Dear Colleagues:

It has been about 6 months since our last newsletter. But during that time, either National ACP or I have sent periodic blast mailings regarding timely issues. And speaking of emails brings me to my first point. Please keep us updated as to your email address as well as your physical address. The Nevada Chapter and National are both relying more and more on email. It is quicker and cheaper than US mail and getting cheaper by the month it seems. Partly because of cost savings, we contacted the Nevada Membership by snail mail last June 2007 to request everyone’s updated email. We made some inroads, but still have many members without a current email address. Keep us in mind when you move or change your email address.

We had our annual scientific meeting on January 26, 2008 at the Wynn Las Vegas and by most accounts (is anything ever unanimous) it was quite satisfying. We offered 9 continuing medical education hours this year. Dr. Warren Evins, chairman of our planning committee, made the arrangements for the meeting. He did an outstanding job and has my sincere gratitude for undertaking this daunting job. You will hear more about the meeting from Dr. Evins elsewhere in this newsletter.

Membership is up to 821, thanks to Dr. Daniel Goodenberger, chairman of the Department of Medicine at UNSOM, and to Dr. Robert Gong, chairman of our membership committee. This represents a 33% increase in membership. The increase is mostly due to medical residents (associates) and students. There are 1427 internists in Nevada and only about 505 are members of ACP. This places us 47th among all the states (first equals the highest penetration). We have three new fellows this year and they are Dr. Diane Chau, Dr. Darin Brimhall, and Dr. Mark McKenzie. Congratulations to all three of these new fellows and I want to encourage other members to apply for fellowship as well. Dr. Robert Gong, chairman of our membership committee, will expand on this topic elsewhere in the newsletter.

You may be asking about this time what is ACP doing for me? ACP is expending much energy and funds to promote "Patient Centered Medical Home". The ACP is highlighting the primary care physician as the moving force behind quality care and cost containment. Universal Health Coverage is now the battle cry of ACP. Part of their proposal is to recognize internist as specialized primary care physicians through whom all the patient’s care should pass. The internist would be the custodian of the patient's health information. For all this clerical and paperwork as well as clinical concerns, the internist would be compensated accordingly, which is not being done currently. The internist should be reimbursed for monitoring the patient in several different ways such as blood pressure, prothrombin times, and general management of the care.

In addition, ACP has been the leader in fighting cutbacks in Medicare. Reduction in Medicare reimbursement has been averted this past January 2008, but that is only on a temporary basis and a congressional vote comes up this June 2008 for those same cutbacks. ACP has assumed a high profile in negotiating for increases in Medicare and to eliminate any attempts at reductions in Medicare reimbursement. We all are feeling the pinch in increasing cost to run our offices and we look for increases in insurance reimbursement to cover those cost. ACP has been our collective voices in resisting these cut backs.
ACP is still the preeminent organization for internist and I encourage you all to support the ACP by maintaining your membership. It would be even nicer if all members and fellows will encourage at least one colleague to join. While ACP continues to enjoy its position as a preeminent organization of internist, it is also the largest medical specialty group and in numbers there is strength.

Finally, I want to let you know that ACP is restructuring their dues. In the future, you will receive one bill for both the local chapter dues as well as national dues and you will need to join the local chapter in order to be a member of national ACP. National has put pressure on us to decrease our chapter dues from $125 to something less. Negotiations are continuing. National ACP is planning some information mailings over the next several months. Keep alert for those communications. I’ll say more about the dues in the future once we have finalized details. However, in the interim please let me know what your feelings are about our dues. I would like to know if the membership feels that we should reduce our dues, keep them at the same level, etc. The dues are our major operating funds for the chapter and without significant chapter dues; we would not be able to have our annual scientific meeting.

The National ACP meeting will be in Washington D.C. from May 15, 2008 to May 17, 2008. It is usually a very informative meeting. Convocation and the new fellows will be hoarded on May 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. Our chapter will have a modest reception of wine, beer, and hors d’oeuvres on May 16, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. currently scheduled for room 19 at the Renaissance Hotel.

Hope to see you all there and in the meantime, feel free to contact me with any issues regarding ACP.

Respectfully,

Eugene L. Speck, M.D., Ph.D., FACP, FIDSA

Nevada Chapter Holds 2008 Internal Medicine Update and Scientific Meeting

The Wynn Las Vegas Resort was the site of the 2008 Nevada Chapter Scientific Meeting, which included the 2008 Internal Medicine Update, and the Nevada Chapter Associate Poster Competition and the first ever Nevada Chapter Medical Student Poster Competition. Set-up for the meeting started on Saturday, January 26, 2008, at 6:00 a.m. The meeting ended at around 6:00 p.m. Nine hours of AMA Category 1 CME (Continuing Medical Education) credit was awarded to participants who attended the entire program.

The meeting was jointly sponsored by University Medical Center of Southern Nevada (UMC). The Nevada Chapter is extremely grateful to Roberta Again, Manager of the UMC CME Department, Anita Fleisher, Executive Secretary in UMC’s CME Department, and the UMC Medical Staff CME Committee for their assistance in this endeavor.

Roberta Again, Anita Fleisher, Rebecca Rule, Nevada Chapter Governor Eugene L. Speck’s office manager, and Janiceanne Poblete, from the Clark County Medical Society assisted with registration, judging, and other activities. They attended the entire meeting.

A buffet breakfast was served from 7:30 a.m. to about 8:00 a.m. There was a special Wynn multi-entrée Chinese seafood, chicken and vegetarian lunch buffet. Two beverage breaks were also included during the mid morning and afternoon sessions.

Pfizer Pharmaceuticals presented a $5000 unrestricted grant to the Nevada Chapter to help with the expenses of holding this educational meeting.

There were twelve pharmaceutical and medical exhibitors, including Abbott Laboratories, Apria/Coram Health Care, Critical Care Home Health Services, Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Family Health Services/THC Pharmaceuticals, Johnson & Johnson/Janssen, L.P., Merck & Co., Inc., Pfizer, Inc., Schering Plough Corporation, Sierra Health Services, Tibotec Therapeutics, and Wyeth Pharmaceuticals.
The Nevada ACP Chapter Program Committee consisted of Warren H. Evins, MD, PhD, FACP, Chairman, Diane Chau, MD, Alan Greenberg, MD, Mitchell Forman, DO, FACP, Dean Touro University-Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Eugene L. Speck, MD, PhD, FACP, Nevada Chapter Governor.

The Nevada Chapter Meeting Highlights:
- New Surgical Guidelines for Valvular Heart Disease/Drug Eluting Stents
- Altered Mental States in the Elderly
- Update on Medical Quality Improvement at the ACP
- Washington, DC Update: Legislation Affecting Your Medical Practice
- HIV Treatment in 2008
- Ethics and Protecting your Medical License
- Antibiotic Resistance in Las Vegas
- Physician Coding for non-Office visits
- Medical Student and Resident Poster Competition and Presentations
- Town Hall Meeting

Our Faculty comprised:
Jerry Cade, MD, HIV Specialist, Medical Director, HIV Inpatient Unit and HIV Outpatient Clinic, University Medical Center, Las Vegas.

Jerry Calvanese, MD, FACEP, Medical Reviewer and Consultant for the Nevada State Board of Medicine, Associate Clinical Professor, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Reno.

Robert P. Croke, MD, FACC, Cardiovascular Consultants of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Robert Doherty, Senior Vice President for Governmental Affairs and Public Policy, American College of Physicians, Washington, DC.

Warren H. Evins, MD, PhD, FACP, Clinical Associate Professor of Medicine, Touro University-Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine, Las Vegas.

William E. Golden, MD, MACP, Professor of Medicine and Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Vice President, Quality Improvement, Arkansas Foundation for Medical Care, Immediate Past Chair, ACP Board of Regents.

Iyad G Houshan, MD, Assistant Professor and Chief of the Section on Hospital Medicine, University of Nevada School of Medicine, Las Vegas.

Brandon K. Koretz, MD, Associate Clinical Professor, UCLA School of Medicine, Los Angeles.

Kim Leuthner, PharmD, Clinical Specialist, Infectious Diseases, University Medical Center of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas.

Scott C. Litin, MD, MACP, Professor of Medicine, Mayo Clinic College of Medicine, Rochester, Minnesota.

Tanya L. Repka, MD, FACP, Chief, Section of Oncology, St. Luke’s Oncology and Hematology Associates, Duluth, Minnesota.

Eugene L. Speck, MD, PhD, FACP, Governor, ACP Nevada Chapter, Clinical Professor of Medicine. University of Nevada School of Medicine.
The program consisted of:

**Scientific Program and Special Events 2008 Internal Medicine Update**

6:30 a.m.  Medical Student/Resident Poster Competition Set-Up
7:00    Registration & Continental Breakfast; Visit Exhibits & Posters
7:30    Opening Remarks  Eugene L. Speck, MD, PhD, FACP
7:45    New Surgical Guidelines for Valvular Heart Disease /Drug Eluting Stents
         Robert P. Croke, MD, FACC
8:45    Altered Mental States in the Elderly
         Brandon K. Koretz, MD
9:45    Refreshment Break & Visit Exhibits & Posters
10:00   Fostering Excellence in Internal Medicine: 2007-2008
         William E. Golden, MD, MACP Immediate Past Chair, ACP Board of Regents
11:00   Washington Update
         Robert Doherty, ACP Senior Vice-President for Government Affairs and Public Policy
12:00 p.m. Luncheon & Town Hall Meeting, Visit Exhibits & Posters
         Eugene L. Speck, MD, PhD, FACP, ACP Nevada Governor, William E. Golden, MD, MACP, Immediate Past Chair, ACP Board of Regents, Robert Doherty, ACP Senior Vice-President for Government Affairs and Public Policy
1:00    HIV Treatment in 2008/ What is New?  Jerry Cade, MD
2:00    Ethics in Medicine: Protecting Your Medical License: How to Interact with the Board of Medical Examiners, Jerry Calvanese, MD, FACEP
3:00    Refreshment Break & Visit Exhibits & Posters
3:15    Judging Results of the Poster Competition, Winner Presentations
         Scott C. Litin, MD, MACP, Tanya L. Repka, MD, FACP
3:45    Antibiotic Resistance in Las Vega, Kim Leuthner, PharmD
4:45    Physician Coding, Iyad G. Houshan, MD
5:45    Closing Remarks Eugene L. Speck, MD, PhD, FACP, Nevada ACP Governor, Warren H. Evins, MD, PhD, FACP, Program Chairman

The 2008 Nevada Chapter Scientific Meeting had the largest registration of any Nevada Chapter event in recent memory. There were 165 persons registered for the event. However, as Nevada ACP Chapter members did not have to pay any registration fees, only 124 actually attended. The Chapter guaranteed 150 seats for the Luncheon. Attendees included Masters, Fellows, Members, Associate Members, and Student Members of the College. Additionally attendees included Registered Nurse, Physician Assistant, PharmD, and Physical Therapy licensees.

Unfortunately, few of the Associate members attended the lectures, although there was ample time to do so. Rather, most associates followed the Poster Competition Judges around and listened to the Poster Presentations and the Judges' questions and comments.

A needs assessment questionnaire was distributed to help plan for future meeting topics. Another questionnaire polled the Chapter attendees about current issues of concern and future meeting details.

The meeting was very well received and all of the Speakers received excellent ratings.
UNSOM-Reno Medical Student Selected for ACP National Medical Student Poster Competition

On behalf of the American College of Physicians, I am pleased to inform you that a medical student at University of Nevada has been selected to present a poster at our national meeting, Internal Medicine 2008 in Washington, DC.

You may recall our mailing this past fall encouraging the submission of abstracts by medical students. This year marks the 13th Annual Medical Student Member Abstract Competition. We received approximately 225 submissions to our competition this year.

The following student has been invited to compete in the poster competitions:

Abstract Category: Clinical Vignette
Title: Approach To Recurrent Aseptic Meningitis
Mara Zulauf, MS III
mara.zulauf@gmail.com

The Medical Student Poster Competition will be featured on Saturday, May 17, 2008. The poster program takes place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The top ten abstracts selected have been awarded an expense paid trip to the meeting, where they will give an oral presentation of their work. Unfortunately, there is no funding provided to the poster finalists. Many of the poster finalists selected may need funding to subsidize their trip to Washington, DC. We hope that the school will be able to provide financial assistance to these students so they can benefit from this outstanding meeting. The average cost per student for the top ten winners is $1,200. This includes airfare, hotel and a small per-diem to cover meals and ground transportation.

If you have any questions about the details of this program, please contact me. Again, congratulations to your school.

Tracey Henry
American College of Physicians
Membership Development
Program Coordinator/Technical Liaison
(800) 523-1546, ext. 2727
Fax (215) 351-2708
thenry@acponline.org

Nevada Chapter Poster Sessions Have Record Turnouts

Thirty-one Nevada ACP Chapter Associate members entered posters at the 2008 poster competition held at the Wynn Las Vegas resort on Saturday, January 26, 2008, at the same time as the 2008 Internal Medicine Update at the Nevada ACP Chapter Scientific Meeting. There were 26 entrants in the Clinical Vignette competition, including 7 from the University of Nevada School of Medicine (UNSOM) in Reno and 19 from UNSOM in Las Vegas. There were also 5 posters entered in the original Research area; 3 were from UNSOM-Reno Associate members and 2 from Las Vegas Associates. These entrants represent the largest number of associate members presenting posters in a Nevada Chapter competition ever. The associates presented posters on a wide variety of subject areas.

Awards were given by the Nevada Chapter in the two Associate competition areas: Clinical Vignettes and Research. All entrants received a Certificate of Merit from the ACP Nevada Chapter. First place winning presenters earned a $300 award and second place was $200. Because of the larger number of entrants in the clinical vignette competition a third place award of $100 was also given.

The two category winners were also entered in the poster competition at the ACP National Meeting to be held in Washington, D.C., in May, 2008. The Nevada Chapter will give these two first place winners up to $1000 to help with expenses to attend the national competition.

Associates attending from UNSOM-Reno arrived in Las Vegas on Friday, January 25th. Their rooms at the Mandalay Bay Hotel were covered by the Chapter. The last flight from Las Vegas to Reno was before 6:30 p.m., so the Chapter had to rearrange the Annual Meeting schedule so that the Judging and Awards Presentation were concluded in enough time to allow the Reno based associates to get to the airport.
The Poster Competition was very well received and well attended by the attendees of the Annual Meeting. The posters were judged according to a pre-determined schedule, posted before the poster set-up.

There were, unfortunately, two major problems that occurred with respect to the competition. Both problems were successfully resolved and many presenters and UNSOM faculty said that this was the best organized poster session, so far.

Submission of the poster abstracts was required by November 30, 2007, via the National ACP website. Submitters received a computer-generated email acknowledging their successful submission, but the Chapter Poster Chairman was unable to download all of the submissions. The Chapter was alerted to this problem several weeks after the deadline and had to request intervention from the UNSOM Department Chairs, Residency Program Directors and Internal Medicine Department staffs to get the errant abstracts.

Poster set-up was to start at 6:00 a.m. However, the Wynn staff had not installed, set-up or even brought all of the poster easels to the designated room by set-up time. The designated room was intended to be divided into two sections: one for the medical and pharmaceutical exhibitors and one for the posters. However, this was unable to be accomplished and the exhibitors and posters were intermixed. The easels supplied by the Wynn were too small to accommodate most of the posters, so replacements had to be found. In the end, it all worked out, with help from the Chapter Program Chairman, and UNSOM Chief Residents and Residency Program Directors.

Winners in the Clinical Vignette competition were:
1. Tatyana Reznik, MD From encephalitis to fractures, UNSOM-Reno.
2. Robert Dalrymple, MD, Tatyana Reznik, MD Apical ballooning syndrome triggered by psychosis, UNSOM-Reno.
3. Jyothi Ratti, MD, Roja Mulamalla, MD, Ambika Rao, MD, Yedatore Swamy Venkatesh, MD Not all bone loss is osteoporosis, UNSOM-Las Vegas.

Winners in the Research competition were:
2. Venkatesh Lakshminarayanan, MD, PhD, Robert Bryg, MD What is a MACE? Analysis of MACE consistency in hydroxymethylglutaryl-CoA reductase inhibitor (statin) trials, UNSOM-Reno.

We extend congratulations to all of the winners.

Nevada Chapter Holds First Student Poster Session

During the 2008 Nevada ACP Chapter Scientific Meeting held at the Wynn Las Vegas Resort, the Nevada Chapter held its first ever medical student poster session and had its first ever participation from the Touro University-Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Two third year osteopathic medical students from Touro University-Nevada shared a first place award in the Original Research category and shared a $300 first place award. Both students received Certificates of Merit. The poster session Judges were so impressed with their research papers that they were invited to apply for residency positions in the Department of Internal Medicine, where poster Judge Scott Litin, MACP, is a full Professor of Medicine.

The two students presented different papers and posters. But each student was a co-author on each other’s paper and the two research projects were undertaken in the same laboratory.

The two winners are Rahul Mishra and Rema Merhi.

Rahul Mishra, Rema Merhi, Kainath Durre, William Yang, Mahboob Qureshi, MD Differential host responses to RSV infection in neonatal and adult mice, Touro University-Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine, Las Vegas. [Medical student member].

The second paper was Rema Merhi, Rahul Mishra, Kainath Durre, William Yang, Mahboob Qureshi, MD Touro University-Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine, Las Vegas. [Medical student member]
Why you should become an ACP member

Consider the benefits of joining the ACP, the largest specialty organization this country. For starters, you will receive access to the many publications and practice aides developed by the highest-regarded minds in our profession. The annual session and chapter meetings provide an opportunity for CME and networking with colleagues. The ACP also maintains an active role in government affairs, making your voice heard to the lawmakers in Washington. One of the top priorities is the patient-centered medical home model, which will recognize the primary care physician’s increasingly complex role in coordinating care for patients with chronic illnesses. It will address the payment disparities that reflect the lack of recognition and reimbursement for care given outside the traditional office visit.

Membership can begin as early as Residency, where young physicians may apply to become Associates. Benefits include access to MKSAP, widely regarded as the authoritative source for a concise review of Internal Medicine. Associates are also eligible to participate in the annual poster session, which is a forum for presenting your research and case studies.

Physicians starting a career in Medicine will benefit from the ACP’s Practice Management Center, which helps in starting out a practice, negotiating contracts, evaluating the business aspects of running a practice.

If you are already a member who has been in practice for a few years or more, why not elevate your status and become a Fellow of the American College of Physicians? There are many “tracks” toward earning fellowship, including research, teaching, and clinical practice. In reality, most attain fellowship through a combination of these tracks. The application is straightforward and not at all overwhelming. Call the ACP or login to acponline.org to find out more. For those of you who have established a career in Internal Medicine or a Sub-specialty, advancement to fellowship carries an important distinction and status within the community of your colleagues and business associates.

Robert Gong, MD, FACP

College Launches Leadership Program

The College has launched a new leadership development program that will unroll over the next three years. The Leadership Enhancement and Development (LEAD) program is designed to help young Fellows in particular cultivate leadership skills they can use in any setting.

The first elements of the program are now in place. The CME portion will be available at IM 2008. A pre-course entitled Essential Competencies for the Emerging Leader will be offered on Wednesday, May 14, 2008. You can register online at http://www.acponline.org/meetings/internal_medicine/2008/attendees/course_listings/emerg_lead.htm, or by calling 800-532-1546, ext. 2600. Several other courses will also focus on leadership skills such as negotiating, managing change, making presentations, and serving in the government. Watch for these in the IM 2008 Final Program.

A second component, online mentoring, is also underway. Experienced leaders are available in the LEAD discussion group to explore a variety of leadership challenges with members. The “challenges” will be announced every two weeks in the ACP Internist Weekly. Go to http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/resources/leadership_development/challenges to join the discussion now.

Another component of the program is chapter involvement. Find out how you can take an active role in local chapter activities by calling your Governor to discuss the Five Pathways to Leadership Development at the Chapter Level, available at http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/resources/leadership_development/chapter_activities/.

Those who meet five out of seven criteria within any three-year time period will be eligible for a LEAD Certificate of Completion (http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/resources/leadership_development/certificate/).

An overview of the whole program can be found at http://www.acponline.org/education_recertification/resources/leadership_development/.