



Annual Report of the **Executive Vice President** • 2010-2011



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT



Dear Colleagues,

These are indeed interesting times for health care in the United States, posing exciting opportunities as well as numerous challenges. As I complete my first year as Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Physicians, I have had an “up close and personal” view of the health care environment, watching how competing political forces have interacted with the desire for universal health care coverage but the pushback against an individual mandate. At the same time, it has become apparent that the way we practice medicine is likely to change dramatically over the next several years – with transformation of internal medicine practices into patient-centered medical homes, with inclusion of internal medicine subspecialists and other care providers as part of patient-centered medical home neighborhoods, and ultimately with systems of care managed through the administrative structures provided by accountable care organizations. And finally, these changes all need to occur while we must reign in the ever-escalating costs of health care, which are strangling the American economy.

So how does ACP maintain its leadership of the specialty of internal medicine during these uncertain times, supporting our diverse membership of internists practicing in ambulatory and/or hospital environments, our wide variety of internal medicine subspecialists, and, of course, the patients we serve? First, we must continue to be the premier developer and provider of clinical guidance and educational resources for all internal medicine specialists, subspecialists, and trainees, no matter whether in solo or small group practices, in larger groups or institutions, or in academic medical centers. Second, we must help our physicians meet their practice requirements, not only such traditional ones as continuing medical education, certification, and recertification, but also newer requirements for reporting quality of care measures, for adopting and demonstrating meaningful use of electronic health records, and for transforming practices into well-functioning patient-centered medical homes or effective participants in patient-centered medical home neighborhoods. Third, ACP must continue to have its voice heard by all the stakeholders in health care, no

matter whether they represent government, patients, insurers, employers, or other health care providers. It must continue to espouse the high values of patient-centered care, clinical excellence, professionalism, universal access, and elimination of disparities in health and health care. Our voice is extremely well-respected both by government and throughout the health care environment, based on our well-reasoned positions, our strong policy base, and our adherence to the values and principles that best serve society and our patients.

Fortunately, the superb staff, governance, and extensive network of physicians who contribute to ACP’s outstanding programs, products, and services are prepared not only to continue our record of past accomplishments, but also to adapt to the shifting sands and needs of health care over the next several years. In the following report, you will be able to get a snapshot of some of ACP’s activities, programs, and products over the past year. Because of space limitations, this is an incomplete list, but it hopefully will give you a sense of the scope of ACP’s work over the past year. As I enter my second year as EVP and CEO of ACP, I look forward to working with our talented staff, the highly committed physician leaders who comprise ACP’s governance, and our diverse membership to carry out the goals and priorities that have been established for ACP, always keeping in mind that what we do is ultimately for the betterment of health and the care of our patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Steven Weinberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steven" and last name "Weinberger" clearly legible.

Steven Weinberger, MD, FACP
Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer

ACP IN THE ERA OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

Advocating for the Future of Health Care Reform

The American College of Physicians (ACP) has long been committed to advocating for the future of internal medicine and addressing broad issues in the best interest of the public. ACP is a leader in influencing health policy and informing clinical care to the betterment of patients and internists. We continue to propose solutions to ensure that everyone has access to affordable health care coverage and a personal physician, and to address the rising cost of health care in the U.S. through the use of best evidence and positive outcomes.

The 2010 rollout of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) marked a major milestone in U.S. health care reform. ACP recognizes that the ACA could be improved by giving states more options and stronger approaches to medical liability and payment reform. However, we believe that the act contains policies that are essential to addressing the challenges in the health care system, and that we should work to find common, bipartisan areas to improve and build upon the ACA.

ACP is committed to continuing efforts to understand the law, offer practical tools and advice for our members and their patients, and focus efforts on those parts of the ACA that will most impact internal medicine.

High Value, Cost-Conscious Care

ACP's High Value, Cost-Conscious Care initiative is a broad program encompassing a series of clinical and public policy recommendations that address two important priorities for ACP: helping physicians provide the best possible care to their patients, and simultaneously reducing unnecessary costs to the health care system.

Best Practice Clinical Advice

ACP launched the clinical component of the initiative with two publications in *Annals of Internal Medicine*, including "High-Value, Cost-Conscious Health Care: Concepts for Clinicians to Evaluate the Benefits, Harms, and Costs of Medical Interventions." In this paper, ACP explains the purpose of the initiative: to help physicians and patients understand the benefits, harms, and costs of an intervention and whether it provides good value, and to slow the unsustainable rate of health care costs while preserving high value, high quality care.

In the second publication, "Advice for High-Value Health Care for Diagnostic Imaging for Low Back Pain," ACP found strong evidence

that routine imaging for low back pain with X-ray or advanced imaging methods such as CT scan or MRI does not improve the health of patients. This paper was the first in a planned series to help physicians and patients identify overused or misused medical treatments and to practice high value health care.

Public Policy Recommendations

ACP's High Value, Cost-Conscious Care initiative supports and reinforces ACP's positions formulated in the policy paper "Controlling Health Care Costs While Promoting the Best Possible Health Outcomes." At ACP's annual State of the Nation's Health Care briefing, ACP released "How Can Our Nation Conserve and Distribute Health Care Resources Effectively and

Efficiently?" The paper makes the case that there is an urgent need for the country to have a discussion on how to conserve and allocate limited resources in a uniquely American way that puts the principal responsibility on patients and physicians making informed choices based on evidence.



For more information on the HVCCC initiative, visit www.acponline.org/clinical_information/resources/hvccc.htm

ACP IN THE ERA OF HEALTH CARE REFORM

Influencing Health Policy and Legislative Action

ACP has a broad advocacy agenda that in the past year has addressed topics such as health care transparency, racial and ethnic disparities, electronic health records, quality-based measurement and reporting, tobacco control and prevention, accountable care organizations, FDA regulation of prescription drugs, and controlling the cost of health care.

At its annual State of the Nation's Health Care briefing, ACP identified high priority challenges facing the U.S. health care system, including decreased access to health insurance coverage, decreased capacity in the health care workforce, and increased health care costs, and offered recommendations for resolving these issues.

Collaborating with Others

Over the past year ACP worked with many coalitions and partnered with like-minded organizations to develop tools and resources to help internists and their patients understand health care reform. "An Internist's Practical Guide to Understanding Health System Reform" explains the provisions in the ACA that will affect internists most. The brochure can be found online at www.acponline.org/advocacy/where_we_stand/access/new_hc_law.pdf. ACP and AARP partnered to produce the guide "The New Health Care Law: How It Might Affect You," to help patients understand health care reform law and explain what the law has changed, why the changes were made and when they will take effect.

ACP worked collaboratively with like-minded organizations and legislators for example at Leadership Day, to help internists and their patients understand health care reform.



ACP also partnered with other leading health advocacy organizations to launch a new consumer website, "Health Care & You," explaining the details of the health care reform law, at www.healthcareandyou.org/. The site provides clear, concise and understandable information identified by state, by timeline, and by different patient characteristics.

The College is also a member of the Patient-Centered Primary Care Collaborative (PCPCC), a coalition of employers, consumer groups, health care quality organizations, health plans, labor unions, hospitals, clinicians and many others who have joined together to develop and advance the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model. Over the past year, the PCPCC released two publications at their most recent summit: Health IT in the Patient-Centered Medical Home and Clinical Decision Support in the Medical Home.

ACP partnered with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on "HIV Screening, Standard Care," an initiative encouraging physicians to make HIV testing a standard part of the medical care they provide for patients. The initiative is the latest component in the collaborative campaign geared toward patient education outreach about HIV based on ACP's HIV clinical guidance statement.

"Give your Health a Shot," another ACP public awareness campaign launched over the past year, emphasizes the need for adults to collaborate with their internists to ensure that immunizations are part of their overall health and wellness goals. ACP also signed on to "An Open Letter to the American People," along with many other organizations in the public health community, to remind the public of the importance of getting vaccinated against the flu.

For more information on advocacy activities, visit www.acponline.org/advocacy/

RESOURCES FOR YOU, YOUR PRACTICE AND YOUR PATIENTS

Evidence-Based Policies and Recommendations

Throughout the past year, ACP continued to develop evidence-based recommendations on an array of public policy, clinical and ethical issues that help set the agenda for national dialogue and legislative action. Issues addressed by ACP policies include:

- Medicaid and Health Care Reform
- National Immigration Policy and Access to Health Care
- How Can Our Nation Conserve and Distribute Health Care Resources Effectively and Efficiently
- The Patient-Centered Medical Home Interface with Specialty/Subspecialty Practices
- Health Care Transparency: Focus on Price and Clinical Performance Information
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care
- Ethical Considerations for the Use of Patient Incentives to Promote Personal Responsibility for Health: West Virginia Medicaid and Beyond

ACP also continues to produce evidence-based clinical guidelines, guidance statements and best practice advice recommendations that follow a rigorous development process and are based on the highest quality scientific evidence. The following clinical guidelines and recommendations were published this year:

- Advice for High-Value Health Care for Diagnostic Imaging for Low Back Pain, the first in a series of High Value, Cost-Conscious Care papers
- High-Value, Cost-Conscious Health Care: Concepts for Clinicians to Evaluate the Benefits, Harms, and Costs of Medical Interventions
- The Use of Intensive Insulin Therapy for the Management of Glycemic Control in Hospitalized Patients: A Clinical Practice Guideline from the American College of Physicians
- A joint clinical report on heart failure released with the American College of Cardiology Foundation and the American Heart Association

Annals of Internal Medicine

Annals of Internal Medicine (Annals) continues to set the standard for evidence-based, practice-relevant information in internal medicine and is evolving to reflect and take advantage of new technologies. This year, *Annals* released applications for the iPhone and iPod Touch, allowing web and mobile users to view abstracts from the current issue, access published clinical guidelines, podcasts and videos, and view at-a-glance a summary of the *Annals* articles creating the most buzz. The journal's website, www.annals.org, continues to improve based on usability testing and reader feedback and is now accessible through mobile browsers.

Annals collaborates with the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) to publish the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) guidelines and comparative effectiveness reviews. This summer, *Annals* will begin a collaboration with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE– the United Kingdom's organization responsible for clinical guideline development) to publish their material.

Annals' Editor-in-Chief, Christine Laine, MD, FACP, was named President of the Council of Science Editors (CSE), an organization comprised of editorial professionals dedicated to the responsible and effective communication of science.

The initial *Annals'* Junior Investigator Recognition Awards were handed out at ACP's Internal Medicine 2011 meeting. The awards recognize excellence among internal medicine trainees and junior internal medicine investigators for original research and review articles published in *Annals*.

For all related guideline information, visit www.acponline.org/clinical_information/



RESOURCES FOR YOU, YOUR PRACTICE AND YOUR PATIENTS

ACP Internist and ACP Hospitalist

ACP Internist and ACP Hospitalist provide timely news and information for internists on the practice of medicine and the policies, products and activities of the College. Both award-winning publications feature a weekly e-newsletter, keeping internists current on clinical updates and breaking news in the field of internal medicine.

www.acpinternist.org

www.acphospitalist.org

MKSAP®

MKSAP 15 features more than 2,000 pages of text, including over 1,000 multiple-choice questions, and hundreds of figures, charts and tables. MKSAP 15 works on iPhone, Android devices and most of the mobile Windows devices including Blackberry, and offers CME, a learning documentation tool for residents, a Google search engine and the ability to check answers in real time. The digital format enables you to work at your own pace from multiple locations in multiple formats, including online or offline with the CD-ROM. The direct use of MKSAP 15 has been approved by the ABIM for Self-Evaluation points that provide credit toward Maintenance of Certification. MKSAP 16 will be released in 2012.

www.acponline.org/products_services/mksap/15/

Virtual Dx

ACP introduced its newest form of self-assessment, Virtual Dx: Interpretive Challenges from ACP, an online study program that uses images and patterns of test results to challenge diagnostic ability. Physicians can use Virtual Dx to check their interpretive skills with more than 400 high-resolution, scalable images and

ACP resources are designed to keep members up-to-date with clinical skills and patient care.



other diagnostic challenges in 13 major categories. Images are categorized for efficient learning, allowing users to zoom in on important details when necessary. For complete information, visit www.acponline.org/products_services/virtualdx/

Diabetes Care Guide

The ACP Diabetes Care Guide, an online practice manual for physicians and practice teams, has been updated with new material and enhanced for residents and program directors. The enhanced care guide provides clinical content, multiple choice questions, and critiques as well practical tips and tools to help implement practice change, especially geared toward a team-based environment. The guide can be found at

www.diabetesguide.acponline.org

ACP Meetings

Internal Medicine 2011, ACP's annual scientific meeting, was held in San Diego, April 7-9, and featured more than 260 sessions in internal medicine and the subspecialties presented by first-rate faculty. This meeting saw the launch of the Internal Medicine meeting App, which allowed conference attendees to access comprehensive meeting information from a smart phone. We look forward to Internal Medicine 2012, which will be held in New Orleans, April 19-21, 2012.



At the local and regional levels, ACP's chapter meetings offer a wealth of opportunities for grassroots involvement, networking with peers and CME. ACP and Pri-Med continue to offer Pri-Med Access with ACP, a nationwide series of local, two-day programs.

Virtual Dx™

For these and other resources, visit: www.acponline.org

RESOURCES FOR YOU, YOUR PRACTICE AND YOUR PATIENTS

Patient Education from The ACP Foundation

The ACP Foundation aims to improve communication with patients, reduce medical errors and improve health literacy through patient education and health literacy programs and resources. This year, the Foundation launched “Caring for Your Heart: An Everyday Guide for You and Your Family,” a guide to healthy living with heart disease.

The Foundation developed new Health TiPS on low back pain, erectile dysfunction and urinary incontinence and new Health NoTES on adult immunization, oils and fats. In addition, eight Video Health TiPS were produced on topics such as opioid pain medications, diabetes management, and blood pressure. All materials can be accessed on the Foundation website, www.acpfoundation.org.

Helping Physicians to Achieve Practice Transformation

The Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) continues to be a model of care that ACP supports as one approach to medical care and medical practices. The College provides a comprehensive collection of information, resources and information on demonstration projects about the PCMH model of care, available at www.acponline.org/running_practice/pcmh/. Several new instructional presentations about the PCMH are available online. Additionally, ACP worked together with AAFP, AAP and AOA to release “Joint Principles for the Medical Education of Physicians as Preparation for Practice in the Patient-Centered Medical Home.”

ACP provides tools and resources, such as ACP’s Medical Home Builder, to assist practicing physicians in setting up, maintaining and growing the business-side of a medical practice via its

Center for Practice Improvement and Innovation, available at

www.acponline.org/running_practice/practice_management



ACP’s Medical Home Builder provides affordable, accessible on-line guidance and resources for practices involved in incremental quality improvement or significant transformation of their practices. The American EHR Partners Program is a web-based resource for EHR system selection/implementation that continues to expand with new EHR vendors and related information. Visit



www.acponline.org/running_practice/pcmh/help.htm and www.acponline.org/running_practice/technology/ehr/partner_program for information on these programs.

ACPNet, the web-based quality improvement network for internists, launched the ACP Depression Initiative, which invites clinicians to participate in a free 12-month, web-based program to evaluate and improve their care in the screening, diagnosis, and management of patients with depression.

Closing the Gap is the College’s series of team-directed, multi-format, practice-based online educational interventions.

Current programs include Diabetes and Cardiovascular Risk and Primary and Secondary Prevention.

ACP Medical Laboratory Evaluation Program, a proficiency testing service for those who perform diagnostic testing where blood and bodily fluids are drawn, recently gained approval from the College of American Pathologists (CAP) Accreditation Program, which uses more rigorous standards than regulatory compliance to help labs achieve the highest standards of excellence.

For these and other resources, visit: www.acponline.org/

EXPANDING ACP'S REACH

Over the past year the College continued to expand geographically and programmatically to serve the needs of its diverse community of internal medicine specialists, sub-specialists, hospitalists, and allied health care professionals.

ACP is pleased to announce a new chapter in Saudi Arabia, established in late 2010. Members of the Saudi Arabia Chapter will have the opportunity to network with other Saudi internists as well as participate fully in ACP-sponsored activities.

Medical students are one of our most valuable audiences, as they are the future of internal medicine. In 2010, the College launched a new medical students' page on its website that allows students access to information on connecting to a mentor, choosing a career path, and joining a local ACP chapter. Also featured is "My Kind of Medicine: Real Lives of ACP Internists," a series of print and multimedia profiles featuring the lives and diverse career paths of practicing internists. The profiles allow a glimpse into the lives of internists who are professionally fulfilled and proud to have chosen internal medicine as a career.

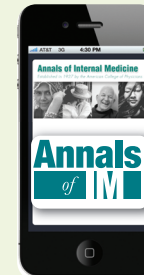


Taking Advantage of Technology

ACP is using new technologies to deliver information, communicate more efficiently and provide broader access to our resources, information and products.

Mobile Technologies

During the past year, ACP has been active on the mobile front launching three Apps: Internal Medicine 2011 App, *Annals of Internal Medicine* App for iPhone, Blackberry and Android and Doctor's Dilemma® App. All are available on iTunes.



Stay connected to ACP through social media.



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