

# Utah Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

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*Governor, Utah Chapter*

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GOVERNOR

We have just finished the annual meeting of the American College of Physicians. It was held in San Diego this year. Next year will be in New Orleans. You should plan on joining us there. This year we had a reception on the Friday evening for the Rocky Mountain Chapters of the ACP. Kelly O'Brian, who is the governor of the Colorado Chapter, was the coordinator and she was pleased with the function. We will plan on another reception for these same chapters in New Orleans.

We had several of our members honored at the annual session. Two medical students, Niloufar Tabatabaei and Matt Rondina, had posters presented at the student section. Stephen Horton and Tom Knecht were both advanced to Fellows in the College and we congratulate them on this achievement. We added two Masters to our chapter. The award as Master in the College is a singular honor. Only 39 were awarded Mastership this year and two were from the Utah Chapter. George G. Jackson and C. Gregory Elliott were accorded the honor and joint Jeffrey Anderson, William Odell and Merle Sande as the only Masters in the state. It was a deserved honor for Dr. Jackson and Dr. Elliott.

The College has served us all well this past year. As you are aware, Congress passed the Omnibus Appropriations Bill which prevented the expected 4.4% cut in Medicare reimbursement that was scheduled to take effect on March 1 and gave a 1.6% increase over the 2002 Medicare rates for a total gain of 6%. By correcting under-estimation of the number of Medicare enrollees and their use of services, nearly \$54 billion will be returned to the Medicare program to reimburse physician services over the next several years. The College was a major player in lobbying for this change and was a part of the coalition that met weekly for over a year to develop and implement the advocacy campaign to persuade Congress to make the changes. We got our money's worth from our dues.

## END-OF-LIFE CARE PATIENT EDUCATION BROCHURES

The Center for Ethics and Professionalism inaugurated its Patient Education and Caring: End-of-Life (PEACE) Series by releasing a pamphlet for doctors and three educational brochures designed to guide patients through various stages of end-of-life and palliative care. These attractively designed brochures offer clearly worded advice for patients and caregivers and are suitable for distribution in doctor's offices.

For the patient

- \* When You Have Pain at the End of Life
- \* Living with a Serious Illness
- \* Making Medical Demands for a Loved One at the End of Life

For the doctor

- \* Improving Your End of Life Care

Each patient PEACE brochure is packaged in sets of 50 and is available at no charge.

You can download the brochures from ACPOnline, or if you would like to order print brochures, please contact Caryn Abramowitz at [cabramowitz@acponline.org](mailto:cabramowitz@acponline.org).

## **ANNUAL CHAPTER MEETING**

The annual ACP Utah Chapter Scientific Session will be held at Fort Douglas on September 26, 2003. Dr. Tom Knecht is the Program Chair. This valuable meeting will last all day and will include lunch. The chapter awards will be announced during the meeting. Plan your schedule now so that you can attend. More information will be coming.

## **UMA FINANCIAL SERVICES**

It is the responsibility of F. Temple Riekhof as a vice president of UMA Financial Services (UMA FS) to educate Utah physicians about the company and the services it offers. Since UMA FS was created 8 years ago, it has become a very professional full service financial advisory company with the primary goal of assisting Utah physicians achieve their personal long-term financial goals. There are three full-time salaried (no commissions) financial advisors. Consultations and financial analyses are at no cost to any Utah Medical Association member. This is the best and most tangible benefit ever offered by the UMA to its members.

## **BOARD REVIEW AND RECERTIFICATION REVIEW TAPES AVAILABLE**

Two courses designed to help physicians prepare for the ABIM board or recertification exams will be available this summer on audio or video tape. Users of the taped courses will be able to apply for category 1 CME credit.

The Core of Internal Medicine: A Recertification Preparation Course, a 2001 Annual Session Pre-Session course, is currently available on both audio and video tape, along with a syllabus. Audio and video tapes and a syllabus of the 2001 Seattle Internal Medicine Board Review Course will be available in early September 2001.

For more information, contact CME Unlimited at 800-776-5454 or <http://www.cmeunlimited.org/acp-asim>.

## **ADVANCING FROM MEMBERSHIP TO FELLOWSHIP**

Members in the ACP-ASIM can be advanced to Fellowship. We encourage all members to consider applying for fellowship. Requirements for fellowship are:

1. Board certification
2. Member for two years and in practice for two years
3. Active medical license
4. Practice internal medicine or a subspecialty
5. Continuing scholarship and professional accomplishment

The current guidelines acknowledge a range of professional activities that indicate continuing scholarship and professional achievement. Recognizing different kinds of professional growth and continuing scholarship permits four different pathways for advancing to Fellowship.

1. Basic College requirements with an emphasis on demonstrated skill written medical communication.

2. Basic College requirements with an emphasis on significant and continuing certification activities and/or teaching and/or community activities that indicate professional achievement and scholarship such as recertification, participation in the MKSAP for score, certificates of special competence, or subspecialty certification.
3. Basic College requirements with an emphasis on active membership in the College for at least 10 years, with substantial participation in College programs and activities as well as demonstration of other professional accomplishments.
4. Basic College requirements with an emphasis on distinguished professional activity in teaching, patient care, or professional service over many years.

Would you like to receive information regarding advancement to Fellowship in the College? Please send your mailing address to Katie Reichenberger at **Katie.Reichenberger@hsc.utah.edu**, or call **801-581-4333**, and you will receive an information/application packet.

## WHAT CAN THE PRACTICE MANAGEMENT CENTER DO FOR YOU?

The Practice Management Center (PCM), located in the Washington office, is a valuable benefit of College membership. It supplies free assistance to members on how to handle the business issues associated with running or working in a practice. Internists are provided with timely information to succeed in today's health care environment through three different means.

First, PMC offers over forty practical written guides on various topics. These publications can be downloaded via PMC' web page, or ordered through the College's customer service desk. The first copy of each publication is complimentary as a part of your College membership. These guides cover everything from starting a practice to negotiating an employment contract and complying with Medicare regulations. Laminated pocket reference sheets on coding, documentation, and preventive services are some of the most popular items.

Second, PMC's management and regulatory experts respond to individual member inquiries via e-mail and telephone calls within 24 to 48 hours. If PMC experts cannot answer your question, then they may research the question, refer to another source, or, as needed, offer a list of qualified consultants. It is important to note that Center specialists do not address clinical questions nor do they provide legal advice.

And finally, PMC offers management tools for members to use in assessing and improving their practices - "Check Ups." The Patient Satisfaction Check Up (PSCU) provides a survey instrument developed by internists for internists. After you survey your patients, PMC supplies customized comparison patient satisfaction assessment reports. The Office Laboratory Check Up (OLCU) is a spreadsheet program enabling you to evaluate and optimize the profitability of your office laboratory. The Practice Management Check Up (PMCU) is a benchmarking tool for conducting an overall assessment of the practice and identifying opportunities for improvement. Each of the three "Check Up" tools comes with a guide to help improve the practice and can be downloaded free of charge from the PMC web page.

Under the umbrella of the Practice Management Center, members receive one-stop service from two organizations. PMC's own professional staff has years of experience managing medical practices and this expertise is augmented by that of the Managed Care and Regulatory Affairs Department, whose staff write guides and respond to inquiries in their respective fields. This expertise combination enables PMC to offer a remarkable range and depth of knowledge to assist College members.

In addition, PMC supports the Young Physicians Subcommittee (YPS) in developing products and educational programs of interest to young physicians. Together, YPS and PMC have begun to assist chapters interested in developing their own practice management programming and young physician committees.

What is the best way to access the Center's services and resources? Go to the PMC web page where everything is right at your fingertips - downloads, e-mail questions, links, tools, and a host of other resources. The PMC web page offers members access to the various guides for the topic of concern to them. If still more specific information is needed, the next step is to e-mail a question directly from the web page to the PMC specialist in that field.

With all of its services instantly available on the web page, PMC represents a rich and valuable resource for College members. Visit [www.acponline.org/pmc](http://www.acponline.org/pmc) to explore it yourself. For more information, please contact Margo Williams at **mwilliams@mail.acponline.org**.

## **SUPPORTING YOUR CHAPTER THROUGH CHAPTER DUES**

Chapter dues are the backbone of local activities and vital to the success of our chapter. While we are provided some financial support from the national office, the chapter dues collected provide the majority of financial support for local activities. Educational meetings, mentoring programs for medical students, local Associates' research competitions, advocacy with state legislators, and participation by chapter leaders in Leadership Day on Capitol Hill are just some of the activities supported by your chapter dues. Many of these activities are orchestrated by unpaid volunteer leaders in our chapter. However, the increase in activities at the local level has created the need for additional staff support to help manage the day-to-day operation of the chapter. Your chapter dues help support the cost of local staff and provide funding for new and existing chapter initiatives. When you receive your dues notice, please remember to include the chapter dues in your payment. You will be contributing to the success of many grass roots activities happening right here at home.