“Where do we go now, where do we go?” These lyrics from the song, Sweet Child of Mine, by the rock band, Guns and Roses, have been an ear worm for me these last few months as we emerge from our virtual caves. The Florida ACP Chapter has now held two successful hybrid meetings: the Scientific Meeting in October, 2021 and the Resident’s Meeting in March, 2022. Both meetings were very well attended. The National ACP meeting the last week of April 2022, will be a full in-person meeting in Chicago. So where do we go from here? I have some thoughts on lessons learned and future directions.

What are the key take-home points that can guide us as we move forward? First, masks are here to stay during seasons of respiratory illness. Regardless of what others may do, you can wear your own mask when respiratory illness is in season. You have a choice of mask types. The technology of masks has been refined and can suit your personal choice in style and capability. Can you imagine ever getting on an airplane or other high-risk environment without your N95 mask option again? I know I can’t. Second, we have learned that vaccines can be developed in much more rapid timeframes than ever seemed possible. This alone, may save millions of lives in the future as new infections emerge which we now know is a certainty. Third, virtual and hybrid meetings have brought access to us all that did not seem possible before. We have also discovered that in-person meetings still have value to most people.

What are the residual and emerging problems that now must be tackled as COVID moves off the front page? First on my list is the cost of medical care. Medical care has risen to 18% of the Gross Domestic Product, an unimaginable proportion only a decade ago. The ACP’s initiatives in High Value Care and Choosing Wisely have been well received nationally but the impact in turning the cost curve downward has been elusive. Second is coverage of the uninsured. The ACP has been a national leader in advocating for universal coverage. Hopefully, progress can be made on that front. Third is equity in healthcare. Again, ACP has been a national leader in this space. COVID has exposed the dramatic inequality in healthcare outcomes among disadvantaged groups, at least some of which would be improved through universal coverage. Finally, the disaster of the opioid epidemic has compounded and conspired with the COVID epidemic to add hundreds of thousands of deaths to our nation’s record. New and innovative solutions are needed.

Continued on page 2
President’s Message continued

Education is still our mission in the ACP. The newest version of MKSAP, the 19th, is now available in multiple formats. I hope you already have obtained yours. MKSAP is the best continuing medical education program that was ever produced by any organization of any type. I’m still advocating for an expansion of MKSAP to attract our subspecialty Internal Medicine colleagues. Please help me in that endeavor by encouraging ACP leaders to develop an expanded MKSAP within each subspecialty that has added value to IM subspecialists.

Finally, please join me in thanking Dr. Manning Hanline, the outgoing Florida ACP Governor and President. His four-year term ends this month. Dr. Hanline has led our chapter with dignity, grace, humor, and humility. At our Chapter meeting in March 2022, Dr. Hanline received a memento that was inscribed “An exceptional leader in extraordinary times”, a most fitting statement for the extraordinary times we have had the last 2+ years. Also, welcome our new Governor, Dr. Ankush Bansal, whose term begins this month. Dr. Bansal has been an exceptionally active member of the ACP and will hit the ground running.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

We are currently accepting submissions for our “Women in Medicine” series for future publications. Featured members may be medical students, residents or practicing physicians. Articles should include a photograph of the featured member.

Please send to:
BWare@floridachapteracp.org or DMoerings@floridachapteracp.org

REGIONAL POSITIONS ON THE GOVERNORS’ ADVISORY COUNCIL

If you are interested in serving on a committee and/or the Governor’s Advisory Council, please email your curriculum vitae and statement of interest to the Florida Chapter at DMoerings@floridachapteracp.org by August 1, 2022.

Active members in good standing may be eligible to serve as a region representative in the upcoming election cycle. Please note election to the Council is for a three-year term, although, no member may serve in the same capacity as a Council member for more than two full terms. Should you have any questions, please call the chapter office and/or send an email to our Executive Director Dawn Moerings at DMoerings@floridachapteracp.org.
OUTGOING GOVERNORS MESSAGE

Although it may be traditional for outgoing Florida ACP Chapter Governors to write a final newsletter article which describes events and accomplishments during their term, I may disappoint some if I do not do that here. I hope I will be given the latitude to make a few personal comments, which are not ACP policy, based on my experience of the past few years.

As I sat in the airport mulling over the events before and during the recent Board of Governors meeting in Chicago, I was reminded of a passage from Thoreau, “It is truly enough said that a corporation has no conscience. But a corporation of conscientious men (and women) is a corporation with a conscience.” While the speakers at the podium extoll the virtues of policy, the room is filled with individuals, each of whom had a unique point of view and a unique contribution to make. It is ultimately his or her personal conscience, and not policy, that causes a physician to be diligent in applying the ethics of our profession to its practice and to society.

In his book “Humankind”, author Rutger Bregman asserts a radical idea that most people, deep down, are pretty decent. “For the powerful, a hopeful view of human nature is downright threatening... It implies that we’re not selfish beasts that need to be reined in, restrained and regulated.” Would the best policies not be those which recognize the inherent goodness of humanity, and even tolerate the views of those with whom we disagree? Are ACP members obligated to endorse or follow policies which they conscientiously believe are wrong?

The extreme partisanship which some see within the college and in society at large is not consistent with human nature. Intolerance of individual beliefs is unnatural and a distraction from the ACP’s mission of fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine. As members of the most honored learned profession, I hope that in the coming years we may lead the way toward true diversity, inclusiveness, equity, and unity.

My sermon is finished. Often, the best thing I could do as Governor was to stay out of the way. Thank you to everyone who made their own unique contribution. Dr. Jason Goldman tried hard, with limited success, to correct my deficiencies. Dr. George Everett was an unmatched example of hard work, scholarly excellence, and personal integrity. The skills of Dawn Moerings, our Executive Director, and Mr. Chris Nuland, our legal counsel and lobbyist, have made the Chapter a success.

We should not forget the many faithful members who do not seek leadership, but who pay dues and who quietly go about the business of practicing and teaching medicine. The following is a partial list of members whose contributions were noteworthy and appreciated: Avan Armaghani, MD, Ankush Bansal, MD FACP, Daniel Bendetowicz, MD FACP, Yvonne Braver, MD FACP, Stefanie R. Brown, MD FACP, Karen Echeverria-Beltran, MD FACP, N. Lawrence Edwards, MD MACP, Henry M. Haire, MD FACP, Jeff G. House, DO FACP, Luis A. Isea, MD, Himangi Kaushal, MD FACP, Joe Lezama Jr., MD FACP, Mario J Madruga, MD FACP, Benjamin Mena, MD FACP, Cynthia E. Miller, MD FACP, Naresh H. Pathak, MD FACP, Cristina Pravia, MD FACP, Michelle L. Rossi, MD MACP, Elisa Sottile, MD FACP, Claudio D. Tuda, MD FACP, Wilhelmine Wiese-Rometsch, MD FACP, Frederick K. Williams, MD FACP.

In closing, I will simply say, “See you later.”

Manning H. Hanline, MD FACP
Past Governor, FL Chapter ACP

JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Our Chapter is looking for new, energetic members for our Membership Committee! We welcome interns of all ages, specialties, and regions within the chapter. Participating in the committee is a great way to serve our chapter and help build our local internal medicine community while gaining leadership experience. Members of the committee are responsible for implementing chapter recruitment and retention initiatives to improve member satisfaction, improve diversity, and ultimately increase the chapter membership.

Our goal is to keep expanding our diverse membership, reaching out to potential members from all backgrounds, from residents to practicing physicians. We would love your input and collaboration on our upcoming initiatives.

Join our committee and help us keep growing our beloved chapter!

If you are interested in serving on the committee or would like to obtain more information, please contact me at luis.iseamercado.md@adventhealth.com or Dawn Moerings at dmoerings@floridachapteracp.org.

Luis Isea Mercado, MD
Membership Chair
Greetings to my fellow internists, hospitalists, and subspecialists of internal medicine. My name is Ankush Bansal, and I am the new Governor of the Florida Chapter as of April 30, 2022, at the Internal Medicine 2022 Meeting in Chicago, Illinois. My term will continue through April 2026. For the next two years, I will be working closely with Co-Governor George Everett, MD, MS, MACP. I am fortunate to be working with such an advocate and brilliant internist and educator in our state.

Upon beginning my role as Governor, Manning Hanline, Jr, MD, FACP, FACEP completed his 4-year term as Governor. I would like to thank Dr. Hanline for his commitment, steadfastness, and level-headedness as Governor during these last several tumultuous years, notably with the COVID pandemic. While we have not left COVID in the rearview mirror yet, the efforts of Dr. Hanline and Everett have reiterated the Florida Chapter’s commitment to science, public health, and our duty as physicians to the health of all Floridians.

As an introduction to those who may not know me, I am a hospitalist currently based out of Delray Beach. I graduated from Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Nebraska in 2004 and then completed my internal-medicine residency at Christiana Care Health System/Jefferson Medical College affiliated in Newark, Delaware, thereafter. I am past faculty at University of Miami and current voluntary faculty at Florida International University. I also serve on committees and/or boards at the Palm Beach County Medical Society, Florida Medical Association, ACP, American College of Preventive Medicine (ACPM), American Medical Association, and World Medical Association. I am a Fellow of the ACP and of the ACPM and Senior Fellow of the Society of Hospital Medicine. At the Florida Chapter, I was past Treasurer and Council of Early Career Physicians Chair.

My goals as Governor over the next 4 years are five-fold:
1. Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion (JEDI) – our state is quite diverse in many aspects. This is also reflected in the composition of our fellow Internal Medicine physicians in Florida. The Chapter and I will strive to reach underrepresented sectors of our specialty in our state – racial, ethnic, gender identity, geographic, regional, etc. We are stronger with the diverse experiences and ideas of all our colleagues – from medical school to retirement.
2. International Medical Graduates (IMGs) – throughout our state, we are fortunate to have IMGs from all over the world learning and practicing in our communities. The Florida Chapter will include them in our work.
3. Membership – we currently have over 8000 members in our Chapter. This has generally increased each year over the last 20 years. However, we can do better. Attracting new members through our work in education, community, mentorship, leadership, and advocacy will continue to be a driving force of this Chapter.
4. Early Career Physicians (ECPs) – this is an issue for ACP nationwide, not just our Chapter. With our fantastic ECP and social media chairs Avan Armaghani, MD and Luis Alberto Isea, MD, I have no doubt we will be successful as a home for Internal Medicine ECPs.
5. Advocacy – despite the difficult previous 2+ years, the Florida Chapter will continue to be a voice for scientific evidence, medical ethics, and public health as well as upholding the nobility of this profession and supporting our colleagues through ACP policy and statements. Patients always first.

As your newest Governor, I am also serving as the Chair of the Program Committee, with 5 exceptional colleagues, for the annual Chapter Scientific Meeting to be held on October 21-23, 2022, at the Westin Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort. The program will be unique, varied, and jam-packed with up-to-date and innovative information relevant for you in your practices, including things you may not have thought of. Stay tuned for more information.

Of course, no one person can lead such an organization alone or make positive change without the help of our exceptional staff: Dawn Moerings, Bridget Ware, and Christopher Nuland. This member-driven organization and I, as your Governor, need all of you and your colleagues who may not yet be members. I invite all of you to communicate your ideas, concerns, questions, comments, and professional (or personal) news to me or Dr. Everett through the Chapter office. Together, we can work towards the goal of the best patient care and best physician practice environment here in Florida.

Thank you all for your commitment to patients, science, education, internal medicine, and our profession.

Ankush K. Bansal, MD, FACP, FACPM, SFHM
Governor – Florida Chapter, American College of Physicians
HIGHLIGHTS FROM INTERNAL MEDICINE 2022
Florida Chapter Poster Competition Participants

Arya Sharifzadeh, MD
Florida Atlantic University

Taaaha Mendha, MD
Florida Atlantic University

Noha Abdelgelil, MD
Broward Health North

Jenifer Centeno Gavica, MD
NCH Naples

Shany Quevedo, MD
HCA FL Aventura

Shayan Mahapatra, MD
Cleveland Clinic Florida

Priya Patel, MD
Florida Atlantic University
CALL FOR MEMBER SPOTLIGHT NOMINATIONS

Do you know a FL Chapter ACP Member who deserves to be recognized? Nominations for the Member Spotlight in future publications are now being accepted. All Florida Chapter ACP members are eligible to be featured. Submissions should include a short article and photograph.

Please send to:
BWare@floridachapteracp.org or
DMoerings@floridachapteracp.org
In what was supposed to be a “slow” year for Medicine in 2022, the Chapter enjoyed a surprisingly productive Legislative Session.

Scope of Practice: Neither the Physician Assistants nor the APRNs were able to move their scope of practice initiatives this year, and optometrists and pharmacist likewise were stymied in their bids to substantially amend their respective practice acts.

As a counterweight to not expanding the Scope of Practice, the House and Senate unfortunately could not agree on final language to our Specialty Designation Bill. The bill, which would have prevented the use of physician designations such as “internist” or “gastroenterologist” unless the practitioner had completed an ACGME residency in that specialty, passed the House, as well as the Senate, but a Senate amendment required the concurrence of the House, which ran out of time. Fortunately, our House sponsor, Ralph Massullo, M.D., is returning to the Florida House, so we likely will get another shot at this legislation next year.

Notable Bills Passed:
Unlike recent years, we had considerable success passing some positive legislation that will enable our physicians to better treat our patients.

Pharmacy Benefit Managers: After three years of lobbying, we passed a bill that makes insurers liable for the actions of their contracted PBMs, thus requiring these PBMs to comply with Florida Insurance Code. The bill also imposes financial penalties for PBMs that neglect to register with the Office of Insurance Regulation.

Step Therapy: The Bill was passed on the 57th day. While Step Therapy is still allowed, patients and physicians must be notified of the appeal system, and the appeal process has been both simplified and standardized.

Covid Liability Protection: This bill protects physicians from liability claims that a person contracted Covid in a physician’s office or suffered because a physician abided by Covid protocols. The liability protections were to expire soon, but are now extended through June of 2023.

Emergency Care to Minors: Legislation passed last year promoting Parental Rights unintentionally made it a criminal offense for a physician to touch a minor without the consent of a parent, even in an emergency or acute injury situation. This year’s legislation rectifies that “glitch,” so that physicians may now render care to minors in the event of acute injury or illness, such as at youth sporting events.

Telehealth: This bill, which was passed on the 60th day, allows physicians to prescribe Schedule III-V controlled substances through telehealth. It should be noted, however, that “telephone-only” communications are not included in the definition of telehealth.

Physician Free Speech: Despite pressure from Governor DeSantis to pass it, the House Bill died in the House Health and Human Services Committee. The Senate Bill advanced to the Appropriations Committee, but was not considered. Expect some version of this bill to be back next Session, as the Governor is committed to it, and Surgeon General Ladapo has intimated to us that it is one of his personal priorities.

Wrongful Death Actions Against Physicians. A bill to allow such actions by adult children of malpractice victims passed the House this week but was not taken up by the Senate. The Trial Bar will be pushing this Bill again next year.

Bills Defeated Early
Every year over 1,500 bills are filed, and while many of them do not make substantial advances, it should be noted that we were able to defeat some very bad proposals, including:
Legislative Wrap-Up continued

**PIP:** The proposal would have eliminated the current $10,000 “set-aside” for physician services. The sponsors are dedicated, however, and this proposal will be back next year.

**Physician Mergers:** A bill to require Attorney General approval of many physician practice mergers died fairly early.

**Drug Price Disclosure:** While we support patients understanding how much prescribed drugs will cost them, this proposal would have placed the disclosure onus on the prescribing physician, who usually does not even have this information.

**What’s Next:**
All 160 legislators are now up for re-election this year, so they will be focused on their upcoming races. As a result, it is unlikely that there will be significant legislative activity until after Election Day in November.

**Board of Medicine:**
The Chapter also has extended its advocacy to the administrative rule-making arena. For instance, we are working with the Board of Medicine to update the rules regarding the prescribing of anti-obesity medications. Under existing law, which was written 25 years ago during the Phen-Fen crisis, telehealth is not permitted, and patients may only be prescribed anti-obesity drugs while their BMI exceeds certain thresholds. Under the newly proposed limits, telehealth will be available, physicians may utilize BMI as a tool (but not the only criteria), and maintenance medication will be allowed even after the patient has lost weight. We expect the new rule to go into effect this Summer or early Fall.

**FMA:**
Already plans are taking shape for the next Legislative Session, and it all begins at the FMA Annual Meeting August 5-7 in Orlando. Not only will reference committees help to determine Medicine’s priorities for the coming year, but former Chapter Council member Joshua Lenchus, DO, FACP will take the reins as the new FMA President, but our Immediate Past Governor, Jason Goldman, MD FACP is the favorite to become the President-Elect. To serve as a delegate, you should contact Executive Director Dawn Moerings in the Chapter Office at 904-355-0800 or dmoe-rings@floridachapteracp.org.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the physicians who contacted their legislators or me during the 2022 Legislative session. Your input is vital to ensuring that your interests are heard, and I want to assure you that your voices are being heard.

Christopher L. Nuland, Esq
Greetings ACP Florida Chapter members!

Like many chapters throughout the country, our members have continued to provide quality care, sharing both tears and moments of joy with our patients and loved ones. Some of us have faced burnout, anxiety, insomnia, stress, or depression. Your struggles have not gone unnoticed. Along with national ACP, our Florida Chapter is making physician well-being a priority, putting together resources to support our membership in this tough journey.

Your chapter has named three members, Drs. Luis Isea Mercado, Ola Karasik and Elisa Sottile to serve in the role of Chapter Well-being Champions (WBC). As your new WBCs, we plan to survey membership to gain awareness of your satisfaction with your workplace and your own wellbeing. We will utilize needs assessments to determine how we can best coordinate efforts to support your wellbeing, enhance your workplace satisfaction, and increase engagement with your peers.

Studies demonstrate that students enter medical school with lower burnout, less depression and higher quality of life (QOL) scores than their peers, but by MS2 year that reverses, worsening during residency and then peaking in early career (Brazeau et al; Dyrbye et al). Your WBC and the Florida Chapter recognize that much can be done to improve wellbeing of our medical students, residents and practicing physicians. We will need your help to effect change. As your new WBCs, one of our first actions was to request the formation of a Wellness Committee.

During the recent Resident and Student Chapter Meeting in Orlando, our Governor’s Advisory Council moved to approve our first Chapter Wellness Committee. We envision our Wellness committee as a group that will thoughtfully consider and promote Chapter social and wellbeing activities, including providing personal outreach to members in need of mentoring or supportive listening. The Wellness Committee will coordinate with the Education Committee to support practicing physician, resident and student development in areas such as self-care, mindfulness, and communication. The committee will also work with our Chapter to advocate for legislation to support Florida physician interests. We recognize that much of what impacts the change in QOL, burnout and depression noted earlier, are extrinsic factors related to the systems in which we work and learn. Our ultimate purpose will be to increase the Chapter’s ability to promote organizational change to mitigate burnout while promoting wellness and building a strong support network amongst our members.

We are excited to invite additional interested members to join the Wellness Committee. We are searching for committee members that will represent our Chapter members’ varied geography, practice, ethnicity, gender and stage of training. If you are interested in joining our committee or would like more information about our initiatives, please reach out to Dawn Moerings or any of our Well-being Champions. An online sign up form will also be distributed to all members via email in the upcoming days.

In addition, we held our first virtual networking meeting on May 24th and plan to hold additional sessions in the future. Our goal is to create an open sharing space so we can get to know and support each other. Watch your email for the next session and plan to join in and share your ideas on how the WBCs and Wellness Committee can work to help serve our membership.

Help guide our chapter and our members on the path to create sustainable practices and programs that will engender resilience and inspire us to continue to provide high quality compassionate care to the residents of Florida!

For more information please contact one of the following:
Luis Isea, MD Luis.IseaMercado.MD@adventhealth.com
Olga Karasik, MD FACP Olga.Karasik@ucf.edu
Elisa Sottile, MD FACP Elisa.Sottile@jax.ufl.edu
Dawn Moerings DMoerings@floridachapteracp.org


There is no doubt that computers and internet access have made the physician’s world easier and more efficient. Whether it be Electronic Medical Records, Electronic Prescribing, quick reference to the latest medical information, or the almost instant sharing of other important information, our electronic world has enhanced the practice of medicine. Unfortunately, that convenience does come with a host of potential pitfalls, some of which are discussed below. Judgments for delay in treatment caused by distracted practice have exceeded one million dollars, and the cost of HIPAA violations routinely results in fines and legal fees well in excess of $100,000 per case.

Compromised Clinical Performance
Instant access to the internet and its wealth of information certainly can be entertaining. Whether it is getting lost in the latest online game or being distracted by the latest scientific journal, online distractions, however, can have devastating consequences.

As an example, a distracted physician may not immediately recognize changes in a patient’s vitals, and time-sensitive lifesaving treatment or diagnosis may be delayed. In such cases, it is perfectly proper for the Department of Health or malpractice victim to subpoena the physician’s phone and laptop to determine if the practitioner was distracted during the procedure. Even if the distraction is unrelated to the adverse event, the finder of fact will be inclined to question the doctor’s care if it can be shown that the physician was distracted.

Billing and Allegations of Fraud
In addition to jeopardizing clinical outcomes, such distractions may also adversely affect a physician’s bottom line. Under the new E/M codes, codes are increasingly paid depending on the length of time spent with the patient. When one is distracted by an unrelated electronic diversion, the physician arguably is not providing the full billed time and therefore should not be billing for the time that they are engaged in non-clinical activity.

Unfortunately, such dangers are not just hypothetical. In United States ex rel. Khourey v. Intermountain Healthcare Inc. and Mountain West Anesthesia, LLC., No. 2:20-cv-00372-TC-CMR (D. Utah, 2022), the Court found an anesthesiologist guilty of fraud for billing for time spent on his phone when it was found that the subject anesthesiologist was using his phone during surgeries to pay bills and perform personal tasks.

Whether it be an allegation of billing fraud or medical malpractice, physicians should remind themselves that all digital activity is permanent and is likely to be subpoenaed. Just as a motorist involved in an accident should expect to have his or her phone examined to determine if they were distracted, a physician likewise is likely to have digital equipment scrutinized to ascertain whether the physician was otherwise engaged during the subject procedure.

HIPAA
Finally, the use of electronics during clinical activity may compromise the integrity of Protected Health Information ("PHI") and run afoul of the HIPAA Security Rule, which requires that any equipment housing PHI be used only for clinical purposes and be protected from hackers.

Ramifications for a lack of security extend far beyond a possible leak of PHI. Increasingly, lax security can allow for increased exposure to ransomware, which not only jeopardizes the physician’s ability to access critical data, but can also require thousands of dollars in ransom to retrieve the vital information. Moreover, the Office of Civil Rights (the governmental agency that enforces HIPAA) routinely investigates the victims of such ransom attacks to ascertain whether the victims had adequate security measures in place, often resulting in sizable fines.

Solutions
Fortunately, existing HIPAA Rules, especially those found in the Security Standards, offer a road map as to how to successfully navigate many of these pitfalls. For instance, the Information Access Management Standard requires entry to all electronic information be restricted to those with a “need to know,” while the Device and Media Control Standard requires that security measures be taken to protect the integrity of both the hardware and the PHI. Additionally, the Office of Civil Rights expects health care practitioners to adopt the following additional safety measures:

- Have a practice-wide policy that prohibits the use of electronic equipment for personal use during patient encounters. This may sound simple, but such a policy will at least protect the group in the case of an allegation of distracted practice, as the group can show that the physician did not comply with the company policy.
- Have separate “work” and “personal” devices. Work devices should only have work-related applications.
- Ensure that physicians have separate “work” and “personal” email addresses, with only work email being available on company devices.
- Create a meaningful HIPAA Compliance Policy that ensures the integrity of PHI and restricts access to the PHI. Such policies should prohibit the use of company equipment for personal use, require passwords and other security measures to access the PHI, and require that all equipment be inspected at regular intervals for malware and other infections.
- Invest in the cyber-security rider to your Professional Liability policy. Statistically, you are far more likely to be the target of a cyber-attack that you are to be the target of a malpractice allegation.
- Invest in a qualified IT professional who can help you prevent, identify, and respond to cyber-threats.

Modern devices and the internet can lead to better practice and a fuller life, but they must be used responsibly in order to protect both the patient and the physician. By taking the simple steps outlined above, physicians can continue to reap the benefits of the new technology without exposing themselves to undue liability.

The above article is provided for informational purposes only and should not be deemed or relied on as legal advice, which should be procured directly from experienced, licensed health care attorneys.
FLORIDA CHAPTER SUPERSTARS
Florida Chapter American College of Physicians Outstanding Member Awards

Nominations for Awards due on or before August 1, 2022.

Nomination Requirements:
Nominees must be active members of the Florida Chapter, American College of Physicians. All submissions must include candidate’s curriculum vitae, and a letter of nomination that includes a detailed statement of their activities for which he or she is being nominated, and any other pertinent information.

Florida Chapter will notify both the nominator and awardee following the Awards Committee meeting. This year’s Awards Ceremony will be held live on October 22, 2022 at the Governor’s Reception during the Chapter’s Annual Scientific Meeting the weekend of October 21-23 at the Westin Ft Lauderdale Beach Resort.

For questions and/or more information, please contact Dawn Moerings in the Chapter office at (904) 355-0800 or by email DMoerings@floridachapteracp.org.

One of the goals of the Florida Chapter American College of Physicians is to “recognize excellence and distinguished contributions to internal medicine.” As a way of achieving this goal, the Chapter offers the following awards. If you know a Florida ACP member deserving of recognition, please consider submitting a nomination for one of the Chapter Awards.

Florida Chapter Laureate Award:
Laureate Award is the most prestigious award given by the Chapter. It honors Fellows or Masters of ACP who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, or research, and in service to their community, and their chapter of the American College of Physicians. A candidate must be long-standing and loyal supporter of the College who have rendered distinguished service to the Florida Chapter and have upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the College is known. A candidate must be a Fellow or Master of the College for at least ten to fifteen years. The Laureate winner will be announced during the Florida Chapter Annual Award Reception.
Florida Chapter Internist of the Year Award:
A physician who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to the clinical practice of internal medicine. Consideration should be given to the totality on an individual’s career. Typically, awardees will have spent at least a decade of service to their profession and to the American College of Physician, though this is not a prerequisite.

Florida Chapter Early Career Physician Award:
A physician who is in practice for 16 years or less from medical school graduation, highly respected by his/her colleagues for outstanding clinical and leadership skills, and who has been a role model in the community. This individual should have distinguished themselves in service to patients, the physician community, and the community at large. The awardee should be an educator to patients and the overall medical community as well as an active member of ACP who has contributed meaningfully to the efforts of the chapter.

Florida Chapter Community-Based Teacher Award:
A physician who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and who has contributed to the education of medical students, residents, and fellows as an office-based internist.

Florida Chapter Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award:
A physician who has demonstrated outstanding leadership and dedication to medical education.

Florida Chapter Outstanding Contributions to Advancing the Careers of Women in Medicine Award:
The Florida Chapter American College of Physicians recognizes the accomplishments of an ACP Florida woman member for distinguished contributions to advancing the careers of women in medicine. This award recognizes an individual who has furthered the careers of women medical students, residents, and/or physicians through mentoring and leadership development for the career advancement of women.

Florida Chapter Key Contact Award:
A physician who has made exceptional efforts in support of the Chapter’s state and federal advocacy programs throughout the past year.

The Tulisa LaRocca, MD Wellness Champion Award
The Tulisa LaRocca, MD Wellness Champion Award recognizes an individual or a program whose focus on wellbeing and/or wellness efforts is innovative and extraordinary. Individuals may be recognized for his/her own training, achievements and dissemination of wellness concepts. These activities may be at a local, regional or other level. Individuals who participate in Chapter initiatives will be given special consideration, but those who have participated in national efforts are eligible and encouraged to share activities locally. Institutions may also be recognized by submitting their blueprints for wellness programs and agree that dissemination of such programs is permitted and will serve our professional community while acknowledging the institution’s pioneering efforts. The 2020 inaugural award honored Dr. LaRocca life and was presented to her family.

Florida Chapter Service Award:
In Recognition of Meritorious Service to our State & the Medical Profession.

Charles K. Donegan Memorial Award:
In Recognition for Distinguished Community Service.

Florida Chapter John G. Langdon Volunteerism in Medicine Award:
A physician, who has distinguished themselves in voluntary service in the area of medicine like a commitment to continuing education, which is an established tradition for internists and the College. The College considers volunteerism so important that it is a major criterion for advancing to Fellowship. Recognize a colleague who actively participates in community service and volunteerism.

Florida Chapter Resident Award
Gary F. Izzo Memorial Scholarship Award:
Established by the Florida Chapter ACP in memory of Gary F. Izzo; FPIC Vice President of Marketing and a personal friend to many Florida Chapter members; who devoted his life to improving the medical profession. The award is presented to a resident who, despite all the other pressures of being a resident, advocates to improve the practice of internal medicine.
Save the Date!

2022 Annual Scientific Meeting

October 21—23, 2022

THE WESTIN
FORT LAUDERDALE BEACH RESORT

Meeting Highlights:

- Internal Medicine & Subspecialty Lectures
- State Mandated Courses:
  - Human Trafficking
- Resident & Medical Students Program
- Residents & Medical Students Poster Competition
- Doctors Dilemma Competition

-REGISTRATION & HOTEL RESERVATION INFORMATION COMING SOON
The Villages Health (TVH) offers a revolutionary style of care that puts the patient at the center!

We are looking for full-time board-certified Family Medicine, Internal Medicine or Geriatric Medicine Physicians who are interested in devoting their practice to serving our wonderful patient population. Some of the benefits to working with the Villages Health are:

- Team approach
- Limited panels, longer appointments 30 minutes with your patient for follow ups
- One hour for new patient visits
- Lower Patient census 11-13 patients a day
- Higher than 98% patient satisfaction
- Level III Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH)
- Physician Not Corporate Run
- Focus on our patients and our team members
- On Site CME and CME time / reimbursement
- Centrally located in Florida with Orlando less than an hour to the South.
- Endless choices of entertainment options from nightly live entertainment to restaurants, boutique Shoppes and Broadway shows!
- Top Rated Pre K -12 School System – Ideal community to raise a family.

Our compensation is not tied to volume – the base compensation is greater than the 50th percentile of MGMA with an annual bonus tied to quality (patient satisfaction, clinical quality outcomes and organizational engagement). We offer a full benefit package including 401K with match and a non-qualified tax deferred savings plan. Our community is lovely and for physicians with young families, The Villages has a school system that has achieved straight ’s for the past 17 years, free to our eligible team members.

The Villages is the nation’s fastest-growing metropolitan statistical area, now with more than 130,000 people. The Villages has been known as Florida’s Friendliest Hometown and, through our initiative, is striving to be known as America’s Healthiest Hometown

We are a growing multi-specialty group practice, patient-centered, primary-care driven, and community based. We have been committed to excellence and as a result have the highest quality in Florida as measured by HEDIS and the highest service as measured by CAHPS. TVH ranked in the top 1% of the nation’s health systems for quality measurements and as the #1 physician group in North and Central Florida.

John Polich, Clinician Recruiter (352) 674-8946
john.polich@thevillageshealth.com
Watch for upcoming news on these and other topics:

- Annual Scientific Meeting Information
- Call for Abstracts for October Poster Competition
- Resident & Medical Student Workshop
- Resident & Medical Students News
- Chapter Member Benefits
- Health Policy/Advocacy

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