NEWS FROM THE GA ACP

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


The American College of Physicians (ACP) Annual Convocation Ceremony honoring new Masters, Fellows and Awardees was held Thursday, March 30 in San Diego. Congratulations to the Georgia Chapter ACP new Master Edwin Grimsley, MD, MACP, all new Fellows (link above) and awardee William Salazar, MD, FACP. The ACP Convocation is a ceremony of tradition, transition, renewal and celebration. All accomplished Georgia members were celebrated at a reception that followed. Check
ACP issues recommendations to prevent and treat substance use disorders

The American College of Physicians (ACP) released a paper with a comprehensive set of public policy recommendations for the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders involving illicit and prescription drugs. The paper is published in Annals of Internal Medicine. "Drug overdose deaths, particularly from opioids such as prescription pain relievers and heroin, is a rising epidemic," said Nitin S. Damle, MD, MS, MACP, president, ACP.

Repeal, replace ... revise: Your guide to how a Trump proposal might change ACA insurance

Repeal and replace is on-again, off-again, but that doesn’t mean the rules affecting your insurance will remain unchanged. The Trump administration late Thursday issued a final rule aimed at stabilizing the health law’s insurance marketplace that could have rapid, dramatic effects on people who do not get insurance through work and buy it on
the Affordable Care Act’s exchanges.  

**Study: Small practices face major barriers to EHR adoption**
FierceHealthcare
Smaller practices face large cost and time hurdles to implementing electronic health records, including possible closure, according to a new study. Researchers surveyed an expert panel of 15 small-practice physicians (those that work individually or in groups of two to four) in various specialties and locations and found they were concerned about the costs associated with upgrading to an effective EHR.  

**New, persistent opioid use common after surgery**
MedPage Today
Approximately 6 percent of patients undergoing both minor and major surgical procedures continued to use opioids 90 days after surgery, according to a study of nationwide insurance claims data. The incidence of new persistent opioid use was similar between the minor surgery (5.9 percent) and major surgery groups (6.5 percent) for an odds ratio of 1.12. Conversely, the incidence of filling an opioid prescription between 90 to 180 days after a fictitious surgery date was just 0.4 percent in the nonsurgical comparison group, they said.  

**'Good Samaritan' helps cut opioid overdose deaths in Georgia**
Georgia Health News
When federal officials finish counting the deaths for more recent years, the number will be even higher. No wonder there’s widespread concern about how to prevent use of opioids such as prescription painkillers, heroin and fentanyl — and how to blunt their lethality. State Legislatures, in particular, feel pressed to do something about these deaths. The Georgia General Assembly this year passed bills related to the opioid epidemic in the state.  

**Physicians, too busy for vacation? Try these 3 tips**
Physicians Practice
in 2016, a nonprofit advocacy organization called Project: Time Off released a study that found only 45 percent of American workers used all their paid time off — resulting in 658 million days of unused vacation. The top reasons for leaving PTO on the table will be very familiar to those who find themselves spending too much time at work: Not wanting to return to a mountain of work (37 percent). No one else can do the job (35 percent). Cannot afford a vacation (33 percent).  

**Artificial intelligence: Coming soon to a hospital near you**
STAT
Human intelligence has long powered hospitals and healthcare. We rely on clinicians to
solve problems and create new solutions. Advances in artificial intelligence are now making it possible to apply this form of computer-based "thinking" to healthcare. Here are three areas — training, surgical robots, and data mining — in which I believe it will begin making a difference sooner rather than later.  

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