Spotlight: Stacy Higgins, MD, FACP

My kind of medicine: Real lives of practicing internists

As she grew up in Queens, New York, Dr. Stacy Higgins found herself on what she deems a “rather cliché” path to medicine. She was interested in pursuing science and in providing service to people. She had an uncle who went to medical school after he served in the army. While Higgins didn’t always know that she wanted to be a physician, she knew that she wanted to work with people. She considered becoming “a physician, a psychologist and even a teacher. I knew I wanted to teach, and I wanted to do something related to science.” Beyond that, she never “had some ‘ah-ha’ moment. Eventually, I turned to medicine through volunteer work and clinical experiences that I had.” READ MORE

Healthcare reform bills clear 1st hurdle in Georgia Senate

Bills aimed at making the state's healthcare system more responsive and efficient passed out of committee recently and are awaiting a vote of the full Senate. Sen. Chuck Hufstetler, R-Rome, said he expects them to clear the chamber soon. Senate Bill 357, sponsored by Sen. Dean Burke, R-Bainbridge, would create a Health Coordination and Innovation Council. The 18-member panel of agency heads, medical academics and private healthcare representatives would be tasked with coming up with new ways to stabilize costs while improving access to care. READ MORE
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**Telemedicine spreading in Georgia, but there's still much room to grow**

Telemedicine is expanding in Georgia, yet there’s still “a long way to go” before it reaches its full potential, the state’s Public Health commissioner said recently. Dr. Patrick O’Neal said access to healthcare in rural Georgia “is a challenge for all of us.” But telemedicine, he said, is often the only way for many rural patients to get access to specialist care. O’Neal made his remarks at an event to celebrate Telehealth Day at the state Capitol. Telehealth has increased over the past five years in rural America as technology has improved. That technology allows two-way, real-time interactive communication between the patient and a medical provider at a distant site. The growth of telemedicine in Georgia continued recently with news of two initiatives. READ MORE

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QUESTIONS? Contact Jessica Carson @ jacarson@gaacp.org