

In This Issue

Greetings from the Governor	1
Annual 2008 OR Chapter Scientific Meeting	2
SEP Module.....	2
ACP Foundation - Health Tips	2
Physician Quality Measurement Coming to Oregon.....	2
Advocacy/Public Policy - The Oregon Better Health Initiative	3
Associates.....	4
Awards/Fellowships/Masterships	4
Council of Young Physicians	5
Medical Students.....	5
Chapter Dues.....	5
IM 2008 - Washington, DC.....	6
Upcoming Dates.....	6
Health Literacy Awards Program	7
How To Reach Us	7



Greetings From the Governor

Spring has come and I have just returned from this year's Annual Session in Washington, DC. The Annual Session was a huge success with over 6000 physicians attending. Oregon was well represented with over 70 attendees.

Congratulations to our new Master, **Steve Jones** and our new Fellows **Kevin Andrews, Mark Binder, James Borden, James Byrkit, Lee Cordova, Jeffrey Haller, Wendy Mednick, Leslie Root, Adam Solomon, Malcolm Townsley and Randy Visser**. Congratulations are also in order for **Sima Desai** for her election as Chair of the national Council of Young Physicians. This year she serves as Chair-elect and will assume her position next spring. **Linda Humphrey** also starts her year as Governor-elect for the Oregon chapter and replaces me next spring.

This year Internal Medicine meeting in Washington DC was combined with Leadership Day. Our chapter was well represented. **Linda Humphrey, Sima Desai, Basil Pittenger, Angie Marshall-Olson and Steve Eraker** joined me as we met with our Congressional Delegation. Our discussions centered on Medicare reimbursement reform and the need to aggressively address the accelerating crisis in primary care access. Our legislators recognize the need to prevent the scheduled cuts in Medicare reimbursement although a comprehensive fix of Sustainable Growth Rate formula will await the next administration. The current leading proposal to stem the Medicare cuts also calls for additional reimbursement for rural primary care physicians and more rapid expansion of Medical Home demonstration projects.

The National ACP is also working with **Senator Maria Cantwell** to draft comprehensive legislation to support primary care. This legislation will designate primary care as a shortage profession, address student debt, enhance funding for primary care training, promote electronic health records, and provide reimbursement for primary care services including chronic disease management and care coordination. Our Oregon chapter is also working closely with **Rep. Blumenauer** to develop legislation to provide reimbursement for end-of-life discussions with patients and families. I would also like to highlight a couple of other items in this newsletter. **Sima Desai**, this year's state scientific session program chair, describes highlights for this year's meeting scheduled October 23-25.

Chuck Kilo and Meena Mital, our Public Policy Chair and Associate Chair, will describe our chapter's involvement in the Better Health Initiative, an exciting collaboration of a number of physician groups to engage physicians in healthcare reform. As always, I welcome you to contact me at any time. My e-mail address is robert.gluckman@Providence.org.

ANNUAL 2008 OREGON CHAPTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The 2008 ACP meeting will be an exciting one as we learn and have the chance to reconnect with our old colleagues and hopefully make new ones. We have two national guest speakers, **Drs. Fred Ralston** and **Robert Schrier**. **Dr. Ralston** is a full-time practicing general internist, Regent of the ACP and Chair of the Health and Public Policy Committee who will speak on Achieving a High Performing Health Care System: A Critique of the US Health Care System. **Dr. Schrier**, our HP Lewis Speaker, a renowned nephrologist and previous Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado, will speak on acute renal failure and sepsis. The program will also host a number of other outstanding speakers who will discuss topics from antithrombotic therapy to Type 2 diabetes management. We will also have updates in both outpatient and inpatient general medicine. We can't wait to see you all at another educational and energy charged meeting! CME credit hours are 9.75. For meeting brochure and hotel information, please visit the chapter website.

SEP MODULE

The Chapter is pleased to announce we will be offering a SEP-Based Learning Session for Recertification at the upcoming October 2008 Chapter Scientific meeting. Update in Outpatient Medicine will be offered on Saturday afternoon, October 25. Complete a SEP module toward fulfillment of the ABIM's recertification process requirements. Participate in group discussion to determine answers to multiple-choice questions. Cost is \$100 for the module. For further information please see the Scientific meeting registration brochure or visit the Chapter website. CME credit hours are 3.50.

ACP FOUNDATION - HEALTH TIPS

The American College of Physicians (ACP) Foundation is introducing five new *HEALTH TIPS*. The new topics are depression, high cholesterol, osteoporosis, prostate cancer screening, and rheumatoid arthritis. "*HEALTH TIPS* assist physician-patient communication by providing physicians and other health care providers with takeaway sheets for patients and their families that contain easy-to-understand information on common conditions and diseases. Printed on double-sided 4" x 6" sheets, *HEALTH TIPS* are written at or below a fifth-grade reading level, are available in English or Spanish, and are designed specifically for the 90 million Americans -- nearly half of all adults -- who have difficulty understanding and acting on health information. The clinical content of *HEALTH TIPS* is provided by **PIER**, ACP's evidence-based electronic decision-support tool. Other available *HEALTH TIPS* topics include chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), dementia, diabetes, flu, HIV/AIDS, hypertension, pain, peripheral artery disease, smoking, and more. Patients and physicians can view the complete list of topics and download *HEALTH TIPS* at <http://foundation.acponline.org/hl/htips.htm>.

A survey of ACP members revealed:

- 92 percent of physicians indicated that they would personally hand *HEALTH TIPS* to their patients.
- 88 percent of physicians thought that *HEALTH TIPS* saved them time explaining health issues with their patients.
- 99 percent of the physicians thought that their patients appreciated *HEALTH TIPS*.

Physicians can order *HEALTH TIPS* pads (50 sheets per pad) for free at <http://foundation.acponline.org/hl/htips.htm>.

PHYSICIAN QUALITY MEASUREMENT COMING TO OREGON

David Shute, MD

Patients, purchasers, health plans and physicians alike are seeking ways to measure the quality of care physicians provide to their patients. This is part of a national trend, driven largely by both public and private healthcare purchasers, and triggered by a growing awareness that clinical quality is variable. Purchasers are moving from focusing solely on the cost of healthcare to seeking value, defined most simply as quality/cost. Cost is relatively easy to measure but useful quality measurement presents considerable challenges. Current activities in Oregon to measure and report the quality of care provided by physicians are led by health plans and are fragmented--applying different measures and different methodologies. Furthermore, these activities rely primarily on the use of claims data sets from individual health plans. The Oregon

Healthcare Quality Corporation is working to develop a local, community wide solution to address the demand for quality measurement and reporting in partnership with physicians, patients, health plans and purchasers. This activity is part of a national initiative in 14 communities supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Aligning Forces for Quality. The activity first seeks to align existing measurement and reporting efforts for primary care physicians through a single process. The project will merge health plan claims data and is designed so that physicians have access to information about their patients as well their own performance.

This initial set of quality measures focuses on process measures for chronic care and preventive services (e.g., was an A1c or mammogram performed?). Below is key information about this process:

- Physicians will have access to patient-level detail so that data can be used for improving care.
- The measurement and reporting process will be transparent; no black boxes.
- The first round of data will not be reported publicly. It will be used only for physician feedback and to refine the process.
- Only clinic-level data will be reported publicly.
- Initial public reports are expected in 2009.
- Participating health plans will not have provider-level data in the first round of measurement.
- Physicians will have an opportunity to correct and improve the data.

Many important and well accepted measures of quality are not available from claims and require medical record data (e.g., A1c or blood pressure control). Physicians and clinics will also have the opportunity to voluntarily publicly report quality measures from their medical record data. Reporting and validation process are currently being developed and assistance will be to physicians to physicians who want to participate. The Oregon Health Care Quality Corp is seeking physician input. Linda Humphrey will participate in the Clinical Workgroup and provide feedback on behalf of the Oregon Chapter. For more information, contact the project medical director, **David Shute**: david.shute@greenfieldhealth.com. The Oregon Health Care Quality Corporation is a non-profit partnership managed by a balanced Board of Directors and includes senior representatives from physician groups, health plans, purchasers, hospitals, consumer groups and government. For more information, visit: www.Q-Corp.org.

ADVOCACY/PUBLIC POLICY - THE OREGON BETTER HEALTH INITIATIVE

Meena Mital, MD and Charles Kilo, MD

Major change is afoot in healthcare and as physicians we have a choice: either sit back and respond to the changes that are placed before us or find a way to lead the change in a way that serves our communities best. Physicians are traditionally skeptical of efforts to address our high cost and relatively low quality health care system. Being too busy caring for patients and mired by a sense of powerlessness, we have collectively stayed on the sidelines of most reform efforts. While individual physicians may be involved, physicians as a group have lacked the cohesiveness and collaborative leadership necessary to guide substantive reform efforts. So we relegate ourselves to the sidelines while policy makers, legislators, business leaders, payers, and others look for ways to drive reform. However, it is clear that true reform will be difficult without cohesive, collaborative physician leadership, and if it does occur without our involvement, it may well not be to our liking. It is in response to this that our chapter is helping to lead the Oregon Better Health Initiative along with the Oregon Academy of Family Physicians, Oregon Pediatric Society, Oregon Geriatrics Society, Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons of Oregon and others including representatives from public health, mental health. We believe that it is time for physicians to become much more directly involved in leading healthcare's transformation. We acknowledge that healthcare costs are already at an unsustainable level and they continue to increase while 47 million Americans (one sixth of the population) are without insurance and 25 million more are underinsured placing them only one major medical illness away from personal or family bankruptcy. We don't believe that we can impart a significant impact on this problem by working individually. We can however, if we learn to work together as we are increasingly confident that we can and must do. The aim of the Better Health Initiative is to create intentional and participatory action toward a coordinated, comprehensive, and effective delivery system. We seek a more evidence-based allocation of resources necessary to deliver improved health and healthcare outcomes at a lower cost to our society. The Better Health Initiative is a call for physicians to renew our collec-

tive stewardship for health, healthcare, and healthcare resource allocation in our communities. Clinicians in particular are uniquely empowered to exert an enormous positive influence on the system by taking leadership roles in the development, testing, and implementation of systematic changes in the delivery system.

Due to its complexity, reform must start with deep discussions among us and then provide from concept to real testing as an iterative processes. We need to change the way we work, and the way we work together and that includes primary care clinicians as well as subspecialists. We will need to work closely together to fundamentally redefine our collective work. The Oregon Better Health Initiative acknowledges that there is no "shrink-wrapped" solution to address the complex systematic and emotional considerations we must face. However, we must start, and that means developing the tenacious local leadership necessary to drive real change. If you are interested in learning more, participating, or hosting a meeting about the Oregon Better Health Initiative with other physicians in your community, please contact us at meena.mital@greenfieldhealth.com or chuck.kilo@greenfieldhealth.com.

Are you interested in serving on the Oregon ACP Chapter's Health Policy Committee? We are seeking enthusiastic members who would like to be actively involved. Participation primarily includes committing to several conference calls per year and working with other committee members and the Chapter's Governor to formulate the Chapter's health policy positions. We are also working to make the committee much more directly involved in driving reform efforts in Oregon. Please contact either meena.mital@greenfieldhealth.com or chuck.kilo@greenfieldhealth.com if you would like to be involved.

ASSOCIATES

Once again we had an outstanding number and quality of presentations from our Associates at the Chapter Scientific meeting in November 2007.

Renee Prins, MD - OHSU	1st Place Oral Competition
Brian Kendall, MD - Providence Medical Center	2nd Place Oral Competition
William Ward, MD - OHSU	3rd Place Oral Competition
Erik Geissal, MD - Providence Medical Center	1st Place Research Poster
Stacey Clegg, MD - OHSU	2nd Place Research Poster
James Edwards, MD - St. Vincent Medical Center	2nd Place Research Poster
Courtland Childers, MD - Providence Medical Center	1st Place Clinical Vignette
Olga Senashova, MD - St. Vincent Medical Center	2nd Place Clinical Vignette
David Scott, MD - OHSU	3rd Place Clinical Vignette
Jennifer Flythe, MD - OHSU	3rd Place Clinical Vignette

A planning meeting was held in February. **Stephanie Halvorson, MD** turned the reins over to **Stephanie Anderson, MD**. Plans are underway for the 2008 Associates' and Medical Student Competition as well as a couple of evening sessions during the year for Oregon residents and medical students to learn about fellowships and career planning.

AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS/MASTERSHIPS

Fellows and Masters were recommended by the Credentials Subcommittee and approved for election by the Board of Regents.

Kevin Andrews, MD, FACP	Marc Binder, MD, FACP
James Borden, MD, FACP	James Byrkit, MD, FACP
Lee Cordova, MD, FACP	Jeffrey Haller, MD, FACP
Wendy Mednick, MD, FACP	Leslie Root, MD, FACP
Adam Solomon, MD, FACP	Malcolm Townsley, MD, FACP
Randy Visser, MD, FACP	Stephen R. Jones, MD, MACP

COUNCIL OF YOUNG PHYSICIANS

A Young Physician is defined as an ACP member that is within 16 years of medical school graduation, but is not a Student or Associate Member. Our goals include fostering interest in internal medicine among students and associates, and making sure the needs of Young Physicians are being met. The Oregon Chapter Council of Young Physicians was established in 2006. Current and ongoing projects include

- * Representation at Leadership Day in Washington, DC
- * Improving networking among young physicians
- * Creating new rural Oregon rotations for internal medical residents
- * Influencing Chapter Policy and Activities
- * Providing input into the content and format of the Chapter meeting
- * Researching the demographics of the young physician membership in ACP

Current members include **Basil Pittenger, Ryan Peterson, Jenny Silberger, Andrea Matsumura, Mohammed Taher, Stephanie Halvorson, Rajesh Ravuri, Elizabeth Liles, Sima Desai, and David Nagata.** Please contact one of us if you are interested in serving on the Oregon Chapter Council of Young Physicians, or if you have feedback or questions. At the 2008 Chapter meeting we will be hosting a Young Physician's Reception. We hope to see you there!

MEDICAL STUDENTS

Evan Los, 2nd year medical student, headed up the 1st & 2nd Year Medical Student Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG) this past year. The group participated in the national ACP Sponsorship Program, garnering them \$300 in working funds and increased that funding with a huge increase in student ACP membership. OHSU has about 490 medical students, with 144 of those joining ACP. The year started with the annual Interest Group Fair in September. The monthly Noon Medicine Talks were held with interesting speakers and good attendance by the students. The Chairman of Medicine at OHSU, Dr. Lynn Loriaux, continues to support these monthly talks by providing lunch and is one of the key note speakers. Ward Walks were again popular. Work has begun on the IMIG Resource Guide to assist students with common questions related to internal medicine with regard to shadowing physicians, conferences on and off campus, research opportunities and professional organizations that assist medical students. The Mentorship Program was successful with matching about 15 physicians from OHSU and 15-20 students. Following in the footsteps of the Mentorship Program, IMIG implemented the Research Mentorship Program to connect students with researchers who need assistance. Several students attended both the Chapter Scientific meeting and presented clinical vignettes, research posters:

Natasha Fewkes , Student	1st Place Research Poster
Mark Goodman , Student	1st Place Clinical Vignette

CHAPTER DUES

Chapter dues are vital to the success of our Chapter - they support our scientific meeting and activities on the local level - educational meetings, medical student programs, Council of Young Physicians, Associates' and Medical Student clinical and research competitions, advocacy efforts and participation in Leadership Day. Unpaid volunteers plan and coordinate these activities - your Chapter dues help these programs be successful.

Chapter Web Site:

www.acponline.org/chapters/or

INTERNAL MEDICINE 2008 - WASHINGTON DC

This years Internal Medicine meeting in Washington DC was another outstanding meeting - plentiful with great speakers and relevant topics. Oregon had about 75 in attendance. Many enjoyed the Chapter reception on Friday evening - meeting with colleagues and old friends. Our Associates and Medical Students represented Oregon very well in the national competition:

ASSOCIATE-ORAL PRESENTATION

Brian Kendall, MD - Providence Medical Center

ASSOCIATE-RESEARCH POSTER

Erik Geissal, MD - Providence Medical Center

Melissa Weimer, DO - OHSU

ASSOCIATE-CLINICAL VIGNETTE POSTER

Erik Geissal, MD - Providence Medical Center

Dawn Baker, MD - Providence Medical Center

Kristine Schwinof, MD - Legacy Health System

Renee Prins, MD - OHSU

David Scott, MD - OHSU

William Ward, MD - OHSU

STUDENT-ORAL PRESENTATION

Natasha Fewkes, Student - OHSU

STUDENT-CLINICAL VIGNETTE POSTER

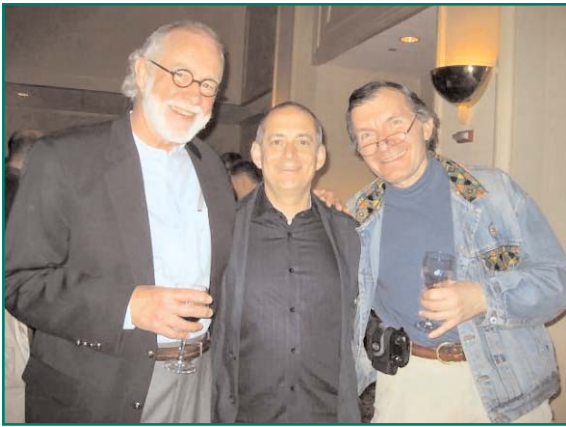
Mark Goodman, Student - OHSU

Brett Gourley, Student - OHSU

UPCOMING DATES

September 12-13, 2008	What's New In Medicine 2008? Kennewick, WA
October 3, 2008	Symposia on Chronic Pain, Portland, OR
October 23-25, 2008	Oregon Chapter Scientific Meeting, Eugene, OR
November 8, 2008	Physician Well-Being Meeting, Welches, OR
December 12, 2008	Symposia on Chronic Pain, Portland, OR
December 2008	Infectious Diseases Society of Oregon Meeting, Eugene, OR
April 23-25, 2009	ACP Internal Medicine Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
November 5-7, 2009	Oregon Chapter Scientific Meeting, Eugene, OR
April 22-24, 2010	ACP Internal Medicine Meeting, Toronto, Canada

Photo Gallery



*Internal Medicine 2008: Stephen Jones, MD;
Robert Gluckman, MD; Sal Mangione, MD*



*Internal Medicine 2008: Erik Geissal, MD; Mary
Olhausen, Natasha Fewkes, Student; Mark Goodman,
Student; Tracey Hansel, Student; Brett Gourley, Student*



*Chapter Meeting 2007: James
Patterson, MD - HP Lewis Service
Award*

*Below: Chapter Meeting 2007: Mary
Olhausen; David Dale, MD;
Robert Gluckman, MD*



*Chapter Meeting 2007: Mark
Rosenberg, MD - HP Lewis
Teaching Award*

HOW TO REACH US

Robert A. Gluckman, MD, FACP
Providence St. Vincent Medical Center
9205 SW Barnes Road, Suite 2800
Portland, OR 97225
503-216-7451
FAX: 503-216-7488
Email: Robert.gluckman@providence.org

Mary Olhausen
Executive Director
2310 NE 77th Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98664
360-892-1814; FAX: 360-326-1844
Email: omary52@comcast.net