Hello ACP Colleagues – I wanted to catch up with you about some important items.

**Maintenance of Certification**
An important milestone is looming for ABIM’s revised MOC program. March 31 is the deadline for enrolling in MOC, in order to maintain the new designation, “Meeting Maintenance Certification Requirements” which will appear on the ABIM website along with your certification status. Even “grandfathered” diplomates must participate in order to keep the new designation.  

*Please understand that this is not the work of the ACP! ACP is independent of the American Board of Internal Medicine. We have given input to ABIM that the process should be relevant to a variety of practice settings, eliminate redundancy, accommodate different learning styles, and be sensitive to cost and time. ACP is also committed to helping its members succeed in the process by providing a variety of methods to meet the requirements.*

The Annual CT Chapter Scientific Meeting is a place to earn some MOC points. We have been presenting ABIM SEP (medical knowledge) modules at our meetings for the last several years. Save the date (October 31, 2014) and plan to start your recertification journey with us.

You can also earn MOC points by attending Internal Medicine 2014. On the meeting web page, you can access sets of multiple choice questions. Preview the questions now, attend sessions, and confirm answers. If you are enrolled in ABIM’s MOC program, you can then submit your answers to these questions for credit, starting April 13.  
http://im2014.acponline.org/educational-program/moc-modules/

**Advocacy**

**National Level** – We are on the verge of finally eliminating Medicare’s flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula. The problem is that there are only 13 legislative days until the 24 percent SGR cut goes into effect. Your advocacy action is desperately needed. In early February, after more than 11 years, an agreement was reached in Congress—between the House and Senate, Republicans and Democrats—on legislation (SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014, H.R. 4015/S. 2000) to finally rid physicians of the disastrous SGR formula and move your Medicare physician payments to a system that focuses on quality and value. But we’re not there yet. There are only 13 legislative days left for Congress to adopt this new system, or a 24% SGR cut will go into effect on April 1. And until now, despite bipartisan support, neither chamber of Congress has agreed to bring the legislation up for vote.

**Congress needs to hear from us!** On Wednesday, March 5, ACP is asking you to be part of an all-physician, all-specialties, “National Call-to-Action for SGR Repeal” congressional call-in day. Please be prepared to call your members of Congress next Wed. You will receive an e-mail Alert from me on Tuesday afternoon, March 4, with a call script and telephone numbers. If you are not already a member of Advocates for Internal Medicine, please join now!  
http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/aimn/

**State Level** – On the state level, we have been working on educating the state legislature about Dynamic Care Teams. As you know, Governor Malloy has presented a bill (Governor’s Bill No. 36), taken up by the Senate, that calls for nurse practitioners to be given the authority to practice independently by removing the requirement for a collaborative agreement with a physician. I know this is a contentious issue and the bill even has support from some physicians, but the ACP favors care delivery models that are based on a team approach. We are also concerned that there is an underestimation of the complexity involved in primary care, leading to the temptation to address access issues by adopting policies such as this. For more, see this op-ed piece:  
I hope to see many of you at Internal Medicine 2014, which will be held in Orlando April 10-12. We will be planning a **Chapter Happy Hour on the evening of Friday, April 11**, so don't make early dinner reservations!

**Recruit-a-Colleague Period Ends March 15!**
The Connecticut Chapter encourages all members to help strengthen our chapter by recommending ACP membership to colleagues. By joining the College, your colleagues will enrich their clinical knowledge and skills and have access to all of the ACP member benefits that you enjoy. To thank you for your dedication to our organization, ACP offers incentives to members **and** their chapters that recruit new members through the Recruit-a-Colleague Chapter (RACC) Rewards Program.

As with the national Recruit-a-Colleague Program, the RACC Program rewards successful individual recruiters with dues credits for each new full Member or Physician Affiliate member recruited and a chance to win a trip to the annual Internal Medicine meeting. In addition, the RACC Program also provides rewards to the recruiters' chapters, including funding for chapter activities and complimentary registrations to the annual Internal Medicine meeting.

The Recruit-a-Colleague Chapter Rewards Program runs annually from April 1 through March 15. To participate, simply forward to your colleagues a membership application found at [www.acponline.org/racc](http://www.acponline.org/racc). To qualify for the program, your name must be listed on the recruiter line of the application, and the form must include the code RACC. Thank you for your help in strengthening our chapter!

**New Ethics Case Study Offers Guidance for the Care of Cognitively Impaired Patients**
*Preventive Health Screening, Ethics, and the Cognitively Impaired Patient* is a new ACP ethics case study that is available online for CME credit. The case study presents the ethical issues in decision making regarding screening tests for patients with cognitive impairment and is designed to help primary care physicians, geriatricians, neurologists, and other physicians who care for patients with intellectual disabilities.

CME credit is available through Medscape for completion of this and other ACP case studies in the professionalism case study series available at [http://www.acponline.org/running_practice/ethics/case_studies/](http://www.acponline.org/running_practice/ethics/case_studies/).

Best regards,
Rob Nardino
ACP Governor, CT Chapter