

# Nebraska Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2006

**Richard A. Hranac, MD, FACP**  
*Governor, Nebraska Chapter*

## GOVERNOR UPDATE



Dear colleagues,

I write again as a fellow member of a remarkable organization, American College of Physicians. I believe that our group both nationally and at the state level possesses incredible talent, energy and considerable fortitude in dealing with what would seem to be nearly impossible challenges.

On the national level, our representatives have been vitally involved in negotiations to maintain if not increase our share of the Medicare pie. Indeed the impending 4.4% cut will likely be a net gain, if our friends, **Bob Doherty**, **Andy Hedberg** and individuals like you continue to let our national legislators know what these pay reductions represent. Bob Doherty, as you know is our chief spokesman in the Washington Office. Incredibly articulate, he has been a force to maintain pressure for increased valuation of cognitive services and maintaining access for our Medicare patients. With our other resources in Washington, the president of American College Physicians, Dr. Hedberg offered testimony in congress, as well as at the local level to maintain the focus of our patients needs and our own need to be able to keep the doors open to our offices. There may be a tradeoff however. The tradeoff involves payment for performance. Although the AMA has taken a stand against any sort of payment for performance, from my prospective appears that it will be payment for performance no matter what organized medicine thinks. The question will be how it is implemented and whether or not it is evidence based. ACP has been quite active in trying to help develop guidelines that are fair and equitable for all of us at risk. The price of a pay increase will be payment for performance and some incentive based reimbursement. I am not totally happy about the prospect but the reality that our society demands more performance measurement is before us. Quality initiative aside, we will be paid in some way based on how well we perform.

The other area in which ACP has excelled is that of the Electronic Health Record. Representatives from ACP have been instrumental in asking the right questions and obtaining difficult answers from government thinkers. Again, it appears that President Bush feels a mandate to develop the Electronic Health Record toward the later part of his administration. The information technology leaders at ACP have been in the forefront of what can and needs to be done for our patients and for smaller medical enterprises as well as larger ones. How all of this information technology will be paid for and by whom remains to be seen. ACP has been articulate in explaining the plight of the smaller practice and how resources must be developed at a reasonable cost, cost for appropriate application.

At the local level, I simply want to recognize our chapter leaders involved in developing our Fall Meeting and providing such wonderful experience. Our Chairperson this year was **Scott Neumeister**, who brought together an excellent faculty, prompted students and residents to develop an incredible poster session and seem to maintain his enthusiasm and stability throughout the enterprise. I thought the Fall Session at the Scott Center was a tremendous success and look forward to the production Chaired by **Devin Fox** next year. We are presently developing the format and if any of you have specific ideas or interests in enriching our scientific session, feel free to contact Devin or me. I would like to additionally thank **Laurel Preheim** who in his ex officio role as Awards Peer person has developed a wonderful way to recognize the extraordinary talent which resides among us here in Nebraska. Internists are incredible creatures with a remarkable seal for helping others whether it is in a community based endeavor or in an academic circumstance. Dr. Preheim has been able to recognize the best among us while we have been able to cultivate some of the best intellects to help us learn more.

In closing, I wish you all my best wishes for the New Year. As internists, we face a number of local problems in our communities and practices as well as at the national level. I have abundant faith and confidence in our ability to keep pushing so that our patients who deserved it most, benefit the most.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your humble governor!

**PHOTO GALLERY  
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE NEBRASKA CHAPTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING  
SCOTT CONFERENCE CENTER, OMAHA, NEBRASKA  
OCTOBER 13 - 14, 2005**



**Thursday, October 13, 2005  
Creighton University Medical Center and the  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Associates & Students Poster Judging Session**



**1st Place Student Poster Award  
Gina Lauby  
University of Nebraska Medical Center**



**2nd Place Student  
Poster Award  
Olufunke Oshunleti  
Creighton University  
Medical Center**



**Creighton University Medical Center and the  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Associates & Students Poster Judging Session**

**Friday, October 14, 2005  
Thieves' Market  
presented by J. Scott Neumeister, MD**



## PHOTO GALLERY CONTINUED....



**Creighton University Medical Center and the  
University of Nebraska Medical Center  
Associates & Students Poster Judging Session**



**1st place Associate  
Poster Award  
Jason Go, MD  
Creighton University  
Medical Center**



**Thursday October 13, 2005  
Medical Complications  
presented by Chad  
Vokoun, MD**

**2nd place Associate Poster Award  
Segan Chase, MD  
University of Nebraska Medical Center**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2006 National ACP Meeting  
Philadelphia, PA  
April 6 - 8, 2006  
Contact ACP office  
1-800-423-1546**

**National Leadership Day  
Washington, DC  
May 16 - 17, 2006  
Contact ACP Office  
1-800-523-1546**

**Nebraska Chapter  
Scientific Meeting  
Scott Conference Center  
October 19 -20, 2006  
Contact Sheryl Latenser at  
402-9443-5515**

## **NEBRASKA CHAPTER LAUREATE AWARD JAMES R. O'DELL, MD, FACP**



**James R. O'Dell, MD, FACP**, an Omaha native, received his MD from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine. He completed his Internal Medicine residency and a year as Chief Resident at UNMC. A Rheumatology Fellowship at the University of Colorado, Denver, CO, followed. In 1984 Dr. O'Dell was recruited to the Rheumatology Sections at UNMC and the Omaha VAMC. Section Chief since 1990, Jim has doubled the size of his faculty and initiated a Rheumatology Fellowship program. His other academic titles and positions include Professor, Vice-Chair, and Residency Program Director in the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine. Dr. O'Dell has achieved international recognition in the field of rheumatology. He founded the Rheumatoid Arthritis Investigational Network (RAIN) in 1989 to study novel therapies for RA, receiving a cumulative \$4 million in research funds from the NIH, VA, and industry. He is overall PI of a \$13 million funded international, multi-center, VA cooperative RA study to begin in 2006. His research endeavors have led to over 150 scientific publications and the honor of being named current President of the Research and Education Foundation of the American College of Rheumatology. In addition, he is Co-Editor of Arthritis and Rheumatism and an invited contributor to the New England Journal of Medicine. Dr. O'Dell's research prowess is matched by his clinical and teaching skills. He is listed in Best Doctors of America and has received the UNMC Internal Medicine Department Sir William Osler Teaching Award, the Family Practice Clinical Teacher of the Year Award, and the University of Nebraska College of Medicine Outstanding Teacher Award. Jim has made numerous important contributions to the Nebraska Chapter of the ACP, serving on the Governor's Advisory Council since 1990. He chaired the Associates and Medical Students Committee and has lectured at the Fall Scientific Sessions. A Fellow and national leader in the American College of Rheumatology, Jim is active in a number of other professional societies, including the American Association of Immunologists and AOA. Dr. O'Dell has had leadership roles in his church and in Omaha area youth softball leagues. He received special recognition from Omaha Westside Community Schools for his work with the Special Olympics. Jim is married to Debra, and they have three children. For his many contributions to our profession and his community, the Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Physicians is pleased to honor Dr. James R. O'Dell as its Laureate for 2005.

## **NEBRASKA CHAPTER WALTER J. O'DONOHUE JR., MD AWARD ROBERT J. ANDERSON, MD, FACP, AACE, FACE**



**Robert J. Anderson, MD, FACP, FACE, AACE**, a native of Minnesota, graduated from Northwestern University School of Medicine in Chicago. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency, Endocrinology Fellowship, and M.S. studies at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, Rochester, MN., where he received the Mayo Foundation W.H.J. Summerskill Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research. In 1980 Bob joined the faculty at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and the VA West Side medical staff. Dr. Anderson was recruited to the Endocrine Division of the Creighton University School of Medicine and the Omaha VAMC in 1985. His current positions include Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Creighton as well as Chief, Section of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism, VA Nebraska-Western Iowa Health Care System. Dr. Anderson has chaired numerous Creighton and VA clinical, research and administrative committees, including the Omaha VA Ethics Advisory Committee. A gifted lecturer and bedside mentor, Bob received the Creighton University James F. Sullivan Award for excellence and dedication to resident education. Dr. Anderson's passion for research complements his clinical and teaching skills. The author of more than 150 scientific articles, abstracts, and book chapters, Bob has had ongoing VA Merit Review funding for his studies on the effects of phenol sulfotransferase in human and animal tissue and the role of sulfate conjugation in thyroid hormone metabolism. He also is a Co-PI for a long-term VA cooperative study of glycemic control and complications in diabetes. Dr. Anderson is a leader in his profession. He is active in numerous societies, including the Amer. Diabetes Assn., Amer. Soc. for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics, Federation of Experimental Biology, Internet. Soc. of Neuroendocrinology, Amer. Assn. of Clinical Endocrinologists, Amer. College of Endocrinology, The Pituitary Soc., Amer. Soc. of Hypertension, and the Amer. Thyroid Soc. Bob is married to Marcelita, and they have two children. For his roles as an outstanding clinician, dedicated mentor, and accomplished investigator, the Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Physicians is pleased to honor Dr. Robert J. Anderson with the Walter J. O'Donohue, Jr., MD Award for 2005.

## NEBRASKA CHAPTER VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD THERESA TOWNLEY, MD, MPH



Dr. Townley received her MD in 1992 at the University of Minnesota School of Medicine, Minneapolis, MN. She earned the “Excellence in Primary Care” award during her Internal Medicine/Pediatrics Residency at the University of Minnesota, which she completed in 1996. Dr. Townley subsequently received a clinical faculty appointment at the University of Minnesota and taught medical students and residents at the Saint Paul Ramsey Hospital from 1996-1997. She received her Masters in Public Health from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, in 2001. Theresa returned to Omaha in 2002 to join the Creighton University Internal Medicine Pediatrics Division at Creighton Family Healthcare South. She currently is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics and Director of the Medicine/Pediatrics Residency Program at Creighton

University Medical Center, Omaha, NE. She is a member of the Society of General Internal Medicine and the American College of Physicians. Theresa has 2 children, Rebecca and Joshua. Theresa’s career in international health began early. Fluent in Spanish, she was Coordinator of her fellow medical students’ International Health Society, participating in both the Institute of Latin American Concern in the Dominican Republic and the CONCERN Clinic in Santiago, Atitlan. Between 1997 and 2000 Theresa’s volunteer efforts truly became global. In 1997 and 1998 she coordinated a network of 40 primary care clinics in the five districts of Kosovo, setting up a network of mobile clinics when the political situation deteriorated. In the fall of 1998 Dr. Townley traveled to famine-stricken South Sudan to become the Physician/Manager of a Therapeutic Feeding Center with Medicine Sans Frontieres (MSF)/Doctors Without Borders. She trained nurses and other support staff to assist her in providing outpatient and inpatient care for hundreds of malnourished children. Dr. Townley’s next mission came in 1999. She traveled to Macedonia to coordinate pediatric care for Albanian refugees who lived outside refugee camps. Theresa, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, established a primary care clinic in Tetovo and a network of mobile clinics in the surrounding district. Dr. Townley then spent a year in Tumanburg, Liberia. Working with MSF she coordinated a 75-bed referral hospital and county health teams as well as water/sanitation in a nearby camp for 15,000 refugees. Common health problems she encountered included malaria, TB, pneumonia, gastroenteritis, HIV, STD’s, and emergency obstetric care. Theresa currently serves as a volunteer staff physician for the Magis Clinic in Omaha. The Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Physicians is proud to recognize Dr. Townley for her efforts as an international and community health volunteer. Her exemplary record of personal sacrifice and dedication to the medically underserved in our community and around the world is an inspiration to us all.



## NEBRASKA CHAPTER DEDICATED TEACHER AWARD J. DANIEL EGAN, MD

**John Daniel Egan** received his MD degree from the University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, and performed his Internship at Chelsea Naval Hospital, Boston, MA. He completed his Internal Medicine residency at the University of Buffalo. He served in the US Navy and the Marine Corps as well as in the US Public Health Service. Dr. Egan joined the Internal Medicine Department at Creighton University School of Medicine in 1954. He became Chief of Nephrology and advanced to the rank of Professor of Medicine. Dan also founded the dialysis program at the Omaha VAMC where he served as Chief

of Nephrology from 1967-99. An active member of the American Society of Nephrology, Dr. Egan is a past Director of the Nebraska Kidney Foundation. He also is a member of Alpha Omega Alpha as well as the American Medical Association. The epitome of a clinician-educator and faculty role model, Dan has shown a zealous, enduring commitment to excellence in medical education. He founded a weekly Medicine Journal Club in 1962 and a weekly Harrison’s Textbook of Medicine Club in 1966, both of which continue to the present. Shortly after his attempted retirement in 2000, Dr. Egan joined the Osteoporosis Research Center, where he conducts twice-weekly clinics and frequent grand rounds. He continues to serve as a teaching attending in the outpatient clinic and on the inpatient wards at the Omaha VAMC. The Creighton University School of Medicine has recognized Dr. Egan with every award for which he has been eligible: the Golden Apple (from the students in 1980), the Distinguished Professor Award (its first recipient in 1985), the J.F. Sullivan Award for Excellence and Dedication to Resident Teaching (1986), and the Dedicated Teacher Award (1987). He received the Creighton University Distinguished Faculty Award in 1988. Dr. Egan has had a tremendous impact on the lives and education of literally thousands of medical students and residents spanning generations of physicians. His constant quest for new medical knowledge, his consummate skills as a clinician, his attention to detail, and his wry, often self-effacing sense of humor have helped “Differential Dan” become the esteemed teacher he is today. Dan is married to Marjorie. They have 4 sons, 2 daughters, 4 granddaughters and 2 grandsons. The Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Physicians is proud to recognize Dr. Egan for his outstanding skills and remarkable dedication as a teacher. His highly effective and tireless educational efforts have fostered a legacy of excellence and professionalism in medicine.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENTLY ELECTED FELLOWS, MEMBERS, ASSOCIATES AND STUDENTS

Effective July 1, 2005

### FELLOWS

Gordon Hrnicek, MD FACP  
Devin Fox, MD FACP  
Debra Romberger, MD FACP

### MEMBERS

Jacqueline Chanlatte  
Lee Morrow  
Theresa Townley  
Kelly Airey  
Nicole Anderson  
Laura Armas  
Joseph Auxier  
Matthew Cyphers  
Vlad Dimitriu  
Rahul Julka  
Sarah Konigsberg  
Carolyn Manhart  
Andrea Marsh  
Susan Ohnoutka  
Angela Remington

Susan Schima  
John Schrader  
Sarah Swarts  
Rugmini Warriier  
Justin Wenburg  
Temple Brannan

### ASSOCIATES

Abdallahman Alhyari  
Lowell Amiotte  
Amy Gebauer  
Saad Ghafoor  
Timothy Huyck  
Daniel Kennedy  
Lavanya Kodali  
Harry Lazarte  
Naung Mon Maran  
Mathew Miller  
Angela Mills  
Susan Moeschler  
Nagendra Natarajan

Tony Ning  
Oluyemisi Odugbesan  
Sharidan Parr  
Eric Peters  
Chandra Pingili  
Nathan Pitts  
Yeruva Madhu Reddy  
Esteban Sarmentera-Conway  
Siva Sontineni  
Anshu Sood  
Chakradhar Venkata  
Matt West  
Nicholas Wilson

### MEDICAL STUDENTS

Joshua Priluck  
Michael Bonebrake  
Lindsay Gage  
Poorani Sekar  
Brian Bartlet

## UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER UPDATE LYNELL KLASSEN, MD NAMED CHAIRMAN OF UNMC INTERNAL MEDICINE DEPT

**Lynell Klassen**, M.D., Stokes-Shackleford Professor of Medicine and associate chief of staff for research for the Omaha Veterans Administration Medical Center, has been named chairman of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Department of Internal Medicine, effective Oct. 1. We are confident that he will lead the Department of Internal Medicine to even greater heights.



## REQUEST FOR HELP IN RETAINING UNPAID AND DUES DELINQUENT MEMBERS

At the end of December, all members who have not yet paid their national dues for 2005-2006 will lose their member benefits. In February, the College will drop those members who have not paid their national dues for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006. As we approach these dates, it is important to contact these members and encourage them to pay their dues and continue their memberships. Headquarters will be sending dues bills to these members as well as well as coordinating a telephone solicitation beginning this week. In addition to these efforts, we hope that you will work with your ACP Governor in contacting the physicians in your chapter who have not yet paid their dues and encourage them to continue their membership.

To bring their dues accounts up to date, members need to pay for the current fiscal year. We will waive back dues. They may call our Customer Service Department at **800-523-1546, ext. 2600**, to find out how much they owe.

## **RESOURCES FOR MEMBERS AVAILABLE ON ACP ONLINE ACP DEBUTS NEW WEB SITE ON QUALITY IMPROVEMENT**

The College has launched a new quality improvement Web site that focuses on pay for performance, performance measures and practice redesign, and includes a number of informational resources for internists. The site features a seven-minute video summarizing the evolving national environment related to health care quality improvement and explains ACP's efforts to influence the pay-for-performance debate. A slide show details the College's legislative framework and policy guiding those activities, as well as a comprehensive set of frequently asked questions. The new site also contains links to related articles from Annals of Internal Medicine and New England Journal of Medicine. The site located at <http://www.acponline.org/quality/>.

Interested in applying for Fellowship in the ACP? If you have any questions, and/or would like to request an application package, please feel free to contact **Richard A. Hranac**, MD, FACP, Governor, ACP Nebraska Chapter, at [rahrnac@kearney.net](mailto:rahrnac@kearney.net)

The pathways to Fellowship have been modified and the nonacademic, non double-boarded pathway membership requirement has been decreased from 10 years to 5 years so please apply for fellowship if you are eligible. Applications may now be completed on line. Please remember that teaching of medical students and residents does count towards an academic pathway. When completing your applications be sure to mention your college activities (meetings attended, courses given or taken, MKSAP for score) and community activities you may participate in either secular or faith based. These are the areas most often left incomplete in the applications.

## **MEDICARE PART D-PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT**

The College has created a new site that provides information and resources for patients, physicians, and office staff on the new Medicare Part D. The web site is <http://www.acponline.org/pmc/partd.htm>. To view the latest updates on the Medicare payment cuts issue go to [http://www.acponline.org/college/misc/latest\\_medicare.htm](http://www.acponline.org/college/misc/latest_medicare.htm).

## **2006 AWARD NOMINATIONS**

We will again recognize outstanding accomplishment of chapter members at the annual chapter meeting, October 19-20, 2005. Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Walter J. O'Donohue Award honors exemplary teachers of medicine who teach, role model, and mentor students to help them acquire the knowledge and bedside skills to become outstanding compassionate physicians.
- Teaching Award recognizes physicians with sustained and significant impact on medical students, residents, and other medical professionals as teachers in the community.
- Volunteerism/Community Service Award recognizes Chapter members who have made exemplary contributions in volunteerism and community service activities.
- Laureate Award honors Fellows or Masters of the American College of Physicians who have demonstrated an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, or research, as well as service to their community, their Chapter, and the American College of Physicians.

Please send nominations and a short statement of recommendation indicating why you are nominating the individual to **Richard A. Hranac**, MD, FACP at [rahrnac@kearney.net](mailto:rahrnac@kearney.net)

**—VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE—**

**<http://www.acponline.org/chapters/ne>**