

MEET YOUR GOVERNOR



Ruth Weissberger, MD FACP

Question: *How and why did you choose to get involved with ACP?*

Answer: I got involved in ACP early in my career when I took a job that meant moving to a new community where I didn't know anyone. I was practicing as a subspecialist at the time (nephrology), and found in ACP a dynamic professional society that represented my interests as a physician. Joining ACP gave me a sense of connection and community with other internists, both general internists and other subspecialists.

Question: *Tell us about some of the initiatives you've started for CTACP and the inspiration behind them.*

Answer: One initiative we've been working on is expanding the involvement of international medical graduates (IMGs) in the CT ACP Chapter. Last December we hosted a webinar with a panel of national ACP leaders who are themselves IMGs, including the Immediate Past President of ACP, Dr. George Abraham, to discuss how involvement in ACP can provide opportunities for leadership and career advancement. More recently, we were awarded a Chapter Development Fund by national ACP to establish an IMG Council in our Chapter. We'll be reaching out to IMG members over the next year to participate in focus groups to gauge interest and set priorities. My inspirations for this effort are the many IMG residents I've had the privilege to work with in my job as residency program director.

Another initiative I'm excited about is enhancing our work in support of women in medicine by focusing on allyship, how male physician colleagues can promote gender equity in the workplace. We'll explore this topic with a panel discussion, including a prominent New Haven employment and civil rights attorney, at our annual meeting in October.

Question: *What advice would you give to Residents/Early Career Physicians?*

Answer: ACP is a great resource for much of what you need starting out in a career in internal medicine, whether it's in outpatient primary care, hospitalist medicine, or a

subspecialty. There are excellent educational materials, not limited to MKSAP and the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, but including on-line, state-of-the-art learning modules. There are practice management resources in the areas of coding, payment, and telehealth, among others. Advocacy is a big part of what ACP does, and you can make your voice heard as an ACP member on the important health care issues of the day. Last but not least, there are terrific networking opportunities if you attend chapter meetings and events geared toward residents and Early Career Physicians.

Question: *What are the key take-home messages for people who want to get involved with ACP?*

Answer: If you're not already a member, join at acponline.org. Then join us at the Annual CT Chapter meeting on October 21, 2022, at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, where you can meet other members and Chapter leaders and learn more about the activities of the Chapter. Also, as a member you'll receive notices about Chapter events that I would encourage you to explore.

Question: *What gives you the energy to wear so many hats at the same time?*

Answer: It's all about the people, starting with the patients in the community where I work, my colleagues and residents, and my colleagues at ACP. As health care delivery has become more fragmented, and more and more physicians are employed by hospitals and large health care systems, I believe it's become increasingly important to cultivate, and find your place in, a practice/division/department/professional society where there is true collegiality and mutual respect and caring.

Question: *What do you love doing in your free time?*

Answer: In my free time I enjoy reading, especially fiction and history, creative writing, and spending time on Connecticut's beautiful rivers and shoreline, kayaking and taking my dog for walks on the beach.