**NEWS FROM THE GA ACP**

**2017 Georgia Chapter Meeting Registration NOW OPEN!**

Click [here](#) to register.

View our full Meeting brochure [here](#).

Room Block Deadline is Sept. 7, 2017. Rooms are limited! [Click here](#).

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**INDUSTRY NEWS**
Burnout is an issue many Physicians are facing these days – Make sure you register for our September Chapter Meeting where we will offer a Physician Wellness Workshop and learn how to deal with burnout!

No signs of relief: Rural providers on edge over ACA’s uncertain future
Modern Healthcare
Roger Knak has made some especially tough decisions in the past few years. Knak, CEO of Fairview (Okla.) Regional Medical Center in the northwest part of the state, had to lay off one of the center’s three staff physicians. The rest of the employees haven’t gotten a raise in three years. But the past month has been especially hard. As Senate GOP lawmakers worked toward passing a bill to replace the Affordable Care Act that would have severely cut back Medicaid and tax subsidies to purchase individual health insurance plans, Fairview’s leadership had been preparing for what they feared to be the inevitable — a loss of revenue from cuts to federal healthcare programs. READ MORE

Telemedicine is wide-reaching but doesn’t always replace doctor’s touch
California Healthline
Two years ago, Kimberly Griffiths’ week-old daughter, Avery, suddenly became very ill. “She was turning blue and had very labored breathing,” said Griffiths, who rushed her child to the ER in rural Sonora, California. Doctors there were stumped, and the nearest pediatric specialist was 100 miles away in Sacramento. Fortunately for Avery, the ER doctors were able to make a two-way, online video connection to consult with a UC-Davis neonatologist, who viewed high-resolution images of the infant and her vital-signs monitor. The specialist suspected a congenital heart condition and prescribed a drug that stabilized her breathing. READ MORE

Rural safety-net hospitals lack advanced EHR capabilities, raising concerns about an emerging digital divide
FierceHealthcare
The majority of U.S. hospitals have adopted an EHR system as the entire industry is on pace transition to a digital system within the next four years. But a worrying trend has emerged over the last several years: Far fewer critical-access hospitals have integrated advanced capabilities, raising concerns about an impending “digital divide” that disproportionately impacts small, rural facilities that care for low-income patient populations. READ MORE

Top 5 challenges to achieving healthcare interoperability
EHRIntelligence
Improved healthcare interoperability is a top priority for providers, policymakers, and patients in 2017. The public and private sectors are working across the industry to facilitate seamless health data exchange between a multitude of health IT systems to coordinate care across various health settings nationwide. Years of healthcare interoperability initiatives, health data exchange frameworks, and health IT standards have yielded considerable improvements in proliferating efficient information exchange. READ MORE

Healthcare organizations ask CMS to harmonize EHR
requirements
Modern Healthcare
Healthcare organizations praised the CMS for proposing greater flexibility in electronic health record requirements under the Merit-based Incentive Payment System track of MACRA and asked the agency to standardize EHR requirements across incentive programs. The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, the American Hospital Association, the American Health Information Management Association and others supported CMS’ proposed 2018 performance year rule’s change that would allow clinicians to continue to use 2014 edition certified EHRs for another year, potentially saving them the effort of updating and installing new software. READ MORE