



Governor's Message

According to an old Chinese proverb, "*It is better to be a dog in a peaceful time than a man in a chaotic period.*" This must be why I find myself envious of my yellow lab who naps at every opportunity with not a care in the world. These are indeed "interesting times" with the economic downturn and looming changes of health care reform that must inevitably come about. Our society is in a period of readjustment and ACP is no exception. While our leaders take their place at both the state and national tables in addressing the pressing needs of health care reform, we as an organization must also look seriously at our own sustainability. Though the Missouri Chapter remains strong financially and in membership, the national office is facing significant challenges in preparing its budget for 2009-10. Some cuts have already been made by the national office but the Board of Governors has been asked to identify additional cost reductions that will be necessary to help the College attain a balanced budget while minimizing the adverse impact on Governors and chapters. These cuts are obviously difficult to make but are necessary in these tough economic times. The austerity measures called for should not have an appreciable impact on our membership, the workings of our Chapter, or our annual meeting at the Lake, though we may have to forgo welcoming a College Representative (one of the Regents) at our next and foreseeable future meetings. The Governors are moving ahead with this difficult process and I will try to keep you apprised as best I can if and when developments occur. Please rest assured, however, that it will be "business as usual" for your Governor, your Council, and your staff. We will collectively continue working hard to represent your interests and those of your patients.

But, enough about austerity. I am happy to report that we had an outstanding turnout at Internal Medicine 2009 this year in Philadelphia. With over 7000 attendees and more than 250 educational venues to choose from, this was one of the best attended ACP annual sessions in history. We had 60 attending from Missouri, including seven associates and students with posters on display. I am also happy to report that Missouri had 15 new Fellows inducted, 6 of whom walked with me at Convocation—congratulations to all! And, we added another Master to our roles, with **Alan Forker** getting the nod this year. Well done, Alan! I am also very pleased to announce that we received our annual Chapter Excellence Award this year, and again received an Evergreen Award, this one for membership development. These are all recognitions of great importance, not only for ourselves in recognizing our value, but also for those who seek our wisdom and observe with interest how we conduct ourselves as a professional organization. It is your strength and collective wisdom that carries us forward and strengthens my ability to represent you as your Governor. As you know, Missouri is recognized as "*one of the strong Chapters*" mainly due to the energy and cohesiveness by which we, as a Chapter, function. As to how you will be represented nationally, I have again been asked to serve as Vice Chair of the Health and Public Policy Committee and will also be serving on the Executive Committee of the Board of Governors as representative for the Class of 2011. This will indeed be an important, busy, and exciting year as we attempt to navigate the inevitable changes coming our way. We will be challenged as individuals, as an organization, and as patient advocates at both state and national levels.

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I would be remiss at this important time in history if I did not reflect on President Obama's first 100 days in office and what's going on in healthcare reform. **Bob Doherty**, our Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and Public Policy (and who will be at our meeting in September) gave his usual superlative talk at the BOG meeting April 22 updating us on the developments in health care reform; you can access Bob's comments on his blog, <http://blogs.acponline.org/advocacy>. Bob reflected on a recent survey by Lake Research Partners indicating that the public mandate is clear, with 69% feeling that complete or major health care reform is needed. Voters' greatest dissatisfaction is with the rising cost of health care and the lack of coverage for everyone. Though patients trust their doctors, over one third are dissatisfied with prevention of medical errors. There is solid support (77%) for payment reform that will reward doctors for quality care ("P4P"), but voters also feel strongly that there should be incentives for prevention and for people to actively manage their health before they get sick (74%). Providing comparative effectiveness data that will supplement doctors' clinical knowledge also has solid support but patients do not want scientific or cost effectiveness data to replace their doctor's judgment. And, by an overwhelming margin (76%) voters support allowing health professionals other than doctors to provide more care to free up doctors and help control costs.

The agenda is set but all the pieces are not in place yet. What the new President has learned from former President Clinton's failure is that health care reform must be transparent, inclusive of all stakeholders, involve members of Congress from the beginning, reassure voters about necessary trade-offs (pay-go), and accept compromise as needed. ACP is influencing this debate by developing and prioritizing policies, being at the table and building coalitions, and engaging/informing its members. ACP is one of two professional physician groups (with AMA) who participated in the Health Reform Dialogue (HRD) consensus process. Jeff Harris, President of ACP last year, represented us as one of a handful of physician organizations invited to the White House Summit in March. ACP is working with Senate GOP staff, Senator Kennedy's HELP Committee, and Senator Baucus's Senate Finance Committee on legislative issues. We have also testified at several key committee hearings. ACP is there and our views are being heard regarding the role of primary care, the importance of the Patient Centered Medical Home, student debt relief, EHR incentives, the need for comparative effectiveness research, and payment reform. But the barriers to success are onerous. Five major issues could derail health care reform: proposed mandates on employers and individuals; considering a "public plan" option; rationing and cost controls; how to pay for it all; and the growing budget deficit. Indeed there are risks and challenges, but change at some level is inevitable. As President Obama said at the World Health Summit on Health Reform March 5, 2009, *"Health care reform cannot wait, it must not wait, and it will not wait another year."* And it won't...the reform train is coming and coming fast; we will either be on board guiding its speed and course, or be flattened as it rumbles past. I, for one, feel that we must choose the former, for the sake of our patients and our profession.

Well, that's it for now. It's hard to believe that my first two years as governor have come and gone. It's certainly been an interesting, educational, and invigorating ride but it's not over yet. I thank all of you for the support and encouragement you have provided. Missouri ACP is an amazing and collegial group and I earnestly look forward to the next two years with you at my side.

MO Chapter Wins Evergreen Award

At IM09, ACP presented Evergreen Awards to honor Chapters that created new programs that strengthened the chapter and increased member communication and involvement. The Missouri Chapter received the 2009 Evergreen Award for member outreach through the expansion of the Associates Poster Contest.

Dr Fleming accepts Evergreen Award at IM09



Dr Fleming and the Missouri contingent during ACP Leadership Day.



Member Involvement

Your Missouri Chapter of the ACP has continued to create interest groups which meet during the September meeting. The Women's Group has met for more than ten years. Recently we have added Program Directors, Chiefs, and Students. This year the chapter will also be hosting a meeting for International Medical Graduates to discuss items of mutual concern. **Bishnu Devkota, MD, FACP** of St Louis will be chairing the IMG Committee and will report back to the ACP Council.

Missouri Hospitalist Newsletter

Robert Folzenlogen, MD of Columbia has initiated a hospitalist newsletter that is only available by email or at the chapter website. If you or others are interested in this newsletter, send a note to folzenlogenr@health.missouri.edu or view it online at: www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/mo/news_meet.htm.

ABIM SEP Available at Chapter Meeting

Your Missouri Chapter of the ACP will again be providing ABIM SEP learning at the chapter meeting. This year two modules will be presented by faculty from Washington University and University of Missouri. Registration will be available for these sessions if you choose not to attend the entire meeting. The two modules are: Office based 2009 update (C0-J) and IM-Hospital based 2009 update (A0-J). These sessions will kick off the chapter meeting beginning at 4pm on Thursday, September 24 at Tan Tar A. Watch our chapter website for further details - http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/mo/news_meet.htm.

ACP Book Awards

The 2009 Missouri Chapter of the ACP Book Awards have been announced.

- **Vincent K. Woo** of Saint Louis University - Coy D. Fitch, MD, MACP Book Award
- **Matthew Thompson** of University of Missouri Kansas City - Richard Butin, MD Book Award
- **Blair Westerly** of University of Missouri Columbia - Martin Alpert, MD, FACP Book Award
- **William J. Hucker** of Washington University - Michael M. Karl, MD, MACP Book Award

The Book Award recognizes a graduating senior who:

1. Achieves the highest cumulative grades in all General Internal Medicine rotations and any required written examinations covering the general field of Internal Medicine in the third and fourth year of medical school;
2. Has outstanding ethical and humanitarian qualities;
3. Is committed to a career in General Internal Medicine or one of the subspecialties of Internal Medicine.

Associate Posters

The poster contest at the Missouri Chapter meeting has continued to grow, primarily due to the increased participation of the Missouri Internal Medicine Program Directors. The 2007 chapter poster contest had 96 entrants and 2008 had 100 entrants. The 2009 contest has added 10 slots to allow 110 posters. The programs are largely responsible for the growth of this event. The program directors are more involved and it shows. Judges who review the posters are an important part of this event and it cannot be done without them. This year's event is co-chaired and organized by **Brent Beasley, MD, FACP** and **Adam Whaley-Connell, DO, FACP**.

Interesting websites

Bob Doherty's blog from ACP in Washington DC, <http://blogs.acponline.org/advocacy>

Missouri's political news daily, www.johncombest.com

Politico, www.politico.com

Baucus, Grassley Policy Options for Transforming the Health Care Delivery System: Proposals to Improve Patient Care and Reduce Health Care Costs, <http://finance.senate.gov/sitepages/legislation.htm>

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

Steps for Eligible Professionals to Access Their Physician Quality Reporting Initiative (PQRI) Feedback Reports, www.cms.hhs.gov/MLN MattersArticles/downloads/se0830.pdf

Nutrition.gov, www.nutrition.gov

My Family Health Portrait, <https://familyhistory.hhs.gov>

Open letter to ACP members (not yet Fellows)

Dear Colleagues;

It comes to our attention that, though you are a member of the American College of Physicians, but have not yet applied for Fellowship and we would like to invite you to do so. As you may know Missouri has had a very energetic and forward moving ACP Chapter as evidenced by an increasingly successful annual meeting each fall at Lake of the Ozarks and the burgeoning participation by residents and students the past few years. The College also continues to contribute in major ways through offerings such as Annals, annual session, and its presence as a major participant in the national dialogue dealing with the crisis in health care access, the future of primary care, and other major health policy issues in our country.

Please review your status and consider completing an online application for Fellowship at: www.acponline.org/membership/join/fellowship. We will help to facilitate this process if any need arises.

We are confident that you will appreciate the recognition and personal pride you will experience in becoming a Fellow of the College and we will be happy to provide any resources needed if you have questions.

Thanks

Thomas Olsen MD, FACP

Bishnu Devkota MD, FACP

Retired allergist Jean Chapman, MD, MACP, of Cape Girardeau died March 23 at age 80. Dr Chapman was a native of Cape Girardeau; past president of ACAAI; and a well respected artist for his sculpture, paintings, and drawings.



Primary Care Medical Home

Your ACP chapter is continuing to promote the medical home through discussions with MO HealthNet. **Drs. David Fleming and Bill Fogarty** – PICTURED – met with **Ian McCaslin, MD**, Director of MO HealthNet

MISSOURI CHAPTER OF THE ACP SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Updates in Internal Medicine – 21.5 hours of CME

1. *ABIM SEP – Office based 2009 update (C0-J)* – **Melvin Blanchard, MD, FACP** and **Ernie-Paul Barrette, MD, FACP**
2. *ABIM SEP – IM-Hospital based 2009 update (A0-J)* – **Steve Brietzke, MD, FACP** and **Syed Ahsan, MD, FACP**
3. Preventive Services: Update from the USPSTF - **Michael LeFevre, MD**
4. *Inpatient Glycemic Management: How "Tight" is "Tight Enough?"* - **Ousama Dabbagh, MD, FCCP, FAASM**
5. Debate: early prostate cancer and screening - **Michael R. Cupp, MD** and **Michael Lefevre, MD**
6. *Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm – Who and How to Screen, When and How to Repair AO Aneurysm* - **David Safley, MD**
7. *Diagnosis and Latest Treatments for Asthma* - **Mario Castro, MD**
8. *Celiac Disease: It's More Common Than You Think!* - **John Marshall, MD**
9. *Lipid Therapy in 2009: What Is the State of the Art and Where Do We Need to Go?* - **David Gardner, MD**
10. *Vasculitis: Pathophysiological and Clinical Manifestations* - **Terry Moore, MD, FACP**
11. *Dysfunctional Uterine Bleeding: What the Internist Really Ought to Know* - **Breton F. Barrier, MD**
12. *Healthcare Reform and the Obama Administration: Impact on Internists and their Patients* - **Robert Doherty**
13. *Atrial Fibrillation, Medical vs Interventional/ablative Therapy* - **Greg Flaker, MD, FACP, FACC** and **Kal Aggawal, MD, FACC**
14. *Fibromyalgia: Diagnosis and Treatment* - **Anne Winkler, MD, PhD, MACP**
15. *Hospitalist Conference: Hospital Acquired Infections*
 - **John Cras, MD:** *Clostridium difficile*
 - **Kyle Moylan, MD:** *Catheter-related UTLs*
 - **William Salzer, MD:** *Central Line Infections*
16. Workshops:
 - *Joint Injection* - **Anne Winkler, MD, PhD, MACP** and **Mark Jarek, MD**
 - *Dermatology: Name that Rash* - **Stacey Tull, MD**
 - *Pay for Performance* - **James T. Rogers, MD, FACP**
17. *PTSD, mTBI, and TBI: Symptoms, Diagnosis, and Treatment* - **Zachary H. Osborn, PhD**
18. *The Barrier of Hypoglycemia in Diabetes* - **Phil Cryer, MD**
19. *Assessment of CKD (spell out): What the Generalist Needs to Know* - **Adam T. Whaley-Connell, DO, FACP**
20. *Practical Problems with Low Platelets* - **Joe Muscato, MD, FACP**

Specific times and registration are available on the chapter website:

www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/mo

2008 PPTs are posted on the chapter website.

2009 Calendar:

August 26	Tan Tar A hotel reservation deadline
September 24	Missouri Chapter meeting – 2 ABIM-SEP modules
September 25	Missouri Chapter meeting – CME from 8am – 5pm
September 25	Missouri Chapter meeting – Associates poster contest at 5pm
September 26	Missouri Chapter meeting – CME from 8am – 4pm
September 27	Missouri Chapter meeting – CME from 8am - noon
October 1-3	ACP Board of Governors

2010 Calendar:

April 22-24	ACP IM10 – Toronto
September 23-26	Missouri Chapter meeting

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