



From the Governor

As 2009 opens, colored by the substantial economic legacy of 2008 and abundant uncertainties about the future, no one can question the fact that healthcare will have a prominent position in the minds and actions of our legislators, political advocacy groups, business community, and citizens/patients. Indeed, without substantial attention to healthcare

reform it will be difficult to revive our economy, improve consumer confidence, or restore large and small business financial stability.

On the national front, we have elected a president who is committed to making healthcare reform a key component of his political agenda over the next two years. Indeed, all indicators are that addressing the healthcare information technology infrastructure may be a major part of the national economic stimulus legislation his administration actively sponsors. **Senator Ted Kennedy**, Chair of the Senate HELP Committee, on which Vermont's **Bernie Sanders** has a seat, has renewed energy to finally accomplish the reform in healthcare he has been seeking throughout his many decades of service. Recently **Senator Max Baucus** (D-Montana), Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, got the ball rolling with the publication of a white paper that seeks to provide increased access to affordable health insurance for all citizens. **Jeff Harris, MD, FACP**, President of our organization, noted the strong points of this plan in a letter to **Senator Baucus**: "*We are pleased that you share a number of goals of the highest priority for ACP, among them access to affordable health insurance coverage for all that would include tax credits and subsidies for low-income persons, purchasing pools based on the model of the federal employees health benefit plan, insurance market reforms and requirements that large employers offer coverage or pay into the system.*" He also noted the plan's attention to support of primary care, senior's access to primary care via improved Medicare payments for services and further expansion of the patient-centered medical home, and replacement of the current system of calculating updates to the Medicare Physician Fee schedule with a more viable system.

ACP stands solidly behind a commitment to improving funding for primary care services based upon solid research demonstrating lower overall Medicare utilization and fewer hospital admissions. Locally, Vermont has recognized this fact for some time. Vermont has strived to be a model for other states in the delivery of high-quality healthcare to all of its citizens. Unfortunately there still remain a small but significant portion of the population who are truly uninsured, and in these uncertain times I

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fear (and my patient population supports this fear) an increasing number of under-insured Vermonters who may delay or altogether avoid utilizing solid preventive medicine services and approaches. The coming months will be critical ones as we see how adverse financial indicators in the state modify plans for funding and truly reaching the potential of state programs such as Catamount Health.

All of the above suggest that ACP Leadership Day 2009 will be especially informative, important and energizing. Leadership Day will occur May 19-20. Members who have an interest in attending should contact me. For associate and student members, there are competitive grants available to help support participation in Leadership Day, and you should likewise contact me for help in procuring funding from these graciously provided grant programs.

I would like to thank all of you who participated in our fall meeting which was held at Trapp Family Lodge on October 24, 2008. The meeting was well attended by members, associates and students who all appreciated the updates provided in Infectious Disease (community-acquired MRSA and complicated C difficile infections), ophthalmology, and high-impact papers from 2008. In an especially innovative session, attendees learned how to improve effectiveness, outcomes and efficiency in the office setting in three concise presentations: **Virginia Hood** - *Getting Blood Pressure to Goal*, **Frank Landry** - *Practice Perfect - Improving Your Everyday Efficiency*, and **Richard Pinckney** - *Giving Advice in a Motivational Way*. **Richard L. Neubauer, MD, FACP**, a member of the Board of Regents from Alaska, served as our ACP representative and guest and provided an informative session focusing on fostering excellence in internal medicine, the patient-centered medical home, and the ACP's efforts in ethics and professionalism. Not to mention providing further insights into timely Alaskan politics! His comments regarding the meeting: "A one day meeting that really worked well. Excellent talks, obvious camaraderie, and spirited well-considered discussion of issues." **Dr. Neubauer** also presented our Chapter with another Chapter Excellence award. We were also further edified by two interesting and innovative workshop presentations. The first was **Dr. Todd Mandell**, the Medical Director of the State's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division who provided a provocative discussion on managing patients requesting opiates, and the second by **Suzy Wizowaty** from the Vermont Humanities Council who facilitated an introspective discussion on the humanities at the heart of healthcare via an exploration of short literary pieces.

Our associates were well represented at the meeting and continue to excel in the quality of their research and clinical vignette presentations. Two of our residents will represent us in Philadelphia at Internal Medicine 2009:

Mia Hockett for her research presentation - *The Relationship Between Alcohol Consumption and Glycemic Control in Adult Patients with Diabetes in Northern New England*

Nathaniel Price for his clinical vignette presentation - *Thyrotoxic Periodic Paralysis Precipitated by Carbohydrate Load*.

Other residents who presented at the meeting were:

Enkhtuyaa Mueller - *Value of a Computerized Referral at Hospital Discharge on Cardiac Rehabilitation Participation Rates*

Maruf Haider - *Fulminant Babesiosis and Red Cell Exchange Transfusion*

Alison Jaquith - *A Case of Reversible Chronic Hypocalcemic Cardiomyopathy*

Natalie Sinclair - *Fondaparinux Failure in a Pregnant Woman with a Prosthetic Mitral Valve*

Philip Skidd - *Post Apheresis Intracranial Hemorrhage in a Patient Primed with G-CSF for Allogeneic Stem Cell Donation*

Nathaniel Thompson - *An Uncommon Complication of Colonoscopy*

Nicholas Lim - *Pseudogout in an HIV Positive Patient*

We were also fortunate to have three student presentations:

Wayne Moss - *Comparison of CT v. MRI in Detection of Brain Metastases from Non-small Cell Lung Cancer*

Richard Zinke - *Humate P for Treatment of Persistent, Life-Threatening Epistaxis in a Patient with*

Glanzmann's Thrombasthenia: a Case Report

David Curley - *Characterizing the Roles of Braf and Pten in Novel Mouse Models of Melanoma* (student winner).

Special thanks as always to the coordinator of our student and associate research presentation session, **Chris Holmes, MD, FACP**. I would also like to thank the judges for the associates and medical student competition: **Tim Tanner, MD, FACP**; **Keith Michl, MD, FACP**; **Frank Landry, MD, FACP**; **Mimi Reardon, MD, MACP**; and **Harvey Reich, MD, FACP**.

Student Internal Medicine Interest Group

Our internal medicine interest group continues to thrive with a record number of student members. This past summer and fall students heard from both generalists and specialists during two panel discussions on careers in internal medicine. Upcoming events will include a discussion of summer opportunities in research, clinical preceptorships, and international and national educational experiences during a January lunch presentation. In February I will provide a session that is co-facilitated by a Chief Medical resident and Associate member on presentation skills that will be helpful in the Student's Doctoring in Vermont activities as well as upon entry into their clerkships. This year, for the first time, we anticipate having members of each subspecialty discipline engage in panel discussions with students regarding clinical and research aspects of their specialty area.

College Targets Emerging Leaders at IM 2009

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. "*Essential Competencies for the Emerging Leader*" was offered for the first time last year, and was very successful. It combined plenary presentations with small group discussions to help develop competencies in self-assessment, effective communication, team building, and negotiation. To find out more, or to register, visit this website.

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.

All of these courses count towards earning a LEAD (Leadership Enhancement and Development) Certificate. For more information on this award go to this website.

**Internal Medicine 2009
April 23-25, 2009
Philadelphia, PA**

Participate in ACP's Recruit-a-Colleague Program!

The American College of Physicians and the Vermont Chapter encourages its members to help strengthen the voice of internal medicine by recommending ACP Membership to colleagues. By becoming ACP Members, your colleagues will enrich their clinical knowledge and skills and have access to the wide variety of professional assistance that you enjoy as part of your membership.

To thank you for your dedication to our organization, ACP offers dues incentives to members that recruit new members through the Recruit-a-Colleague program. In addition, successful recruiters have the chance to win a trip to Internal Medicine 2010 in Toronto that includes registration, airfare (up to \$500), and hotel accommodations.

To learn more about the Recruit-a-Colleague program, please visit www.acponline.org/recruitacolleague.

An Opportunity to Publish Your Most Memorable Moment In Teaching Or Learning

Recall that unforgettable moment when, as a teacher or as a learner, in medical school, residency or fellowship, you suddenly appreciated something about teaching or learning that you've never forgotten. These truly are Memorable Moments.

As part of a major series of books on teaching, which the College will launch in 2010, the series editor, Jack Ende, MD, will collect these 'moments' and include as many of them as possible in Book One of the series. These vignettes should be brief, no more than 1,000 words in length. Some will be serious; some will be funny. All should be meaningful. Taken together, these stories will comprise a tapestry of teaching and learning in internal medicine.

All submissions will be reviewed by the Book Series editor. Those selected for publication and commentary will include the author's identity, although anonymous submissions will be considered as well. Use this link to review a sample and submit your most memorable moment.

Submissions must be received before February 1, 2009.

Electronic Health Records, Second Edition

Jerome H. Carter, MD, FACP

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. Electronic Health Records, Second Edition 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:

- " 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

Photo Gallery 2008 Annual Chapter Meeting



Frank Landry, MD, FACP presenting his talk on Practice Perfect: Improving Your Everyday Efficiency



Governor Mark A. Levine, MD, FACP receiving the Chapter Excellence Award from ACP Regent College Representative Richard L. Neubauer, MD, FACP



Mia Hockett, MD, Associate, presenting her award-winning research presentation



Nathaniel Price, MBChB, Associate, standing next to his award-winning clinical vignette poster presentation

Visit the Chapter Website at

www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/vt/