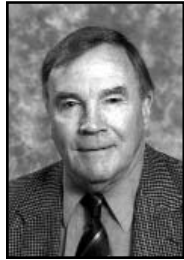


New Mexico Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

WHAT HAPPENS AS WE MOVE TOWARDS UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE COVERAGE?

The annual Robert Wood Johnson sponsored "cover-the-uninsured week" recently concluded and received significantly increased national and local attention and press coverage this year. The uninsured burden continues to increase year after year - now at 46 million nationally, and 400,000 in New Mexico. The situation is beginning to lead to at least state-initiated proposals to provide basic insurance coverage for some of the uninsured, and the Massachusetts Legislature recently approved a plan to provide basic health care coverage to all its citizens.

However, absent from the present discussion is any consideration of the physician work-force needs should coverage become available for even a small proportion - say 20% - of the currently uninsured population. This newly insured population will enter a delivery system that is already grossly deficient in office-based primary care capacity.

The realization that the newly insured would be unable to find a primary care physician emphasizes an impending crisis in primary care that at least equals that of finding coverage solutions for the uninsured. This problem demands the urgent attention of the profession, medical educators, national and local policy makers, the business sector and the public at large.

I have posted on our new chapter website an oped that I prepared in association with the ACP, Washington office that describes the origin of this crisis together with solutions that the college is proposing to avert a collapse in Primary Care in America. To access go to www.acponline.org, Click on chapter websites then New Mexico.

MEET OUR NEW CHAPTER ADMINISTRATIVE CO-ORDINATOR SYLVIA BURNS

As described in my last Newsletter our chapters activities have outgrown the capacity of the New Mexico Medical Society to continue to serve our many needs. We thank NMMS for their support and particularly **Sally Blackstad**, who has been



an outstanding Administrative Co-ordinator for our chapter over the past few years. In January your council recruited **Sylvia Burns** to replace Sally. Sylvia had recently retired from the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center after 16 years of service as an administrative assistant, first in the Department of Surgery 1989-2002 and most recently as office manager for the Pulmonary and Critical Care Division in the Department of Internal Medicine. Sylvia is also Executive Director for the New Mexico Ophthalmological Society. We welcome Sylvia and look forward to her support in running our busy chapter. She can be reached at NMACP@msn.com, phone 962-0358, fax 962-9221.

IN MEMORIAM

FRED H. HANOLD MD MACP (1915 - 2006)



Dr. **Fred Hanold**, friend and colleague of us all, was discovered dead on April 17, 2006 at age ninety. None of you will be surprised by the circumstances. Three floors below his apartment in the lounge were gathered a dozen of his physician colleagues waiting Fred's arrival to begin their weekly discussion of current events. When Fred did not appear his apartment was investigated

by Dr. **Sid Schultz** and Fred was found in a chair with a book nearby, in a state of permanent contentment.

Dr. Hanold was a powerhouse of an internist. He practiced medicine with obsession, precision, and a vision that his patients must do well. He was compulsive about maintaining knowledge of current medical literature and it showed. Fred served the New Mexico chapter of the American College of Physicians with distinction. He was the seventh New Mexico Governor, representing NM from 1975 to 1979. During his term, in February 1974, he established our NM chapter; the first incorporated chapter in the ACP. His term as governor was characterized by a large increase in membership and attendance at the annual meetings set new records. Dr. Hanold supported the University of New Mexico School of Medicine throughout his professional career. He was able to convey, in an easy and informal way, his clinical skills to a myriad of medical students and internal medicine residents. Following retirement he continued these activities for many years.

Dr. Hanold received **THE RALPH O. CLAYPOOL SR. MEMORIAL AWARD FOR DEVOTION OF A CAREER IN INTERNAL MEDICINE TO THE CARE OF PATIENTS**, IN 1989; the first New Mexico physician to receive a national ACP award. The narrative attached to this award completes the story of Dr. Harold's distinguished medical career:

"This award is given to an outstanding practitioner of internal medicine who has devoted his or her career to the care of patients. The practitioner must be a clinician who is highly respected by his or her peers and colleagues for clinical skills and who has been a role model as a member of a clinical faculty of a department of medicine."

U.G. Hodgin Jr. MD, MACP

ABINASH ACHREKAR MD, MPH NAMED TO NATIONAL ACP ASSOCIATES COUNCIL

Abinash Achrekar, Associates representative on our NM Chapter Council, was recently appointed as one of only two Western Regional representatives on the National ACP Associates Council. This is an appropriate recognition of Abinash's strong advocacy of the College amongst his peers in the Internal Medicine Residency Program at UNM and we congratulate him on this honor.



I have initiated a new section of this newsletter - Associates Corner - which Dr. Achrekar will edit. His first column deals with our recent Chapter delegation's visit to Leadership Day in Washington, DC. I hope this

new initiative will stimulate heightened interest in ACP by our Associate Membership.

ASSOCIATES CORNER AN ASSOCIATE'S VIEW OF LEADERSHIP DAY 2006

On May 17th, 2006 the political voice of 119,000 physicians was heard on Capitol Hill. Two hundred and sixty four internists and trainees from 42 states, including 46 Associate members and 29 medical students, took time out of their busy clinical/educational schedules to speak with their legislators about issues important to internists and their patients. This was the 14th and best attended Leadership Day for ACP and continues to be key event on the College's calendar.

Leadership Day actually encompasses 3 days in which physicians and trainees experience media training, priority issue briefing, and have face to face meetings with their Senators and Representatives. In the past few years, there has been increased interest among residents and medical students to attend Leadership Day. In turn there has been a strong desire for legislators to hear from their younger constituents. As such, on the first day there was a special Associates and Medical Student training session which provided an overview of healthcare in American including Medicare and Medicaid.

On the morning of the second day, Associates joined the rest of the College members in intense media training. These sessions were lead by professional media consultants and Lobbyists. After these sessions, each of us felt more capable to effectively deliver the College's message to our legislators. The latter half of the second day focused primarily educating participants on ACP's priority issues for this Congressional session.

The ACP's main advocacy focus this year was to promote the value of Primary Care. Through this central theme, the College advocated increasing Medicare reimbursements for evaluation and management (E/M) services, promoted improving federal funding for Health Information Technology, supported linking payment to quality, encouraged the repeal of the SGR formula for Medicare Physician fees, and emphasized the need for professional liability reform.

On the final day, our New Mexico delegation consisting of Drs. **Reg Strickland, Michael Kaufman, Dick Honsinger**, and myself walked up the marble steps of our Capitol armed with savvy media training and a sufficient understanding of ACP's priority issues. We had appointments to meet with Senators **Bingaman** and **Domenici**, and Representatives **Udall, Wilson, and Pearce**. Due to pressing matters on the Hill with immigration, most of our legislators were unavailable; however, we addressed our concerns to the senior health aids of our Legislators. We

were fortunate to meet with Congresswoman Heather Wilson and directly advocate for ACP's issues.

In conclusion, this was a very positive Leadership Day. Our delegation spent most of our time in our Legislator's offices advocating for Primary Care. As a young physician and an Associate member, I felt my voice was not only heard but appreciated. I urge all fellows, members, and associates to participate in Leadership Day and to witness how our democratic system works.

Abinash Achrekar M.D., MPH.

NEW MEXICO INTERNISTS PRACTICE ONE OF THE 34 CHOSEN NATIONALLY FOR PRACTICE REDESIGN PILOT

The new ACP Center for Practice innovation has initiated a pilot program to develop, test and disseminate redesign strategies for small practices. Applications were received from 133 practices across the United States. Dr. **Patricia (Lynn) Bryant's** practice in Albuquerque is one of only 34 sites chosen in 14 states.

Dr. Bryant is an ACP member and currently serves as President of *GAMA*.

ANNUAL SESSION - 2006

Annual Session, April 6-8, in Philadelphia was an outstanding meeting. At convocation, Dr. **R. Philip Eaton** was inducted as our Chapters newest Master of the College. Drs. **Divya Bali, Chris Conlon, Ann Gateley** and **Diana Noya** were inducted as new Fellows in the College. These individuals were all recognized at a reception co-hosted by the New Mexico and Colorado Chapters. Three of our UNM Health Sciences Center Medical trainees presented their work at the meeting - Dr. **Javid Kamali, Dr. Christine DeLong**, and medical student, **Patrick Martin**.

The ACP Governors meeting that preceded Annual Session was dominated by concern about the Primary Care Crisis in America and presentations addressing proposed solutions by the College (see Governor's Message portion of this Newsletter).

Annual Session will be re-named next year. "Internal Medicine 2007" will be held in San Diego April 19-21, 2007. If you register by July 31, 2006 you will save \$120 on registration fees, get first choice of hotel reservations and qualify for a chance to win a free airfare to San Diego.

E. MICHAEL LEWICKE MD FACP RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL AWARD

Mike Lewicke, internist in Albuquerque for many years and a strong participant in the New Mexico Chapter, ACP recently received the **2006 Paul D. Miller Service Award** from the International Society for Clinical Densitometry (ISCD). Mike is Director of the New Mexico Clinical Research and Osteoporosis Center and immediate past-president of ISCD.

VISIT THE NEWLY CONFIGURED NM CHAPTER WEB SITE

OUR NM CHAPTER WEB SITE HAS BEEN RE-CONFIGURED AND IS NOW MORE USER-FRIENDLY, THANKS TO THE EFFORTS OF JOY CRIST OUR CHAPTER LIAISON IN PHILADELPHIA. JUDGING BY THE NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL VISITS TO THE SITE RECENTLY THE MEMBERSHIP IS FINDING THE NEW WEB SITE A USEFUL RESOURCE TO ACCESS LOCAL AND NATIONAL ACP NEWS. IN MARCH/APRIL/MAY 2006 THE NEW MEXICO WEB SITE EXPERIENCED A 40% INCREASE IN NUMBER OF VISITS.



PLAN TO ATTEND THE NM CHAPTER ANNUAL MEETING
NOV 9 - 11, 2006

This years Chapter meeting preparations are well under way. Dr. **Diana Noya** and her program committee have put together an outstanding series of updates in Inpatient and Ambulatory Internal Medicine. The meeting will be held again at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque.

Our College Representative will be Dr. **Virginia Collier**, Vice Chair, Department of Medicine and Chief Division General Medicine, Christiana Care Health System in Newark, Delaware. Dr. Collier is a former Governor and currently a Regent of the College.

We are particularly interested in attracting the increasing number of hospitalists around New Mexico. The program content should be of great interest to this group of internists. In addition a break out session for NM Hospitalists is planned during the meeting.