Dear Colleagues:

It's been an interesting year for Internal Medicine. As per usual, the ACP has been intimately involved in many of the issues of the day.

I would like to start by applauding Dr. Steve Weinberger, the physician leadership of the college, and the staff at the central office for their efforts in working with the ABIM to modify the MOC process to be pertinent to our practice lives, efficient and still reassuring to our patients that we continue the life-long learning that our college stands for. Recent communications from ABIM suggest that changes are forthcoming to meet those goals! Go to https://attach.acponline.org/docs/01130548_150203142535.pdf for the full ABIM letter of apology. For Steve's full letter of response go to https://leadership.acponline.org/sites/default/files/shared/documents/resources/college-resources/20150204_moc_email_to_members.pdf.

The College continues to effectively advocate for Internal Medicine and for health care in general, in ways we can be proud of. Examples include supporting payment for non face-to-face management of patients with multiple chronic conditions, encouraging Congress to require documentation from CMS for the need for the new face-to-face requirement for home care services, and pushing for extension of the primary care Medicaid Parity Program beyond 2014.
Governor’s Greetings
(Continued)

I would encourage anyone with an interest in the goings on of our government as relates to medicine to check out The ACP Advocate Blog (http://advocacyblog.acponline.org/), written by Bob Doherty, Senior VP for Government Affairs, in an entertaining and erudite way on a regular basis!

For those of you who are not aware Dr. Marvin Bittner edged out Dr. Devin Fox for the post of Governor-Elect for Nebraska and I would like to thank them both for their willingness to serve. Dr. Bittner has a introductory piece in this newsletter and I expect to see Dr. Fox in leadership positions in with the Nebraska ACP in the future.

Also in this newsletter is information related to the annual meeting in Boston April 30-May 2 and I look forward to seeing you there and at our chapter reception also described by Kris Rahm in this missive.

Early Career Physicians

This past July, ECP sponsored an event on the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) at Biaggi’s in Omaha. Roughly twenty-five ACP members participated in this event that was moderated by Drs. Abby Shiffermiller and Kelly Caverzagie. It seems that MOC is constantly changing yet Abby and Kelly were able to provide a great overview of the process. This session also marked the first time we have attempted to record a session to later send out to our membership. Many of you may have been able to enjoy the content of the meeting from the comfort of your office or home at a time that was more convenient for you. For those not able to view the video at:
http://vimeo.com/102240803?
email_id=Y2xpcF90cmFuc2NvZGVkDhhNTE2NzZlODMzNTI1ZjExNzUzYzhmY2E0MmY1ZTQzMjU5fDMwNzAwMDQ1fDE0MDY4MjMwNzJ8NzcvMQ%3D
%3D&utm_campaign=7701&utm_medium=clip-transcode_complete-finished-20120100&utm_source=email

If you were able to view the video the ECP council would appreciate hearing your feedback. Would you enjoy seeing more content delivered in this method? If so what type of content? The ECP council would be happy to hear any suggestions. I hope to see many of you at the fast approaching national ACP meeting in Boston.

Council Early Career Physicians
Micah Beach, DO, FACP, Chair
Regan Taylor, MD FACP
Christopher Smith, MD
Chad Reade, MD
Lauren Nelson, MD
Jason Lambrecht, MD
Trek Langenhan, MD
Governor-Elect Designee’s Message

Marvin Bittner, MD, FACP

May I ask a favor of you? When you read the next paragraph, would you read it carefully, please? The words may sound trite. They aren’t. They’re from the heart. Please read them:

I’m honored to be the next Governor of the Nebraska Chapter of the American College of Physicians.

Let me tell you a bit about myself. You’ll understand why I feel honored to serve as your next Governor.

Even though it was over 35 years ago, I still remember my first ACP meeting. It was a regional meeting. I was a resident at the University of Michigan. I still remember some facts I learned there about evolving approaches to pneumonia and challenges in global health. More than anything else, though, I remember how I felt: enthusiastic. I drove home, buoyed by the thought of using my knowledge for health.

Last year I attended our Chapter’s annual meeting. My position was quite different, a long way from being a resident: I’m now an infectious diseases specialist with much of my work at the VA Medical Center in Omaha. I’m faculty, mainly at Creighton but with an adjunct appointment at UNMC. Our guest speaker from Oregon gave an extraordinary lecture about a thoughtful, individualized approach to screening. What I heard last year was an echo of what I’d heard decades earlier at my first ACP meeting: Here’s some medical knowledge. Let’s use our medical knowledge intelligently to promote health.

In the intervening years, I’ve been impressed again and again by the ACP’s commitment to education done well. I remember the first national meeting I attended. A speaker took on osteoarthritis, not always an easy management issue, and outlined a practical, scientific approach.

I’ve had some opportunities to contribute to the ACP’s work. My first oral presentation at a professional meeting was at a Michigan chapter meeting. I presented my residency research project on catheter-associated septicemia. That project presaged my current involvement in infection prevention as hospital epidemiologist at the VA in Omaha and the master’s degree in epidemiology I earned at the Harvard School of Public Health, where I spent a couple summers in my old medical school dorm, decades after med school graduation. The first publication in my CV is from Annals of Internal Medicine. It is a humorous piece. It recounts the irony of my own use of empiric antimicrobial therapy with cephallexin when I was about to become a rookie infectious diseases fellow at the University of Minnesota. The thoroughness of the editorial process, even for a short essay, was striking. The editors suggested a clever title: “K---x-rated Therapy.” In my original manuscript, I used the word “maven.” The editor questioned whether “maven” was too obscure a word for Annals readers. I replied, submitting an article from Car and Driver that used the word “maven,” suggesting that, if Car and Driver readers could handle “maven,” so could Annals readers. I left the decision on “maven” to the Annals editors, reminding them that they are the medical journal mavens! “Maven” did make it into print.

Again and again, I’ve encountered high standards working with ACP staff. When Annals published a multi-center study of Gulf War veterans’ illnesses in which I participated, the editing was extraordinary. Extensive, skillful editing improved readability. Many of you know our colleague in the Chapter, Lyn Klassen. He has asked me several times to teach in the popular board review course he runs in the Chicago suburbs each year under the auspices of the ACP. The ACP has many standards for the course. If the ACP standards for legible slides were enforced in every venue of medical education, how much better we’d all be!

Personally, I have so many reasons to be grateful for the educational opportunities that the ACP has afforded me—and for the awards I have received from the Chapter for volunteerism and community service and, also, as a laureate.

Important as education is to the ACP, I can’t neglect to tell you about its policy work. Our former Governor, Tom Tape, arranged for the ACP’s policy maven, Bob Doherty, to meet Nebraska members in Omaha a couple years ago. More recently, you received an email message about ACP’s success in bringing some sense to the ABIM’s MOC program.

All of us are confronted by entities that see medicine as something other than a learned profession. What a contrast to the ACP! The core of the ACP is the learning that is the core of our role as practitioners of a learned profession. I think you can understand how I feel, from personal experience, about the importance of the ACP’s mission and how well it is served. That’s why I expect our chapter to continue on that path, with the countless hours of thoughtful work contributed by so many of our members and the unceasing efforts of our Executive Director, Kris Rahm. That’s why I can say sincerely: I’m honored to serve as your next Governor.
Rowen Zetterman, MD, MACP

The Chapter Centennial Legacy Award celebrates ACP’s centennial by recognizing one seminal chapter member whose service to the chapter had a significant impact on the chapter’s viability. This individual should exemplify ACP’s core values including Leadership, Excellence, Respect, Compassion, Professionalism and Responsibility.

The Nebraska Chapter is proud to nominate Rowen Zetterman, MD, MACP for the Chapter Centennial Legacy Award. He served as Nebraska Chapter Governor from 1992-1996 and then chaired the BOG. His following six years on the BOR culminated as chair. He currently is an ACP Delegate to the AMA. He has supported internal medicine in Nebraska in numerous ways including leadership positions at both medical schools and the Omaha VA. He was President of both the Metropolitan Omaha Medical Society and the Nebraska Medical Association. He presently leads a group convened by the State Legislature studying transformation of Nebraska's healthcare system. Particularly admired for his professionalism and integrity, Dr. Zetterman is a thoughtful, compassionate physician who has always put the patient first. He exemplifies the qualities embodied by this award.

Health & Public Policy
Jason Shiffermiller, MD, FACP, Chair

Leadership Day is an opportunity for us to meet in person with our senators and congressman in Washington DC for discussions about issues that are important to internal medicine. It's an interesting and unique experience. We are especially in need of representation from District 3. If you are interested in Leadership Day or would like to help with the Health and Public Policy Committee, please contact at jshiffermiller@unmc.edu.
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?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NE/SD ACP CHAPTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2015 - OMAHA, NE

DETAILS ON SD ACP WEBSITE AFTER JUNE 1ST
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

We would like to increase our membership numbers for Nebraska 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](http://www.acponline.org/membership/recruit/domestic.htm)

Each new member and the recruiter will have their South Dakota 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.