

## Upcoming Events

Associates' Day: January 17, 2009  
(Charlottesville)

Virginia Scientific Session: March  
27-28, 2009 (McLean)

Internal Medicine 2009: April 23-25,  
2009 (Philadelphia)

Leadership Day: May 19-20, 2009  
(Washington, DC)

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## Governor's Note

At the Council meeting in July, we discussed ways to reduce Chapter expenses. We will now provide the syllabus for our annual Scientific Meeting on disk rather than as a hard copy. This approach will dramatically reduce the cost of the meeting and is considerably friendlier to the environment. However, hard copies of the syllabus will be provided to those specifically requesting them. Please note the request check box on the registration form for the conference.

The Council approved sending contributions of \$500 to the Medical Society of Virginia Foundation and the American College of Physicians Foundation. We will continue to support the Internal Medicine Interest Groups at each of our schools of medicine with \$500.

Advancement to Fellowship is an honor. The Council carefully considers each application, and discussion is detailed and thoughtful. The entire Governor's Council serves as a Credentials Committee of the Whole and renders a decision, which is conveyed by the Governor to the Credentials Subcommittee of the Membership Committee. Because the Council meets only three times each year (January, March, and July/August), there is sometimes a delay in reviewing applications that have been screened and forwarded by the Credentials Subcommittee at the College. I do apologize to those members for whom the application process has been prolonged. In return, I promise that Fellowship in the Virginia Chapter will remain true recognition of service to the profession and the College.

Have a great holiday season.

## Awards to Chapter Members

Two members of the Virginia Chapter will receive special recognition at Internal Medicine 2009. **Jack M Gwaltney, Jr., MD, FACP** of Charlottesville will receive the Alvan R. Feinstein Memorial Award for Major Contribution to Patient Care in the Field of Clinical Epidemiology for his leadership in furthering our understanding of the spread of respiratory viruses, primarily of the common cold. **Jeffrey P. Harris, MD, FACP** of Millwood has been awarded a Mastership in the College for his outstanding contributions to the field of Internal Medicine and to the ACP. Well done, gentlemen!

## Call For Nominations

Nominations for the Virginia ACP Governor's Advisory Council are now being accepted. The Council plays a vital role in representing member physicians, generates ideas and plans for Chapter activities, and has a significant effect on addressing health policy issues at the local and national levels. Serving on the Council is a wonderful way to become involved in the state Chapter's activities as well as potentially to serve on important national committees of the College (see below).

The Council is made up of both appointed and elected members who have three-year terms. Each year, four regional representatives are elected by the members of their own regions.

Region	First 3 digits of Zip Code
1 - No. Virginia	201, 220, 221, 222, 223
2 - Richmond area	224, 225, 230, 231, 232
3 - Tidewater, Lynchburg, Danville	233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 245
4 - Charlottesville, Roanoke, Winchester	226, 227, 228, 229, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 246

All ACP members are eligible to run or to nominate another member to run. Self-nominations are appropriate and are highly encouraged. The nomination deadline is January 31, 2009. Elections will occur in spring, 2009, and newly-elected Council members will take office at the summer Council meeting. Please send nominations including a C.V. and a one-paragraph personal biosketch to **Dr. Ranjodh Gill** (11705 Aprilbud Dr, Richmond VA 23233) or by e-mail to [rgill@mcvh-vcu.edu](mailto:rgill@mcvh-vcu.edu).

## Associates' Day, January 17, 2009

Our Associates' Day program is held annually as a separate meeting and provides an opportunity for Associate Members of the Chapter to present the results of their academic activities. Associates are residents in the five Internal Medicine training programs throughout Virginia: Carilion, Eastern Virginia Medical School, Naval Medical Center at Portsmouth, University of Virginia, and Virginia Commonwealth University/Medical College of Virginia. The day includes competitive presentations of selected abstracts, a Medical Jeopardy competition, and a keynote speaker. In addition, the meeting provides an opportunity for Associates to meet and interact with ACP Members and Fellows from throughout the state. The location of Associates' Day rotates among the sites of the Internal Medicine training programs, and Chief Residents at that site play a critical role in designing and implementing the program for the year.

Abstracts may be the results of research (usually about 25%) or may be clinical vignettes. They are submitted electronically to the Chapter's Executive Director. Subsets of the abstracts are then sent electronically to volunteer panels of reviewers, both academic and practicing members of the College. We have found that having interested physicians serve as reviewers of abstracts is an excellent way to get newer members involved in the activities of the Chapter. Each abstract is evaluated by at least three independent reviewers, and the 40 abstracts receiving the top scores are selected for oral presentation.

Presentations take place in 4-5 separate rooms, and a panel of at least three Members, Fellows, or Masters of the College judges each. Serving as a judge for the presentations is great fun and also an excellent way to participate in Chapter activities. Winners in the Research and Clinical Vignette categories are selected separately. The top two winners are sent to the national ACP competition. The next top six are invited to give oral presentations at the Virginia Scientific Meeting, which takes place several months later, and the next eight are invited to present posters at that meeting. The top three oral and top three poster presentations at the state meeting receive cash prizes. The titles of the 40 selected abstracts appear in the Governor's Newsletter.

As of last year, all of the 40 selected abstracts were published in the *University of Virginia Journal of Medicine*, which is now entering its third year of publication. **Gerald R. Donowitz, MD, FACP**, Internal Medicine Program Director at the University of Virginia and member of the Governor's Council serves as Editor-in-Chief. Current Chief Residents at UVA serve as managing editors, and the editorial board includes faculty at the school. The *UVAJM* was developed with the strong support and encouragement of **Robert M. Strieter, MD, FACP**, Chair of Medicine at the University of Virginia and member of the Governor's Council. Associates are thereby given a formal citation for their CVs, and the electronic version on the website reaches a wide audience. We hope that such publication will encourage an interest in an academic approach to Internal Medicine, whether residents seek careers in practice or with full-time academic appointments. Such experience might also encourage trainees to become mentors for Associates and young colleagues. Last year's abstracts may be viewed at <https://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/jom/>. Next year's event will be held in Norfolk.

If you are interested in serving as a judge for this year's Associates' Day competition or as a reviewer or judge to future meetings, please contact **Ranjodh Gill, MD, FACP**, Director of Associates' Day and member of the Governor's Council at [rgill@mcvh-vcu.edu](mailto:rgill@mcvh-vcu.edu).

## Advocacy Activities

### From William Fox, MD, FACP, Chair HPPC Committee

HR 6331 became law on July 15, after both houses of congress voted to override the presidential veto. With this law, the scheduled 10.6% cut in Medicare payments was replaced with a stable fee schedule for the balance of this year and a 1.1% increase in 2009. This law has a number of other provisions that will benefit internists, including:

- Elimination of Work Neutrality Adjuster. This changes the way CMS determines budget neutrality and is expected to result in an additional 1% increase to internists
- The PQRI will remain funded, and incentives will increase from 1.5% of total Medicare billings to 2%
- A 2% incentive for e-prescribing beginning in 2009 (although in 2012 there will be a penalty for NOT e-prescribing)
- Mental health parity for copayments
- Improved coverage for preventive services

Internists taking advantage of all of these components could see a payment increase of 6.1% in 2009. All Virginia representatives voted in favor of the legislation, except **Eric Cantor (R)**. **Senator Webb (D)** supported the legislation from the beginning. **Senator Warner (R)** initially opposed the legislation, but ultimately, and possibly after many phone calls from physicians and patients to his office, he reversed his position and voted in favor of passage. This bill highlights the importance of the Key Contact Program. The bill might not have passed if not for the large volume of phone calls and emails received by the legislators from concerned physicians and their patients. The Key Contact Program is the method the ACP uses to communicate quickly with physicians when vital legislation is up for a vote. It provides a user-friendly method for physicians to express their concerns to legislators. It works. Currently, fewer than 10% of all members of the Virginia ACP are key contacts. If you are not a key contact, please join [see below] so we can be an even more effective force in the future.

Leadership Day: The seventeenth annual **Leadership Day** on Capitol Hill 2009 will be held on May 19-20 at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, SW, Washington, D.C. This is an opportunity for our members to build on the momentum of Leadership Day 2008, during which we had record-setting attendance from all 50 states, DC and Puerto Rico. This event enables the College to increase its presence on Capitol Hill and bring our issues to U.S. lawmakers. This two-day event provides ACP members with advocacy and media training; an update on the College's priority legislative issues; briefings from Members of Congress, White House officials, and key Capitol Hill staffers; and an opportunity to meet with your own elected officials. A special briefing for Associate and medical students is also provided. Currently, our state ACP chapter can sponsor one member from each district to attend. If you are interested, please send me an email at [wefox@hotmail.com](mailto:wefox@hotmail.com)

## Key Contact Program

To enroll as a key contact, ACP members are not required to have existing relationships with their members of Congress. ACP gives key contacts the tools necessary to develop and maintain relationships with their members of Congress. The program is open to all membership categories. Enroll now at [www.acponline.org/advocacy/key\\_contacts/](http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/key_contacts/). As key issues approach the decision-making stage on Capitol Hill, the College e-mails or faxes legislative alerts to key contacts. Legislative alerts include all of the necessary information (including sample messages that can be easily personalized) to send informative contacts with their members of Congress. ACP staff is available to provide support and answer legislative questions. Key contacts simply log into the Legislative Action Center (using your e-mail address and "ACP" as the password, unless you've changed it) to send the legislative alert to their members of Congress. If you are not a key contact, you will be required to register. Key contacts receive a periodic newsletter, *The Capitol Key*, updating them on important legislative issues. For more information on the ACP Key Contact Program, please contact **Jolynne Flores**, Supervisor, Grassroots Advocacy & PAC, at [jflores@acponline.org](mailto:jflores@acponline.org), 1-800-338-2746, ext. 4532 or 202-261-4532.

## National Committee Membership

The Chapter has been very well represented on national ACP committees. For the 2008-2009 year, the following Virginians are serving on these bodies. Please communicate directly with them if you have issues that should be brought before a committee.

- President ACP: **Jeffrey P. Harris**, Millwood VA
- Education Committee
  - Postgraduate/Chapter Education Subcommittee: **Carmella A. Cole**, Falls Church, VA
  - Clinical Efficacy Assessment Subcommittee: **Paul A. Dallas**, Roanoke, VA
  - Scientific Program Subcommittee, Internal Medicine 2009: **Wendy S. Klein**, Richmond, VA
  - Scientific Program Subcommittee, Internal Medicine 2010: **John N. Clore**, Richmond, VA
- Finance Committee: **Jeffrey P. Harris**, Millwood VA
- Membership Committee: **Michael F. Rein**, Charlottesville, VA (Vice Chair)
  - Credentials Subcommittee: **CAPT. Jeffrey B. Cole**, Chesapeake, VA
  - Volunteerism Subcommittee: **Mohan M. Nadkarni**, Charlottesville, VA
  - Publication Committee: **Michael F. Rein**, Charlottesville, VA
  - Strategic Planning Committee: **Jeffrey P. Harris**, Millwood VA

## Of Particular Interest to Young Physicians

ACP members are eligible to receive a free copy of the *Pocket Guide to Selected Preventive Services for Adults* and the *Young Physician Practice Management Survival Handbook*, which was developed by the 2007-2008 Council of Young Physicians. The Pocket Guide is a proactive way to encourage preventive care in your daily practice, and the Survival Handbook offers helpful tips and resources for starting your own practice. Electronic copies of the *Pocket Guide to Selected Preventive Services for Adults* [PDF] and the *Young Physician Practice Management Survival Handbook* [PDF] are available on ACP Online. You will need your ACP username and password to access these sites. If you do not know this information, please visit <http://www.acponline.org/register>.

## LEAD Program

The College has launched a new leadership development program that will unroll over the next three years. The Leadership Enhancement and Development (LEAD) program is designed to help young Fellows in particular cultivate leadership skills they can use in any setting. An overview of the whole program can be found at [www.acponline.org/lead](http://www.acponline.org/lead). As part of the program, ACP offered a CME pre-course during Internal Medicine 2008 entitled Essential Competencies

for the Emerging Leader. Several other courses focused on leadership skills such as negotiating, managing change, making presentations, and serving in the government. A second component, online mentoring, is also underway. Experienced leaders are available in the LEAD discussion group to explore a variety of leadership challenges with members. To join the discussion now, visit [www.acponline.org/education\\_recertification/resources/leadership\\_development/challenges/](http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/resources/leadership_development/challenges/). Chapter involvement is another integral part of the LEAD program. Find out how you can take an active role in local chapter activities by contacting your Governor ([mfr6t@virginia.edu](mailto:mfr6t@virginia.edu)) to discuss the Five Pathways to Leadership Development at the Chapter Level. Learn more about the Pathways at [www.acponline.org/education\\_recertification/resources/leadership\\_development/chapter\\_activities/](http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/resources/leadership_development/chapter_activities/).

A Certificate of Completion can be awarded to any member who has completed at least five out of the following leadership development activities within a three-year time frame:

- Attained or maintained active Fellowship status within the College
- Attended at least seven hours of CME focused on leadership competencies. At least three of these must be sponsored by the ACP at the local or the national level
- Participated in at least one pathway to leadership at the chapter level
- Served on a national workgroup, committee, or council of the ACP
- Served as a mentor/facilitator in at least one ACP sponsored mentoring event or program
- Participated in Leadership Day on Capitol Hill or similar state legislative activity
- Demonstrated leadership competencies in the community setting. Examples include chairing a hospital committee or council; serving on a steering committee for a church/synagogue/temple, serving on a Board of Directors for local youth, sports, or arts group.

**Certificates will be awarded at the College's Internal Medicine Meeting every year. To be eligible, please:**

- Start tracking your leadership development activity on the application.
- Be sure to register for every IM leadership course you attend, so we can verify your participation.
- Note dates of all activities. Criteria must be met within three years of the date of the first reported activity.
- Submit your completed application two months prior to the beginning of the Internal Medicine meeting at which you expect to receive your certificate. LEAD deadlines will be posted every year.

If you are planning to attend IM 2009 in Philadelphia this year, consider going early so you can attend one of the new leadership development pre-courses offered on Wednesday, April 22. An advanced course is also available: "*Leadership Competencies: Beyond the Basics*." Again using plenary presentations and small group interaction, the faculty will focus on skills needed to create a shared vision, think strategically, empower others, and manage change. More information and registration are available at this website. You can also register by phone at 1 800 523 1546, ext. 2600. Member cost is \$209 before 2/13/09 and \$289 after that.

Other leadership topics covered during IM Week include: Leadership and Career Advancement for International Medical Graduates; Teaching Residents and Fellows to Teach; New Ideas for Reforming the US Health Care System; Communicating between Generations; Effective Negotiation Skills; Resolving Competing Imperatives; Presentation Skills for Physicians; Teaching, Learning, and Assessing Medical Professionalism; How to Run a Meeting, Manage Time, and Develop Consensus. Questions can be sent to [LEAD@acponline.org](mailto:LEAD@acponline.org). Already involved in LEAD activities (Please accept my apologies if I omitted you)

Eugene C. Grochowski, MD, FACP  
April S. Fitzgerald, MD  
Paul F. Florentino, MD, FACP  
Jesus A. Henson, MD, FACP  
Kenneth Musana MD, FACP

## Electronic Health Records, Second Edition

*Electronic Health Records, Second Edition* is a leading resource in evaluating, purchasing, implementing, and using an electronic health records system (EHR), this fully revised new edition continues to help even the most technology-challenged reader master key concepts. It is a user-friendly guide, presenting information in a clear and precise manner and providing readers with a solid understanding of what electronic health records are and do. Features include

- A new section on implementation planning and new chapters on decision support, informatics standards, and project management
- Information on evaluating and selecting systems
- Clinical decision support
- Numerous tables, diagrams, and figures to make important information easy to understand

Divided into 2 major sections, the first section serves as a tutorial on the technological, business, and legal aspects of EHRs. Using a hands-on workbook approach, the second section focuses on the implementation and management of the EHR system. Also included is the latest information on resources, Web sites, services, and vendors. Written by authors with extensive EHR implementation experience, *Electronic Health Records, Second Edition* is the practical, step-by-step guide to understanding the many different aspects of an EHR system. To view the table of contents, a sample chapter, or further ordering information please visit: [www.acponline.org/ehr](http://www.acponline.org/ehr).