

Dear Colleagues,

This has been quite a year for our Maryland ACP members as well as our entire country. We have had highs and lows but somehow continued to find the strength to challenge ourselves to move ahead and grow even more. We have hopes that we are almost at the finish line of the pandemic, and we are all thankful for that.

We wanted you to know that our Maryland ACP has been even busier than in past years. With the use of a Virtual platform, we have been able to accomplish many of the activities that we had thought about producing but were unable to do so. We are so grateful to the amazing members whose creativity propelled us ahead this year. Here are a few highlights:

#### **NEW YOUTUBE SITE**

Our committees including Diversity, Early Career Physicians, Women in Medicine, and International Medical Graduates have been able to develop workshops featuring local and national speakers. To date, we have provided workshops on 4 different topics including a Critical Care Medicine series, Student Interview Season, as well as a program on Unconscious Bias. But, their plans have not stopped and we are planning additional workshops which should be of interest to our entire membership.

To support these workshops and make them available to all of our members, we now have our own YouTube site that allows our members to view all of the programs we have held thus far. Please be sure to take a look at this [site](#).

#### **CHAPTER MEETING FOR YOUR VIEWING AND PURCHASE**

This year, we also held our first ever Virtual Chapter meeting which was a 2-day event. It included our usual presentations focusing on “Navigating through the Pandemic” as well as a Student Corner, Resident’s Corner, POCUS Updates, SEP Modules and a luncheon that provided information about our committees. We were even able to incorporate our Awards ceremony with wonderful music from Dr. Ali Afookteh’s Monacacy Jazz band. Some of these free activities can be found on the YouTube site.

For those who registered for/attended the meeting, the recordings will be available for a year, and you can view them on the [meeting hub](#), which will remain on the chapter web site until next January.

**Great News** - For those who were unable to attend the meeting, we now have our [chapter meeting recordings](#) on the College Store. You will have the opportunity to purchase the meeting until July 30, 2021, after which it will

be removed from the College Store. If you are interested, please go to the [site on the College Store](#). CME is also offered for the purchased program.

### **ACP HONORS MARYLAND WITH SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**

Our Chapter hosted a Virtual Mulholland Mohler Residents meeting for over 200 presenters, 50 judges, and 20 students who participated as Zoom moderators. This meeting took place mid-May 2020 in the midst of the pandemic and we were able to successfully accomplish one of the first meetings of its kind.

The meeting has been recognized by the national ACP office who wrote to us last week informing us that, "On behalf of the Chapters Subcommittee, congratulations on receiving a 2021 John Tooker Evergreen Special Recognition Award acknowledging your efforts to foster chapter development through the planning and implementation of the Virtual - Mulholland Mohler Residents Meeting initiative.

The Subcommittee was impressed with your efforts and looks forward to receiving future nominations from your chapter. A vignette of your chapter's program will be posted on LeaderNet and published in the John Tooker Evergreen Collection to showcase your work.

We are fortunate to have dedicated leaders who develop and initiate innovative programs, which strengthen the College locally and meet the needs of our members. Thanks again for helping to make the John Tooker Evergreen Awards Program a success."

### **RESULTS OF ELECTIONS & COMMITTEE ADDITIONS**

We are also very pleased to announce that Dr. Aseem Sood will now assume the role of Secretary for our Chapter, and Dr. Sapna Kuehl will serve as our Treasurer. We thank Drs. Youngjee Choi and Heather Sateia for allowing their names to be placed in nomination for these roles, and know that they are planning to continue their wonderful activities on behalf of our MD ACP as co-chairs of our Early Career Physicians and Membership committees.

In conformance with our current bylaws, we have also added Dr. Neda Frayha and Dr. Julie Chen as members of our Council at large. Dr. Janaki Deepak will assume the role as Vice President, and co-chair of the Health and Public Policy Committee. Dr. Ravitej KhunKhun will now serve with Dr. Aseem Sood as co-chairs of our International Medical Graduate (IMG) committee.

Please send your congrats to all of our new electees!

### **VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP DAY - May 25-26, 2021**

Leadership Day 2021 will be held virtually this year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Please join us for an exciting virtual program that will include educational briefings, lively Q&A, and an opportunity to meet virtually with your members of Congress.

This event is open to ACP members only. ACP members interested in participating in Leadership Day 2021 should contact their chapter Governor to let her know of your interest and to be included in the chapter delegation congressional meetings. A \$25 registration fee will be charged to attendees at the time of registration, with the exception of medical student and resident/fellows in-training members, who are exempt.

For more information about the “virtual” Leadership Day 2021, go to this [link](#). If you have further questions, please contact Shuan Tomlinson via email ([stomlinson@acponline.org](mailto:stomlinson@acponline.org)) or at 800-338-2746, ext. 4547.

**PLEASE REGISTER ASAP!** ACP National will schedule ALL congressional meetings for our chapter’s registrants and connect them with their lawmakers via Zoom teleconference. They only have 400 Zoom lines available for virtual meetings. Once they reach the 400 limit they will not be able to accommodate additional registrants, so please register early!

**We encourage you to join the [Advocates for Internal Medicine Network](#).**

ACP’s continued success on Capitol Hill greatly depends upon year-round grassroots support from the College’s more than 15,000 members of the [Advocates for Internal Medicine Network](#). Advocates communicate with their members of Congress on issues of importance to medical students, internists and their patients.

The College is continually recruiting Advocates. ACP members are not required to have existing relationships with their members of Congress to enroll. ACP gives Advocates the tools necessary to develop and maintain relationships with their members of Congress. The program is open to all membership categories. Members can easily enroll by going to this link. Advocates develop relationships and communicate with their members of Congress in numerous ways. As key issues approach the decision-making stage on Capitol Hill, the College e-mails Legislative Alerts, typically posts them on ACP’s Facebook page and sends a Tweet via @advocatesIM and Advocates are asked to e-mail, post, Tweet or sometimes call, their members of Congress. Legislative Alerts include all of the necessary information (including sample messages that can be easily personalized) with which to reach out to their members of Congress. ACP staff is available to provide support and answer questions. Advocates simply need to go to the Legislative Action Center and follow a simple process to contact their members of Congress.

In addition to Legislative Alerts, some Advocates also take the time to write editorials and letters to the editor, attend Town Hall meetings, and/or otherwise seek to engage with their elected officials over the course of the year on federal legislative issues of importance to the College.

Advocates also receive The Capitol Key newsletter, updating them on the advocacy activities of their fellow Advocates. Previous issues of the newsletter can be found at the following [link](#).

For more information on ACP's Advocates for Internal Medicine Network, please contact Shuan Tomlinson at [stomlinson@acponline.org](mailto:stomlinson@acponline.org).

## **TWO HOPKINS COVID STUDIES OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO OUR MEMBERS**

**Covid-19 Clinical Trial Enrolling in Baltimore and Annapolis:** Johns Hopkins University is enrolling for two new Covid-19 treatment and prevention studies

Your patients may be eligible to participate if they either:

1. Were tested for Covid-19 no more than 5 days ago and were positively diagnosed, still have symptoms, but haven't been hospitalized
2. Were in close contact with someone who has Covid-19 no more than 3 days ago, but don't have any symptoms

This clinical trial will determine whether giving people antibodies is effective at treating early-stage coronavirus and in preventing those exposed to it from catching the disease.

**Who:** Individuals over age 18 who meet the criteria above. Additional screening details are available [here](#).

**Where:** Trials are being conducted on-site at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore and Anne Arundel Medical Center in Annapolis—as well as locations in key markets across the country.

**Will patients be compensated?** Yes. More details are available once the patient has contacted the investigators via the website or phone number below.

**When:** Enrolling now. If your patient thinks they have been exposed, or is newly diagnosed and has symptoms, contact Johns Hopkins at 888-506-1199 or [www.covidplasmatrial.org](http://www.covidplasmatrial.org) – if too many days pass, they may not qualify to participate.

**Who do they call to know if they qualify?:** Call 888-506-1199, or visit [www.covidplasmatrial.org](http://www.covidplasmatrial.org) to take the enrollment questionnaire. This study is entirely voluntary, and participants will be compensated.

**Why does this trial matter?** This is the first U.S. multi-center, double-blind, randomized clinical trial to assess the effectiveness of convalescent blood plasma given early in the course of illness. Prior studies into convalescent plasma have looked at hospitalized and emergency room patients. This study is designed to keep those infected with or exposed to COVID-19 out of the hospital to begin with.

**Important Note:** *We are making this info available for your information and individual assessment of interest in participating. ACP Maryland Chapter is not suggesting that you should encourage your patient participate. Participation would be completely voluntary and ACP Maryland Chapter will not know whether you do or do not participate.*

We look forward to your continued support of our Chapter as we move forward!

Mangla Gulati, MD, FACP  
Governor, ACP Maryland Chapter

Colleen Christmas, MD, FACP  
Governor-elect Designee, ACP Maryland Chapter

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