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Governor's Corner

Welcome to the 2007 Summer Newsletter. For those of you who do not know me, I am Jeff Cole, the new Governor of the Navy ACP Chapter. I relieved the previous Governor, CAPT (ret) Walt Coyle during the recent national ACP meeting, Internal Medicine 2007, held in San Diego, California. It is my pleasure to serve as your Governor for the next four years and provide a voice for Navy Internal Medicine at the national level. It is my desire to ensure that the special needs and concerns of the Navy Internist are interjected into internal medicine discussions at a national level. Additionally, I also want to ensure that opportunities for improvement in the delivery of medical care, such as the incorporation of changes and technology, and acknowledgement of lessons learned in non-military medical settings, are disseminated to Navy Chapter members for consideration and discussion. Overall, my goal is to function as the Navy Chapter's representative and liaison for the exchange of information and ideas.

To accomplish this vision, I have established the following goals:

- (1) Continue Internal Medicine revitalization efforts.
- (2) Enhance ACP recruitment efforts.
- (3) Better embrace the concepts of mentorship and career develop-

- ment.
- (4) Maintain an open dialogue regarding our role as Internists in our nation's ongoing wartime scenario.
- (5) Advance the concept of an improved representation of the Internist's "value of care" with better incorporation of evidence based medical practices and clinical guidelines, in addition to medically significant practice appraisal and meaningful performance improvements.

The most important way for the Navy Chapter to attain these goals is by improved communication. Recent advances within ACP have led to the creation of a "Portal" for each ACP Chapter. Each Chapter's Portal will allow easier communication between the Governor and the Chapter members, in addition to daily updating of member contact information. In my position as Governor, I receive information at least weekly from ACP headquarters regarding the issues which the college is currently addressing. In addition to this semi-annual newsletter, I plan routinely to provide an e-mail summary of the major issues of greatest interest to our Chapter members. Included in these e-mails will be ACP resolutions of interest, which are reviewed and voted upon semi-annually by the Board of Governors. In return, I am hoping that whenever possible we can establish an electronic dialogue and sharing of ideas. Again, my goal

is to represent you at the national level - I can only do this if you provide me your input.

As CAPT (ret) Coyle addressed in his last newsletter, Navy Medicine is facing incredible challenges, including HPSP shortfalls projected for 2009 and 2010; ongoing deployment demands and the effects on residual military treatment facility staff; continuing increases in administrative demands, including the mastery of electronic medical record systems (i.e., AHLTA), encounter coding and workload capture. Despite these immense challenges, we continue to find ways to meet these challenges, in addition to provide truly outstanding undergraduate and graduate medical training, all in an effort to continue to provide for the future of Navy Medicine. I look forward to continuing to work with all you to meet these many challenges.

As a final note, I personally want to thank Walt Coyle for the fantastic job that he did serving as the Governor, Navy Chapter ACP for the last four years. Our Chapter started strong, and only became stronger and more influential during the time that Walt served as Governor. It is my hope that as a Chapter that we will continue to build upon these successes in the ensuing years.

CAPT JEFFREY B. COLE, MC, USN, FACP
GOVERNOR, NAVY CHAPTER ACP

ACP EVENTS: INTERNAL MEDICINE 2007

Internal Medicine 2007, the National ACP scientific meeting, was held in San Diego, California, from Thursday, 19 April 2007 through Saturday, 21 April 2007, preceded by a two-day pre-course. The number of attendees was in excess of 10,000, nearly setting a record. At the annual ACP Business Meeting, Dr. **John Tooker**, MD, MBA, FACP, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, provided a summary of the current status and endeavors of the College. These items include:

- (1) Membership: There is currently over 120,000 members in ACP, more than at any time in the past.
- (2) ACP Foundation: This organization within ACP, with works with internists, health literacy and communication experts to creatinine health information tools for patients, continues to make progress with the Health Literacy Project.
- (3) Physician Education Improvements: ACP has made a number of advances in this area, including:
 - The addition of the "In The Clinic" feature for Annals of Internal Medicine.
 - Publication of the journal ACP Hospitalist.

- Publication of MKSAP 14 - text, electronic and audio versions.

- Publication of Internal Medicine Essentials, a source book for medical students.

- Work on a re-designing of the ACP website.

- (4) Collaborative Efforts: ACP continues to be involved in a number of collaborative efforts, highlighted by collaboration with AAFP (American Academy of Family Physicians), AAP (American Academy of Pediatrics) and AOA (American Osteopathic Association) on the "Patient Centered Medical Home," a health care model in which a patient will have a personal primary care physician working with a team of healthcare professionals.
- (5) Improved Environment: ACP has continued to make great strides with regards to improving the environment for both internal medicine training and the delivery of healthcare itself. Efforts to improve the attractiveness of internal medicine as a profession for medical students have been quite successful, with ACP currently having over 22,000 student members. Additionally, ACP has been actively involved in both efforts to redesign internal medicine residency training, in addition to work force reform.

A number of new ACP Fellows were eligible to march in the annual Convocation Ceremony, including CAPT **Laurie Balagurchik**, CAPT (sel) **John Perri**, CDR **Gregory Eberhart**, CDR **Kathryn Elliott**, CDR A. F. (Alfred) **Shwayhat**, CDR **Kevin Sumption**, CDR **John Tourtelot**, LCDR **Thomas Capozza**, LCDR **Mark Corriere**, LCDR **Matthew Lim** and Dr. **David Allen**.

As a Chapter, the Navy Chapter ACP Associate members were well recognized at Internal Medicine 2007. Two of the 105 research posters were presented by LT **Kathleen Love** and LT **Suneil Ramchandani**, both from National Naval Medical Center. Additionally, 11 of the 225 clinical vignette posters were presented by LT **Steven Armbruster**, LT **Michael Kinzer**, LT **Elexis McBee**, LT **Tinika Montgomery**, and LT **David You**, all from National Naval Medical Center; and LCDR **Chris Duplessis**, LT **Dan Foster**, LT **Nieka Harris**, LT **Lou Iovino**, LT **Jon McDivitt**, LT **Kristina St. Clair**, all from Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth.

Last but not least, 2 of the 29 "Doctors' Dilemma" teams chosen to compete at this national meeting were Navy Chapter ACP teams. The team from Naval Medical Center San Diego (LT **Justin Cox**, LT **James Prah** and LT **Martin Schoen**, representing the Navy) lost a heart-breaking overtime bout with the team from Arizona. The team

from National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda (LT **Greg Fuhrer**, LT **David You** and LT **Suneil Ramchandani**, representing Washington, DC) made it all the way to the finals, before finishing behind the team from Pennsylvania, repeat winners from 2006.

In all, Internal Medicine 2007 was a remarkable success. As a reminder, please register as soon as possible for Internal Medicine 2008, to be held in Washington, DC from Thursday, 15 May 2008 through Saturday, 17 May 2008. For your convenience, please visit www.acponline.org to facilitate the registration process.

CAPT JEFFREY B. COLE, MC, USN, FACP
GOVERNOR, NAVY CHAPTER ACP

ASSOCIATES' UPDATE: NMCP

The second half of the year at NMCP started with our extending hospitality as the host for the Virginia Chapter ACP Associates' Meeting, held in January in Portsmouth. Five residencies presented a total of 40 podium research or clinical vignettes, with NMCP being second in the total number of presentations accepted. LT **Tom Chavez** coordinated the event while LT **James Fletcher**, LCDR **Sugat Patel**, LCDR **Sharon Reed** and LT **David Furman** acted as moderators. Dr. **Joseph Kennedy** (CAPT (ret) MC USN) gave the lunchtime talk, discussing Leo Tolstoy's *The Death of Ivan Ilych*. LT **Rob Holmes** was recognized for presenting one of the three best clinical vignettes, while LT **Jessica Lee** was recognized for presenting one of the six best clinical vignettes.

LT **Rob Holmes**, LT **Jenn Holmes**, LT **Jessica Lee**, and LT **Nieka Harris** went on to present at the Virginia Chapter ACP Scientific Meeting in March. LT **Jenn Holmes** won 1st place for poster clinical vignette, while LT **Neika Harris** won 2nd place for poster clinical vignette. LT **Eric Yeung** took NMCP international by presenting original research at the Society of General Internal Medicine Meeting in Toronto. LCDR **Gil Seda** had research presented at the Military Nurses Conference hosted by Tripler AMC in Hawaii. Perhaps our finest triumph of the year was having six residents -- LCDR **Chris Duplessis**, LT **Lou Iovino**, LT **Kristina St. Clair**, LT **Jon McDivitt**, LT **Dan Foster** and LT **Nieka Harris** -- chosen to present posters at the Internal Medicine 2007 meeting in San Diego. They were joined by several senior residents taking TAD for the conference. The group explored the ins and outs of surfing, Coronado, and the Gas Lamp District.

LCDR **Mike Spooner** did double duty this spring. First, he coordinated a series of lectures introducing interns

to the various types of GMO billets and exposing them to current residents who had done a tour in that type of billet. The lecture series was in response to intern feedback from last year requesting increased preparation for GMO tours. LCDR **Spooner** also organized workshops on various procedures needed for GMO and lectures of commonly encountered problems. Second, LCDR **Spooner** helped to coordinate the use of the new simulation center in preparing scenarios involving codes and critical care cases. The center was demonstrated on the local news and we recently had a visit soon from the Secretary of the Navy to inspect the facility.

LT **Dan Lawson** continues to work on integrating computer based order sheets with electronic medical records. He found a method to paste discharge summaries from the system into AHLTA, the DOD outpatient electronic medical record. We are now trying "fast track" admission orders. The utilization of these systems has led to a decrease in waiting time for consultation in the ER and in the number of those "left without being seen." New additions to the electronic medical record include monitoring labs results when the patient leaves inpatient service and integrating the first protocols (chest pain, CHF, pneumonia, and CVA) into the system. This project crosses multiple departmental lines to insure consistency in care once the orders are started.

The residency continued to support the command's apheresis program and the Chesapeake Free Care Clinic. During our off-hours, we also had the 1st Annual Staff vs. Housestaff Ultimate Frisbee Contest and continued our annual Orthopedics vs. Internal Medicine Dodgeball Game.

Our dining-out was moved forward this year as we celebrated at the picturesque Norfolk Yacht Club. The senior skit surpassed all previous endeavors as LT **Rob Holmes** blended over 30 minutes worth of parody footage. LCDR **Dan Rakowski** and LCDR **Joe Sposato** were named Teachers of the Year while LCDR **Gil Seda** won the Aequanimitas Award as "Resident of the Year." Admiral **Cullison** (Commander, NMCP) presented coins to each of the graduating seniors. While LT **David Furman** stays on as Chief of Residents at NMCP, five of the eight graduating seniors will be heading off to fellowship. Naval Hospital Groton and Naval Hospital Corpus Christi will be welcoming two of our graduating class as staff internists.

Resident graduation is June 28th with our Intern graduation the following day. We wish them all well on their future travels.

LT JAMES FLETCHER, MC, USN, ACP ASSOCIATE
CHIEF OF RESIDENTS, NMCP

ASSOCIATES' UPDATE: NMCS D

We are completing a superb academic year here at the Pride of Navy Medicine in (still) sunny California. We've had a very busy winter and spring in the outpatient setting. LT **Cox**, LT **Williams**, and LT **Prahl**, with the help of several Endocrinology and ancillary staff, started a group diabetes clinic. We also launched a group tobacco cessation clinic, and our house staff volunteers have been vital to the success of this clinic.

Many of our residents are actively engaged in ongoing research projects. Most recently, LCDR **Lin's** article, "Rates of Symptom Recurrence after Endovascular Therapy in Subclavian Artery Stenosis and Prevalence of Subclavian Artery Stenosis Prior to Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting," was accepted for publication in the journal *Vascular Health and Risk Management*.

Our graduating residents are anxious to start the next step of their military careers. LT **Partridge** will be starting Gastroenterology fellowship at NMCS D. LCDR **Keller** will be starting Cardiology fellowship at NMCS D. LT **Tramontini** will begin Rheumatology fellowship at the University of Chicago. LT **Cox** will be a staff member of the Office of the Attending Physician to Congress. LT **Sparks**, LT **Hebreo**, LT **Steele**, LT **Bernick**, and LT **Williams** will be taking phenomenal care of our Internal Medicine patients around the country and the world. Finally, nobody could be more excited than I am to welcome LT **Webb** into his new position as Chief of Residents.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as the Chief of Residents, thanks to our motivated house staff. The 2007-2008 academic year will be in outstanding hands with Dr. **Patrick Webb** at the helm.

**LT HEATHER MILLER, MC, USN, ACP ASSOCIATE
CHIEF OF RESIDENTS, NMCS D**

ASSOCIATES' UPDATE: NNM C

"Doctor's Dilemma" is more than just a game at the Flagship of Navy Medicine; it's a way of life. After a long season of training, the NNM C team placed first at both the Navy and Washington, DC chapters ACP "Doctor's Dilemma" competitions. The NNM C team, composed of LT **Suneil Ramchandani**, LT **David You**, and LT **Greg Fuhrer**, went on to represent the Washington, DC Chapter ACP at the national competition in San Diego. The team breezed through the preliminary round and the semifinals rounds. The final round was very close and competitive throughout and after a very close final round the NNM C team finished in third place out of a possible

385 ACGME accredited programs eligible for competition.

The NNM C Associates have also been representing Navy Medicine well at the Washington DC Chapter ACP Meetings. At the Spring Associates' Meeting, LT **Andres Nieto** presented an outstanding podium presentation on norovirus diarrhea that won third place out of over 60 abstracts. LT **Andrew Philip** and LT **Mark Johnson** were also recognized for their poster presentations. The Spring Medical Students' Meeting was well attended by over 50 medical students, and the NNM C residents played a large part in organizing the event. LT **M. Casey Flanagan** helped coordinate presentations and skill stations that involved more than twenty residents and fellows in various activities including a "Doctor's Dilemma" game, a cardiology station, and ACLS code station.

NNM C Research Day was heavily represented by the NNM C Internal Medicine residents. LT **Suneil Ramchandani** was nominated to give a podium presentation and LT **David You** presented a poster. LT **Mark Johnson's** poster, "Q Fever in United States Soldiers Returning from Iraq," won first prize in the clinical vignette competition.

The NNM C Internal Medicine residents have been very active in multiple activities at USUHS and with area medical students. LT **M. Casey Flanagan**, LT **Robert Summerlee**, LT **Christina Malekiani** and LT **Steve Armbruster**, along with CAPT **Sue Cooper** have taught medical interviewing and physical exam classes to first and second year medical students. In addition to the teaching opportunities, the NNM C Internal Medicine residents have been heavily involved in recruiting medical students to careers in Internal Medicine. Many residents have participated in the "Club Med" panels on being a medical resident and have presented cases at Morning Report at Noon which provides medical students opportunities during their first and second year to see interesting medical cases presented by residents. LT **David Byers** recently gave a well received case on a patient who presented with a salmonella typhi infection. The NNM C associates also recently sponsored a luncheon for medical students who were considering internal medicine and civilian medical students who were considering HPSP scholarships. LCDR **Robert Carpenter** gave a presentation on his research experience in Africa and LT **Suneil Ramchandani** gave a presentation on the healthcare infrastructure in Afghanistan as part of his recent TAD.

**LT MATTHEW NEEDLEMAN, MC, USN, ACP ASSOCIATE
CHIEF OF RESIDENTS, NNM C**

DIGITAL CORNER

UpToDate

UpToDate is a clinical information resource designed to provide concise answers to clinical questions at the point of care. *UpToDate* is organized by topic reviews. The reviews are written by subject experts to deliver information on diagnosis, therapy and management efficiently to health care providers during patient encounters.

We are very happy to announce that BUMED has funded a Navy Medicine subscription to *UpToDate* through the Telelibrary Project. Users working on a Navy Medicine network are able to access *UpToDate* directly at <http://www.utedol.com>. Access is controlled by IP address, so no login is necessary. *UpToDate* is also available through Navy Medicine Online [<https://navymedicine.med.navy.mil>] for users working from home or on other Navy networks.

UpToDate is also available on CD-ROM. The BUMED contract with *UpToDate* provides for the distribution of CD-ROMs to Navy and Marine medical personnel who are deployed. Fleet and Marine medical personnel should be receiving CDs of *UpToDate* within the next month. Please direct your questions regarding *UpToDate* to Frank Becker of the Telelibrary Project at fjbecker@us.med.navy.mil, or (310) 319-1229 or your local navy medical library.

LCDR BRIAN BOWES, MC, USN, ACP

NAVY CHAPTER ACP 2007 SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The Navy Chapter Scientific Meeting is scheduled to be held from Thursday, 4 October 2007 through Saturday, 6 October 2007. The theme for the meeting is "All That is Old is New Again" - the focus is primarily on new looks at classic or common medical problems. **Virginia U. Collier, MD, FACP, ACP** Regent and renowned medical educator and clinician, has agreed to be the College Representative at the meeting.

The meeting will be held at the Renaissance Hotel in Portsmouth, Virginia, with blocks of rooms available at this site. The Awards Dinner will be held at the National Maritime Museum ("Nauticus"), located in Norfolk directly across the Elizabeth River from the Renaissance Hotel. Please visit the Henry M. Jackson Foundation website (www.hjf.org) for additional information regarding registration and lodging (go to the "Events" tab on the website). Military uniform for active duty Navy attendees

at the Scientific Meeting will be Summer Whites; military uniform for active duty Navy attendees at the Awards Dinner will be Mess Dress Blues.

Additionally, please provide nominations for the Volunteerism Award, the Chapter Laureate Award, and the Sparks Award (Outstanding Internist at a Non-Teaching or Family Practice Training Hospital) to LT **Tom Hicks** (thomas.hicks@med.navy.mil) (Chairman, Awards Committee) by Monday, 6 August 2007.

Last, but certainly not least, all Associate Members are encouraged to provide abstracts for research and/or clinical vignettes for consideration for podium and poster presentations at the meeting. Please visit the Navy Chapter ACP website (www.acponline.org/chapters/navy) and go to the "News and Meetings" hyperlink to electronically submit your abstracts.

LCDR DANIEL A. RAKOWSKI, MC, USN, ACP
PROGRAM CHAIR, NAVY SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2007

CAPT JEFFREY B. COLE, MC, USN, FACP
GOVERNOR, NAVY CHAPTER ACP

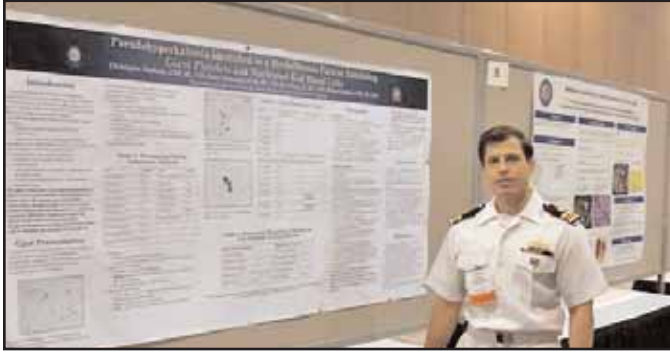
Photo Gallery



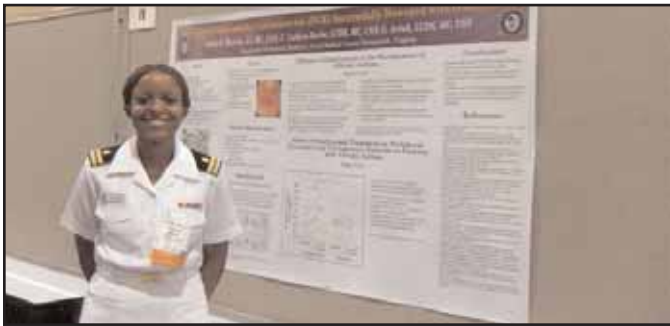
NMCS "Doctors' Dilemma" Team: LT James Prahl, LT Justin Cox and LT Maring Schoen



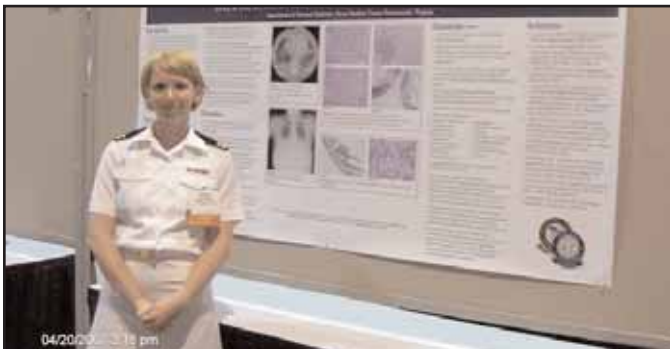
NNMC "Doctors' Dilemma" Team: LT Greg Fuhrer, LT David You and LT Suneil Ramchandani



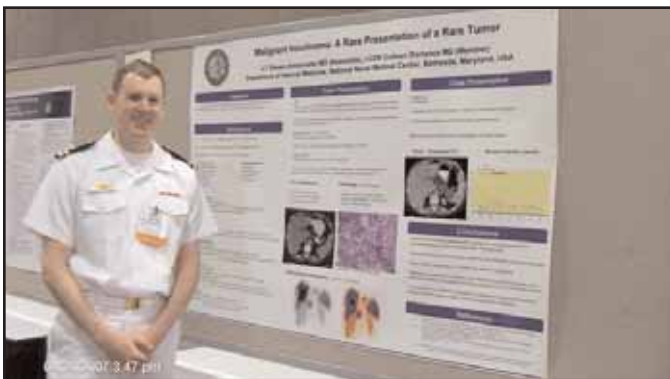
LCDR Chris Duplessis (NMCP) and his clinical vignette poster



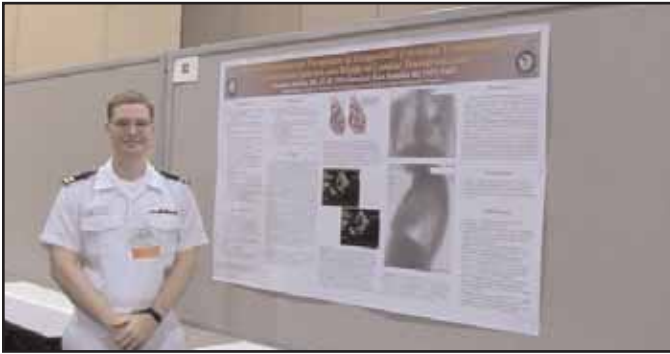
LT Nieka Harris (NMCP) and her clinical vignette poster



LT Kristina St. Clair (NMCP) and her clinical vignette poster



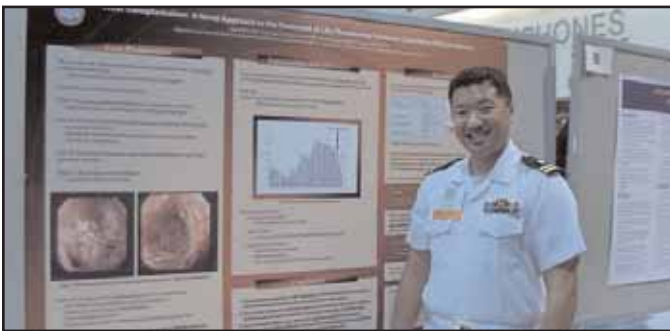
LT Steven Armbruster (NNMC) and his clinical vignette poster



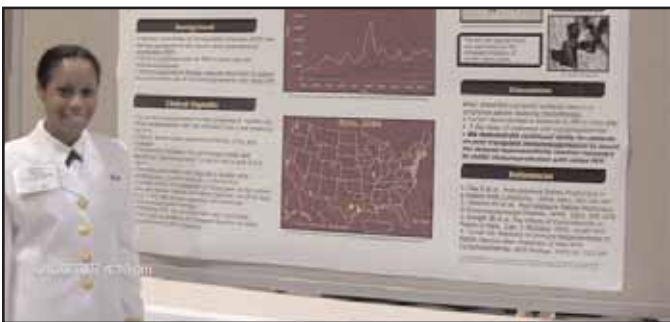
LT Jon McDivitt (NMCP) and his clinical vignette poster



LT Dan Foster (NMCP) and his clinical vignette poster



LT David You (NNMC) and his clinical vignette poster



LT Tinika Montgomery (NNMC) and her clinical vignette poster



CAPT (ret) Walt Coyle being honored at the Internal Medicine 2007 Tri-Service Reception for his tour as Navy Governor