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American College of Physicians
Leading Internal Medicine, Improving Lives

Florida Services
Chapter

FL Advocate Newsletter

JUNE 2022



George D. Everett, MD MACP, President/Governor ❖ Ankush K. Bansal, MD FACP, Governor

President's Message



George D. Everett, MD MACP

Advocacy in Action-ACP on the Hill

On May 17-18, 2022, the Florida Chapter sent a delegation to Washington, D.C. to meet with members of Congress to advocate on those issues most important to Internal Medicine and our patients.

While several issues were addressed, during the meetings the delegation focused on ensuring that patients received the right drug at the right time. Toward that end, the Chapter focused on the Safe Step Act, which would allow physicians to work around step therapy protocols in urgent situations, and the Medicare Prescription Negotiation Act, which would allow Medicare to negotiate for lower drug costs. Also included in discussions were proposals too permanently enact, Covid-related laws to facilitate telehealth services, as well as proposals to reinstate the Carrier Advisory Committee to allow for physician input on Medicare coverage poli-

cies. Members of the delegation were delighted to note that these issues crossed party lines, a rarity these days, and there appears to be consensus on many of these issues.

Special thanks to those physicians and residents who took time out of their busy practice schedule to advocate for their patients and profession, especially Governors George Everett, MD MACP and Ankush Bansal, MD FACP, Past Governor and ACP Regent Jason Goldman, MD FACP, resident physicians Samuel Foldy, DO, Ian Motie, MD, Subhashree Nayak, MD, and Saleha Ozair, MBBS.

*George D. Everett, MD MS MACP
President/Governor, ACP Florida Chapter*



2022 ACP Leadership Day

May 17—18, 2022

Florida Delegation

George D. Everett, MD MACP
FL Chapter President/Governor

Ankush K. Bansal, MD FACP
FL Chapter Governor

Jason M. Goldman, MD FACP
Legislative Chair

Sam Foldy, DO
Subhashree Nayak, MD

Ian Motie, MD
Saleha Ozair, MBBS
Christopher L. Nuland Esq.
Dawn Moerings

REFLECTIONS ON THE LEADERSHIP DAY EXPERIENCE

As a current Med-Peds resident in Miami, I faced a variety of challenges this past year including pandemic-related hospital and resident staffing shortages, insurance denials of care, misuses of prior authorizations, and unregulated prescription drug price hikes that compromise patient care. I joined the Florida Delegation at the 2022 ACP Advocacy Leadership Day in Washington DC to relay the unique concerns of trainee physicians and my patients alike. I shared testimonials and patient stories to highlight policy changes and current federal legislation that would improve the healthcare for all patients across the state of Florida. It was humbling to work alongside current Florida ACP Leadership to meet with lawmakers and advocate for changes in the healthcare system to better serve us and our patients.

Subhashree Nayak, MD
Co-Chair, FL ACP Council of Residents & Fellows
Internal Medicine-Pediatrics Resident, PGY-3, Jackson Memorial Hospital/University of Miami

Healthcare transcends political parties. Because of this, physicians are uniquely positioned when it comes to advocacy. It is important physicians use this position to fight for what is in the best interest of their patients. ACP Leadership Day was an incredible way that allowed me to do just that. With 161,000 members, ACP is the largest medical specialty organization in the United States. Through my role with ACP during Leadership Day, I was able to speak to congressmen, congresswomen, and their staffers on behalf of my patients and the profession of medicine to show how current legislation has affected their constituents and what we can do to improve it. The ACP team was approachable, knowledgeable, and placed the needs of patients first regardless of their political affiliation. I could not think of a better group to have shared this experience with!

Sam Foldy, DO
Co-Chair, FL ACP Council of Residents & Fellows
Internal Medicine Resident, PGY-3, University of Florida College of Medicine - Jacksonville

It was wonderful interacting with Florida leadership and represent the Florida chapter at ACP Leadership Day. The meetings were very well coordinated and I honestly could not have asked for a better experience! As a foreign medical graduate entering the US healthcare system, it is imperative to understand the key issues that pose a barrier to effective delivery of care. Leadership Day helped me appreciate the importance of advocating and having a medical voice in policy making. From the various lessons I learned that day, I aspire to incorporate patient empowerment strategies in my practice and continue advocating at both the regional and national levels. Thank you once again for providing me the opportunity to participate and learn.

Saleha Ozair, MBBS
IMG Transitional Medical Student Graduate

The Florida Delegation Meets with Legislators



Florida Delegation L-R; Sam Foldy DO, George Everett MD MACP, Subhashree Nayak MD, Saleha Ozair MBBS, Ian Motie MD, Ankush Bansal MD FACP, Dawn Moerings, Jason Goldman MD FACP



Congresswoman Kathy Castor meets with the Florida Delegation



Florida Delegation networking dinner

The Florida Delegation at the Capitol



The Florida Delegation on Capitol steps



Chris Nuland, Esq. and Dawn Moerings meet with their District Congressman John Rutherford



Delegates enjoy Cuban coffee during meeting with Josh Duncan in Congresswoman Maria Salazar's office

ADVOCATES FOR INTERNAL MEDICINE NETWORK

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.

Enroll now: <https://cqrcengage.com/acplac/app/register?0&m=13815>

LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER

As key issues approach the decision-making stage on Capitol Hill, the College emails or faxes legislative alerts to AIMn members through our Legislative Action Center (LAC). Legislative alerts include all of the necessary information (including sample messages that can be easily personalized) to make informative contacts with members of Congress, and ACP staff is always available to provide support and answer legislative questions.

Once enrolled as an Advocate you can use the College's LAC to respond easily to current ACP legislative alerts, identify your federal legislators, monitor important legislation, and e-mail or call your members of Congress.

Legislative Action Center: <https://cqrcengage.com/acplac/home?0>



Florida Services
Chapter

Florida Chapter American College of Physicians

2410 Ormsby Circle W, Jacksonville, FL 32210

Phone: (904) 355-0800 Fax: (904) 584-9599

Email: dmoerings@floridachapteracp.org

Website: FLchapter.acponline.org