



Governor's Message

Look around, absorb, and remember...we are living in historic times. With two seemingly endless wars, an economic downturn not suffered since the Great Depression, and a health care system in deep crisis, our country is challenged like never before. **President-elect Obama**, our first African

American President, will be stepping into an Oval Office on January 20, 2009 that already strains with demands that its occupant find sustainable solutions and gain stability for our country. Equally important is that our new president inspires confidence that we will weather this storm without sacrificing those most vulnerable, like the nearly 46 million without health insurance and another 25 million under-insured in our country. With this burgeoning crisis leadership must sustain an unflinching sense of priority and purpose to address the many issues at hand, but of those nothing looms greater than health care reform. Reforming our health care system will be essential to restoring America's health, economy, and confidence in the sum and substance of who we are as a country.

It's already happening at the national level. Recently Senate Finance Committee **Chairman Max Baucus** (D-Mont) released a white paper ("*Call to Action, Health Reform 2009*") containing the new administration's plan for health care reform. The goals outlined in this paper are also of the highest priority for ACP. Among them is providing access to affordable health insurance for everyone in this country. Means to doing this include tax credits and subsidies for low-income persons, purchasing pools based on the Federal Employees Health Benefit Plan (FEHBP), insurance reform, and a requirement that large employers either offer coverage for employees or pay into a system that will allow them to purchase affordable insurance coverage.

The Obama plan also strongly supports primary care, containing measures that strengthen seniors' access to primary care by enhancing Medicare payment for primary care services and further expanding the patient centered medical home (PCMH) concept, envisioned and long purported by ACP as being the future of primary care in this country. A letter to Sen. Baucus from ACP president **Jeff Harris, MD, FACP** also applauds the plan's commitment to replacing the system that calculates updates to the Medicare physician fee schedule, presently based on a seriously flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula that calls for the annual physician pay cuts that ACP has been (successfully) battling to prevent each year. This step alone will go a long way to protecting the health and welfare of seniors and to encouraging the future of primary care.

Indeed, these are historic times and Missouri ACP is poised at the state and national level to participate and provide leadership that will make our voice heard in these discussions and further strengthen our purpose of mission in serving the citizens and internists of Missouri. We have a rich tradition of leadership and service in our organization as recognized in those we recently honored: **Hal Lurie, MD, FACP**, our 2008 Laureate; and **Jerry Kennett, MD, FACP**, Internist of the Year, having recently served as President of the Missouri State Medical Association. Many others have served honorably and many more will be recognized as Missouri ACP continues its upward trajectory. Our richest resource, however, is our young members; 100 residents presented posters and nearly 30 medical students attended our fall meeting at Lodge of the Four Seasons this year. Congratulations go to the resident poster winners and student award winners for their excellent contributions. Congratulations also to all of you who attended this year's meeting. You were nearly 250 strong, absorbed

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almost 20 hours of education, and enjoying the wonderful ambiance of autumn at the Lake. Incorporating the ABIM-SEP Hospital Medicine Module on Thursday evening, using the audience response system, was a hit and we plan to continue offering this each year, and with an expanded venue next year beginning at 4pm on Thursday. And finally, I would be remiss if I didn't again thank Pat Mills for again pulling off our annual meeting with aplomb...you did real good, Pat, and we appreciate you!

Please don't forget about IM09 in Philadelphia April 23-25, 2009 and the next Missouri Chapter Meeting at Tan Tar A September 24-27, 2009. I look forward to seeing you all there! Until then, take care my friends.

Health & Public Policy

Your Chapter's Health & Public Policy Committee has been meeting this year as part of the Missouri Primary Care Coalition which is comprised of AAFP, AAP, ACP and MO Association of Osteopathic Family Physicians. **William Fogarty, MD, FACP**, chair of the HPPC, reported to the chapter meeting that the coalition has focused on MO HealthNet's physician fees and the promotion of the medical home within MO HealthNet.

Awards at Missouri Chapter Meeting



Hal Lurie, MD, FACP of Springfield as recognized as Laureate of the Missouri Chapter of the ACP during the Chapter meeting. Dr Lurie was one of a small group who organized the Missouri Society of Internal Medicine.

Jerry Kennett, MD, FACP of Columbia was recognized as Internist of the Year for his service as President of the Missouri State Medical Association



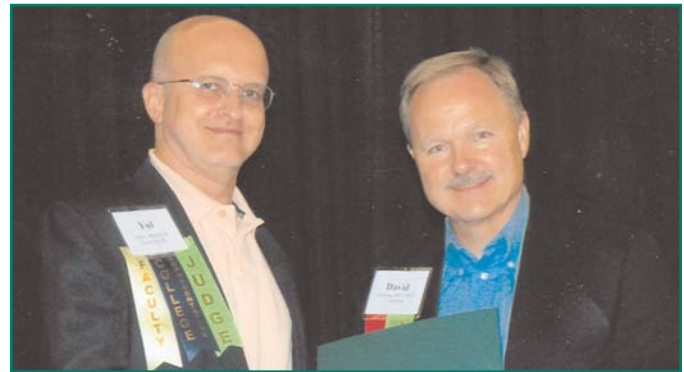
The ACP Excellence in Physical Diagnosis Award winners and the Clerkship Award winners from each of the four medical schools were recognized during the Chapter meeting. Each student attended the Chapter meeting and was recognized during the Awards Banquet with a certificate and \$400 check to cover meeting expenses.

Pictured from the left are Jake Chanin of Washington University; Tracy Trupka of University of Missouri, Kansas City; Rachel Rodriguez of University of Missouri, Columbia; Blair Smith of Saint Louis University and Dr Fleming.



Clerkship, Pictured from the left are Marios Giannakis of Washington University; John Allan of Saint Louis University; Benjamin Kinnear of University of Missouri, Columbia; Matthew Thompson of University of Missouri, Kansas City; and Dr Fleming.

Yul Ejnes, MD, FACP, member of the ACP Board of Regents, presented Dr Fleming with the ACP Chapter Excellence Award.



Dr Fleming appointed to MO HealthNet Committee

Dr David Fleming has been appointed by Governor Matt Blunt to the Professional Services Payment Committee of MO HealthNet Division of the Missouri Department of Social Services. The committee will develop guidelines for a pay-for-performance payment program within the MO HealthNet program. These guidelines are to be developed by the newly-created Professional Services Payment Committee, which is to be composed of 18 members, nine of which are to be physicians. The Mo HealthNet program was created September 1, 2007 when Missouri's Medicaid program was transformed to one that emphasizes personal wellness, prevention, and responsibility and increases access to health care for many of the most needy and vulnerable citizens in our state.

Medicare Enrollment, Apply Early

For those who plan to bring a new physician into your practice be aware that Medicare has changed its billing rules regarding newly enrolled physicians. Formerly, a practice had no problem billing for services provided by a physician who was in the process of being enrolled in Medicare. New Medicare rules only allow a 30 day window for the retroactive billing of Medicare by an unenrolled physician.

Poster Contest Expands to 100 entries

The poster contest at the Missouri Chapter meeting had a new record of 100 posters entered from all seven training programs: UMKC/St Luke's; University of Missouri: St Luke's in Chesterfield; St John's; St Mary's; Saint Louis University; and Washington University/ Barnes. Special thanks go to the 42 judges and the program directors that helped make this logistically challenging event possible.



Plans are being made to increase the 2009 poster contest to 110 posters. Many thanks are due to the programs and program directors for their assistance in making this outstanding event continue to grow.

The first place winners in each category will receive a trip to the College meeting in April to compete in the national poster contest. The second and third place winners receive \$250 and \$100 respectively. Since there was a tie for first in clinical vignette both **Drs Bhatti** and **Sadhu** will be representing the Missouri Chapter at IM09.

Research

- 1st **Jessica Jellison, MD (UMC)** - *Mineralocorticoid Receptor Antagonism attenuates Kidney Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System mediated Filtration Barrier Remodeling in the Transgenic Ren2 Rat*
- 2nd **Ping Liu, MD (St Luke's)** - *Finding NEMO-2: Aa new potential Target for Anti-Viral Biotherapy*
- 3rd **Marina Litvin, MD (Wash U)** - *Clostridium difficile Pseudo-outbreak: Effect of a Suboptimal Assay Lot on Perceived C. difficile Incidence, Wash U*

Clinical Vignette

- 1st tie **Zummera Bhatti, MD (SLU)** - *Disseminated Kaposi Sarcoma and Lymphoplasmocytic Interstitial Pneumonitis ans Initial Presentation of HIV Infection*
- 1st tie **Justin Sadhu, MD (Wash U)** - *Disseminated Blastomycosis in a heart transplant recipient, Wash U*
- 3rd **Jameel Muzaffar, MD (St Mary's)** - *Atherosclerosis-induced Retroperitoneal Fibrosis: A Steriod Responsive Condition*

Patient Safety & QI

- 1st **Jason Dundulis, MD (UMC)** - *Improving DVT Prophylaxis Through Use of a Standardized Admission Orders Template*
- 2nd **Shivak Sharma, MD (Wash U)** - *A Multifaceted Educational Intervention for Residents Improved Inpatient Diabetes Care and Patient Outcomes*
- 3rd **Elna Nagasako, MD (Wash U)** - *Removing Barriers to Glycemic Congril in Patients with Diabetes: APhone Based Intervention*

Missouri Center for Patient Safety Listed as PSO

The MO CPS is among the first 10 organizations in the nation to be listed as a Patient Safety Organization by the AHRQ. The designation allows the Center to implement a system to voluntarily collect, analyze, report and provide needed protections for participating providers to learn more about the safety of care in Missouri, including prevention strategies. www.mocps.org

IM09 Reception in Philadelphia

The Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri ACP Chapters will jointly host a reception during the College Meeting - IM09 at the Philadelphia Marriott Downtown Hotel (room 408) on April 24 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. All Missouri members are welcome to attend.

Memorable Moments in Teaching or Learning

A new ACP book series on faculty development and medical teaching is under development. As part of the first book of the series, **Dr. Jack Ende** would like to include a collection of personal vignettes, entitled "Memorable Moments in Teaching or Learning," prepared by members of ACP.

Please go to the following site to read a sample vignette, and to learn more about this opportunity to contribute a Memorable Moment in Teaching or Learning for this upcoming book series.

www.acponline.org/acp_press/memorable_moments

EZ e-prescribing

CMS has announced that physicians who adopt and use qualified e-prescribing systems to transmit prescriptions to pharmacies may earn an incentive payment of 2% of their total Medicare allowed charges during 2009.

MO HealthNet (Medicaid) has a web-based e-prescribing solution (Cyber Access) available to all physicians with a MO HealthNet provider ID number. To become a CyberAccess user, call 888-581-9797 or 573-632-9797, or send an E-mail to MoHealthNetCyberaccess@heritage-info.com. Individual training sessions are available for each provider site that requests access to the Web tool - www.dss.mo.gov/mhd/cs/medprecert/pages/cyberaccess.htm.

Websites of interest

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) "Call to Action: Health Reform 2009" <http://finance.senate.gov/healthreform2009/finalwhitepaper.pdf>

Bob Doherty's blog <http://blogs.acponline.org/advocacy>

National Quality Measures Clearinghouse www.qualitymeasures.ahrq.gov

Physicians Quality Reporting Initiative www.cms.hhs.gov/PQRI

E-prescribing www.cms.hhs.gov/eprescribing

Medicare Advantage www.cms.hhs.gov/healthplansgeninfo

Recovery Audit Contractors www.cms.hhs.gov/rac

2008 Chapter meeting speaker presentations www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/mo/2008ppt.htm

Residency Program Fair at IM09

Students: Don't miss this great opportunity at Internal Medicine 2009 to talk with internal medicine residency programs. The Residency Fair will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Exhibit Hall B of the Pennsylvania Convention Center

Dr Walker to be Honored at IM09

Sarah Walker, MD, MACP - past Governor of the Missouri Chapter and past President of ACP - will be receiving the Alfred Stengel Memorial Award at IM09. This award was established by the Board of Regents and recognizes outstanding service to the American College of Physicians.



SAVE THE DATE
2009 Missouri Chapter Meeting*
Tan Tar A
September 24-27, 2009

* includes two ABIM SEP modules www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/mo

CHAPTER COUNCIL BALLOT

The following have completed one term and are re-nominated for a second term (vote for four):

___ Pradeep Kapoor, MD, FACP - St. Louis

___ Robert Lancey, MD - Columbia

___ Louis Lim, MD - Springfield

___ Joe Muscato, MD, FACP - Columbia

Nominated for a first term to the Council are (vote for four):

___ Jerry Kennett, MD, FACP - Columbia

___ Bridget McCandless, MD - Kansas City

___ Tracy Norfleet, MD - St Louis

___ Megan Wren, MD, FACP - St. Louis

Fax your ballot to: 573-636-8552 or mail to: ACP; PO Box 1028; Jefferson City, MO 65102