

Oregon Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER



Spring 2003

Stephen R. Jones, MD, FACP
Governor, Oregon Chapter

OBSERVATIONS ON CHANGE--- The Future of General Internal Medicine

Stephen R. Jones, MD, FACP, Governor Oregon Chapter

In the Newsletter of Summer 2002, I discussed the curriculum changes proposed for internal medicine by the Federated Council for Internal Medicine. In Newsletter of Fall-Winter 2002-2003, I discussed the impact on our specialty of The Institute of Medicine's report, The Quality Chasm, and also the predictions of Steven Schroeder and John Kitzhaber about economic segregation and the delivery of medical services. Both of these reports point to the obvious need for changes in the reimbursement for physicians' services.

A few weeks ago, the Society of General Internal Medicine's Task Force on Defining and the Promoting the Field of General Internal Medicine, lead by Dr. Eric Larson, the Chair-elect of the ACP Board of Regents, published The Future of General Internal Medicine. A draft of the report can be found at: www.sгим.org/futureofGIMreport.cfm. The report is a blend of technological futurism coupled with a conservative appeal for the maintenance of our core values. It acknowledges that there must be fundamental changes in the way that internists are paid for their work. I encourage the Membership of the Chapter to review this report and respond to the Task Force's call for response.

If you have felt guilty about not meeting the standards for providing recommended preventive services, then a recent report will provide assure that you are not unique and there are systemic problems that are not yours alone. It is reported that to fully satisfy the US Preventive Services Task Force recommendations to a patient panel of 2,500 patients, that 1773 hours of a physician's time each year, or 7.4 hours each working day, is needed for the provision of preventive services. (Yarnall, KSH, Pollak KI, Ostby T et al: Primary care is there enough time for prevention? Amer J of Pub Health 2003; 93:635.) Clearly policy makers, with our advice and consent, need to rethink the delivery of preventive services. This observation adds to the body of evidence that supports the restructure of reimbursement for primary care services.

ANNUAL OREGON CHAPTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING, NOVEMBER 6-8, 2003

This year's ACP Oregon Chapter Scientific Meeting again will be held at the Eugene Hilton Hotel & Conference Center in Eugene.

Meeting highlights include:

- * Associates' Clinical Vignettes, Posters, and Research Competitions
- * Clinical Pearls
- * Inpatient and Outpatient Issues
- * College Update and Chapter Reception
- * Merle A. Sande, MD, MACP, will join us to talk on HIV/AIDS and give us an update on college activities
Brochures will be on your doorstep by August.

2003 Program Planning Committee:

Claudia S. Leonard, MD, FACP - Chair
Linda Humphrey, MD, MPH, FACP, - Co-Chair
Stephanie P. Detlefsen, MD, Member
Todd W. Engstrom, MD, Member
Daniel J. Gilden, MD, FACP
David S. Labby, MD, Member
Melinda J. Muller, MD, Member
Mark R. Rosenberg, MD, Member
Patrick W. Tester, MD, Member

FELLOWSHIPS

The following new Fellows were recommended by the Credentials Subcommittee and approved for election by the ACP Board of Regents in May 2003. Congratulations!!

Steven G. Gordon, MD	Portland, OR
James E. Leggett, MD	Portland, OR
William C. Pierce, MD	Salem, OR
William M. Ryan, MD	Portland, OR
David S. Wakeling, MD	Portland, OR

For This Couple, College Fellowship Is All In The Family

By Jason van Steenburgh

When Arlene D. Bradley, MD, FACP, got inducted as a Fellow of the College at Annual Session Convocation Ceremony, April 2003, she was not alone. Her husband, Mark E. Bradley, MD, FACP will be right by her side. For this couple, togetherness is a very familiar concept. They attended St. Louis University School of Medicine together, trained at the Veterans Administration Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System together and now work at the VA Roseburg, OR-together. So when one of the two internists becomes a College Fellow, it's only natural for the other to be right there. As married internists with parallel careers, however, they've run into some odd experiences. Some colleagues expect her and her husband to behave more like a married couple, Dr. Arlene Bradley explained, than like a couple of professionals. When they were in residency together, for example, and she'd occasionally disagree with her chief resident husband during grand rounds, some peers expected to see an "all-out brawl." Instead, the Bradleys kept it professional and regularly disappointed their colleagues. They've also found working together in the same hospital can lead to some delightfully embarrassing moments for their co-workers. On more than one occasion, each has listened to colleagues -who didn't know they were married-talk about his or her other half. "I let them go on and on and then finally tell them; "It's interesting to hear what you have to say about my husband", Dr. Arlene Bradley said. "It's a good lesson in discretion".

And they find that other physicians sometimes make some strange assumptions. "People assume we are each other's secretary", she explained. "They constantly give each of us paperwork or messages for each other. They assume that we are constantly in touch, but we usually don't see each other all day long".

In fact, the Bradleys are looking forward to attending Annual Session because it is one of the few meetings where they're able to attend the same presentations. Because she specializes in women's health and he is an endocrinologist, they typically head their separate ways at educational meetings.

CHAPTER MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

* **Thomas G. Cooney**, MD, FACP, was appointed to the Residency Review Committee for Medicine of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

* **Arlene D. Bradley**, MD, FACP, contributed a major chapter to the recently published book "VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A Physician's Guide to Identification and Management" published by the ACP.

* **William M. Bennett**, MD, FACP, was selected to give the Donald Seldin Lectureship at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the American Society for Nephrology.

* **James B. Reuler**, MD, FACP, has been appointed Chair of the Volunteerism Subcommittee of the College. His term began May 1, 2003.

* **Christine K. Cassel**, MD, MACP, has accepted the role of president and chief executive officer of both The American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and the ABIM Foundation. She will assume her new duties on July 1, 2003.

* **Curtis R. Holzgang**, MD, FACP, has won the Oliver M. Nisbet Teaching Award for outstanding volunteer faculty member, presented by the Class of 2003 at OHSU.

* **Sima S. Desai**, MD, has won the David W.E. Baird Award for outstanding junior faculty member, presented by the Class of 2003 at OHSU.

* **John H. McAnulty, Jr.**, MD, FACC has won the J. David Bristow Award for outstanding senior faculty member, presented by the Class of 2003 at OHSU.

* **Gregory J. Magarian**, MD, FACP, has won the Allan J. Hill, Jr. Award for outstanding clinical science, presented by the Class of 2003 at OHSU.

* **Paul B. Bascom**, MD, has won the Humanism in Medicine Award, presented by the Class of 2003 at OHSU.

* **Grover C. Bagby, Jr.**, MD, has been elected to the Association of American Physicians (AAP). He is the only third active faculty member at OHSU to be so honored. The AAP focuses on the importance of constantly advancing scientific understanding and clinical practice.

VIRTUAL ANNUAL SESSIONS

Miss a presentation at Annual Session? Try Virtual Annual Sessions. If you missed a presentation at Annual Session, San Diego, CA, April 3-5, 2003, try "attending" presentations from your computer via Virtual Annual Sessions. The College is pleased to present an Internet-based educational program featuring summaries of selected presentations. Reports include key facts and slides. College members can earn free category 1 CME credit by reading the reports and answering multiple-choice questions after each summary. Virtual Annual Sessions appear online at www.acponline.org/vas.

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

James B. Reuler, MD, FACP

In February, 2002, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to health and health care, launched, along with 15 major national organizations, an educational project called Cover The Uninsured (www.coveringtheuninsured.org) to inform the public and publicize the extent of the problem of the uninsured, now numbering over 41 million Americans under the age of 65.

This project culminated in Cover The Uninsured Week (CTUW), March 10-16, 2003, during which 875 events were held across the country in all 50 states. The ACP and its chapters played major roles in CTUW.

Portland was one of the 28 cities in the US which was targeted for special media coverage about the uninsured and for which a series of activities were organized, including a Town Hall meeting with elected officials, a campus Teach-In, a Health Fair and an Interfaith Breakfast. OR ACP participated in the CTUW Steering Committee planning, in general, and the Campus Teach-In at OHSU, March 11, specifically, working with representatives of the Society of General Internal Medicine, the American Medical Student Association, the Association of Students for the Underserved, the Internal Medicine Interest Group, The Wallace Medical Concern and staff from OHSU's Community Affairs Office.

On March 11, a series of informational booths were coordinated on campus, followed by a panel discussion on the uninsured. Ryan Williams, 2nd-year medical student, IMIG Coordinator and OR ACP Council member, staffed the ACP booth and included publications from ACP's "No Health Insurance? Its Enough to Make You Sick" series (www.acponline.org/uninsured) and the College's January, 2003, position paper "The Growing Crisis in Access to Medical Care" (www.acponline.org/hpp/growing_crisis). Jim Reuler, MD, FACP, representing OR ACP, moderated the panel discussion that included OHSU leadership, two medical students and former Governor John Kitzhaber, MD. The panel's provocative and inspiring comments were heard by a large audience, many members of which asked questions and raised issues, and was covered by local press more than any other CTUW activity in Portland.

WHAT IS PIER?

PIER (Physicians' Information and Education Resource) is a Web-based decision-support tool designed for rapid point-of-care delivery of up-to-date, evidence-based guidance for clinicians. Information in PIER is presented in a "drill down" format, in which the user clicks from an opening guidance statement through to more specific information. PIER is a collection of modules divided into five topic types:

- * Diseases
- * Screening and Prevention
- * Complementary and Alternative Medicine
- * Ethical and Legal Issues
- * Procedures
- * Drug Resource

You can get access to PIER on the Web at www.pier.acponline.org. For the present, access is free to all ACP Associates, Members, Fellows, and Masters.

WALLACE MEDICAL CONCERN

In conjunction with Cover The Uninsured Week, the OHSU Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG) developed a fundraising effort to collect donations from medical students and have them earmarked for Wallace Medical Concern (WMC). WMC is a volunteer nonprofit organization serving medically indigent adults and children in the Portland area. Many third and fourth year medical students participate in WMC clinics. Before collecting donations, the IMIG made a proposal to the Oregon Chapter for a "match" to their donations. A 4:1 match with a \$2,000 cap was agreed upon by the Council. The students collected \$1,187.83 in cash donations, and along with the \$2,000 contribution from Oregon Chapter; a total of \$3,187.83 was donated to WMC. The presentation of the donations collected was made on May 20th at the downtown clinic. Ryan Williams, Chair of IMIG, was on hand to present the monies for this worthwhile cause. Additionally, Carlton Heine, fourth-year medical student, presented WMC with the proceeds from the recent AOA silent auction. The WMC is greatly appreciative of all the efforts put forth by students and faculty to raise money to assist with clinic operations.



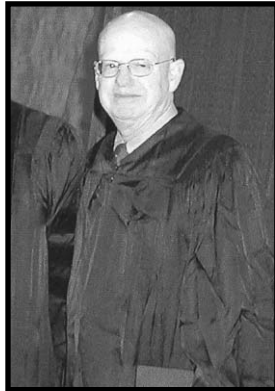
Carlton Heine (left) and Ryan Williams present Kathy Hammock with checks from their organizations.

MASTERSHIPS

The Oregon Chapter had two members named to Masters at Annual Session 2003. Mastership is bestowed upon select Fellows in recognition of exceedingly stellar career accomplishments and service to the College.

* **David N. Gilbert, MD, MACP:** Professor of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, devoting his career to the study of infectious diseases. Dr. Gilbert was the first to notice many of the nuances of the toxicity and therapeutic administration of aminoglycoside antimicrobials. He is currently the President of the Infectious Diseases Society

of America. He has been the driving force at Portland Providence Medical Center to improve medical education. He has received numerous awards for his teaching skills and is in great demand as a speaker. He has contributed greatly to the medical literature and is now lead author on the Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy. He has contributed regularly to the Oregon Chapter of ACP. He has regularly presented at chapter meetings and has given advice to the Program and Membership Committees.



Dr. Gilbert was honored at Convocation for becoming a Master.

* **D. Lynn Loriaux, MD, MACP:** Professor of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University, whose specialty is Endocrinology. He was the first to describe measurements of pituitary hormones from direct sampling of the venous effluent of that gland. He has been a major contributor to several textbooks. His teaching inspires many students to enter the field of internal medicine. Dr. Loriaux has been an active member of the Oregon Chapter of ACP. He is an advisor to the Governor and multiple committees of the Chapter and the Associates' Council. He encourages his faculty to take a leadership role in the College, and he has regularly participated in teaching sessions at the Chapter's annual meeting. In 1997, he was awarded the College's ACP-ASIM Award for Outstanding Work in Science as Related to Medicine.



Dr. Loriaux smiles for the camera before Convocation.

ELECTION OF NEXT GOVERNOR

By James B. Reuler, MD, FACP

Chapter members received a letter from Steve Jones, MD, FACP, Governor, in mid-April soliciting nominations for the next election for Governor. The Local Nominations Committee, appointed by Steve and including Elizabeth Eckstrom, MD, FACP, Jim Leggett, MD, and Jim Reuler, MD, FACP, received numerous nominations of wonderfully qualified individuals and is preparing a slate of two candidates, Fellows or Masters, whose names will be submitted to the College by June 20. In the fall, ballots will be mailed to Chapter members and the election result announced by the College in early 2004. The individual elected will serve as Governor-Elect for one year and then assume Governorship in April 2005.

Election of a chapter's Governor is the only College election in which all members participate. The Governor of the Oregon Chapter represents us nationally on the College's Board of Governors and locally with many professional, governmental and lay organizations. The Governor invests hours each week working with Chapter members, committees and staff to expand the horizons of the Chapter and to bring "value-added" services to its members. PLEASE VOTE when ballots arrive and invest in the future of the Chapter.

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PUBLIC POLICY & LEADERSHIP DAY

By Robert A. Gluckman, MD, FACP

I attended the American College of Physicians Leadership Day May 13-14, 2003 in Washington, DC. Leadership Day consisted of a number of presentations by ACP national

staff and congressional staffers, as well as the opportunity to meet with several Oregon congressional representatives and/or their staffs. The priority issues identified by the American College of Physicians include:

- Access to healthcare
- Medicare reimbursement
- Medicare regulatory relief
- Liability reform

Access to Healthcare: The College was very involved in working with Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) in introducing the **Health Care Act of 2003**. This bill was introduced to Congress on May 8 in an attempt to obtain bipartisan support for a proposal to increase coverage for the uninsured. The proposal focuses on an expansion of Medicaid for all individuals up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level and would subsidize the states for the full cost of coverage. The proposal also provides advanced refundable tax credits for all individuals and families who lack access to health insurance and have incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level to buy coverage through a purchasing pool arrangement modeled after the federal employees' health benefit program. More information can be obtained by visiting the College's web site at www.acponline.org/hpp/afford7years.pdf

Updated Medicare Fee Schedule: Last year Congress averted a 4.4 percent Medicare pay cut and replaced it with a 1.6 percent increase. However, future Medicare reimbursement is tied to a flawed "sustainable growth rate formula" (SGR). This formula ties Medicare reimbursement to the overall growth of the economy (per capita GDP). The formula currently projects a 4.2 percent cut on January 1, 2004. In addition, further cuts are projected through 2007. The College has asked that legislation be introduced to mandate an update that at least equals the MedPAC recommendation for a 2.5 percent increase as well as correction of update formula so that future Medicare payments are tied to actual costs in the increase of delivering care. Further information can be obtained through the College's web site at <http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/>

Medicare Regulatory Relief: Last year the House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 810. This bill would provide regulatory Medicare relief in several areas, including pilot programs to develop alternatives to the documentation requirements for evaluation and management services. In addition, the bill would limit the practice of Medicare carriers' demands for alleged overpayments for claims. Despite unanimous passage by the House of Representatives, a companion bill was never introduced to the Senate. The College has urged US Senators to introduce and cosponsor legislation that included the provisions in the House legislation. Further information can be obtained at the College's web site at <http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/>

Professional Liability Reform: This year the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5, which includes several provisions for liability reform, including a \$250,000 cap on non-economic

damages and limits on contingency fees. In addition, the bill legislates periodic payment of future damages, elimination of double payment, proportionate liability among all parties, and a reasonable statute of limitations on claims. The College has urged the Senate to introduce and pass similar legislation. Further information can be obtained at the College's web site at <http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/>

As part of Leadership Day, I had the opportunity to meet with Senator Ron Wyden and Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, as well as members of their legislative staffs. In addition, I had the opportunity to meet with the healthcare aides for Senator Gordon Smith, Congressman Earl Blumenhauer, and Congressman David Wu. I would like to briefly summarize the positions of the congressional representatives on the ACP priority issues.

Access to Healthcare: Senator Smith serves on the Finance Committee with Senator Bingaman. This committee has jurisdiction over legislation to expand access to the uninsured. Senator Smith has previously introduced legislation to expand access, and his aide expressed interest in working with Senator Bingaman on his proposal. Senator Wyden, in conjunction with Senator Oren Hatch (R-UT), introduced The Healthcare That Works for All Americans Act in the last congressional session. This bill proposes a similar process to the development of the Oregon Health Plan to decide how to cover and finance legislation to increase access for the uninsured. He was interested in obtaining ACP support for this proposal, and did not commit a position on Senator Bingaman's proposed legislation. The Oregon members of the House of Representatives are not on a key committee to propose legislation similar to Senator Bingaman's in the House of Representatives.

Updated Medicare Fee Schedule: There was widespread agreement among all congressional representatives and their staffs that the SGR is seriously flawed and requires corrections. All expressed a commitment to correcting this formula so that physicians would not be faced with further cuts in the future. In addition, I spoke with them about current geographic inequity in Medicare payment that works to Oregon's serious disadvantage. The current Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) has a strong interest in addressing this problem. This would be to the advantage of all Oregon physicians-both rural and urban.

Medicare Regulatory Relief: The House of Representatives is poised to introduce and pass similar legislation to HR-810. Both Senators Wyden and Smith are supportive of such legislation.

Professional Liability Reform: The most problematic issue is in the area of proposed liability reform. Congresswoman Hooley is supportive of the concept of liability reform. However, she feels that it must be in conjunction with insurance reform and patient safety legislation. Senator Wyden is interested in considering expansion of the Federal Tort Claims Act to provide liability relief to physicians. Congressman Wu

appears opposed to caps on non-economic damages but his staff person provided me with a proposal from the Institute of Medicine that I perceive as creating a system similar to worker's compensation that would allow patients to receive reasonable compensation for adverse events. The aide for Congressman Blumenhauer recognized the need for some form of liability reform, but expressed that H.R. 5 was a narrow solution and that the issues of insurance reform and patient safety also needed to be addressed. In addition, there is some concern expressed about the proposed cap for non-economic damages. The staff member for Senator Smith stated that the Senator would be interested in working with Senate leadership on exploring solutions to the acknowledged liability form crisis.

The Oregon Chapter of ACP has recently formed an Advocacy and Public Policy Committee. Members include Bob Gluckman, Chair; John Santa, Cornelia Taylor, Heather Hue, Keith Marton, Jim Ritzenthaler, David Thompson and George Nelson. In addition, a member from Grants Pass will be identified.

ANNUAL SESSION 2003

The ACP Annual Session, held in early April, in San Diego, CA, was superb. The chapter sponsored four medical students this year--all who had an excellent experience. Here are some comments about this experience:

* **Michael Naillon** - "The best part was the conferences, with the HIV conferences being outstanding. Well organized and focused on key issues that every internist should know. The most powerful part of the session came from being in the presence of 7,000 physicians with similar hopes, ambitions, and goals. It helped to unite and gave a sense of purpose as global health care issues like SARS were discussed along with national trend in health care like the hospitalist movement".

* **Jill Gelow** - "My experience was terrific-I enjoyed the opportunity to spend time talking with other medical students interested in internal medicine. It was fun to be in an environment where everyone was excited about the field of internal medicine. The sessions were very practical, informative and helpful for me as a medical student-I felt like I could take the things I learned back to the wards and apply them. I encourage other students to attend Annual Session-it's a great opportunity to learn about internal medicine topics as well as talk with physicians and residents in the field. I came back excited about my decision to go into internal medicine".

* **Robert Hung** - "Lectures were outstanding and I enjoyed the camaraderie and teaching. The interactive sessions were well organized and very helpful. This was a nice opportunity to reflect on the future life as an internist-there were several opportunities to chat with physicians who I found to be thoughtful and introspective people and I felt very comfortable as part of this group".

* **David Scholle** - "The best part was being amongst so many physicians all in one place with the same interests and goals-I enjoyed striking up conversations with others and they were always full of eye-opening perspective. The update sessions were terrific as a way to review the biggest changes to current practice to come out of the prior year. Overall, the conference was a very important experience in my transition from student to doctor. I recommend it to anyone to attend-it has more variety and diversity of both persons and of information than you will find elsewhere".

Kudos to **Ryan Petersen**, MD, resident at Providence Portland Medical Center, who was a winner in the top 10 of the Associate" Clinical Vignette Poster competition. The title of his poster was "FUO: Traps To Be Aware Of".



Ryan Petersen is all smiles while displaying his poster at Annual Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Foundation For Medical Excellence announces **The Physician Well-Being Conference**, October 4, 2003. This year's event will be held at Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA. Speakers include Ray Baker, MD - Physician Burnout: Why MD's Crash And Burn-What To Do If You Smell Smoke; Joan Borysenko, Ph.D. - The Power of The Mind To Heal And Spiritual Optimism In Times of Crisis, Change and Challenge; Daniel O'Connell, Ph.D. - Stages of Intentional Change in Pursuit of Personal Well-Being. For more information, call **503-636-2234**.

The Oregon Health & Science University, School of Medicine announces the **Ashland Conference 2003: Update In Office-Based Practice (Cardiology, Pulmonary Diseases, & Emergency Medicine)**, September 5-6, 2003. This event will be held at Windmill's Ashland Hills Inn, Ashland, OR. For further information, please call **503-494-8700**.

The Oregon Chapter of the American College of Cardiology (ACC) announces a 1-1/2 day **Cardiovascular Symposium** at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR on October 24-25, 2003. This event will highlight a better understanding of cardiovascular care for patients and update in cardiovascular medicine, with an emphasis placed on reviewing new practice guidelines, as well as presenting evidence-based discussions on a variety of cardiology subjects. For further information, please call ACC office at **503-345-9294**, or email imc360@attbi.com

HANDGUN INJURY PREVENTION

Are you interested in Handgun Injury Prevention? Doctors Against Handgun Injuries (DAHI) has formed a new online Physician Network, which updates physicians on the handgun injury prevention issue, and provides them with opportunities to take action on the state and federal levels. DAHI is a coalition of 12 national medical societies, including the American College of Physicians, dedicated to bringing the medical and public health perspectives to handgun injury prevention. DAHI is headed by **Dr. Jerry Barondess**, MACP, who is a former ACP President. To sign up, please email **Rebecca Bruno**, DAHI Program Associate, at rbruno@nyam.org with the following information: name, specialty, place of business, email address, and mailing address. For more information, please visit DAHI's website at www.doctorsagainsthandinjury.org.

STUDENTS

The Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG) at OHSU has been busy with a slate full of conferences that included several guest speakers. Topics included inter-relations of

politics & medicine, a resident panel, geriatrics, alternative medicine, and ward walks led by senior resident, Adam Silverblatt, MD, of OHSU. Other activities included the Fall Interest Group fair where we had a booth and shared information on student membership in ACP, and applying to national office and receiving a grant to help carry out our activities.

Medical School Awards 15% Program: The Council of Student Members, will again sponsor an awards program that recognizes schools that increase their Medical Student Membership in the College by 15% or more of their student body, between the dates of 7-1-03 to 4-1-04. At the recent Annual Session in San Diego, eight medical schools were honored for their outstanding efforts to increase student membership. The Oregon Chapter will be assisting with efforts to increase student membership, working closely with the IMIG this coming year.

UPCOMING DATES

July 29-August 2, 2003

ACP Internal Medicine Board Review Course, Seattle, WA

October 4, 2003

Physician Well-Being Conference, Stevenson, WA

November 6-8, 2003

Oregon Chapter Scientific Meeting, Eugene, OR

April 22-24, 2004

ACP Annual Session, New Orleans, LA

November 4-6, 2004

Oregon Chapter Scientific Meeting, Portland, OR

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