

New Jersey Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2004

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Governor, New Jersey Chapter



GOVERNOR'S REPORT

The annual Board of Governors' meeting was held in Traverse City, Michigan in October, 2003. The purpose of this meeting is to apprise governors of the issues the American College of Physicians will face over the next years as well as to provide governors with the opportunity to present constituent member's views and make specific recommendations to the Board of Regents.

Highlights of the meeting:

- A resolution was passed recommending the formation of a political action committee consistent with the mission and goals of the American College of Physicians. The formation of a political action committee will help the organization advocate more effectively in the current political environment on patient care issues.
- **Dr. Christine Cassel** presented the American Board of Internal Medicine's position on continuous professional development. Representatives of the American College of Physicians attend a liaison committee formulated to study this issue. There are concerns that this policy is too arduous for practicing physicians particularly subspecialists and that the ABIM's place is to credential not evaluate physicians. This committee has recommended that the MKSAP self assessment and practice experiences serve as measurements to qualify physicians for recertification
- **Dr. Mary Herald**, Chair of the Board of Regents, likening internal medicine to a sick patient, presented the challenges and issues which internal medicine practitioners face. There was a panel discussion during which possible solutions were discussed ranging from increased reimbursement, maintaining quality, recruiting more medical students to internal medicine and improving the image of internists.
- There was an announcement that a summit meeting to discuss revitalizing internal medicine was to take place in Philadelphia in November, 2003. The results of this meeting titled "**Rewriting The Constitution of Internal Medicine**" can be reviewed in the **December, 2003 Observer**.

On the state level, our **Scientific Meeting** will take place on **January 30,31, 2004**. Our next venture will be on May 18, 19 2004 when a delegation of New Jersey ACP members will join other chapters and attend "Leadership Day on Capitol Hill". Members who are interested in advocacy and health policy should contact us through Stacey Knowles: <mailto:stacey.knowles@cigna.com>.

In the fall of 2004 we will hold an election for a second governor in New Jersey. We have over 4,000 members and under ACP regulations are entitled to representation by two governors at college meetings. Members who are interested in the nomination process may contact: <mailto:stacey.knowles@cigna.com>

We hope to see you at the **Regional Meeting, January 30th and 31, 2004** in **Woodbridge** at the **Sheraton Hotel** and at the **National Meeting, April 22nd-24th** in **New Orleans**. Our very best wishes for a happy and healthy 2004.

NEW ANNALS WEB SITE OFFERS IMPROVED SEARCHING, PDA ACCESS, FULL-TEXT CITATIONS, AND OTHER ENHANCEMENTS

Having trouble keeping up with the Annals and other medical readings? Two recent developments, the moving of Annals of Internal Medicine's Internet edition to Stanford University's HighWire Press and the release of a PDA version of the Annals give subscribers many new conveniences.

The Internet edition, <http://www.annals.org>, makes it easier to find articles and related content. Users can locate articles by browsing issues, entering search terms or perusing collections of related articles. Annals' collections include clinical guidelines, updates from the Annual Session, and essays from On Being a Doctor and On Being a Patient. After finding an article, subscribers can either print a high-quality copy or read it online. Online reading offers many additional features such as links to full texts of referenced and related articles. We are developing links from the online Annals to Pier.

The new Web site also gives most PDA users easy access to Annals. Subscribers with Palm devices can register to receive an e-mail alert that provides a link to download the latest issue to their desktop computer, allowing synchronization with hand-held computers. Back issues and collections, such as ACP's practice guidelines, Annual Session updates, and essays from On Being a Doctor and On Being a Patient, are available. To take advantage of this service, register at <http://www.annals.org/pda>.

Users with Pocket PCs or PDAs with wireless Internet access can learn about accessing the Annals at:

<http://www.annals.org/pda/issues.shtml>

More information on these and other new features is online at

<http://www.annals.org/cgi/content/full/139/10/860>

ANNUAL SESSION APRIL 22-24 2004- NEW ORLEANS

Make the most of Annual Session and your visit to New Orleans. In addition to the Scientific courses given, come early and take advantage of the Pre- Session courses offered (April 20-21). Then make some time to enjoy the city itself, as there are a variety of activities to take pleasure in.

Over 260 sessions provide comprehensive coverage of internal medicine, the subspecialties, and issues in practice management and health care policy. Whatever your learning style or educational interest, the Scientific Program offers something for you.

After a hard day of work and learning, take some time to check out the wonderful city you are visiting. Enjoy the jazz influenced music- which is the heartbeat of New Orleans- as well as its world famous Southern food and hospitality. Additionally, New Orleans offers architecture with a Spanish and French influence, and various art galleries to enjoy. For those who are able, bring the family- there are several activities for children as well.

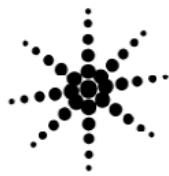
Don't miss out! Make sure to start planning for Annual Session. Check out your brochure and sign up soon. This is one trip you don't want to miss!



ATTENTION

If anyone is interested in getting involved in any of the Committees- Associates (Abstract or Challenge Bowl), Scientific, Health and Public Policy, Nominations, etc, please contact Stacy Knowles:

<mailto:stacey.knowles@cigna.com>



NEW ACP WEB SITE IDENTIFIES EMERGING HEALTHCARE ISSUES

ACP members now have access to a Web site that identifies emerging healthcare issues and anticipates trends over the next few years.

The ACP Environmental Assessment (EA) project identifies trends in the healthcare environment that are important to internal medicine and the College. It describes and documents important issues so that they may be considered in ACP's strategic planning process for each fiscal year. It also serves as an up-to-date information resource for ongoing issues and topics in medicine and health.

The EA is formatted as a series of predictive statements, accompanied by citations for the evidence on which the statements are based. Statements identify and describe important issues and predict the likely course of events in areas such as care delivery, the insurance industry, biomedical research funding, graduate and continuing medical education, technology in medical practice, physician workforce, a variety of professional and practice issues, public health, and the demography of the U.S. patient population. The project is updated annually.

View the ACP Environmental Assessment online at:
<http://ea.acponline.org>.

ACP NET

Solving Our Problems Together: The ACPNet Practice-Based Research Network

By William J. Hall, MD, MACP

Practice-based research has been a way of life for me throughout my professional career. I was fortunate enough to have the early mentorship of my father-in-law, Burtis Breese, MD, who published over 150 articles relating to streptococcal pharyngitis during his 50-year career as a practicing pediatrician. Over the years my colleagues and I have studied a wide variety of clinical issues ranging from our approaches to common respiratory symptoms, such as cough, to more complex issues such as the epidemiology of respiratory tract infections in the community. My partners and I have also tried to understand how we can enhance our communication methods with our patients. More recently, my interests have followed the changing medical needs of my patients, most of whom are now older adults. Now I concentrate on understanding how we can continue to provide comprehensive quality care and preventive measures to these older adults even given the enormous constraints on time and resources.

During my recent year as President of ACP, I attended regional meetings in over 25 states. I don't think I ever participated in a Chapter meeting when I wasn't impressed by the quality and import of observations of practicing internists at those meetings. The tragedy is that such insight usually remains in the local community, much to the detriment of our over 150,000 members and our patients. It is for that reason that I am so enthusiastic about ACPNet, as it provides a venue for all of us to contribute key information to improve medical care, and to enhance our intellectual life. I hope you will strongly consider having your practice join this vital network.

For more information or to join ACPNet, please contact Peter Martelli using the following contact information:

Website: <http://www.acponline.org/acpnet>

E-mail: pbrn@acponline.org

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Phone: 215-351-2844 or 351-2603

—VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE—

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