

Mississippi Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE:

The combined MS/LA ACP meeting was held from March 12-13, 2004, at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, MS. An excellent educational program organized by **Dena Jackson, MD**, and **Michael Shoemaker-Moyle, MD**, entitled "Medicine for the Masses", was well received by all participants. We had a total of 105 members registered, and there was active participation from the attendees. Our College Representative, **Dr. David Dale**, past Chairman of the Board of Governors, was very informative. He gave an update on Hematology and then presented a College activities update, as well. He encompassed all the areas that have active programs at the present, including an informational piece on the ACP Foundation and how contributions may be directed to the Foundation and the goals of the Foundation.



The next combined **MS/LA meeting** will be hosted by Louisiana at the **Windsor Court** in **New Orleans** from **March 10-12, 2005**.

Have a great summer!
Joe C. Files, MD, FACP

SUMMIT MEETING ON REVITALIZATION OF INTERNAL MEDICINE

The ACP summit meeting on Revitalization of Internal Medicine was held in November, 2003. The majority of the internal medicine stakeholders relating to this issue attended. There were 80 participants including students, associates, young physicians, professors of medicine, program directors, hospitalists, office practitioners (general and specialty), and medical directors.

The final action plans were prioritized by the summit attendees and fell into four main categories:

1. Repair the Dysfunctional Payment System
2. Practice Efficiencies and Hassle Reduction
3. Focus the Value of Internal Medicine
4. Training for the New World of Internal Medicine

All will report on their progress during the year.

BOARD OF GOVERNOR'S MEETING:

The spring Board of Governor's meeting was held April 20-21st in New Orleans at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center. The spring meeting is held just prior to the ACP annual meeting.

Items of information included:

The Board of Governors continues to push the ABIM for a resolution to the maintenance of certification issue. It is clear to us and, we believe, to the ABIM that the CPD program is not being embraced by the internists with time limited certificates who also hold Internal Medicine subspecialty medicine boards. Sixty percent have registered for CPD and only 69% of them have completed the process. This computes to only 51% of subspecialists taking the IM CPD component. General internists are registering at a higher rate (78%), with 81% having completed the process for a total of 63% of the group at risk completing the process. The BOG's most recent resolution to the Board of Regents asked for a time line from the ABIM to initiate a new program that embraces the concept of multiple pathways to maintenance of certification; some of which do not require a proctored secure exam. I feel that there must be movement by the ABIM by the fall BOG meeting or the Board of Regents will likely proceed with an independent ACP plan for maintenance of certification.

The White paper of the ACP on Performance measures has been released. The potential benefits and harms are discussed below.

According to the College's new policy position, performance measures have the potential to boost quality. At the same time, great care must be taken to ensure that performance measures are not used to increase physicians' administrative burdens.

Here is an overview of some of the paper's key recommendations:

- ◆ Evidence-based measures: Performance measures must be broadly accepted and evidence-based and focus only on those aspects of care over which physicians exert direct control. Measures must not function as incentives for physicians to avoid caring for patients with serious co-morbidities.

To deal with the complex care of elderly patients, the paper states that indicators that measure care processes - as opposed to care outcomes - are more appropriate for assessing the performance of internists and other specialists who treat patients with chronic conditions.

- ◆ Data collection: Data collection must protect patients' privacy, be feasible and not impose further financial or administrative burdens on physicians.

The paper endorses the use of information technology and the development of electronic health information systems to facilitate data collection. The paper also recommends that any additional costs associated with data collection for performance measures should be borne by health systems, not by individual physicians or practices.

- ◆ Demonstration projects: The College supports the development of demonstration projects for public reporting of performance measure data, as long as those projects rely on voluntary participation by physicians and allows physicians to review data before they are publicly disclosed.

- ◆ Incentives: The paper endorses the use of incentives, including financial incentives, to reward physicians who meet performance standards. According to the position paper, those rewards could come in the form of higher payments or bonuses or in reduced recertification requirements.

At the same time, the paper spells out the College's vision for its own role in implementing performance measures. ACP will develop performance measures "only under exceptional circumstances" where no valid or appropriate measures already exist. However, the College plans to play a vigorous role in assessing the evidence base of existing measures.

MS ACP ASSOCIATE NEWS

Michael Shoemaker-Moyle, MD, Assistant Professor, UMC

The recent MS/LA ACP meeting March 11-13 at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, MS provided an excellent forum for a number of MS ACP associate members. Participants included residents from the University Medical Center in Jackson and Keesler Air Force Base. Oral case presentations were given by **Dr. Karissa Boyd**, **Dr. Justin Cummings**, and **Dr. E. Matthew Quin**. These cases represent some of the top finishers selected from the 12 oral and 19 poster presentations at the November 20, 2003 Associate's Program.

Dr. Boyd, an intern at UMC, presented "A Case Report of Lung Adenocarcinoma with Trousseau's Syndrome and Cutaneous Metastatic Manifestations." **Captain Justin Cummings**, MD, from Keesler presented "ANCA Negative Wegener's Granulomatosis with Asymptomatic Splenic Infarction." **Dr. Quin**, the winner of the first place poster at the Associate's Program and a resident at UMC, presented "Strongyloides Hyperinfection Syndrome and Adenocarcinoma Presenting as a COPD Exacerbation."

During the evening of March 12th, two strong teams of MS Associates from UMC and Keesler matched wits with each other and teams from LSU New Orleans, LSU Baton Rouge, Tulane, and LSU Shreveport in the annual medical Jeopardy competition. LSU New Orleans won the two tiered competition in an extremely close final round with UMC coming in second and Keesler finishing third. UMC was represented by **Dr. Gaston Vergara** (PGY-1), **Dr. Kellan Ashley** (PGY-2), and **Dr. John Winscott** (PGY-3).

NEW ACP BENEFIT

College launches free online help for recertifying physicians

Taken from the Observer Weekly 1/27/04

ACP is now offering College members free help finding answers to questions in ABIM's five general internal medicine recertification modules.

Members will be only a click away--via the Web--from educational materials that can help them answer each of the 300 self-evaluation process (SEP) questions.

The College has done the preliminary screening to find materials directly related to each question, offering access to many College resources that members may not have on hand.

The online resource draws on the entire body of College products, from articles in *Annals of Internal Medicine* and College books to modules from the Physicians' Information and Education Resource (PIER) and MKSAP materials.

College materials provide the answers to more than 90% of the questions. For questions not covered by College resources, members are linked to articles through PubMed that will provide the answer.

While the materials help members identify resources, they don't just spell out the answers. Instead, each link will take members to an appropriate *Annals* article, for instance, or a section of a PIER module.

That should make the links more educational, while dramatically cutting the time members have to spend finding resources to answer questions for recertification.

The new resource is online. (You need a user name and password for ACP Online to access the materials.)

NEW FELLOWS AND MASTERSHIP:

Six new Fellows attended the convocation on Thursday, April 22nd. Please congratulate these new Fellows of the College when you see them. They were **Mohamed Jah** from Meridian, **Samuel Johnson** from Columbus, **Melinda Mullins** from Jackson, **John Weldon** from Ocean Springs, **Marion Wofford** from Jackson, and **Philip Wong** from Clarksdale.

Dr. Jim Achord was awarded Mastership at the same convocation.

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:
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800-523-1546, ext. 2830