

New Jersey Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Spring 2006

Sara Wallach, MD, FACP
Governor, New Jersey Southern Region

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE



I am saddened to report the death of my friend and colleague Dr. **James Brody** who passed away on May 16, 2006, after a long illness. Jim was an active member of the New Jersey Chapter and was chair of our 2003 scientific program. He was an outstanding educator and clinician and during his illness established a palliative care program at his institution, Jersey Shore University Medical Center. In recognition of his many accomplishments he was awarded the American College of Physicians Chapter Laureate Award in Feb 2006. The council members express our condolences to his family; he is very much missed. The council has decided to remember and honor Jim by contributing in his name to The Jersey Shore University Palliative Care Foundation.

National Scientific Meeting News: Thirty New Jersey Members were inducted into fellowship at the college's convocation during the scientific program. There were over six thousand attendees at the meeting which was outstanding in content and presentation. The keynote speech, entitled The Call to Professionalism: Use it or Lose it was delivered by Dr. **Jock Murray**, MACP and was an entertaining, thought provoking discussion. There were several panel discussions on leadership and practice development. Most of the physicians and other attendees appreciated the new shorter formats and the eclectic available information. The Herbert S. Waxman Learning Center featured cardiac auscultation, thyroid palpation, EKG tutorials, and arthrocentesis. Prior to the annual session; The Board of Governors Spring meeting took place. This meeting focused on new policies which are now available on the ACP website. They are 1) Reform of the Dysfunctional Healthcare Payment and Delivery System (This paper recommends changes to the current Medicare system that will promote primary care and increase the reimbursement for evaluation/management services in delivering chronic care. 2) Creating a New National Workforce (This

position paper calls for a national effort to change the practice environment of primary care physicians and make internal medicine as attractive career choice for medical students.) 3) Redesigning Training for Internal Medicine. (This position paper advocates changing internal medicine residency training to educate residents to deal with complex work environments and recommends customized training.)

Resolutions: At the recent Board of Regents meeting several important resolutions were adopted and referred for implementation. Briefly, they include 1) Teaching and Evaluating Professionalism in medical schools and residencies 2) Working with the Society of Internal Medicine to coordinate activities and achieve a closer alliance 3) Ensuring Uninterrupted Access to Prescription Medication for Seniors and those covered under Medicare Part D Drug Benefits 4) Emphasizing Relationships with Industry that Maximize the Interest of the Patient. All resolutions considered by the Board of Regents may be reviewed on the ACP national website

Leadership Day: On May 17, our New Jersey Delegation visited Capitol Hill and advocated for Medicare payment reform, asked Congress to initiate a Pay for Performance System by 2007, and asked Congress to eliminate the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate. The council thanks Dr. **George DiFerdinando** for his coordination of the Leadership Day Activities. Our delegation also included Dr. **John Walker**, Chair of Health and Public Policy, New Jersey ACP Chapter, Dr. **Beth Nalitt**, Dr. **Tom Comerci**, Dr. **Amra Noor**, Dr. **Richard Klein**, **Dana Gordon** and me. Going forward we feel that it is crucial that we meet our Congressmen and Senators in their home offices in New Jersey. This would allow the chapter council and members to develop a long term relationship with our legislators and congressional staff. Please contact **Stacey Knowles** at stacey.knowles@cigna.com, if you would like to join this effort. She will forward your name to Dr. Walker. Dr. **Eileen Moser**, Governor of the Northern Region, and I wish you a wonderful summer.

Sara L. Wallach MD FACP, Governor, New Jersey Chapter-Southern Region, swallach@sbhcs.com, 732-923-6544

RECRUIT-A-COLLEAGUE PROGRAM

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 and its subspecialties. There are advocacy efforts to champion, practice management issues to simplify, and a time-honored profession to foster.

The American College of Physicians and the New Jersey Chapter encourages its members to help strengthen the voice of internal medicine by recommending ACP Membership to colleagues. And to thank you for your dedication to our organization, ACP established the Recruit-a-Colleague program that offers dues incentives to members who recruit new members. Not only would you be working toward the revitalization of internal medicine, but you also could have your national annual dues paid in full. In addition, successful recruiters are entered to win an expense-paid trip to Internal Medicine 2008, ACP's annual scientific meeting, that includes registration, airfare, and hotel accommodations.

To learn more about the Recruit-a-Colleague program, please visit www.acponline.org/recruitacolleague.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW FELLOWS

Joseph J. Aaron
Pablo A. Arteta
Jeanine H. Bulan
Sita S. Chokhavatia
William A. DiGiacomoc
Hamdy Mohtaseb
Masood A. Rizvi
Mohammad Riswan
Blanche J. Skurnick
Victor S. Sloan
Marianne C. Smith
Janardhan Bollu
Harish Chander
Myron E. Chu

John J. Depalma
Awny S. Farajallah
Mahmoud S. Ghusson
Thomas P. Hui
Barkat A. Jaferi
Awan Kumari
Anuradha L. Mookerjee
Guy Nec
Noel T. Nivera
Jose I. Iglesias
Nirmala Selvam
Wamiq S. Sultan
Harsha M. Tripathi
Dominick J. Zampino

NEW JERSEY CHAPTER AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

The New Jersey Chapter is seeking physicians who would like to become more involved. There are many chapter committees that need your help.

Physician Name: _____

Office Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Office Contact Person: _____

Please indicate the areas you may be interested in:

- Membership
- Nominations
- Scientific Meeting
- Health and Public Policy
- Associates
- Medical Students
- Web Site
- Chapter Council
- Chapter Secretary or Treasurer (position to be elected)
- Other:

Please mail form to:

Stacey Knowles
NJACP
PO Box 277
Sayreville, NJ 08871

Any questions please call 732-261-2901

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**New Jersey Chapter Scientific Meeting
Sheraton on Route 1, South Iselin, NJ
Feb 2 and Feb 3 2007**

**American College of Physicians National Meeting
San Diego, CA
April 19-21 2007**

***Order MKSAP 14 by July 31 and get a 10% reduction in price**

***Get advice on start**