

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

Friends,

I'm excited to tell you about two new programs that are directed toward future leaders of Alabama ACP: **The Alabama Laureate Society** and our **Early Career Physician Mentoring Program**.

This past summer, our Council approved establishment of the **Laureate Society**. We will select two resident members each year as Alabama Laureate Fellows. Our Fellows will receive mentoring in career development and leadership in ACP, supplemented by free attendance at State ACP meetings, national ACP meetings, and ACP Leadership Days in Montgomery and Washington. Their mentors and our leadership will support their nominations for national ACP committee and other leadership positions.

Laureate Fellows in return will provide guidance to our Council and Chapter about state meetings, membership development, and public policy.

Mike Soppett, our Health and Public Policy Chair, has provided key leadership in the development and implementation of this program. Our Governor-elect, Ross Vaughn, has taken the lead for external funding. Bob Centor, former chair of the national ACP Board of Regents, has agreed to be the director of the program. Program Directors of five of our state IM residencies have made nominations, and the selection committee will name the two inaugural Fellows before the end of the calendar year.

The **Alabama ACP Early Career Physician Mentoring Program** is the product of the work of Alan Baggett and Allison Rogers, our ECP co-Chairs. Those first years of practice can be especially challenging, particularly when it comes to practice management and finances – not to mention new locations, groups, health systems, third party payors, and all the documentation and regulatory tangle that are less visible during residency.

This is exactly the time that ACP and its members can be terrific resources for ECP's, but it's also the time when the ECP may not see how to find time and energy for ACP. Alan and Allison are pairing interested early career ACP members with mentors based on shared interests, with a commitment to meeting at least quarterly for a year. The initial response has been good, and the program will expand next year. If you are interested in being a mentor or mentee and didn't enroll this past summer, we hope you will sign up for the next cycle.

Other important points about Alabama ACP:

- **We need more members!** There are plenty of internal medicine physicians, residents, and students who can benefit from ACP who are not yet members. It's simple! Just ask them to go to <https://www.acponline.org/about-acp/chapters-regions/united-states/alabama-chapter> and click on Membership to find their category. Benefits of membership are detailed there, and our Council members (listed below) and I are happy to talk anytime about why every internal medicine physician should be an ACP member.
- ACP continues to advocate **for fair reimbursement and less regulatory hassle** in our work. Check out <https://www.acponline.org/practice-resources/business-resources/payment> for detailed information about Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, Private Insurance, and Alternative Payment Models (Quality Payments, Patient-Centered Medical Home, Direct Patient Contracting

and others) that you can apply in your practice. **Recent Medicare fee schedule increases for primary care came directly from ACP positions and advocacy.**

- ACP continues its **Patients Before Paperwork initiative**, focusing on the hassles of Prior Authorization, Electronic Health Records, and Prescribing. Look for details at <https://www.acponline.org/advocacy/where-we-stand/patients-before-paperwork-reducing-administrative-burdens>. There's a link for you to share your specific challenges and your own best practices in these areas.
- ACP advocates for **improved board certification policies and procedures**. I get asked about this pretty often, something like "Why does ACP require recertification and why isn't it less of a pain in the neck to do?" or words to that effect. Remember that board certification comes from the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM), not ACP. We advocate on your behalf to make that process rational again!
- **Here at home**, Alabama ACP continues to work in alliance with other specialty societies and the Medical Association to insist on safe and appropriate **scope of practice** for Advanced Practice Practitioners (nurse practitioners and PA's), pharmacists, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, and other health professionals. **We support** successful vaccine programs, expanded broadband, and medical scholarships to promote rural and underserved practice. **We have opposed** unreasonable office practice regulations for imaging and medical waste, and we continue to collaborate with our partners to reduce the burdens of prior authorization.
- I get to represent you on the national ACP Health and Public Policy Committee, where we handle a large percentage of the resolutions that come through the Board of Governors as well as recommendations to the Board of Regents for ACP positions on topics ranging from COVID policies to prison health, food insecurity, health system reform, health disparities, and violence. My job is to insist on a balanced and sensible approach that reflects the values of our membership, and I love doing that on your behalf.

It's a real privilege to work for you as ACP Governor. Please let me know what else we can be doing to help you, all Alabama internal medicine physicians, and our patients!

Bill

A WORD FROM OUR GOVERNOR-ELECT

I am deeply honored for the opportunity to serve as your governor for the next 4 years and humbled to follow in the footsteps of my mentors Alan Siegel, Bob Kreisberg, Bill Dismukes and my practice partner John Burnum. Our chapter is blessed with a history of strong leadership, and I can only hope to represent you and contribute to the Board of Governors a fraction as eloquently and effectively as my predecessor Bill Curry.

My goal during governorship is to improve the relevance of the ACP to our trainees and early career physicians. Students and young physicians are the future of our chapter, and I am excited about our new Laureate Society Fellowship which will foster development of tomorrow's leaders. Our Early Career Physician Mentoring Program will help young physicians navigate the complexities of entering practice and find ways for professional fulfillment with advice from a seasoned internist. We have a growing number of new residency programs in Alabama, and as governor I plan to visit each of them to encourage ACP membership and participation with our chapter's activities. During the early years of my

career, it was a highlight for our family to attend the state ACP meeting at the beach, and I will make it a priority to return to that venue and create inclusive activities for young families.

Though we all face many challenges such as electronic records competing for our time, advanced practitioners competing for professional equality, and virtual clinics competing for our patients, the ACP is strongly advocating for you and your patients. With us working together, I still believe the future of internal medicine is bright.

Looking forward to serving you as Governor,

Ross B. Vaughn, MD, FACP

APPs (NPs and PAs) IN YOUR PRACTICE

With all the controversies around maintaining appropriate scope of practice for APPs, it could be easy to lose sight of the great value they bring to our practices and health systems. If you're currently working with APPs or if you are considering it, make a visit to ACP's Practice Resources tab on the [acponline.org](https://www.acponline.org) website to see the extensive resources that are waiting for you there:

<https://www.acponline.org/practice-resources/patient-and-interprofessional-education/team-based-care-toolkit> There's everything from background and training to recruitment, business cases, sample job descriptions, reimbursement issues, and more.

For specific regulations here in Alabama, you can visit: <https://www.albme.gov/> and click on the Licensing tab to view specific information for NPs and PAs.

Team-based care can be a great gift to patients and a game-changer for physician satisfaction and well-being!

SAVE THE DATE - CHAPTER MEETING

Mark your calendar for the 2023 Alabama & Mississippi chapters scientific meeting in Meridian, Mississippi. We'll gather June 2-4 at the beautiful Riley Center and the Threefoot Hotel in downtown Meridian for engaging lectures, after hours activities and family fun. Watch our social media for details as they are finalized.

ALABAMA ACP COUNCIL MEMBERS

Governor-Elect: Ross Vaughn, Tuscaloosa

Immediate Past Governor: Gustavo Heudebert, Birmingham

Treasurer: Pink Folmar, Birmingham

Membership Chair: Hernando Carter, Birmingham

Wellness Champion: Lauren Pacheco, Birmingham

Program Chair: Rob Smola and Allison Rogers, Birmingham

Council Class of 2023

Tyler Butts, Mobile
Hernando Carter, Birmingham
Brad McAnalley, Sheffield
Roger Smalligan, Huntsville

Council Class of 2024

Alan Baggett, Owens Crossroads
Ryan Kraemer, Birmingham
Haley Ballard, Mobile
Rebecca Byrd, Mountain Brook

Council Class of 2025

Lakeisha Moore-Smith, Birmingham
Dibyajiban Mahapatra, Huntsville
Alonso Heudebert, Birmingham
T. J. Hundley, Mobile

Medical Student Representatives

Meghan Olivet, UAB
Jack Galla, USA

Resident and Fellow Council Representative

Dan Spell, UAB

Council of Medical Student Members

Craig Hoesley, Birmingham, UAB Faculty Advisor and Chapter Coordinator
T.J. Hundley, Mobile, USA Faculty Advisor
Rekha Lall, Auburn, VCOM Faculty Advisor
TBA, ACOM Faculty Advisor

Council of Resident and Fellow Members

Alonso Heudebert, UAB Faculty Advisor and Chapter Coordinator

Council of Early Career Physicians

Alan Baggett, Co-Chair, Huntsville
Allison Rogers, Co-Chair, Birmingham
Stephen Stuart, Birmingham
Andrew Hodges, Scottsboro

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST FELLOWS

September 2022

Waseem Mohamed MD FACP

Holly Pursley MD FACP

Anabela Simon-Lee MD FACP

November 2022

Ali Hachem MD FACP

Adnan Mallick MD FACP

Fellowship in the College is an honor. Being an FACP® is a distinction earned from colleagues who recognize your accomplishments and achievements over and above the practice of medicine. The most important considerations for ACP Fellowship are excellence and contributions made to both medicine and to the broader community in which the internist lives and practices.

For additional information about Fellowship, [visit ACP's website](#).