



Governor's Message

Greetings to all members and friends of the American College of Physicians! There is a lot of news to report since my last letter to you.

Save the Date - the 2008 Annual Chapter Meeting: As you know, our annual Chapter meeting will be held in Grand Forks at the Alerus Center on September 26. This all-day event will be a great chance to get caught up on some of the latest advances in medicine, as well as to socialize with colleagues from around the State and region. Headlining this year's program are:

- **Julie Hallanger-Johnson, MD**, who will present an endocrinology update
- **Keith Swanson, MD**, who will give an update on hospital medicine
- **Prashant Kaushik, MD, FACP**, who will update us on rheumatology
- **Rolf Paulson, MD, FACP**, who will discuss his experiences in Africa
- **Jon Allen, MD**, who will provide an update on the School of Medicine

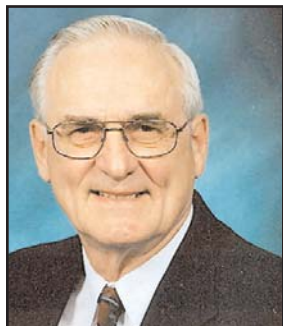
We will also hear from **Jeff Harris, MD, FACP**, our national ACP President, who will talk on Health Care Disparities, insurance issues, the Patient-Centered Medical Home, and other topics being actively debated on the national scene.

Our annual Awards Banquet will be held the night before the scientific session. Everyone is invited to attend, although there will be a small additional charge for the dinner.

Save the date. You will soon be receiving both written and e-mail versions of the meeting brochure and registration information.

2008 Chapter Awards: This year two of our medical colleagues will be presented with the ACP Laureate Award, the highest award given out by State Chapters. The awardees this year are **Donald G. McIntyre, MD, FACP**, of Rugby and **Nicholas H. Neumann, MD, FACP**, of Bismarck. In addition, our Chapter will give a special award for community service to **Bruce Furness** of Fargo.

Please join us at the Awards Banquet on September 25 to honor these three outstanding individuals.



Donald G. McIntyre, MD, FACP of Rugby recently retired after 35 years of practice as a general internist. Dr. McIntyre received his BS in Medicine from UND in the days when we had a two-year program. He was awarded his MD from the University of Pennsylvania and did his residency in Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic. He has been a recipient of a Bush Foundation Fellowship and a Sioux Award from the University of North Dakota.

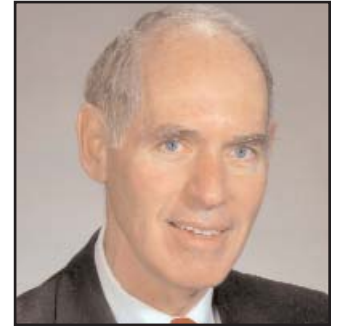
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Nicholas H. Neumann, MD, FACP of Bismarck is SW Campus Dean of the University of North Dakota School of Medicine. He received his MD degree from Wayne State University and completed his internal medicine residency at Detroit General Hospital. He completed his Fellowship in Pulmonology at Wayne State. In addition to teaching and administrative duties, he is still engaged in active practice in Bismarck.

Bruce Furness was Mayor of Fargo from 1994 until 2006 and presided over a period of unprecedented growth of that community. He is widely known for his service to his community and State. He has served on many boards and commissions, including the Board of Directors for MeritCare and the American Diabetes Association. Recently he was appointed CEO of North Dakota Workforce Safety and Insurance.



Internal Medicine 2008: The national ACP scientific session, Internal Medicine 2008, was held this year in Washington, D.C. on May 15-18. An incredible variety of topics from every medical discipline imaginable were available to those who attended. Many thousands of physicians from all over the world attended this year's conference, and the number continues to increase every year. The national meeting is also the occasion for the ACP Convocation, where qualified Members are advanced to Fellowship.

Internal Medicine 2009 will be held in Philadelphia, April 23-26, next year. Save the date and plan to attend.

Congratulations to Our New Fellows: Six North Dakotans advanced to Fellowship this year. I think that's a modern day record for a single year for North Dakota. Our new Fellows are:

- **Adit Mahale, MD, FACP** - a nephrologist with Fargo
- **Heidi Twedt, MD, FACP** - a general internist from Moorhead
- **Prashant Kaushik, MBBS, FACP** - a rheumatologist from Bismarck
- **Fadel Nammour, MD, FACP** - a gastroenterologist from Fargo
- **Bruce Pitts, MD, FACP** - a general internist from Fargo
- **Stephen Makoni, MBChB, FACP** - a hematologist oncologist from Minot

Drs. Makoni, Twedt, and Nammour all took part in the convocation for new Fellows at Internal Medicine 2008 in Washington, DC. Dr. Makoni brought several family members with him, and when the new North Dakota Fellows were recognized by ACP President **Dr. David Dale**, they gave a rousing cheer which shook the rafters. It made us all proud!

For Young Physicians: We are pleased to welcome **Daniel Starr, MD**, a UND Internal Medicine resident, as a member of our Chapter Council. His input will be very valuable to us plan future programs and decide on the direction of our Chapter's growth.

All of the residents in UND's Internal Medicine program have become Associate Members of the ACP this year. We look forward to having them participate in Chapter events, including the Annual Meeting and the Poster Competition. The winning poster entry this year will be awarded a \$1000 cash prize, and the poster will be entered in the national competition in Philadelphia next April. The deadline for entering this year's competition is September 12.

Young physicians, recently graduated from residency, are encouraged to join the ACP. Our organization represents internists of all ages. The ACP is your best advocate for health care reform at the local and national level. In addition, there are educational opportunities available from the ACP that are unmatched anywhere else in the world.

In addition, young physicians get discounted rates for membership. And when it comes time for advancement to Fellowship, our State office will help you in every way we can, including helping you complete your application!

Many newly minted internists these days start out as hospitalists. The ACP has an active hospitalist group, as well as a new publication directed towards hospital medicine. Hospitalists are the fastest growing group of internal medicine specialists. We need you to join forces with us, so that we can speak with one voice.

Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG): Thanks to LaVaun McCann, MD, FACP, our Chapter has a very active internal medicine interest group among medical students at the University of North Dakota. More than 120 medical students are enrolled in IMIG. Typically, internists from the Grand Forks area meet with these students over pizza on a monthly schedule to discuss issues of interest, such as the joys and frustrations of medical practice. We feel this group has been quite successful in stimulating student interest in careers in primary care.

The national ACP office has recognized North Dakota's IMIG with an Evergreen Award for innovation and excellence.

Fellowship: A review of our Chapter Profile reveals some interesting facts.

- 100% of the UND Internal Medicine residents and more than 120 UND medical students are Associate Members of the ACP.
- Of the 388 practicing internists in the State, 169 (44%) belong to the ACP, which ranks us 21st in the nation.
- An equal percentage of generalists and subspecialists belong to ACP.
- There are more than 200 internists in North Dakota who are not members of the ACP.
- Sixty members of our Chapter are Fellows, and there are more than 100 who are eligible for Fellowship.

Having FACP after your name is a great honor, and it tells the world that you have achieved a special distinction among your colleagues.

Becoming a Fellow has never been easier. The requirements are not as great, and the form you have to complete is quite simple. You do not even have to attend the national meeting to be welcomed as a Fellow, although many do so. The convocation experience is fantastic, however. Just ask those who have participated!

If you are an ACP member and have an interest in becoming a Fellow, contact me at jbrosseau@altru.org, and I will get you the information you need to apply. My staff will even help you complete the application form, if you wish. What a deal!!

Grant Opportunity: The North Dakota Chapter has reserved \$5000 to be awarded to students, residents, or practicing physicians who want to do something special and different to address unmet health care needs of the citizens of our State. Examples of projects might include:

- service to indigent populations
- service to high risk groups
- public health projects
- novel approaches to health care

Applications whose scope can be magnified with matching funds from other sources are encouraged. Applications should be addressed to me at jbrosseau@altru.org, and should include

- a description of the problem being addressed
- a synopsis of efforts currently available to meet the problem

- a timeline for the project
- a budget
- a plan for outcomes analysis

So far I have received one application for these funds. The application period will close on September 1, 2008. The winning project will be announced at the Awards Banquet in Grand Forks on September 25.

Volunteers Needed for ACP Committees: There are several active committees within our State Chapter. We are always in need of extra manpower. Among our standing committees are

- Chapter Council
- Membership
- Program Planning
- Awards
- Health Policy

If you would like to become a member of one of these committees, please contact me at jbrosseau@altru.org.

ACP Chapters Health Literacy Awards Program

During the 2008 Annual Internal Medicine meeting, the ACP Foundation announced its new Health Literacy* Awards Program for ACP Chapters. There will be five \$10,000 grants available to ACP Chapters in 2009. Interested ACP Chapters may submit a proposal to the Foundation. This program was created to raise awareness of health literacy and the Foundation at the chapter level. The ACP Foundation focuses not just on internists but on the care and health of their patients.

There are five priority areas that ACP Chapter projects can address to improve health literacy:

1. Improve patient care by enhancing health communication among the patient, family and care team.
2. Increase quality of health literacy communication skills for medical students and practicing health care professionals.
3. Reduce medical errors by identifying and enhancing patient self-care practices, including their ability to take medication properly.
4. Improve communication with patients about what they need to know to take care of themselves.
5. Reduce cultural and language barriers to improve health literacy.

All ACP Chapters are eligible to submit a grant application for a project. Applications are available at http://foundation.acponline.org/hl/hlawards/hl_awards.htm

Proposals are due by September 15, 2008.

The winners of the ACP Chapters Health Literacy Awards Program will be announced December 15, 2008.

* Health literacy is defined as "*the degree to which individuals have the capacity to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.*"

Please contact your Governor if you'd like to work with your chapter to increase health literacy in your area.

Photo Gallery



Former Chapter Governor **Abel Tello**, MD, FACP, and current Governor **Jim Brosseau**, MD, FACP, pose outside the office of Senator Kent Conrad with health aide **Lindsey Henjum**. Drs. Tello and Brosseau met with all the members of North Dakota's Congressional delegation on Leadership Day in May.

From left to right, **Fadel Nammour**, MD, FACP, **Jim Brosseau**, MD, FACP, **Stephen Makoni**, MBChB, FACP, and **Heidi Twedt**, MD, FACP, just before the Convocation at Internal Medicine 2008. Drs. Makoni, Twedt, and Nammour all were welcomed to Fellowship at this ceremony.

