



News & Notes

June 2020

Keeping Up To Date:

- Resident and Medical Student Abstract Submission for MI ACP Annual Fall Meeting
 - Open Now – submission links on our website at www.acpmichigan.org
 - Closes – SUNDAY, JULY 12, 11:59 PM

- MI ACP ANNUAL FALL SCIENTIFIC MEETING WILL NOW BE VIRTUAL! STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION
 - OCTOBER 15-18, 2020



Thank You

FROM YOUR GOVERNOR:



Summer Greetings to our ACP Michigan Chapter Members:

Thank you for all of your help and devotion to the people of Michigan. Many of you are not just seeing patients but helping in administrative reforms and advising health care leaders in fast moving changes related to COVID 19. What a new time we live in now as we flutter open our state balancing the risks and benefits of connecting physically with others.

ACP is working nonstop also at many levels including a national effort to get more support from CMS to primary care practices where small businesses are struggling.

ACP published a statement June 3, 2020 condemning racism, discrimination, and violence by public authorities and others. This is important for all physicians as we seek to be nonjudgmental in our care of all patients.

Please keep in mind any new ideas you have for resolutions that help physicians care for patients in this time of COVID. ACP is asking for new ideas that will serve all of us who help others through this pandemic. Any ideas you wish to share please email us and our Health and Public Policy committee is willing to take that idea and share it with ACP National. Jayne Courts, MD, FACP, Chairs our Committee and is always open to new suggestions.

Our Nominations Committee Chaired by Sandor Shoichet, MD, FACP, is busy and moving forward towards our election this November for our next Governor, so stay tuned.

Our October Chapter meeting will be Virtual this year instead of in person at Traverse City but we hope to bring you an exciting new format that will fit into your schedule and you can find something new to enjoy as we mold our agenda into a newly paced virtual format.

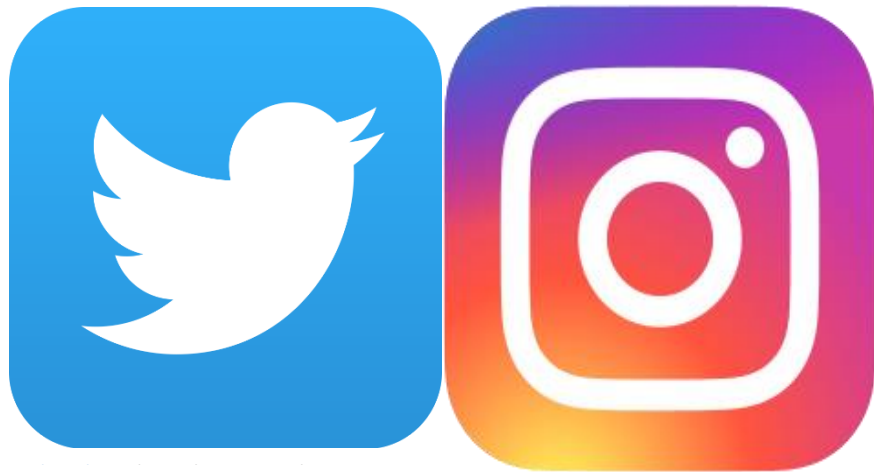
I wish a happy, peaceful summer to all of you and I hope you find time to enjoy yourself, your family and friends. Stay safe. Stay Well

Martha Gray

Governor, Michigan Chapter, American College of Physicians



YOUR CHAPTER NOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Here a Tweet, there a Tweet:

Your Chapter is so easily accessible, and we are live on:

TWITTER - @MIChapterACP - FOLLOW TODAY!

INSTAGRAM – @acp.michigan or Search ACP at Michigan and start FOLLOWING TODAY!

OPEN when you see monthly News & Notes in your email!

Michigan Chapter Scientific Meeting



October 15-18, 2020

VIRTUAL MEETING!

Fostering Excellence in Internal Medicine



**Michigan
Chapter**



**Michigan
Chapter**

NEWS YOU CAN USE

FROM NATIONAL ACP:

ACP has developed the following educational content that is freely available to the healthcare community as a public service of ACP in response to the Coronavirus outbreak.

- [Novel Coronavirus: A Physician's Guide](#) This online learning activity can be easily accessed on handheld devices and provides a clinical overview of infection control and patient care guidance.
- [Coronavirus: What the Clinician Needs to Know](#) This podcast was produced by Core IM in collaboration with ACP, and includes an interview with Dr. Christina Fiske, infectious diseases subspecialist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

For these coronavirus education activities, ACP members may report their learning time for CME credit without charge. Please feel free to share these resources with others in the health care community.

For additional information, contact [Laura Baldwin](#)

Notice to State Chapters on Scope of Practice Requirements During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

On March 24, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar sent a letter to state governors with guidance on actions they could take to address the COVID-19 public health emergency. The letter includes a number of recommendations supported by ACP, including policies on telehealth, facilitating participation of inactive physicians, and medical liability protections. However, HHS also calls on states, territories, and the District of Columbia to take immediate action to “waive restrictions on licensure, scope of practice, certification, and recertification/relicensure consistent with the changes announced for federal programs.” The letter encourages states to work with licensing

boards to place moratoria on enforcement of scope of practice and licensure issues “to ensure that health care professionals can quickly respond to COVID-19 emergency without fear of penalty or license revocation” and recommends that states take action to permit nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other health care professionals to “practice to the fullest extent of their license and without restrictive supervision requirements.” If states do not make changes to scope of practice requirements, HHS encourages relaxation of geographic restrictions on physician supervision and temporary expansion of the number of health care professionals a physician may supervise. In addition to state-based changes, HHS is permitting temporary scope of practice changes to other federal programs. For example, Medicare is waiving certain physician supervision requirements and allowing non-physician clinicians to care for hospitalized patients in accordance with the state’s emergency plan.

State chapters should note that HHS’ recommended policy interventions are temporary measures to address health care workforce needs during the COVID-19 emergency. The Secretary’s guidance recommends that states (emphasis added):

Temporarily suspend any requirements for written agreements to meet supervision or collaboration requirements, in order to avoid significant delays in the provision of services. States should also encourage their State Boards of Medicine, Nursing, and other health professions to put in place an enforcement moratorium, **for the length of the public health emergency**, for scope of practice violations to ensure all practitioners can deliver needed care during the crisis.

ACP policy strongly reaffirms the importance of patients having access to a personal physician who is trained in the care of the “whole person” and has leadership responsibilities for a team of health professionals, consistent with the Joint Principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home. Patient care should be delivered in the context of a physician-led dynamic clinical care team.

In the context of the current public health emergency, and the immediate need to devote attention and resources to addressing COVID-19, ACP’s Division of Governmental Affairs and Public Policy

recommends that state chapters not challenge a **temporary** easing of physician supervision and other state licensure restrictions that are consistent with Secretary Azar's request, **as long as they would be in effect only for the duration of the declared national emergency**. While we are aware that even a temporary easing of such restrictions may be viewed, and likely cited as precedent by non-physician professions to argue for longer-term or permanent changes, we don't think it will be effective to divert your chapter, or ACP's national advocacy resources, to opposing Secretary Azar's request and associated actions by your states, during this national emergency. ACP and the chapters can appropriate re-engage on such issues, based on national ACP policy, after the emergency declaration ends.

Chapters are encouraged to track any scope of practices changes that occur in their state. We also encourage chapter leaders to review HHS' guidance on addressing workforce needs during the COVID-19 emergency.

- Sec. Azar letter to state governors: <https://www.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Governor-Letter-from-Azar-March-24.pdf>
- HHS Guidance to States: Lifting Restrictions to Extend the Capacity of the Health Care Workforce during the COVID-19 National Emergency <https://www.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Enclosure-in-March-24-Letter-from-Secretary-Azar-to-Governors-with-Recommendations-for-Maximizing-Healthcare-Workforce-for-COVID-19.pdf>
- CMS: Physicians and Other Clinicians: CMS Flexibilities to Fight COVID-19 <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/covid-19-physicians-and-practitioners.pdf>

Other Resources

- ACP COVID-19-Related Advocacy: <https://www.acponline.org/advocacy/where-we-stand/coronavirus-disease-2019>
- National Governors Association: Coronavirus: What You Need to Know <https://www.nga.org/coronavirus/#states>

- ACP letter to CMS Administrator Verma regarding scope of practice
[https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/letters/acp letter to cms regarding scope of practice requirements jan 2020.pdf](https://www.acponline.org/acp_policy/letters/acp_letter_to_cms_regarding_scope_of_practice_requirements_jan_2020.pdf)
For more information, please contact [Shuan Tomlinson, Senior Analyst, State Health Policy and Grassroots Advocacy](#)

ACP's Comprehensive Coronavirus Resources, available at www.acponline.org/novel-coronavirus



From our Partners:



2020 Events

Sept 17th
Chapter Meeting

October 15-18
SHM/ACP Fall Meeting
Virtual Meeting

December TBD
Networking Event



In Conclusion...for now...Summer is here!

Remember:

- You can reach your Chapter Office at tlockard@acpmichigan.org or call 248-602-0235, Monday – Friday, 7:30am-4:00pm
- You can reach Governor Martha Gray at pgray@umich.edu
- Follow us on Twitter and Instagram!
- Your Chapter is working for you! Consider becoming involved! Still seeking interested members for:
 - Health & Public Policy Committee
 - Early Career Physicians Committee
 - Membership Committee
 - Communication & Social Media Committee

