



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE | Doctors for Adults

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AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
INTERNAL MEDICINE *Doctors for Adults*

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

UPDATE FROM PCIM

New Focus on Regional Meetings

PCIM is planning a number of smaller, regional meetings in various parts of the state this year in place of the statewide Annual Meeting. These meetings offer valuable opportunities for members to meet and communicate with Governors, Councilors and the PCIM office.

Eastern Region Residents' Day Set for October 30 Abstract Competition and Jeopardy Tournament

PCIM will hold a meeting for Associates in the Eastern Region at Geisinger Medical Center in Danville on Saturday, October 30, 2004. **Mary O'Keefe**, MD, Director of Geisinger's Residency Program and Chair of the meeting, announced a Poster Competition, Oral Presentation of Abstracts, and the Regional Jeopardy Competition. The winning Jeopardy team will represent the PCIM Eastern Region at the state competition December 4 in Hershey. Residents can enjoy a change of pace, a chance to socialize and the experience of presenting and defending their work (and in many cases, satisfy ACGME requirements for scholarly activity). For additional information and applications contact Dr. O'Keefe at meokeefe@geisinger.edu or the PCIM office.

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Reading Regional Dinner A Success!

Recently **David George**, MD, and **Ben Lloyd**, MD, two of PCIM Councilors for the Eastern Region, hosted a casual dinner meeting in Reading for PCIM members and guests. Held at the aptly named "Chat A While" restaurant on May 5, the evening featured a reception and dinner. Prior to the meal, **Zubina Mawji**, MD, presented "Patient Safety in Physicians' Offices," followed by comments from **John Fitzgibbons**, MD, Governor for the Eastern Region. (Continued on page 4)

ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR COUNCIL SEATS

Wolfe Blotzer, MD, **Jaun Sidorov**, MD, **Richard Simons** MD, and **Anthony Yanni**, MD, are on the ballot for PCIM Council seats for the Eastern Region. Their bios are on page 5. The ballot is on page 6. Only Members, Fellows and Masters of ACP may vote in the Council elections. Please mail or FAX (610-543-6808) completed ballots to the PCIM state office. PCIM thanks **David George**, MD, Nominating Committee Chair, for recruiting these excellent candidates.

July 2004 Ballot Issue-Eastern Region

PCIM SERVICES

OUR ADVOCATE REPORTS

Late on July 1, the Pennsylvania House failed to pass Discharge Resolution #3 by a 93-107 vote. Failure of Discharge Resolution #3, along with the actions by the Senate Judiciary Committee some time after midnight that same morning, to table HB 2722, effectively closed the door on our hopes of getting a referendum on caps on non-economic damages in 2005. At this point, even with a positive vote early next year, the earliest such a constitutional amendment referendum could be held would be the spring of 2007.

Physicians got caught this last month in the "system" of legislative trading and promises. While both the House and the Senate passed legislation that had the same language, and a majority of both chambers supported movement toward a constitutional amendment to permit caps on non-economic damages, the bills still were blocked - by the Judiciary Committee in the Senate, and by the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee in the House. Many of those voting against the Discharge Resolution in the House, had before been strong supporters of med mal reform and caps, but could not/would not vote to usurp the authority of a Committee Chair.

These votes were a blow to our hopes, but leave much to do. The grass roots campaign by internists and other physicians DID have an impact on the politics of this issue, and helped secure many votes that otherwise would have gone against us. The combined lobbying and grassroots efforts earlier in 2004 definitely prevented a collapsing of the rates under JUA which would have placed internists in a totally untenable position financially. Other issues which remain on the table between now and the end of the year include extension of the Mcare fund abatement program, lowering of minimum policy requirements, seeking court regulation of contingency fees, and a move for joint and several liability.

As disappointing and frustrating as this situation has become, we urge all PCIM Members to thank those legislators who supported our efforts, and refrain from any castigation of elected officials who voted against us on this issue. In legislative politics, we cannot afford to burn bridges, or to offend those who might become our allies on other critical issues in the future, whether on (continued on page 3)

Governor's Letter, Eastern Region

Rather than having a state ACP meeting, it has been decided that each of the three chapters in the state will have its own regional meetings throughout the year. We had the first one in the beginning of May in Reading, Pennsylvania with Drs. David George and Ben Lloyd serving as hosts. We had a CME presentation on patient safety, a discussion by John Nikoloff on the state legislative and political scene and I gave an update on the national ACP activities. This was followed by a dinner and a town hall question and answer period. We had very good attendance at the meeting and I think it was enjoyed by all who attended. In the fall we are planning to have a meeting at the Geisinger Medical Center which will be the residents' abstract and poster presentation and the Eastern Chapter Jeopardy Contest for the residency programs. We are also in the early stages of planning another regional meeting in the Scranton area and we will send you more details as they become available. In early December we are planning to have an awards banquet in Harrisburg and the finals for the State Jeopardy Competition.

At the national meeting there is the convocation where the new Fellows are inducted. It is a very impressive ceremony which gives you a real feel of the commitment of the College to excellence in health care and concern for the issues facing physicians in practice. Some of the new Fellows commented to me after the ceremony how impressed they were and how honored they were to become Fellows in the College. As I have mentioned in the past, if there are any of you who wonder whether or not you could potentially be candidates for Fellowship, please feel free to send your CV to me. The criteria for Fellowship have been broadened in the College and I believe that there are many individuals who are appropriate candidates for Fellowship who never consider it.

In my last letter I had mentioned that the ACP has developed, in conjunction with the American Board of Internal Medicine, self evaluation process (SEP) modules that can be done in one day and fulfill part of the requirements for the recertification process. I have talked to a number of people who have attended these sessions and they have commented how excellent they have been and, in fact, stated that they learn things that they can take back to their practices and implement immediately. For those of you who do not require recertification, this is an excellent CME opportunity. It is my hope that somewhere in the region we will be able to set up one of these modules during the next year for those who are preparing for recertification as an opportunity for CME and a quality educational experience for members of the College.

As the summer progresses, I hope you remember that besides your responsibilities to your patients you have responsibilities to yourself and your family. Rest and relaxation are often sacrificed in our busy practices. I encourage you to consider ways you can maintain your own mental and physical health by activities outside of your professional life.

John P. Fitzgibbons, MD, FACP
Governor, Eastern Pennsylvania

What PCIM has done for its members 2003-2004 Activities

Programs and services to inform and educate members:

- Held regional grassroots meetings (suburban Philadelphia and Reading) to assess and discuss Access to healthcare, Reimbursement, Tort Reform, and Mcare abatement.
- Statewide Annual Meeting offering CME credits, Associates' Program, and Legislative Update.
- Initiated VoterVOICE Program, helping members to make quick contact via the web with state and federal legislators on key issues. Members sent more than 7,000 emails, faxes and letters in the past year.

Advocacy on behalf of patients and members:

- Presented testimony in Harrisburg:
 - Discuss the declining access to care in Pennsylvania
 - Oppose any collapsing of JUA rates
 - Illustrate the impact of Caps on medical liability premiums
- Lobbying efforts and meetings with legislators
 - Oppose IBC dominance in Southeastern PA, and call for antitrust legislation
 - Support constitutional amendment to allow caps
 - Support for Mcare abatement
 - Craft new Federal Medicare Act
 - Address scope of practice issues (Advance Practice Nurses, Physical Therapists)
 - Oppose collapse of JUA rates
 - Testify on impact of proposed 80-hour limit on residency programs
 - Provide suggestions to DPW concerning Medicaid FFS reimbursements
 - Urge reinstatement of funding in 2005 budget for graduate medical education

(Advocacy Report, continued)

reimbursement, scope of practice, or insurance dominance issues. PCIM has written letters to all those members who supported the caps amendment in the House and Senate, thanking them for their assistance for physicians and patients. Those letters also underscored several other critical challenges for which PCIM will continue to advocate. These include reimbursement issues; the dominance of the health care market by just a few insurance companies, notably the "Blues"; a desire to help insure access to quality care for all Pennsylvanians; and participation in efforts to reduce the skyrocketing costs of health care for all.

There were lessons learned - the volume of emails from PCIM members was a new step forward in advocacy for patients. Members of the General Assembly now are aware that internists are watching what they say and do, and conversely, internists are realizing that it's critically important to be part of the process. By maintaining that level of advocacy in these other issues, PCIM can continue to be a force in advocating for itself and your patients.

If you have not done so already, please write and thank your Representative and Senator for their recognition and support on this issue. Good will is needed to remain strong in our efforts on the many other issues outlined above.

John Nikoloff

(John Nikoloff, President of Capital Associates, is public affairs consultant and lobbyist for PCIM Services, our advocacy organization.)

Award Nominees Sought

Laureate, Pressman, Clinical Practice and Waxman Awards to be presented in December

Each year PCIM recognizes members for outstanding contributions. Nominees for these awards may be submitted by any PCIM member. Nominations should document the attributes and accomplishments of the nominee, and should be forwarded to your Governor or sent to the PCIM office by September 1, 2004.

The **Laureate Award** honors those Fellows or Masters of the College who have demonstrated an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, or research, and in service to their community, their Chapter, and the ACP.

The **Pressman Award for Distinguished Service to Internal Medicine** is given annually to that Pennsylvania internist who best demonstrates commitment to his/her patients and community as a practicing physician, as a leader within organized medicine, and for extraordinary dedication to the specialty of internal medicine. This award was first given in 1994 to Robert Pressman for his distinguished service.

The **Clinical Practice** award was created to recognize a member internist for service as a clinical practitioner to patients, community and profession. It was first given in 1997 to Richard Dixon of State College for his twenty-two years of dedication and outstanding service.

The **Waxman Voluntary Faculty Teaching Award** recognizes an effective and committed internist who distinguishes himself or herself as a member of the voluntary faculty at a teaching hospital or medical school in Pennsylvania. Named for Herbert Waxman, MD, FACP, who served as Senior Vice President for Medical Knowledge and Education for the ACP, leaders of PCIM established the following criteria: board-certification in internal medicine; active in teaching as a voluntary faculty member for 5 consecutive years or for 8 of 10 years; and nominated by an internal medicine department chairman, residency program director or medical student clerkship director at the institution where the nominee teaches. The award was first given in 2003 to Dr. Wilbur Oaks for his work as a voluntary member of the Department of Medicine at Hahnemann University Hospital.

**Congratulations to New Officers
Elections held at PCIM June Council Meeting**

501 C (6) Advocacy
President – Herbert Diamond
Vice President – John Fitzgibbons
Secretary – Charles Cutler
Treasurer – Herbert Diamond

501 C (3) Education
President – Paul Epstein
Vice President – John Fitzgibbons
Secretary – Charles Cutler
Treasurer – Herbert Diamond

(Reading Dinner – continued from page 1)

Dr. Fitzgibbons' remarks focused on the conclusions from the recent Board of Governors' decisions at the ACP Annual Session in New Orleans. PCIM's lobbyist and government affairs advisor, **John Nikoloff** provided a current assessment of the state legislative environment.

After a sit-down dinner, guests participated in an Open Forum, sharing their most important concerns with the PCIM leaders. According to **John Fitzgibbons**, MD, Governor for the Eastern Region, this discussion was very beneficial to all participants.

If you are interested in hosting a dinner in your area, please contact your Governor or the PCIM office.

*This newsletter to our 6,000 PCIM members is supplemented by email announcements. If you are not receiving these emails, **send your email address to the PCIM office at pcim.hq@verizon.net**. We share email addresses only with the ACP. Your comments are welcome any time and in any mode.*

Martin Evers, MD, our well-known State Medical Jeopardy Coordinator, announced the Pennsylvania State Jeopardy Championship will be held in Hershey on Saturday, December 4. For details, ask your Program Director or contact the PCIM office at pcim.hq@verizon.net.

Would you like to participate on a PCIM Committee?

Members of PCIM are invited to serve on any of our Committees. Generally they meet monthly by conference call. Please notify the PCIM office if interested.

Health and Public Policy – Monitor and analyze issues relating to state and federal government.

Medical Services and Clinical Practice – Suggest changes to regulations or legislation affecting physician/third party payer relations.

Membership – Develop member recruitment goals and strategies; retain and attract members.

Informatics/Website – Develop improvements to the PCIM website. (Soon to re-start.)

Western Region Meeting Announced

Herb Diamond, MD, Governor for the Western Region, announced a regional meeting will be held in Pittsburgh on the afternoon and evening of November 18, 2004, immediately following the UPMC Health System educational session on Internal Medicine. The events include a student medical knowledge mock tournament, Residents' Jeopardy Competition, Resident Poster Competition, and presentations on national and state public policy issues in health care.

Southeastern Region Residents' Day Announced Abstract Competition and Jeopardy Tournament Offered

Diane Dietzen, MD, PCIM Councilor and faculty member at Abington Memorial Hospital, and **Glenn Eiger**, MD, Director of Einstein's Residency Program, recently announced the Southeastern Regional Associates Competition to be held at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia this fall. The meeting will include an Abstract Competition and the Southeastern Regional Jeopardy Competition. The winning jeopardy team will compete at the State Competition in December.

Meet the Four Candidates for Council from the Eastern Region

J. Wolfe Blotzer, MD, FACP, has been a member of ACP-ASIM since 1978. He earned a B.A. from The Johns Hopkins University in 1968, and an MD, Cum Laude, from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in 1972. He completed residency training in Internal Medicine at the University of Maryland Hospital in 1975, served as Chief Resident in 1975-76, and then completed fellowship training in Rheumatology at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in 1978. He is ABIM certified in Internal Medicine and in Rheumatology, and has added qualification in Geriatric Medicine.

Dr. Blotzer has held faculty positions at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and is currently Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine at Penn State's College of Medicine. He serves as internal medicine program director at York Hospital, and is a member of several national and regional professional societies. He has served as a member of Eastern Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Committee, and participates in PCIM and ACP-ASIM annual meetings. He served on the Association of Program Directors in Internal Medicine Council from 2001-2004.

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Jaun Sidorov MD, FACP, is the Medical Director of Care Coordination, Geisinger Health Plan. He is also a practicing primary care internist with an office located in the Department of General Internal Medicine in the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, Pennsylvania. He received his medical degree from the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, and did his internship and residency at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in Hanover, New Hampshire. He also served as Chief Resident at Reading Hospital, Reading, Pennsylvania. He received additional training in health services research through the Faculty Development Fellowship of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and in managed care through the American Association of Health Plans certified managed care executive program.

Dr. Sidorov is currently pursuing a Masters degree in Health Services Administration from Marywood University in Scranton. He is Chair of the Board of PMSLIC, the largest physician-led malpractice insurance company in Pennsylvania. His interests include physician education, health services research, and disease management. He has numerous publications of original research, and has also presented his findings in workshops and presentations at local and national research meetings. He lives in Danville with his wife Sharon and has three teenage children, Erik, Gregory and Kristin.

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Richard Simons, MD, FACP is currently a Professor of Medicine and Acting Vice Dean for Educational Affairs at the Penn State College of Medicine. In this capacity, he oversees both undergraduate and graduate medical education programs at Penn State's College of Medicine and the Hershey Medical Center. A graduate of Penn State's Medical School, he completed his residency training at the University of Michigan hospitals in Ann Arbor. In 1984 Dr. Simons returned to Penn State as Chief Resident and an Instructor in Medicine at The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. He then completed a Geriatric Fellowship at the University of North Carolina College of Medicine in Chapel Hill. Dr. Simons' clinical and research interests include thyroid disease, wellness, iatrogenic illness, geriatrics and medical education.

Dr. Simons serves on the Step 2 Committee of the United States Licensing Exam, and he is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Board of Medical Examiners. He maintains an active General Internal Medicine practice and was named to the "Best Doctors of America" for the past four years. He has been active in PCIM and served as a councilor for the past three years.

He seeks re-election because of his commitment to the specialty of Internal Medicine and the fact that the American College of Physicians is the one organization that represents all of Internal Medicine. He believes PCIM is an effective organization that addresses the special needs of all internists including the commonwealth's malpractice crisis, third party payment issues, and the recruitment of future physicians into the specialty.

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Anthony J. Yanni, MD, FACP, has been practicing primary care internal medicine in private practice since 1995. He graduated from the University of Scranton, as well as Hahnemann University School of Medicine. He served as director of student clerkships at the Scranton-Temple Residency Program and currently continues as attending physician/preceptor with the program. He currently serves as Chief, Division of General Internal Medicine at Mercy Hospital, Scranton as well as the Director of Physician Business Development. He also is managing partner of Medical Associates of NEPA, a six-physician internal medicine group.

He seeks election to council to help increase the influence of the internist in both medical and political arenas. He believes an organized and reasonable response to the effects of reduced reimbursements, a detrimental legal environment and interferences in the doctor-patient relationship require a strong voice led by the ACP and the PCIM

BALLOT

Election for PCIM Council for Eastern Region Summer 2004

In keeping with PCIM Bylaws, only Members, Fellows, and Masters may vote.

Please vote for TWO. Check your selections and fax this ballot to *PCIM (610) 543-6806*,
or mail to:
PCIM, 1489 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, PA 19064-3958.

All Ballots must be returned by **August 28, 2004**

_____ Wolfe Blotzer, MD, FACP

_____ Jaan Sidorov, MD, FACP

_____ Richard Simons, MD, FACP

_____ Anthony J. Yanni, MD, FACP