

**Upcoming Events**

2008 New Hampshire Chapter Meeting

Friday, October 10, 2008

The Holiday Inn

Concord, NH

More Information to Follow!

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**Governor's Corner**

**Greetings:**

I have just returned from a jam-packed week in Washington, DC. The Board of Governors met Monday and Tuesday. Leadership Day was held on Capital Hill Wednesday. Then Internal Medicine '08, our annual session, was held Thursday thru Saturday. In this newsletter you will read information about all these events as well as what is happening in the New Hampshire chapter and planned events for the coming year. So read on and send your comments to me at [dmerrithew@roadrunner.com](mailto:dmerrithew@roadrunner.com). I actually would like to hear from you if you actually read this newsletter and if you prefer to receive it via email or snail mail.

**Fellowship:**

I had the privilege to march in the convocation ceremonies at Annual Session with three new Fellows from New Hampshire. Alphonse Baluta, MD FACP from Londonderry, **Steven Schwartz**, MD FACP from Manchester, and Keith Stahl, MD FACP from Bedford were all inducted into Fellowship. My personal congratulations is extended to each of them. Fellowship in the ACP is an honor conferred on members who have demonstrated commitment to the ideals of the ACP through academic achievement, clinical excellence, community leadership, chapter participation, or some combination of these. The pathways to Fellowship have greatly changed over the past decade in an effort to recognize the importance of the practicing community Internist. What once was an honor limited predominantly to academicians is now much more inclusive of all aspects of the field of Internal Medicine. I would strongly encourage all members to look to Fellowship as an honor you earn through your hard work in whatever setting you have chosen. To find out more specific qualifications I encourage you to visit the [acponline.org](http://acponline.org) website or contact me or any other fellow of the college for more information.

**Governor Elections:**

We are again in the year during which you will elect a new Governor to run our chapter. Elections will be held this summer with the winner taking office as Governor-Elect next April to serve 1 year with me then assuming the office of Governor in the spring of 2010. You have already received communication from the college soliciting nominations for the election. After nominations close you will receive another communication from the college asking for your vote. The new Governor will serve 1 year as Governor-Elect then 4 more years as Governor. If you wish to nominate someone the only requirement is that he/she

be a Fellow of the College in good standing. Nominations can be sent to former **Governor, Bob Englund**, Nominations Chair.

## **Leadership Day 2008:**

Four members of the New Hampshire chapter accompanied me to visit our Senators and Congressmen on Capital Hill this year. **Ed Schiavoni, Dick LaFleur, Dave Towne, Steve Schwartz**, and I met with **Senator Sununu**, as well as the Health Policy Advisors from **Senator Gregg, Congresswoman Shea-Porter, and Congressman Paul Hodes**. Our objectives were fairly limited this year because of the upcoming elections with the real possibility we will see a new congress as well as a new administration next year. Therefore most important legislation is on hold until after the elections. We did however receive assurances from all members of congress that they will support legislation immediately to prevent the automatic reimbursement cuts in Medicare under the SGR formula. They all agreed to pass an 18-month supplemental appropriation that will give a small increase in Medicare reimbursements. They all acknowledge awareness of the worsening crisis in Primary Care although there are significant differences of opinion on the best solution to the problem. We also had time to discuss The Medical Home concept, medical student debt, and the maldistribution of physicians created in large part by a skewed reimbursement system. Having participated in this event for several years it is encouraging to see that although things move at a glacial pace in DC our message does come through on both sides of the aisle.

For those of you who think you may have an interest in this type of face-to-face advocacy I encourage you to contact me and get involved. Each year we attempt to pair seasoned advocates with new advocates to go to Capital Hill. If you think that your voice will not make a difference remember if you don't speak up then your representatives will only hear the voices that oppose change and they certainly continue to speak their minds. So get involved by becoming a key contact, attending Leadership Day, or just writing your elected representatives directly.

## **New Hampshire Chapter Annual Meeting:**

Plans are well underway for our chapter meeting in the fall. Lin Brown is the program chair again this year and is putting together another interesting day of clinical presentations, ACP information, Associate presentations, and much more. The meeting will take place at the Holiday Inn in Concord on Friday October 10, 2008. Following feedback from last year's meeting we will schedule extra free time to visit poster presentations as well as reconnect with like-minded Internists. We also hope to have a prominent New Hampshire politician give a lunchtime talk on health care in New Hampshire. So put the date on your schedule now and look for a brochure in the mail in the next few months.

## **ACP Awards and Masterships: Nominate your Heroes, Mentors, and Colleagues**

The Awards Committee of the American College of Physicians invites your help in recognizing the accomplishments of distinguished individuals and organizations through the College's awards and Masterships. Nominations are now open for the 2008-09 awards cycle, which will end with the College's bestowing eighteen awards and approximately 40 Masterships during the Convocation ceremony at Internal Medicine 2009. These awards recognize outstanding contributions in the practice of medicine, teaching, research, public service, leadership, and medical volunteerism.

The updated Awards and Mastership Booklet contains criteria for the College's honors plus instructions for writing nominating and supporting letters. Please note that a minimum of five detailed supporting letters and a curriculum vitae (or equivalent) with full bibliography are required for nominations to be considered. The deadline for materials is July 1, 2008. In keeping with ACP's Diversity Policy, the Awards Committee requests that nominators consider a wide array of outstanding candidates including women, underserved minorities, other ethnic groups, and international members and colleagues.

Please note that only ACP Fellows may be nominated for Mastership, and that Masterships as well as awards are competitive—that is, the most outstanding are selected by comparison. Both Mastership and awards nominations should be handled confidentially, and individuals should not self-nominate.

For questions and for information about the status of nominations submitted previously, please contact the staff liaison to the Awards Committee, **Martha Cornog**, at [mcornog@acponline.org](mailto:mcornog@acponline.org), 800-523-1546, ext. 2696, or direct at 215-351-

2696. For printed copies of the Awards and Masterships Booklet, please contact **Meghann Williams**, Coordinator, Awards-Convocation and Diversity, at [mewilliams@acponline.org](mailto:mewilliams@acponline.org), ext. 2714, or direct at 215-351-2714.



Help strengthen the voice of internal medicine - recommend ACP Membership to your colleagues!

The need for a strong voice to speak on behalf of medicine and, in particular, internal medicine has never been greater than it is today. It is critically important that we unify to address the specific needs of our medical specialty. There are advocacy efforts to champion, practice management issues to simplify, and a time-honored profession to foster. We must work together.

To thank you for your time and effort, we offer the following recruitment program. Between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009:

- Recruit one colleague and receive a \$100 credit toward your 2009-10 annual dues.
- Recruit two colleagues and receive an additional \$100 credit toward your 2009-10 annual dues.
- Recruit three colleagues and enjoy free annual dues in 2009-10. But wait, there's more. For every Member recruited within the promotional period, you will receive an entry into a grand-prize drawing for a trip to Internal Medicine 2010 in Toronto, Canada that includes registration, airfare (up to \$500), and four days of hotel accommodations. So, the more Members you recruit, the greater your chances are at winning the grand prize.

To be considered a "recruited" Member, your colleague must:

- Be a nonmember who is eligible for the "full" ACP Member category and pay \$99 or more in dues.
- Submit a Membership application, along with his or her dues payment, between April 1, 2008 and March 31, 2009.
- Write your name in the recruiter box on the top of the Membership application\*\*.

Send a recruitment e-mail to a colleague today, or download and print a Membership application to personally deliver. You may also request a Membership Inquiry Kit from Customer Service at 800-523-1546, ext. 2600, (M-F 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET).

It is the collective effort that makes a difference. Call on the support of your colleagues today. This program is only valid for ACP members whose dues are paid for the current fiscal year.

\*Please note that total dues credits earned in one yearly period can not be greater than the amount of any recruiter's annual dues. For example, if an Associate recruits one "full" Member, annual dues are paid in full (\$99), and no additional dues credits can be earned.

\*\* You can also receive credit for recruiting former Members. If a former Member calls Customer Service for reinstatement, be sure to ask that you are mentioned as a recruiter.