



GOVERNOR'S SUMMER NOTES

We had another superb annual meeting of the Alabama Chapter along with our Mississippi friends in Jackson. The scientific program was so well-designed and delivered, the policy discussions informative and respectful, the facilities comfortable and convenient, and the food around town just plain Southern delicious! We're all looking forward to next year's meeting back at Ross Bridge Resort in Birmingham, June 4-7, 2020. In the meantime, a lot will be going on with your Chapter and College, as usual. As great as our annual meetings are, there is a lot more to ACP.

One of ACP's greatest strengths is education – from MKSAP to meetings, from the ACP online website (aconline.org), SEP modules at annual meetings, Annals, ACP Internist, and now our burgeoning array of podcasts (Curbsiders, Bedside Rounds, and Annals on Call with our own Bob Centor). Take a moment to explore the areas not as familiar to you, and I think you will be impressed and pleased with the return on your membership dues.

Improving the environment of internal medicine practice is perhaps the single most pressing need for ACP and all of us. Burnout, EMR fatigue, regulatory exhaustion, reimbursement inequities and disincentives – all are regular topics of conversation anytime internists start reflecting on today's practice environment. ACP has been working in this space for years, with incremental successes, but we need to find ways to make fundamental changes in the incremental encroachments on both the freedom of the internist-patient relationship and those regulatory and workflow burdens. Restoring the Joy of Practice must become a reality and not just an inspiring idea.

ACP is a diverse organization, both geographically and politically. There are times that other chapters or national ACP leadership take positions different from many or most Alabama ACP members. It's essential that regardless of wherever we find ourselves on an issue, we guarantee not only that all voices are heard, but that all are respected – before, during, and after final positions are defined. I know you well enough to know that your positions are based on sound personal and professional values and deserve mutual respect. That's what true Collegiality is all about. Ultimately, we all want what is best for patients and for the practice of medicine. Inevitably we will have disagreements about how to get there. If we insist on genuine respect and collaboration, we will build stronger positions now and in the future. It's my job to promote and demand that, and I promise to do so.

Our Council began a strategic planning process at our June meeting, looking at our strengths, threats, and opportunities. As we work through that, I will keep you posted on whatever new initiatives and

opportunities that might interest you. We welcome new Council members, Class of 2021: Brad McAnalley of Sheffield, AL, Beverly Carraway-Handley and Hernando Carter of Birmingham, and Tyler Butts of Mobile. Thank you for agreeing to serve!

There is much good news about the Alabama Chapter. Our membership continues to grow, our meetings are highly rated and well attended, our finances are strong. Our outgoing Governor, Tavo Heudebert, has done an outstanding job, and I know all of you applaud and thank him for his leadership of the past four years. I continue to count on Tavo for guidance and friendship in this job. The responsibility of representing and serving you is both an honor and a significant commitment. I need your help and advice, individually and through our fine Council. Please let me know what you would like to see more of, or less of, from ACP!