NEWS FROM THE GA ACP

Check out Georgia Chapter Convocation pictures [here](http://bit.ly/2oYthjw).

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

ACP UPDATES

**ACP praises court's decision to block Anthem-Cigna health insurance merger**

News Medical
The American College of Physicians (ACP) praised this morning's decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia upholding a lower court ruling halting the proposed $54
billion insurance merger between Anthem and Cigna. The ruling over the potential impact on competition and insurance prices is a big "win" for patients and the physicians who care for them. READ MORE

INDUSTRY NEWS

Nurse replaces surgeon general after Obama appointee resigns

The New York Times
Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy, an Obama administration holdover, was asked to resign by the Trump administration recently. He was replaced by his deputy, Rear Adm. Sylvia Trent-Adams, one of the first nurses to serve as surgeon general. Admiral Trent-Adams will for now be in an acting role. As of Friday evening, she had already replaced Dr. Murthy on the surgeon general’s Twitter account, and her portrait had replaced his on the agency’s Facebook page. One of the first comments on that post asked, “Where is Dr. Murthy?” READ MORE

Deadly 'superbug' fungus hits US hospitals

FierceHealthcare
Public health officials are warning hospitals that a drug-resistant fungus is circulating in the United States and has hit several New York and New Jersey hospitals. Candida auris is a dangerous form of yeast, and is resistant to two of three main antifungal drugs; some strains are resistant to all three. A total of 61 cases of the fungus have been reported in the U.S. since 2013, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, but the vast majority were identified over the last year. READ MORE

The 4 biggest factors determining a patient's choice of physician

Becker's Hospital Review
Overall, patients are generally happy with their physicians and many stay with their physicians for a decade or more. However, a recent study from Fort Lauderdale, Fla.-based Weatherby Healthcare found patients identified cost, experience, competence and a positive attitude as important factors in selecting a new physician. For the study, researchers surveyed 488 respondents to determine the profile of the modern medical patient. Respondents identified as U.S. residents age 18 years and older who had visited a physician for a standard checkup in the past two years at a medical facility other than a free clinic. READ MORE

Mobile healthcare communications shift toward messaging
HealthLeaders Media

Websites, patient portals, and lower-tech communications such as interactive voice response outreach still dominate the healthcare industry. The industry has been slow to wake up to the societywide tectonic shift to mobile messaging as a preferred communication mode, both from provider to provider and from provider to patient. HIPAA-compliant options are helping healthcare systems relay important information using familiar platforms and devices. READ MORE

CDC: Flu season all but over in US

HealthDay News

This year's flu season is rapidly winding down and is expected to end within the next couple of weeks, U.S. health officials predicted. It was a year much like the past few flu seasons, when the H3N2 virus was the most prevalent strain. That strain usually is hardest on the elderly and the very young. But this flu season there was a slight twist — middle-aged people were more affected than children, said Lynnette Brammer, an epidemiologist with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. READ MORE

GA ACP E-Brief

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