



### **2013 Chapter Laureate Award Dr. George Comerci**

Dr. George Comerci has devoted his professional career to providing exemplary medical care and excellent teaching. In addition, he has been an ardent supporter of the American College of Physicians. For many years, he has voluntarily and without any compensation presented talks and seminars at our Chapter's Annual Scientific Session, and has repeatedly been rated one of our favorite speakers. He was the first recipient of the Chapter's Teaching Excellence Award.

Dr. Comerci received a BS in Pharmacy from the University of Arizona and then enrolled in medical school. He was elected to AOA at the University of Arizona College of Medicine. He completed his internship and residency at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center, where he was voted the Senior Resident Teacher of the Year by the intern class, and won the state ACP poster competition.

Dr. Comerci was then a solo primary care private practitioner for 18 years. In 1999, he joined the faculty at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and currently serves as Professor in the Divisions of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics and Palliative Care. Dr. Comerci is known as "the doctor's doctor" and provides care to more faculty members and their family than any other practitioner. Because of the breadth of his knowledge and his clinical wisdom, doctors frequently call him to discuss difficult management or diagnostic problems. He has developed a special interest in pain management and is now known nation-wide for his expertise in this area.

At the University of New Mexico, Dr. Comerci best became known among medical students for his skill in physical diagnosis and in teaching clinical medicine. He has won 10 teaching awards from medical students and residents. He has been involved in virtually every aspect of clinical skills education and curriculum development, including classroom lectures, small group preceptor, simulation lab instructor, clinical case writer, train-the-trainer courses and ward attending. "The Comerci experience" (having Dr. Comerci as ward attending) has been sought and treasured by every medical student and internal medicine resident since Dr. Comerci arrived at UNM 14 years ago.

Because of his life-long commitment to excellence in patient care and teaching, it is with great honor and joyfulness that the New Mexico Chapter awards this year's Chapter Laureate Award to Dr. George Comerci.