All,

The Chapter has been quite busy since our last communication. Our Annual Chapter meeting, held in Kansas City was quite successful with steadily increasing attendance. Presentation of the SEP modules has been very attractive to our member for Maintenance of Certification.

The Chapter engaged in a very important “grass roots” activity in January. For the first time the Chapter participated in Leadership Day in Topeka, January 21st. This event is designed to present an “educational” view of important medical political issues as well as the opportunity to meet and visit with Kansas legislators. It has been sponsored by the Kansas Family Medicine Academy (KAFP) with participation with the Kansas Chapter American College of Surgeons as well Emergency Physicians.

Issues expected to arise in the 2015 Legislative Session that was presented included Kan Care, APRN Scope of Practice, Medicaid Expansion, and Tobacco Excise Tax Increase. Presenters included Dr. Kim Templeton, Board of Healing Arts, Dr. Susan Mosier, Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Jerry Slaughter, Executive Director, Kansas Medical Society, Tom Bell, President Kansas Hospital Association and legislative liaisons of the Kansas and national Association of Academy of Family Practice. It was quite informative and I hope our Chapter can participate again and more fully next year, especially to engage our legislators.

Prior to Legislative day, the Chapter leadership was invited to participate in a discussion of the current status of the Kansas Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative (PCMHI) by members of the Kansas Primary Care Physician Coalition. Organized by the KAFM and supported by the Kansas Healthcare Foundation, the United Methodist Ministry Fund and the Sunflower
Foundation, the goal has been to engage Kansas’s primary care physicians in PCMD transformation and encourage NCQA recognition.

The Kansas Primary Care Coalition is working closely with Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC), which is preparing an application to become a Practice Transformation Network. For those practices that apply (see web site below), the KFMC will provide no-cost support to primary care and specialty clinicians who want to use their health information technology to improve efficiency in their practice and to provide better coordination of care for their patients. They will help clinicians transform their practices and position them to thrive under new payment models and meet quantifiable improvement outcomes through coaching, mentoring and assisting practices in the identification and development of core competencies necessary to transform clinical practices. Finally, they will connect participating practices with peers who are successful clinical practice transformation leaders. The Foundation is committed to assisting 1,000 providers across the state. If you and your practice are interested in more information or participating please see: http://innovation.cms.gov/Files/x/TCPI-FOA-PTN.pdf or contact Kelly Stevens at 785-271-4112 or kstephens@kfmc.org.

In April the American College of Physicians will be celebrating their 100 year anniversary. Many events are being planned at the annual meeting in Boston, April 29 - May 2. The Kansas Chapter will again convene with the South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa chapters for our Friday evening reception (please see below).

**Governor-Elect Designee’s Message**

Isaac O. Opole, MBChB, FACP

Since my election as Governor-elect designee, I have been learning as much as I can about the challenges facing our chapter, and it has indeed been a steep learning curve. Each day, I have made discoveries about the great things our members are doing, and all the hard work that ACP does on behalf of the membership. There are significant challenges ahead of us professionally, and the prospect of changes occurring with Health Care Reform to practice patterns and reimbursement can be daunting. Many members have expressed strong opinions about the Maintenance Of Certification process, and how it impacts their practice. I am glad that our members are stepping up and participating in these debates and increasing the profile of our chapter nationally.

As described elsewhere in this newsletter, we recently joined our colleagues on the Kansas Primary Care Coalition during the advocacy day at the state capitol, and saw first hand the value of a strong professional voice in promoting the ideals that we all share as professionals. Advocacy is difficult without active participation, and it is only with a strong and expanded membership that we can succeed in getting our voices heard.

Kudos to Dr. Ky Stoltzfus as he comes aboard to lead our membership committee. I will continue to keep my eyes ears wide open and learn as much as I can from my predecessors. It is really a challenging but exciting time for us all, and I look forward to engaging in the debates and working on some of the prickly issues of our time.
On January 20, 2015, Drs. Susan Pingleton, Stewart Babbott, Isaac Opole and Brad Marples joined with colleagues from other primary care specialties for the semiannual meeting of the Kansas Primary Care Physicians Coalition in Topeka, Kansas.

The Kansas Primary Care Physicians Coalition (KPCPC) includes representatives from the Kansas Chapters of the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Osteopathic Association and the American College of Physicians. Since at least 2009, this group has collaborated on issues and initiatives important to all primary care physicians and to our patients in the State of Kansas.

The KPCPC has been successful in the completion of a 3 year project, the Kansas Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative. Supported with over $500,000 from three generous funders, the Kansas Health Foundation, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, and Sunflower Foundation, this program focused on practice transformation for 8 competitively selected Kansas Practices of Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. Outcomes of the PCMH Initiative include three statewide PCMH Summits, a public media campaign increasing consumer awareness of PCMH, and two practice sites (six practices) achieving NCQA recognition as PCMHs. Three more practices are expected to achieve recognition by the end of March 2015.

Currently, the KPCPC is completing this project, continuing the inter-specialty society collaboration, and looking forward to new initiatives. The mission of the KPCPC is “to be the voice for Kansas’s primary care physicians (family physicians, general internists and general pediatricians), and to assist in practice transformation through education & advocacy for Kansas primary care physicians and their patients.”

As planning for 2015 continues, we welcome your ideas and suggestions for ways in which our group can meet the needs of Internal Medicine and all Primary Care Specialties, particularly in the areas of practice transformation. You can contact me at sbabbott@kumc.edu.
The mission of the American College of Physicians is to foster excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine. **Mahlon H. Delp, MD** met and exceeded that standard during his 46 years as faculty and clinical educator in the Department of Internal Medicine at the University of Kansas. During his career, he was Professor of Medicine, Chairman of the Department of Medicine, and Assistant Dean of Post Graduate Medicine. During World War II, Dr. Delp was also Colonel and Chief of Medical Services for the 77th Evacuation Hospital. He was considered to be the most influential teacher at KU and was often referred to as the spirit of Kansas University Medical Center.

Dr. Delp was devoted to the patient and to the education of young students and doctors. He repeatedly stressed that the patient was the source of the physician’s learning, the impetus for his study, and the primary object of his professional activities. In a letter supporting an important award for Dr. Delp, the Dean and Provost at the University of Kansas remarked that Dr. Delp was one of few chairmen of a major department of medicine who “spends five half days a week in the clinic teaching medical students”. As Assistant Dean of Post Graduate Medicine, Dr. Delp developed a remarkable program for post graduate and continuing medical education, with conferences at one time attended by over 3,000 participants a year.

Throughout his career, Dr. Mahlon Delp was an enthusiastic participating member and supporter of the American College of Physicians; and, in 1971, he became the first Kansan to be named a Master in the American College of Physicians.
The SD, IA, KS and NE Chapters of the American College of Physicians Invite you and a Guest to their reception during IM 2015 in Boston Friday, May 1st

Boarding begins at 5:30 pm
Cruise is from 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Light hors d'oeuvres
Gourmet coffee station
Cash bar

Space is limited so registration is required
Directions to dock and boarding pass emailed upon completion of registration
No registration fee for ACP members from host chapters
Guests pay $63

Please see this website for registration form: (insert chapter URL here)

Questions? Contact Kris Rahm at krisrahm@me.com
Personal Financial Planning

As a supplement to the ACP Leadership Academy, the College offers a series of free online webinars on leadership topics relevant to internal medicine. These webinars provide both an educational experience and a discussion forum so that ACP members can learn, pose questions, and share ideas with leaders in the internal medicine field.

Registration is now open for the next webinar in the series, “Personal Financial Planning for Physicians,” which will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. ET. The webinar, which is intended for early career physicians, will be presented by Ralph L. Hibbs, Jr., MBA, CPA, Chief Financial Officer at American College of Physicians.

Register for the Personal Financial Planning for Physicians webinar and visit learn more about the ACP Leadership Academy.

Webinar Details:

Topic: Personal Financial Planning for Physicians  
Date: March 17, 2015  
Time: 6:30-8:00 PM EST  
Presenter: Ralph L. Hibbs, Jr., MBA, CPA  
Cost: FREE

Registration:  
https://acpmeetings.webex.com/acpmeetings/onstage/g.php?MTID=e094a3a528420418935b68c96c6c7497c
What ACP Advocacy Did for You in 2014

ACP advocacy and policy development, with other allied organizations, worked to improve your practice environment and help you provide high quality care. Here’s a summary of our most important efforts and initiatives in 2014, and why they matter:

1) Progress made to reduce egregious practice in health plans
2) Payment for chronic care management
3) Increased transparency for physician fee schedule
4) More flexible meaningful use criteria
5) Improved Medicare shared saving program
6) ACP member was appointed Surgeon General
7) Uninsured rate reached historical low
8) Increased funding to train primary care physicians
9) Reduced administrative burden on physicians

Progress in Other Areas:
We are continuing to make progress in other areas as well, due to ACP advocacy and policy development efforts, working with other allied organizations.

1) Bill to repeal the SGR
2) Legislation to extend the Medicaid Primary Care Parity Program.

More information can be found at:
http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/where_we_stand/other_issues/top_wins_2014.htm

ACP LEADERSHIP DAY

MAY 20-21, 2015

WASHINGTON, DC

Grants for Early Career Physicians, Residents and Students will be available to help offset travel expenses.
If interested in attending, please notify Kris Rahm at krisrahm@me.com.
Receive Benefits from Recruiting New Members
Ky Stoltzfus, MD, Chair, Membership Committee

We would like to increase our membership numbers for Kansas ACP.

Do you know of an internist in your community who is not currently a member but might consider joining ACP? If so, please talk to her/him about the benefits of ACP membership including MOC help, advocacy regarding physician reimbursement and practice issues, CME opportunities, etc.

Under the “Recruit-a-Colleague Program” you will receive a $100 credit toward your 2015-16 annual dues when you recruit a new member - be sure to have your name on the application. If your recruit 4 new members, your national dues will be paid in full. This also translates to more funds for the chapter to host a high quality chapter meeting each year and continue the work of ACP. You can find more information at http://www.acponline.org/membership/recruit/domestic.htm

Each new member and the recruiter will have their Kansas Chapter meeting fee waived this year (contact Kris Rahm at krisrahm@me.com for details).

Thank you for your help in strengthening our chapter!

2014 Chapter Excellence Award
Kris Rahm, Executive Director

I am pleased to announce that our chapter is in receipt of the 2014 Chapter Excellence Award! The award recognizes chapters which successfully meet the standards for managing a chapter. In order to achieve the Chapter Excellence Award, chapters must meet all basic criteria and seven optional criteria. Criteria include such activities as formulating an effective Governor's Council and committees, communicating frequently with membership, providing educational opportunities, recruiting and advancing members and celebrating membership through local awards. I would like to extend a special thanks to those chapter members who assisted me in all of these endeavors! For their hard work and dedication, we received this award.