Dear Colleagues;

We thank you for your ongoing support of the NJ ACP chapter!

A brief overview of programs conducted by our chapter over the past year include:

- Challenge Bowl playoffs for 16 Internal Medicine programs in NJ
- Student Challenge Bowl and Webinars
- Resident Council led Bone Marrow Drive
- Inaugural Meeting for IM Program Directors in our state
- NJ Scientific meeting in April 2013: Chapter Laureate Award was presented to Michael Renzi, DO, FACP, Advocare Heights Primary Care, where he now serves as managing partner, keynote address delivered by Emmanuel Ezekiel, MD, PhD received rave reviews; while the resident research presentations and challenge bowl finals packed the conference room. The return of the SEP Recertification Module workshop was a relief to those immersed in the process while the introduction of a hands on “Ultrasound in Clinical Practice” workshop was the latest of our hands on workshops.

- May 2013 Leadership Day in DC

The Spring ACP Board of Governors meeting and the Annual Session in San Francisco were wonderful opportunities to reconnect with our larger IM community. The NJ Chapter, along with other chapters, was the recipient of the Chapter Excellence Award. On the heels of our March NJ Scientific Meeting, the national audience heard Emmanuel Ezekiel at the opening ceremony. Numerous clinical updates, the popular Waxman Clinical Skills Center, resident and student poster sessions and the induction of new fellowship and mastership candidates, were some of the highlights of the event. Molly Cooke, MD, FACP took over the reigns from David Bronson, MD, and MACP as the 2013-14 President of the College.

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Governor’s Note continued

Back home, over the last few weeks, elections for the 2013-2015 Governors Council was conducted and we are happy to share the results with you. The expressed level of interest and engagement was overwhelmingly positive! This newly appointed council will guide the governors in critical decisions that impact patient care, education and policy at the local and national level. We extend our gratitude to our outgoing council members for their service and commitment to the chapter and the college.

We urge you to invite your colleagues to join the college, recommend eligible members for advancement to fellowship (FACP) and submit nominees for our local laureate award or for distinguished national awards and mastership (MACP). http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/awards_masterships/

Enjoy the summer and stay connected with us!

Sincerely;

Ranita and Steven
NJ Chapter Governors

Governor Elect
Beth Nalitt, MD, FACP

It will be an exciting year for me as the new North Jersey Governor elect of our chapter. I was invigorated by the Leadership Day experience in Washington on May 21st/22nd 2013 where we met over 400 physicians from 47 states and discussed the huge changes facing us in how health care is to be delivered under Affordable Care Act. It is always great to be surrounded by physicians from all over the nation who have the same passion about maintaining excellent healthcare for their community residents. Meeting with our congress leaders with medical students and medical residents in training can only assist in our mission. Two days in Washington is just a start. I urge our members to reach out to their local leaders to discuss the issues they are dealing with on a daily basis that affect our practices and our patients. I look forward to meeting with all of you through the remainder of 2013!
Update on the status of Resolutions from the April Board of Governors Meeting

**Referred for implementation:**
- Endorsing and promoting a Method of Documentation to Improve Communication within the Electronic Medical Record
- Assessing ACP membership Benefits for Members Employed in Large Health Care Groups
- Embracing Concepts of Shared Decision Making and Patient Directed Goals of Care
- Encouraging the ACGME to Develop and Maintain Evidence Based Program Requirements

**Referred for further study:**
- Supporting the Provision of the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit only by Primary Care Clinicians who provide a continuing, coordinated Primary Care Relationship with the Medicare Beneficiary

**Await action by the Board of regents (BOR):**
- Studying Financial Collaboration between Long Term Care Facilities and Hospitals to Reduce Overall Healthcare Costs and Improve Patient Care
The medical student council made every effort to increase its visibility and activities during the 2012-2013 academic year. At the start of the year, a student interest group was created with representation from RWJMS, NJMS, SOM, Rowan Medical School and St. Geoges University. In addition to local events, two webinars were held at the state level. The first webinar “Changing Healthcare Laws and Your Specialty Choice,” was hosted by Steven Peskin, MD, MBA, FACP. The second webinar titled, “Tips and Tricks to the Match Process and Interviewing for Residency” was hosted by a panel of participants: Madeline Sterling, MS4 RWJMS, Chirag Patel, MD, PGY 1 resident at RWJMS and Neil Kothari, MD, FACP Program Director at NJMS. The webinar format allowed participants to view and hear content followed by an interactive Q&A session. Both webinars were very well received. The student challenge bowl at our annual NJ scientific meeting was represented by teams from four schools. Brian Gable, MD, FACP, Program Director at Cooper-Rowan, moderated the event. Congratulations to the winning team!

I strongly encourage students to join the organization (free for students!). The college presents opportunities for us to grow personally and professionally through mentorship and access to a wide array of resources at the state and national level.

As the academic year draws to a close, NJ ACP student leaders for the next academic year are in the process of organizing a working group. Under the guidance of our governors and council, we hope to continue expand our activities and engage larger numbers of our student body. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to chair the student council.
Six New Jersey ACP members traveled down to Washington, DC for the 2013 ACP Leadership Day. Pictured above are Ms. Atlee Melillo (MS-I, Cooper Medical School), Dr. Amit Tailor (Fellow—Primary Care physician in Rutherford, NJ), Dr. Beth Nalitt (Fellow—Primary Care physician in Millburn, NJ and Governor-elect NJ ACP Northern), Congressman Albio Sires (NJ district 8), Ms. Denise Garcia (MS-I, Cooper Medical School), Dr. Van Holden (Associate, RWJMS Resident), and Dr. Andrew Parziale (Associate, RWJMS Resident).

The event spanned May 21st through the 22nd. The first day was comprised of lectures geared towards educating members on key policy issues that primary care physicians face. These issues included SGR reform, protection of key public health/research programs threatened by sequestration, GME financing reform, and no-fault health courts. Forty-Eight states were represented at the meeting—New Jersey was seated with Rhode Island and we were fortunate to share experiences in internal medicine.

The second day was dedicated to meeting with Congressmen, Senators and their staffers. Our contingency met with staffers for both NJ Senators, 9 congressmen, and even met face-to-face with Congressmen Pallone (NJ-6) and Congressman Lance (NJ-7). It was an invigorating experience to be able to discuss many of the key issues that we, as ACP’s representatives, feel are paramount, directly with those elected officials who can support and see these bills to fruition. Although there were some topics that the congressmen disagreed upon, there was a resounding, bipartisan sentiment that change is necessary to ensure that our patients have access to care, and that our new generation of physicians will need a support system in place to ensure delivery of high quality and affordable care.
Our ACP High Value Care Initiative is a vital one to the future of patient care in the US and could shape the environment practice. Physicians should assume the mantle of leadership by example and through our various roles in not only our professional communities but also the broader communities that we live and work. To read more about the HVC initiative and to view the curriculum for educators, residents, and medical students, please go to the ACP online link below:

http://www.acponline.org/clinical_information/resources/high_value_care/

We invite any interested members of our Chapter that would like to become involved with our state Governor’s Council in the context of high value cost conscious care. (Please e-mail me directly: Steven_peskin@yahoo.com)

We have already begun conversations with our colleagues in the national office to benchmark what other chapters are doing and/or planning related to the High Value Initiative and to how we might bring focus to the curriculum that has already been developed and that will grow and evolve over time.

A closely aligned initiative that is being led by the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation with involvement of Consumer Reports and with the participation of ACP and 34 other medical societies is Choosing Wisely. This campaign is designed to enhance the conversation between physicians and patients by helping patients, guided by physicians, to choose care that is supported by evidence, not duplicative of tests or procedures already done, minimizes risk to the person, and is truly necessary.
Interesting Links ......

ACP advocates for Patients and Internists: Explore “Where We Stand” on multiple issues by accessing the link:

http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/where_we_stand/

MUST view videos on: A Doctor’s Touch and Empathy:

http://www.ted.com/talks/abraham_verghese_a_doctor_s_touch.html
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDDWvj_q-08

For MOC (maintenance of certification) updates visit:

http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/recertification/
Get Involved in our New Jersey Chapter Committees!

Health and Public Policy Committee:
Contact Beth Nalitt at acpbeth@aol.com

Council of Residents and Fellows: Contact Van Holden at vanpham316@gmail.com
or Andrew Parziale at andrew.parziale@gmail.com

IM Student Interest Group: Contact Alex Lorestani at alexander.lorestani@gmail.com

Cultural Diversity / Membership Committee: Contact Sara Wallach at swallach@stfrancismedical.org

Council of Early Career Physicians: Contact Suneet Verma, MD at suneet_verma@hotmail.com

Stacey Knowles
Executive Director: stacey_a_knowles@uhc.com
732-261-2901

New Jersey Chapter Website: http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/

New Jersey Chapter’s In House Legal Counsel: