

“Putting Patients First with a Forward-Looking Health Care Agenda” – The Theme of this Year’s Leadership Day



a flavor 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 mirrored ACP’s effort to make improvements in seven key areas affecting health care, as detailed in **a new policy paper released during the event, A Prescription for a Forward – Looking Agenda for American Health Care** (acponline.org/2017).

- **Reducing Unnecessary Administrative Tasks on Physicians and Patients.** Reduce the growing number of administrative burdens associated with EHR interoperability and usability, clinical documentation requirements, and prior authorization; adopt the framework proposed in ACP’s new policy paper [Putting Patients First by Reducing Administrative Tasks in Health Care](#) to evaluate and propose solutions to unnecessary tasks imposed by the federal government and other external entities.

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An estimated 400 ACP members – including medical students, Resident/Fellows-in-training, members of the College’s Board of Regents and Board of Governors – from 47 states, the District of Columbia and U.S. Virgin Islands descended on Washington, DC on May 23-24 to attend ACP Services’ annual Leadership Day on Capitol Hill (i.e., its annual advocacy day).

ACP members met face-to-face with legislators and their staff to share stories, express concerns and solutions for improving health care and to ask them to “first, do no harm” when implementing healthcare reforms. Over 400 meetings were scheduled with congressional offices in what turned out to be one of the College’s most successful and productive advocacy events ever. To get

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

- **Protecting Affordable Coverage and Consumer Protections.** Instead of taking coverage away from millions, stabilize the insurance market, ensure the continuation of premium cost sharing subsidies, maintain patient protections, and protect Medicaid to ensure greater access to care.

Save the Date:
2018 Leadership Day
May 22-23
Washington, DC

Just another Day in a Physician’s Life - ACP Leadership Day and Advocacy in Everyday Practice

By Darilyn Moyer, MD, FACP, executive vice president and chief executive officer, American College of Physicians

Over 10 years ago, armed with a treasure trove of ignorance of the legislative and advocacy process, and many pounds of informational briefs, I attended my first

Leadership Day (LD). As a newcomer to the Pennsylvania ACP Leadership Day delegation, the combination of excitement, energy, and ignorance formed a perfect storm in my brain and a Gordian knot in my gut. As I tried to focus on understanding, I patiently sat through the educational and interesting congressional

briefings and watched Bob Doherty role play the annual obstinate congressional member schooling a naïve ACP delegation member on how politics really work in DC. While ACP is a non-partisan organization, engagement in the political

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“Putting Patients First with a Forward-Looking Health Care Agenda”

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- **Improving the Care of Patients with Chronic Illness.** Improve payment, eliminate cost-sharing, and reduce regulatory barriers to chronic care management.
- **Promoting Continued Action to Address the Epidemic of Opioid Use.** Reduce barriers to integrating behavioral health into primary care and addressing the related rising death toll from opioid use; fund the opioid prevention and treatment programs created by CARA.
- **Funding for Workforce, Medical and Health Services Research, Public**

Health Initiatives. Congress should ensure uninterrupted funding in FY 2018 for federal programs/initiatives designed to support primary care and ensure an adequate physician workforce, including: Primary Care and Training Enhancement (PCTE), National Health Service Corps (NHSC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

- **Making Graduate Medical Education (GME) Funding More Effective.** Congress should develop and introduce

legislation to reform Graduate Medical Education to prioritize funding toward physician specialties where millions of patients lack access, including internal medicine specialists trained in comprehensive primary care.

- **Reducing Prescription Drug 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, and take into account the value of different drugs in achieving better outcomes. Reduce the backlog of generics awaiting FDA approval.

- **Reforming our Medical Liability System.** Implement bipartisan, innovative reforms that will reduce the costs of medical liability insurance and defensive medicine; including safe harbors for following clinical guidelines and the piloting of health courts.

[Leadership Day](#) continues to be an excellent way for members of the College to engage in effective advocacy and to make a difference in the legislative process.

Please mark your calendars for the next Leadership Day, which will be held on **May 22-23, 2018!**

Just Another Day in a Physician’s Life - ACP Leadership Day and Advocacy in Everyday Practice



Dr. Moyer and members of the PA Chapter Delegation

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process is vital to advocate for the College’s core principles of patient care.

Sometimes, truth is hidden in plain sight and getting asked to give a talk in the RATA L (Resident as Physician and Teacher) program for the Temple PGY-3 residents a few months ago forced me to really think about what physician advocacy means. I soon began to realize that as physicians, we perform acts of advocacy in the name of patient care at every turn, every day. Taking the extra time to communicate the necessity of studies for a patient’s diagnostic

workup – advocacy. Demonstrating tenacity and resilience in ensuring that a patient gets the right treatment – advocacy. Engaging patients and their loved ones in shared decision-making that reflects their core values – advocacy. Talking to an endless array of consultants, case managers, home care team members to ensure patients get the best possible care – advocacy. Taking the extra time to be a teacher to all on the health care team and emulate the true meaning of “physician,” and pass the wisdom of your experience to all those within shouting range – advocacy!

Fast forward to May 2017 Leadership Day where the positivity, passion, and infectious enthusiasm was at epidemic proportions. Despite near record attendance, the experience felt stunningly personal. The energy and education in the room was palpable. The informational sessions demonstrating the breadth and depth of practical knowledge and sage advice of the ACP DC

staff was state of the art comprehensive, yet distilled down to practical proportions. The congressional briefings were memorable for the daunting amount of information conveyed by staffers who looked to be my daughters’ ages. Not unexpectedly, ACP leadership went rogue off their scripted remarks. A group of fantastic physicians were recognized for their servant leadership in advocacy. Dr. Karen DeSalvo’s Boyle Award acceptance speech was truly inspirational and a metaphor for how the healthcare system in New Orleans faced the daunting circumstances of Hurricane Katrina to emerge from the ashes. And the most important part of LD was yet to come!

Those intimidating halls of Congress were a little more collegial and robust on May 24th, 2017 because of the commitment of the more than 400 ACP Leadership Day attendees. Watching the secret sauce of the young folks of the PA Delegation mentored by the “wiser” members of their

delegations expertly infer the intersection of policy and patient care with our legislators and their staff was awe inspiring! Getting back to the meaning of the patient-physician relationship, decreasing administrative burdens, addressing the opioid and mental health crises, adequately reimbursing cognitive care elements, ensuring the adequacy and health of the GME pipeline, ensuring that all Americans have access to high quality care - the ACP delegates were facile with all. The buzz, the vibe, the being part of the special messaging mission took the day. On the journeys of life and advocacy in healthcare, the ACP will continue to lead the way, always anchored by our core values and the pervasive natural advocacy skill of physicians. Bring it on for Leadership Day 2018 and you might not see Bob role playing the salty legislator!

2017 Richard Neubauer Advocate of the Year Award



Dr. Henochowicz (left) accepts the Richard Neubauer Advocate of the Year award from Dr. Cooney.

Stuart Henochowicz, MD, FACP from Burke, Virginia was awarded ACP's 2017 Richard Neubauer Advocate for Internal Medicine award 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. Henochowicz has been an active member of the College and has a distinguished record

of advocacy on ACP's priorities. He is currently the chair of the Virginia Chapter Health and Public Policy Committee.

Among Dr. Henochowicz' many contributions to advocacy, several stand out:

Dr. Henochowicz has for many years taught a very popular health policy class to medical students at Georgetown University. He encourages his students to join the VA chapter at its state advocacy event ("White Coats on Call" held in conjunction with The Medical Society of Virginia) and recommends that they attend Leadership Day as well. His efforts have led to a significant increase in the number of participants at these events.

He has established a close collaborative relationship with his Virginia state delegate, Eileen Filler-Corn, an important development given the number of health policy issues that play out at the state level. Through this collaboration, Dr. Henochowicz has been a leader in advocating for legislation in Virginia that would end non-medical exemp-

tions for childhood vaccines. In 2016, he provided testimony in support of this legislation before the appropriate committee of the Virginia House of Delegates, though such legislation has not yet been passed.

He was a staunch advocate for ensuring that the standards of care for telemedicine encounters were equivalent to in-person encounters. Some of his language on this topic was directly incorporated into the final legislation on telemedicine standards passed by the Virginia House of Delegates and signed into law by the Governor. In addition, his thoughts about this issue were shared with ACP's Health and Public Policy and Medical Practice and Quality Committees as ACP's white paper on telemedicine was being drafted. His contributions made a positive impact on the final policy.

While serving as the ACP Virginia delegate to the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV), Dr. Henochowicz argued passionately for an ACP Virginia resolution whereby the MSV would establish as policy support for Medicaid expansion in Virginia under the limits estab-

lished by the Affordable Care Act. In doing so, he helped move the position of the MSV toward one of support. This was part of a broader ACP Virginia strategy of advocacy for Medicaid expansion in Virginia.

He has been active in pushing the MSV to take a more active stance on reasonable gun control and participated as a panel member in 2016 for "Targeting the Gun Violence Epidemic: A Public Health Approach," a program sponsored jointly by The American Bar Association, The Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, and the ACP Virginia Chapter. He has helped develop policy on telemedicine for the MSV.

He has represented the VA chapter on a state ad-hoc prior authorization committee to help reduce administrative burden and also served on an ad hoc Medicaid pay parity committee to help ensure that physicians participating in the program were reimbursed quickly and without excessive hassle. All of these efforts are consistent with ACP's national priorities.

Recognition for Their Contributions to the College's Advocacy Agenda

Recognition was also given at Leadership Day to Jeremiah G. Tilles, MD, MACP (Posthumously), Irvine California, Ralph Schmeltz, MD, FACP, of Pittsburg Pennsylvania, Louis Snitkoff, MD, FACP of Albany, New York, and Daniel Sullivan, MD, FACP, of Solon, Ohio for their notable contributions to the College's advocacy efforts in 2016.

Jeremiah Tilles, MD, FACP
A special award was presented (posthumously) to Dr. Jeremiah

Tilles for his many years of service to advocacy at ACP.

Dr. Jeremiah Tilles was a past governor of the American College of Physicians Southern California Region II chapter and was chairman of the California ACP Services Government Liaison Committee for many years, organizing annual trips to Sacramento and Washington to keep legislators informed on issues critical to internal medicine. He passed

away in January of this year (2017). His son Dr. Stephen Tilles accepted the award on his behalf, not only for a job well done but for a life well lived.

Ralph Schmeltz, MD, FACP

Dr. Schmeltz has been active in direct federal advocacy efforts for more than 20 years. He is currently an Advocate for Internal Medicine network (AIMn) member, and first joined the program on July 1, 2001. His advocacy on the federal level began before the ASIM/ACP merger took place. Dr. Schmeltz got

involved through the Pennsylvania Society of Internal Medicine (PSIM) in the mid-90's and took on roles as PSIM's Health and Public Policy Committee Chair, Vice President and then President, and was Governor from Western Pennsylvania from 2000-2004, and President of the Pennsylvania 501(c)(6). He has participated in Leadership Day numerous times and has been supportive of national and local legislative efforts.

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Recognition for Their Contributions to the College's Advocacy Agenda

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Louis Snitkoff, MD, FACP

Dr. Snitkoff is governor of the New York Hudson Valley Chapter. He has been Chair of the New York Chapter's Health and Public Policy Committee for the past four years. In his role as chair of the NY chapter Health and Public Policy Committee, he has contributed greatly in promoting all of the issues presented by ACP National and urges NY chapter members to participate in contacting their legislators. He

has been serving on the ACP Coding and Payment Policy Subcommittee and will continue to contribute in the upcoming years on other ACP committees. Outside of Leadership Day, he continues to communicate with his representative and senators, as well as their staffs.

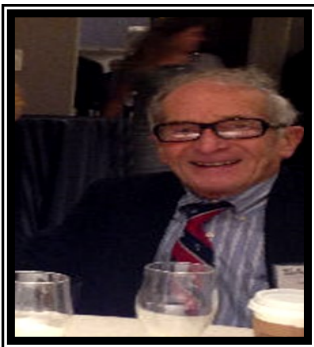
Daniel Sullivan, MD, FACP

Dr. Sullivan has been a consistently active participant and organizer for the Ohio Chapter in ACP's annual Leadership Day

activities and he has been an integral part of the chapter's efforts to support and work with ACP on federal legislation. As an active member of the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network (AIMn), he has frequently responded to key calls for contact with Ohio congressmen. In 2012, he became the Ohio chapter's Health and Public Policy Chair (HPPC) and has remained the chapter council's HPPC chair.

This is the second time that he has been recognized for his advocacy efforts. In 2011, Dr. Sullivan received recognition at Leadership Day that year as one of the Top Ten Key Contacts (former term for AIMn member), based on the quantity and quality of his contacts with legislators. That was his first Leadership Day and he has attended the event every year since.

Longtime Physician Advocate Honored Posthumously



Jeremiah Tilles, MD, MACP

By Stephen A. Tilles, MD, president, American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology

It was with great pride that I agreed to represent my family in Washington, DC this May to accept my father's posthumous Outstanding Advocacy Service Award from the ACP. My father loved the ACP, both because of its relentless advocacy for issues important to internists and their patients, but also because it afforded him the opportunity on the state and

national level to engage and mentor younger physicians. Our family was aware of his commitment to ACP advocacy, including his many years organizing annual lobbying trips to Sacramento and Washington, DC, but only after his passing did we learn how many lives he touched through these efforts.

“As a clinician, researcher, administrator, mentor, and advocate, he wore many hats...”

My father was an internist and infectious disease subspecialist. He served as Chairman of the Department of Medicine at the University of California, Irvine for 17 years, and for several decades he was also the Chief of Infectious Diseases. His research interests became more directly relevant to primary care with the advent of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the early 80's, and he also had a significant role in planning AIDS clinics and AIDS

educational programs in Orange County. He had genuine empathy for these patients, and for the physicians, nurses, and others who took care of them.

My father's interest in HIV/AIDS is just one example of the spirit with which he approached his career – a tireless devotion to activities that benefit patients. As a clinician, researcher, administrator, mentor, and advocate, he wore many hats, and his service to the ACP provided the perfect complement to his academic career.

On behalf of my mother Nancy Tilles and the rest of our family, I would like to thank the ACP for recognizing my father with this award. We are comforted knowing that his advocacy efforts are appreciated, and that the infrastructure at the ACP is poised to continue its fantastic work.



ACP President, Dr. Jack Ende presents the 2017 Boyle Award to Dr. Karen DeDalvo (former Assistant Secretary of Health, US Dept. of Health and Human Services)



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



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



Participants on the "Health System Reform Phase II— From the Affordable Care Act to the American Health Care Act and More!" panel.



Leadership Day attendees posed questions during panel discussions.



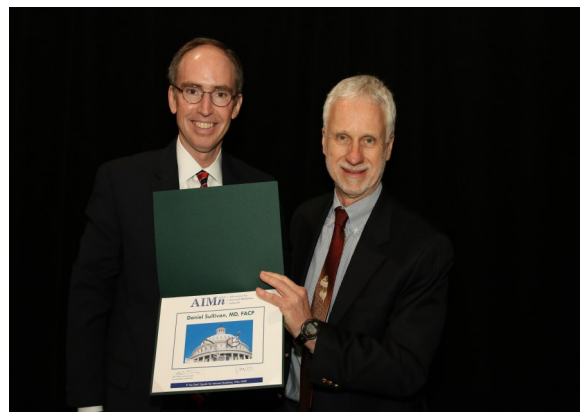
Dr. Henochowics accepts the Richard Neubauer Advocate of the Year Award



Dr. Stephen Tilles accepts award on behalf of his father Jeremiah Tilles, MD, MACP



Dr. Ralph Schmeltz recognized for his advocacy contributions



Dr. Daniel Sullivan recognized for his advocacy contributions

ACP Chapter Delegations Prepare to Meet with Their Legislators





Members of the South Dakota ACP chapter delegation and Senator John Thune (R-SD).



Members of the Nebraska ACP chapter delegation and Senator Deb Fischer (R-NE) .