

Nevada Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

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Jim Christensen, MD, FACP
Governor, Nevada Chapter

FROM YOUR GOVERNOR



Jim Christensen

The highlight of recent activities was the scientific meeting of the Nevada Chapter of the ACP. The meeting was held on Saturday, **January 14, 2006** at **The Wynn** in **Las Vegas**. The facilities were excellent and the surroundings even more beautiful.

Speakers included **Ken Brantley**, MD giving an update on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, as well as alpha anti-trypsin replacement. **Douglas A. Thomas**, MD gave an excellent lecture on cutaneous manifestations of common diseases in Internal Medicine. **Noel Rowin**, MD reviewed Oncologic Emergencies. **Greg Rosencrantz**, MD from West Virginia reviewed the pre-operative consultation of the well patient, and **James Flowers**, MD spoke about buprenorphine in the treatment of opiate dependence.

The meeting was attended by 110 Fellows, Members, Residents and one student. **Bob Dougherty** gave the Washington update and **Richard L. Neubauer**, MD, FACP was the College Regent in attendance.

Copies of the slides will be posted on the Nevada Chapter web site, which can be found at <http://www.acponline.org/chapters/nv/>. I hope that this information will be helpful to the members who were unable to attend the meeting.

At the recent Board of Governor's conference, which was held in Providence, Rhode Island in 2005, the issues of pay for performance, board re-certification, disaster response and physician reimbursement were all addressed. Also introduced was the concept of variations in clinical practices.

The National Advocacy by the ACP on behalf of patients and physicians is ongoing and is producing some meaningful results for all members. I wish to encourage all of you to visit the ACP web site found at <http://www.acponline.org> to see the ongoing activities of the College. As usual, I would welcome any comments about the College or Chapter activities sent to my e-mail at snotdoc@cox.net.

The Residents presented posters and clinical vignettes at the recent meeting. It was an all-time high number for posters. There were two categories- clinical and research. The first place of each category received a \$200.00 prize and the second and third place each received a \$100.00 prize. 1st place in clinical vignettes went to **Jigar Ghelani**, MD from Las Vegas for "The Twist and Turn of Chocolate Colored Blood." 1st place in the research category went to **Quang Nguyen**, DO from Reno for "Increased Bone Turnover in Patients Who Underwent Bariatric Surgery."

We would like to thank everyone who assisted in preparing of the posters, as well as the program directors, Dr. **George Kaiser** and Dr. **Beverly Parker**, for their support and encouragement. The poster competition has been steadily improving in quality and number.

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 Nevada 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 Annual Session 2007 that includes registration, airfare, and hotel accommodations.

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

FOUNDATION HEALTH TIPS

HEALTH TiPS are tools created to assist your patients in managing their chronic conditions. These two sided 4"x 6" cards contain clinical content developed through PIER, ACP's electronic, Web-based, decision-support tool designed for rapid point-of-care delivery. Content for HEALTH TiPS is created at or below a fifth-grade reading level. Currently, HEALTH TiPS pads are available for pain and hypertension in both English and Spanish. Pads for other chronic conditions are under development.

The Foundation created a Medicare Part D HEALTH TiPS in response to the upcoming opportunity for people with Medicare to enroll in a Medicare approved plan. The Medicare Part D HEALTH TiPS describe the two basic plans Medicare will be offering as well as important dates to participate in the insurance plan. This tool will prepare physicians to speak with patients about what they can expect from the Medicare Part D plan. Pointers on financial assistance and precautions to take during enrollment are outlined in the HEALTH TiPS. The Medicare Part D HEALTH TiPS are available on the Foundation website and will be available on the College website by November 21, 2005.

HEALTH TiPS for Pain, Hypertension and Healthy Shelter Living are free resources for all ACP members. Pain and Hypertension pads can be ordered on the Foundation's web site: http://foundation.acponline.org/healthcom/ht_order.htm. Shelter Living HEALTH TiPS can be downloaded from <http://foundation.acponline.org/shelvertips/>.

HEALTH TiPS are also available at Chapter meetings. Stop by the American College of Physicians table and look for the brightly colored pads.

–VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEB SITE–

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

KEY CONTACT PROGRAM

ACP's continued success on Capitol Hill greatly depends upon year-round grassroots support from the College's nearly 4,500 Key Contacts. Key Contacts communicate with their members of Congress on issues of importance to internists and their patients, and report the results back to ACP. To enroll as a Key Contact, ACP members are not required to have existing relationships with their members of Congress. ACP gives them the tools necessary to develop and maintain relationships. The program is open to all membership categories. Enroll now in the Key Contact Program.

As key issues approach the decision-making stage on Capitol Hill, the College emails or faxes legislative alerts to Key Contacts. Legislative alerts include all of the necessary information (including sample messages that can be easily personalized) to make informative contacts with members of Congress, and ACP staff is always available to provide support and answer legislative questions. Visit the College's Legislative Action Center for more information. If you are enrolled as a Key Contact, simply log on using your email address and ACP as the password. If you are not a Key Contact, you will be required to register. Please use ACP as your password.

Key Contacts receive a periodic newsletter, *The Capitol Key*, updating them on important legislative issues. Additional information on key issues is available on the ACP website. The College implemented the Key Contact Awards Program to recognize the hard work of members who go above and beyond the call of duty to contact their members of Congress. Each year at Leadership Day, ACP selects a Key Contact of the Year and the Top Ten Key Contact Special Recognition Winners based on the quality and quantity of responses to legislative alerts.

The College is continually recruiting new Key Contacts, especially where gaps exist in the program and a key member of Congress is not matched with a sufficient number of Key Contacts. When joining the program, members are asked to complete a short enrollment form that helps the College identify any special relationships they may have with members of Congress.

For more information on the ACP Key Contact Program, please contact **Tracy Novak**, Associate for Grassroots Advocacy, by email at tnovak@acponline.org or by phone at 1-800-338-2746, ext. 4532 or 1-202-261-4532.



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