

Oregon Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Summer 2005

Robert A. Gluckman, MD, FACP
Governor, Oregon Chapter

GREETINGS FROM THE GOVERNOR



Having just returned from the spring Board of Governors/Annual Session meeting in San Francisco and the College's Annual Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., I wanted to update you on the College's advocacy activities.

The theme for the Board of Governors meeting was "The Dysfunctional Payment System." Speakers included **Cecil Wilson**, a Master of the College and private practicing physician in Winter Park, Florida; **Glenn Hackbarth**, Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission; and **Reed Tuckson, MD**, Senior Vice President of Consumer Health & Medical Care Advancement at United Health Group. They reviewed the issues from the perspectives of the physician, patient, and payers. This was followed by workshops attempting to identify specific actions the College should take to improve the practice environment.

During Leadership Day, **Chuck Hoffman** and I had the opportunity to present some of those positions to our legislators. We met with **Senator Gordon Smith** and **Representatives Greg Walden, Darlene Hooley, and Peter DeFazio**. In addition, we met with staff members for **Senator Wyden, Congressmen Wu and Blumenauer**. I want to thank Chuck as he was instrumental in obtaining access to several of our legislators.

We discussed several important issues. First and foremost, we informed our legislators about increasing problems with access for Medicare patients. A recent Oregon Medical Association work force survey indicated that 45 percent of Oregon primary care physicians either limited or accepted no new Medicare patients. Our legislators were informed that should the scheduled 4.3 percent reduction in fees as mandated by the sustainable growth rate formula take place, Medicare patients would be confronted with further difficulty in maintaining a relationship with a primary care physician.

Chuck and I also made a strong case for more comprehensive payment reform. Patients are most likely to receive high quality, affordable health care when they have a strong relationship with a primary care physician. Current market forces threaten the future supply of general internists. We informed our legislators that recent surveys of internal medicine residents indicate a two-thirds reduction in interest in a career in general medicine. We strongly advocated for the need to develop case management fees to compensate primary care physicians for the currently uncompensated work they perform to coordinate care and care for patients between office visits.

We also asked our legislators to support bill H.R.747. This bill, written with strong input from ACP, would facilitate the purchase of health information technology, especially targeting small and rural practices. The bill provides for additional reimbursement for office visits performed in conjunction with an electronic medical record and case management fees. It also provides a combination of grants, loans, and tax credits to facilitate the purchase of health information technology.

As I start my Governorship, I have a few important goals. One is to increase the Chapter's advocacy efforts. In addition to the activities noted, I have been named to the Board of Director's for ACP Services Political Action Committee (PAC). Please see the article in this newsletter to learn more the PAC.

Another one of my goals is to increase Chapter membership. ACP is best able to provide the services and advocacy internists need by increasing the size of our membership. I am interested in making visits throughout the state to talk about the benefits of ACP membership and am able to give Grand Rounds in conjunction with a trip. If you are interested in arranging a visit or sharing any concerns you would like addressed by the Chapter, feel free to contact me at Robert.Gluckman@providence.org.

ACP SERVICES, INC. FORMS PAC

ACP Services, Inc. has formed a political action committee to help promote internists' participation in the political process. A PAC is an entity permitted under federal law to make contributions to political candidates running for office at the state and/or federal level. More and more national medical specialty societies are forming political action committees to enhance their government relations activities and increase their political influence. Because of its tax status as a charitable organization, ACP cannot establish a PAC. However, ACP Services, Inc., a separate and distinct organization from ACP established in 1998 to provide advocacy, practice management, and other services for internist-members, has a different tax status that allows it to establish a PAC. Members of ACP automatically are also members of ACP Services, Inc.

ACP Services PAC is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors that researches and analyzes the voting records of congressional candidates and determines who should receive contributions from the PAC. Chaired by **Joe Stubbs, MD, FACP**, from Albany, Georgia, the board is composed of internal medicine leaders selected from various areas of the country by the ACP Services Board of Directors. The PAC board considers candidates' record of support on issues important to the profession, membership on key health committees, and leadership positions in the Congress, among other criteria, when deciding who to support.

The PAC has begun making donations to congressional candidates running in the 2005-2006 election cycle. For more information on the PAC, go to the website at www.acpservices.org/pac or contact **Laura Allendorf**, ACP Services PAC Director, at Lauraa@acponline.org.

ACP Services PAC Board of Directors: Chair: **Joe Stubbs, MD**, Albany, GA; Vice Chair: **Frederick E. Turton, MD**, Sarasota, FL; Secretary: **John F. DeCarli, DO**, Wilmington, DE; Treasurer: **Mark Friend**, EVP of ACP Services, Inc., Washington, DC; **Dawn E. Clancy, MD**, St. Johns Island, SC; **Larry Faltz, MD**, Sleepy Hollow, NY; **Paul A. Gitman, MD**, New Hyde Park, NY; **Robert A. Gluckman, MD**, Portland, OR; **Edward D. Harris, MD**, Menlo Park, CA; **Mark E. Mayer, MD**, University Heights, OH; **Richard L. Neubauer, MD**, Anchorage, AK.

OMPRO

EHR IMPLEMENTATION ASSISTANCE FROM OMPRO

For practices planning to implement an EHR in the next 12 months or needing assistance with a recent implementation

Over the next two years, OMPRO will assist primary care practices in selecting and implementing EHR systems. Under the Medicare-funded Doctor's Office Quality-Information Technology (DOQ-IT) initiative, OMPRO, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization for Oregon, will provide education and support for a group of practices that plan to implement an EHR during the next year. OMPRO will also help practices revise their workflows for greater efficiency and use clinical data to manage the practice and improve patient outcomes.

The DOQ-IT initiative targets small and medium-sized practices, which often face the greatest challenges in EHR adoption. The initiative is designed to help practices implement an EHR system that supports the delivery of excellent medical care and allows them to demonstrate their quality. Practices interested in learning more can contact Kelleen Bernard, DOQ-IT project assistant, at kbernard@ompro.org or 503-382-3953.

CHAPTER DUES

College now offers online dues payment. Watch for an ACP e-mail alert that should arrive shortly, saying that College dues are now due. Members who want to pay dues online will be directed to the ACP Online, where they will be able to click on a "Pay Membership Dues" link. Members will have to provide their member ID number and a credit card number. All College members will still receive print bills for the upcoming year and can fax credit card information for payment, or pay by phone by calling Customer Service. You can e-mail questions [custserve@acponline.org] or contact ACP Customer Services at 800-523-1546, ext. 2600 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. ET).

OMA HISTORY PROJECT

A Television History of 20th Century Medicine - Reflections of Senior Practitioners. The Oregon Medical Association (OMA) in collaboration with The Foundation for Medical Excellence, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), and the Oregon Historical Society seek funding to research, write, and produce a program to help educate Oregonians to know more of Oregon's physicians' contributions to their health and the health of their children - the evolution of medical care in Oregon in the 20th Century. The project will be stored with the OMA, Oregon Historical Society, and OHSU as an ongoing reference archive. Interviews are being conducted and will be edited into a professional program for OPB and commercial television. The project invites your suggestions for additional individuals to interview and possible developments or experiences to catch on tape. The project is guided by a Steering Committee composed of experienced physicians and historians. For more information on how you can help, please contact **Matthew Simek**, Pacific Standard Television, PO Box 220, Newberg, OR 97132. 503-538-1093 or 800-776-1610.

COUNCIL OF YOUNG PHYSICIANS

The ACP has created a new council called the Council of Young Physicians. It was originally a subcommittee, but with a need to better represent young physicians the ACP leadership recognized the importance of young physicians and created the Council. The mission of the Council of Young Physicians is to enhance professional development and quality of life for young physicians, fostering their involvement in College activities, and ensuring that their needs are being met. There are several goals that have been set out by the Council: to establish and promote the highest clinical standards and ethical ideals in the work and professional lives of young physicians, to assist young physicians with their academic and professional needs, to recognize individual excellence and distinguished contributions of young physicians to internal medicine, to develop educational programs and products of interest to young physicians, to promote the development of programs for young physicians at the chapter/state level, and to represent young College members who are members in other national organizations. The Oregon Chapter is very much interested in the needs and desires of its young physician members. If there are ways that the Chapter or the Council of Young physicians can support you as a young physicians, please let Sima Desai, Western region representative, know. We are also interested in any ideas you may have that will move forward the goals of the Council. Please contact **Sima Desai** at desais@ohsu.edu

STUDENTS

4th Year medical students from Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG), held their 2nd Annual "Pearls From the Residency Interview Trail" session in late March . 4th year students who had just finished interviewing across the country for internship, sat down with 3rd year students and shared their experiences about interviewing, what to expect, etc. Food and beverage was provided through a grant secured from ACP national office.

1st & 2nd year medical students from IMIG had a busy year with ward walks, Interest Group Fair, and their community service project. **Dr. Robert A. Gluckman**, Oregon Chapter Governor, spoke at one of the many Lunch-Time Talks. As their year comes to an end, ACP would like to thank 2nd year medical students, **Gwen Crevensten**, **Lori Tam**, and **Erin Holmes** for providing leadership for IMIG. A new Faculty Advisor will take over this coming year, **Dr. David Kagen**, staff physician at the Portland VA Medical Center. Students ended the year with a well-planned event for Cover The Uninsured Week (see separate article).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Oregon Asthma Program is sponsoring a FREE Asthma Forum for Health Systems and Clinic teams interested in making system changes to improve their quality of asthma care. The meeting will be held at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, July 21-22, 2005. To learn more about the Asthma Health Systems Forum and to Register on line, please visit: <https://programs.regweb.com/beattygroup/asthma05/> or contact **Kirsten Jensen** at 503-872-6842, kirsten.g.jensen@state.or.us.

UPCOMING DATES

November 3, 2005	Infectious Diseases Society of Oregon Meeting, Eugene, OR	April 19-21, 2007	ACP Annual Session, San Diego, CA
November 3-5, 2005	Oregon Chapter Scientific Meeting, Eugene, OR	November, 2-4, 2006	Oregon Chapter Scientific Meeting, Eugene, OR
April 6-8, 2006	ACP Annual Session, Philadelphia, PA	November 15-17, 2007	Oregon Chapter Scientific Meeting, Eugene, OR

COVER THE UNINSURED WEEK

For the third consecutive year, medical students have come together, orchestrating an on-campus event for the national Cover The Uninsured Week, May 2-6, 2005. With the help of faculty adviser, **Dr. James B. Reuler**, several planning meetings were held resulting in a very successful series of events. The highlight was the Thursday session with **State Representative Mitch Greenlick**, Ph.D., speaking on "Breaking The Policy Barriers to Health Care Access." Students from Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Dentistry were involved with the planning. OHSU News & Publications assisted with poster design and media relations. School of Nursing students displayed posters to help raise awareness of the plight of the uninsured. Food and beverages was provided by Association of Students for The Underserved (ASU) and the Department of Medicine at OHSU. Monday was a panel discussion "Strategies for Working With the Uninsured: Insight From Metro-Area Safety Net Clinic Providers"; Wednesday panel discussion was "Bridging The Gap" - A multidisciplinary panel of health care and treatment professionals from Central City Concern; Friday panel discussion was "Insuring the Future: Innovative Thinking to Providing Health Care Access to Underserved Communities." All events were well attended. In addition to the sessions, a fundraiser for The Wallace Medical Concern was held. Oregon Chapter matched funds, up to \$2,000 maximum. As of this printing, total contributions received amount to \$3,959. Kudos to students, **Tracy Osterlund, Lori Tam, Gwen Crevensten, Carolyn Phelps, Carl Leum, Marika Wolfe, Rhonda Chick, Jussica Yu, Dipti Nevrekar, and Nicole Gordon** for providing outstanding sessions devoted to raising awareness for covering the uninsured.

HOW TO REACH US:

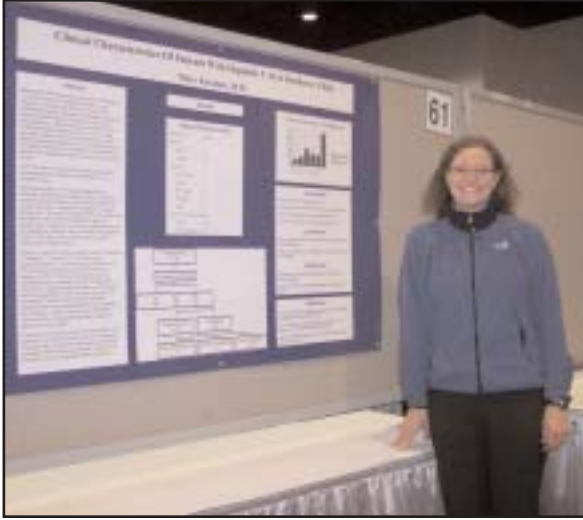
Robert A. Gluckman, MD, FACP
Providence St. Vincent Medical Center
9205 SW Barnes Road, Suite 2800
Portland, OR 97225
503-216-7451
FAX: 503-216-7488
Email: Robert.gluckman@providence.org

Mary A. Olhausen
Executive Director
2310 NE 77th Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98664
503-494-8676; FAX: 503-494-5636
Email: omary52@comcast.net

CHAPTER WEB SITE:

www.acponline.org/chapters/or

PHOTO GALLERY



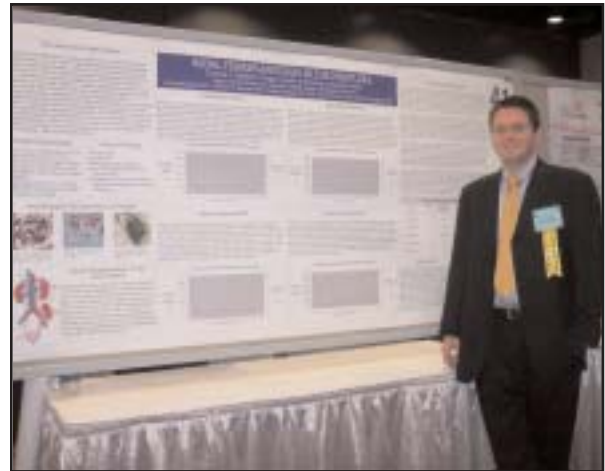
Mary Kovalak
(Annual Session)



Man Tran
(Annual Session)



Beth Smith
(Annual Session)



Charles Gabbert
(Annual Session)



Shona Hunsaker
(Annual Session)

PHOTO GALLERY



**Bob Gluckman, Governor, and
Darlene Hooley
(Leadership Day)**



**Medical Students and Mary Olhausen
(Annual Session)**



**Gwen Crevensten & Lori Tam
(Wallace Fundraiser)**



**Don Girard and daughter, Katie McCue
(Annual Session)**



**Group: Lori Tam, Carl Leum, Gwen Crevensten,
Rep Mitch Greenlick, Tracy Osterlund, Carolyn Phelps,
Marika Wolfe (Cover Uninsured Week)**