OKLAHOMA Chapter
Officers and Council Members

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TREASURER:
Michael Weisz, MD, MACP

COUNCIL MEMBERS
Bassam Bilal, MD, FACP
OKC
Shouvik Chakrabarty, MD, FACP
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Matlock Jeffries, MD
OKC
Jennifer Ferrell, DO, FACP
Stillwater
Charles Foulks, MD, FACP
Tulsa
John T. Gaedametz, DO
Tahlequah
Michael Gebetsberger, MD, FACP
Tulsa
Rhett Jackson, MD, FACP
Oklahoma City
Matlock Jeffries, MD
Oklahoma City
Martina Jelly, MD, FACP
Tulsa
James Madison, MD, FACP
Tahlequah
Hossein Maynani, MD
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David Polizzi, MD
Tulsa
Ali Mohammad, MD, FACP
Oklahoma City
Michelle Salvaggio, MD, FACP
Oklahoma City
Boyd Shook, MD, MACP
Oklahoma City
John Schumann, MD, FACP
Tulsa
Sudip Tripathy, MD
Tulsa
Eric Wallace, MD, FACP
Tulsa
Eileen West, MD, FACP
Oklahoma City

Kay Bickham
Executive Director

ACP INTERNAL MEDICINE 2014
in Orlando, Florida

It has been an extremely cold Oklahoma winter. Are you ready to thaw out? Orlando was 82 degrees today. Come join us in Orlando for Internal Medicine 2014. Call your travel agent, book your plane tickets, and synchronize your watches for April 10-12.

High Value, Cost Conscious Care and ICD 10 Coding will be discussed. The latest science updates will be presented. You will be a child in a candy store trying to choose which lecture, update, state of the art, meet the professor, or workshop you wish to attend (over 200 CME courses to choose). Practice management, medical homes, and electronic medical records will all be discussed.

The exhibit hall will be bustling. Search for new employment, look for an associate or future partner, or explore ACP’s multiple booths for education, public policy, and materials for MOC. Enjoy a box lunch with a colleague from across country. Take a break and simply people watch.

Come support our residents who won our state poster competition as they compete for national honors. See our Oklahoma Doctor’s Dilemma team compete for Osler’s Cup. Improve your skills at the Waxman Center.

There will be plenty of pomp and circumstance. I look forward to marching with our Oklahoma new fellows at convocation. I am excited to see Cherokee Nation awarded the Loveland Award. Oklahoma’s new ACP Masters, John Kalbfleisch MD and Michael Weisz MD will be formally presented.

This is the premiere Internal Medicine meeting in the world. If you have never been, you need to come. If you have been, I know that you will want to come back. I hope to see you there.

Jim
NEW MASTERS

NEW FELLOWS
Fellowship is an honor achieved by those recognized by their peers for personal integrity, superior competence in internal medicine, professional accomplishment and demonstrated scholarship. The Oklahoma chapter recognizes and congratulates the following physicians who were elected to Fellowship in the college over the past 6 months:

- Imtiaz Ahmed MBBS FACP
- Tauseef Ali MD FACP
- Benjamin D. Cowley Jr. MD FACP
- Brent D. Dennis MD, FACP
- Jennifer L. Holter MD, FACP
- Mary B. Humphrey MD, FACP
- Lawrence A. Jacobs MD, FACP
- Hamid Mahmood MBBS FACP
- Seth D. Yandell MD, FACP

NEW MEMBERS
We are proud to welcome the following members who have joined the chapter during the past 6 months:

- Bilal Ahmed MD
- Zumera Bhatti MD
- Ahmad M Gaben MD
- Bradley J. Johnson MD
- Temitayo Oyekan DO

Oklahoma Chapter Reception — Friday, April 11
at the Hyatt Regency in Orlando — 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
We will honor five new fellows, two new masters, and Cherokee Nation representatives. We will have light hors d’oeuvre and beverages. The Hyatt Regency, Orlando will host our reception. Please come join us at the Hyatt, Celebration 2.

Don’t miss this.

Michael Weisz, MD MACP

John Kalbfleisch, MD MACP
On May 21 and 22, our Oklahoma Chapter will again send a coalition to Washington DC for Leadership Day. Consider marching up the hill to talk with our congressmen. We continue to tackle issues of SGR, sequestration, graduate medical education funding. Please contact me if you have interest in joining us.

NATIONAL ADVOCACY

SGR Repeal
The Oklahoma Chapter of the American College of Physicians signed this letter to Speaker Boehner and Representative Pelosi. We continue to be optimistic that this is the time for repeal of the SGR. Over 600 organizations signed on to this joint letter urging Congress to pass a permanent SGR repeal bill (HR4015/S2000).

Dear Speaker Boehner and Representative Pelosi:

Long-awaited bipartisan legislation to permanently repeal the fatally flawed sustainable growth rate (SGR) formula is now before both chambers of Congress with the recent introduction of the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act of 2014 (H.R. 4015/ S. 2000). The undersigned physician organizations strongly urge you to pass this legislation by March 31st.

Congress has long recognized the imperative of reforming the Medicare physician payment system. Over the past 12 years, Congress has spent $153.7 billion on 16 SGR patches, far more than the cost of permanently reforming the Medicare physician payment system. Further reliance on legislative patches is fiscally irresponsible. We can no longer afford to spend taxpayer money on stopgap measures that preserve a failed policy.

This bipartisan, bicameral agreement is a significant achievement resulting from tireless efforts among the three key congressional committees of jurisdiction to develop a solution for a problem that has bedeviled lawmakers for years. This legislation incorporates many recommendations from the physician community to reform the health care delivery and physician payment system and improve care for America's seniors. It also includes significant resources and tools to help physicians transition to new payment and delivery models.

We strongly urge you to quickly seize the opportunity to take advantage of this work and momentum to finally break the SGR status quo and pass a long-term solution. Physicians are once again facing looming Medicare cuts of 24 percent on April 1.

The physician community stands ready and eager to work with you to advance this critical legislation to build a more stable Medicare program that will better serve America's senior citizens.

Sincerely, Oklahoma Chapter, ACP

BUT ALAS, THE THIRD TIMES is NOT A CHARM, NOT WITH SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATE (SGR)

Despite our best efforts, the third time is not the charm. Nor is the fourth, fifth, ninth, tenth, fourteenth, fifteenth, or even seventeenth. For the seventeenth time Congress put the temporary patch on the broken payment formula. In the late hours of March 31, lawmakers failed to reach a deal on financing the permanent fix we keep hoping will bring some security to health care.

Most all of Congress, from both parties, agree on redesigning the payment formula to doctors. Unfortunately, there is no agreement on how to pay for the $140 billion cost of repealing the old SGR formula. The American College of Physicians, along with the AMA, have long pushed for a permanent solution.

STATE ADVOCACY — CPR IN SCHOOLS
The Oklahoma Chapter is collaborating with the American Heart Association to support teaching CPR in school. Together, we are advocating for legislation that will ensure all students receive instruction in the basic of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before graduating high school. House Bill 1378 by Representative Emily Virgin and Senator John Sparks has received bipartisan support from the House of Representatives and awaits consideration in the Senate.

The Oklahoma State Legislature and Governor Mary Fallin have a unique opportunity to enact public policy that will allow Oklahoma to lead the nation as one of the few states taking a stand to reduce the sudden cardiac arrest deaths. We should lead the way in adopting this approach to improving the health of our citizens.