

In these ever-changing times, the American College of Physicians continues to focus on its mission of patient care and physician involvement. The scheduled fall Board of Governors in-person meeting quickly transitioned to a virtual experience due to the threat of Hurricane Ian. Fortunately, the modification of the event was familiar to most as we all have experienced the virtual realm! And yes, the meeting was a true success under the leadership of Dr. Elisa Choi who is absolutely phenomenal in keeping the board on task for the work at hand.

We were addressed and updated by our leadership on several issues. Dr. Darilyn Moyer, our executive vice president and chief executive officer, gave highlights on membership and reflections of the college's value base membership growth. Of interest, the college is addressing to the public what an internist is as a physician. Moreover, new marketing tools showcasing internal medicine and the recognition of Internal Medicine Day have been sent out on media platforms. Our ACP President, Dr. Ryan Mire gave updates on some of his recent interviews and press releases. Unfortunately, he has had to address on multiple occasions the recent mass shootings that have been so tragic. He specifically brought to our attention the College's policy on gun violence. Dr. Susan Borenstein, Chair of the Board of Regents, told of her Firearm Summit participation and challenged us to change the way we talk about these issues in the clinic and at the bedside.

We had a presentation from Allison Ewing on the college's brand identity campaign designed to elevate internal medicine recognition. Specifically bring to the forefront that internal medicine physicians are at the core for clinical care. Again, Internal medicine day highlights and roll out across different platforms has been a key push in this campaign. There was a great keynote address from Dr. Kimberly Bates who gave personal poignant experiences of being a physician and a patient. The talk really brought home the importance of humanity in our practice.

I really enjoyed the break out session with some of our regional states. We had an opportunity to talk to leadership about issues we face in the southern region. This included Medicare reimbursement, Medicaid expansion, the colleges stances on recent policy statements, membership engagement, and work place challenges. It's no surprise that our regional chapters face similar issues in healthcare delivery and cost strains. Our peer states seem to be handling issues like Medicaid expansion differently.

The town hall session brought in ACP leadership and showcased the power ACP has with its policies. In particular, how the College addressed some of the administrative burdens in our practice and reimbursement strategies. ACP is looking at how to make sure pathways for the outpatient internist are rewarding. Moreover, ACP is paying attention to the issues medical schools address from regulatory changes, financial commitments and striving to promote primary care.

The Washington Policy Update included topics of strengthening food and nutrition security and to promote public health in the US. ACP gave its support of the new covid vaccination guidelines. One of the other top priorities on the Washington update was potential Medicare payment cuts. It was interesting to note that the physician payment has not increased in 20 years. I was able to write a letter to our congressman to halt physician payment cuts and extend the 5% bonus for alternative payment models. Let's continue to reach out to our political leaders on this matter. We have a voice!

ACP is a policy making organization that has an extensive process to address issues in the practice of medicine. The Board of Governors was reminded that our chapters play an important role in making

policy. We as members of the college should continue to put forth policy ideas to address issues we face in our practices. Please continue to visit the ACP website for ongoing updates.

As always, I am available to you and will continue to update this great chapter. I thank the Mississippi ACP Governor's Council for your leadership. And I especially thank you for caring for the patients of Mississippi.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Otis Gowdy Jr. M.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Otis Gowdy Jr MD, MBA, FACP