



**Governor's Message**

Dear Colleagues:

**B**ecause Internal Medicine (IM) 2008 was held in Washington D.C. (May 15 through May 17, 2008), the Board of Governors meeting (BOG) and Leadership Day (LD) were held in tandem (May 12, through May 14, 2008). It was a busy week for all attendees.

This year, we held a Nevada Chapter Reception, but a little bit more about this later. BOG was held May 12 through May 14, 2008 with a break on May 14, 2008, to Lobby on Capitol Hill. The Chairman of the BOG is **Donald Hatton, MD, FACP** and the Chair elect is **Molly Cooke, MD, FACP**. The BOG represents each state and a number of foreign countries. We meet twice a year, spring and fall. The BOG is divided up into classes. Since there is one year of governor-elect and four years on your own, it is basically a five year stint. My class is 2011, that is to say, I will be your Governor for the next three years.

Each class reviews issues and resolutions. There are 21 governors in my particular class. We have been debating about 24 separate resolutions. In the past, I have e-mailed you all an address to give you access to these resolutions. **Dr. Goodenberger** is chairman of our resolutions committee. If you have any input regarding resolutions, please let our chairman know ([dgoodenberger@UNR.edu](mailto:dgoodenberger@UNR.edu)).

One resolution in particular, (11-S08), Exploring Virtual Executive Directors to Assist Small Chapters, is of vital concern to us. It would provide funds and support for having an executive director for our chapter. We have not had a full time, permanent director. Prior governors have employed their office personnel to carry out chapter duties. These individuals may have been excellent secretaries and coordinators, but they do not know the particulars of ACP rules and regulations. We are not taking full advantage of the programs available to us by not having an executive director. An ED will also give us an institutional memory. I have been spending a lot of time on this issue and recently interviewed two individuals for the position at the recent ACP meeting. I am hoping that we can interest at least one of these candidates to take over our chapter ED.

Resolution 11-S08 was recommended for adoption by the Board of Regents and is expected to be accepted. The way the resolution was amended, it would allow for local chapters to select their own ED and in this way, maintain some degree of decentralization. It would be essentially states rights, if you will.

Resolution 10-S08 allows for e-mailing these newsletters. Resolution 5-S08 develops further pathways for re-certification. Resolution 13-S08 supports legislation to fund research that further characterizes primary care practice patterns in high quality - low cost regions. Resolution 14-S08 amending the "control substance act" to permit electronic prescribing of controlled substances.

Other resolutions that were recommended for adoption as amended are: differentiating between physicians and other healthcare professionals; supporting legislation to ensure access to veterans health administration patient data; evaluating the impact of preauthorization programs for advance medical imaging; evaluating the impact of pharmaceutical preauthorization program; advocating for compensation for completion of preauthorization program applications for pharmaceuticals; establishing a prompt media response; promoting federally qualified health centers; establishing bench marks for reasonable health insurance administrative costs.

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Let me know if you have any questions about the resolutions. Member should be able to find information online via chapter portal ([acponline.org](http://acponline.org)).

On May 14, 2008, **Dr. Donielle Freedman** and I spent all day on Capitol Hill visiting our congressional delegation. **Dr. Mitch Fordman** and **Dr. Dan Goodenberg** both took ill temporarily and could not accompany us. We had a day of preparation with talks, lectures, and workshops. ACP is very organized and detailed in this regard. We spoke with either our congressional delegate directly or with their legislative assistant (LA). I believe it is fair to say that our delegation is sympathetic towards most of our issues. The issues we raised were as follows: a) Guarantee access to affordable health insurance coverage, b) Provide positive and predictable Medicare payments and eliminate the sustained growth rate cuts we have been threatened with, c) Preserved access to primary care services, d) Enhance care coordination through the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH), e) Support reauthorization of the Higher Education Act of 1965, f) Improve funding for Healthcare Research and Quality in FY 2009, g) Provide positive incentives for reporting through an enhanced PQRI program, h) Incentives needed for successful adoption of Health Information Technology.

There is no question that ACP is on the front line fighting for patient and physician issues. If any of you ever doubted how organized and effective ACP is, I invite you to volunteer for Leadership Day next year. It's not too early to sign up.

IM 2008 began May 15, 2008 and ended May 17, 2008. There were lectures, workshops, symposia, meet the professors, panels, multiple small feedings, clinical skills demonstration, computer tutorials, slide shows, breakfast, and lunch with the professor. The subjects covered were myriad and included CME for ethics and pain management. This meeting clearly is the preeminent meeting for internist including hospitalist. Next year, the meeting will be held in Philadelphia on April 23 through April 25, 2009. It is a pleasant way to learn, keep up to date, earn CMEs, and give the family an opportunity to see and appreciate a major city in the United States or Canada.

Convocation was held on May 15, 2008. It was a very impressive ceremony. Our new fellows were sworn in at that time. This year, we had four new fellows (FACP), **Doctors Darin Brimhall, Mylene Mengahas, Mark McKenzie, and Ambika Rao**. Congratulations to all of them. I want to encourage all our members to seriously consider applying for fellowship. There are now four pathways to fellowship and I suspect one of these pathways will apply to most of you. Once you overcome inertia, I think you will find it quite doable.

On May 16, 2008, the Nevada chapter had its reception for all the Nevada attendees. There were approximately 24 attendees at this year's ACP meeting, but we had only one visitor from the Nevada delegation and that was **Dr. Yekaterina Khronusova**. We had a few visitors from other chapters, but aside from Dr. Khronusova and myself, there were no other visitors from our chapter. Please give me some feedback as to whether or not we should continue with having a reception at the national ACP meeting.

This year, we had 3 presenters at IM 2008. There were two residents and one medical student, **Doctors Tatyana Reznik** (Vignettes) and **Naveen Gande** (research). Our local chapter financially helped support their trip to Washington D.C. The student presenter was **Mara Zulauf**, a third year student at UNSOM.

Now for the new dues structure. Beginning with the 2008-2009 fiscal year, local dues are mandatory. They will be bundled with the national dues and to be a member of one, you must be a member of the other. As part of the negotiations for this change, we reduced our yearly dues to \$90 from the usual \$125.

National dues remain unchanged. ACP is clearly a bargain. However, we will need to charge a fee to attend our chapter's annual scientific meeting. We have not yet calculated those costs. We will have our local meeting on Saturday, January 10 at the Golden Nugget. Please support your local chapter.

Have an enjoyable summer and I will communicate with you all again after the fall Board of Governors meeting.

**Eugene L Speck, MD, PhD, FACP, FIDSA**

Visit the Chapter website at

[http://www.acponline.org/about\\_acp/chapters/nv/](http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/nv/)

## ACP Awards and Masterships: Nominate your Heroes, Mentors, and Colleagues

The Awards Committee of the American College of Physicians invites your help in recognizing the accomplishments of distinguished individuals and organizations through the College's awards and Masterships. Nominations are now open for the 2008-09 awards cycle, which will end with the College's bestowing eighteen awards and approximately 40 Masterships during the Convocation ceremony at Internal Medicine 2009. These awards recognize outstanding contributions in the practice of medicine, teaching, research, public service, leadership, and medical volunteerism.

The updated Awards and Mastership Booklet contains criteria for the College's honors plus instructions for writing nominating and supporting letters. Please note that a minimum of five detailed supporting letters and a curriculum vitae (or equivalent) with full bibliography are required for nominations to be considered. The deadline for materials is July 1, 2008. In keeping with ACP's Diversity Policy, the Awards Committee requests that nominators consider a wide array of outstanding candidates including women, underserved minorities, other ethnic groups, and international members and colleagues.

Please note that only ACP Fellows may be nominated for Mastership, and that Masterships as well as awards are competitive—that is, the most outstanding are selected by comparison. Both Mastership and awards nominations should be handled confidentially, and individuals should not self-nominate.

For questions and for information about the status of nominations submitted previously, please contact the staff liaison to the Awards Committee, **Martha Cornog**, at [mcornog@acponline.org](mailto:mcornog@acponline.org), 800-523-1546, ext. 2696, or direct at 215-351-2696. For printed copies of the Awards and Masterships Booklet, please contact **Meghann Williams**, Coordinator, Awards-Convocation and Diversity, at [mewilliams@acponline.org](mailto:mewilliams@acponline.org), ext. 2714, or direct at 215-351-2714.

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The American College of Physicians and the Nevada Chapter encourages its 124,000 members to help strengthen the voice of internal medicine by recommending ACP Membership to colleagues. By becoming ACP Members, your colleagues will enrich their clinical knowledge and skills and have access to the wide variety of professional assistance that you enjoy as part of your membership.

To thank you for your dedication to our organization, ACP offers dues incentives to members who recruit new Members through the Recruit-a-Colleague program. In addition, successful recruiters are entered to win a trip to Internal Medicine 2009 in Philadelphia, PA, that includes registration, airfare (up to \$500), and hotel accommodations.

To learn more about the Recruit-a-Colleague program, please visit [www.acponline.org/recruitacolleague](http://www.acponline.org/recruitacolleague).