Dear Colleagues;

We are writing to update you on the regional and national activities of the College and invite you to get involved in making a difference! The ACP is our professional home whose mission it is to “enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine.” It has been a very busy year for the College in the context of health care reform, but much work remains to be done.

We would be remiss if we did not recognize the contributions of our recent past Governor from Northern NJ, Eileen Moser, MD, FACP. Eileen stepped into her role four years ago on very short notice. With boundless energy and determination, she worked tirelessly to further the mission of the college through a wide array of activities at the local level and leadership positions at the national level. Here in NJ, in conjunction with Council approval and participation, the following events were conducted over the past year:

• New and Active Committees: Women’s Networking Group led by Diana DiCosimo MD, FACP and a Cultural Diversity Committee led by Sara Wallach MD, FACP
• New Program: Statewide Chief Resident Leadership program with the opportunity to obtain ACP LEAD certification
• Local legislative Advocacy Events for Chief Residents
• Partnering with tri-state ACP chapters for activities, with the Diabetes Foundation for local symposia, etc
• A well received Summer Office Based Preceptorship Program for medical students (summer between 1st and 2nd year) led by John Walker, MD
• A successful annual session in Edison despite the snow storm!

Although we are a chapter with two regions and two Governors, we function as one chapter with one council and various subcommittees to accomplish our shared goals representing our diverse membership.

Thank You!

Respectfully;

Richard Kasama, MD, FACP & Ranita Sharma, MD, FACP
Governor, Southern NJ Governor, Northern NJ

Visit the chapter website at www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/nj/
When I Think of the ACP

When I think of the ACP, as Governor, a question which is in the forefront of my thoughts is, “What value does the ACP provide for its members?” Ordinarily, I could come up with the standard responses of you receive the Annals of Internal Medicine, the Journal Club, discount access to the MKSAP, the annual Scientific Meeting held the first weekend in February, access to the Web site which includes PIER, QAPI templates and practice management tools, and on and on. However, we are now in the midst of extraordinary times. The Obama healthcare initiative has passed through congress which extends care to more people but we as physicians are far from being whole.

The question we really should be asking ourselves is how can we improve the delivery of healthcare in this country with the current economy, maintain our professionalism with compassion, and maintain our sanity with a reasonable quality of life. As Albert Einstein once said, “In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.”

The value of the ACP and your local chapter is opportunity. There is opportunity to get involved in the politics at the local and national level (See Leadership Day); There is opportunity to improve ourselves through medical education or participate in developing these programs by serving on the Scientific Program Committee; There is opportunity to develop and contribute to the new local chapter web page; There is opportunity to develop your practice and electronic medical record system by using the ACP Medical Home Builder or again attending our next scientific meeting; There is opportunity to be on the ground floor of developments that have resulted from the Obama healthcare initiative so your opinions matter.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to become more involved in the ACP. Please e-mail me with your opinions, interests, or, if you like, volunteer to serve on one of the several committees available. I believe we are on the threshold of major changes for healthcare in this country and I am hopeful that organizations like the ACP will be able to be the guiding force behind these changes.

Richard Kasama, MD, FACP
Assoc. Prof. Medicine, UMDNJ / Cooper
Governor, NJ ACP South

Join us in honoring........

New Master as of April, 2010
Norman H. Ertel, South Orange

New Fellows
(elected January 1, 2010)

Donald I. Baumstein, MD, FACP, Tenafly
Iris Union Herrera, MD, FACP, Union

Karen Press Beekman, MD, FACP, Teaneck
Promila Banerjee, MD, FACP, Cherry Hill

(elected November, 2009)

Alvin H. Fried, MD, FACP, Asbury Park
Glenn A. Ladinsky, MD, FACP, Cherry Hill
Usharani Natarajan, MBBS, FACP, Randolph
Paulo B. Pinho, MD, FACP, Millburn

Martin S. Gizzi, MD, FACP, Edison
Leonard J. Moss, DO, FACP, Cedar Knolls
Shobana Natarajan, MD, FACP, South Plainfield
On May 18th and 19th, 2010, your New Jersey coalition of ACP Fellows and Associates descended upon Washington, D.C. to participate in Leadership Day. Our New Jersey delegation, 11 members in all, were part of the nearly 350 ACP members who elected to take part in a day of education and advocacy.

On May 18th, our introductory session was a one-day tour of the most important and impactful aspects of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, more commonly once referred to on the Hill as PPACA, and now known simply as the “health care act”. For the New Jersey newbies to the political process, we laughed during the Advocacy Workshop as skits portrayed the difficulty we might encounter when meeting with our Congressmen, Senators, and legislative aides. We picked up tips on how best to present our message to strengthen Internal Medicine. Would we really be running down the halls after our elected officials while trying to impress upon them the importance of our medical agenda? Not your average day at the office for any of us!

The highlight of the morning was the overview of the Health Care Act provided by Bob Doherty, ACP’s Senior Vice-President, Governmental Affairs & Public Policy. With a true pulse on the current view of the Health Care Act, Doherty presented us with the nuts and bolts of the new law and highlighted the most important
agenda items that will impact physicians and patients. With our baseline knowledge now fortified, we gained insight into the intricacies of the political process during a panel discussion featuring bipartisan congressional health committee staffers. The question and answer period underscored the breadth and enormity concerning the passage of the health care act, and next, implementation of this mammoth law. Nearly exhausted, and certainly with some anticipation, the New Jersey delegation all agreed to rest up for the following day on the Hill, now armed with knowledge, insight, and a warning to wear comfortable shoes.

May 19th started off with a buzz of activity and energy as the New Jersey Eleven grabbed coffee and engaged in a quick planning session to divide and conquer our full day of meetings with our elected officials. We all agreed on a volleyball style interaction, with our senior members giving an introduction, followed by specific members detailing our most salient agenda items. Our first meeting was with Senator Frank Lautenberg's Legislative Aid, where we tested our skill at this serve and volley communication. We all agreed it was a good warm-up! We had a great meeting with Senator Robert Menendez's Legislative Aid next, and as we were leaving, caught the senator in the hallway for some priceless group photos of Team New Jersey. All the credit for snagging this photo opportunity belongs to Jane Neuman, FACP, who got the Senator's attention with a simple, "You are much more handsome in person!". And with that Team New Jersey found our stride. We split into two groups to better handle the next ten meetings, and used the basement tunnels to expediently navigate our way across the three Congressional Office Buildings. And by high noon, we all knew our roles: Sara Wallach laid a solid foundation of our organization, I plugs hard for representation of primary care on the Independent Payment Advisory Board, Jane Neumann reinforced the core values critical to a patient-centered medical home including physician payment reforms, and Sunil Sapru and Beata Chauhan detailed the needs of GME funding and primary care representation on the National Heal Care Workforce Commission. And to close, we collectively searched for the pulse of the political environment regarding the SGR. Near the finish line of our marathon day, we sat in the small entrance of Representative Leonard Lance's office, when Senator Lance came walking quickly by and invited us to have a walking meeting with him on the way to a vote. We quickly accepted, and found ourselves quickly keeping pace with Rep. Lance, as we once again traversed the underground tunnels, and made our pitch for primary care on the go. After a quick handshake, Team New Jersey enjoyed a group chuckle as a scene from the Advocacy Workshop had just played out to the letter.

As an end to our day, Team New Jersey raced to Union Station to make the 6:00 Amtrak train heading north. And despite the thready pulse of the SGR, we all gained valuable experience in the legislative process, networked with our colleagues, and attempted to alter the course of current health care policy. We all know the hard work continues throughout the year by staying informed and maintaining communication with our elected officials. But Leadership Day provides a much needed jolt of energy to the process and allows us an opportunity to connect the bigger pieces of providing health care across the country.

To learn more about the ACP Endorsed Bills in Congress, or about the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), visit the ACP website at http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/. Stay informed, stay active, and hope to see you next year.

Over half of all U.S. adults have difficulty understanding and acting on health information

The ACP Foundation develops easy to read and use materials to help ACP members help their patients. To order your free HEALTH TIPS (28 topics), free HEALTH NoTES on Adult Vaccines, Everyday Guides on Diabetes, COPD and Heart Disease or to view VIDEO HEALTH TiPS for patients and their families, go to http://www.acpfoundation.org.
New Jersey Southern Region Governor Election Candidates

Congratulations to Vijaykumar Rajput, MBBS, FACP and Allan R. Tunkel, MD, FACP. They are the slate of candidates who will run in the next Governor election. They are both active members and either would make a superb Governor. Members of our Region will be receiving further information about the candidates and their aspirations for our Region in the near future. I would encourage the New Jersey Southern Region voting membership to participate in the upcoming election which will be this year in the early fall.

Upcoming events

- Women’s Networking - Fall event being planned
- Cultural Diversity - Fall event being planned
- LEAD Certification Program - Fall 2010
- Annual Scientific Meeting - February 4, 2011
- SEP Modules for Re-Certification - Spring 2011

Questions? Contact Ms. Stacey Knowles at stacey_a_knowles@uch.com

Please review the Fall 2010 Resolutions and submit your feedback and suggestions to us!!

Please go to the following link:
http://www.acponline.org/governors/resolutions/fall2010/
New Jersey Chapter – American College of Physicians

The New Jersey Chapter has many opportunities for you to make a difference:

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________________________________

Telephone: __________________________________________________________________

E-Mail Address: __________________________________________________________________

Please check your interests

☐ ☐ Health and Public Policy Committee
☐ ☐ Cultural Diversity Committee
☐ ☐ Membership Committee
☐ ☐ Scientific Program Committee
☐ ☐ Medical Student Committee
☐ ☐ Associate’s Committee
☐ ☐ Women’s Networking Committee
☐ ☐ Summer Pre-Ceptorship Program

Please let us know what the NJ Chapter can do for you: ______________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________________

Please return this form to:

Ms. Stacey Knowles via fax: 262-953-9015
NJ Chapter, ACP Phone: 732-623-1128
91 Nathan Blvd e-mail: stacey_a_knowles@uch.com
Parlin, NJ 08859
2010-2012 NJ Chapter ACP COUNCIL

Northern Governor – Ranita Sharma, Vice President
Southern Governor- Richard Kasama, President
Treasurer – Mureen Allen
Secretary- Jeanine Bulan
Past Immediate Governor South- Sara Wallach (will remain on Council as 2nd past Governor)
Past Immediate Governor North- Eileen Moser
Past Governor – Frank Griffin
Executive Director – Stacey Knowles
Chapter Staff – Lisa Gonczi

NORTH
William Farrer
Ellen Cohen
Neil Kothari
Gina La Capra
Amit Tailor
Sunil Sapru
Tony Tarchichi

SOUTH
Ed Choi
Laura Kahn
Nayan Kothari
John Walker
Allan Tunkel
George DiFerdinando
Steve Peskin