Greetings from the NH Chapter of the ACP!

It is with pleasure that I, Peter Walkley, your new Governor, welcome you to the Fall Edition of the NH ACP Governor’s newsletter. You are a member of a vibrant community of internists. The American College of Physicians is the leading organization that provides you with incredible educational and practice resources, vital representation in the discussion of the future of medicine and a forceful voice in dealing with the MOC requirements of the ABIM.

Worldwide, the ACP has 141,000 members, including 12,000 international internists, with great growth occurring in non-US chapters. Statewide, the NH Chapter has a membership is 631 including 3 Masters, 112 Fellows, 338 Members, 66 residents/fellows, 86 medical students and 7 affiliates (APRNs and PAs working in IM). About half of all of the general internists in the state are members, while almost a quarter of subspecialists belong.

In April, 37 NH Internists attended Internal Medicine 2014 in Orlando, FL. This is the annual scientific meeting of the ACP and is the highlight of the educational calendar for internists. It also marked the transition of the governorship for our chapter. Having served 4 years as the Governor, Lin Brown, MD, FACP, FACR, turned this leadership post over to me. Lin’s tenure was extremely successful; she served the Chapter and the College well. I am honored to have been mentored by her during my one year role as the Governor-Elect.

In May, six of your colleagues attended Leadership Day in Washington, DC. They included Drs. Oliver Herfort, Joan Zinkawich, Dmitry Tarasevich, Kevin Fleming and Srilatha Kodali. They met in the offices of our Senators and Representatives to discuss their and the ACP’s concerns about SGR, GME, tort reform and the extension of enhanced Medicaid payments. It is by this education and by putting a face to a problem that we strive to make improvements for the practices of all internists.

A couple of weeks ago saw a very fruitful chapter fall educational meeting in Concord. Initial feedback was that the program was one of the best ever. Kudos go to Dr. Oliver Herfort, the chair of the Education Committee and to its members, Drs. Michele L’Heureux, Lin Brown, Vercin Ephrem and Sherry Guardiano. Please see the article and pictures below for more on this event.

The NH Chapter has several committees that support the Governor’s Council. These include the Health and Public Policy, Membership, Early Career Physicians, Finance, Education, Medical Student, Resident/Fellow and Awards. If you would like to be involved more in the ACP, we would welcome your participation. Just send me an email (pwalkley@lrgh.org) with your interest.
NH Chapter Fall Scientific Meeting

Our annual educational program took place at the Holiday Inn Conference Center in Concord on October 24, 2014. We had a mix of CME lectures, interactive programs with an M&M and “Stump the Professor,” an audience response system, workshops on joint injections and dermatological procedures, a resident poster contest, awards and even a raffle.

Dr. William Black has been involved in the low dose CT screening for lung cancer trials. He clarified the guidelines and gave useful insight into the future implementation of them.

Dr. Tim Gardner, an endocrinologist, has been instrumental in developing DHMC’s program for total pancreatectomy with islet cell transplantation as a cure for chronic pancreatitis. His talk on the history, development and results of the procedure was fascinating with tales of risks, rewards and a daring drive down I-93.

The new cholesterol guidelines essentially remove target goals. This has caused controversy amongst the IM community. Dr. Bruce Andrus, a cardiologist, presented both sides of the argument, wearing a different hat for each side, before offering a common-sense approach for our patients at risk for lipid-associated disease.

Perhaps the most memorable presentation was a workshop by Dr. Carrie Horwitch from Seattle, WA. Dr. Horwitch was also the ACP Board of Regents’ representative. Showing that laughter has multiple beneficial health effects, she lead the audience in a variety of laughing exercises that had everyone jumping up laughing, smiling and feeling better about themselves. Sound odd? Go ahead, belt out “hee, hee, ha, ha, ho, ho” (10) times and see if you don’t find yourself smiling from within and feeling relaxed yet energized at the same time.

There were three prizes awarded in the residents’ poster contest. Third place was won by Dr. Danette Flint, second by Dr. Jennifer Kumasaki, with the winner being Dr. Khushboo Shah for “Jehovah’s Witness with a triple hit: Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria, Chronic Myeloid Leukemia and Beta-thalassemia.” As a prize, Dr. Shah received $500 as well as a $1000 stipend to be used for presenting the poster at the national meeting.

New this year was a raffle which tied attendance at the Chapter meeting with IM 2015 which will be held in Boston next April. Seven internists won a $100 rebate on their registration fees if they also attend IM 2015. The lucky winners are Drs. Dmitry Tarasevich, Abdul Sattar, Linda Crawford, Kevin Fleming, William Goodman, Kenton Powell and Rakesh Veerareddy. Congratulations!

It was a great meeting. If you couldn’t attend, you missed good learning, real fun and fruitful networking. Plan on making it next year.
Scientific Meeting Cont....

Dr. Carrie Horwitch, Regent of the College, leads the fun in her Laughter workshop.

Dr. Bruce Andrus, wearing a black hat, presents one side of the statin argument.

NH Chapter Bestows Laureate Award

At the fall meeting in Concord, Governor Peter Walkley announced that the NH Chapter had awarded the ACP Laureate Award to Lin Brown, MD, FACP, FACR. The Laureate Award is the most prestigious award given at the local level. It honors Fellows or Masters of the ACP who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education or research, and in service to their community, their chapter and the American College of Physicians.

Educated at Ursinus College, the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Dartmouth (Geisel), Dr. Brown joined the ACP in 1986, becoming a Fellow in 1993. She has served on the Governor’s Council since 2000 and on the Education Committee, including planning and conducting three annual fall meetings. The Governor from 2010-2014, she sat on committees at a national level, including as Chair of the Resolution Committee in 2013.

In presenting the Laureate Medal and its accompanying presentation frame, Dr. Walkley noted that she was “a shining example of commitment to the American College of Physicians, her patients, her students and her colleagues as both an internist and as a sub-specialist.”

NH ACP Wishes you and your family a safe and healthy holiday season.

Happy Thanksgiving

Dr. Peter Walkley presents the NH Chapter ACP Laureate Award to Dr. Lin Brown.
Go to Boston in the Springtime for IM 2015

Internal Medicine 2015, the annual, national, educational meeting of the American College of Physicians will be held at the Boston Convention and Exhibition Center April 30-May 2, 2015, with pre-courses on April 28-9. This is in the Seaport district with great hotels and restaurants nearby. Come and celebrate the 100th anniversary of the ACP! It is a great meeting to stay up-to-date with CME, hands-on workshops, MOC credit and to network with friends and colleagues. Short on CME funds? It is close enough to commute to and save the hotel charges. We would love to have as many NH internists there as possible. Register by 1/31/15 for the best prices.

Walk in Boston. Internists who become Fellows of the College are encouraged to “walk” at the official ceremonies held during IM 2015. You get to wear your gown and hood (provided free), walk in the procession and be officially recognized for your efforts and accomplishments. It is a grand ceremony; your family will love it. If you are a Fellow, but haven’t attended the ceremony, it couldn’t be easier than to do it in Boston. We hope to see you there.

Dr. Joan Zinkawich dressed for her Fellowship ceremony.

Former Governor Lin Brown and Incoming Governor Walkley ready to march with the new Fellows.

MOC = ABIM, ≠ ACP

At every meeting of internists, the dislike of the current MOC process is front and center. Almost universally, we find it confusing, burdensome, expensive and illogical. Because many confuse the two organizations, please know that the MOC is a product of the ABIM, not of the ACP. They are two different, independent organizations. However, on your behalf, the ACP has been active in negotiating change in the process with the ABIM and will continue to push for reform. Please follow the Executive VP of the ACP, Dr. Weinberger’s emails to you for updates.