

# Minnesota Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

ACP  
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS  
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

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*Governor, Minnesota Chapter*



## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

As many of you know, you recently selected **Robert Lohr, MD, FACP** as Governor-Elect. Dr. Lohr's term as Governor-Elect started in April 2006 and he will begin his four year term as Governor in April 2007. I have had the pleasure of knowing Bob for a number of years (I knew him during his residency at Hennepin County Medical Center) and I am confident that he will serve us all with great diligence and enthusiasm. **Gary Schwartz, MD, FACP** was the other candidate for governorship. Gary deserves our thanks for being a great advocate for Internal Medicine, a loyal and reliable friend and counselor to three Governors (**Litin, Repka, Williams**) and a wise steward of our funds.



Dr. Robert H. Lohr was born in Columbus, Nebraska and received his undergraduate degree and medical degrees from Northwestern University in Chicago, IL. He completed an internal medicine residency at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis, MN and served his fourth year as chief medical resident there.

Upon completion of residency, Doctor Lohr entered practice with the Fairmont Clinic in Fairmont, MN. After three years in Fairmont, he returned to the Minneapolis area and practiced for the next ten years with the Park Nicollet Clinic. In 1993, Doctor Lohr and his family moved to Rochester when he joined the Division of General Internal Medicine. Active in the American College of Physicians, he was Program Chair for the Minnesota Scientific Meeting from 1995-98 and continues on the Planning Committee and Governor's Council. He was given the Laureate Award in 2003 by the Minnesota ACP.

## HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

2006 got off to an eventful start. On February 1st, 2006, the Medicare physician payments were restored to 2005 levels. The College has also embarked on highlighting the plight of the general internist. In "The Impending Collapse of Primary Care Medicine and its Implications for the State of the Nation's Health Care: A Report" the steps necessary to fundamentally change the way primary care is organized, delivered, financed, valued are laid out. (see [www.acponline.org](http://www.acponline.org), under Advocacy)

From 1998 to 2003, the number of third year internal medicine residents choosing a career in primary care dropped from 54% to 27%. This is a reflection of the low reimbursement for the care that general internists provide. We hope to see this issue favorably addressed in the review of the physician work relative values units (RVU's) system for evaluation and management services. However, whatever changes are made in the payment system there will be no significant increase in total Medicare spending.

## HEALTH & PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES continued

The College has written several position papers on our health care system including advocating a new ambulatory care model “*The Advance Medical Home: A Patient-Centered, Physician-Guided Model of Health Care.*” Other position papers address training issues in internal medicine and healthcare reform, including steps to address healthcare for the uninsured.

### MN CHAPTER, ACP ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING NOVEMBER 4-5, 2005, MINNEAPOLIS CONVENTION CENTER Kevin Larsen, MD, FACP

The 2005 Annual Scientific Meeting was held, for a second successful year, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. This is an attractive location for many of our members and affords ample space for presentations, posters, and displays. We made the decision to hold the 2006 meeting at the same location, so mark your calendars (November 3-4, 2006). As was the case in 2004, we held a town hall meeting immediately after the Laureate Award luncheon, so as to increase member attendance and interaction. **Joel Levine**, MD, FACP, College Regent and Chair-elect of the Board of Regents, provided an update of College activities and answered questions from the floor. Issues of concern to our membership included the erosion of interest in General Internal Medicine in young physicians coming out of residency, the breakdown in our healthcare system, and concerns revolving around costs of mandating new technologies, such as the electronic medical record.

This year, in addition to excellent updates on a variety of topics from experts from around the state, we experimented with two innovative themes. We designated both “hospitalist” and “med-peds” tracks to meet the growing number of members with interest and expertise in these areas. The scientific planning committee thought this was a successful innovation and is in discussion about using the same format for the 2006 meeting.

We continue to receive a large number of poster entries (125 in 2005). Our associates (residents) and medical students designate their posters as either clinical vignette's or research. Winners in these categories were:

- **Shakir Ejaz** (UMN) - Clinical Vignette Winner
- **Michael Miedema** (Abbott Northwestern) - Research Winner

#### OTHER AWARDS:

- **Denis Sain** (HCMC) - Most Unusual Case
- **Maggie McEvoy** (UMN) - Medical Student Winner
- **Adeboye Ogunseitán** (Mayo) - Best Title
- **Patrick Pederson** (UMN) - Med/Peds Winner
- **Sara Erhlich** (UMN) - Most Clinically Relevant
- **David Tierney** (Abbott) - Oral Presentation Winner Clinical Vignette
- **Claudia Nassaralla** (Mayo) - Oral Presentation Winner Research
- **Patrick Pederson** (UMN) - Best Graphics
- **Kurt Jacobson** (Mayo) - Chief Resident

**VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEBSITE**

**<http://www.acponline.org/chapters/mn>**

The winning abstracts in the clinical vignette and the research categories appeared in the February 2006 issue of Minnesota Medicine.

The meeting was well attended by approximately 200 physicians, associates, and students. As in the past the meeting provided an opportunity for interaction and socialization between students, residents, and physicians from across the state. Special thanks to **Kevin Larsen**, MD, FACP and **Susan Simmons** for their work in coordinating a superb meeting. Thanks to **Brad Benson**, MD, FACP and **Shaun Frost**, MD, FACP for coordinating the Med/Peds and Hospitalist tracks respectively. We would also like to specifically thank our speakers for their excellent presentations.

- Thomas Arneson, MD
- Woubeshet Ayenew, MD
- John Bundrick, MD, FACP
- Toni Bransford, MD
- Chad Brands, MD, FACP
- Peter Elkin, MD, FACP
- Morris Davidman, MD, FACP
- Dean Fox, MD, FACP
- Shaun Frost, MD, FACP
- Steven Hillson, MD, FACP
- James Johnson, MD, FACP
- Kevin Larsen, MD, FACP
- Joel Levine, MD, FACP
- Tanya Melnik, MD
- Mark Menge, MD
- Daniel Mulrooney, MD
- John Poterucha, MD
- Peter Scal, MD
- Jeff Schiff, MD
- Jonathan Sellman, MD
- Richard Shronts, MD
- Mark Sprenkle, MD

## **AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

**TANYA REPKA, MD, FACP**

The November 2005 Laureate Award was presented to **Richard Adair**, MD, FACP. The Laureate Award honors those Fellows and Masters of the ACP in Minnesota who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research, service to their community, chapter, and the ACP. Richard Adair, MD, FACP has been a long standing and loyal supporter of the College, has rendered distinguished service to the chapter and has upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the ACP is known.

Dr. Adair is well known to many of us, not only for his work with the Minnesota Chapter where he has been an invaluable member of the scientific meeting planning committee, but also to students at the University of Minnesota Medical School and Internal Medicine residents at Abbott Northwestern Hospital. Dr. Adair is a valued colleague and teacher. We wish him well and thank him for his past and ongoing service to our community.

The awards committee invites members to submit nominations for the Laureate Award for 2006. Names of potential awardees (who should be fellows) should be sent to **Tanya Repka**, MD, FACP, **Scott Litin**, MD, MACP, **David Williams**, MB, ChB, FACP or **Susan Simmons**.

## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

CYNTHIA SCHLICK, MD, FACP

The Annual MN Chapter, ACP Women's Breakfast was once again held in conjunction with the MN Chapter, ACP meeting on Friday, November 4, 2005. The meeting was well attended. Dr. **Joel Levine**, Chair-elect of the ACP Board of Regents and College Representative was a guest of the group. He commented that he greatly valued the interaction shown by women members. The College is particularly anxious to encourage women physicians to become Fellows of the College and to have an increased representation in leadership positions. A women's leadership and networking retreat and luncheon was held on Saturday, February 11th. **Parin Winter**, MD, FACP addressed the group on "Acupuncture, What it is and how it works." At the February meeting Sally Berryman, MD was elected incoming Chair of the Women's Committee. We thank Dr. Schlick for her enthusiastic leadership.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

SANTHI VEGE, MD, FACP

Membership in the chapter continues to grow. The growth rate between 2000 and 2005 was 6.8%. Growth occurred in all classes of membership (masters, fellows, members, and associates) with exception of medical students. We have made great efforts as a chapter to engage medical students and to increase their familiarity with Internal Medicine. We believe strongly that they have an important role in the College's initiative to revitalize Internal Medicine. As a chapter we have supported student activities financially and by volunteering our time in various small group activities (See medical student report). Medical student membership is free and is coupled with a variety of other benefits.

We appreciate the help that **Peter Smyth**, MD, FACP of Glencoe, MN has provided by hosting the Fellowship breakfast at the annual scientific meeting and helping our efforts to reach general internists in smaller communities in greater MN. We hope to make this an area of emphasis highlighting the College's educational programs and advocacy on many issues of importance to internists.

## MEDICAL STUDENT REPORT

ALEX LUGER, MEDICAL STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

KARYN BAUM, MD, FACP, FACULTY CHAIR

The internal medicine interest group (IMIG) at the University of Minnesota Medical School is engaged in a number of activities. Highlights include:

- Journal Club
- Site visits (transfusion/dialysis, endoscopy suites, ICU's, cardiac device manufacturers, etc.)
- Morbidity and Mortality Case Conferences at the University of Minnesota followed by a de-briefing with the Chief Residents
- Lunch with residents and chief residents for advice on medical school and beyond
- Evening socials with Medicine Faculty
- The "Match Demystified" panel - matched 4th year students describe the process to first and second year students
- IMIG's annual Beer and Pizza evening for students and physicians to interact about internal medicine and its subspecialties

Medical students are interested in linking with internists in the community at large for opportunities such as "shadowing" and leading journal club sessions. If you are interested please contact Alex Luger ([luger020@umn.edu](mailto:luger020@umn.edu)).

## ASSOCIATES REPORT

CHARLIE REZNIKOFF, MD

Charles Reznikoff, MD, who is a current chief resident at Hennepin County Medical Center, succeeded Cristina Baker, MD as the associates' representative. Over the last couple of years we have tried to engage our associates (residents) through the chief residents in Chapter activities. In that regard, we helped arrange for the chief residents at the four training programs in the state to meet twice annually and to help with the scientific meeting. In 2004 the chief residents decided that they would like to have a "chief resident" prize for the most suitable case report that would lend itself to the morning report format. The chief residents have also been actively engaged in exploring ways to improve the poster competition by increasing feedback to residents presenting their work.

## HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY

DAVID HILDEN, MD, MICHELLE JOHNSON, MD

There had been plans for cuts in Medicare reimbursement for physician fees of 4.4% effective January 1st, 2006. These proposed cuts were "frozen" February 1st, 2006 at 2005 levels and made retroactive to January 1st, 2006. Medicare re-imburements for physician services in Minnesota are among the lowest in the country and reductions would make it increasingly difficult for physicians to deliver high quality care to seniors.

Congress has, unfortunately, also recently enacted cuts in the Medicaid program that impact mental health, long term care, and pharmacy services. We need your voice to increase awareness of the impact of these cuts to our patients and profession. We would also encourage you to become "Key Contacts" and receive regular updates on various legislative issues. Michelle Johnson, MD and I are planning to survey "Key Contacts" in the coming months to get your input into the College's legislative agenda.

## ANNUAL SESSION PHILADELPHIA, PA, APRIL 6-8, 2005

The Chapter was well represented at Annual Session. Scott Litin, MD, MACP and his colleagues from the Mayo Clinic continued to educate (and entertain) large audiences with their "Clinical Pearls" sessions. In addition to Dr. Litin, colleagues participating from the Minnesota Chapter included Dr. Deborah Rhodes and many others.

Our associates were again well represented with oral and poster presentations:

### Oral Presentation

- Daniel Uslan, MD Mayo Clinic

### Research Poster

- Aditya Bardia, MD Mayo Clinic
- W. Brett Cherry, MD Mayo Clinic
- Michael Miedema, MD Abbott Northwest. Hosp.

### Vignette Poster

- Christopher Bauer, MD Mayo Clinic
- Shulamith Bonham, MD Hennepin County Med. Ctr
- M. Shakir Ejaz, MD University of Minnesota
- Christopher Haddad, MD Mayo Clinic
- Deana Hoganson, MD Mayo Clinic
- Sonal Shah, MD Hennepin County Med. Ctr

## MINNESOTA CHAPTER ACP NEW MASTERS AND FELLOWS

The following Minnesota physicians received their masterships and fellowships at the 2006 Annual Session. Mastership in the College is bestowed on select fellows in recognition of exceptional contributions to medicine and service to the College. Mastership to the College is competitive, and no matter how distinguished the nominee only 40-50 fellows are made Masters each year. It is the highest honor that the College can bestow on a colleague. This year three Minnesota physicians became masters:

- Edward R. Dickson, MD, MACP Rochester, MN
- Robert L. Frye, MD, MACP Rochester, MN
- Hossein Gahrib, MD, MACP Rochester, MN

All three new Masters have had distinguished careers at the Mayo Clinic and Mayo College of Medicine - Dr. Dickson in Hepatology/Gastroenterology, Dr. Frye in Cardiology and Dr. Gahrib in Endocrinology.

### And 8 Minnesota physicians became new Fellows:

- Andrew Badley, MD, FACP Rochester, MN
- Ives de Chazal, MD, FACP Coon Rapids, MN
- Dean Fox, MD, FACP Duluth, MN
- Samuel Ho, MD, FACP Minneapolis, MN
- Robert Jeddelloh, MD, FACP Minneapolis, MN
- Gene Karwoski, MD, FACP Duluth, MN
- Muhammad Khan, MD, FACP St. Paul, MN
- Kevin Larsen, MD, FACP Minneapolis, MN

Drs. Badley, Jeddelloh and Karwoski marched at the convocation ceremony in Philadelphia, as did Dr. Paul Takahashi (Rochester, MN). Congratulations to all our new Masters and Fellows!

The Minnesota/Mayo Clinic/North Dakota reception on Friday, April 7th at the Philadelphia Marriott Hotel was a great success. We had an excellent attendance of around 70 people. It provided us with a wonderful opportunity to greet new Fellows and meet old and new friends.

## **MINNESOTA CHAPTER ON THE WEB**

Have you ever finished reading an article and wondered what other activities your chapter has been involved in or what upcoming meetings I am missing out on? Your Chapter's Web site has the answers for you. Visit [www.acponline/chapters/mn](http://www.acponline/chapters/mn) to satisfy your desire to learn more.

We have recently transformed the Chapter's Web site to offer a new design that allows visitors to quickly obtain the information most wanted without scrolling through a great deal of text. We have added fresh content and include new features which will allow you to communicate directly with your Chapter's Governor to offer comments or questions.

### **NAVIGATING THE SITE: MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR VISIT TO OUR CHAPTER'S WEB SITE.**

**Visit "News and Meetings"** for the latest newsletter, announcements about CME opportunities and local activities in your chapter.

**Search "Public Policy and Advocacy"** to research the College's positions on key health issues, contact your legislators, and find out what you can do to help make a difference.

**Access "Local Links and Resources"** for a comprehensive resource focal point that provides a detailed list of Web sites for the internist.

**Read "About the Chapter"** to find your Chapter's Leadership, including your Governor, Governor's Council, and Chapter Staff; locate your chapter's bylaws; learn about past award recipients.

**Stop in "Residents and Medical Students"** to discover a host of available resources, residency program information, career guidance and local activities.

**Offer Feedback**, suggest topics or contact us with questions.

**Subscribe** to receive email alerts from the Chapter and the College. Send us your updated email address.

## **KEY DATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- MN Chapter, ACP Scientific Meeting, November 3-4, 2006, Minneapolis Convention Center.
- I recently met with **Robert Lohr**, MD, FACP to discuss plans for the Council. The by-laws describe 3 year terms for most council members. We would appreciate your recommendations for council members so that we can present a slate of candidates for your consideration at our Annual Scientific meeting in November 2006. Please send names and comments to me.
- Response to Hurricane Katrina September-November 2006. Several chapter members responded to the medical emergencies that occurred in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in September 2005. Groups of Minnesota internists played key roles as part of a project "Mayo-Minnesota Lifeline" under the direction of the Mayo Clinic and the University of Minnesota Medical School. We will recognize and salute our chapter members at our Annual Scientific Meeting.

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