

## Governor's Newsletter October 2019

Hello from your new Governor! I am excited to have the opportunity to represent North Carolina, and am happy to report that the American College of Physicians is working for you and with you.

At the national level, the Washington office is developing a New Vision for American Health Care, and is advocating on your behalf to policymakers in Congress and at CMS. One direct result is that in 2021, you will be able to justify billing Medicare based on just medical decision making or time, and not have to back-fill your notes with "bullet points" in the review of systems and physical exam to justify the level of service.

For more information, read the ACP statement, "[Internists Commend CMS for Bolstering Primary Care and Supporting Patients in Proposed Physician Fee Schedule.](#)"

At the same time, CMS has also agreed to not "merge" the 99213 and 99214 billing codes. As a General Internist, this advocacy effort directly applies to my daily practice of medicine, and I think it will also be of great benefit to all of you.

You should have already received an email from the national ACP office asking you to update your member profile. When you do so, please [look at the new member engagement webpage](#) to see ways you can get involved either at the Chapter level in NC or at the national level.

Have you ever wanted to be a poster judge at either the state meeting or the national meeting? Or perhaps you would like to participate as a mentor to medical students or resident physicians during a breakout session at one of our meetings? Or maybe you are interested in serving as an abstract reviewer on your own time prior to the scientific meeting? You can scout out any and all volunteer activities in advance, and even list when and how long you are available. Perhaps you just want to know what webinar sessions will be offered soon – that will be on the [getinvolved.acponline.org](http://getinvolved.acponline.org) site as well. Please check it out.

Consistent with our mission, the NC Chapter-ACP recognizes the importance of graduate medical education and seeks to support medical student and residency education in North Carolina by awarding education innovation research grants. Since its inception in 2013, more than 30 projects have been funded. We are delighted to announce funding for the following 2019-2021 cohort of Education Innovation Projects:

- Developing a Point of Care Ultrasound Curriculum to Enhance the Physical Exam and Clinical Decision Making Skills of Internal Medicine Residents (Carolinas Medical Center)
- POCUS in Primary Care (East Carolina University)
- After the Match: Cultivating a Community of Support, Retention and Mentoring to Enhance Diversity (University of North Carolina)
- Addressing Patient and Physician Bias: Bystander and Conscious Awareness Training for Internal Medicine Residents (Wake Forest University)

Looking forward to the coming year, please be sure to mark your calendar for the upcoming **2020 NC-ACP Annual Scientific Session, Feb. 28-29 in Greensboro, NC**. Each year at the Annual Scientific Session, the Chapter recognizes an ACP member for significant volunteer service in their community. Do you know a North Carolina ACP member deserving of recognition for his/her track record of service? The Chapter is now accepting nominations for the Dr. Gary Greenberg Memorial Award for Volunteerism and Community Service. Nominees must be Masters, Fellows, Members, or Resident/Fellow members of the ACP and must have provided volunteer service. Self-nominations are not permitted; the services must have been performed on a voluntary basis and not required for the completion of teaching, training, or position requirements; and volunteer work must have been done as a physician and be medically related. Please [complete the nomination form](#) and submit it by email to [gstephenson@ncmedsoc.org](mailto:gstephenson@ncmedsoc.org) by January 6 for consideration.

In closing, thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve as your ACP Governor. I look forward to working with you to keep our NC Internal Medicine community strong.

Sincerely,

Lacy C. Hobgood MD, FACP, FAAP  
ACP Governor, North Carolina Chapter  
Division Head, Internal Medicine-Pediatrics  
East Carolina University, Brody School of Medicine

***In other news...***

- October 28 is National Internal Medicine Day – Help ACP celebrate by joining the #NIMdayChat Twitter chat on October 28; [visit the ACP website for more ways to celebrate](#).
- [“Easy money – Work from home”](#) – An article on telemedicine that was featured in the NC Medical Board Newsletter.
- [“Governor Cooper Announces Boards and Commissions Appointments”](#) – Congratulations to ACP Member Dr. Jan Busby-Whitehead on her appointment to the Governor’s Council on Aging.
- Primary Care Providers (PCPs) who will be participating in North Carolina’s new [Medicaid Managed Care](#) program need to contract with the [participating health plans](#) by November 15, 2019.
- [“Lung Illnesses Associated with Use of Vaping Products”](#) - Information for the Public, FDA Actions, and Recommendations.
- [New DynaMed Release Provides Seamless Access For ACP Members](#) - ACP members now have seamless access to the completely redesigned DynaMed® clinical decision support tool.
- Follow the NC Chapter-ACP on Twitter! [@ncacpchapter](#)