

Barbara J Turner, MD, MEd, MA, FACP
Chair, Awards Committee
Attn: Martha Cornog, Staff Liaison
American College of Physicians
190 N. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1572

Dear Awards Committee Chair,

It is a great pleasure to write a letter in support of John D Barker, Jr., MD (Jack), who is nominated for Mastership in the American College of Physicians. I have known him since I came to South Dakota and attended my first ACP and ASIM meeting in 1982. I have developed a great deal of respect and an enduring friendship with this man, much of which has been through shared involvement with what has become one organization.

His contributions to first the SDSIM, as Sect/Treas, and then President, as well as SD ACP Governor are commensurate with all the responsibilities that go with those positions, and then some. These are listed in the CV included here.

But what makes him stand out is his work with the Medical Students and Internal Medicine Residents, which really brought them into the fold of the SD ACP organization for the first time, involving them in our state meetings, and truly encouraging the participation of our young future internists. It was during his Governorship that we saw for the first time in SD such involvement of the students and residents.

His two chapters in medical textbooks, his nine papers or abstracts, and his interest in the toxic hepatitis and large intestine motility disorders reflect Jack's research experience. But what makes Dr. Barker stand out is that he is a wonderful teacher and mentor. I have greatly enjoyed his presentations at not only ACP/ASIM meetings, but at SD State Medical Association meetings, at district medical association meetings, and at local and regional hospital CME meetings.

Whenever you want an update or summary of the cutting edge information about gastroenterology, Jack is the one to call. He has been a guest on our On Call Television multiple times, which is to provide public service educational by broadcasting across South Dakota Public Television. Of course he is the gastroenterology expert of experts for our region.

In addition he was the Chief of Medicine at the Sioux Valley Hospital, and has been involved in many hospital committees involving nutrition, infection, credentialing, Quality Assurance, By-laws, and medical education; all of which reflects his broad interest and involvement with the medical community.

I am honored to write this letter for Jack Barker, a superb leader, teacher, mentor, for this position of Mastership in the ACP. He is truly deserving of such an award.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Holm MD
Governor-elect SD ACP
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