

ACP Members Go to Capitol Hill



Members of Congress and their staff heard from ACP members during ACP Services' annual two-day advocacy event, Leadership Day, on Capitol Hill. Nearly 400 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 14-15 to advocate for many policy reforms intended to improve patient care and the practice environment. View Leadership Day [FAQs](#) for more information.

Over 415 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 that are being considered by Congress that will impact internists and their patients.

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

Reducing the High Cost of Prescription Drugs: Address the high cost of prescription

drugs through greater pricing transparency and improve access to lower-cost generic medications.

Addressing the Epidemic of 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.

Ensuring Sufficient Funding for Medical and Health Services Research, and Primary Care Training Programs: Ensure uninterrupted funding for the National Health Service Corps, Title VII Health Professions, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and other public health programs.

Improving Physician Payment under Medicare: Encourage and provide incentives to physicians who transform their practices into Advanced APMs and continue to provide stability for physicians in the MIPS program.

Expanding Coverage and Stabilizing the Insurance Market: Stabilize the insurance market, cover more people, and protect Medicaid to ensure greater access to care.

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.

Supporting Healthy Women

and Families: Improve care and services for women and families by removing barriers to care that interfere with the physician-patient relationship.

Addressing Medical Education Training and Debt: Support medical education training and debt relief for primary care physicians and other specialties facing shortages.

Please mark your calendars for the next Leadership Day, which will be held on **May 12-13, 2020** in Washington, DC at the **Mandarin Oriental Hotel!**

Save the Date:

2020 Leadership Day
May 12 –13
Washington, DC

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| ACP Members Go to Capitol Hill | 1 |
| ACP Advocacy Efforts in California | 2 |
| Richard Neubauer Advocate of the Year Award | 3 |
| Recognition for their Contributions to the College's Advocacy Efforts | 3-4 |
| Engage Your Members of Congress! | 4 |
| Leadership Day 2019 Photos | 5-7 |



Members of the California chapter delegation to Leadership Day 2019

ACP Advocacy Efforts in California

By Suma Wali, MD, MACP, President of the California ACP Services Chapter and Former ACP Chapter Governor, Southern California Region I

ACP Leadership Day provides us with a unique opportunity to share our expertise, advocate for our patients and for our ACP members as well as educate our lawmakers. The California ACP chapters have been very successful in having a strong voice both at the state level as well as at the national level. This year, the California chapters were able to send the largest delegation of ACP masters, fellows, members, residents and medical students to ACP Washington DC Leadership Day in May. A total of 40 chapter members took time from their

busy schedule to join us for our advocacy efforts in Washington DC. The California delegation was led by Soma Wali MD, MACP, President of the California ACP Services chapter; Mark Noah, MD, FACP, ACP Governor, Southern California Region I; Raminder Gill, MD, FACP, ACP Governor, Northern California; Chester Choi, MD, MACP, Former ACP Governor, Southern California Region I and current California Health and Public Policy Committee Chair; and Paul Speckart, MD, MACP, Former ACP Governor, Southern California Region III in San Diego.

The reason for our success in recruiting such a large delegation to join us in Washington DC for Leadership Day is our

ongoing advocacy efforts at the Student, Resident and Member level. Our success in having so many students join our delegation this year was due to the creation of an ACP California Student Council, which is very active in advocacy efforts. We were also successful in getting a large group of residents to join our delegation due to the support of the Residency Program Directors who are all active members of our ACP chapters.

This year, we focused on providing ongoing advocacy trainings at the Residency level including creating an advocacy interest group at some of the California Residency Programs with the goal of getting the young members involved early, providing them with training on

advocacy and motivating them to stay involved and participate in ACP Leadership Day and advocacy efforts.

We are also proud to report that we also managed to send the largest delegation to Sacramento for our Annual ACP Leadership Day at the state level in March of 2019. This year, we were able to take a total of 39 members with us to Sacramento, California to advocate for our patients, trainees and for our ACP members in California.

2019 Richard Neubauer Advocate of the Year Award



Dr. Atiq presents the Richard Neubauer Advocate of the Year Award to Dr. Deep

The 2019 Richard Neubauer Advocate for Internal Medicine award was presented to Noel Deep, MD, FACP from Antigo, Wisconsin 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. Deep has been an active member of the College and has a distinguished record of advocacy on ACP's priorities. He is currently the ACP governor for the Wisconsin chapter.

He has been a key leader in the Wisconsin (WI) chapter Leadership Day state delegation for many years. He has not only been an effective member of the Wisconsin chapter in advocating for key priorities of ACP, but has also been instrumental in mentoring his colleagues; he has developed strong relationships with his members of Congress and helped move the needle forward on many of ACP's priorities. He has also written editorials on key policy issues, attended town hall events, met with lawmakers back home in the district and answered ACP's

"call to action" when needed.

Dr. Deep organized and assembled over 450 physicians at the state Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin last year to advocate on behalf of patients to improve medical care for all Wisconsinites. This "doctor day" rally focused on lowering individual health care premium costs, providing the elderly with greater health care stability, protecting those with pre-existing conditions, and ushering in initiatives to combat Wisconsin's opioid crisis.

Moreover, he has worked with his state medical society to develop a set of fundamental principles as a framework for any health care reform proposal at the state level, all based on relevant ACP policy.

Recognition for Their Contributions to the College's Advocacy Efforts

Recognition was also given at Leadership Day 2019 to Soma Wali, MD, MACP of Porter Ranch, California, Roger Khetan, MD, FACP of Dallas, Texas, and Robert Lebow, MD, FACP of Sturbridge, Massachusetts (posthumous) for their notable contributions to the College's advocacy efforts in 2018.

Soma Wali, MD, MACP

Dr. Wali's leadership and enthusiastic commitment to ACP is truly exceptional and is demonstrated by her contributions to advocacy. During her time as Governor-elect, Governor, and Past Governor of the Southern California Region I chapter she was a champion for educating our trainees around the importance of physician advocacy.



Awardees (L-R): Drs. Khetan, Choi (accepted on behalf of Dr. Lebow), Atiq (presenter), and Wali

She was instrumental in markedly increasing the participation by residents, and medical students in Leadership Day activities. Her leadership has led to California bringing the largest contingent of members to Leadership Day over

the past several years. For probably the first time ever, all 53 California congresspersons and both senators' offices were visited last year by state ACP California members.

She is equally involved in advocacy at the state level. Dr. Wali has been on the Board of Directors of the statewide ACP Services for at least 7 years. She is serving as President of the California ACP Services currently and is responsible for the Sacramento Leadership Day in addition to the Washington, DC Leadership Day. She has participated as a member of the statewide Health and Public Policy Committee, and has lobbied state officers on such issues as reducing gun violence, graduate medical school education funding, cost of prescription medications, and increasing access to physician care. Dr. Wali is

(Continued on page 4)

Recognition for Their Contributions to the College's Advocacy Efforts

(Continued from page 3)

currently totally reorganizing the ACP Services structure to ensure that more members are participating in the process and those early in their medical careers become active voices for change in the state's health care systems.

In her role as Chair of the Department of Medicine at UCLA/Olive View Medical Center, she has initiated a resident-run medical advocacy group that not only educates but empowers her trainees to become involved in changing a medical delivery system that they find flawed. These trainees now look to the ACP as a partner and a force for change, and hopefully, will remain committed to improving our healthcare system and participation with the ACP.

Roger S. Khetan, MD, FACP

Dr. Khetan has been a long-time participant, as part of the Texas 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. He has visited more than 130 offices to educate legislators and staffers on key issues. He hosts Congressional members in his home and practice, and attends countless events in support of local and national elected officials. He works tirelessly to build relationships with his legislators, serving as an educational resource in his local community.

He served as delegate to the Interspecialty Society Committee for the Texas Medical Association, a committee dedicated to collaborative efforts in statewide advocacy among specialty societies. He has also chaired the Texas ACP Health and Public Policy Committee in 2015-16; and served two terms as President of the Texas Chapter of the ACP Services 2010-2011 and 2017-2018, helping to lead strategic efforts at the Capitol including restoring funding for the statewide preceptorship program for more than one million dollars

per Biennium.

Additionally, he participates in the Texas Medical Association's First Tuesdays at the Capitol in Austin on behalf of the ACP over several sessions. This is a program in which physicians visit with Texas legislators and their staff during the legislative session. His steadfast involvement in this event has been vital to achieving the chapter's goals in collaborating with other organizations and restoring funding to important programs of the chapter.

Robert Lebow, MD, FACP

Dr. Robert Lebow was the leader of the Massachusetts (MA) ACP Chapter delegation to Leadership Day for many years. He advised and mentored the numerous other MA ACP Chapter members who participated in Leadership Day during the event itself as well as throughout the year. Dr. Robert Lebow passed away unexpectedly and suddenly on March 15, 2019, at the age of 74.

He led the MA ACP Chapter's Health and Public Policy Com-

mittee for a number of years. Even as the MA chapter HPPC was revitalized 3-4 years ago, Dr. Lebow continued to keep the Governor's Council and MA ACP Chapter HPPC informed of numerous state and federal level policy and legislative issues via his active participation at Chapter events, and his frequent personal "email advocacy updates".

Dr. Lebow was devoted to improving patient care via his advocacy efforts, and also served on the Massachusetts Medical Society's (MMS) MassHealth Payment Policy Advisory Commission, as well as on the legislative committee of the MMS. He was an effective liaison for the MA ACP Chapter and the MMS, in this role, and was a constant source of legislative information for the Chapter and Governor's Council.

Up until the very end of Dr. Lebow's life, he was an active member of the MA ACP Chapter Governor's Council, and was a continuously engaged member of the Chapter's Health and Public Policy Committee.

Engage Your Members of Congress!

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

ACP is pleased to feature multiple action alerts available for ACP advocates to engage their lawmakers on ACP's key priority issues. The alerts include all of the necessary information (including sample messages that can be easily

personalized) to make informative contacts with members of Congress and reflects the multitude of diverse issues important to internal medicine physicians, subspecialists and medical students. Several examples of these action alerts featured on the LAC are noted below:

[ACP Action Alert: Urge Congress to Support GME](#)

[Funding, Increase GME Slots, Address the Physician Workforce Shortage](#)

[ACP Action Alert: Urge Lawmakers to Address the High Cost of Prescription Drugs](#)

[ACP Action Alert: Urge Your U.S. Senators to Pass Common Sense Legislation](#)

[to Reduce Firearms-Related Injuries and Deaths!](#)

Make an Impact
[Join AIMn Now!](#)

2019 Leadership Day Photos



Dr. Noel Deep: 2019 Richard Neubauer Advocate of the Year Award winner



Members of the Ohio Chapter delegation



ACP Leadership Day attendees listen to opening remarks and panel discussions



ACP members prepare to meet with their legislators



Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) speaks to Leadership Day attendees



Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D- IL) and the Illinois chapter delegation



Illinois chapter members prepare to meet with their legislators



Attendees listen to panel discussion on reducing administrative burden in physician payment, health IT, and delivery systems models



Dr. Robert McLean presents the 2019 Joseph Boyle Award for Distinguished Service to Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA (former U.S. Surgeon General)



Congressional committee staff panel discusses the latest on reducing Rx pricing, improving health coverage, expanding physician workforce and more



Drs. McLean, Moyer and Murthy



Rep. Kim Shrier (D—WA) speaks with ACP members



Dr. Atiq and members of the Arizona chapter meet with Sen. Boozman



Members of the Texas chapter delegation meet with Rep. Burgess



Oregon ACP members meet with Rep. Blumenauer



Oklahoma chapter members meet with Sen. Inhofe's staff



ACP California members meet with Rep. Paul Cook