

Washington Chapter GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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

February 2007

W. Hugh Maloney, MD, MHA, FACP
Governor, Washington Chapter

GOVERNOR'S COLUMN



How time flies - It was just the Regional Scientific Session in November - and what a successful meeting it was. General reviews are uniformly positive. Kudos to our program chairs, **Rebecca Ruud** and **Deborah Greenberg**, who supervised two popular

presessions, and all the myriad issues to deal with in assembling a talented faculty - all done well. Our College Representative, **Richard Neubauer**, Anchorage, Alaska, summed it up in his Report to ACP - "*This was by far the most sophisticated chapter meeting I have attended. It was like a miniature Annual Session*". Thank you to Drs. Ruud and Greenberg, to the faculty, to the Planning Committee and to **Kory Diemert** - to all, a job well done.

On the National Scene, the Congress has given us a reprieve from the Sustainable Growth Rate catastrophe. That's the good news - we have a positive gain both from changes in the underlying RVS and a prevention of a decline in the conversion rate for physician services. The bad news is that we get to do it again, only for higher stakes at the end of 2007, and with a national election gearing up. It is more important than ever that we work in concert with the AMA, the ACP and the State Medical Association to correct the inequities built into the SGR.

At the state level, the upcoming legislative session is going to be interesting and important for internists. For internists, your WSMA has as its

number one priority to improve funding for Medicaid and the Basic Health Plan - the dilemma is to either assure access to a medical home and specialty services with a necessary increase in the conversion rate to 80% Uniform Medical Plan or to increase access for a limited category of people at the current rates (Governor's proposal is to add more children, to the exclusion of adults). Our course is clear - we must advocate for our patients to assure access to care. What needs to happen now is to have better reimbursement for our services commensurate with the private carriers and similar to our legislators' health care benefits. When the state makes a promise to cover services, but then under-funds the program so that no one can find a medical home, there should be accountability. Adequate funding of DSHS and Basic Health requires the legislature to make hard decisions - which are what they are elected for - and then do the right thing - provide access and a medical home for the poor and disadvantaged.

As always, we are stronger for your participation. Call your state and national legislator, find a new member, attend a community gathering, or write a letter to the local newspaper. We are best served when each of us accepts the personal responsibility to be heard in the public discourse. When we accept that we are accountable for our actions, and then, act on good principles and in good faith, great things can happen.

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Governor, ACP

WASHINGTON ACP AWARDS PRESENTED AT ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

The Washington ACP Governor's Council presented its annual awards recognizing excellence in internal medicine at the Washington Chapter Scientific Meeting in Seattle on November 4, 2006. This year's award winners were:

Internist of the Year - John H. Vassall II, Seattle

This award recognizes an individual considered a role model by their peers. Selection criteria include excellent clinical skills, dedication to patients, enthusiasm for medical practice, leadership, and the ability to maintain a healthy balance between professional and personal interests. Dr. **John Vassall** meets each of these criteria. He practices general internal medicine at Minor and James Medical in Seattle, where he is also Division Chief. He is also Chief of Staff at Swedish Hospital Medical Center, First Hill, where his leadership of efforts to promote patient safety has made the "100K Lives" campaign a success. Dr. Vassall is remarkably involved in a number of professional organizations and works to improve patient safety, access to care, and quality of care. In a nominating letter, a colleague wrote: "*John's ability to analyze a problem and suggest solutions is unparalleled. His clarity of thought and speech make it a pleasure to work next to him.*"

Community Service Award - Grant E. Deger, Bellingham

This award recognizes an individual or group of internists who have made a remarkably positive impact in their community. This year we acknowledge the good works of an individual who provides exceptional care to a truly underserved group of patients - those in state correctional facilities. Dr. **Grant Deger** practiced general internal medicine and nephrology in Bellingham starting in 1971 and became the Whatcom County Jail physician in 2000. He improved the quality and process of care so substantially that the facility received the "*Jail Facility of the Year*" award in 2005 from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. In September 2006, Dr. Deger became Medical Director for the Department of Corrections for the state of Washington. He has also been a vigorous and loyal supporter of the Washington ACP Chapter, a Fellow of the

College since 1976, and active in numerous additional volunteer community projects.

Golden Apple Teaching Award - Saleem Memon, Aberdeen

Outstanding medical educators in community practice are eligible for this award. Dr. Memon practices general internal medicine in Aberdeen and takes third-year UW medical students into his clinic for weeks at a time, several times per year. His excellent clinical skills and enthusiasm for teaching have made his clinic an excellent rotation site for UW students.

*The Governor's Council appreciates all of the nominations we received this year. To help us achieve our ongoing goal of recognizing excellence in internal medicine in our state, we encourage all to consider colleagues who you believe deserve consideration for these awards in the future. Nominations can be sent to **Kory Diemert** via email: kad@wsma.org.*

INTERNIST OF THE YEAR - ACCEPTANCE COMMENTS from John H. Vassall II, MD, FACP

Governor's note: *This year's recipient provided a thoughtful response and presented a challenge for all of us as we conduct our daily business, to be responsive to the increasing expectation from our communities for us to engage in finding the solution to the questions of quality, delivery of care and safety.* --WHM

Thank you for this award, this recognition and this honor. We are entering a remarkable new era in medicine. Physicians and the public are developing a new appreciation of the importance of our work and there is a new emphasis on safety and accountability.

When the Institute of Medicine reported that 44,000 to 98,000 people die annually from errors in American hospitals, I was disturbed and angered by the implication that we are killing people. My anger has given way to understanding that we do truly amazing things for our patients and that what we do is complex and dangerous.

- Powerful medications do remarkable good but have potentially serious or fatal side effects and interactions.

- Our procedural colleagues perform almost miraculous interventions which can save and transform lives, or can cause catastrophic injury and impairment.

- Our health care delivery systems have thousands of "moving parts." Unfortunately often they are moving independently and all too frequently at cross purposes.

We are realizing that when there is complexity and danger we must finally turn our attention to our systems, infrastructures and environments in which we deliver care. The role of the physician is becoming expansive. Our skills and knowledge are needed not just at the bedside in service of our patient, but in the boardroom in service of the health care delivery system.

The Institute of Healthcare Improvement (IHI) challenged physicians to save 100,000 lives and we responded with 122,000 lives saved. To be a physician is a remarkable privilege. With that comes a profound responsibility. With that responsibility comes new opportunities for physicians to improve the delivery of care and to improve the lives of our patients.

I challenge each of you to grab a piece of that opportunity. THANK YOU.

ARE YOU PREPARED? - CRISIS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT 101

As a result of the recent windstorm and resulting widespread power outage in Western Washington, many clinics located in the Puget Sound area were forced to close their doors for as many as 5 days. These closures required creative communication, resourcefulness and response solutions to notify our patients and staff of clinic closures. However creative and innovative, on the fly response planning is simply bad practice.

How did your clinic cope? Were you able to remain open with an alternate power source? Did you institute your Crisis Communication plan to inform your staff and patients about business operations? Did you enact strategies to ensure little or no interruption to your critical operations? I suspect your answer(s) to at least one if not all of the questions posed was a resounding "No".

As medical providers, our first priority must be to care for our patients and make sure they have a safe environment for their care. To ensure the welfare of our patients, it is imperative that we have a plan prior to an incident. In this most recent windstorm, we were warned of the threat. There won't be a warning when an earthquake hits. Nor will there be time to make a coordinated plan in the midst of a Pandemic Influenza crisis. We must begin making our plans today to ensure the well being of our staff and patients into the future.

Begin your plan today. The American Red Cross recommends that all businesses implement disaster preparedness and business continuity planning prior to an incident or crisis. Without a plan, we place ourselves, our staff and most importantly our patients, at risk.

The American Red Cross offers a variety of educational materials, classes and workshops to assist you and your clinic in getting prepared. For more information, contact your local chapter, visit www.seattleredcross.org or contact **Kelly Kasper** by phone at 206-726-3507 or by email at kelly.kasper@seattleredcross.org.

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WASHINGTON, OREGON MONTANA, IDAHO & ALASKA CHAPTERS

of the
ACP

cordially invite you and your guest
to join your colleagues and attend

2007

NORTHWEST

REGIONAL RECEPTION

at the

ACP Internal Medicine 2007 - San Diego

Friday, April 20, 2007, 6:00-8:00 PM

Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel

Room: **Edward A/B/C**

One Market Place, San Diego, California

Enjoy Hors d'oeuvres and Beverage

Greet & Meet Your Colleagues

PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!!

RSVP (please) to Kory Diemert (206) 956-3646
or (800) 552-0612 ext. 3029, email: kad@nwsma.org

LAUREATE AWARD



The 2006 recipient of the Laureate Award from the Washington Chapter of the ACP is **Eric B. Larson, MD, MPH, FACP**.

Dr. Larson was born in Portland, Oregon in 1947. He graduated from Stanford University in 1969 with a BA in History, and received his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1973. He trained in internal medicine at Beth Israel Hospital in Boston, completed a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars and MPH program at the University of Washington, and then served as Chief Resident of University Hospital in Seattle. In 1978 he was appointed to the faculty at the University of Washington, advancing to the rank of Professor of Medicine by 1988.

From 1989-2002, Dr. Larson served as Medical Director of University of Washington Medical Center and Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs. Since 2002, he has been Director of the Center for Health Studies at Group Health Cooperative in Seattle.

Dr. Larson's research spans a range of general medicine topics, including aging and dementia, health promotion, technology assessment, especially cost effectiveness, quality improvement patient safety and risk reduction. He has served on the editorial boards of several prestigious journals, including the *Annals of Internal Medicine* and the *American Journal of Medicine*. For his outstanding contributions to research and medical education, he has received the Robert J. Glaser Award from the Society of General Internal Medicine, the American Geriatrics Society Service Award and was elected to the American Society for Clinical Investigation.

Dr. Larson became a Fellow of the American College of Physicians in 1984. Since 1998 he has been a Regent of the College and served as Chair of the Board of Regents in 2004-05. He has been a frequent program member at the Annual Session, as a panelist, "*Meet the Professor*" participant and moderator of "*Update in General Internal Medicine*" at several sessions.

Dr. Larson has also served as President of the Society of General Internal Medicine, Chair of the Office of Technology Assessment/DHSS Advisory Panel on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders and as Commissioner on the Joint Commission for Accreditation of Health Care Organizations.

In recognition of Dr. Larson's many accomplishments, his performance on behalf of the College, and of his profession, the Washington Chapter of the American College of Physicians is honored to present him with the 2006 Laureate Award.

YOU ARE INVITED!

"UPDATE IN INTERNAL MEDICINE"

February 23-24, 2007 - Spokane Society of Internal Medicine 58th Annual Scientific Meeting. National faculty, eleven (11) hours of CME, at the Spokane Agricultural Trade Center. Cost: Physician/Member \$150; Physicians/Non-member \$175; Allied Health Professional & Nurses \$150; Residents \$40. For information contact Linda Browne, Spokane Society of Internal Medicine, PO Box 18731, Spokane, WA 99228, or call 509-448-2513. Brochures will be mailed January 4th.

This is a great meeting you won't want to miss!

**VISIT OUR CHAPTER WEBSITE AT
WWW.ACPONLINE.ORG/CHAPTERS/WA**

PHOTO GALLERY



Lauren Crowley receiving the “2006 Outstanding University of Washington Medical Student Award” from Douglas Paauw, MD



Grant E. Deger, MD receiving the “Community Service Award” from John Sheffield, MD



John H. Vassall, II, MD receiving “Internist of the Year Award” from W. Hugh Maloney, MD, MHA, Governor



Dr. Maloney, Laureate Award honoree Eric B. Larson, MD, MPH, FACP and Douglas Paauw, MD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 5, 2007	WSMA Legislative Summit Red Lion Olympia Hotel, Olympia, WA
February 23-24, 2007	Spokane Society of Internal Medicine 58th Annual Scientific Meeting " <i>Update in Internal Medicine</i> " Spokane Agricultural Trade Center, Spokane, WA
April 19-21, 2007	ACP Internal Medicine 2007, San Diego, CA
April 20, 2007	Northwest Regional Reception Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, CA
May 3-4, 2007	WSMA Annual Leadership Development Conference Campbell's Resort at Lake Chelan
May 14-16, 2007	ACP Leadership Day on Capitol Hill Wyndham Washington, DC Hotel
June 7-9, 2007	Southeast Region 2007 Annual Meeting
October 5-8, 2007	WSMA Annual Meeting Tacoma Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma, WA
Nov. 1-3, 2007	Washington Chapter - ACP 2007 Annual Meeting Bell Harbor International Conference Center Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Seattle, WA
May 15-18, 2008	ACP Internal Medicine 2008 Washington, DC

HOW TO REACH US

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