



Governor's Corner

Greetings, colleagues! It's been an interesting first year. For our chapter several important events bear mentioning. At the request of the ACP Board of Governors, the ACP Board of Regents has agreed to require all ACP members to pay chapter dues beginning in July 2008. The Boards see this decision as an essential step to strengthen ACP Chapters and accomplish a number of important goals for our profession, such as ensuring optimal care for patients, securing appropriate payments for internists, providing effective training and supporting life-long learning

More secure and predictable funding for chapters enables us to effectively carry out these expanded missions. Chapters are increasingly being called upon to implement programming for medical students, internal medicine residents, practicing internists and physician educators. Additionally, there are an increasing number of advocacy issues that chapters are addressing at the state level. Because we believe that ACP's effectiveness is directly proportional to the size and diversity of our membership, chapters are increasing their involvement in membership development.

Achieving these comprehensive reforms will require the collaborative efforts of ACP's national organization and all ACP chapters. Success will result from a complementary blend of national and local efforts. Your active participation in our chapter will help us to accomplish these goals. Our annual chapter dues will be \$44. Annual income from chapter dues is crucial to the welfare, programming, and solvency of every chapter and we appreciate each and every one of you for the support you provide.

The national and state health policy arenas have been heating up as well. MO Health Net, **Governor Blunt's** revised Medicaid plan for Missouri, was passed into law this past year. It promises to expand coverage for children and many of the disabled who were previously disenrolled. But there are other provisions. Its health care provisions are based on the Medical Home concept (as offered by ACP) and offer hope for many Missourians with chronic illness who have found it difficult to find a primary care provider. Reimbursement provisions for quality improvement and chronic disease management are also built in. Though there is still a lot of work to be done in defining "medical home", those who will provide it, and how those providers will be supported in doing it, this strategy offers hope for many uninsured in Missouri who need coverage and care.

At the national level we are at an historic crossroads with the presidential election looming. The candidates' debates are heating up and health policy is right in the middle of the fray, right up there with the failing economy and war. While nearing \$2 trillion in health care expenditures in this country, universal coverage remains the primary health policy topic of debate. On the Democratic side both front runners argue for universal coverage but differ in terms of whether health insurance should be mandatory-**Hillary** wants a universal mandate but **Obama** favors a mandate only for children. **McCain**, the leading Republican, favors individual tax credits, insurance competition, and tort reform to encourage the purchase of affordable health insurance in a competitive open market. "Universal Health Care," not necessarily as a single payer system, but as a hybrid mechanism of public entitlements and market incentives, seems to be the theme de jure for health care reform on both sides of the aisle.

In This Issue

Governor's Corner.....	1
Chapters Continue to Reach out to Members.....	2
Primary Care Coalition	2
Medicare Update: WPS.....	3
ACP Proposes Solutions for US Health Care Based on Review of Other Countries	3
Associates' Posters.....	4
Fall Meeting: Education and Enjoyment	4
2008 Calendar	5
Chapter Council Ballot.....	5

ACP has entered the debate as a resource by providing a lengthy analysis and proposal that recommends greater use of cost control incentives directed at patients, accountability and responsibility by patients, a uniform billing system, more primary care training programs, federal support for the medical home models, pay for performance (not merely pay for reporting), a universal IT infrastructure, and greater investment in medical research (Ann Int Med. 2008;148:55-75). If you haven't read this article you should-it will become a sound basis and resource for the evolving policy debate about universal health care in this country. ACP for the first time has called for legally mandated universal coverage for all U.S. residents and urges consideration for a single payer system as one option for achieving this goal. No doubt this public stance will generate considerable debate and Missouri ACP is poised to respond. National and chapter representatives of ACP will be meeting with the editors of major news papers in both Kansas City and St. Louis in the near future to discuss the Annals paper and to provide a public forum for the debate. Universal health care is a timely and important issue at this important time in history and we will be there.

Lastly, let me inform you of an important alliance that has recently been formed. We have joined with other primary care organizations in the state (MoACP, MAFP, and MoAAP) to form the "*Missouri Primary Care Coalition*". You will be hearing more about this, but the primary goal of this group will be to address the crisis of primary care in Missouri. The coalition seems to be gearing up to be an advocacy group, but our primary goal at present is to influence Mo Health Net in defining the "*medical home*", identifying who will provide it, how it will be supported financially, and how it will truly offer access to care for all Missourians. We are a fledgling, but impassioned, coalition and I see good things coming out of its efforts. **Bill Fogerty, Pat Garrett**, and I will be representing Missouri ACP in this coalition, but if you are interested in being involved please join us.

There is so much more, but so little space-Internal Medicine 2008 and Leadership Day will occur concurrently this May in Washington DC. Please come; I would love to have a strong Missouri representation there. Planning for our annual scientific meeting in September is almost complete, thanks to our strong planning committee, and it looks to be another outstanding meeting. Students and residents continue to join us in record numbers, hungry to know more about what we do. Membership is growing and we are doing well financially. All of our success, of course, must primarily be credited to our executive director, **Pat Mills**, for whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude. Thanks, Pat!

All in all we are doing very well and I must also credit your energy and enthusiasm for our chapter's success. I thank you for your support and look forward to another wonderful year as your Governor.

Chapter continues to reach out to members

The Missouri Chapter meeting is the only meeting exclusively for Missouri internists. Over the past few years your Missouri Chapter has been recognized with the ACP Evergreen Award - national recognition for innovation serving members' needs through the changes that have been made at the chapter meeting. The modifications include small group meetings during the chapter meeting that are hosted by the chapter for the residency program directors; the chief residents; students; and women. Joining this list at the last meeting were the hospitalists.

Robert Folzenlogen, MD - Columbia of Columbia organized four presentations by hospitalists to a small group workshop. More than forty physicians turned out to hear from the hospitalists. All these sessions will continue to be a part of the 2008 chapter meeting.

Primary Care Coalition

Your Missouri Chapter of the ACP is working with the Missouri Academy of Family Physicians and the Missouri Academy of Pediatricians to emphasize the importance of primary care within Missouri. The three meetings held to date have helped identify how much the three organizations have in common. Currently the coalition is working with MO HealthNet (formerly Missouri Medicaid) and the physician members on the steering committee to promote the "health care home" and the importance of primary care physicians.

Medicare Update: WPS

Wisconsin Physician Services (WPS), a long-time Medicare carrier, has been awarded the Medicare Part A and Part B contract for the four state CMS region (Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska). The switchover occurred March 1 for NW Missouri and June 1 for the rest of Missouri. WPS' medical director - **Kenneth Bussan, MD** - will be speaking at the Missouri Chapter meeting in September to address your concerns first-hand. Go to www.wpsmedicare.com for more information.

ACP proposes solutions for U.S. health care based on review of other countries

ACP offers suggestions to reform the U.S. health care system, based on a comprehensive analysis of well-functioning health care systems of 12 industrialized countries in "Achieving a High Performance Health Care System with Universal Access: What the USA Can Learn from Other Countries," a new evidence-based paper released on December 4th on the Annals of Internal Medicine website. The paper was developed by ACP's Health and Public Policy Committee and approved by the Board of Regents in October, 2007. The paper reflects comments received on an earlier draft from members of the Board of Governors, Board of Regents, ACP Councils, and selected expert advisors.

The paper outlines the ills plaguing the American health care system and proposes evidence-based recommendations addressing each of them, based on findings of a review of 12 industrialized countries. The paper concludes that the current U.S. health care system-which involves multiple payers without guaranteed coverage (pluralistic model) results in the U.S. lagging behind other countries on access, quality and efficiency of care.

The paper, in addition to an accompanying editorial by **Dr. Harold Sox**, are available on the website of Annals of Internal Medicine, www.annals.org. The paper was also published in the January 1, 2008 print issue of Annals.

ACP has also unveiled a new non-partisan ACP Web tool on www.acponline.org that analyzes the health care reform proposals of the Presidential candidates, drawing on the recommendations outlined in the College's position paper. The tool will be updated continually throughout the 2008 election cycle. An online members-only discussion area is also accessible on the College's Web site.



Drs Fleming and Winkler present check to MU student Kerry Massman and Dr Brietzke for chapter IM2007 matching funds. The chapter will match up to \$250 per student from Missouri medical schools for students to attend IM2008.

ACP student members presented Doctors Dilemma at the fall meeting. Teams of students and residents competed in two different contests. The contest was judged by medical school faculty.



Associate Posters

The poster contest at the Missouri Chapter meeting has continued to grow, primarily due to the increased participation of the Missouri Internal Medicine Program Directors. The 2007 chapter poster contest had 96 entrants. A huge note of thanks goes to the 40+ judges who reviewed the posters. The contest was overseen and organized by **Brent Beasley**, MD, FACP - Program Director at St Luke's in Kansas City. Congratulate **Dr Beasley** next time you see him.

The results are listed below. The chapter supports the winners of each category in their trip to the College poster contest. Second and third place receive checks for \$250 and \$100, respectively.

Clinical Vignette

1. Nasreen Ilias, MD - Washington University
2. Sara Cross, MD - Washington University
3. Sajama Wagar, MD - Washington University

Patient Safety & Quality Improvement

1. Nipun Arora, MD - UMC
2. Jagdish Nachnani, MD - UMKC
3. Peter Shawki, MD - St Mary's

Research

1. Poorna Karuparthi, MD - UMC
2. Yuan Wang, MD - St Luke's (St Louis)
3. Shivak Sharma, MD - Washington University

Poster judge comments

In a shameless effort to recruit judges for the 2008 poster contest we have included the following for your consideration:

"The cases (posters) presented by the young physicians at the ACP poster session were interesting and informative. This is a mutually beneficial endeavor for the judges and the presenters." Tom Allen, MD - Kansas City

Fall meeting: Education and Enjoyment

The chapter meeting at Tan Tar A offered more than 20 hours of CME in addition to great weather at the Lake of the Ozarks. Many who attend have been coming for years to hear Updates in Internal Medicine; enjoy time away with their families; and to see old classmates. This year's meeting will be at The Lodge of Four Seasons September 11-14.

Alan C. Braverman, MD - *Thoracic Aortic Disease: Update for the Internist*

Kenneth L. Bussan, MD - *WPS Medicare - The Changing Medicare Climate*

Richard Butin, MD and William Jennings, MD - *Palliative Medicine, Introduction to the Specialty*

Murali Chakinala, MD, FCCP - *Pulmonary Potpourri: pulmonary problems encountered by Generalists"*

Salvador Cruz-Flores, MD - *Stroke update*

Yul Ejnes, MD - ACP Regent

* Federal Update - Saturday a.m.

* College Regent report - Friday 11a.m.

Alan Forker, MD, FACP - *Misadventures in Medical Judgment*

David Gardner, MD - *The Latest Developments in Glycemic Control*

George Griffing, MD - *Boning up on Osteoporosis*

Benjamin Holt, MD - *Hip update*

Mikhail Kosoborod, MD and Steven Marso, MD - *Debate: Medical vs. Interventional Therapy for Chronic Coronary Artery Disease*

Kevin Latinis, MD, PhD - *Lupus, 2008: Transitioning from Science to New Therapies*

Archana Ramaswamy - *Follow-up and complications of bariatric surgery*

Mark Richards, PhD MD - *From Cardiac Resynchronization to Minimizing Pacing: New Features on Today's Pacemakers and Defibrillators*

Will Roland, MD - *Staph aureus, like Elvis, is Everywhere!*

Joel Shenker - *Dementia*

Jim Slaughter - *Psychotropic medication in the elderly*

Steve Welsh, MD - *Endoscopic ultrasounds*

Anne Winkler, MD, PhD, FACP, FACR - *Biologic therapies for rheumatologic diseases: what internists need to know*

Hospitalist Conference

Mark Thoenke MD - *Anticoagulation bridging*

Matt Freer - *Approach to Syncope in the Hospitalized Patient*

Richard B. Whiting, MD, MACP - *EKG Interpretation - beginning to end*

SEP - Internal Medicine module

2008 Calendar

April 19	Missouri Chapter CME at the MSMA convention
May 13-14	ACP Leadership Day - Washington DC
May 5-17	IM08 - Washington DC
September 11-14	Missouri Chapter meeting - Lodge of Four Seasons

Ballot

Your Missouri Chapter of the ACP Nominations Committee has submitted the following members for your consideration to serve on the Chapter Council:

The following have completed one term and were re-nominated for a second term (vote for 3):

- Beth Andes, MD
- Alan Forker, MD, FACP
- Nancy Russell, MD

Nominated for a first term to the Council were (vote for 4):

- Ahmed Awad, DO - Kansas City
- Bishnu Devkota, MD - St Louis
- Carla Dyer, MD - Columbia
- Robert Folzenlogen, MD - Columbia

Please fax your ballot to: 573-636-8552