

*Dear Colleagues,*

Our Maryland ACP has been extremely busy with a number of interesting and exciting projects. Here are just a few.

## **NATIONAL MEETING – A great success**

Our national ACP Internal Medicine Meeting 2023 held at the San Diego Convention Center in April included many Maryland folks. Our very own Dr. Steve Sisson was sworn in as President-elect of the national ACP. It has been many years since we had a President from our Chapter and we are delighted that it should be someone who has been such an active and prominent member of our MD ACP. During this meeting, our MD ACP in collaboration with the DC and Virginia Chapters hosted a very well-attended reception with over 125 members in attendance. Our Chapter member highlights include: **Dr. Daniel J. Morgan** receiving the Alvan R. Feinstein Memorial Award, and **Dr. Sanjay V. Desai** and **Dr. Stephen D. Sisson receiving their Masterships** at this event. We also had several local speakers from our Chapter, including **Drs. Alicia Arbaje** (also walking as a Fellow); **Eliseo Guallar, Erica Johnson, Linda Lee, and Edmund Tori**. Congrats also to our other new Fellows who walked at the convocation **Drs. Diane Prossman, Sameer T. Shaik Abdul, Pamela Aung, and Shahabuddin Soherawardi**. We were represented at the Doctor's Dilemma Competition by the resident team from The Johns Hopkins University/ East Baltimore Campus consisting of **Drs. Olive Tang, Michael Rose, and Armani Hawes** made it into the finals this year. As the winners of the abstract competition at the 2022 Mulholland-Mohler Residents meeting, **Drs. JingJing Chen (MHIM - Research winner)** and **Dr. Surendra Sapkota (St. Agnes Ascension - CV winner)** also represented us at the resident abstract competition. **Ahmad Sayeed** was able to attend and received financial support as part of our Student Passport program. Be sure to look at the pictures for 2023 at our link below.

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## **MULHOLLAND MOHLER RESIDENTS MEETING – Another wonderful event!**

This year the MM meeting was held on May 11th at St. Agnes Hospital. This is an all-day event and includes posters from residents from our 12 programs including Walter Reed and our latest addition to our program family – Peninsula General in Easton, MD. There were almost 200 research and clinical vignette posters; 20 oral presentations and 50 judges in attendance at this all-day session. **Dr. Redonda Miller**, President of Johns Hopkins Hospital and general internal medicine physician,

presented a very thought-provoking look at what the future of medicine might hold. Kudos to **Drs. Dobbin Chow & Sapna Kuehl**, our MM advisors. We have some wonderful pictures and a list of the winners at the link below.

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## **LEADERSHIP DAY – Well attended and Action Oriented**

Leadership Day was once again a great success with 10 attendees and visits to many of the offices of our Congressional delegation. This year's "asks" included changes to the current step therapy system by reducing the administrative burden; payments that reflect our inflation rate for Medicare patients; allowing students to qualify for interest-free deferment on their loans while in residency programs; and the addition of 2,000 GME positions over the next 7 years. Thanks to **Drs. Janaki Deepak, Aseem Sood, Hari Devkota, Pamela Aung; residents Drs. Nicole Campion Dialo, Gary Soroosh, Dana Althwanay, Jenny Zhang, Karthik Udayappan, and student Razeem Karim; we are so proud of your advocacy for our patients!**

Please be sure to view the beautiful pictures taken of our Capitol by Dr. Aseem Sood at the link below.

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## **COMMITTEES – We are an active chapter - both in person and on ZOOM!**

**GET INVOLVED** - Volunteering to help on a committee is a great way to get to know other Internal Medicine Physicians in Maryland and to help shape our chapter's activities. We welcome you to join any of the committees: Volunteering and Community Service, Wellbeing, WISE, Early Career Physicians, Hospitalists, International Medical Grads, Women in Medicine, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Health and Public Policy; Membership. Check our examples of some of the recent activities below and let Maryellen know if you would like to join one: [mew4work@aol.com](mailto:mew4work@aol.com).

**WELLNESS** – The Wellness committee chaired by *Dr. Hari Devkota* has started a wonderful "Story Swap" series. This group meets once a month on the 2nd Thursday from 7 to 8:00 PM on ZOOM and people sign up in advance to tell a 5-minute story related to that month's theme with time between to discuss and time available at the end (usually) for anyone to share a story. They have been a tonic for the soul! We look forward to seeing you there! Our next Story Swap is Thursday, June 8th, at 7 pm and this month's theme is "Random Acts of Kindness"; please let

Dr. Devkota know if you have a 5-minute story to share: [Hari.Devkota@umm.edu](mailto:Hari.Devkota@umm.edu) and register here to get this month's zoom link:

[Register Today!](#)

**WISE (Wisdom Initiative for Senior Engagement) committee – Dr. Mary Newman** has graciously agreed to act as the Chair of this committee. The first meeting was held in March and several suggestions have been made for activities for this group. In reviewing our membership stats, it was found that those over 65, retired and semi-retired, make up a significant portion of our members. We felt that programs planned especially for this group should be developed. We are hoping for 2 workshops/trips/book clubs to be implemented each year. Look for details this summer as the plans are refined but for now, enjoy this picture of the group in our link below.

**WOMEN IN MEDICINE, EARLY CAREER PHYSICIANS, AND WELLNESS COMMITTEES HOSTED ARTS AT VACARRO'S** – Recently the WIM, ECP, and Wellness committees hosted a very enjoyable (tasty treats) and thought-provoking social in May. **Drs. Sapna Kuehl & Nargiz Muganlinskaya** provided pictures of famous and not-so-famous works of art that were viewed by those in attendance. The discussion then centered on what these pictures meant to our audience and also to the artist. Some also focused on the disease that might be reflected in the painting. It was such a success that we are hoping for a CM workshop to reprise this event.

**DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION**– Our co-chairs **Drs. Kim Adkins and Erica Johnson** have been collaborating with the Virginia and DC chapters and have been able to host three unique workshops focusing on diversity issues. Maryland will be hosting our very own workshop in September. Please be sure to look for the details.

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## NEW FELLOWS

Congratulations to our newest Fellows in the last six months: Congrats to **Drs. Pamela Aung, Mona K. Gahunia, Christopher Haas, Dima Hnoosh, Sumon Roy, Sameer Tajuddin Shaik Abdul, Swaroop Shanker, Shahabuddin Soherwardi, Niloofar Yahyapourjalaly**. Please give them high fives and fist bumps if you see them. As Governor, I want to help qualified members get the recognition of fellowship status. Please reach out to me for guidance at any time: [colleenchristmas9@gmail.com](mailto:colleenchristmas9@gmail.com)!

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## ACP RESOURCES

Be sure to take advantage of the incredible resources offered to ACP members for free! For example, check out the Advocacy for IM network (AIMn, [Advocates for Internal Medicine Network | Advocacy | ACP \(acponline.org\)](#)) to help you engage in the ACPs advocacy efforts including the ACP Advocacy Toolkit. Need to get your MOC and CME? The Online Learning Center has thousands of hours worth of CME and MOC for free to members: [CME & MOC | ACP \(acponline.org\)](#). Free point of care clinical reference anyone? [DynaMedex: A Benefit of ACP Membership | ACP Online](#). Renewing your DEA license after June 27, 2023, will require you to attest you have had 8 hours of training on substance use disorder; here's a high-quality way to get that if you need it: [Substance Use Disorder \(SUD\) Education: New DEA Requirement | ACP Online](#). Drs. Janaki Deepak and Ravitej Khunkhun will be leading a fantastic IM Board Review Course for the ACP in Washington D.C. in July: [ACP Internal Medicine Board Review Course – Washington, DC | ACP Online](#) And SO MUCH MORE!!!

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## **30 DAYS! Don't lose access to your amazing ACP benefits valued at over \$3,300!**

Time to renew your membership now! Continue your complimentary access to JournalWise and DynaMedex, and enjoy exclusively deep member discounts for MKSAP, Resolve (Physician Compensation services), Group insurance plans through AGIA, and so much more. Did you know your dues are also tax deductible? So do not delay! The deadline to renew your membership is June 30, 2023. Otherwise, you'll lose access beginning July 1 to these and many more valuable member resources. Don't miss out!

[Renew Today](#)

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## **What do you want to see from your chapter of the ACP? We love new ideas!**

Please contact us.

Maryellen our Chapter staff at [mew4work@aol.com](mailto:mew4work@aol.com) or myself at [Colleenchristmas9@gmail.com](mailto:Colleenchristmas9@gmail.com).

[LINK](#) to pictures featuring Leadership Day, WIM/ECP, WISE committee, and IM 2023.

Happy Summer to All. Please be sure to keep updated on all of our activities!

**Dr. Colleen Christmas, Governor  
Maryland ACP**

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