



Governor's Message

COVID-19 is the main problem everyone in our chapter is facing right now. We have all had changes to our social lives and work lives. Telemedicine and virtual meetings have suddenly become the norm. We are under tremendous stress, and many of us handle this in different ways. Before reacting to a friend or colleague with impatience, let's think

about what they may be facing. We should all remind ourselves that they could be worried about elderly family members, loved ones in nursing homes, or they could have financial worries. I hope we can all give others a pass during this difficult time. We need to stick together and remember that we are mad at the virus, not at each other.

WV has some of the best results in the country in terms of COVID-19. This is remarkable because our state was determined to be at the highest risk for bad outcomes from this virus. This likely relates to our early shutdowns, the decisions of our leaders and public health experts, and the compliance of WV citizens with physical distancing recommendations.

As you know, the ACP national meeting in April was cancelled. While this was unfortunate, they did convert the poster session to a virtual platform. This allowed the trainees who were accepted to still be able to present their work. At this meeting, **Dr. James Griffith** was to receive the **ACP Award for Distinguished Contributions to Behavioral Medicine**. This award is bestowed for distinguished contributions to the integration of behavioral medicine with traditional medicine. It recognizes an individual who has furthered the care of patients by recognizing the importance of caring for the whole patient, both mind and body. I hope Dr. Griffith can receive his well-deserved award next year.

Ordinarily, at the national meeting, the Board of Governors discusses resolutions brought forward by different groups, and after careful discussion, votes and refers them to the Board of Regents for final disposition. These resolutions relate to matters that affect our patients or our profession. The resolutions were postponed to the fall meeting. I will be inviting you to weigh in on them in an online Chapter forum so that I can speak to the resolutions more effectively on your behalf at our Fall meeting.

ACP's Advocacy team remains hard at work and is an active voice in Washington, D.C. Some recent advocacy for internists involves payment for telemedicine and audio visits, demonstrating why ACP membership is more important now than ever. These are particularly valuable wins for internists in rural areas like in WV. Unfortunately, ACP's Annual Leadership Day scheduled for May was cancelled.

However, we will be looking for interested members to go to leadership day next year. If you are interested in national or local health policy issues, please talk to either myself (ldavisson@hsc.wvu.edu) or policy committee chair Dr. Bradley Hall (bhallmd@wvmp.org).



Congrats!

Congratulations to Drs. Sofka and Labus from West Virginia University for receiving a **ProudtobeGIM** award for the 2019-2020 year! This initiative is a partnership between ACP and SGIM to educate students and trainees on general internal medicine. WVU was one of only twenty applications to be funded.



Announcements

- The Chapter is monitoring the COVID-19 situation. We are looking at alternative options in case we would need to modify some of aspects of our next chapter meeting. The planning committee is hard at work. The theme is **“The Future of Medicine”** and the meeting is currently scheduled for **November 5-7, 2020 at the Stonewall Resort in Roanoke, WV**. We are pleased to have Dr. Brandon Rose as the planning chair, and Dr. Michael Iannetti as our Vice Chair.

- ACP offers abundant resources to support physicians and patients during this time of crisis. You can find those resources on the **ACP COVID-19 Resource Hub**. It is a TERRIFIC resource provided by ACP!



- Do you want to get more involved with ACP? We had committee meetings at the last Chapter meeting to get the committees started. Please reach out to the committee chairs as listed below to get involved. If there is interest, we would like to consider additional committees, such as an International Medical Graduate committee. If anyone has ideas on who could chair that committee or has other ideas of committees, please send the information to Sheri Campbell (scampbell@hsc.wvu.edu).

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Scientific Program Chair
Scientific Program Vice Chair
Health & Public Policy
Membership
Awards & Nominating
Women in Medicine
Service & Volunteerism
Early Career Physicians
Physician Well-being & Physician Satisfaction
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- At the Chapter's last advisory council meeting, the committee felt strongly that we should give members the option of donating to support travel for our student and resident trainees to the national meeting. When you renew your membership, please note that there is an option to donate additional money for this purpose.



Nominations

Do you have a mentor, trainee, colleague, or peer deserving recognition? A person who challenges you to work at your highest level and constantly inspires those around him or her?

We invite your assistance in recognizing the

accomplishments of distinguished individuals and organizations through the **College's Awards and Masterships Program**. The College offers 22 awards and a number of Masterships to recognize outstanding contributions in the practice of medicine, teaching, research, public service, leadership, and medical volunteerism. Visit www.acponline.org/awards to review the various awards ACP offers to recognize accomplishments in leadership, teaching, volunteerism and service, advocacy, medical humanities, and contributions to ACP. Please submit ideas for qualified nominees to **Dr. Rashida Khakoo** (rhakoo@hsc.wvu.edu), **the chair of the Chapter's Awards and Nominating Committee**. *The deadline for submission to the ACP Awards Committee is July 1.*

Are You Proud?

Get featured on the ACP website! Tell us why you are “proud” and enter the **I.M. Proud** (<https://www.acponline.org/about-acp/who-we-are/im-proud/im-proud-contest>) contest. You could win an I.M. Proud prize pack (coffee mug, wireless speaker, pen and pin). A team of ACP staff from the national office will judge submissions, and one winner in each category (essay and video) will be announced on June 28. *Last date to enter is June 5.* Good luck!

**Don't forget to
follow us!**

