

# Missouri Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Summer 2004

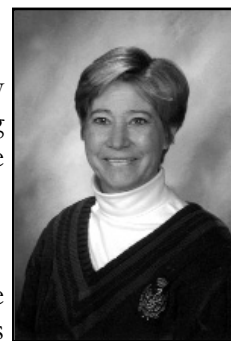
Anne Winkler, MD, PhD, FACP, FACR  
*Governor, Missouri Chapter*

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER

	Page
Governor's Message	1
Chapter Meeting	2
Laureate Award	2
HHS OIG Issues Boutique Warning for Medicare Patients	2
Health and Public Policy Update	3
ACP Key Contact Program	3
Associate's Council	4
Missouri Chapter Book Awards	4
Membership Modifications	4
College Meeting Reception Continues	4
Missouri Chapter Proposes Two Masterships	4
Calendar	5
ACP Assists with ABIM Self- Evaluation Process Modules	5
Credentialing For Fellowship Updated	5
Chapter Dues	6

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Mission Statement: To enhance the quality and effectiveness of healthcare by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine.



The new ACP political action committee (PAC) is being established by ACP. This should give our organization and our specialty an added advantage in dealing with the political issues that affect our practice and our patients. Contributions to the ACP PAC will be voluntary. Keep also in mind that we can accomplish much by serving as key contacts for our governmental officials. Anyone interested in serving as key contact please notify me.

Recertification news: The ABIM met in June to determine if they willing to make any changes in the recertification process. If not, the Board of Governors has directed the ACP Board of Regents to start putting into place alternative means of recertification that would be much easier than the present system, and include several options, one of which would be online testing. More information will be available at the Fall 2004 ACP Board of Governors' meeting in late-September and I will be sure to include that in the next newsletter.

Our **Fall Missouri Chapter Meeting** promises to once again be full of informative lectures and excellent speakers. Be sure to mark your calendars for **September 9-12** and invite a friend to join you at **Tan Tar A**.

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## MISSOURI CHAPTER MEETING

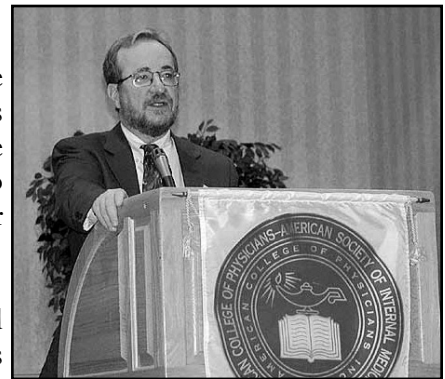
Excellent CME will again be available during our Missouri Chapter meeting - September 9-12 - at Tan Tar A. One of last year's highest rated sessions was "Stump the Professor." This format will be repeated with **George Sarosi, MD, MACP**, who has been nationally recognized as an outstanding teacher. Topics to be covered during the 18.75 hours of CME include: ECG, Hypertension, Diabetes, Depression, Osteoporosis, HIV/Aids, and Heart Disease. For a complete agenda and registration information see: [www.acp-missouri.org](http://www.acp-missouri.org) or call **800-318-6746**.

The Missouri Chapter Council has discussed increasing the CME to 25 hours. Please let us know your thoughts, pro and con, by sending an email to [pmills@msma.org](mailto:pmills@msma.org).

## LAUREATE AWARD ANNOUNCED

**Daniel M. Goodenberger, MD, FACP** has been selected to receive the Laureate Award, the Missouri Chapter's most prestigious award. It is designed to honor those Fellows and Masters of the College who have demonstrated, by their example and conduct, an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research, and service to their community, their Chapter, and the College.

Dr Goodenberger has served on the Council of the Missouri Chapter and as Chair of the Education Committee which produces the annual meeting's CME. The Missouri Chapter recognizes the time and energy Dr Goodenberger has devoted to the Missouri Chapter and the College.



The Laureate Award will be given to Dr Goodenberger at the Awards Dinner during the Chapter meeting on Friday, September 10.

## HHS OIG ISSUES BOUTIQUE WARNING FOR MEDICARE PATIENTS

The Office of Inspector General for the Department of Health and Human Services has announced that physicians asking for additional monthly or yearly payments from their patients may be "billing Medicare patients for services that are already covered by Medicare." For example, the OIG recently alleged that a physician violated his Medicare assignment agreement when he presented to his patients a "Personal Health Care Medical Care Contract" asking patients to pay an annual fee of \$600.

The OIG issued the following statement, "If participating physicians decide they want to charge patients additional fees they should be mindful that they are subject to civil money penalties if they request any payment for already covered services from Medicare patients other than the applicable deductible and coinsurance."

<http://oig.hhs.gov/fraud/docs/alertsandbulletins/2004/FA033104AssignViolationI.pdf>

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

## HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

by William M. Fogarty, Jr, MD, FACP

The Missouri Chapter was represented at Leadership Days in Washington by Drs. Sara Walker, Peggy Barjenbruch and Patrick Garrett. This important activity of the College gives members from all over the country a chance to be brought up-to-date on political and legislative activities of vital interest to physicians and our patients. The importance of political involvement for physicians is a recurring theme of these meetings. Missouri is under-represented by “key contacts”, those who agree to develop a relationship with their legislators and to contact them about upcoming votes and important issues. We want to increase the number of key contacts in the state and to have at least one for each national representative and senator and, ideally, one for each state legislator. More will be said about this at the annual meeting.

At the national level priority issues are an update of the Medicare fee schedule and repair of the broken update formula. While the Medicare prescription drug bill passed last fall granted small reimbursement increases for physicians in 2005 and 2006, there is a huge reduction looming in subsequent years unless the Medicare formula is fixed. There is a sizeable fiscal note to any remedy making the necessary political will hard to find. It will take continued pressure by the College and individual physicians over the next two years to accomplish any meaningful reform. GET INVOLVED.

The scandalous lack of healthcare coverage and access by more than 44 million of our fellow citizens continues to plague the country. There is solid data to show that this lack of access results in worse health status, unneeded deaths and increased costs for dealing with neglected health problems yet the political will to deal with this national disgrace is yet to surface. It will take continued physician pressure to move this vital part of the College’s agenda forward. After the election and the convening of the new Congress will be the optimal time to act. GET INVOLVED.

Professional liability reform continues to be a priority item at the state and national levels. Getting meaningful reform through legislatures where trial lawyers have the ability to block passage is a daunting task. It may be that a breakdown of the healthcare system will be required before the problem is addressed but we should all hope that reason will prevail and that acceptable solutions can be arrived at without such a catastrophe. Continued physician input and the involvement of our patients will be crucial to achieving any reform. Those who are elected this November are the ones who will control the legislative agenda for the next several years. GET INVOLVED.

There are a number of other vital issues on the agenda including patient safety, funding of health and medical research programs, the development of an electronic medical records systems that will link all of a patient’s medical information in a secure and useable form, a national health information infrastructure and debt relief for our graduating medical students which require our attention and input.

We are all overburdened with things that we must do to successfully care for our patients and maintain our families and ourselves. It is impossible to dedicate the time to understand and act upon all of these important issues but, without physician input, these and other matters vital to the welfare of our patients and our profession will be controlled by others that do not have our best interests at heart. Stay informed and express your concerns to your legislators.

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### KEY CONTACTS NEEDED

ACP’s continued success on Capitol Hill greatly depends upon year-round grassroots support from the College’s nearly 2,800 Key Contacts. Key Contacts communicate with their members of Congress on issues of importance to internists and their patients, and report the results back to ACP. To enroll as a Key Contact, ACP members are not required to have existing relationships with their members of Congress. ACP gives them the tools necessary to develop and maintain relationships. The program is open to all membership categories.

For more information on the ACP Key Contact Program, please contact: **Kathy Heabel** at **1-800-338-2746, x4532**, or **kheabel@acponline.org**

## ASSOCIATES' CORNER

A new website for discussion pertaining to residents and new physicians is at [www.docsboard.com](http://www.docsboard.com). This website allows discussion of the problems facing residents and advice regarding setting up a new practice.

Remember that ACP also has a website which includes practice management information helpful to residents deciding on a practice and to physicians starting out in a new practice - [www.acponline.org/careers/index.html](http://www.acponline.org/careers/index.html).

## MISSOURI CHAPTER BOOK AWARDS

The ACP Book award is presented at the medical school graduation ceremony to the graduating senior who meets the following criteria:

- (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.

The award, named for a prominent internist at the school, consists of a certificate, a check in the amount of \$200 and a letter from the Governor of the Missouri Chapter.

- Sara Echelmeyer - Saint Louis University - D. Douglas Miller, MD, FACP
- Michelle George-Nichols - University of Missouri, Columbia - Caroline A. Kerber, MD, FACP
- Kerry C. Will - University of Missouri, Kansas City - Marjorie Sirridge, MD, MACP
- Cara L. O'Brien - Washington University - Kenneth S. Polonsky, MD, FACP

## MEMBERSHIP MODIFICATIONS

Effective July 1, 2004, the College will elect non-certified internists as Members without sponsoring letters or Governor's endorsement, unless the candidate has a licensure problem, etc. Candidates will need to complete a short Membership application form and submit proof of board certification or a residency completion certificate in internal medicine, neurology or any combined medicine residency program, such as: Med/Peds, Med/Family Practice, Med/Emergency Medicine, etc. In another change Associate applications will no longer require a sponsoring signature from a program director or a Master or Fellow.

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## COLLEGE MEETING RECEPTION CONTINUES

The recent trend in medical school budget cuts has caused the University of Missouri - Columbia and Saint Louis University Schools of Medicine alumni departments to stop their support of the Friday night reception at the College meeting. In New Orleans the Missouri Chapter shared the cost of the reception with Tom Burns, MD, MACP who took the initiative of keeping the tradition alive. Your Missouri Chapter will host a reception on Friday, April 15 for all Missouri physicians attending the College meeting in San Francisco.

## MISSOURI CHAPTER PROPOSES TWO FOR MASTERSHIP

The American College of Physicians has a special membership category for those who have made a notable contribution to medicine - Drs Ken Ludmerer and Richard Whiting. The criteria for Mastership includes but is not limited to teaching, outstanding work in clinical medicine (research or practice), contributions to preventive medicine, improvements in the delivery of health care, or contributions to the medical literature.

## CALENDAR:



September 9-12, 2004  
Missouri Chapter meeting at Tan Tar A

January 5, 2005  
Missouri Legislative session begins

September 15, 2004  
Missouri Legislature Veto session

April 14-16, 2005  
ACP meeting in San Francisco

October 6, 2004  
Voter registration deadline

May 13, 2005  
Missouri Legislative session ends

November 2, 2004  
General election

September 15-18, 2005  
Missouri Chapter meeting at Tan Tar A

## ACP ASSISTS WITH ABIM SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS MODULES

As a benefit of membership, the American College of Physicians is pleased to provide access directly to the knowledge resources you trust most to assist you in the completion of the following General Internal Medicine ABIM Self-Evaluation Process (SEP) Modules.

The ACP Knowledge Resources include:

- MKSAP (currently including only content from the 12th Edition as well as the Prep for Boards product, though 12th Edition Update and 13th Edition will be included shortly) -self-assessment program that includes syllabus and self-assessment questions with full critiques
- PIER - [pier.acponline.org](http://pier.acponline.org) - online "point-of-care" clinical decision support resource available free to ACP members
- Annals of Internal Medicine - [www.annals.org](http://www.annals.org) - online access to current and past issues of the premier journal of Internal Medicine
- ACP Books - content from 14 ACP books and 2 books distributed by ACP

Go to [www.acponline.org/college/misc/abim\\_sep.htm?hp](http://www.acponline.org/college/misc/abim_sep.htm?hp) for more information.

## CREDENTIALING FOR FELLOWSHIP UPDATED

The College Credentials Subcommittee has approved a streamlining of the Fellowship election process. As a result, Governors no longer need to complete the Governors Endorsement Checklist (GEC) or write letters for qualified candidates for advancement to Fellowship. Governors can indicate their recommendation for advancement, deferral, or Subcommittee decision by checking off the appropriate box and signing the Fellowship proposal form.

Letters from Governors are still required for all candidates for Direct Fellowship, for candidates who require a waiver by the Credentials Subcommittee, and for all candidates not endorsed by Governors. The criterion for Pathway 3 for advancement to Fellowship has been changed from 10 to 5 years of active Membership in the College.

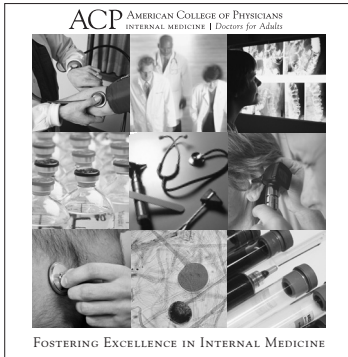
**CHECK OUT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE**

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

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

## ***Governor's Newsletter***

BG-4018

### **SUPPORTING YOUR CHAPTER THROUGH CHAPTER DUES**

Chapter dues are the backbone of local activities and vital to the success of our chapter. While we are provided some financial support from the national office, the chapter dues collected provides the majority of financial support for local activities. Educational meetings, mentoring programs for medical students, local Associates' research competitions, and participation by chapter leaders in Leadership Day on Capitol Hill are just some of the activities supported by your chapter dues. Many of these activities are orchestrated by unpaid volunteer leaders in our chapter. Your chapter dues help support the cost of local staff and provide funding for new and existing chapter initiatives. When you receive your dues notice, please remember to include the chapter dues in your payment. You will be contributing to the success of many grass roots activities happening right here at home.