Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The Georgia Chapter American College of Physicians is a Chapter of Excellence! The Georgia Chapter has received the American College of Physicians Chapter Excellence Award for outstanding chapter management. In recognition of this honor, I would like to acknowledge the contributions of the members of the Governor’s Advisory Council. [link to award page] These physicians have committed considerable time and energy to the Georgia Chapter of The American College of Physicians. They are dedicated to the task of representing you and your patients.

Time is indeed flying this year. I have almost completed half of my four year term as your Georgia Chapter Governor. It is already time to start thinking about electing a new Governor-elect next Fall!! Our Governor-elect nominations committee has just been appointed, and our former Governor, Dr. Joe Stubbs from Albany will be heading it up. You are encouraged to send your nominations to him at jstubbs@gmail.com.

In Health Care Reform much has been made of the “Triple Aim.” In that same vein I have tried to focus my work as Governor on a “Triple Aim” of Education, Advocacy, and Membership. Obviously, Education and Advocacy are directly dependent on Membership; and Membership is driven by the perceived benefits of Education and Advocacy, in addition to the many other benefits offered by the ACP. So my newsletter is focused on updating you on the major areas.

Jacqueline W. Fincher, MD, MACP
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You’re invited to the Georgia Chapter reception at our national meeting, Internal Medicine 2013, in San Francisco, CA, April 11-13, 2013. The reception will be held on Thursday evening, April 11, after Convocation at the Marriott Headquarter hotel. I hope to see you there!

Council of Young Physicians

Our Council of Young Physicians (CYP) is an example of a great opportunity within the chapter for our early career physicians. The CYP has held an annual advocacy training event and dinner in February for the past three years. Representative Ben Watson, MD of Savannah provided an update on current legislation before the General Assembly and key issues for our members to advocate on. This was held the evening before the Chapter’s Legislative Day at the Georgia Capitol. This year the group also invited Healthstat, the student advocacy group, to this event. Danny Newman, MD FACP was the inaugural chairman of this committee and has now transitioned that position to Aysha Khoury, MD FACP. The CYP Executive Committee, and future Georgia ACP leaders include: Matt Diamond, MD, Amy Eubanks, MD FACP, Ravina Kadam, MD FACP and Robin Klein, MD. They have done an outstanding job in starting the GA CYP.

Others serving on the committee are former governors, Dr. Rhee Fincher, Augusta and Dr. Vince Nicolais, Columbus, along with Chapter members, Dr. Danny Newman, Augusta, and Dr. Clyde Watkins, Avondale Estates. I know they will do a wonderful job.

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From the Membership Committee

We need you and your colleagues!

On the membership front, our Chairman, Dr. Jim Hotz, is working closely with me, our executive director, and national ACP to significantly increase the membership of our organization. **We are offering a 25% discount for a one year trial membership until June 1, 2013.** This is a great opportunity for colleagues who are not members to become members and see all the many benefits of being part of ACP, and especially our Georgia Chapter. We have also managed to get a pilot membership project through ACP to work directly with a large physician group in Atlanta. Currently we also have an incentive program for our members to Recruit a Colleague that provides increasing dues discount for you for each member you recruit.  

http://www.acponline.org/membership/recruit/domestic.htm

We think every internal medicine specialist and sub specialist should be a member of their physician specialty organization that educates them, advocates for them and provides many other benefits of membership – http://www.acponline.org/membership/benefits

Currently our membership is at 2843 which represents a 4.18% increase in the 2nd quarter of 2013. With growth comes more opportunities to work together on behalf of our members and our patients.

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ADVOCACY:

We are advocating for you, our profession, and out patients

The GA Chapter has one of the strongest advocacy teams in the ACP organization. The Chapter Health & Public Policy Committee meets intermittently throughout the year, but weekly during the Georgia Legislative Assembly January to April. We employ a professional lobbyist on your behalf, Chuck McMullen, to represent us daily at the state Capitol in addition to our Executive Director, Mary Daniels, who is there weekly. We also work closely with other state physician organizations including the MAG, GAFCP, AOA, AAP, OB/GYNs along with other organizations that represent patients, health/diseases, public health, hospitals, and collaborative organizations. We also work directly with the GA Physician Workforce Board and the medical schools and residency programs. It has been a busy state legislative session and will hopefully be over March 28. Of note we have a friend and colleague, Dr. Ben Watson, a general internist from Savannah GA who is the only physician in the State House. There is a brand new OB/GYN physician who is now in the State Senate, Dr. Dean Burke from Bainbridge. Please see the State Advocacy update from our HPPC Chairman, Emmett Doerr, who has done an outstanding job for us this year.

http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ga/13_leg_priorities_2.pdf

Georgia Chapter American College of Physicians held its Legislative Day at the Georgia Capitol on February 8, 2013 in conjunction with our Patient Centered Physician Coalition members. There were over 120 physicians in attendance to participate in advocacy issues under the Gold Dome. This was a very successful event with great participation of GA ACP members.

http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ga/photo_12mtg.htm

We have advocated diligently for Medicaid Expansion in our state with an op-ed in Georgia Health News, letters and a five page report “A Report from Georgia’s Internal Medicine Specialists; How Will Medicaid Expansion Benefit Georgia?” sent to Governor Nathan Deal, along with all of our state legislators. This report was also shared with other physician organizations throughout the state. While we understand the political realities in our state and for our Governor, we will continue to advocate for this critical program that will have major positive economic implications for our state.

http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ga/medicaid_expansion.pdf

It is time to start thinking about our national Leadership Day in Washington, DC May 21-22. We plan to have a group of ten GA Chapter members come with us to lobby our Congressmen as ACP descends on Capitol Hill with 400-500 Internal Medicine physicians from all over the country. If you are interested in joining us please contact Mary Daniels. GA has 14 Congressional Districts and we try to have as many of those districts represented as possible by our delegation.

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Day at The Capital 2013

Elizabeth Chu, MCG Student, Jacqueline Fincher, MD MACP, Georgia Chapter Governor, Governor Nathan Deal, Sandra Stepp, MCG Student
Our Chapter Meeting provides wonderful opportunities to network with your colleagues, and to hear outstanding speakers and topics pertinent to your practice of internal medicine, subspecialty medicine, and hospital medicine in a family friendly environment. It is also a time to be updated on federal and state legislative issues impacting your practice and your patients. The September, 2012 meeting, held at Lake Lanier, was outstanding, as chaired by Brian Ribeiro, MD, FACP, Chairman, Education Committee. If you attended you heard about the latest in diabetes care, learned that a sore throat is not what you think, that immunizations can be entertaining, how to get that coding right the first time and how to examine a shoulder and knee in one minute to name but a few. We were updated on the latest news from the medicine political landscape and on exciting new advances in the delivery of health care. We fielded an audience response system that allowed real-time feedback on topics and lectures attended. The residents and students segment was a resounding success with the addition of podium presentations by the poster contributors and we had a very robust attendance. Our Friday SEP module presentation was also well-attended. Our exhibitors were well represented and provided us with information on the latest in EMR’s, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals. Our invited national guest to our 2012 Chapter/Scientific meeting was ACP Regent, Dr. Robert Centor, from Birmingham, AL, who is also the Chairman of the national ACP’s Health & Public Policy Committee, and will become the Chair-elect of the Board of Regents in April. It was a great opportunity to bend his ear on topics important to our Chapter.

Our Program Committee is already working diligently on our next Chapter/Scientific meeting next fall, Oct 4-6, 2013. We will have another SEP module, interactive educational classes with audience response system, social networking opportunities, advancement to Fellowship breakfast, medical student and resident competitions, and opportunities for Chapter involvement. Put it on your calendar and invite your colleagues to come with you. Brian Ribeiro, MD FACP, Education Committee Chairman has provided a summary with more information about our 2013 meeting.

River Street, “The Garden of Good and Evil” and SCAD can all be found in the city hosting our next meeting.

Keep reading to find out!

Brian Ribeiro, MD, FACP, Chairman Education Committee

The 2013 meeting is stacking up to be just as exciting. Come and learn how to keep your patient out of trouble in the Operating Room, how to treat that pesky rash, how to keep your pregnant patients out of medical trouble, how to best assist your geriatric patients and prescribe the right medication, learn the latest and cutting edge on electronic mobile medical applications and what to do if you get sued to name a few. Our residents and students will have their own program with a full schedule of poster and podium presentations and the all popular “Jeopardy”. We will have our annual legislative update from the state and federal perspective. You will also have an opportunity to voice your opinion at the well-attended Town Hall meeting and as always be able to visit our vendors to see and hear about the latest in the world of medical equipment, medications and information.

If you have not guessed it yet, yes we are headed to Savannah for our 2013 chapter meeting.

Save the date 4-6 October, 2013 at the Hyatt. See you on River Street!

http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ga/13_sep.pdf
SPOTLIGHT ON A MEMBER OF GEORGIA ACP

Baker County Primary Healthcare

By Frances E. Ferguson, M.D., MPH, FACP

I was a Program Director/Medical Office at the National Institutes of Health for five years before deciding to return to clinical practice. I joined the ACP out of the need for a comprehensive and up to date clinical information resource that would help to ease my transition back into clinical medicine. The practice of medicine can change a lot in five years, and I needed to catch up! The Clinical Guidelines, MKSAP, Annals of Internal Medicine and the scientific meetings have proven to be invaluable in my day to day practice. Furthermore, I am able to fulfill all of my state CME requirements through the large number of educational opportunities offered by the ACP. In addition, I inherited my mother’s passion for serving underserved patient populations and I wanted to be a part of an organization that is on the forefront of national organizations advocating for healthcare reform and the rights of all patients and the providers who serve them.

“Finally, many of my colleagues are members of the ACP and the local and national meetings are a great place to meet and socialize.”

Annals/MKSAP/Internal Medicine 2013

And of course, ACP membership provides subscription to Annals of Internal Medicine in paper and digital formats and MKSAP 16, now available in fabulous digital format. In addition, the annual national Scientific Meeting “ACP INTERNAL MEDICINE” provides one of the very best educational meetings at a substantial discount. It is the meeting where the top speakers in every medical specialty come to teach – a fabulous opportunity that I hope you will take advantage of. The April, 2013 meeting is in San Francisco, and the April, 2014 meeting will be in Orlando.
2012 Chapter Award Winners

2012 Laureate Award:  T. Andrew Albritton, MD, FACP

2012 Leadership Award:  Mr. Stephen Wood

2012 Mark Silverman Award:  Joyce Doyle, MD FACP

2012 J Willis Hurst Teaching Award:  Stacy Higgins, MD FACP

2012 Community Based Teaching:
   Kevin Lanclos, MD  MCG
   Tom Bledsoe, MD  Mercer
   Clyde Watkins, MD, FACP  Morehouse
   Richard Goodjoin, MD  Emory

2012 Associate Program Winners

2012 Jeopardy Team Winner:  Mercer - Savannah
   Brent Acker, MD
   Jarod Fox, MD
   Amit Shah, MD

Oral presentation winners
   • RESEARCH ORALS:
     1. Salim Hayek, MD
     2. Rajendrakumar Patel, MBBS
     3. Samip Parik, MBBS
   • CLINICAL VIGNETTE ORALS:
     1. Curtis Jamison, MD
     2. Carson Rowell, MD
     3. Felicia Humphrey, MD

Poster presentation winners
   • Research Posters
     1. Kobina Wilmont, MD
     2. Ibrahim Sadek, MBBch
     3. Ingrid Pinzon, MD
   • Clinical Vignette POSTERS
     1. Jonathan Gardner, MD
     2. Tresa Nesbitt, MD
     3. Shalin Patel, MD

2012 Student Program
   • Clinical Vignette
     1st place: Sandy Zaeh
     2nd place: Kajal Patel
     3rd place: Jonathon Gillig
   • Research
     1st place: Shivani Gupta
     2nd place: Katie Lee
     3rd place: Karl Langberg
2012 Fall Chapter Meeting

http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ga/photo_12mtg.htm

2012 J. Willis Hurst Award Winner
Dr. Stacy Higgins

2012 Community Teaching Award Winners
Drs. Kevin Lanclos, Tom Bledsoe, Clyde Watkins

2012 Mark Silverman Award Winner
Dr. Joyce Doyle

2012 J. Willis Hurst Award Winner
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2012 Mark Silverman Award Winner
Dr. Joyce Doyle

Drs. Joyce Doyle, Robert King with Associate Program Winners

2012 Laureate Winner Dr. T. Andrew Albritton

Dr. Lisa Bernstein with Student Program Winners

2012 Jeopardy Winners Mercer Savannah,
Dr. Waldon Garriss, Jeopardy Faculty

Dr. Joyce Doyle and
Dr. Robert King with
Associate Program
Winners
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