

Activities & Minutes

Feb 2008

We have started corresponding with the residency program at Al DuPont to help them set up a global health elective for residents. Dr. Khan directs such an elective in Bangladesh and is interested in having students and/or residents participate.

April 2007

At our last meeting we decided to survey the physicians (including residents) regarding their interest and involvement in Global Health/Medical activities. Please see attached a draft of what such a survey might look like. This is just a first round; please give your input and thoughts.

It was envisioned that this would, when finalized, be disseminated to the ACP-DE membership; Med Soc of De; DE Acad of Med; and individuals/groups of physicians which the members of this committee may wish to contact, such as their department/division.

Please send your thoughts on this at your earliest convenience so we may have it out before the ACP DE annual meeting.

Finally, I assume you all have read our draft of the Vision for the International Subcommittee as sent to you last time. If this is all right, we will forward to ACP for their review. As always, feel free to drop me a line with any thoughts.

February 2007

[Took place as part of ACP-DE meeting at the University of Delaware.]

January 2007

The second meeting of the International Subcommittee of the ACP-DE was held on Thursday, 1/26. We were joined by Dr. Jack Levinson as an invited guest. Follow the main items discussed:

- 1) Review of the aims and function of the Int'l Subcommittee, as a means to promote international activities and understanding within this region of the ACP
- 2) Review of the Committee's response to the South Asian earthquake, which has killed 80-100,000 and left millions homeless. We publicized this tragedy and requested for aid to be sent to reputable agencies, with the help of the ACP headquarters office, Gov. Saberi, and the Medical Society of DE.
- 3) Discussion of recent activities of members. This was highlighted by Dr. Ehsanur Rahman's recent trip to Bangladesh, in support of the activities of a primary care clinic set up by a group of expatriate physicians.
- 4) Introduction of Dr. Levinson and his work. He is a retired Ob/Gyn who has worked extensively abroad, training colleagues in developing settings in gynecologic surgery techniques [See Levinson JM. The introduction of laparoscopy in the People's Republic of China. Del Med J. 1980 Mar;52(3):147-51]. At present, he is chair of Aid for International Medicine, a non-profit organization based out of Delaware. [See Levinson JM. Aid for International Medicine, Inc. (AIM). Our last ten years. Del Med J. 1999 Dec;71(12):501-7].

Dr. Levinson expressed his gratitude at being invited as a guest of the Subcommittee, and pledged his help and support for any international activities we may engage in. AIM can lend technical support, and also provide means to have medical work abroad be tax-deductible. Dr. Gilani will attend the next meeting of AIM to explore possibilities of collaboration, and report back to the Subcommittee.

- 5) Upcoming Annual ACP-DE meeting. This will be held on February 4, at Clayton Hall, University of Delaware, Newark. We anticipate the Subcommittee members will be able to attend the meeting.
- 6) Next meeting: Feb.4, as part of above. At the next meeting we will discuss steps to make international activities and this Subcommittee known within the ACP-DE community. This will likely involve all of us taking part, and encouraging students and housestaff as well as practicing physicians to be in touch with us.

December 2006

This is regarding the recent meeting of the International subcommittee of the ACP-DE. We met this past Thursday with several encouraging outcomes, recapped as follows.

A) We resolved to collect information from DE physicians working in the global health area. At present, no such database exists. By collating this information, and sharing it with others, we can link physicians with each other as well as with areas they may like to work in. This can be useful from the service as well as education perspectives.

Over the next few weeks we will work on finalizing the survey questionnaire. Please give your input- what would you like to see?

Some basic questions could be: 1) Name 2) Specialty 3) Current or past global health connection 4) Willingness to have others accompany 5) Willingness to discuss the topic at a future meeting. Others?

To disseminate the survey, we came up with the following resources:

- 1) ACP's database (obviously, only members of ACP are in this)
- 2) Medical Society of DE (most/all practicing physicians in DE)
- 3) DE Academy of Medicine, kindly suggested by Dr. Malhotra
- 4) Housestaff of the 3 teaching programs in DE (CCHS, Al duPont, St Francis)
- 5) Other individual contacts we may have

B) Our mission statement, to be discussed with the governor for ACP's website. It can be short and straightforward. Committee members suggested they would like to see 'education', 'advocacy' and 'service' as key components. A draft was circulated for comments.

C) It was suggested that we lobby the national ACP to consider having a joint CME-type program with the annual conference of a developing country's medical society. This would mean the ACP would fund and deliver a program at the annual meeting of, say, the Bangladesh/India/Pakistan Medical Society. It is an idea worth exploring particularly if we can demonstrate a good response to the above survey.

D) Members updated the group with their planned activities, e.g. Dr. Rahman has been working with a Bangladeshi health clinic and will be going again in the near future. He has agreed to discuss this if we have some time at the ACP-DE meeting.

E) Dr. Malhotra took us to tour the new facilities of the DE Academy of Medicine (it is housed on the CCHS campus), and as one of their board members, offered to have us meet in their new meeting rooms in the future.

Which brings us to the next meeting. We will work on the above between now and Feb 24, 2007 which is the next ACP-DE annual meeting. Our next meeting as a committee should be a bit before then- we would like to propose the first Thursday of Feb 07.

Until then, please give feedback on the important issues above, and thank you as always for your participation.