



## News From Your New Governor

I assumed the office of Governor of the Wyoming Chapter of the American College of Physicians at the end of Internal Medicine 2008. The office is a four-year term.

First of all, I want to thank our outgoing Governor, **Tom Niethammer**, for his efforts during the past four years. During his time as Governor he not only moved his practice to Sheridan, but has had to maintain a busy solo practice as well as perform the duties of Governor. All this was no easy task. I'm sure he will welcome handing off the Governor's duties to someone else, though he tells me he intends to stay active in the Chapter.

For those of you who don't know me, I retired in June of 2006 after practicing endocrinology for 32 years with the Internal Medicine Group in Cheyenne. I am volunteering at the Cheyenne Community Clinic, maintaining my Wyoming license, and trying to keep up with endocrinology and internal medicine by regularly reading at least five journals. Maybe I haven't really retired but have just changed jobs.

The other big change with regard to the Wyoming ACP Chapter is that we have hired a part-time Executive Director. Her name is **Kris Rahm**, and we are sharing her with the South Dakota, Nebraska, and Alaska Chapters. Please read the bio on page 3.

More articles follow regarding:

- ♦ Leadership Day 2008
- ♦ Some of my goals and objectives for the Chapter
- ♦ Our Annual Scientific Meeting in June
- ♦ Biographical information on **Kris Rahm**
- ♦ Information about our Laureate Awardee, **Dr. Rick Davis**

Please feel free to contact me about any concerns or ideas at any time. My phone number is (307) 635-1983 and my email address is [e.wedell@bresnan.net](mailto:e.wedell@bresnan.net).

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Governors Butler (Alaska), Holm (South Dakota), Wedell, (Wyoming), and Tape (Nebraska) with Kris Rahm

## LEADERSHIP DAY 2008



Because IM08 was in Washington, DC this year, Leadership Day and IM08 were combined. **Mike Tracy** (from Powell), **Tom Niethammer**, and I visited the offices of **Representative Barbara Cubin**, **Senator Mike Enzi**, and **Senator John Barrasso**. We had some good conversations with staff people and actually had a few minutes to visit with **Senator Barrasso**. There were three points we emphasized at each of our meetings as well as leaving written information at each office.

Those points are:

- ♦ That physician payments under Medicare must be positive and predictable. This first depends on the passage of S. 2785, the Save Medicare Act of 2008.
- ♦ Preserve access to primary care services. Specifically, this would involve restoring the 20/220 pathway in the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act and supporting \$550 million in funding for the health professions programs under Title VII and Title VIII.
- ♦ Enhance care coordination through the Patient Centered

Medical Home. Specifically, it would help to provide \$500 million in dedicated funding to the Medical Home project and change it from a demo to a pilot project. The key bill is S. 1340, the Geriatric Assessment and Chronic Care Coordination Act of 2007.

We intend to include in next year's budget funds to send more chapter members to Leadership Day. Those of you who are Key Contacts can anticipate being invited for next year.

## SOME GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR OUR CHAPTER

Some of the goals and objectives I have identified and set down for the coming years are as follows:

- ♦ Develop a yearly budget.
- ♦ Establish a Governor's Council.
- ♦ Advocate for health-related bills at the Wyoming Legislature.
- ♦ Invite lapsed members and non-members to join our ACP Chapter. And I also will be asking members to help by personally contacting prospective members.
- ♦ Promote internal medicine to the first year WWAMI students by meeting with them during their fall orientation and helping interested students to attend the annual national Scientific Meeting.
- ♦ Promote Fellowship to those chapter members who are eligible.

As I said, above, comments or suggestions would be welcome.

## THE 2008 CHAPTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING

By the time you receive this newsletter our 2008 Scientific Meeting will have been held. It was held in June because of scheduling conflicts in the fall. We held it concomitantly with the Wyoming Medical Society Meeting in the hope of attracting more attendees as well as having the meeting in a beautiful place. Next year's meeting will be held with the South Dakota Chapter in Lead, SD at the Golden Hills Resort on Thursday and Friday, September 17 and 18, 2009.

## INTRODUCING KRIS RAHM

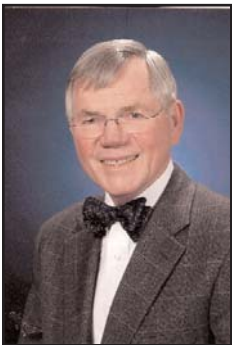


Please join me in welcoming **Ms. Kris Rahm**, the new Executive Director of the Wyoming ACP. Kris manages her home business, Virtual Association Management, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and will be providing administrative, annual scientific meeting, and financial management services for our chapter, as well as serving as a primary liaison between the national ACP office and the chapter leadership.

Kris's family consists of husband **Doug**, who assists in her business; one daughter, **Nicole**; and a son, **Nathan**. Doug's primary career has been in the banking and insurance industries. Nicole, 25, is also employed in the banking industry in Omaha, Nebraska, and Nathan, 22, is a first-year medical student at Sanford School of Medicine at the University of South Dakota. Kris is pleased to share the news that she and Doug became first-time grandparents with **Julian Aiden's** arrival on April 17, 2008.

Kris can be reached at her home business address: 4904 S. Sweetbriar Drive, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108; telephone (605) 339-9804; email: [krisrahm@sio.midco.net](mailto:krisrahm@sio.midco.net). I will have introduced Kris to you at our annual meeting June 11-14 at Jackson Lake Lodge, and want to again welcome her to the Wyoming Chapter of ACP.

## CHAPTER LAUREATE AWARD FOR 2008



**Robert J. Davis, MD, FACP**, was born in 1939 in Wyoming, Ohio, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio, where he grew up. He went to college at the University of Pennsylvania and received his MD degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine where he graduated first in his class. He then did his internship, residency in internal medicine, and first year of fellowship in cardiology at Strong Memorial Hospital at the University of Rochester in Rochester, New York. After serving in the United States Air Force in Cheyenne at F. E. Warren AFB, where he got to know several of his future partners, he went back to Strong Memorial Hospital for a second year of fellowship and then stayed for a year as Assistant Professor of Medicine.

In 1973 he and his family moved back to Cheyenne where he joined the Internal Medicine Group as its fourth physician and Cheyenne's first cardiologist. He helped establish Cheyenne's cardiac catheterization laboratory and Cheyenne's heart surgery program. He practiced cardiology and internal medicine with the Internal Medicine Group for 32 years, retiring on January 1st, 2005. Throughout his tenure as a cardiologist with IMG he practiced top-quality, up-to-date cardiology, and was known for his compassion for his patients, his thoroughness, and his willing consultative support of his fellow physicians.

Dr. Davis has been an ACP member since 1970 and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians since 1971. He has been a participant and a speaker at several of the Wyoming Chapter scientific meetings. He is a Fellow of the American College of Cardiology and Fellow of the Clinical Council of Cardiology of the American Heart Association. In addition he is a past board member and President of the Wyoming Heart Association and a past Governor of the Wyoming Chapter of the American College of Cardiology on two occasions. Currently Dr. Davis is a member of the Wyoming State Board of Pharmacy, is on the State Pharmacy Task Force, is on the Board of the Cheyenne Regional Medical Center Foundation, is a member of the Cheyenne Old West Museum Board of Directors, and is Co-chair of the Cardiovascular Coalition under the direction of the Wyoming Department of Health.

Dr. Davis and his wife, **Ibby**, have two children. Stuart and his wife, **Laura**, live in the Washington, DC, area. **Katie** and husband **Bill**, who reside in Denver, are the parents of **Rick** and **Ibby's** two grandsons, **Alex** and **Ian**.

It is because of his distinguished career and dedication to the practice of medicine that Dr. Davis has been chosen as the 2008 Laureate for the Wyoming Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

## **A Creative Administrative Solution**

The national ACP organization has encouraged all state chapters to address its administrative needs in a creative manner to meet ever-increasing demands on state Governors and the state chapter leadership. The Wyoming ACP Chapter has been a pioneer in meeting its own needs via the concept of and the sharing of skills from a “Regional Executive Director”. In 2007-08, the South Dakota **ACP Executive Director Kris Rahm** launched her own independent business by contracting with other state ACP chapters for her expertise and administrative skills. As a “Regional Executive Director”, Kris now works full-time for four ACP chapters in the western United States - South Dakota, Wyoming, Alaska and Nebraska (SWAN). This concept of a shared Regional Executive Director has improved liaison activities with the national office and between the state ACP chapters, alleviated the work-load of the state ACP chapter leadership, and has encouraged the sharing and reduction of common administrative expenses. The business model created by **Regional ACP Executive Director Kris Rahm** and endorsed by the four chapter Governors has proven to be a “win-win” for all her client state chapters, and will likely serve as a standard for creating future regional administrative alliances within the ACP organization.