Georgia Chapter wins 2017 John Tooker Evergreen Award!

The John Tooker Evergreen Awards provide an opportunity to recognize the valuable contributions of individual chapters as they strive to enrich, educate, and engage the membership.

The goals of this program are to:

- Recognize chapter achievements;
- Clarify and incentivize desired activities at the chapter level;
- Improve sharing of best practices between chapters;
- and Encourage effort and innovation at the local level.

Early Career Physicians

Georgia - Early Career Faculty Poster Competition & Faculty Development Course
The Georgia Chapter’s Early Career Committee identified the need for career development and enhancements to benefit the early career faculty at the Georgia Internal Medicine Programs and practicing community physicians affiliated with the academic centers. Therefore, the Chapter implemented a poster competition and a faculty development course during their October 2015 meeting. The program meets the needs of the early career faculty for career progression in academics, subspecialty work, and community involvement, as well as attracts early career physicians, increases their engagement in Chapter activities, and increases “Big M” membership. The Chapter also wants to increase engagement of established community faculty. To further expand the program, the Chapter implemented a Faculty Development Pre-Course during their 2016 meeting, which had a record attendance of 395 registrants, and increased engagement of young faculty participating in both the competition and the faculty development course. A total of 42 young faculty members engaged in the faculty development and poster competition, many of which had not been previously engaged with the Chapter. The Chapter plans to further develop the faculty program to include workshops for faculty development skills and leadership training at the upcoming Chapter meeting.

ACP UPDATE

ACP says excessive administrative tasks negatively impact patient care

Excessive administrative tasks in healthcare have serious adverse consequences for physicians and their patients, said the American College of Physicians (ACP) in a paper published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. "Putting Patients First by Reducing Administrative Tasks in Healthcare” presents a framework to analyze administrative tasks and determine whether tasks may need to be challenged, revised or eliminated entirely. READ MORE
Development of a research agenda to identify evidence-based strategies to improve physician wellness and reduce burnout

Annals of Internal Medicine

Physician burnout, a syndrome characterized by emotional exhaustion, depersonalization, and decreased professional effectiveness, seems to be increasing. A 2011 study involving more than 7,000 physicians found that 41 percent had burnout and that burnout was more prevalent among physicians than the general U.S. working population. READ MORE

Make sure not to miss our Physician Wellness Workshop at the 2017 Georgia Chapter Meeting on Friday, Sept. 29!

INDUSTRY NEWS

New Quality Payment Program resources available

CMS

Learn More about Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS) Participation and the Improvement Activities Performance Category

Recently, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) posted three new resources to the Quality Payment Program website to help clinicians successfully participate in the first year of the program.

CMS encourages MIPS clinicians to visit the website to review the following new materials:

- **MIPS Participation Fact Sheet**: Provides information about who is eligible to participate in MIPS, and how clinicians might be able to participate voluntarily in the program.

- **MIPS Improvement Activities Fact Sheet**: Includes information about choosing and submitting improvement activities, reporting criteria, and scoring.

- **2017 CMS-Approved Qualified Registries**: Includes the qualified registries that will be able to report data for the Quality, Advancing Care Information, and Improvement Activities performance categories in 2017.

For more information:
To get the latest information, visit the Quality Payment Program website. The Quality Payment Program can also be reached via email at QPP@cms.hhs.gov, or at 1-866-288-8292 (TTY 1-877-715-6222), Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-8 p.m. ET.

White House turns up heat on Congress to revise the
Affordable Care Act

The Washington Post

President Trump is pushing Congress toward another dramatic showdown over the Affordable Care Act, despite big outstanding obstacles to a beleaguered revision plan and a high-stakes upcoming deadline to keep the government running. The fresh pressure from the White House to pass a revision was met with skepticism by some Capitol Hill Republicans and their aides, who were recently humiliated when their bill failed to reach the House floor for a vote and who worry now that little has changed to suggest a new revision would fare any better. READ MORE

CMS proposal relaxes EHR reporting requirements

Fierce Healthcare

A new proposed payment rule issued by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services would ease up on EHR reporting requirements over the next two years. The new rule follows recent calls from providers and the health IT community to scale back on Meaningful Use and quality data reporting requirements. READ MORE

Mobile device strategies catch on among hospitals

CIO

Nearly two-thirds of hospitals now have formal mobile device strategies, a big jump from just five years ago, according to the latest survey by Spok, a healthcare communications company focusing on the acute-care sector. To a large extent, observers say, this growth reflects hospitals' recognition that their clinicians are already using or wish to use mobile devices at work. READ MORE