

# New Hampshire Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER



American College  
of Physicians  
American Society  
of Internal Medicine

Winter 2003

Robert J. Englund, MD, FACP  
*Governor, New Hampshire Chapter*

## SUCCESSFUL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Our annual meeting held at Concord's Holiday Inn on Oct. 18, 2002 was a successful event. Scientific presenters included **Dr. Robert J. Cimis** of Keene speaking on high tech procedures in gastroenterology, **Dr. Justin Pearlman** of Lebanon discussing cardiac imaging, **Dr. Sara Walker**, President of ACP-ASIM, speaking on new developments in rheumatologic therapy, and **Dr. Ted Trus** giving a talk on surgical management of obesity.

An Associates Contest included two participants, **Drs. John Araujo** and **Arvind Chandrakantan**, and both won cash awards tying for first place. **Peter Forbes**, an environmentalist, photographer, and writer, gave a stimulating presentation. **Dr. Walker** led the College Update and Town Meeting. She focused on issues concerning Internists, work environment, satisfaction, Medicare reimbursement rates, and recertification issues.

A highlight of the day was the lunchtime presentation by **Governor Jeanne Shaheen** in which she, as a candidate for the U.S. Senate, discussed her positions on access to health care, prescription drug plans, etc.

Forty-two attended the meeting. The location was central and satisfactory for the one-day meeting; food, including end-of-day wine and cheese, was excellent. The evaluation forms completed by the participants have been reviewed in detail. In general, there was satisfaction with the program but some suggestions were included which should make next year's program even better.

## CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD

We are pleased that the **New Hampshire Chapter** is a recipient of a **2002 Chapter Excellence Award**. This is based on chapter activities including those of the ACP-ASIM Council, the Internal Medicine Interest Group at DMS, and the administrative aspects of the chapter.

## ANNUAL SESSION 2003 IN SUNNY SAN DIEGO!

Make Your Plans to Be There - Internal Medicine's best and brightest are coming to San Diego, California. ACP-ASIM's **Annual Session 2003** will be held **April 3-5**, in Sunny San Diego.

Pre-Session Courses will be held April 1-2, 2003. After this cold winter, what could be more appealing than several days in beautifully warm and sunny San Diego in early April? For those of you have never attended an Annual Session, there is an amazing program of lectures, discussions and demonstrations and it is possible for each participant to choose the sessions which will suit their personal educational needs. There are also Pre-Session Courses in Critical Care Medicine, ECG interpretation, Dermatology, Advances in Drug Therapy, Practice Management, Clinical Procedural Skills Training, and a recertification preparation course. There is also a half-day pre Annual Session course to focus on handheld computing.

Make plans now to be in San Diego, April 3-5, 2003 for ACP-ASIM's Annual Session! Visit <http://www.acponline.org/cme/as/2003/index.html> for additional information>.

## **OBSERVER WEEKLY <[@acponline.org](mailto:@acponline.org)>**

This is a new weekly update published every Tuesday and is sent to all ACP-ASIM members for the purpose of conducting College business and communicating with College Members. As a 2-3 page email publication, it includes in outline form brief summaries of topics of general interest to the practicing internist and subspecialist. For example, the Feb. 11 issue, if you wish to view the longer summaries of the stories, just go to <<http://www.acponline.org/weekly/2003/2/11/index.html>> and click on the links at the end of each item.

## **PIER—PHYSICIANS' INFORMATION AND EDUCATION RESOURCE**

This resource, also available via <[www.acponline.org](http://www.acponline.org)> is a very helpful resource which helps the physician in patient management. It is an evidence-based resource focusing on diagnosis and treatment of specific disease entities, and is an easy and enjoyable way to access data. It remains free to ACP-ASIM members.

## **COMBINED NH/VT SCIENTIFIC MEETING 2003**

Our two neighboring states will have a combined meeting to be held at the Hanover Inn on Friday, Oct. 10, 2003. We are in the initial planning phase of the meeting with the NH planning committee members **Bob Block**, **Dick LaFleur** and **Bob Englund** to be meeting late in January with **Frank Landry**, the Governor-Elect of the Vermont Chapter and two of his designated committee members. Obviously a lot of time, work and resources go into a state meeting, and by combining the resources of two neighboring states, we hope to have an even better program later this year. The Associates Contest will include residents and fellows of both UVM and Dartmouth Medical Schools. If any of you have suggestions for topics for presentation or speakers for the meetings, please e mail Bob Englund at <[Robert.J.Englund@Hitchcock.org](mailto:Robert.J.Englund@Hitchcock.org)>.

## **IMPORTANT MEDICARE CUT LEGISLATION UPDATE**

ACP-ASIM members and their patients scored a big victory when Congress passed legislation to halt another 4.4% cut in Medicare payments, replacing it with a 1.6% increase. This is good news for New Hampshire physicians whose practices are often high in Medicare patients. Thanks to all of you who participated in these important advocacy efforts.

## **AMA'S CARING FOR HUMANITY INITIATIVE**

The American Medical Association is launching a new initiative called “**Caring for Humanity**,” which extends medicine’s mission for the sick and suffering beyond U.S. borders. The first Caring for Humanity project is **WorldScopes**, a campaign to collect 100,000 stethoscopes from U.S. physicians and distribute them, with the help of humanitarian organizations, to communities around the world where medical supplies are scarce.

The AMA is seeking the support of ACP-ASIM and its members for this initiative by encouraging online purchases of one or more stethoscopes at the following web site <[www.caring4humanity.org](http://www.caring4humanity.org)>. Stethoscopes ordered online are shipped directly to one of the AMA’s partnering humanitarian organizations for distribution around the world. The AMA receives no royalty for the sale of stethoscopes for WorldScopes and each stethoscope donation is tax deductible.

The success of WorldScopes depends upon leaders like yourself and members of the U.S. physician community acting individually and collectively to donate stethoscopes to their colleagues abroad. Your participation matters. Please do not hesitate to contact **Katherine Rouse** at (312)464-4075, or <[Katherine\\_rouse@ama-assn.org](mailto:Katherine_rouse@ama-assn.org)>, if you have any questions.

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR NATIONAL COUNCIL?

The Council of Associates has held two meetings since Fall 2002. We are discussing a number of topics important to ACP-ASIM Associate members, ranging from how to better promote internal medicine as a specialty to the next recipient of the Joseph E. Johnson Leadership Award.

The Council is in full support of continuing to protect residents from prolonged working hours with a concurrent effort at improving their pay and decreasing their indebtedness. We welcome the upcoming College position paper on resident working conditions. The Council also joins the College in supporting efforts to limit medical liability and separately to keep programs in place that attract doctors to serve in low income and rural areas.

The Council is also focused on improving healthcare access. We are committed to the College's Seven Year Plan for solving the problem of uninsured, but we remain concerned about Americans living in areas without adequate access to primary care. We supported the College's successful lobbying efforts for the J-1 visa waiver. We helped to develop new College policies endorsing Title VII programs. And, this spring, the Council will sponsor a resolution for full funding of the National Health Service Corps.

The Council is discussing plans for Associates programs at upcoming national ACP-ASIM meetings. At the 2003 Annual Session, we will be hosting several workshops including the always well-received Heart Sounds Workshop. The recipient of the second annual Joseph E. Johnson Leadership Award will also be announced at this spring's Annual Session. This Award honors an Associate member who has displayed exceptional leadership within the College locally and nationally.

Last, there is exciting news from Latin American Associates, where there has been a 300% increase in Latin American Associate membership and a 2700% increase in medical student membership in the ACP-ASIM! The Council extends its appreciation to **Sigfrido Miracle-Lopez, MD** our Latin American representative.

— VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE —

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

**ACP-ASIM**

190 N. Independence Mall West  
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1572



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