



## **2017 Advocacy Day**

The 2nd annual Advocacy Day at the Massachusetts State House took place on March 22, 2017. It was organized by the Chapter's Health & Public Policy Committee. There were 41 participants, most of whom took part in visits with their state representatives. The day started with a welcome from Chapter Governor Dr. George Abraham and from the host Representative Jennifer Benson. There was a keynote address by Dr. Monica Bharel, the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, in which she urged participants to think about the social determinants of health and reiterated the importance of advocacy by physicians and physicians-in-training. Finally, Alex Calcagno, the director of Federal and Community Relations at Massachusetts Medical Society, prepared the group for talking to their legislators. In total participants visited the offices of 40 state representatives. Several issues with active legislation pending were discussed including expanding access to telemedicine services, MassHealth pay parity, and the Prevention and Wellness Trust Fund. It was a particularly successful event in introducing young physicians to advocacy as more than 50% of the participants were residents. We welcome your participation next year!



*State Advocacy Day participants meeting with Senator Cynthia Creem's office.  
(L to R) Daniel Wann, Catherine Anderson (Legislative Director), staff member, Herrick Fisher,  
Elizabeth Richey, Meghan Rudder, Doug Jacob*

## Profile Pieces - on Advocacy Day

*Audrey Provenzano, MD  
Internist, MGH Chelsea Health Center*

As internists, we are all advocates for our patients each day in our clinics. Oftentimes, this advocacy can be mind-numbing; we complete forms for disability benefits after our patient suffers a stroke, or spend a tedious 15 minutes on the phone pushing through a PA for an imaging study we believe would benefit our patient. Given the [burden of administrative tasks](#) we face each day, it is easy to lose sight of how important that work is in the lives of our patients.

Attending the Massachusetts ACP Advocacy Day at the State House on March 22 was an opportunity for advocacy on a different scale - to meet with lawmakers and their staff and talk about policy issues that affect our professional lives as physicians and the lives of patients. After an inspiring keynote from Monica Bharel, MD MPH, Commissioner of the MA Department of Public Health, ACP organizers provided a training about how to talk with lawmakers and an overview of the bills currently under consideration at the state house that ACP knows will affect our lives as providers. The bills covered a wide range of topics, from access to telemedicine services to bundling applications for food and health safety net programs to allow vulnerable individuals to access benefits more easily.

After a planning session with colleagues that we would team up with for our meetings with lawmakers, we were off! I attended meetings with the staff of three different lawmakers. Each meeting varied widely - one was only fifteen minutes, one lasted almost an hour; but in every one, state house staffers were engaged, curious, asked insightful questions, and listened intently to what we said. We certainly did not see eye-to-eye on everything we discussed. But they valued our input as physicians and were curious about how we thought the policies under consideration would affect our patients.

After the initial March debate on the American Health Care Act (AHCA) in Washington, a notable piece was published in the Washington Post, analyzing the rates of phone calls to congressional offices for and against the bill. Tallies showed that [calls against the AHCA were overwhelming](#) - overtaking calls for the bill by 50:1. So, while it's hard to remember when we are buried in paperwork and clicking through charts each evening, clearly, advocacy works. Our voice does matter when it comes to policy, and as caregivers and respected members of society, physicians are an important voice to have at the table. Our voices are ever more important as the AHCA, now passed, moves on to the Senate in Washington. Bob Doherty, ACP Senior VP for Governmental Affairs and Public Policy maintains a [blog](#) which is full of helpful information on the bill and why it is harmful to patients.

The Massachusetts ACP is planning further advocacy activities on a range of crucial issues for our profession and our patients: reducing administrative paperwork, the opiate epidemic, and climate change are a few examples. If you would like to get involved, please contact Lynda Layer at [llayer@mms.org](mailto:llayer@mms.org). The Massachusetts ACP Chapter is also planning another State Advocacy Day for next year so stay tuned!

***Herrick "Cricket" Fisher***  
***PGY-1, Brigham and Women's Hospital Internal Medicine Residency***

As a physician-in-training, I attended MA ACP Advocacy Day because learning to treat my patients' individual medical problems is not enough; I need to learn how to be a political advocate. I am intern in Internal Medicine - Primary Care at Brigham and Women's Hospital. Every day, I am confronted by social policies and inequities that are integral to why my patients get sick and stay sick. Lifestyle modification and medications are not enough to address these causes. We need community, state and nation-wide reforms to fix what is broken. As a doctor, it is my unique opportunity and responsibility to share my patients' experiences with political representatives and make their stories heard. Through Advocacy Day, I learned about health care bills under debate, received a brief training in how to efficiently and effectively convey my experiences and concerns to elected officials, and met with staff from the offices of two of my local representatives. I left feeling more empowered to call my representatives and to speak up in community forums as a citizen and as a doctor. All physicians and especially all residents need more trainings like this. We must use our place of privilege to advocate for the changes we and our patients so desperately need.



Join more than 15,000 colleagues in the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network (AIMn) in advocating for the interests of internal medicine in Washington, D.C. The AIMn program is for ACP members interested in participating in federal advocacy. It is designed to help members engage with their federal lawmakers on policy issues important to ACP and internal medicine.

Click [HERE](#) to enroll

## **Diversifying Your Career: Opportunities in Public & Global Health**

The Early Career Physicians Council organized its first CME event of the year, the first in a series of discussions on Diversifying Your Career, on April 28, 2017. It featured three speakers on the topic of "Opportunities in Public & Global Health." Dr. Kristian Olson, director of the Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech), spoke about getting involved in innovation and entrepreneurship through hack-a-thons. Dr. Jessie Gaeta, chief medical officer for Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, spoke about the great need for health care for the homeless in Boston. Dr. Jessica Haberer, Associate Professor of Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital, discussed the importance of mentoring in her career as a NIH funded researcher with projects in multiple countries including Uganda and Kenya.

*"I thought the event was wonderful, and it was useful to see what can be done OUTSIDE of medicine- policy, developing technology, traveling the world and doing global medicine. Helping vulnerable populations in our own backyards. We don't receive lectures on these on a regular basis at school, and it was a great perspective that was outside of the hard science facts of our textbooks. Thank you for hosting this event!"* **Tiffany Chen**, University of Massachusetts Medical School, MD Candidate, Class of 2019

The next event in this CME series on Diversifying Your Career is planned for September 2017. Watch your e-mail and/or the chapter website at [machapter.acponline.org](http://machapter.acponline.org).



*Dr. Jessie Gaeta discussing where homeless populations are located around the city.*

## **Upcoming Events/Save the date**

- MA ACP Early Career Physician CME Program - Diversifying Your Career - September 2017
- MA ACP Poster Day - Saturday, October 21, 2017 - Massachusetts Medical Society

- MA ACP 2017 Massachusetts Chapter Scientific Meeting - Saturday, November 4, 2017  
- Massachusetts Medical Society

## **ACP Unveils New Section Online: Sharing Our Stories**

A new page on ACP's website, "[Sharing our Stories](#)", features a collection of personal perspectives, anecdotes, and reflections about internal medicine, career paths, and achieving professional satisfaction from ACP members and other internists. Additionally, the page features "My Kind of Medicine Profiles," an ongoing series of physician profiles, highlighting physicians who chose internal medicine as a career path and have had fulfilling and successful lives based on that choice.

Visit [Sharing our Stories](#) to access the page.

## **ACP Launches MyACP, a Personalized, Customized Website Experience for Members**

ACP's newly launched MyACP, a personalized web experience, makes it easier for members to access and discover pertinent ACP content and resources while visiting ACPOnline.org.

The new MyACP experience provides logged-in members with streamlined access to the content and features they value and use the most, starting with a menu of options based on the user's membership class (e.g., residents or physicians) and his or her history of purchases with ACP.

Members will now be able to customize their MyACP information to directly add or remove resources and valued features, providing quick and easy access to the content, products, and services that are most relevant to them. Members can also continue to update account information and view their CME transcripts.

In addition, logged-in members and transactional users will be able to easily access products that they've previously purchased from ACP, including MKSAP and registration for the Internal Medicine Meeting.

**To contact the MA ACP Chapter Office e-mail Lynda Layer, Chapter Administrator at [llayer@mms.org](mailto:llayer@mms.org) or by phone at [781-434-7317](tel:781-434-7317).**