



Florida Services  
Chapter

**FL Advocate Newsletter**



John G. Langdon, MD FACP, President/Governor ♦ Jason M. Goldman, MD FACP, Governor

## President's Message



**John G. Langdon, MD FACP**

Colleagues,

...and now the time has come to say goodbye.

After nearly 6 years of living with the Florida Governorship as candidate, governor elect, C3 and C6 and soon to be immediate past governor class of 2018, I stand in awe of what we, the Florida ACP, have accomplished.

First and foremost is the consistent commitment to excellence and professionalism by our membership, which makes being a governor a joy and never a chore. From the youngest student members to the most senior Fellows and Masters responsibilities have been met, voices have been raised through countless resolutions and congressional visits resulting in dramatic victories such as the Docs vs. Glocks so ably led by past Governor Stu Himmelstein MD MACP and improvements in MOC approaches.

This year in the Florida Legislature we celebrate the passage of the Direct Primary Care and the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Bills, both of which represent substantial improvements in physician payment models and transparen-

cy, as well as the defeat of bad legislation, such as the Pharmacist Independent Practice Bill.

The Florida chapter has innovative programs that foster membership growth with increases in all categories and has received Excellence Awards every year. It goes without saying Dawn Moerings and Chris Nuland and their staffs contribute mightily to these accomplishments. A 2016 Evergreen award for the innovative program "Is Your Medical Assistant Ready for Meaningful Use?" is just one example of their contribution to the success of FL ACP chapter.

In parting from this good office I cannot say enough about what you and all my brothers and sisters who have walked with me for the last 50 years have meant to me. In simplest terms you have given me the courage to continue when I doubted myself, affection when I needed it, good counsel when I was a bit out of my league and, oh yes, the honor of this office which surely has been my victory lap and the reassurance that what we all hope for has come to pass - a life well lived. I am mighty proud of all of you for how you continue to strive to make Internal Medicine the core of all that is good in health care at a time when we have to fight for the right to just take care of our patients. I leave with you a recommendation to read a little book published by my good friend and class mate from Creighton University Medical School, Colin Jordan, in what turned out to be his last year of life on earth. Titled; "Briefings from a Doctor's Foxhole", it is a tribute to the "good physician" we all strive to be. I know you will enjoy it!

*Be Well and stay thirsty for knowledge my friends,*

*~John*

## **END OF SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Christopher L. Nuland, Esquire—General Counsel

March 12, 2018



### **Happy St. Patrick's Day!**

It was a Session that started amid sex scandals and ended with unprecedented protests regarding gun safety (or lack thereof), but in between, the Florida Legislature did pass some meaningful legislation that will significantly impact physicians and their patients.

ACP has two notable successes this Session. In its fourth year, the Direct Primary Care Bill finally passed and is on its way to the Governor; this bill will allow primary care physicians to contract directly with patients and remove insurance companies from the patient-physician relationship. In addition, we passed a Pharmacy Benefit Manager bill that will, for the first time, regulate these PBMs and ensure that patients receive the best possible pricing for their pharmaceuticals.

Without a doubt, the most significant other piece of legislation was the Opiate Control Bill. Not only will physicians have to consult the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program database before prescribing ANY controlled substance (not just opiates) to a patient above the age of 15, but any provider with a DEA license will have to take a 2 hour CME on controlled substances. Perhaps most importantly, however, initial prescriptions of Schedule II opiates will be limited to 3 days unless the physician can document the need for a full seven-day supply, along with a prescription that states "Medically Necessary Acute Pain Exception."

Despite the onerous nature of the bill, legislators did make several noteworthy concessions in response to our concerns. Schedule III narcotics will not be subject to the 3 and 7 day limitations, nor will patients with cancer or other terminal conditions, the PDMP need not be checked for children under 16, and there will an exception for traumatic injuries.

As important as these issues were, the Session was also notable for what did NOT pass. There was no Scope of Practice expansion for ARNPs, Physician Assistants, or Pharmacists, and legislation designed to limit the applicability of MOC also failed. Sadly, our insurance reforms also were scuttled when the House of Representatives failed to hear Retroactive Denial and step Therapy bills in the Session's waning days.

A special thank you goes to the FMA, especially Chris Clark, Jeff Scott, and Mary Thomas, and to the other Specialty Society lobbyists who worked tirelessly on our priorities. We could not do this without them, especially in a session as challenging as this one.

But the biggest thank you goes to our members who reached out to their legislators in support of our legislative agenda. Your dedication is an inspiration, and you are the reason that we are so successful.

As always, it is a pleasure and honor to serve.



**Christopher I. Nuland, Esq, FL Chapter ACP General Counsel**  
**Jason M. Goldman, MD FACP, FL Chapter ACP Governor**  
**Ankush K. Bansal, MD FACP, FL Chapter ACP Treasurer**