



Governor's Message

Robert. L. Allison, MD MACP

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The pandemic has changed almost everything we do. The way we socially distance, the way we communicate through technology, and the way we provide medical care virtually. There have been so many heroes that have arisen in healthcare since January 2020 and Internal Medicine has proven to be the base of it all. Hospitalists, specialists and the general internists have risked their lives and given their knowledge to fight the hidden foe - **THANK YOU FOR YOUR EFFORTS!**

Our small state and central isolation have allowed us to prepare for the storm to come. Even now infection rates climb around the country and over 100,000 Americans have died from the coronavirus. Businesses and the general public are yearning to open up and return to normal. It is harder to convince people the pandemic is real and "Pandemic Fatigue" is starting to creep in. Count the number of people wearing masks at the grocery store and its easy to feel like we are losing the fight.

Well now is the time to double down! Let's not forget that 'little' event that happens every year in Sturgis. The Rally brings 500,000 visitors over a 2-3 week period and will stress the western health care services and could turn South Dakota into a state that can't bend the curve back down. Our members are asking for public service announcements and public education and we are looking to partner with other organizations such as the SDSMA to do just that.

As you now know our "in person" annual meeting has been cancelled. I'd like to thank **Fatima Kidwai** as local chair in Aberdeen for all her hard work. Don't worry Aberdeen ... we will be back some year. In its place comes our first ever "Virtual Annual Meeting". Lovingly labeled the 'Best Virtual Meeting of the Year' our program committee has streamlined the meeting to provide focused access to the general business meeting and communication from our ACP National representatives in an at home setting. We will be having a virtual poster session, but I'll let our Program committee explain that.

We are also reducing meeting fees for the shortened curriculum, so I want everyone to make a special push to be online and bring a friend. We normally have 65 people attending and I would love to break the 100 mark virtually.

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President's Message (Continued)

We are trying to show value to our members by being in the ACP. Don't forget to check out the [acponline.org](https://www.acponline.org) website for a myriad of updates and practice management tools, like coding for virtual visits.

Consider emailing me or **Kris Rahm** if you want to be on a committee. We need input from all our members, and we have been working on expanding those committees to a 2-person co-chair format so the work is spread out and everyone who wants to, gets an opportunity to participate in leadership.

Ask about becoming a Fellow in the ACP. Sign in and check out <https://www.acponline.org/membership/physician-membership/acp-fellowship>.

#IMProud to Serve My Community

Kris Rahm, Executive Director

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As with all things COVID-19, our planned volunteer project has changed! It was scheduled to be a live project during our annual scientific meeting in Aberdeen in October 2020. Now, with the live meeting being cancelled and a short Zoom conference being held instead, we've had to re-think our standard format.

As our Chapter Excellence criteria asks for us to do at least one volunteer project a year, the SDACP Council has decided to support the "Healing Words Foundation", created by Dr. Rick and Joanie Holm, in honor of Rick's memory, and as a way to cross the distant miles and give back to our community.

Healing Words Foundation endeavors to enhance health and diminish suffering by communicating useful information, based on honest science, provided in a respectful and compassionate manner. The foundation engages a variety of media outlets to provide science-based medical information to the greater South Dakota region.

Please go to the website below prior to January 1st, 2021. You will be able to use a credit card, and you will receive an email receipt immediately (just in time for taxes - check with our accountant)! Thanks! krisrahm@me.com

<https://vaminc.regfox.com/2020-sd-acp-improud-community-donations>

SAVE THE DATE!!
ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2020 VIA ZOOM!

Health & Public Policy

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Greetings Colleagues!

I truly hope this letter finds you healthy and as passionate about medicine and advocacy as ever. This year has been trying, but these times remind us how incredibly important it is for physicians to have a strong voice when it comes to public policy.

I have little to update since our spring newsletter. The biggest ACP Health and Public Policy event of the year – Leadership Day in Washington DC – was cancelled this year. The national office has remained busy, publishing recent policy papers on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); Racial Health Disparities, Prejudice and Violence; and Health Care Reform/Access. Policy papers can always be accessed online here: <https://www.acponline.org/advocacy/current-public-policy-papers>

We continue to encourage all members to enroll in the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network (AIMn). Members receive periodic (no more than weekly) email updates in regards to ACP advocacy efforts. You can sign up here: <https://www.acponline.org/advocacy/advocates-for-internal-medicine-network>

Never have I been more proud of my profession and my colleagues than in the last six months. I am constantly amazed by your poise and sense of duty in the era of COVID-19. I urge you to stay involved in your local government. Write a Letter to the Editor of your local paper. Attend your City Council or School board meeting. Get to your polling place on voting day. Your voice is especially valued right now, and your community needs you!

Hospitalist Committee

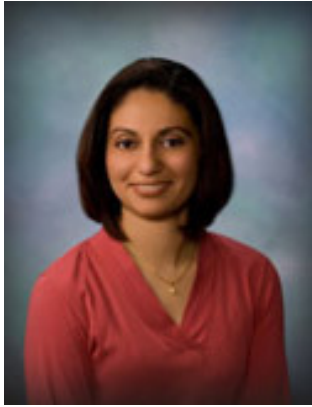
Jitendra Thakkar, MBBS FACP

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The year of 2020 has been challenging for the inpatient world due to emergence of COVID-19, and associated illnesses. The hospitalists are at the forefront of this pandemic care for inpatients. New protocols have been developed and guidelines updated for managing these complex patients.

The hospitalists have increased workload since the emergence of this illness.

At SDACP, the hospitalist committee is actively involved in contacting various providers and support through national updates. Because of my current responsibilities, I will be stepping down as Chair and **Dr. Barry Cooper** (dr.bscooper@gmail.com) will become Chair. If you wish to sit on this committee, please feel free to contact him or Kris Rahm.



2020 Program Committee

Fatima Kidwai, MBBS

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The year 2020 will be marked down as one of the most dramatic years in history. COVID-19 has affected every aspect of our lives, and pushed the healthcare sector to it's max. While we may still lag behind other rapidly advancing sectors like IT, the time has come now for the healthcare sector to dramatically transform, innovate and start thinking "outside of the box". Similar is the case of our annual chapter meeting. These in-person meetings are not only a source of continuing medical education, but an excellent opportunity to network and meet colleagues we don't normally have the opportunity to see.

Unfortunately, with frequently changing regulation regarding large gatherings, in-person live meetings were felt to be difficult. After having multiple discussions, our Council members have decided to change the live meeting into a short virtual meeting (including a poster session), which will be held on October 10, 2020. Below you will find the schedule for that Zoom meeting.

Virtual Annual Meeting Agenda

Saturday, October 10, 2020
Zoom Meeting ID# 906-114-1502***

10:00 am	SDACP Council Meeting
11:30 am	BREAK
1:00 pm	Welcome - Rob Allison, Governor
1:10 pm	National ACP 2019 Winning Student Poster
1:30 pm	Virtual Poster Session - Randall Lamfers
2:30 pm	National ACP Update - Sue Bornstein, Regent
3:00 pm	Washington Update - Shari Erickson
3:30 pm	Chapter Update & Town Hall - Rob Allison
4:00 pm	2020 Chapter Awards
4:15 pm	Adjournment

*****Registration will open about September 1st**

Medical Student Report

Colton Powers, MS

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Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the medical students just as hard as anyone else. We were pulled from classes and clinical rotations, meetings and events were cancelled, student led research came grinding to a halt, and anxiety was at an all-time high. Although the entire faculty at the medical school came together in an unprecedented way to give us an entire online curriculum in less than a moment's notice, there just isn't a substitute for the hands on clinical education we were being deprived of. This has been a trying year for everyone, and an especially interesting year to be a medical student.

The pandemic has also made it difficult to plan events with the Internal Medicine Interest Group, but we did recently host a Zoom panel with the 2020 USD SSOM graduates who matched into internal medicine residencies. It was very well attended by medical students representing every class. We are currently in the process of planning an EKG Night with the cardiology fellows, as well as the annual "A Day in the Life of an Internist" event via Zoom.

#BeAHeroWearAMask



National ACP will soon be changing the look of our chapter website (watch for my email soon). When that is done, we would like to flood our new website with our members, both in photos at work and at home, of what we most certainly consider to be hero behavior by SDACP's first responders. **Please send these photos to Kris Rahm (krisrahm@me.com) by September 1st.** Here's an example of both our **Governor Rob Allison** and **Vice-Governor Eric Larson**, at work.

