

# U.S. Air Force Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

Winter 2003-04

**Colonel Arnyce R. Pock, MD, FACP**  
*Governor, U.S. Air Force Chapter*



## FROM YOUR GOVERNOR.....

Happy New Year! It is with mixed emotions that I prepare this column, as this will be my final newsletter submitted as your American College of Physicians (ACP) Governor, since my term will conclude following the April 2004, ACP Annual Session. Nonetheless, I

hope to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming Society of Air Force Physicians (Chapter) meeting, 8-11 March 2004, in sunny San Antonio, Texas! Our Program Chair, Lt Col Jim Quinn, has assembled an impressive array of speakers addressing a variety of issues pertaining to Clinical Practice Guidelines. We also look forward to keynote presentations by USAF Surgeon General, Lt Gen George P. Taylor and by our USAF Medical Corps Chief, Brig Gen David Young. I'm also pleased to be able to let you know that Chair-elect of the ACP Board of Regents, Dr. Donna Sweet, has again agreed to be our official College Representative. So if you haven't already, please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

In the interim, I wanted to share a few updates from the fall meeting of the ACP Board of Governors, with each of you. First of all, I think you will all be pleased-and proud, to know that as Mr. Bob Doherty, Senior Vice President for Governmental Affairs & Public Policy points out, the American College of Physicians is indeed poised to "assume the role as the thought leader on American health policy issues!" The issue of caring for the uninsured re-emerged as a "hot topic" for the ACP Board of Governors, and while it was noted that all countries ration medical care--to some extent, ours tends to do so in a manner which often denies care to the working poor. It was noted, for example, that 65% of the uninsured have incomes 200% below the federal poverty line. While there are no simple solutions to this complex problem, it was noted that Senator Lieberman's new, "Medi-Choice" plan is based, in part, on the ACP's original 7-year plan.

Recognizing that politics can be a means to achieve desired policies, the Board of Governors (BOG) formally approved the establishment of a Political Action Committee (PAC). The PAC would function in parallel to the ACP, but in a financially independent manner, with individual members retaining the option to choose to participate or not. Although the BOG approved establishment of a PAC, as of this writing, the proposal had yet to be formally endorsed by the Board of Regents, so be sure to keep an eye on upcoming issues of the ACP Observer for additional details.

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW USAF-ACP FELLOWS!!

Congratulations to the following Chapter members who advanced to Fellowship in the American College of Physicians, during calendar year 2003:

**Col (Dr.) Jim Cox, Jr** -Silver Spring, MD  
**Lt Col (Dr.) Bill Venanzi**-Centerville, OH  
**Maj (Dr.) Brian Agan**-San Antonio, TX  
**Maj (Dr.) Todd Frieze**-D'Iberville, MS  
**Maj (Dr.) Joshua King**-Social Circle, GA  
**Maj (Dr.) Craig Kovitz**-Biloxi, MS  
**Maj (Dr.) Kip Robinson**-Springboro, OH  
**Maj (Dr.) Stephanie Schaefer**-Ocean Springs, MS  
**Maj (Dr.) Mysti Schott**-San Antonio, TX  
**Dr. Laura Donegan**-Laurel, MD  
**Dr. Anthony Everhart**-Bristol, TN  
**Dr. Robert Nee**-Gainesville, VA  
**Dr. Michael Trexler**-Kalamazoo, MI

Interested in applying for Fellowship in the ACP? If you have any questions, and/or would like to request an application package, please feel free to contact either Dr. Arnyce Pock, your AF ACP Governor, at: [Arnyce.pock@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:Arnyce.pock@pentagon.af.mil) or Dr. Kim May, your AF ACP Governor-Elect, at: [Kimberly.may@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:Kimberly.may@pentagon.af.mil) and we'll be happy to assist!

## CONGRATULATIONS, TEAM TRAVIS!

During the month of November, a team of Internal Medicine residents from Travis AFB participated in the Northern California Chapter's ACP jeopardy contest-and won! Comprising the winning team were: PG3 Capt (Dr.) Jason Lane, PG2 Capt (Dr.) Ian Riddock, and PG1 Capt (Dr.) Arasti Momeni. Their victory is particularly notable given the exceptionally stiff competition faced from teams representing Stanford, UCSF, UC Davis as well as the California Pacific Medical Center!

Issues pertaining to the Revitalization of Internal Medicine also took center stage during the recent BOG meeting. Dr. Mary Herald, Chair of the ACP Board of Regents initiated a spirited discussion by reviewing the plight of a metaphorical patient, "I.M." The patient, otherwise known as "internal medicine" was known to be suffering from an array of maladies, including fatigue, weight loss, sleep deprivation, failure to thrive, and even overt depression. The "problem list" was noted to include issues pertaining to: practice management, accountability, delivery of appropriate care, financial constraints, and education & training. Treatment options were discussed at length, but in the final analysis, a "multi-disciplinary approach", incorporating elements of new practice designs, restoring the public trust, providing appropriate care, and redesigning systems support were just a few of the critical elements needed to facilitate a full recovery. A formal summit, focusing on the revitalization effort was recently conducted, so again, watch for additional information in upcoming issues of the ACP Observer.

Recognizing that 50-80% of adults with Internet access use the web for health care purposes, the ACP Foundation recently partnered with the National Library of Medicine and launched a new website, specifically geared for patient health education. The site is located at: [www.MEDLINEplus.gov](http://www.MEDLINEplus.gov), and contains information on over 600 different topics; it also includes information on current news, research, and clinical trials. Even more, it's entirely commercial free, is available in Spanish, and is updated on a daily basis! If you haven't already, be sure to check it out! It's an "information prescription" both you and your patients will appreciate!

As you peruse this issue of your Governor's Newsletter, I'd like to draw your attention to an article prepared by Col (Dr.) Douglas Beakes, titled "A Day in the Life of a USAF Allergist." This is the first in a planned series of articles focusing on the diversity of practice provided by pursuing a career in Internal Medicine. Inside you'll also find timely updates from Col(s) Kim May, Chief Consultant for Internal Medicine, from 2Lt Brandon Bingham, Medical Student Advisory President, and from Ensign Steve Bernick, our Military Representative to the ACP Council of Student Members. In keeping with the national focus on revitalization, I'd also like to draw your attention to the newly developed TriService Internal Medicine Task Force, described by Maj (Dr.) Steve Durning. Participation, in the form of suggestions, comments, and concerns are definitely requested, and encouraged!

Finally, I would like to take a moment to let each of you know that it truly has been both a "privilege and a pleasure" to represent Air Force medicine as your ACP Governor, these past four years. I have no doubt, however, that our Chapter will be in excellent hands as Governor-Elect, Col(s) May prepares to take the helm. While there are so many who have helped make my term so very memorable, there is one individual to whom I'd like to extend a most special thanks: Mrs. JoAnn Honn. As Chapter Administrator, Mrs. Honn has not only been instrumental in keeping our Chapter running smoothly, but she's been a steadfast supporter for over 13 years!

Will close for now, but warmest good wishes to all for a happy, healthy, peaceful, and prosperous New Year, and may all our paths continue to cross well into the future. Peace and farewell to all. **A.P.**

## **SOCIETY OF AIR FORCE PHYSICIANS (SAFP)--- OFFICERS & MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS:**

### **SAFP OFFICERS: 2003-2004 TERM**

PRESIDENT: Colonel Matt Dolan, FACP

PRESIDENT-ELECT: TBD

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Colonel Steve Chambers

TREASURER: Lieutenant Colonel Kimberly P. May, FACP

HISTORIAN: Lieutenant Colonel James Quinn, FACP

ACP EDUCATION LIAISON (ACEI): Colonel Thomas M. Koroscil, FACP

MEDICAL STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL: Second Lieutenant Brandon Bingham MS-III, USUHS

### **BOARD OF GOVERNORS: 2003-2006**

#### **TERMS EXPIRING IN 2004:**

Col James Cox

Col Dan Donovan

Col Robert Gasser, FACP

Lt Col Michael Osswald

Capt Theodore Pope

Capt Kip Robinson

#### **TERMS EXPIRING IN 2005:**

Lt Col Dean Bricker, FACP

Lt Col Matt Carpenter, FACP

Lt Col Thomas Grau, FACP

Maj Barry Smith

Capt Craig Kovitz

Capt Eric Halsey (Assoc. Member)

#### **TERMS EXPIRING IN 2006:**

Col Kathy Amacher, FACP

Col Stephen Cavanah, FACP

Lt Col Mark Jeffries, FACP

Lt Col Barbara Roach

Lt Col Jill Sterling

Maj Steve Durning, FACP

Capt Matt Carroll

Capt Mark True (Assoc. Member)

## **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A U.S. AIR FORCE ALLERGIST**

Note: This is the first in a new series of articles profiling the practice of various medical specialties within the U.S. Air Force. Comments regarding this article are welcome and can be sent directly to Dr. Beakes at: **Douglas.beakes@mgmc.af.mil**. . On the other hand if there are any suggestions or ideas for future articles, please let Dr. Pock know!

What does an allergist do all day? This is the question a busy internist may ask as he/she is seeing patients with heart and pulmonary disease, arthritis, renal failure and dementia. Doesn't the allergist just see stuffy noses? What's the big deal?

Well, the allergist does treat stuffy noses (or rhinitis in more proper terms) and a lot more! Allow me to focus on rhinitis first. Rhinitis is a chronic disease that affects over 40 million Americans, is the fifth most common chronic disease, is the most prevalent chronic condition in patients under 18 years of age and results in direct and indirect costs of 8 billion dollars a year. Rhinitis impacts sleep patterns, school performance, mood, psychomotor function, cognitive development and work-er productivity. Rhinitis directly relates to one's overall well-being by influencing the ability to sleep and breathe, two critical necessities for life. The nose is anatomically and functionally contiguous with other very important structures, i.e. the sinuses, ears, and lungs. 30% of patients with rhinitis have asthma, so if the allergist gets close enough to the runny nose he/she may hear wheezing. Early diagnosis of asthma allows for better and more effective treatment and a better long-term prognosis. Moreover, since 60% of patients with asthma have rhinitis, it has been shown that by treating rhinitis effectively, that patient's asthma will also improve. The allergist generally views the upper and lower respiratory tract as a continuum and knows that fixing the stuffy nose has beneficial effects on the lungs, sinuses, ears and overall zest for life.

In addition to being medically challenging diseases, asthma and rhinitis are fun diseases, in that they are fixable and occur mostly in young people who are usually otherwise healthy; they feel significant relief once their respiratory health problems are treated effectively allowing them to return to their active and productive lives. An allergist receives a lot of accolades from his patients. At this time during the holiday season, homemade cookies and pies grace the clinic conference table frequently.

The daily grind for the allergist includes many other diseases other than the upper airway: food allergies, bee sting allergies, fire ant stings and other biting arthropod reactions, atopic eczema, immune deficiencies, urticaria, anaphylaxis, mastocytosis, angioedema, drug reactions, skin rashes, anesthetic and intra-operative drug reactions, occupational diseases, hypersensitivity pneumonitis, allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis, allergic fungal sinusitis, aspirin allergy, aspirin tetrad (asthma, nasal polyposis, ASA allergy, sinusitis), latex allergy, sinusitis, otitis, etc. Managing these diseases requires a thorough and comprehensive understanding of the whole body and actually necessitates a physical exam! (So who thought allergists only looked up noses!).

The procedures allergists do are many: skin testing (for pollens, environmental allergens, foods, drugs, flying hymenoptera, etc), drug and food testing and challenges, rhinoscopy, spirometry and desensitization to drugs, antibiotics, aspirin, and vaccines. One of the greatest satisfactions for an allergist is to prove to a patient who has severely limited his diet due to perceived allergies that he can actually tolerate the foods he really enjoys. Food challenges can, however, require a lot of time to complete, and since they can result in severe anaphylaxis they should be done in a well-trained allergist's office.

Operational military medicine has put the allergist on the forefront of military readiness with new immunization programs. The first two vaccines in a long line of new vaccines for operational preparedness are anthrax and smallpox. Implementing these programs has become a big challenge for the allergist in the military. The allergist has been instrumental in making those programs effective and allowing them stand up to public scrutiny. The allergist as an immunologist is also in charge of all immunization programs providing safe and effective vaccinations for children, travelers, active duty personnel and deployed troops. So the life of an allergist never gets boring.

**Douglas Beakes, Col, USAF, MC**  
**Chief, Allergy/Asthma/Immunology/Immunizations**  
**Malcolm-Grow Medical Center**  
**Andrews AFB, MD**

### **HAVE YOU SEEN US ON THE WEB?**

**Visit the Society of Air Force Physicians**  
**(a.k.a the Air Force Chapter of the American College of Physicians)**  
**on the web at:**

**<http://www.acponline.org/chapters/usaf/>**



## CONSULTANT'S CORNER

Comments from the Air Force Surgeon General's Chief Consultant for Internal Medicine and AF ACP Gov. Elect.

**Lt Col Kimberly P. May, MD, FACP,  
AFMSA/SGOC, Bolling AFB DC**

Greetings from Bolling Air Force Base. This is one of the busiest weeks of the year for the Graduate Medical Education (GME) Program Directors and the clinical consultants: we are in the midst of the GME Selection Board! Our job here is to match the applicants for GME with the positions that were approved last year at the Integrated Forecast Board. The Forecast Board was very generous to Internal Medicine with plenty of funded training positions for residency and our fellowships. Unfortunately, as in the civilian world, our applicant pool has dwindled, and we do not have enough applicants for all the funded positions. The results will be available by late December from the education office at Air Force Personnel Center.

At the Surgeon's office, the biggest task going on is the negotiation for the 2006-2011 personnel lay-down for the Air Force Medical Service. These are very challenging times, with the requirement to provide primary care to all active duty Air Force members and their dependents, and to provide the personnel for our operational needs. All this with a growing population, but limited to our current limits of manpower and dollars! Some definite molding of the force, and some changes in the facilities where we practice and the services we provide are on the horizon.

The clinical consultants are continuing to work with the readiness office to ensure we get the right mix of physicians to our deployed locations--lessons learned from all of our deployed folks were very carefully scrutinized at the recent meeting of all Air Force Military Treatment Facility commanders at Leesburg. It seems that a mix of providers with more primary care and less internal medicine/subs and surgery/subs would meet the needs of the troops better. A hub and spoke set-up for the more specialized providers may be a good way to work out this issue.

We are also working hard on the new Fitness Program and the instructions that will accompany it in January 2004. Obviously, the pre-test screenings need to be accomplished as much as possible in the annual PHA process. I am certain the internists of the Air Force will be called upon to help out for those members where there is a question about cardiovascular fitness for running, and for risk factor management.

Thank you so much for your hard work, and thanks to those who are in harms way, keeping our nation safe, so we can enjoy the holidays here at home. Happy New Year. Please get in touch with me if I can do anything for you. (Telephone: 202-767-4060; e-mail: [kimberly.may@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:kimberly.may@pentagon.af.mil))

## WEBSITES OF THE MONTH

Did you know that the Air Force Medical Corps now has its own website? Full access requires that you complete a brief, on-line registration form, but you can access the site at: <https://kx.afms.mil/mc>. Be sure to register and log on for the latest information--to include a picture of the new Medical Corps coin!

Interested in finding a mentor, or, in being a "virtual" mentor? If so, the ACP's OnLine Mentoring Program for Young Physicians might be of particular interest! Individuals desiring to locate a "virtual" mentor can log on to: <http://www.acponline.org/private/committees/mentor.htm>. If you are interested in becoming a "virtual mentor", please log on to: [http://www.acponline.org/college/membership/yp\\_newmentors.htm](http://www.acponline.org/college/membership/yp_newmentors.htm). Alternatively, you can contact Jean Elliott, the Young Physician Subcommittee Administrator at 1-800-523-1546, ext 2692 for more information.

Be sure to take a look at the ACP's Bioterrorism Resource Center for a variety of professional and patient education related guides pertaining to the physical and mental health consequences of bioterrorism. The Resource Center can be accessed at: <http://www.acponline.org/bioterro/index.html>. Once at the site you can order a free toolkit focusing on resources to help identify and manage some of the mental health challenges of terrorism.

## CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!

- Have you recently returned from an overseas deployment?
- Do you have any interesting photos that you'd be willing to share?
- Have you come across an intriguing Internal Medicine related case or even a thought-provoking story or poem?
- Ever want to write an editorial?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes" please consider submitting one or more items for publication in our next Governor's Newsletter! Submissions are welcome and should be sent to:

**Lt Col (Dr.) Kim May  
Governor-Elect, AF Chapter, ACP  
110 Luke Avenue, Rm 400  
Bolling AFB, DC 20032-7050  
E-Mail: [kimberly.may@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:kimberly.may@pentagon.af.mil)**

## **MEDICAL STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

News of Note from MSAC President, 2Lt Brandon Bingham, MS-III, USUHS

Hello and Season's Greetings!,

I have been looking for ways to help USAF oriented medical students come together and learn more about different Air Force hospitals and their Internal Medicine residencies. Part of this effort has been to collect the Internet addresses of all USAF student members. In fact many of you have already received this message by e-mail. If you have not, please invest just a second to e-mail me so we can put you on our list serve.

Many students are not aware of the forums and the military resources that are available for internal medicine, especially on the Internet. Unfortunately it requires energy to find some of these resources and can cause consternation if a website address is hard to remember or too long to type. If there is anything I have learned in working with other med students, it is that time, energy, and brain-power are at a premium and must be conserved! In fact you may be wondering why on earth you are taking the time to read this. The answer is investment, my good colleague. Investment.

One of our goals is to be able to send you web links directly; all you need to do is click on them. It is also our ambition to ask Air Force IM residency directors to submit messages to us that we can distribute to you on a regular basis that will give you a better idea of what their facility is like, a "hospital of the month", if you will.

I would also like to send you web links to Air Force forums. The Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences' Internal Medicine Department has an outstanding forum viewed by Air Force IM directors and students who have rotated through different Air Force hospitals that can answer questions and allow you to post comments. Here is the link::

**[http://cim.usuhs.mil/clubmed/disc2\\_frm.htm](http://cim.usuhs.mil/clubmed/disc2_frm.htm)**

Much thanks to Dr. Steven Durning, the Internal Medicine Interest Group Advisor for getting it set up. It is quick and easy to use.

Another good website is the ACPonline website that allows all students (military, civilian) to collaborate about different ideas and experiences. It is a little tougher to access because one needs the eight-digit customer (membership) number found above one's name on the mailing label from any ACP publication. Here is the link to that:

**<http://www.acponline.org/public/news/index.html?hp>**

Finally, I wanted like to share a Walter Reed Army Medical Center Medicine website that has a cornucopia of worksheets including EKG workups, Pulmonary Function Test workups, daily patient worksheets, etc, etc. These worksheets can be a terrific tool to shine during rounds. Give it a shot:

**<http://www.walterreedmedicine.com/>**

Again, please don't hesitate to take a second and e-mail me your address so I can send this information to you and make it possible to access this information with the click of a mouse. My address is: **[S5bbingham@usuhs.mil](mailto:S5bbingham@usuhs.mil)**

**Have a great holiday!**

**2Lt Brandon J. Bingham, MSC, MS-3, USAF**

## **HOW TO JOIN THE USAF MEDICAL STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL**

If you would like to join the Air Force Chapter's Medical Student Advisory Council, or if you would like more information, please feel free to contact the Council President,

**2Lt Brandon Bingham**

MS-III at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS)  
[S5bbingham@usuhs.mil](mailto:S5bbingham@usuhs.mil)

**Col Arnyce Pock**

Governor, AF Chapter  
[arnyce.pock@pentagon.af.mil](mailto:arnyce.pock@pentagon.af.mil)  
fax at: (202) 404 -7366

If your mailing and/or e-mail address has changed within the last few months, please send a short message to Dr. Pock via the address noted above. Thanks!

## NEWS FROM THE ACP COUNCIL OF STUDENT MEMBERS

An Update From: Ensign Steven J. Bernick, TriService Military Representative, ACP-CSM

The Council of Student Members (CSM) continues to work hard for ACP Medical Student members nationwide. We continue to focus on the revitalization of Internal Medicine and on reducing medical student debt, and recently participated in the ACP's Leadership Day activities, in Washington, DC, earlier this spring. The CSM is also actively participating in developing plans for the ACP Annual Session this spring, in New Orleans.

As the Military Liaison to the CSM, I have just completed an article for the Military Corner of the winter 2003 issue of *IMPACT*. In addition, I have coordinated with regional Club Med groups on a variety of activities, which included a recent workshop on how to produce and present posters at Annual Session (I'll be presenting mine at the Navy Chapter Scientific Meeting in November). I also attended the ACP Health and Public Policy Committee meeting in September, and was provided the opportunity to provide the medical student's perspective on a number of important topics. Finally, I continue to receive and respond to emails regarding a variety of issues pertinent to USUHS and HPSP students. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, comments, or suggestions at [s4sbernick@usuhs.mil](mailto:s4sbernick@usuhs.mil).

To find out more about the CSM, check out the ACP website at [http://www.acponline.org/srf/med\\_csm.htm?hp](http://www.acponline.org/srf/med_csm.htm?hp) or email me at the address below.

**ENS Steven J. Bernick**  
**Military Liaison, CSM**  
[s4sbernick@usuhs.mil](mailto:s4sbernick@usuhs.mil)

### KUDOS!

Special kudos to **Capt (Dr.) Daren Scroggie**, **Capt (Dr.) Allison Albright** and **Dr. Mark Harris** from the Wilford Hall Medical Center's Department of Rheumatology for their publication entitled "The Effect of Glucosamine-Chondroitin Supplementation on Glycosylated Hemoglobin Levels in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus" which appeared in a recent issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine* (2003; 163:1587-1590).

Congratulations to **Capt (Dr.) Carolyn Lacey**, a PG1 at David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB, California, whose paper entitled, "Teaching Cardiac Murmurs: the Power of Repetition" was not only accepted for publication in *CHEST*, but helped her win the prestigious 2003 *CHEST* Young Investigator Award! Only 20 of these national level awards are presented each year, so we are especially proud of the fact that Dr. Lacey was among those recognized as the best of the best! Dr. Lacey plans to continue her research on teaching cardiac murmurs while at DGMC, and is certainly well on her way to pursuing a successful career in the field of cardiology!

Special kudos also go to **Capt (Dr.) Michael Savona**, a PG2 Resident at David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB, California, who delivered a presentation titled "Ultraviolet Radiation and the Risks of Cutaneous Malignant Melanoma and Non-melanoma Skin Cancer: Perceptions of Danish and American Adolescents" at the European Society for Skin Cancer Prevention: Euroskin 2003, in Stockholm, Sweden, 19 September 2003!

A resounding "well done" goes to David Grant Medical Center, Travis AFB on the accomplishments of: PG1 Interns **Capt (Dr.) Andrew Hsing** and **Capt (Dr.) Molly Tilley**, PG2 Residents **Capt (Dr.) John Baron**, **Capt (Dr.) Deborah Czarski**, **Capt (Dr.) Ian Riddock** and PG3 Residents **Capt (Dr.) Jeffrey Molloy** and **Capt (Dr.) Jennifer Rippon**, each of whom had a poster presentation at the Northern California ACP meeting, 8 November 2003!

Congratulations to Travis AFB's newest Chief Resident-Select, **Capt (Dr.) Jeffrey Molloy**! A 2001 graduate of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), Dr. Molloy recently received the Travis AFB Best Resident Teacher Award! He also had an opportunity to participate in a 2-week humanitarian mission to Bolivia, earlier this year.

Kudos also go to **Dr. Stephen Derdak**, of Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, TX, who, along with **Dr. Kurt Grathwohl** of Brooke Army Medical Center, had an intriguing image of a CT scan published in the 6 Nov 03 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Their case involved a 66 year old man who presented with features consistent with a "Buffalo Chest!"

## USU SPONSORED INTERNAL MEDICINE TASK FORCE WANTS YOUR IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS!

Greetings friends and colleagues.

The Department of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University (USU) is assembling a Tri-Service task force to evaluate USU initiatives aimed at introducing students to careers in Internal Medicine. This task force will be comprised of local internal medicine program directors, clerkship directors, core educational faculty and course directors. We are also presenting two interactive Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG) workshops at national meetings where we will be sharing our IMIG initiatives and gaining valuable perspectives from our civilian colleagues.

Our specific taskforce objectives are as follows:

1. Ascertain key factors in student career decisions (i.e., what attracts or discourages students from seeking IM training) and when these decisions are made
2. Assess student motivation for IM
3. Critique prior USU initiatives to attract USU and HPSP students to IM
4. Critique current USU initiatives to attract USU and HPSP students to IM
5. Propose a list of practical recommendations, to include means to track and critique recommendations, and a timeline for implementation

We need your help. Due to the wide geographic separation of our Tri-Service internal medicine training programs, it is not feasible to have representatives from each training program on this taskforce. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate any comments, suggestions, or concerns that you have on any or all of these taskforce objectives. We would also welcome any recommendations regarding additional items for taskforce consideration. To provide us with this essential feedback, please send your comments via e-mail, to Maj. Steve Durning at: [sdurning@usuhs.mil](mailto:sdurning@usuhs.mil).

**Maj. Steve Durning**

**Lt. Col. John Poremba**

**CAPT (Ret) Robert E. Goldstein, USPHS**

### SAVE THESE DATES!

The 46th annual meeting of the Air Force Chapter of the ACP, the Society of Air Force Physicians will be held:

**8-11 March 2004, in San Antonio, Texas!**

The next ACP Annual Session will be held:

**22-24 April 2004 in New Orleans, Louisiana!**

### QUOTABLE QUOTE

“The practice of medicine is an art, not a trade; a calling, not a business; a calling in which your heart will be exercised with your head.”

**--Sir William Osler**

(from “The Quotable Osler,” edited by Mark E. Silverman MD, T. Jock Murray MD, and Charles S. Bryan, MD)

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT SOCIETY OF AIR FORCE PHYSICIANS

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Please be sure to let Mrs. Honn know if your name, rank, duty location or preferred mailing address changes or has changed during recent months!