemplifies all of the characteristics for which the Laureate is awarded. She is an outstanding teacher and willingly gives of herself to students and colleagues as well as patients. She has been a positive influence and role model for her peers. The Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Physicians is pleased to name her as the recipient of the 2008 Laureate Award.

**Best Wishes to all for a happy Holiday Season,
Bob**

Minnesota Chapter of ACP Executive Council

Governor:

Robert H. Lohr, MD, FACP

E-mail: rlohr@mayo.edu

Phone: (507) 284-1450

Secretary/Treasurer:

Gary Schwartz, MD, FACP

E-mail: gschwartz@mayo.edu

Phone: 507-284-4083

Scientific Program Chair:

John B. Bundrick, MD, FACP

E-mail: bundrick.john@mayo.edu

Phone: (507) 284-4276

Membership Committee Chair:

Peter T. Smyth, MD, FACP

E-mail: peter.smyth@grhsonline.org

Phone:(320) 864-3121

Associates Representative:

Kimberly R. Cochran, MD

E-mail: cochr018@umn.edu

Phone: (612) 863-1893

Medical Student Committee Chair:

Craig S. Roth, MD, FACP

E-mail: rothx009@tc.umn.edu

Phone: (612) 725-2158

Young Physicians Representative:

Cristina A. Baker, MD

E-mail: bake0088@umn.edu

Phone: (612) 825-1203

Women Physicians Committee Chair:

Sally H. Berryman, MD

E-mail: sallyberryman@yahoo.com

Phone: (651) 641-7152

Chair, Awards and Nominations Committee:

David N. Williams, MB, ChB, FACP

Immediate Past Governor, ACP Minnesota Chapter

E-mail: david.williams@co.hennepin.mn.us

Phone: (612) 873-3525

Health & Public Policy Coordinator

David R. Hilden, MD

E-mail: davidhilden@yahoo.com

Phone: (612) 347-7534

Federal Legislative Coordinator

Michelle F. Johnson, MD

E-mail: mfjohnsonmd@yahoo.com

Phone: (612) 336-0477

Council Members at Large:

Richard F. Adair, MD, FACP

E-mail: adair001@umn.edu

Phone: (612) 863-4212

Bradley Benson, MD, FACP

E-mail: benso040@umn.edu

Laxmana M. Godishala, MBBS, FACP

E-mail: godis002@tc.umn.edu

Phone: (612) 347-7580

Scott C. Litin, MD, MACP

Past Governor, ACP Minnesota Chapter

E-mail: litin.scott@mayo.edu

Phone: (507) 284-8586

Mary A. Miley, MD

E-mail: mileym@parknicollet.com

Phone: (952) 993-8926

Tanya Repka, MD, FACP

Past Governor, ACP Minnesota Chapter

E-mail: TRepka@slhduluth.com

Phone: (218) 249-3081

Lynne T. Shuster, MD, FACP

E-mail: lshuster@mayo.edu

Phone: (507) 538-7904

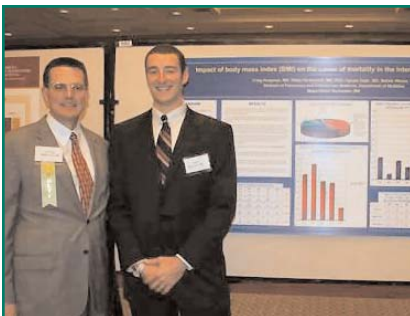
Administrative Coordinator:

Cathy Liberty

E-mail: liberty.catherine@mayo.edu

Phone: 507-284-2675

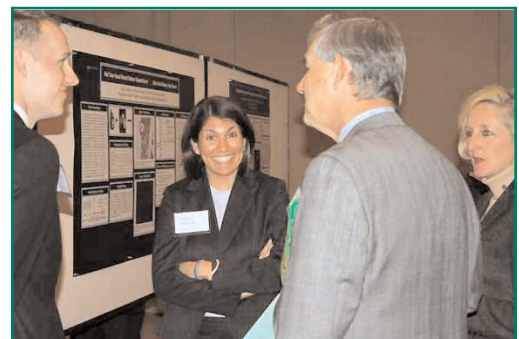
Photo Gallery



Furman McDonald, MD FACP (Mayo IM Program Director) and Craig Karpman, MD (IM resident, Mayo)



Poster Judging: David Hilden, MD FACP (HCMC) and team



Poster Judging: David Williams, MD FACP (HCMC, immediate past Governor) and team.