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In This Issue:

- ACP Illinois Southern Chapter receives Award
- ACP Leadership Day in Washington DC
- Well Being
- Women in Medicine
- Maintenance of Certification
- Congratulations to our new ACP Regent, Dr. Flack
- ACP Policy and Advocacy
- ACP for Early Career Physicians
- ACP for Resident members
- ACP for Medical Student members
- Call for news items
- Save-the-Date

ACP Illinois Southern Chapter Receives Award

I am pleased to announce that your ACP chapter received the 2018 Champion Award from ACP Quality Connect! The award recognizes quality improvement projects performed by ACP Chapters. The winning project from our chapter focused on identifying gaps in the care of patients with atrial fibrillation that could increase the risk for strokes. Many chapter members contributed to the success of the project and included **Narain Mandhan, MD, FACP**, and **Muhammad Ajmal, MD**, and local partner physicians,

Corinne Kohler, MD, FAAFP, and Karen Wiarda, DO. I wish to thank **Janet Jokela, MD, FACP,** and **Jennie Hsu-Lumetta, MD, FACP,** for their leadership and coordination of the award-winning project.

ACP Leadership Day in Washington DC

Your chapter sponsored 9 ACP members to visit Capitol Hill and advocate for our patients and our profession. The delegates were Anna Little (Carbondale), Susan Hingle (Springfield), Alexandra Barger (Springfield), Abeer Arain (Urbana), Janet Jokela (Champaign), Zainab Obaidi (Springfield), Hanna Erickson (Champaign), MJ Yadav (Peoria), and James Graumlich (Peoria). The delegates advocated for the following ACP priorities:

- Promote continued action to address the epidemic of opioid use
- Reduce prescription drug costs
- Patients before paperwork: reduce unnecessary administrative tasks on physicians and patients
- Fund health care work force, medical and health services research, and public health initiatives
- Make Graduate Medical Education funding more effective
- Reduce firearms-related injury and death
- Expand health insurance coverage and stabilize the health insurance market

For more information on ACP priorities, please visit advocacy@acponline.org



ACP members from the Illinois Southern Chapter participated in ACP Leadership Day, Washington DC: (left to right) Janet Jokela (Champaign), Susan Hingle (Springfield), Abeer Arain (Urbana), Alexandra Barger (Springfield), Hanna Erickson (Champaign), Anna Little (Carbondale), Zainab Obaidi (Springfield).

Downstate Dialogue interviewed one of the delegates, Dr. Abeer Arain, to learn her perspective on Leadership Day.

DD: Was this your first experience as a delegate from Illinois for ACP Leadership Day?

Dr. Arain: Yes. In addition, I was the first resident from my program to attend the event.

DD: Were you the only resident physician to participate in ACP Leadership Day?

Dr. Arain: There were several other residents whom I met at the meeting.

DD: Did your experience during ACP Leadership Day meet your expectations?

Dr. Arain: Absolutely! ACP leadership day is an excellent opportunity for residents to enhance their knowledge on policy-making and advocacy. It provides an ideal platform to come forward and discuss healthcare policies directly with the policymakers.

DD: What was the best part of your experience with ACP Leadership Day?

Dr. Arain: The best part was to meet with other residents from all over the country (including Montana and Alaska) and directly get involved in conversations with the legislative assistants and discuss healthcare policies at the national level. We, as residents, had the opportunity to communicate our thoughts on policies and discuss them on Capitol Hill. As a resident, I now feel confident talking about the current healthcare policies supported by the ACP that affect our patients and can also have impact on our everyday practice.

DD: If the opportunity arises, would you go again to a future ACP Leadership Day?

Dr. Arain: Certainly! I would love to go again next year and would also like to promote the event in my program. ACP's leadership day provides an invaluable experience to the residents and medical students to advocate for quality and effective healthcare at the national level and to highlight the issues of concern in the field of healthcare.

Well Being

Our newest Well Being Champions, Emily Horvath, MD, and Jennie Hsu-Lumetta, MD, FACP, recently completed advanced training related to physician wellness at IM 2018 in New Orleans. They will lead the efforts within our ACP Chapter to achieve the following goals:

- Integrate well-being/professional satisfaction information and strategies into Chapter programming and activities
- Assess and work with regional practices to measure well-being and burnout and provide strategies for improvement
- Serve as a coach or mentor for physicians in the Chapter, providing a supportive connection and resources

Please look for wellness programs for all chapter members at our next chapter scientific meeting on November 9-10, 2018

Women in Medicine

The ACP seeks to increase the proportion of women who advance to Fellowship in the ACP. If you are interested in advancement to Fellowship in the ACP, please contact me [via e-mail](#).

Maintenance of Certification

Your ACP has an ongoing priority initiative to advocate for timely reforms to the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) MOC process. The goal is to increase the value and reduce the burden of the

MOC process. If you have ideas for innovative solutions to improve MOC, please contact me [via e-mail](#).

According to feedback from our members, the SEP modules at ACP Illinois Chapter meetings are a popular way to obtain MOC. We intend to offer SEP modules again at our next meeting on November 10, 2018.

Congratulations to our New ACP Regent, Dr. Flack

We congratulate **John M. Flack, MD, MPH, MACP, FAHA, FASH**, from Springfield, IL. He was elected as a Regent of the American College of Physicians. The Board of Regents is the highest level of governance in the ACP. Dr. Flack joins two other regents from Downstate Illinois, **Dr. Susan Thompson Hingle, MD, MACP**, Immediate Past Chair of the Board of Regents, and **Janet A. Jokela, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FACP**.

ACP Policy and Advocacy

Your ACP is organized so that members, through their elected Governors, can participate in the national conversation about policies that affect our patients and our members. The process starts with a resolution that undergoes debate by the Board of Governors. Resolutions approved by the Board of Governors then go to the ACP Board of Regents for final action.

Here are the resolutions that had actions by the ACP Board of Regents in April 2018.

Adopted and referred for implementation:

- (7-S17) Advocating for a Uniform Filing Deadline for Medical Claims Submissions
- (1-S18) Waiving of CMS Three-Day Hospitalization Rule for Skilled Nursing Facility Eligibility
- (2-S18) Defining Human Trafficking as a Separate Diagnosis Code
- (4-S18) Opposing Health Insurance Companies from Requiring NDC's (National Drug Codes) on Vaccine Claim Submissions
- (8-S18) Opposing Insurance Company's Termination without Cause Policy
- (12-S18) Evaluating the Processes for ACP Representation in the American Medical Association
- (14-S18) Establishing Policy on the Appropriate Use of Point of Care Ultrasound
- (15-S18) Advocating for a Streamlined Credentialing Process
- (18-S18) Updating Policy on MOC and Licensure Requirements
- (19-S18) Promoting Wellness, Community Outreach, and Chapter Excellence through an ACP "Day of Service"
- (23-S18) Making LeaderNet Commentator's Relevant Disclosures of Interest Clearly Accessible

Adopted as reaffirmation of current ACP policy:

- (6-S18) Studying the Coordination of Care of Complex Patients and the Reimbursement Thereof
- (9-S18) Updating Policy to Support Private Contracting with Medicare Beneficiaries
- (11-S18) Evaluating MIPS Effect on Quality of Care and Developing an Alternative if the Effect is Proven to be Negative
- (22-S18) Increasing Efforts to Attract Physicians Involved in Direct Patient Care by Supporting Their Efforts in 24 Providing Such Care

I invite members to work with me to craft our own resolutions or refine the resolutions proposed by other ACP chapters. Please contact me [via e-mail](#) if you want to participate in the resolution process.

ACP for Early Career Physicians

The ACP encourages members to apply for advancement to Fellowship in the American College of Physicians. If you want to learn more, please contact me [via email](#).

ACP for Resident Members

The Doctor's Dilemma team from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign competed in April 2018 in New Orleans. Team members were **Dr. Michael Kuhlenschmidt**, **Dr. Vicky Kumar**, and **Dr. Saddam Yasin**. The tournament included teams from ACP chapters from around the globe. The questions were hard and the competition was fierce. Illinois can be proud of its UIUC team that advanced to the second round in the tournament.

I wish to acknowledge **Dr. Shravana Gudivada** who is a resident physician member from Springfield. Dr. Gudivada received an award for the best poster.

ACP for Medical Student members

Please join me as I congratulate two medical student members.

Hanna Erickson is a member of the Urbana Internal Medicine Interest Group. Ms. Erickson has been the student representative on the Governor's Advisory Council of the ACP Illinois Southern Chapter. Recently, Hanna was elected to the office of Vice Chair of the national ACP Council of Students.

Daniel Saca is a member of the Peoria Internal Medicine Interest Group. He won the medical student poster competition for the ACP Illinois Southern Region. Daniel received a travel award to present his poster at the IM 2018 meeting in New Orleans.

Call for News Items

Do you have good news about your recent award, promotion, or volunteer experience? Please share your stories with your brothers and sisters in the ACP Illinois Southern Chapter. [Send your news items to me](#) so I can include them in the Downstate Dialogue.

Save-the-Date

8 November 2018: Resident and Student Day for ACP Illinois Southern Chapter, East Peoria, IL

9-10 November 2018: Annual Scientific Meeting of ACP Illinois Northern and Southern Chapters, East Peoria, IL

11-13 April 2019: Internal Medicine Meeting 2019 in Philadelphia, PA

14-15 May 2019: ACP Leadership Day on Capitol Hill, Washington DC, 2019, at the Mandarin Hotel

Sincerely,
Jim

James F. Graumlich, MD, FACP
Governor, Illinois Chapter Southern Region
American College of Physicians