



## Governor's Message

Dear Doctor:

**G**reetings and warmest wishes for the wonderful holiday months of November and December.

Our West Virginia ACP annual meeting in Huntington in early October was successful, and the West Virginia Geriatric Society meeting held Thursday immediately preceding our meeting was also very complimentary to the success of our annual meeting. The quality of the scientific presentations throughout both meetings was excellent and we received many positive comments from those attending our meetings.

The jeopardy sessions completed by both medical students and residents were most enjoyable and exciting. The residents had excellent posters and oral presentations and I am particularly grateful to the program directors for their encouragement and to the judges for an exemplary job.

Next year's meeting will be at the Stonewall Jackson Resort, October 21-23, 2010, so plan to be a part of the learning and fellowship of the ACP, our professional home.

Now, a bit of national ACP news. You may have heard that **John Tooker, MD, MBA, FACP** has decided to step down as Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the College. We extend our deepest thanks to John for his years of leadership and service. His leadership seemed to extend to all. My wife recently noted that he never failed to make the spouses feel welcome by delivering a special talk to them at each Board of Governor's meeting.

Sincerely yours,

**Charles E. Turner, MD, FACP**

**Governor, West Virginia Chapter, American College of Physicians**

## Associate Competition Winners from our Chapter Meeting

Congratulations to our Associate Competition Winners! They will be representing the West Virginia Chapter this April at Internal Medicine 2009 in Toronto Canada:

### First Place Associate Abstract Competition:

Research: **Moussa Sissiko, MD**, WVU Charleston Division

Clinical Vignette: **Sarah Sofka, MD** WVU, Morgantown Division

### Doctor's Dilemma:

Winning Team: **West Virginia University**, Charleston Division

Coach: **Nicholas Young, MD**

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Team:

**Alicia Warnock, MD**

**Hassan Shahid, MD**

**Grant Clark, MD**

**Aditi Girme, MD**

Congratulations everyone and good luck at the national meeting!!

## **Strengthen Our Chapter: Participate in ACP's Recruit-a-Colleague Program!**

The American College of Physicians and the West Virginia Chapter encourages all members to help strengthen the voice of internal medicine by recommending ACP Membership to colleagues. By joining the College, your colleagues will enrich their clinical knowledge and skills and have access to all of the ACP member benefits that you enjoy.

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 the annual Internal Medicine meeting 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](http://www.acponline.org/recruitacolleague).

## **Chapter Committees**

We are in the process of updating and reassigning committee members. Serving on a committee is a wonderful opportunity to become more involved with the American College of Physicians West Virginia Chapter. If you are interested in becoming a member of a committee please email Karen Frazier at [kfrazier@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:kfrazier@hsc.wvu.edu).

## **House passes landmark health-care reform bill**

Saturday night, a milestone toward enactment of comprehensive health care reform legislation consistent with ACP's priorities was achieved when the House of Representatives, by a vote of 220-215, passed H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act. The bill advances ACP's priorities for health care reform. Prior to passage, ACP sent a letter of support on key policies in the bill related to coverage, incentives for primary care internal medicine, and payment reforms in the bill. No bill is perfect, but H.R. 3962 substantially advances ACP's policy objectives for comprehensive health care reform.

Although the bill passed by the House Saturday night does not include provisions to halt Medicare physician payment cuts, it is expected to take up, during the week of Nov. 16, H.R. 3961, the Medicare Physician Payment Reform Act, which seeks to permanently reform how Medicare pays physicians. H.R. 3961 would eliminate the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula, wipe away future scheduled physician payment cuts and the accumulated SGR deficit, and take steps to replace the formula with a more stable payment system. Unlike the SGR, which limits spending on physician services to growth in the overall economy as measured by per capita gross domestic product (GDP), H.R. 3961 would allow spending on physician services to grow faster than the economy, leading to higher updates.

Action will now shift to the Senate, which is still working on combining the two different Senate bills with the goal of bringing a revised bill to the Senate before Christmas. ACP will continue to work to ensure that the Senate bill, like H.R. 3962, advances our top priorities, as outlined in a letter that ACP sent last week to Senate leadership. Like the House, the Senate will also need to take up legislation to end the cycle of SGR payment cuts and create a better update system. Once the Senate completes action on its bill, the House and Senate leadership will have to work out their differences in a conference committee. ACP will be fighting to the very

end for health care reform that advances our priorities on coverage, incentives for primary care internal medicine, payment and medical liability reforms. Visit ACP online for regular updates and information on how you can become involved.

## American College of Physicians Enters eBook Arena

Readers can now search and view content online and purchase electronic books

Philadelphia, April 28, 2009 -- More than 40 books published by ACP Press, the book publishing program of the American College of Physicians, are now available for purchase in digital format at [www.acppress-ebooks.com](http://www.acppress-ebooks.com).

At ACP's new electronic publishing site, visitors can search the full text of an entire book, view sample pages online before making a purchase, and purchase digital copies of books at reduced "eBook" prices.

"We wanted to better meet the needs of customers who like the accessibility and other benefits of electronic books, and [www.acppress-ebooks.com](http://www.acppress-ebooks.com) enables us to do that," said **Steven Weinberger, MD, FACP**, ACP's Deputy Executive Vice President and Senior Vice President for Medical Education and Publishing. "It's helping the College meet its goal of providing information in whatever form the customer wants."

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A visitor can also search and view content online, and then purchase the print version of the book through convenient links to ACP's print product catalog ([www.acponline.org/acppress](http://www.acponline.org/acppress)).

[www.acppress-ebooks.com](http://www.acppress-ebooks.com) was launched on April 22, 2009, making more than 40 eBook titles available online. Best sellers like *Drug Prescribing in Renal Failure*, *How to Report Statistics in Medicine*, *Medical Care of the Pregnant Patient*, *The Quotable Osler*, and more are now available in digital form.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second-largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 126,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internists specialize in the prevention, detection and treatment of illness in adults.