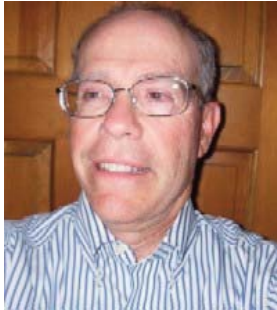


**2009 Volunteerism
& Community Service Award**
Gregory Von Roenn, MD, FACP

“Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion— are the things which renew humanity.” Guatama Buddha



Dr. Von Roenn has served as an exemplary practicing general internist for over 33 years in the Milwaukee area. His volunteering efforts have been ongoing for over three decades and include serving as an active volunteer attending physician for various Medical College of Wisconsin Internal Medicine hospital ward teams as well as medical students rotating through his outpatient clinic. He has been a volunteer on numerous committees for St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center and continues to be active on the Credentials Committee of the Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare System.

Perhaps, his most inspirational volunteer efforts have been those devoted to sharing his medical skills with the underserved and poor within his local community and in poor countries of the Caribbean. Dr. Von Roenn served as a Volunteer Medical Staff member of the Capitol Drive Community Health Center in the mid 1980’s, and the Isaac Coggs Community Health Center from 1988 to 1992. He has been President of a charitable organization at St. Joseph’s Regional Medical Center since 1997, providing funds for medical education and patient care. Since 2005, he has volunteered at the St. Ben’s Clinic for the Homeless; providing free clinical services to these underserved populations.

In 2003, Dr. Von Roenn began volunteer efforts in the Les Cayes Medical Clinic in Les Cayes, Haiti, to expand services to the poor. He is also serving on the Board of Hope for Haiti, a charitable organization with a goal of building a hospital in rural Haiti. And, he takes medical students on trips to Haiti, offering unique teaching opportunities in medical mission work. Dr. Von Roenn has volunteered at the San Isidro Clinic in San Isidro, Honduras; the Northwest Medical Disaster Relief Team in December, 2004, in Gros Marne, Haiti; and has been an Outreach Leader for St. Cecilia Church to Kingston, Jamaica. Needless to say, travel to these locales has not come without personal sacrifice and risks.

For these outstanding examples of Physician Volunteerism and Community Service, we honor Dr. Greg Von Roenn. His selfless dedication to medical care of the poor and underserved, as well as efforts towards teaching volunteerism and professionalism in future generations of physicians, upholds the highest ideals of the American College of Physicians.

2009 Community Based Physician & Mentor
Elpidio Tomas Ayala, MD, MSPH, FACP



Dr. Elpidio Tomas Ayala, a UW Clinical Assistant Professor, has been practicing General Internal Medicine in Fond du Lac since 1978. He is also an Adjunct Instructor for the School of Nursing at Marian University. He is highly respected by colleagues and students alike for his clinical skills and has been an exceptional role model. He has served as his Clinic’s Medical Director and Chairman of Pharmacy and Therapeutics at St. Agnes Hospital. In

addition to presentations to community organizations on health topics and lectures to the EMTs, he has served as the Medical Director for College Health at the Moraine Park Technical College in Fond du Lac. He has also received the “Community Service Health Care Hero” of the year award from the Mercy Foundation for his work with the poor..

Since 1981, Dr. Ayala has hosted clinical electives to medical students from Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. Since 1997, he has had an ongoing teaching commitment at the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. For ten years he participated in the Generalist Partner Program. This program partners medical students with a primary care physician for experiences during their first and second years to enhance exposure to clinical medicine.

Additionally, Dr. Ayala continues to lead weekly sessions in the Patient, Doctor and Society course teaching communication skills and physical diagnosis to first and second year medical students as a ‘Master Teacher’. Dr. Ayala’s teaching in the small groups has consistently ranked among the best. He has received outstanding evaluations from his students. Quotes include: “perfect example of compassion,” “lives beyond the classroom,” “the BEST small group leader I’ve ever had,” “always goes above and beyond to encourage students to succeed,” “he is so enthusiastic about our learning and success in the medical field and uses any and every opportunity to teach,” “he embodies the physician we all want to become,” and “it is a great privilege to have been taught by him.”

A Fellow of the ACP, Dr. Ayala has demonstrated outstanding professionalism in a career dedicated to patients, community, colleagues and teaching future physicians.



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INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

**2009 Wisconsin
Chapter
Awards**

September 2009

Legislator of the Year

***Addis Costello Internist
of the Year***

***Volunteerism and
Community Service
Award***

***Community Based
Physician & Mentor***

2009 Legislator of the Year
Wisconsin Senator Jon Erpenbach

The Wisconsin Chapter of the American College of Physicians recognizes the efforts of an individual or group of Wisconsin legislators who have diligently worked to promote the medical health and wellness of the people of the state. Senator Jon Erpenbach has been committed to promoting legislation that has had a positive health impact on the citizens of Wisconsin.



A former radio personality and legislative assistant, Senator Erpenbach was elected to represent the 27th Senate District (parts of Green, Rock, Lafayette and Dane counties) in 1998 and re-elected in 2002 and 2006. Jon's Senate colleagues elected him Senate Democratic Leader in December 2002, which he served until December 2004.

Senator Erpenbach worked in both the State Assembly and State Senate in media relations and as communications director. An advocate for citizen involvement, he is involved heavily in a wide variety of community activities. Within the State Senate, he has served on more than twenty committees and task forces. Senator Erpenbach is the current Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services and he is the ranking Democrat on the Senate Committee for Health, Children, Families, Aging and Long term Care. He serves on the Committee on Health, Utilities, Veterans and Military Affairs as well as numerous others devoted to conservation and rural matters in the state.

For advocacy and accomplishments in legislating for Wisconsin citizens, Senator Erpenbach

has received much recognition. Some specific health-related awards include: the Healthcare Leadership Award by the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians, the Alzheimer's Association Legislator of the Year Award, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs Outstanding Leadership Award, Wisconsin Counties Association Legislator of the Year award; and the Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin Rebecca C. Young Leadership Award for work on the Compassionate Care of Rape Victims.

Senator Erpenbach helped author and promote *Healthy Wisconsin*, a universal coverage system designed to lower healthcare costs, increase access to insurance for everyone in Wisconsin, improve the quality of care through coverage of preventive medicine and aggressive treatment of chronic diseases. In May 2009, he was instrumental in finally negotiating a compromise on the statewide smoking ban signed into Wisconsin law.

The ACP of Wisconsin appreciates Senator Erpenbach's many years of work for the health and wellness of Wisconsin citizens and looks forward to working with him in future actions as the state and country undergo an unparalleled transformation of the healthcare system.

2009 Addis Costello Internist of the Year
Anthony A. Otters, MD, FACP

The Addis Costello Award is given by the Wisconsin Chapter of the ACP in memory of Dr. Costello, a Milwaukee physician leader who worked tirelessly to publicly define and channel collegial effort to deal with the socioeconomic concerns affecting the practice of Internal Medicine.



Dr. Anthony "Tony" Otters is a General Internal Medicine Physician in Milwaukee. He has strong interest and work in areas of medical informatics, computers in medicine, decision analysis and medical education. He has also spent much of his free time working on issues surrounding health care access, policies and reform.

Dr. Otters is a member of the 'Milwaukee Cares' Board of Directors and serves leadership roles in key committees. The program is a voluntary public-private partnership initiative that was established to provide health care to low income, uninsured patients in Milwaukee County who don't qualify for Medicaid or GAMP. The primary goal of 'Milwaukee Cares' is to develop and manage a coordinated system that helps uninsured people access health-care services. Active within his Milwaukee County Medical Society, Dr. Otters has served on the Board of Directors and serves as a Delegate to the Wisconsin Medical Society. Within the WMS, he currently serves on the Council on Health Care Access.

Since 1997, Dr. Otters has been a Fellow in the ACP. For the past 12 years, he has been a member of the State ACP Council and has served many active roles. Noted for his keen

expertise in computers in medicine, he is the Technical Chair for the State Scientific Sessions. The critical role of having seamless computer-based PowerPoint presentations from Associates of the five Internal Medicine Residency Programs, along with the other presenters, is paramount to the success of the meetings. He has also been a long-standing member of the annual meeting's socioeconomic program committee.

In his quest for health care and public policy reform, Dr. Otters is also very involved in the State ACP Health & Public Policy Committee. For the past 4 years, he has personally led the Wisconsin ACP delegation to the White House for Leadership Day. Arranging personal interviews for our physician group, we were able to speak directly to our US Senators and Congressional Representatives about our views and concerns. Dr. Otters is a devoted advocate to improving health care and a true inspiration to those who know him.