Dear Members,

A few items for this month.

1) In case you missed it: our former Chapter Governor and current Board of Regents member Robert McLean testified before the U.S. House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee's Health Subcommittee last week about MACRA (Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015). You can read the statement of record; you can also see the testimony here (unfortunately Dr. McLean's microphone is not turned on for his opening statement, but his later response to questions can be heard).

2) Who is the most respected internist in your community? We are still seeking nominations for the Henry C. Gift Distinguished Internist Award, which recognizes a practicing internist who demonstrates excellence and compassion in patient care, professionalism, humanistic values, and dedication to lifelong learning. To submit a nomination, click here: Henry C. Gift Distinguished Internist Award.

3) I've heard from several physicians about the need to support the state bill (HB 5129) that would authorize medical assistants to administer vaccines in physician offices; this could be construed to be consistent with the dynamic clinical care team concept, maximizing personnel to meet patient needs and the needs of the practice. The bill also has a provision for pharmacist administration of vaccines, calling for the necessity of an order from a licensed health care practitioner. Presumably, the attendant record keeping would require notification back to the practitioner that the vaccine was given, which would be a step forward from what occurs now. To contact your state legislator, click here.

4) I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at Internal Medicine 2016, in D.C. next week! Chapter Reception is Thursday, May 5 - registrants received an email with the details.

5) Don't forget to check out the chapter blog!

Cheers,
Rob Nardino