

New Hampshire Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Summer 2004

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Governor, New Hampshire Chapter

FROM YOUR GOVERNOR



SUMMERTIME GREETINGS to all of you. This is a busy time for everyone, and I am sending out this newsletter a bit early primarily to encourage your participation in our fall Scientific Meeting.

THE SCIENTIFIC MEETING, sponsored jointly by the NH and VT ACP Chapters, will be held on Friday, October 29th at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, Vermont.

The all-day meeting will begin with a Continental Breakfast and will end with a Wine and Cheese Reception shortly after 5:00 p.m. Because of the northern Vermont location, many of you may want to drive up on Thursday and stay at the Trapp Family Lodge, calling 802 253-5807 for reservations. A less-expensive facility, the Golden Eagle Resort (802 626-1010) has a block of available rooms as well. Single or Double rooms at Trapp cost \$150.00 per night, and those at the Golden Eagle cost \$94 for a double \$86, single. For those arriving on Thursday afternoon, an informal Wine and Cheese social will be held at the Trapp facility on Thursday evening, and dinner will be on your own.

The program committee has responded to your feedback from previous meetings and has put together a program that we believe you will find to provide useful information to you and your practice. **Ted Sussman, MD, FACP**, and the ACP Governor for the state of Maine, will give a presentation on Revitalization of Internal Medicine. Dr. Sussman, with our College Representative, **Robert Gibbons, MD, MACP**, will lead a session on exciting careers in Internal Medicine. Later Dr. Gibbons will lead Town Meeting.

Other topics include:

- Case Studies in Pain Management
- An Update in Dermatology
- Clinical problems in Geriatrics
- An Update in Rheumatology
- Case Studies in Infectious Diseases
- Associate and Medical Student Clinical and Research Abstract Forum
- Associate and Medical Student Poster Session.

Associates and students from New Hampshire and Vermont are invited to enter their clinical and/or research projects. Information for the competition is available from **Chris E. Holmes, MD, PhD** chris.holmes@vtmednet.org and the competition deadline is Friday, Sept. 17th. Winners will be invited to compete for presentation of their posters and/or a brief presentation at the Annual Session.

In case you have misplaced your registration brochure, the complete document is available on line at <http://www.acponline.org/cme/regmtg/vtnh-2004.pdf>. Note that the \$35.00 registration fee for ACP members makes this day-long event one of the best CME bargains available anywhere.

THE GOVERNOR-ELECT ELECTION

The Governor- Elect Election will take place this fall. The two candidates are **Richard P. LaFleur** of Derry and **Dana A. Merrithew** of Plymouth; both are highly qualified for the position of governor.

Dr. LaFleur is a graduate of UVM Medical School and did his IM training at the University of Rochester. He has been an ACP member since 1983 and a fellow since 2000. He is the Managing Partner and Internist at Southern Internal Medicine Associates in Derry, and he is president of the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation and is the NH ACP representative to the NHMS.

Dr. Merrithew is a graduate of Boston University Medical School, and he did his post-graduate training at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Boston. He has been an ACP member since 1981 and a fellow since 1990. He is professionally involved in Private Practice in Long Term Care and is the Physician Administrator of the New Hampshire Board of Medicine, having previously been a member of that Board and its Medical Review Subcommittee.

Both Drs. LaFleur have been active on the ACP Council for many years and both have participated extensively in state and national ACP activities.

Included below are their Vision Statements:

Vision statement of Dr. LaFleur:

Internal Medicine is at a significant cross road in health care today. With declining reimbursements, the need to see more patients and increasing use of performance measures, Internists will need to develop a broader systems approach to insure the highest quality of care offered to our patients. New Hampshire health care has consistently ranked #1 in quality performance measures according to CMS for two cycles in a row. This is a direct result of the performance of NH physicians, particularly internists who have worked collegially with various organizations such as the Northeast Health Care Quality Foundation, NH Medical Society, and Foundation for Healthy Communities. This level of performance coupled with the ACP's expertise should be able to assist and promote a broader systems approach to office practice for the NH internist. As a chapter we will need to aggressively pursue this goal.

Vision statement of Dr. Merrithew:

The American College of Physicians has long stated that it holds the highest ideals of professionalism, clinical excellence, and service above the self-interest of its members. With the deteriorating state of medical care in this country, it has been these ideals that have kept me active in the College. The College was among the first and remains the most outspoken advocate for universal Health care not because it is necessarily in the best interest of its members but because it is in the best interest of its member's patients. When the ACP joined with ASIM I was concerned that this ideal might be tarnished or even lost to the potentially conflicting voice of personal advocacy. I am happy that this has not been so. I hope that all we do as a professional organization is filtered through this lens.

Individual ballots will be sent to all New Hampshire ACP members this fall, and the new governor takes over in April of '06.

ASSOCIATE ACP MEMBERSHIP

Again this year, the NH ACP Chapter is offering to pay \$50.00 of the \$99.00 Associate membership fee. Letters have been sent to each of the 62 Internal Medicine house officers at DHMC inviting them to join. They are able to access the membership form on the <acponline.org> website. The completed form, with their check for \$49.00 should be forwarded to Bob Englund, 71 Cameron Cove, Munsonville, N.H. 03457, and the chapter's check of \$50.00 will be added and it will be forwarded on to Philadelphia.

IMIG (INTERNAL MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP)

This fall we will be working to revive the IMIG program at Dartmouth. Working with Dr. Joe ODonnell, the NH ACP chapter plans to sponsor a dinner meeting at a Lebanon area restaurant for all medical students who might be interested in a career in Internal Medicine. All members of the Council will be invited, and we look forward to an evening of informal interaction with students. Again, the NH Council is willing to support the IMIG by providing "take-out" food for monthly meetings in which various general internists and IM sub-specialists will describe their own practice to first and second year medical students.

ACP FELLOWSHIP

Many of you have been ACP members for a number of years and could move on to Fellowship. To pursue this, again go into the <acponline.org> website and click on "types of membership" Scroll down to fellowship information where forms can be printed out. It is a four-page application, and it is necessary for you to have an up-to-date CV. The application will involve some time, but it is not overwhelming. You will need letters of recommendation from two ACP fellows, and a letter of endorsement from Bob Englund, the New Hampshire governor. The official application deadline is August 17th (about the time when you will receive this newsletter) BUT if the application is sent directly to me with your two letters of recommendation by Sept. 15th, I will be able to get it to Philadelphia for review this fall. That means you can be formally inducted as a fellow at the 2005 Annual Session.

2005 ANNUAL SESSION

Plan now to attend the Annual Session in San Francisco from April 14th through the 16th. With April being the dreariest month of the year for New Hampshire residents, I can think of no better destination than San Francisco as an escape from the mud and the dirty melting snow. There you will enjoy the superb weather, wonderful restaurants, while you join 5000 other internists for the worthwhile educational programs of the Annual Session. Consider registering for one of the pre-session courses as well.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHAPTER THROUGH CHAPTER DUES

Chapter dues are the backbone of local activities and vital to the success of our chapter. While we are provided some financial support from the national office, the chapter dues collected provide the majority of financial support for local activities. Educational meetings, mentoring programs for medical students, local Associates' research competitions, advocacy with state legislators, and participation by chapter leaders in Leadership Day on Capitol Hill are just some of the activities supported by your chapter dues. Many of these activities are orchestrated by unpaid volunteer leaders in our chapter. However, the increase in activities at the local level has created the need for additional staff support to help manage the day to day operation of the chapter. Your chapter dues help support the cost of local staff and provide funding for new and existing chapter initiatives. When you receive your dues notice, please remember to include the chapter dues in your payment. You will be contributing to the success of many grass roots activities happening right here at home.

—VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE—

<http://www.acponline.org/chapters/nh>