NEWS FROM THE GA ACP

Georgia Chapter ACP Member Accomplishments; National Awardees, New Fellows & Resident Abstract Winners Congratulations to All!


ACP UPDATES

Annals of Internal Medicine publishes annual 'updates' in internal medicine

Annals of Internal Medicine, the flagship journal of the American College of Physicians (ACP), has published summaries of the most important medical studies published in 2016 in the fields of general internal medicine, cardiology, hematology, endocrinology,
gastroenterology and hepatology, rheumatology, and perioperative, pulmonary, and geriatric medicine. All articles were published within the last year in some of the world’s most prestigious medical journals. Authors in each topic area chose articles based on novelty and quality of the research, as well as potential impact on clinical practice.

INDUSTRY NEWS

**EHRs eating up half of doctors' workday, and they are not getting paid for it**

Healthcare IT News

Doctors spend about half of their EHR time during patient encounters, according to new findings published in *Health Affairs*. The other half is consumed by desktop medicine tasks for which they do not get reimbursed. “Physicians logged an average of 3.08 hours on office visits and 3.17 hours on desktop medicine each day,” the authors wrote. “Over time, log records from physicians showed a decline in the time allocated to face-to-face visits, accompanied by an increase in time allocated to desktop medicine.”

**How are hospitals using mobile devices for care?**

MedCity News

Smartphones and tablets are commonplace in society today. But how common are they in healthcare settings? A new survey from HIMSS Analytics, called the "2017 Essentials Brief: Mobile Study," highlights the use of mobile technology in hospitals across the United States. The results of the survey show 79.8 percent of respondents said they use tablets to coordinate and provide patient care, and 42.6 percent said they use smartphones to do so.

**ACO participation likely to lead to positive payment adjustments under MACRA**

HealthcareDIVE

This is the first year of collecting performance data under MACRA, which rewards providers for high quality care and compares them to other providers in their area. Although debate on the future of the ACA continues in Congress, MACRA seems safe. It was passed with bipartisan support and has been praised by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

**Survey shows why doctors choose medicine and the challenges they face**

The Washington Post

Many doctors or doctors-to-be picked this profession because they wanted to help people, according to a new survey published this month. The survey, conducted by the American Medical Association, also addressed how satisfied physicians and medical students are with their career choice and the challenges they face, said Patrice Harris, who chairs the AMA board. The survey found that nine in 10 physicians are satisfied with their choice. Medical students topped the chart, with 94 percent feeling very satisfied. When asked what motivated them to go into medicine, three-quarters of the respondents cited helping people as the main reason, followed by intellectual pursuit.

**Senate Bill Would Expand Telemedicine Coverage For Medicare Patients**

Modern Healthcare

Days after a bill was introduced to the Senate that would allow Medicare to test covering
more telehealth models, the leaders of the Senate Finance Committee introduced a bill that would put more Medicare money into telemedicine. The sponsors of the bill – Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., and Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., – are seeking to improve the quality of care for chronically ill Medicare patients. READ MORE

In pain? Many doctors say opioids are not the answer

California Healthline

In the past couple of years, the treatment of chronic pain has undergone an earthshaking transformation as opioid addiction continues to claim – and ruin – lives. Many primary care doctors no longer liberally prescribe opioid painkillers such as oxycodone, fentanyl and hydrocodone for back pain, migraines and other chronic conditions. Instead, they are increasingly turning to alternative medications and non-drug options such as acupuncture and physical therapy. READ MORE