

## Hundreds of ACP Members Descended on Capitol Hill



Sen. Cassidy (R-LA) and members of the ACP Louisiana chapter

Members of Congress and their staff heard from ACP members during ACP Services' annual two-day advocacy event, Leadership Day, on Capitol Hill. Over 350 ACP members – including medical students, Resident/Fellows-in-training, members of the College's Board of Regents and Board of Governors – from 48 states, and the District of Columbia descended on Washington, DC on May 22-23 to advocate for many policy reforms intended to improve patient care and the practice environment. View Leadership Day [FAQs](#) for more information.

Over 400 meetings were scheduled with congressional offices as ACP members met face-to-face with legislators and their staff to share stories, express concerns and provided solutions for improving health care. To get a brief rundown/overview of this year's activities from members and staff, view [an article](#) in ACP's flagship advocacy newsletter *The Advocate*.

This year's Leadership Day legislative priorities addressed policy issues being considered by Congress that will impact internists and their patients.

Legislative priority [issues](#) for this year's Leadership Day included:

### **Expanding Coverage and Stabilize the Insurance Market:**

Stabilize the insurance market, cover more people, and protect Medicaid to ensure greater access to care.

**Reducing Administrative Burdens:** Reduce the growing number of administrative burdens associated with EHR interoperability and usability, clinical documentation requirements, and prior authorization.

### **Reducing Prescription**

**Drugs Costs:** Address the high cost of prescription drugs through greater pricing transparency and elimination of anti-competitive industry practices that keep lower cost drugs off the market.

**Addressing the Opioid Use Epidemic:** Reduce barriers to integrating behavioral health into primary care and address the related rising death toll from opioid use; reauthorize and fund the opioid prevention and treatment programs created by the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA).

### **Ensuring Sufficient Funding for Medical and Health Services Research, and Primary Care Training Programs:**

Ensure necessary funding for the National Health Service Corps, Title VII Health Professions, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and other public health programs.

### **Reducing Firearms-Related Injury and Death:**

Pass meaningful legislation to strengthen the criminal background check system, ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines, and remove federal research restrictions on firearms-related injuries and death.

### **Supporting Graduate Medical Education (GME):**

Reform GME to prioritize and ensure sufficient funding toward physician specialties facing shortages, including primary care internal medicine.

Please mark your calendars for the next Leadership Day, which will be held on **May 14-15, 2019 in Washington, DC at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel!**

### **Point of Interest:**

#### **Engage Your Members of Congress!**

Did you know that we feature multiple action alerts at any given time on our [Legislative Action Center](#) (LAC)?

#### **State Health Policy Resources**

Check out the [State Health Policy](#) webpage for information on how chapters can take action on key policy issues impacting the states.

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**Save the Date:**  
**2019 Leadership Day**  
**May 14 –15**  
**Washington, DC**

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## ACP Leadership Day... An Opportunity to Bring the Daily Challenges of Medicine to Capitol Hill

**By Wilson Lam, MD, FACP; Assistant Professor, Departments of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics; Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine Residency Program Baylor College of Medicine; and a Member of the ACP Academic Advisory Board**

Though many feel it is a daunting task to meet our legislators, it shouldn't be. Leadership Day is a chance for future leaders of the American College of Physicians to engage with current leaders of America. After a day of excellent preparation by ACP staff and invitees, the delegation of over 350 physicians, residents, and students aims to discuss key talking points that impact our patients and our profession.

This is the second consecutive year that members of the ACP Academic Advisory Board have participated in Leadership Day. The Board is comprised of 14 delegates from institutions across the United States. Most are generalists, some hospitalists, and a couple subspecialties are represented. The goal of the Academic Advisory Board is to promote ACP among academic



**Dr. Lam and members of the TX chapter delegation speak with Rep. Lloyd Doggett**

institutions and to recruit budding faculty and trainees who support the mission to advance education, service, advocacy, and professionalism in the field of internal medicine. We collaborate on strategies to highlight what ACP is doing and how it serves as our professional home. Leadership Day is the biggest event for advocacy, showcased on the national stage.

Leadership Day truly is advocacy in action. From unstable healthcare markets to the opioid epidemic, addressing the rocketing prescription drug costs, primary care and

funding graduate medical education, reducing excessive burdens and improving firearm safety, participants from around the nation joined to put patients first. The Texas team divided into 5 cohorts and covered over 35 office visits including both Senators and almost every Representative. Several of our members were returning from a prior Leadership Day but most came for the first time. One first-timer – Dr. Marc Robinson – a hospitalist from our county hospital and a returning advocacy champion – Dr. Sarah Candler – a primary care practitioner at the VA, met 5 Representatives in

person during their 8 visits. That's an incredible amount of face time with our congressmen. I was very pleased that our institution had student and resident representation, especially when advocating for workforce issues, primary care, and GME funding. Special thanks go to our chapter executive director and staff for their time and effort to organize the legislative visits.

Overall, the response was more receptive than previous years. At the airport waiting for the flight home, I confirmed similar experiences shared by the advocates for Family Medicine. In 2017, there was so much uncertainty that offices weren't sure what direction policy was moving and seemed less engaged. This year, more momentum was building especially around prescription drug costs and the opioid crisis and offices seemed open to share their enthusiasm for policies to help patients. With hopeful hearts, we look forward to future opportunities to work with our leaders and improve patient care and our practice. I can't wait to return in 2019!

## A View of Advocacy from an ACP Advocate Intern

**By Rahul Maheshwari, Medical Student, University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Medicine**

I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the ACP's Health Policy Internship this past May in Washington, DC. This one month experience is a deep dive into the main drivers and

forces that shape the national conversations surrounding the state of healthcare. Through this amazing experience, I was able to participate in the inner dialogue surrounding technical nuance while simultaneously learning about the national conversation and perceptions.

There were several most note-

worthy experiences, including discussions with various Congressmen (and some from my own state of Missouri), attending expert panels featuring Vivek Murthy and CEOs of Blue Cross Blue Shield, and watching legislation markups in Congressional subcommittees.

In addition to the exposure

through various events attended, as the Health Policy Intern, you participate in a research project throughout the month. My project entailed researching the healthcare systems of other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries and discerning lessons the U.S. system

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## A View of Advocacy from an ACP Advocate Intern (Cont.)

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Rahul with other med students and residents at the Student/Resident happy hour

could apply in its own model. This project, in conjunction with the mentorship of various ACP staff,

has allowed me to contextually view the state of our system with concrete advantages and disadvantages.

The internship culminates in Leadership Day, where students, residents, fel-

lows-in-training, and career physicians all come to Washington, DC for two days to advocate on behalf of

the policies of the ACP to Congress. The day begins with a Q&A session for student and resident ACP members, led by the Health Policy Interns. The ability to network with future and early career physicians across the country interested in a career of health advocacy was inspiring.

I would highly recommend the internship to any students and residents considering a career in health policy, advocacy, or even educa-

tion, and especially to those who would like to remain involved with the College. The lessons learned and the amazingly supportive staff allows you to develop a unique skillset transferrable to any level of advocacy and policy.

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## 2018 Richard Neubauer Advocate of the Year Award

The 2018 Richard Neubauer Advocate for Internal Medicine award was presented to Jason M. Goldman, MD, FACP from Coral Springs, Florida for his outstanding contributions to advance the College's public policy agenda. The award, presented each year during Leadership Day in Washington, DC, recognizes individuals who have made exceptional efforts in support of the College's advocacy program.

Dr. Goldman has been an active member of the College and has a distinguished record of advocacy on ACP's priorities. He is currently one of the ACP governors for the Florida chapter.

He has been a tireless advocate for ACP on both the federal and state levels over the past decade.



Dr. Goldman (left) received the Richard Neubauer Advocate of the Year Award from Dr. Abraham

In 2017, however, Dr. Goldman took his advocacy to the next level, working with members and residents to nurture the chapter's advocacy program in both Washington and Tallahassee.

On the national level, Dr. Goldman was instrumental in securing appointments with over a dozen congressional members for the Chapter's May 24, 2017 visit to DC, where he encour-

aged residents to share their concerns regarding primary care and to advocate for the ACP agenda during appointments. Dr. Goldman has personal relationships with several of Florida's congressional members, including U.S. Representative Kathy Castor, whom he personally invited and

secured to speak at ACP's Leadership Day on May 24, 2017. Not only did Congresswoman Castor accept the honor, but she later met with Dr. Goldman and the Florida delegation to discuss ACP's key issues.

Dr. Goldman also engaged in several editorials, attended Town Hall meetings, and met in the district with his member of Congress, as well as other congressional members on

agenda issues. He also presented on chapter advocacy at the Chapter Leaders Workshop during ACP's Internal Medicine meeting on April 18, 2018 in New Orleans.

As active as Dr. Goldman has been on the national level, he is just as involved in State issues. He was instrumental in the battle to oppose Pharmacists Scope of Practice expansion, yet worked with those same pharmacists to help draft and pass Florida's Pharmacy Benefit Manager bill, which for the first time will regulate these entities and ensure that patients receive the best possible price for their medications. During the legislative session, he even took time out of his practice to make a visit to Tallahassee to meet with key legislators and provide key testimony.

## Recognition for Their Contributions to the College's Advocacy Efforts



Awardees (L-R): Drs. DeLong, Choi, Abraham (presenter), Elisa Choi (accepted on behalf of Dr. Tseng) and Liebow

Recognition was also given at Leadership Day 2018 to Chester Choi, MD, MACP, of Long Beach, California, Douglas DeLong, MD, FACP of Cooperstown, New York, Mark Liebow, MD, FACP Rochester, Minnesota, and Zoe Tseng, MD, FACP of Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts for their notable contributions to the College's advocacy efforts in 2017.

### **Chester Choi, MD, MACP**

Dr. Choi has been a long-time participant, as part of the California contingent, to ACP's Leadership Day. He is a strong advocate for the policies of the ACP and focuses his efforts on both local and national issues.

Dr. Choi has also been a member of the Health and Public Policy Committee (HPPC) of the California statewide C-6 group for a very long time. He served as a protégé of the late Dr. Jeremiah Tilles, MD, who organized both the state-wide Leadership Day efforts and Washington's Leadership Day for many years. He has coordinated the Sacramento Leadership Day for the past 2 years,

and served as Chair of the Health and Public Policy during that same time.

Dr. Choi also represents ACP at the meetings of the California Medical Association (CMA) and makes sure CA chapter members' interest are appropriately represented at that important forum.

### **Douglas DeLong, MD, FACP**

Dr. DeLong has long been active in advocacy activities. He has attended many of the ACP's Leadership Days, met with multiple Senate and House members and staffers, and is personally acquainted with several from his region. The New York (NY) chapter has scheduled many meetings during its DC Hill visits, and Dr. DeLong has always "been at the ready" to work with medical students and residents who have attended to mentor and assist in their scheduled visits, allowing them to lead the discussions and informing elected representatives of the importance of these members in the future of medicine. Dr. DeLong has authored several

resolutions which have made their way through the Board of Governors meetings, and clearly values and understands the importance of advocacy, not just in legislative matters, but regulatory matters as well.

Dr. DeLong has been a member of the NY Chapter's Health and Public Policy Committee for many years. He has attended many legislative visitation days in Albany, met personally with Senate and Assembly Health Committee chairs as well as his own personal elected representatives. Dr. DeLong is masterful in presenting the case for improved patient care and what is best and needed for the vitality of Internal Medicine as a profession. He has reviewed proposed legislative bills and offered clear and concise information on how they would impact patient care and medical practice.

### **Mark Liebow, MD, FACP**

Dr. Liebow has been a key leader in the Minnesota (MN) chapter Leadership Day state delegation for many years. His extensive knowledge of healthcare policy, developed over several decades, is combined with keen political instincts and an ability to concisely deliver key information to congressional staff and legislators. He has not only been an effective member of the MN team in advocating for key priorities of ACP, but has been instructive to others on the MN team.

For several years, the Minnesota chapter has collaborated with the Minnesota Medical

Association (MMA) to advocate for a bill to reform the prior authorization process for prescription medications. Dr. Liebow played a key role in helping to write an op-ed signed by the ACP Governor, which was published in the main newspaper (the Star Tribune). He has previously served in the MMA on their Board of Trustees and in policy leadership and has helped to facilitate collaboration between ACP and the MMA on areas of policy alignment as well.

He also provides advocacy training to Mayo medical students which involve actually bringing the students to St. Paul and DC to meet with legislators.

Dr. Liebow has also served previously on the HPPC for ACP and is currently the state chapter policy chair (a position he has held for at least the past 8-10 years). He has served in policy leadership with SGIM as well (whose interests often align with those of ACP).

### **Zoe Tseng, MD, FACP**

Dr. Tseng has contributed to ACP's federal advocacy activities by planning and giving an advocacy workshop at the national SGIM meeting in April 2018. There is significant overlap in membership between ACP and SGIM, and Dr. Tseng has utilized her expertise in advocacy and her passion for improving care for patients to provide guidance to future generations of physicians in the critical role as physician advo-

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## Recognition for Their Contributions to the College's Advocacy Efforts (Cont.)

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ates. She was one of the presenters at the ACP Health Policy Networking Webinar in January 2018 and presented on chapter advocacy at the Chapter Leaders Workshop during ACP's Internal Medicine meeting on April 18, 2018 in New Orleans.

Dr. Tseng has been involved in many facets of the chapter's state-level advocacy. She has helped lead the planning of the MA ACP chapter Advocacy Day at the MA State House for the past two years, and was instrumental in the planning for this year's 3rd annual event, that took place on April 4, 2018. She devoted countless hours creat-

ing a network of state legislators, public health leaders, and professional medical societies prior to last year's April 2017 chapter Advocacy Day at the state capitol. Dr. Tseng is the current driving force of the chapter's advocacy efforts and accomplishments. She was appointed to be the Co-Chair of the MA ACP Health and Public

Policy Committee (HPPC), when the former Chair (Dr. Elisa Choi, MD, FACP) became Governor-Elect of the MA ACP chapter.

## 2018 Leadership Day Photos



Members of the CA chapter delegation speak with Rep. Bera (D-CA)



Dr. Lopez presents the 2018 Joseph Boyle Award to Andy Slavitt (former Acting CMS Administrator)



Leadership Day participant posed questions



Panel on reducing administrative burden



Medical students and residents happy hour



Medical students and residents happy hour



Dr. Mathew greets Rep. Roskam (R-IL)



Bob Doherty greets congressional committee staff panel



Oklahoma chapter delegation with Sen. Inhofe (R-OK)



Florida chapter delegation with Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL)



Drs. Gantzer, Dunn, and Fincher



Leadership Day attendees participate in the Advocacy Workshop



Attendees applaud Leadership Day panelists



ACP members prepare to meet with their legislators