I used to watch an old Staples commercial with a father driving a cart through the aisles of Staples with the music of “it’s the most wonderful time of the year” as he is excited about having their forlorn children return to school after spending the summer with him. I would like to take a different tack on this time of year because it always reminds me of starting fresh and getting inspired. I hope to convince you all that THIS is the most wonderful time of the year.

ACP Leadership Day and the IMM Annual Meeting

Last year, I talked about coming back from the ACP National Meeting inspired after meeting colleagues and old friends while learning what is up to date and new in medicine. I really enjoyed this year’s celebration in Boston MA. I got to meet some of my colleagues from medical school, residency, residents who I taught when I was in Massachusetts and some from my early days here in Arizona. I watched our own ACP-AZ Doctor’s Dilemma team advance to the semifinals of the national competition, walk in the solemn convocation ceremony, and meet a number of our residents and students who were presenting their abstracts/posters at the national competition. Although this was exciting, it was even more thrilling to join fellow members of ACP-AZ going to national Leadership Day in Washington DC. Ten of us made the trek to our nation’s capital to advocate for our patients and for internal medicine physicians. We were led by Drs. Shak Rehman, Shireeen Jindani, Eladio Periera, and Priya Radhakrishnan who have attended previously, while myself and five other ACP-AZ members including medical students Wesley Peng and Yash Suri, resident physicians Drs. Alexis Bailey and Taylor Viggiano, and newest Advocacy Committee member Dr. Nikhil Sood, were all attending for the first time. We advocated with members from across the country to advocate for increasing the number of resident physicians nationwide, advocating for the Safe Step Act which allows patients not to have to go through step therapy when it is not clinically indicated, and lastly advocating for improvement of payment for physicians (through the years Medicare payments have been cut while inflation costs have continued to rise). Telling our “stories” of patients’ needs and practice pressures was an important part of what we do.
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End of the Academic Year and Beginning of New Starts

As a Program Director and educator for the past 30 years, I have always found this time to be the most wonderful time of the year. Our residents graduate from their programs to go onto fellowships or practice and students graduate from medical school to go on to their residency training. Our PGY-1’s start their PGY-2 years taking on new leadership and teaching roles and faculty prepare for our new PGY-1 classes. The “rebirth” of the academic year brings new ideas, new enthusiasm, new idealism, and perhaps just a bit of trepidation.

For ACP our challenge is to keep our graduating residents engaged in ACP activities. One way to do this and to help your career as an early career physician is to enroll in the ACP Guided Fellowship Program. This program is a three year program that at the end of successful completion, early career physicians can earn the designation of Fellow of the American College of Physicians. I encourage all of our current graduating residents to look into this program. A great feature of this program is that the $175 enrollment fee is waived for recent graduates from 2022, 2023, or 2024 classes who enroll. For our incoming residents, joining ACP either through sponsorship of your IM Residency program or using your educational stipend is an investment in your future. Along with the educational resources of discounts on MKSAP & Dynamedex, the career guidance on the website, the resident well-being series, or connecting with IMPower a residency support program throughout the three years of residency, all residents can benefit from this resource.

For new starts, we also had our first Governor’s Advisory Council of the year meeting with our newly elected leaders discussing the future of ACP-AZ. We were excited for our future with great projects upcoming such as the inaugural Interstate Great Debates Competition. Under the leadership of Drs. Sujatha Reddy and Ashini Shah for AZ, we look forward to the fun competition taking on controversial topics in Internal Medicine and having residents debate each other for the title of Arizona Great Debates Champion going up against the Nevada Great Debates Champion at the Southwest Great Debate Championship at the Annual Meeting November 8th & 9th.

Under the leadership of Drs. Indu Partha and Krystal Renzsel, Chair and Co-Chair of our Education Committee and Dr. Ranita Sharma, Chair of the ACP-AZ speaker’s bureau subcommittee, we have developed a new resource for Chairs of Medicine, Program Directors and other groups to create an ACP-AZ Speakers Bureau. The link for the Speaker’s Bureau is on our ACP-AZ website. This is a great way to bring our mission of education to locations in other parts of our state, potentially have a way to bring in donations, and give some of our members who may need it a way to get their scholarly activity. Please use this list to plan your institution’s Grand Rounds and other activities!

Lastly, as we look forward to a year where we can continue on our ability to support students, residents, and our physicians, we must work together to increase our membership and work on our new sponsorships for ACP-AZ’s educational fund. If you have colleagues who are not members, encourage them to join and gain all the benefits ACP has to offer. If you have any connections with potential sponsors for our educational fund, please feel free to send them our new sponsorship prospectus (linked on page 6) or connect them with our Executive Director, Rachael Lowery (RLowery@acpazchapter.org).

I hope this has convinced you that this is the most wonderful time of the year!

Allan L Markus, MD MS MBA FACP
ACP-Arizona Governor
Thank you to those of you who joined us in Boston in April! It was a special time to be together with so many of you in such a wonderful city. Here are some highlights in retrospect:

**Arizona Speakers**
- Alli Adebisi – ACP Quality Improvement Leadership Training: Best Practices to Achieve Meaningful and Sustainable Improvement (Pre-course)
- Tabitha Moe – Cardiology for Internal Medicine Physicians 2024: The Key Points (Pre-course)
- Eladio Pereira – Helping Health Care Heal: Reducing Barriers to Physicians Receiving Mental Health Care (Panel)
- Alli Adebisi – How to Improve Clinician Belonging and Inclusion (Panel)
- Juliana Kling – Menopause Management for the Internal Medicine Physician: Hot Flashes, Night Sweats, and the Genitourinary Syndrome of Menopause (Meet the Professor)
- Scott Litin – Presentation Skills for Physicians: Making Your Next Teaching Presentation Go Better Than Your Last (Meet the Professor)
- Scott Haferkamp – Arthrocentesis & Bursal Injection (Clinical Skills Center)

**Arizona Doctor's Dilemma Team Reaches the Semifinals!**
Congratulations Dylan McCreary, Adam Lowe, and Kelli Yost of University of Arizona – Phoenix.

**Resident/Fellow Clinical Vignette Poster Winner:**
Julie Nguyen, MD
*Periodic Paralysis: Thyroid vs Family*
University of Arizona, Phoenix/Banner Health, Phoenix

**ACP Arizona FACPs Recognized at Convocation:**
- Nathanael Adjei-Kyeremeh, MD, FACP | Gilbert, AZ
- Nathan L. Delafield, MD, FACP | Scottsdale, AZ
- Aaron D. Knudson, DO, FACP | Page, AZ
- James Whitfill, MD, FACP | Phoenix, AZ
- Alvin G. Wong, MD, FACP | Phoenix, AZ

**Wellbeing Champ 2024**
ACP Arizona was recognized by ACP for being the ACP chapter with the most wellbeing-focused programming over the last year.
SPEAKER’S BUREAU
Brand new to ACP Arizona this year is our Speaker’s Bureau, a list of engaging and exciting content experts around the state. Our hope through the Speaker’s Bureau is to bring educational activities throughout Arizona over the coming years with a geographically diverse speaker’s bureau. This resource can be used by Arizona clinicians to identify speakers to invite for various lectures and educational meetings.

This is also an opportunity for our members to become more involved by signing up as a speaker. Those who sign-up can specify what topics they feel comfortable speaking on, if they would require honorarium, travel expenses, or would want to donate their honorarium to the ACP Educational Funds that supports our educational activities. Apply today!

GREAT DEBATES
Also debuting this year are the Great Debates, a tournament-style residency competition taking place at three separate events throughout the year and culminating in a final round held at our Annual Chapter Meeting in Tucson on November 8th.

Scheduled Events – all are welcome to attend!
ACP – AZ Great Debates
- June 8th
- 9:00AM – 1:00PM
- Teams: Northwest, TMC & Banner
- Northwest Medical Center, 6200 N La Cholla Blvd, Tucson – Classrooms A & B
- Social Hour hosted by the Residency Committee to follow at Postino Grant – all attendees welcome to join.

August 24th: Phoenix
- 9:00AM – 1:00PM
- Teams: DHEV, Midwestern, Creighton, Abrazo
- DHEV Conference Center

September 28th | Details to Come

November 8th: Finals | Annual Chapter Meeting, Tucson
Mark your calendars for a time to gather together from across the state for networking, learning from top-notch speakers on a wide variety of relevant topics, and engaging with medical students and residents. We want to see all our Arizona IM physicians at the meeting—rural, suburban, urban, community, and university!

**Featuring:**
- Great Debates Finals
- Doctor’s Dilemma Final Round
- Poster Competition
- Oral Vignettes
- Governor’s Reception

**Bonus Content:**
- Pre-Course Program: Hands-on Skills with SONOS
- For Med Students & Residents:
  - Career Options Panel
  - Meet the PDs/Chief Residents
  - Ultrasound Basics
  - Networking Social Events

**Speakers and Sessions**
Featuring Keynote Speaker on Asian Health Disparities & Advocacy: Dr. Elisa Choi MD FACP FIDSA
- *Internal Medicine / HIV Medicine / Infectious Diseases*
- *Board of Regents – ACP*
- *Immediate Past Chair, Board of Governors – ACP*
- *American Medical Association (AMA), House of Delegates (HOD) – ACP Representative*
- *American Medical Association (AMA), Women Physicians Section (WPS) – GC Member-at-Large*

**General Session Breakouts:**
- Updates in Hospital Medicine | Dr. Brenda Shinar | UACOM–P
- Updates in Geriatrics | Dr. Helene Lebonte | MAYO
- Dermatology for the Internist | Dr. Mimi Algazi | Arizona Community Physicians
- Medical Ethics | Dr. Bridget Stiegler | Northern Arizona Healthcare
- Updates in Critical Care | Dr. Christian Bime | UACOM–T
- Updates in Obesity Medicine | Dr. Amit Algotar | Family Medicine, BUMC–T
- What’s New in Women’s Health? | Dr. Joy Bulger Beck | BUMC–T
- How to Run a Primary Care Practice Pearls | Dr. Melanie Cloonan–Schulte | Private Practice, Internal Medicine
- AI in Med Ed | Dr. Shakaib Rehman | Phoenix VA Healthcare Systems & UACOM–P
- What is Happening in Rural Health in AZ? | Dr. Osaf Ahmed | DHMG–Chandler
- Social Justice Grassroots Efforts in AZ | Eladio Pereira | Mariposa Community Health Center

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**Sponsorship Opportunities**

We’re Open for Sponsors & Exhibitors!
Please send any potentially interested our informative decks linked below, or send their information to rlowery@acpazchapter.org.
Legislative Day 2024
The Arizona Advocacy Committee welcomed 30+ members to the state capitol on March 7th for our annual Legislative Day. Our members met with seven different legislators to connect and share our perspectives on the key issues at hand. We received two different presentations about the current issues at hand, status of key bills, and insightful information about how to make an impact on the legislative process. We’re looking forward to next year!

Leadership Day on Capitol Hill 2024
Ten members of ACP-AZ travelled to Washington, DC this May to take part in ACP’s Leadership Day on Capitol Hill. 5 attendees were students, residents, or ECPs that ACP was able to support via scholarship. Our members advocated alongside ACP members from across the US to pass the Resident Physician Shortage Reduction Act (increasing resident numbers nationwide), the Safe Step Act (allows patients to skip step therapy when it is not clinically indicated), and the Physician Fee Schedule Update & Improvements Act (improving pay to physicians in the face of inflation plus declining Medicare payments). Thanks to Senators Kelly and Sinema, and Representatives Gallegos, Grijalva, Gosar, Stanton, and Lesko for their support of these bills! Thank you as well to our Advocacy Committee leadership for organizing our group-- we are so proud of our chapter’s efforts to make a difference.

If you have connections and want to join / participate in our advocacy efforts, please contact our committee chair, Dr. Shak Rehman, at shakaib.rehman@va.gov, or fill out our committee interest form on page 8.
Resident Committee

The Resident Committee held its first debate-style Journal Club event on April 11th! Discussion was had over the pro & cons of Ozempic over lattes & snacks.

Stay tuned for future events!

JUNE STORY SWAP

Story sharing is a powerful way to connect with others, foster empathy, and preserve memories. When we share our stories, we open up a window into our experiences, thoughts, and feelings, allowing others to see the world from our perspective. Through story sharing, we can build bridges between individuals, communities, and cultures, promoting understanding and unity. Moreover, sharing our stories can be a therapeutic and cathartic experience, helping us process our emotions and gain new insights into our lives. By sharing our stories, we can inspire, educate, and uplift each other, creating a ripple effect of positivity and connection.

ACP Maryland chapter is inviting you to join the June Story Swap, featuring our own Dr. Shradha Gupta, Co-chair of the ACP-AZ Wellness Committee.

**Topic:** “The Day I Knew I was Meant to Do this Work”

**Date:** June 13th, 2024

**Time:** 7:00PM - 8:00PM EST

Please, let Dr. Hari Devkota know if you would like to be a storyteller and please register then you will be sent a zoom link for that evening’s story swap. Please email Dr. Hari Devkota (hari.devkota@umm.edu) or Maryellen Woodward (mew4work@aol.com).

Register for Story Swap

Consider Joining AIMN

Please join ACP Advocates in Internal Medicine to join more than 15,000 colleagues in the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network (AIMn) in advocating for the interests of internal medicine in Washington, D.C. The AIMn program is for ACP members interested in participating in federal advocacy. It is designed to help members engage with their federal lawmakers on policy issues important to ACP and internal medicine. It’s free!

Join AIMN Today!

Interested in Joining a Committee?

Interested in being apart of our committees and making a difference?

Apply today!

Register for Story Swap