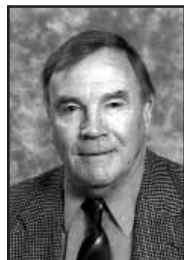


New Mexico Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Robert G. (Reg) Strickland, MD, FACP
Governor, New Mexico Chapter



GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY SUCCEEDS!

In 2006 close to 12,000 emails or faxes were sent to congress via ACP's Legislative Action

Center opposing the scheduled cut to the 2007 Medicare Fee Schedule. Thousands more calls to lawmakers were made using ACP's Grassroots Hotline in opposition to the fee schedule cuts.

This extraordinary example of advocacy in action greatly contributed to congressional action in the final hours of the 109th Congress to halt the cuts. On December 10th Congress passed HR 6111, the Tax Policy and Health Care Act of 2006 which will stabilize Medicare payments, lower the cost of a long term payment fix and mandate a pilot test of the Patient-Centered Medical Home.

However the same legislation also notes that physician payment rates will revert to the prior-law level in 2008. This would result in an approximate 10 percent reduction in physician payment rates.

I therefore urge all our members to continue to exert pressure on the 110th Congress to make longer term reforms such as the elimination of the flawed SGR formula that sets annual updates for the Medicare Fee Schedule. The Legislative Action Center can be accessed by contacting **Tracy Novak** at 1-800-338-2746 ext 4532 or email tnovak@acponline.org.

This will be my last newsletter as your Governor as **Mike Kaufman** will assume the Governorship in April at the conclusion of Internal Medicine 2007. I want to take this opportunity to thank all our members for

the support I have enjoyed over the past 4 years. I particularly want to recognize all those members who have served on council 2003-2007. An active council and hard work by the Council Committees have ensured consistent success of our Annual Meeting and continued productivity in membership efforts, health & public policy initiatives, and student and associate activities. It has been an honor and a privilege to have served as your Governor and as my term comes to a close I feel very confident that under **Mike Kaufman's** leadership the Chapter will experience continued success in the future.

INCOMING GOVERNOR, MIKE KAUFMAN OUTLINES HIS GOALS FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS

Thanks to **Reg Strickland** and our Council, NMACP is on solid ground. Our annual meeting continues to be excellent. Our membership numbers are stable and we are financially "in good shape".

The goals for my Governorship are to continue to build on all that has been accomplished by those who preceded me so that we can even better serve the internists of New Mexico, our patients and our communities.

Some of the things we will be concentrating on include:

-The annual meeting: how can we make it even better? We are planning to add a component in which those of us who have been successful in areas of practice management/quality improvement/patient care can share their practical experiences with the rest of us (for example: experiences with electronic medical record systems).

Public policy Advocacy: how can we become even more effective? Especially in certain critical areas which include:

-The often crushing debt residents and fellows have accrued by the end of their training.

-The need to have adequate payment for our services so that the practice of Internal Medicine remains viable.

-We need new models of care to better to meet the needs of our patients (for example, Patient Centered Medical Home).

-We need to continue to be active in the area of Public Health (for example, banning second-hand smoke in public places).

-We need to help ensure that health care is available to all (for example, that health insurance be available and affordable for all).

These are among the things for which ACP both nationally and locally will strive.

But to successfully do this we need to expand our membership - those of us who are in our various modes of practice, both general and specialist, and especially of those who are our future-students, residents, and fellows.

We need to become even more active in the public sphere by better communicating with our patients, the public and with our elective representatives on local, state, and national levels.

It is becoming increasingly clear that to achieve our goals of a just, quality health care system, in which internists will certainly have a central role, we need to become even more engaged in political/public policy decisions. In a real sense, the present system is broken. While this may continue to have short-term negative consequences it also provides an opportunity ("tipping point") to make significant permanent changes for the better.

Thanks for choosing me to be your next Governor. It is a great honor. I look forward to working with all of you over the next 4 years.

NMACP ANNUAL MEETING ENJOYS CONTINUED SUCCESS IN 2006

Kudos to **Diana Noya**, FACP who was Program Chair and ably lead her committee to convene a meeting that our Regent Representative, Dr. **Virginia Collier** stated was the best chapter meeting she had ever attended! The meeting focused on updates in selected areas of Internal Medicine of interest to both the office-based internist and to physicians in the emerging field of hospitalist medicine. Dr. Collier, Chair of Medicine at the Christiana Care Health System in Newark, Delaware, and **Patrick Hope**, Legal Counsel ACP Washington provided an excellent update on current college initiatives at the National Level.

Dr. Collier also gave an outstanding presentation on redesigning Internal Medicine Residency Training in response to a rapidly changing practice environment. **Alice Coyle-Hughes** was the staff representative from Philadelphia and in addition to providing information on College products and services she was successful in signing up a further nine key contacts from the members attending the meeting. Attendance continued to exceed 150 and financially the meeting was the most successful in recent times.

The Associate Vignettes and the Associate and Student poster presentations were again excellent - Competition winners included Dr. **Emil** for the Best Clinical Vignette, Drs. **Othman & DiLauro** for Best Resident Poster and Ms. **Kenlan Hobly** for Best Student Poster. Two new innovations this year were break out break-fast meetings devoted to Women in Medicine (Dr. **Yee**, Convener) and Hospitalist Medicine (Dr. **Garcia**, Convener).

Finally the Chapter recognized two outstanding Internists as 2006 Laureate Awardees - Dr. **Art Bankhurst**, FACP, Professor and Chief of Rheumatology at UNM and Dr. **Mike Lewicke** FACP, Director of the New Mexico Clinical Research and Osteoporosis Center.

INCOMING NMACP COUNCIL - 2007

Your new Council for 2007 includes Dr. **Diana Noya**, FACP, President, Dr. **Ellen Cosgrove**, FACP, President-Elect & Program Chair 2007, Dr. **Frank O'Sullivan**, FACP, Secretary, and Dr. **Chris Conlon**, FACP, Treasurer. Returning Councilors include Drs. **Ellen Yee** (Albuquerque), **Louise Abel** (Santa Fe), **Carolyn Voss**, FACP, **David Clanon** and **Dona Upson** (Albuquerque), **Robert White** (Taos) and

Armando Angel FACP (Las Cruces). New Councilors are Drs. **Waseem Khawaja**, FACP (Roswell), **Darryl Williams**, FACP (Santa Fe), **David Scrase**, FACP, and **Divya Bali**, FACP (Albuquerque).

Dr. Abel will chair the Membership Committee, Dr. Conlon, the Finance Committee, Dr. Upson the Health & Public Policy Committee, Dr. Yee the Associates Committee and former Governor, Dr. **Howard Gogel**, FACP will continue to chair the Nominating Committee. Dr. **George Comerci** will facilitate the student IMIG and Dr. **Clanon** will chair the Hospitalists & Young Physicians Committee. Dr. **Kaufman** and I look forward to working with this outstanding group of physicians who have volunteered their time to advance the Colleges initiatives here in New Mexico.

NEW ACP FELLOWS ELECTED FROM NEW MEXICO CHAPTER, 2006

Congratulations to the six new Fellows from NMACP elected over the past year. They are Drs. **Manjunath Guruprasad** (Roswell), **Elizabeth Lawrence** (Santa Fe), **Bruce Struminger** (Shiprock), **Majd Isreb** (Farmington), **Gulshan Parasher** (Albuquerque) and **Divya Bali** (Albuquerque).

Nationally, ACP will be conducting a Fellowship promotion in February 2007. This follows a highly successful promotion in August 2006. The promotion will consist of an email from me to prospective Fellows in our Chapter and a pre-populated proposal form sent from the College Membership Division in Philadelphia. I encourage all our members who receive these communications to respond to this invitation and opportunity to become an ACP Fellow.

HOSPITALIST GROUP TO ORGANIZE IN NEW MEXICO

Dr. **David Clanon**, a member of NMACP Council and a hospitalist in the Presbyterian Health Care System recently sent the following communication to all hospitalists in New Mexico. *“At the recently held New Mexico Chapter Scientific Meeting in Albuquerque there was a breakfast session for hospitalists.*

*The breakfast meeting was chaired by Dr. **David Garcia**, a hospitalist at University Hospital and attended by approximately 10 hospitalists from around the state.*

It was the universal opinion of all in attendance that there is a need for a state-wide hospitalist group of some kind, to provide a forum for discussion and education related to the specific needs of hospitalist practice in New Mexico. The American College of Physicians New Mexico Chapter has graciously expressed an interest in helping to facilitate the creation of such a group. It is likely that the Society of Hospital Medicine (SHM) would also be able to contribute assistance. What's needed is a core group of hospitalists, ideally from multiple practice types from different areas of the state, to take the lead in forming the group. It is my hope and intent to work towards 3 goals in the next year:

- *Development of an email group of New Mexico Hospitalists-hoping to include at least one hospitalist from every program in the state.*
- *Establishment of a New Mexico Hospitalist Group. This would likely take the form of a chapter or sub-chapter of the SHM.*
- *Starting a Hospitalist Add-on Session at the Annual New Mexico Chapter ACP Scientific Meeting, beginning next year; November 2007.”*

If you are interested in helping to form, or at least to join, a New Mexico hospitalist group, please contact Dr. **David Clanon** at clanonmd@comcast.net, or the ACP Chapter Administrator, **Sylvia Burns** at NMACP@msn.com.

STATE CANCER PLAN 2007-2011 SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY RELEASE

Health care professionals involved in all areas of cancer control will soon have access to an updated five year strategic plan for addressing and reducing the burden of cancer in New Mexico. The 2007 - 2011 New Mexico Cancer Plan is scheduled for public release and distribution in February 2007 and is replacing the 2002 - 2006 Cancer Plan. The Plan intends to coordinate cancer control efforts throughout the state of New Mexico. The document proposes goals and strategies focused on cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, quality of life and survivorship issues, health care access and

health disparities. Funding for the development of the new Plan is provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the New Mexico Department of Health's Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. The Plan will be available online at <http://www.cancernm.org/cancer-council> in February 2007. Hard copies will also be available.

The New Mexico Cancer Council, an organization of public and private cancer control entities from across the state, is charged with developing, prioritizing and implementing cancer control goals contained in the New Mexico Cancer Plan. The Council meets quarterly and welcomes new members. For information on joining the New Mexico Cancer Council or to request a copy of the new Cancer Plan, contact **Sylvia Baca** at 222-8613 or email at SylviaA.Baca@state.nm.us.

Join Your Colleagues in San Diego for Internal Medicine 2007

Annual Session has been renamed Internal Medicine 2007 and will be held in San Diego, April 18-21, 2007. There will be a combined chapter reception with Colorado on Thursday, April 19 at 8:00pm following convocation and all NM chapter attendees are invited to attend this annual recognition of New Members and Fellows.

LEADERSHIP DAY 2007

ACP Leadership Day will take place May 15-16, 2007, at the Wyndham Washington DC Hotel. The College is encouraging increased attendance over last year. **Mike Kaufman** will be coordinating our Chapter's delegation and he can be contacted at 505-758-2224 or email tmg@kitcarson.net.

Health Literacy Alert!

Up to one-half of your patient population is challenged in understanding health information

The ACP Foundation has tools to help you improve your patient's understanding of information they need to manage their health.

HEALTH TiPS, written at or below a 5th grade reading level, are currently available in English and Spanish for the following topics:

Pain
Hypertension
Smoking Cessation
HIV/Aids Treatment
Post Myocardial Infarction
Opioid Analgesics

In April, the ACP Foundation will introduce HEALTH TiPS on the following additional topics:

COPD
Dementia
Depression
PAD
Diabetes

Stop by the ACP Foundation booth at Internal Medicine 2007 or visit the following link: <http://foundation.acponline.org> to order free HEALTH TiPS.

JOIN THE ASSOCIATE LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Associate members of the College who want to learn more about activities geared toward Associates have the opportunity to join the new Associate Leadership Network (ALN). Members of the ALN will receive periodic updates from the Council of Associates regarding issues pertaining to residents and subspecialty fellows as well as opportunities for Associates that arise within the College.

If you are interested in joining the ALN, please send your name and e-mail address to jsiegrist@acponline.org. All contacts must be current ACP Associate members. If you are currently in a fellowship training program, please include what specialty, the name of the training program, the year you joined the fellowship program and expected year of completion.

PHOTO GALLERY



Reg Strickland with incoming Governor of NMACP, Mike Kaufman



NMACP Chapter Laureate Awardees 2006, Art Bankhurst and Mike Lewicke



Anne Gateley, FACP introduces first place Clinical Vignette winner, Dr. Suzanne Emil



Anne Gateley with former college classmate and this year's ACP Regent representative, Dr. Virginia Collier, FACP

**Visit the Chapter website at:
www.acponline.org/chapters/nm**