The month of May continued to be a month of unprecedented changes in our personal lives and our entire healthcare system. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to be a dominator in daily life and many institutions around the State are seeing numbers rise each day. Mississippi has seen a safe-to-return order issued by Governor Reeves while the COVID+ count and death toll continue to rise. The ACP, CDC, MS ACP and numerous other outlets are ramping up the reminders to the public that safety is still a top priority and the pandemic is far from over. Members are encouraged to continue to remind patients to practice social distancing, wear a mask and wash hands.

There are numerous factors that may be contribute to an overwhelming feeling of stress and burnout. The ACP website has a frequently updated COVID-19 resource page. ACP has accumulated a significant resource library covering numerous topics. We encourage all Chapter Members to visit the website often and use the resources that are provided. ACP is advocating strongly for the IM field as new challenges arise; and has been particularly attentive to the financial crisis that the pandemic is causing.

The Chapter membership has been focused heavily on clinical duties, but members are finding time to engage in work outside of these duties and finding creative virtual avenues to use. L. Wesley Aldred checked temperatures as the State legislators returned to work at the Capitol on May 1, and Dan Edney is serving as the Chair of the Physician Mobilization Work Group for the MS State Medical Association.

Richard Wardrop presented a webinar “Well-being in Times of Difficulty” to the New York Chapter of the ACP on May 7 and for the Mississippi and Alabama Chapters on May 13. The material from this webinar and CME credit has been made available to everyone by UMMC. There is a link for enrollment and information on the Chapter website or through this link: Information.

Though there will be no the Annual Chapter Meeting in Birmingham, the Abstract submission process for the Poster Competition was complete at the time of cancellation. The abstracts
were scored and the Program Committee was able to announce the winning abstracts this month. The complete list of authors and titles can be found on the Chapter website through this link, 2020 Poster Competition Selections.

Congratulations to all of the Chapter Student Members who graduated this month! Certainly graduations looked very different this year and celebrations were likely much smaller gatherings, but that doesn’t minimize the accomplishment. The Chapter wishes all of the new graduates well as residency begins. The Chapter hopes that the members will all continue their ACP memberships as residents, whether here in Mississippi or elsewhere. Please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Wardrop in the Chapter office if you are relocating outside of Mississippi and would like assistance in contacting an ACP Chapter in a different state.

As a reminder, ACP is offering a CME30 package to all members, for those who had registered for the IM2020 meeting it is available in lieu of a refund. This package offers members an opportunity to earn significant CME credit that was missed due to the meeting cancellation. The package is also available in the ACP online store for purchase.

Be sure to follow the Chapter on social media to see what the Chapter members are doing and for important dates, messages and reminders. The Chapter is on Facebook (@msacp), Twitter (@ms_acp) and Instagram (@acp_ms). Please email any news you would like to share with the Chapter and/or the membership to Mississippi.acp@gmail.com.