

Governor-Elect Statements

Jody P. King, MD FACP

1. Past Governors have set various visions for the chapter—such as building membership, promoting diversity, ensuring financial sustainability, and creating new committees. What is your vision for our chapter during your four-year tenure as Governor?

Over the past decade, people's trust in the medical system has floundered. Science has been under attack, as has patients' access to timely, affordable healthcare. Meanwhile, the strain placed on physicians in the form of administrative burden, time and productivity pressures, and lack of support, has continued to increase.

As the country's largest medical specialty organization, we have a responsibility, both to the clinicians we represent and to our patients, to be the champions of facts, science, and equitable access to healthcare.

My vision is to maximize the chapter's advocacy work so that we can put constant pressure on our local and state government officials, thereby encouraging them to work for us and the patients we serve. I will propose expanding our health and public policy committee to place advocacy champions within each of our Virginia regions, as well as within each of our residency programs and medical schools, thus, extending our reach and amplifying our voice.

2. What do you consider to be the strengths of our chapter and the areas for potential growth? How would you build on those strengths and address the areas for growth?

The Virginia chapter has strong, dedicated leaders, within the governor's council and beyond, who strive to advance the mission of our chapter and the ACP. Our chapter meetings, including resident and student meetings, abstract competitions, leadership days, and other events, are extremely well run. We have struggled, however, to achieve regular resident and student involvement beyond our abstract competitions. Appealing to their career goals while also supporting their sense of advocacy and leadership could improve their overall participation and help to advance the chapter. I would seek to provide more dedicated support (by way of funds and mentorship) to each program so we can create resident and student ACP champions at each of our Virginia institutions, creating local outreach and advocacy events of their own.

Bennett B. Lee, MD MPH FACP

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As a longtime ACP member deeply involved in medical education—working with both residents and medical students—I have seen firsthand the value our organization brings to shaping the future leaders of our specialty. My vision for our chapter rests on three core pillars: investing in our future, leveraging our collective wisdom, and championing diversity.

Investing in Our Future

A top priority will be growing our membership among early-career physicians and increasing our visibility with medical students and residents—the future of our specialty. I will work to deepen our chapter's partnerships with the state's medical schools and residency programs, ensuring ACP engages these future colleagues early and meaningfully in their careers.

Leveraging Collective Wisdom

As we look ahead, we must also stay grounded in the expertise of our seasoned private practitioners and academic faculty. Our senior members are an invaluable resource, and I am committed to keeping them engaged by addressing their professional interests and inviting them to serve as mentors—sharing their experience to help guide our newest members.

Championing Diversity

As the son of first-generation immigrants, I carry a personal appreciation for the strength that diversity brings to any organization—one I see reflected in the varied backgrounds and practice settings across our chapter. I am committed to ensuring that every voice, from trainee to senior physician, is heard and represented. By bridging the generational gap and embracing our diverse perspectives, we will build a stronger, more unified, and more impactful chapter for every member we serve.

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I believe that one of the greatest strengths of our chapter aside from its members is its history of exceptionally strong leadership, anchored by a Governor's Advisory Council that offers a wealth of institutional memory. Our leadership reflects the true diversity of our state, ensuring that physicians in rural and community settings have their voices amplified just as loudly as those in large urban centers.

Building on these strengths, I see two clear opportunities for growth:

Mentoring Future Physicians

While we have a strong base of engaged medical students, residents and early career physicians, we must scale these efforts deliberately. By expanding chapter activities and formalizing a mentorship program, we can create a seamless pipeline that helps our newest members discover the lifelong value of ACP—while giving our senior members a meaningful way to pass on their expertise.

Strength in Numbers Amid Advocacy Challenges

As our chapter faces increasingly complex policy and financial pressures, our collective voice is our most powerful asset. We need every member engaged—from trainees to veteran academic and private practitioners. A larger, more active membership translates directly into the political and organizational leverage we need to protect our profession and our patients. By drawing on the varied backgrounds and experience of our council, and mobilizing our full membership, we can meet our chapter's most pressing challenges while securing the future of our specialty.