



## Governor's Message

Since my last newsletter, our country has elected a new President and a new year is here. Our Chapter has also elected a new **ACP Governor, Darilyn V. Moyer, MD, FACP**. Darilyn is the Internal Medicine

Residency Program Director and Vice Chair for Education, Department of Medicine at Temple University Hospital and School of Medicine. She has been a member of our Chapter's governing council. She is a specialist in Infectious Diseases and has served the ACP for many years as lecturer during the ACP Maintenance of Certification Board Review Course. She will assume the role of Governor-elect in April 2009, and begins her 4-year term as Governor of our Chapter on April 24, 2010.

I thought it would be useful to reflect back on the accomplishments of our Chapter in 2008 and describe some of the opportunities and challenges that confront us in 2009. The Southeastern Pennsylvania Chapter has grown to 3,051 members. This is an increase from 2,920 one year ago. It is exciting to see the growth in our resident members (614 compared to 503 one year ago), which hopefully reflects a renewed interest among students and residents in our specialty.

Special recognition goes to **Lawrence D. Ward, MD, MPH, FACP** for establishing our Chapter's Council of Young Physicians (CYP). Larry proposed that we develop a CYP early in 2008. By the spring, he had a core group of young doctors interested in serving and promoting programs of value to their peers. **Renee Gushurst, MD** and **Jessica Otto, DO** volunteered to serve as co-chairs. **Larry, Renee, and Jessica** organized our first CYP dinner last spring when **Richard Baron, MD, FACP**, a practicing internist in Philadelphia and the current Chair of the American Board of Internal Medicine, served as our keynote speaker. Rich reviewed how ABIM certification in internal medicine confirms to us, to our patients, and to the general public that we have the knowledge, skills, and attitudes essential for excellent patient care. He also dispelled some of the myths about barriers to recertification. Our CYP leaders organized our second dinner meeting this fall which featured a discussion on leadership skills led by **Steven Weinberger, MD, FACP**. Steve is Senior Vice President for Medical Education and Publishing at the American College of Physicians. He is also Adjunct Professor of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. More than 40 young physicians attended and participated in a two-way dialog led by Steve. Exit surveys raved about the information Steve shared. Virtually everyone who attended requested additional dinners and receptions with topics on how to be a more effective leader.

The Pennsylvania Chapter CYP's next event is a panel discussion led by three successful internists and titled, "*How to Succeed as a Woman in Medicine.*" Leading this discussion will be **Jennifer R. Kogan, MD, FACP**; **Darilyn Moyer, MD, FACP** and **Barbara J. Turner, MD, MSED, MA, FACP**. This dinner meeting is being held 6:00 PM on February 25, 2009 at 2100 Spring Garden Street. Although all members are invited, I think it will be most interesting to women physicians within the last 16 years of graduation from medical school. If interested in attending, please RSVP to **John Derrickson** at [pcim.hq@verizon.net](mailto:pcim.hq@verizon.net). There is no charge to members and 2-credit hours of CME will be provided.

## In This Issue

Governor's Message .....	1
John Nikoloff Returns to PA Chapter .....	4
Congratulations to New Fellows .....	4
Lehigh Vally Hospital Med. Jeopardy Team Wins .....	5
Drexel Univ. Team Wins .....	5
Thank You to Our Regional Chairs .....	5
PA Physicians Honored .....	6
SEP/Maintenance of Certification Event.....	mail panel

This past fall, the Pennsylvania Chapter of the ACP co-sponsored six educational dinners for members to become more familiar with the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH). We are pleased that several of our members including **Ralph Schmeltz, MD, FACP, FACE** from Pittsburgh, **Eric Gertner, MD, FACP** from Allentown and **Robert Gabbay, MD** from Hershey serve on **Governor Rendell's** Chronic Care Commission. At our September council meeting, **Ron Barg, MD, FACP** presented an overview of his practice's experience as one of the participants in the Southeastern PA, PCMH pilots. He reviewed the necessary infrastructure and resources needed to support a PCMH practice. The real question will be whether the PCMH will result in improved health care outcomes with a reduction in overall health care costs. The Medicare and Pennsylvania PCMH pilots hopefully will provide an answer to this question. I will do my best to provide up-to-date information about the evolution of the PCMH.

On October 2, **ACP Governor Richard Simons, MD, FACP** (Eastern PA) and I hosted a dinner in King of Prussia to discuss the process for advancement to Fellowship in the American College of Physicians. Approximately 50 physicians attended, and we were assisted by membership staff from the national ACP office. Since that event, I have reviewed almost 20 proposals for advancement to Fellowship for the Southeastern PA Chapter and I look forward to recognizing these physicians during Convocation at Internal Medicine 2009 in Philadelphia.

I hope many of you will consider attending the annual ACP session, Internal Medicine 2009, which always is a very-well organized and high quality educational experience. **Mark your calendars now for April 23 - 25, 2009 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center in Philadelphia. The Pennsylvania Chapter will host a reception on Friday evening, April 24th. The location will be the Vietnam Palace, 222 North 11th St., immediately behind the convention center. Registrations are appreciated.**

The annual Internal Medicine Resident Poster Competition and Medical Jeopardy Tournament was held October 11, 2008 at Thomas Jefferson University. Our host was **Gregory C. Kane, MD, FACP** Residency Program Director and Vice Chair for Education at Jefferson Medical School. Greg and his chief residents conducted the medical jeopardy program. The winner was Drexel University. **Ashish Rana, MD, FACP** organized our residents' poster competition. On behalf of the ACP, special thanks to Greg and Ash for the work they did putting the Residents' Day program together.

On December 6, 2008, our Chapter's governing council met for its quarterly meeting in Hershey PA. This meeting featured **Richard Baron, MD, FACP**, Chair of the American Board of Internal Medicine who spoke about "*ABIM and the Future of Maintenance of Certification.*" The secure computerized examination for the MOC is now much more relevant to clinical practice. The board members of ABIM and ACP have worked together so that a number of ACP self-evaluation products such as the MKSAP can be used for MOC credit. Rich also spoke about the special role of the Performance Improvement component of MOC. There are a growing number of Practice Improvement Modules (PIM) available including Clinical Preventive Services, Diabetes, Preventive Cardiology, Asthma, Hypertension, Care of the Vulnerable Elderly, Hospital Care, Care of the Mechanically Ventilated Patient and Communication, just to name a few. The value of physician self-audits should not be overlooked. Let me share a quote from Eastern Pennsylvania ACP Governor Rich Simons, MD, FACP, "From a personal perspective, I have recently completed the requirements for the MOC in Geriatrics including the PIM on communication. I utilized the American Geriatrics Society's Geriatric Review Syllabus to prepare for the exam and attended several ACP sponsored SEP Modules including the one our Chapter sponsored in Hershey last spring. The Communication PIM was very enlightening for me as the patient survey results caused me to reflect on how I could improve in some areas. For example, I learned that too many of my patients perceived that I was interrupting them during office visits and that I needed to be more thorough in communicating my plan of care. I must admit that seeing this data was a humbling experience. It was also gratifying to see a marked improvement on a follow-up patient survey on these specific domains of patient communication. Most importantly, I believe my patients are benefiting as a direct result of this Practice Improvement Module."

Our Chapter will once again sponsor a full day SEP program on Update in Ambulatory and Update in Hospital Medicine on March 14, 2009 in Hershey, PA. We are pleased to have **Edward Bollard, MD, FACP** and **Marc Shalaby, MD, FACP**, two highly respected internists and residency program directors, serve as fac-

ulty for this educational program. It will be a highly interactive session utilizing the audience-response system. Please plan to attend. If you are interested, contact **John Derrickson** at [pcim.hq@verizon.net](mailto:pcim.hq@verizon.net).

Our annual Awards Dinner was held December 6, 2008 at the Hershey Country Club. This event is always a highlight for our Chapter as we recognize outstanding internists in our region. **Michael Buckley, MD, FACP**, Chair Department of Medicine and Chief Medical Officer at Pennsylvania Hospital as well as Vice Chairman Department of Medicine for the University of Pennsylvania Health System provided exceptional leadership for our Awards Committee. Three outstanding internists were recognized: **Howard H. Weitz, MD, FACP**, Director, Division of Cardiology at Thomas Jefferson University, received the ACP Laureate Award as did **Arnold R Eiser, MD, FACP**. Dr. Eiser is Vice President for Medical Education and Director of the Internal Medicine Residency program at Mercy Catholic Medical Center. **Dan Kimball, MD, FACP** received the Pressman Award for outstanding service to organized medicine, and **Roger Daniels, MD, FACP** received the ACP Clinical Practice Management Award. Despite the unexpected wintry conditions, we had a very good attendance of ACP members, award winners, and their guests.

**Dan Kimball, MD, FACP**, will continue to chair our Health and Public Policy for the Pennsylvania Chapter, and **Arnie Eiser, MD, FACP**, will remain as vice-chair.

We will miss our former lobbyist, **Ken Lawrence, Jr.** who now serves as the Senior Government Officer for Temple University. We are grateful for Ken's outstanding work on behalf of our Pennsylvania ACP Chapter over the last few years. On January 20, 2009, **John Nikoloff** accepted the position of lobbyist for our Chapter. John has more than 30 years of experience in health care, public policy, and business issues. He is widely recognized for his experience and unequalled legislative/regulatory successes for health care, environmental and energy clients. He served as our Chapter's lobbyist from 1988 through 2004, and is the lobbyist for the Primary Care Physicians' Coalition. He has represented more than 50 corporations, trade and professional associations, and has been responsible for passage or amendment of more than 100 current Pennsylvania laws.

Since our last newsletter, **Ralph Schmeltz, MD, FACP, FACE** has been elected vice-president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Ralph is a former Pennsylvania ACP Governor from the Western Region. **Dan Kimball, MD, FACP** has joined the Board of Trustees of the Pennsylvania Medical Society representing internal medicine. The current PMS President is an ACP Fellow and frequent contributor to the Chapter Governing Council, **Daniel Glunk, MD, FACP**.

As I think about the year ahead, it is clear that we face many of the same challenges that we have confronted over the past year: relatively low reimbursement rates; growing patient panels; excessive administrative burdens, and a real need to improve the quality of healthcare for our patients. Our country is now in the midst of a recession, which is also having an impact on the entire healthcare industry. Our patients, many of whom face higher out-of-pocket costs for healthcare services, are cutting back on preventive visits, elective procedures and even emergency room visits. There is a glimmer of hope for a major overhaul of the US health care system with a new administration in the White House. Our country will hopefully take some meaningful steps toward the goal of achieving universal access to care, which is a major goal of the American College of Physicians. The ACP will continue its advocacy efforts at both the national and state level. We will continue to lobby for support of the Patient Centered Medical Home, debt relief programs for medical students selecting primary care careers, and improved reimbursement payments for physician visits.

ACP Leadership Day 2009 will take place on May 19-20, 2009 at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington, D.C. This is a great opportunity for the College and our members to increase our presence and bring our issues of concern to the attention of U.S. lawmakers. If you are interested in attending please contact me or **John Derrickson**, our Executive Director.

We will continue to work at the state level on issues such as MCare abatement, scope of practice for nurse practitioners, and debt relief for primary care physicians who chose to practice in Pennsylvania after completion of residency. As a response to an editorial on the looming primary care crisis appearing in the November 21st issue of Harrisburg's Patriot News (**R. Simons "Fading Physicians"**), **Darilyn Moyer, MD, FACP** and **Rich Simons MD, FACP** met with **Representative Josh Shapiro (D-Montgomery)** at his office in December 2008 to discuss strategies to bolster support for his medical education loan forgiveness bill. Both agreed to

gather more data from both Pennsylvania medical students and residents in primary care residencies (Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics) about their perceptions of the practice environment in Pennsylvania. We will update you on further developments on this issue.

Finally, I wish you all continued personal and professional success in the coming year. If you have any specific suggestions how our chapter can better serve you, please send your comments to me at [cutler@doctorsoffice.org](mailto:cutler@doctorsoffice.org).

**Charles Cutler, MD, FACP**  
**Pennsylvania ACP Governor**  
**Southeastern Region**



## **John Nikoloff Returns to Pennsylvania Chapter As Lobbyist and Legislative Advisor**

**John Nikoloff** was selected recently to be our lobbyist and legislative advisor. Many of you may remember John. He represented our members for sixteen years, until he decided to go into industry in 2004. Now he is back in Harrisburg, and we are fortunate to retain him.

Let us know if you have any questions or suggestions for John and our Health and Public Policy Committee. **Chairs Dan Kimball** and **Arnie Eiser** welcome you to these monthly conference calls (and strategy sessions.) Let me know if you want to join us.

It must be a coincidence that the IBC/Highmark merger moved off the table, but **John Nikoloff's** timing could not be better. His contact info is: John Nikoloff & Associates, 200 N. Third Street, Suite 1100, Harrisburg, PA 17101, Phone: (717) 443-2293 - Fax: 717 233-8665 - Email: [JNikoloff@comcast.net](mailto:JNikoloff@comcast.net). Welcome back, John!

## **Congratulations to New Fellows**

The Chapter recognizes and congratulates these Pennsylvania Southeast Region physicians who were elected to Fellowship in the College since July 2008:

**Katrina Armstrong, MD, FACP, Philadelphia**  
**Lan X. Chen, MD, PhD, FACP, Philadelphia**  
**Gerard J. Criner, MD, FACP, Philadelphia**  
**Mary A. Forcica, MD, FACP, Philadelphia**  
**Simin Goral, MD, FACP, Philadelphia**  
**Eiko Klimant, MD, FACP, Philadelphia**  
**Judith A. Long, MD, FACP, Philadelphia**  
**Nathalie S. May, MD, FACP, Narberth**  
**Nina Mingioni, MD, FACP, Philadelphia**  
**Saiyed A. Mohib, MBBS, FACP, Wyncote**  
**Katherine L. Nathanson, MD, FACP, Philadelphia**  
**Sarah G. Thompson, MD, FACP, Drexel Hill**  
**Gregory Tino, MD, FACP, Havertown**  
**Mark G. Weiner, MD, FACP, Wynnewood**  
**Yu-Xiao Yang, MD, FACP, Havertown**

Fellowship is an honor achieved by those recognized by their peers for personal integrity, superior competence in internal medicine, professional accomplishment, and demonstrated scholarship.

## Lehigh Valley Hospital Medical Jeopardy Team Wins PA State Championship



Congratulations Lehigh Valley Hospital Medical Jeopardy Team! Pictured left to right are the 2008 Medical Jeopardy State Champions (L to R) **Program Director Marc Shalaby, MD**, Program Director with team members **Pearlie Chong, MD**; **Tim Coyle, DO**; **Nasir Shariff, MBBS**; and **Yehia Mishriki, MBBS**. Team coach Ashish Kabra, MBChB is on the right.

The Lehigh Valley team will represent Pennsylvania at the ACP's National Jeopardy Competition held during Internal Medicine 2009, April 23rd to 25th in Philadelphia.

## Drexel University Team Wins Southeast Region's Medical Jeopardy Championship



Congratulations to the Drexel Medical Jeopardy Team for their winning efforts. They won the Southeast tournament and represented the region in the State competition. Pictured (L to R) are team members **Joseph Vadakara**, **Petros Grivas**, **Krishna Rao** and **Vaibhav Sahni**.

### Thank You!

A very special thank you to our regional Chairs who were responsible for three successful Abstract and Medical Jeopardy competitions.

#### Eastern Region

**David George, MD, FACP**

#### Southeastern Region

**Greg Kane, MD, FACP**  
**Ashish Rana, MD, FACP**

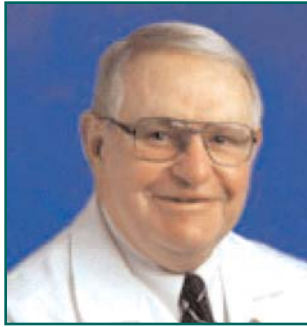
#### Western Region

**Andrew Adams, MD**  
**Andreas Achilleos, MD**

We also thank **Martin Evers, MD, FACP** for conducting our state Medical Jeopardy Championships in Hershey. He makes it a learning experience!

## Seven Pennsylvania Physicians Honored At Chapter Awards Dinner

### Laureate Award-Eastern Region



**Robert C. ABER, MD, MACP**  
*Chair of the Department of Medicine, and  
Physician-in-Chief for Adult Medical Services  
at Penn State's College of Medicine and  
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.*

### Laureate Award-Southeastern Region



**Howard H. Weitz, MD, FACP, FACC**  
*Chief of Cardiology, Professor of Medicine  
and Director of Jefferson Heart Institute,  
and Senior Vice Chair for Academic Affairs,  
Department of Medicine, Jefferson Medical  
College, Thomas Jefferson University*

### Laureate Award-Southeastern Region



**Arnold R. Eiser, MD, FACP**  
*Vice President of Medical Education, Mercy  
Health System, Associate Dean for Mercy  
Programs at Drexel University College of  
Medicine and Professor of Medicine, and  
Internal Medicine Residency Director at  
Mercy Catholic Medical Center*

### Clinical Practice Management Award Eastern Region



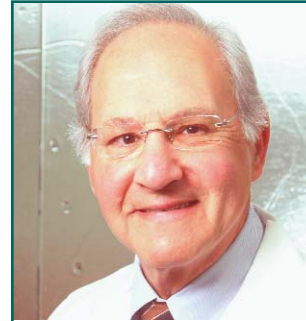
**Charles S. Sawyer, MD, FACP**  
*Director of Internal Medicine, Vice  
Chairman, Department of Medicine,  
Geisinger Wyoming Valley Hospital,  
Wilkes Barre*

**Clinical Practice Management Award  
Southeastern Region**



**Roger B. Daniels, MD, FACP**  
*Private practice in Internal Medicine  
and Associate Clinical Professor of  
Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University  
Hospital.*

**Waxman Award-Southeastern Region**



**William Lipshutz, MD, FACP**  
*Clinical Professor of Medicine at the  
University of Pennsylvania and  
Co-Chief of Gastroenterology at Pennsylvania  
Hospital*

**Special Recognition Western Region**



**Herbert S. Diamond, MD, MACP**  
*Recently retired as Chief of Medicine  
at West Pann Hospital in Pittsburgh.  
Dr. Diamond is past Governor for the  
Western Region of the Pennsylvania / ACP.*

**Pressman Award Eastern Region**



**Daniel Kimball, MD, FACP**  
*Senior Active Staff Physician in the Section of  
Internal Medicine at the Reading Hospital and  
Medical Center, Chair of the Composite Committee  
of the United States Medical Licensing Examination,  
and Host of "Health Talk" a Berks County radio  
show*

**Sign Up Today For A Single Day  
SEP / Maintenance of Certification Event**

**When: March 14, 2009**

**Where: Hershey, Pennsylvania**

**Time: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM**

The PA Chapter of the ACP again is offering a single-day Maintenance of Certification Learning Session designed to help internists to complete two American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) medical knowledge modules that can be used to earn MOC credit.

Using the popular automated audience response system, two expert internists will help the group work through two ABIM Annual Update modules, each worth 10 points, as well as seven hours of Category 1 CME.

Either email [pcim.hq@verizon.net](mailto:pcim.hq@verizon.net) or call 800-846-7746 for more information.