



Governor's Message

New Fellows for Wyoming

At the Convocation held during Internal Medicine 2009, **Tracy Coe, MD, FACP**, of Sheridan, received her Fellowship. **Dr. Wedell** was pleased to accompany her. IM09 was an excellent scientific meeting, as usual.

Next year's meeting will be in Toronto. Other Wyoming members who have been elected to Fellowship, but have not been through the convocation are



Dr. Tracy Coe and Dr. Eric Wedell, Convocation 2009

can demonstrate continued scholarship and professional accomplishments such as medical education, hospital committee work or community service may be eligible for Fellowship. For more information, contact **Dr. Eric Wedell** at e.wedell@bresnan.net.

Coming Soon, our Scientific Meeting

The time for our 2009 Scientific Meeting is fast approaching. A brochure about the meeting should be arriving soon. It will be a joint meeting with the South Dakota Chapter and will be held on Thursday and Friday, September 17 and 18, 2009, at the Golden Hills Resort in Lead, South Dakota. Afterwards, there will be plenty of time to sightsee on Saturday and Sunday. The program should be outstanding. There will be two recertification modules, one on critical care and one on geriatrics. Also included will be talks on hyperparathyroidism, the use of the ACP Diabetes Care Guide in a practice, medical ethics, and a Washington Update by **Bob Doherty**. There will also be EKG reading, clinical vignettes by South Dakota residents, and case presentations.

The Black Hills are beautiful in the fall. So, reserve these dates now. Specific registration and reservation information will be mailed directly from the College soon. Questions can be directed to **Dr. Eric Wedell** or to **Dr. Mike Tracy**, Wyoming Program Chairman.

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Robert Monger, MD of Cheyenne, **Brent Sherard, MD** of Cheyenne and **Robert Neuwirth, MD** of Gillette.

Those of you who are Board Certified, have been an ACP member for two years or more and

Erik Bartholomew goes to Washington

(Editor's Note: our Chapter sponsored Erik Bartholomew, a first year Wyoming WWAMI student to go to IM09. The following was written by him.)

What a trip to the ACP national conference in Philadelphia! As I enter the final few weeks of my first year of medical school, I couldn't be more excited about my future as a doctor. Listening to and interacting with national leaders in internal medicine was an amazing opportunity. Many of the lectures I attended revolved around topics covered in my current infectious disease, neuroanatomy, and physiology courses. One course, in particular, was on adult immunization. Not only did the lecture (and being able to review notes afterwards) deepen my understanding of topics addressed in my current classes, but also provided a real-world perspective on the infectious diseases that I will see later in my career

During the conference, I also attended clinical skills classes on the musculoskeletal exam and suturing. Both courses covered topics that added to my clinical experiences this year and will undoubtedly help me in my medical training. Further, tutorials such as the cardiac murmur simulator also offered me the chance to work on my exam skills.

Meeting and networking with the diverse body of internal medicine doctors, students, and residents from around the world was truly an amazing experience; and one that deepened my interest in pursuing internal medicine. Thank you for the opportunity to attend!

The 2009 Legislature and the Smokefree Bill

The Wyoming Chapters of the American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society chose to try to get a law passed banning all smoking in enclosed public places. Your Governor was one of the co-chairs of that effort. Despite much hard work by people all over the state, it failed miserably. It was emasculated in the House. The debate was deplorable and shameful. It was, thankfully, then allowed to die by the Senate. Surveys by the University of Wyoming have shown 66 to 82 % of Wyoming voters favor banning smoking in enclosed public places. Unfortunately these people did not make their opinions known to their legislators. The legislators heard mostly from bar owners and tobacco lobbyists. Because legislators' biggest fear is not getting reelected, they voted overwhelmingly against the bill. The coalition intends to try again in 2011. What we need is more grassroots support.

Leadership Day and H.R. 2350

Leadership Day is sponsored by the ACP every year in mid-May. Delegates from every ACP Chapter travel to Washington, DC. The first day is spent learning about the issues and about the fine art of lobbying. The second day is reserved for face to face meetings with congresspeople and their staff members. **Michael Tracy, MD** and **Eric Wedell, MD** were the Wyoming Chapter delegates this year. They met personally with **Representative Lummis** and **Senators Barasso** and **Enzi** as well as spending even more time with their staff members. The issues being promoted were affordable health care for all and increasing the number of primary care givers. No commitments were made, but **Rep. Lummis** might be persuaded to support and vote for HR 2350 the Preserving Patient Access to Primary Care Act introduced by **Rep. Allyson Schwartz** of Pennsylvania. For more information go to <http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/>. A call or email urging **Ms. Lummis** to support this piece of legislation might help convince her to vote for it. Other important health care reform bills are pending.

Leadership Day and Health Care Reform: A Message from Senator Enzi



Mike Tracy and Dr. Eric Wedell with Senator Barasso and Senator Enzi

Recently, the President and Members of the Senate have declared that health care reform will be tackled by the end of this summer. While the President and some of my colleagues are putting emphasis on a deadline for health care reform, I am more focused on getting health care reform done right than meeting an artificial timeline.

We should take action this year on a bipartisan reform bill, but it needs to be the right action. There has never been a bill so complex that personally affects so many people. To get a workable solution it will require the effort of every member of the Senate. We need to get it right because we might not be able to go back and fix it.

Driving health care costs down must be a piece of the health care reform puzzle. Every day, health care costs increase, excluding more and more Americans from access to health care.

Every day, more Americans are forced to choose to buy gas and groceries or pay for health coverage for their families. The health care crisis is particularly acute in Wyoming where, on average, one in five Wyoming residents is uninsured and more and more residents are losing what coverage they have. The problem is multiplied by the fact that 70 percent of Wyoming employers are small businesses who find it nearly impossible to afford health care coverage for their employees.

I am committed to securing a solution that will drive costs down and quality up by injecting real competition and choice into health care. Vigorous competition is the best way to reduce costs, encourage American innovation and ingenuity, and protect the rights of patients to choose the physicians and health care providers that best meet their needs. When patients can vote with their feet, insurance companies and health care providers will have to offer higher quality care at lower costs.

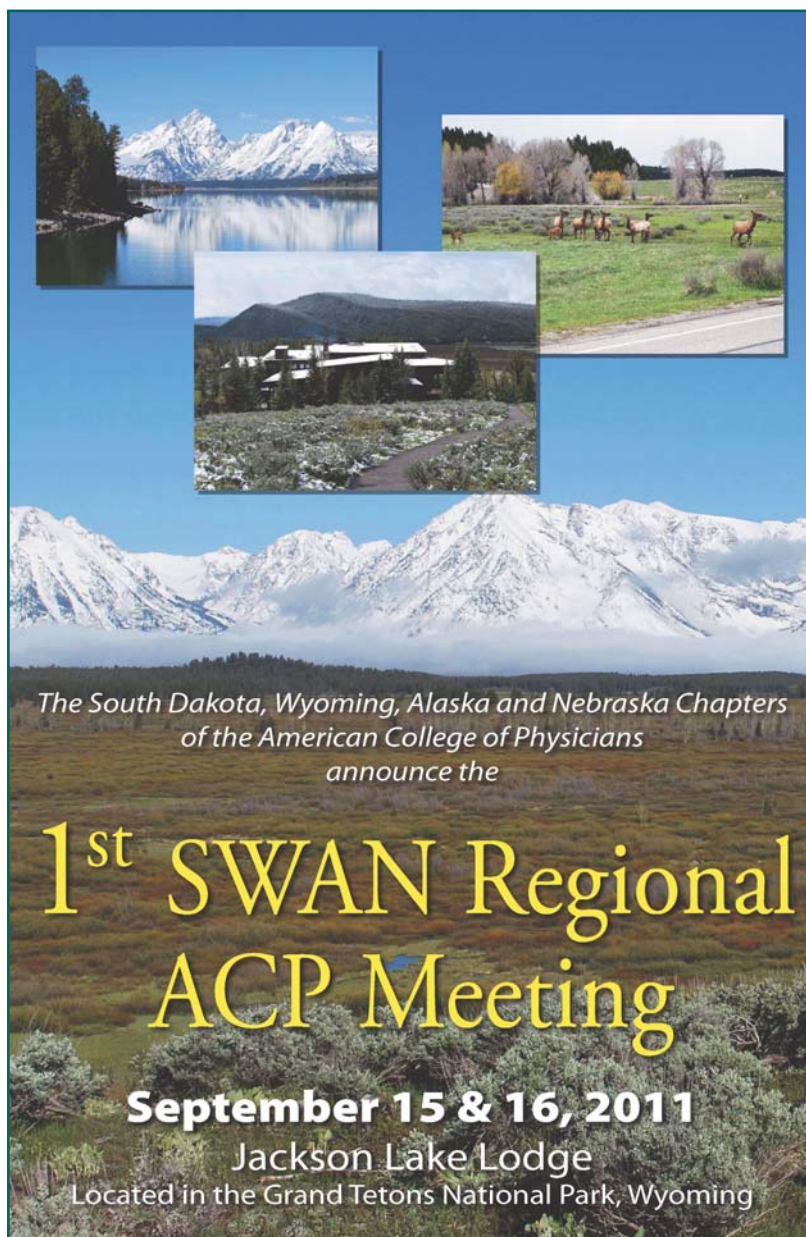
Contrast that with another government-run health care program, in which bureaucrats and politicians would ration needed health care services. Squeezing the marketplace like this will not only drive up costs and drive down quality; it will put a Washington bureaucrat between patients and doctors. Washington bureaucrats would be able to deny you and your family the care you need. Under government-run health care, you and your family would be forced to wait weeks for tests and months for treatment, just like they do in places like Canada and the United Kingdom where the government runs health care. People need more than health care coverage – they need health care access. But under a government-run system, you wouldn't be able to get the care you need when you need it.

Americans are facing a crippling health care crisis and we need real reform. I am committed to working with my Senate colleagues on both sides of the aisle to produce a workable bipartisan health care reform bill. Republicans, Democrats, Independents, higher incomes, lower incomes – it doesn't matter – we all worry about health care and if we are committed to finding real solutions then we will find some that we can agree on.

U.S. Senator Mike Enzi

Ranking Member – Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

Visit the Chapter Website at
www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/wy



SWAN ACP Chapters to Hold 1st Regional Meeting in 2011 at Jackson Hole, Wyoming

Kris Rahm, Regional Executive Regional Director

The SWAN ACP Chapters (South Dakota, Wyoming, Alaska and Nebraska) are pleased to announce the first "Regional" ACP scientific meeting to be held on September 15-16, 2011 at Jackson Lake Lodge near the Grand Tetons in Wyoming. Your host Governors (**Rick Holm, MD** – SD ACP Chapter, **Eric Wedell, MD** – WY ACP Chapter, **Bob Bundtzen, MD** – Alaska ACP Chapter, and **Tom Tape, MD** – Nebraska ACP Chapter) urge you to mark your calendars for these dates, and invite you to attend this exciting event that merges the best of the best in medical knowledge for Internal Medicine physicians and offers CME credit.

Lodging reservations are being held for a maximum capacity of 250 rooms at the stunning Jackson Lake Lodge in Grand Teton National Park, so don't be late in reserving your space between April 2011 and no later than August 2011. The nearby city of Jackson, Wyoming has additional lodging facilities for those who may be unsuccessful in reserving an early space at the Lodge. In addition, there will be ample opportunity for you and your families to explore the beautiful surroundings of the Grand Teton Mountain range, the Jackson Hole region or nearby Yellowstone National Park.

This event promises to be one of the most educational and rewarding experiences for ACP participants who may be unable to attend national ACP meetings but who are looking for an experience beyond state borders in the central/western region of the United States. We look forward to seeing you there!

Opportunities for Service

We are planning to form some committees in the Wyoming Chapter. Right now we have a Governor's Council as the only committee. But, we are looking for people to serve on the Health and Public Policy Committee, or the Finance Committee, or the Membership Committee. The Governor's Council helps the Governor decide on issues having to do with directing the course of the Wyoming Chapter. The Health and Public Policy Committee researches and makes recommendations with regard to advocacy issues both nationally and in our state. The Membership Committee spearheads efforts to recruit new members. Anyone interested in serving on one of these committees or who has questions can contact **Eric Wedell, MD, FACP** at e.wedell@bresnan.net.



Recruit-a-Colleague Program

The need for a strong voice to speak on behalf of medicine and, in particular, internal medicine has never been greater than it is today. It is critically important that we unify to address the specific needs of our medical specialty. There are advocacy efforts to champion, practice management issues to simplify, and a time-honored profession to foster. There is strength in numbers.

Ask your colleagues to join ACP today. To thank you for your time and effort, we offer the following recruitment program. Between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010:

- Recruit one colleague and receive a \$100 credit toward your 2010-11 annual dues.
- Recruit two colleagues and receive an additional \$100 credit toward your 2010-11 annual dues.
- Recruit three colleagues and enjoy free annual dues in 2010-11.

Plus, for every Member recruited within the promotional period, you will receive an entry into a grand-prize drawing for a trip to Internal Medicine 2011 in San Diego, California that includes registration, airfare (up to \$500), and four days of hotel accommodations.

To be considered a "recruited" Member, your colleague must:

- Be a nonmember who is eligible for the "full" ACP Member category and pay \$100 or more in dues.
- Submit a Membership application, along with his or her dues payment, between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010.
- Write your name in the recruiter box on the top of the Membership application..

Send a recruitment e-mail to a colleague today, or download and print a Membership application to personally deliver. You may also request a Membership Inquiry Kit from Customer Service at 800-523-1546, ext. 2600, (M-F 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. ET).