

Missouri Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 2004

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Governor, Missouri Chapter

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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

This should be an important year in ACP on the national level. The Board of Governors continues to push aggressively for changes in the recertification process. The Board of Regents approved the Governors' resolution to establish a political action committee. This should be established by the summer.



The revitalization of internal medicine summit was held in November. Summit participants included representatives from the Council of Subspecialty Societies, the ABIM, Society of General Internal Medicine and the Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine. Participants identified priority issues, such as redesigning systems of care, resource allocations and rethinking training components.

I would like to focus this year on increasing our chapter membership, both with practicing and academic physicians and with students and residents. I also want to continue to improve communication in our chapter by utilizing and expanding the local representative network. You may communicate with me through our website - www.acp-missouri.org.

College Meeting in New Orleans

Make the most of the national ACP meeting which will be held in New Orleans from April 22 to 24. Keep in mind this is also the Jazz Festival weekend so make your hotel reservations early. There will be more than 260 sessions which will provide comprehensive coverage of internal medicine and medical subspecialties, as well as sessions on issues in practice management and health policy. Clinical skills training and physical exam office-based procedures workshops will be held.

See www.acponline.org/ for more information.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW FELLOWS

Congratulations to the 12 new ACP Fellows from Missouri.

Maimuna Baig - Lake St Louis

Peter Bettonville - Kirkwood

Subbarao Elapavaluru - Columbia

Andrew Evans - Springfield

Angus Macleod - St Louis

Renee Meadows - Columbia

William Sistrunk - Springfield

J. Simon Szeto - Kansas City

Bishnu Devkota - Chesterfield

Iftikhar Hussain - St Louis

Stephen Keithahn - Columbia

Chitra Uppaluri - Clayton

We will continue to hold fellowship tutorials around the state where there is an interest. Monday, February 9 led to five more potential fellows in Springfield. Remember that there are four pathways to fellowship. Advancement can occur through one of the pathways OR a combination of the pathways. These paths include:

1. Emphasis on written medical communication.
2. Emphasis on significant continuing certification activity and teaching: this would include re-certification, subspecialty certification, taking MKSAP for score,
3. Emphasis on active membership in ACP, ASIM or the merged organization which would include 10 years of participation.
4. Emphasis on professional activity and teaching, patient care or professional services over many years which would include volunteer and community service work.

Your Missouri Chapter of the ACP is very interested in assisting members in obtaining Fellowship. The first step in your pursuit of this credential is to obtain an application - either by calling the Missouri Chapter at **800-318-6746** or online at **www.acponline.org/college/membership/fellowpro.pdf**. Additional information about Fellowship is available at **www.acponline.org/college/membership/classes.htm#fellow**.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

Elections were held to elect five new councilors. The following members have been elected to the council. These include:

- Musaddeque Ahmad, MD - Festus
- Brent Beasley, MD - Kansas City
- Richard Butin, MD - Kansas City
- David Fleming, MD - Columbia
- Margaret Hochreiter, MD - St Louis

A complete list is online at **www.acp-missouri.org**.

<http://www.acp-missouri.org/>

HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

William M. Fogarty, Jr., MD, FACP

As we head into the new year a number of issues confront the medical community. In Missouri, the legislature has reconvened and, as is the custom especially in an election year, the atmosphere is charged. The overriding issue of tort reform/malpractice insurance cost relief for physicians will again be up for consideration in the legislature but hope for positive results is limited. Last year the Republicans passed a bill which included elements helpful to physicians but then packed it with extraneous bits which guaranteed a gubernatorial veto. Inter-session meetings of medical and legal leaders failed to arrive at a bill that was acceptable to both sides making the possibility of an agreeable solution during the legislative session rather slim. We will be hearing a great deal about this issue in the coming weeks.

A recent review article on Medical Malpractice in the New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM, 350; 3, 283-292, January 15, 2004) gives an excellent overview of the entire question and concludes that real reform is not politically possible at the national (or state) level and that the most we can hope for is another round of modest system reforms that will temporarily alleviate the problem but do nothing to see that those truly in need of reparation receive it or that the flaws in the system that lead to patient injury are corrected. It is an article worth your time to read.

If there is contention at the state level, it pales in comparison to what we will be seeing from Washington. The prescription drug/Medicare reform bill which became law later last year offered some needed relief for physicians by rolling back the pending fee cuts for 2004 and 2005 and substituting small fee increases and offering significant fee increases for rural physicians. It offers modest help with prescription costs for Medicare patients but does nothing to slow the obscene rate of price increases of prescription drugs and has other serious flaws. It will be revisited in future sessions. Significant tort reform in this election year is extremely unlikely. Major changes in the Congress and the administration will be necessary to accomplish that goal.

Stay turned into your professional organizations, get involved in the nomination and electoral process this year and keep informed about the legislative process. These issues are of vital importance to our patients and our profession. I would strongly urge you to join the Missouri State Medical Association and to subscribe to and read their excellent Legislative Report which is available to MSMA members every week during the legislative session. It will keep you informed about bills pending in the legislature and whom to contact to express your opinion on these bills. On the national level, become a Key Contact of the ACP and let your legislators know of your concerns.

Finally, this is an election year. The people who sit in the Legislature and the Congress have profound effects on our patients and our profession. Get involved at the local level. Get to know the candidates, back with dollars and involvement those who will be supportive of the things we care about. Develop a real relationship with these people. If you don't have input, you can be sure that the lawyers, insurance and pharmaceutical company executives and other interests who oppose ours will. Don't sit idly by.

ACP KEY CONTACT PROGRAM

ACP depends on its 2,000 Key Congressional Contacts to communicate with their members of Congress on issues of importance to internists and their patients, and report back to ACP. Key Contacts do not necessarily have established relationships with their members of Congress. ACP gives them the tools necessary to develop and maintain relationships. See www.acponline.org/hpp/advocacy/act_key.htm

<http://www.acp-missouri.org/>

CHAPTER MEETING

Mark your calendar for the next **Missouri** chapter meeting **September 9-12** to be held this year at **Tan Tar A**. Topics will include diabetes, hyperlipidemia, osteoporosis, stump the professor, sleep disorders, and irritable bowel syndrome. The education committee has worked hard to continue the tradition of relevant topics AND excellent speakers. Workshops on PDAs and EKGs will also be held. Watch the website - www.acp-missouri.org - for complete agenda and registration info.

For those who cannot make the Missouri chapter meeting, the **Kansas** chapter will hold its meeting **September 10-11** at **Overland Park**. The **Arkansas** chapter meeting will be held at the **Peabody Hotel** in **Little Rock, Ark** **October 15-16**. The **Oklahoma** chapter meeting will be held **September 24-25** in **Tulsa** at the **Renaissance Hotel**.

CMS ANNOUNCES NATIONAL PROVIDER IDENTIFIER

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has announced the adoption of the National Provider Identifier (NPI) as the standard unique health identifier for health care providers to use in filing and processing health care claims and other transactions. The standard unique health identifier is mandated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA). More information is available at: www.cms.hhs.gov/media/press/release.asp?Counter=946. No action is required at this time. CMS anticipates the assignment process to begin May 2005.

Medicare developments

- CMS has introduced a website: Medicare Issue of the Day which is a new series designed to introduce and explain the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act (MMA) of 2003. These daily fact sheets will cover important new provisions of this legislation. For more info see: www.cms.hhs.gov/medicarereform/issueoftheday.

New developments include:

- Beginning in 2005, the MMA will supply new coverage of diabetes screening tests for persons at risk for diabetes, including a fasting plasma glucose test and such other tests;
- Beginning in 2005, the MMA will provide new coverage of a one-time preventive physical exam with in 6 months of a beneficiary's enrollment under Medicare Part B;
- MMA will cover insulin and associated diabetic supplies (including syringes), beginning in 2006; and
- Beginning in 2006, the new comprehensive prescription drug benefit will include drug therapy management for beneficiaries with multiple chronic diseases including diabetes who take multiple drugs and spend more than a specified amount annually on drugs covered under the prescription drug benefit. These drug management programs will help ensure the best therapeutic outcomes and reduce the risk of adverse medication events.



CALENDAR

March 13

C. John Ritter, MD - Internal Medicine Review
for Primary Care Physicians
Drury Lodge - Cape Girardeau, MO

April 7

Fifth Annual Regional Southwest Missouri
ACP meeting
Highland Springs Country Club -
Springfield, MO

April 22-24

ACP Annual Session
New Orleans, LA
www.acponline.org

June 25th - 26th

Care of the Adult Patient:
Recent Advances 2004.
University of Missouri-Columbia,
Department of Internal Medicine.
<http://intmed.muhealth.org/cme.html>

September 9-12

Missouri Chapter meeting
Tan Tar A - Osage Beach, MO
www.acp-missouri.org

ACP CONDUCTING CENSUS OF MEMBERS' PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Over the past few months ACP has asked members to complete a brief online census about their professional activities. Beginning in late January, all members who have not responded at the Web site will receive a paper survey in the mail.

In order to provide useful programs and products and to advocate effectively for members' interests in Washington, ACP must maintain up-to-date information about their professional activities and the context in which they practice medicine.

Please complete the census form when it arrives in the mail. The census is short (13-questions) and will take only a few minutes of your time.

Members may complete the census online instead of returning the paper version. Your ACP Member number and birth date are required to complete the online form. ACP member numbers will be provided in the letter accompanying the mail version of the census, or can be easily found on the Annals of Internal Medicine mailing label.

Questions may be directed to **Wayne Bylsma, PhD**, director of the **ACP Research Center**, at wbylsma@acponline.org or 800-523-1546, ext. 2830.

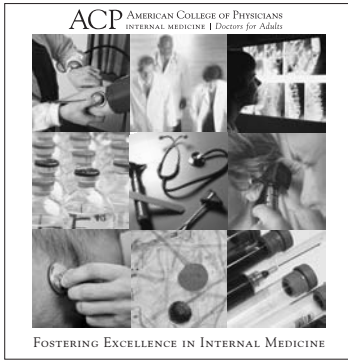
CHECK OUT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE

<http://www.acp-missouri.org/>

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Missouri Chapter Scientific Meeting
Tan Tar A
Osage Beach, MO
September 9- 12, 2004

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