Governor’s Column

By James Baker, MD, FACP
Governor, Oklahoma Chapter

I have delayed in putting out this newsletter until I finished Leadership Day. I had a rough draft before Internal Medicine New Orleans summarizing Medicine Day in OKC and an ACP resident recruitment meeting in Tulsa.

I procrastinated. But, I am taking care of my procrastination issues—just you wait and see!

The chapter is moving forward with its strategic plan. Medical student membership, particularly in the first and second year, has been identified as a chapter weakness. We are planning to attend as well as sponsor more medical student events over the next few years in an effort to get the word out regarding ACP.

You will see under our calendar of events that Nathan Moore, an Oklahoma born, Washington University St. Louis medical student, will be providing a medical student forum the night before our Fall Scientific Session. Nathan co-authored a book — The Health Care Handbook — and will present to medical students a healthcare update. Your Oklahoma ACP Chapter will sponsor this event. Details of the events, time and location, are yet to be determined.

We have received Nathan’s permission to video the presentation. I am working with other ACP Chapters in Missouri, Iowa, and Arkansas to collaborate this video presentation into a medical student “Understanding the United States Health Care System” workshop. Our Oklahoma ACP Chapter and other ACP chapters, whose medical students participate, will submit this collaboration for an Evergreen Award nomination.

Our strategic plan also calls for four regional forums to recruit new physicians for ACP membership across Oklahoma. We have already conducted one. On March 14, 2012, your Oklahoma ACP chapter sponsored twelve third year OUHSC/Tulsa residents to a dinner program in Tulsa. Topics of discussion included What do I have to have ready for my new job?; How do I choose OR Have I chosen the right job?; How do I improve my knowledge, skills, and attitudes after residency?; What do I wish I had known when I finished my training?; as well as discussions on financial advice.

Erik Wallace MD, FACP, Michael Weisz MD, FACP, and myself facilitated some of the discussion. We obviously emphasized the strengths of ACP membership post residency. We all agreed that the evening was

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a success and should be repeated annually with third year residents who will be leaving the program. Most of these residents in attendance will be hospitalists in Tulsa and we believe that they will be our new membership next year.

I can procrastinate on a newsletter because we have been busy. “Doing” trumps “writing”. We need to walk the talk. We need new blood, new members. Do you know an Internal Medicine colleague who is not a member of ACP? We need hosts for three regional dinner meetings, which ACP will sponsor. Don’t procrastinate. Help your Oklahoma ACP Chapter, contact me about being a host.

(Continued from page 1)

The Oklahoma ACP Chapter would like to thank **Timothy M. Hsieh MD** for recruiting a colleague as part of ACP’s Recruit-a Colleague Program. For more information on this program go to acponline.org and click on Recruit-a-Colleague

I wish to say a special thanks to **Eldon V. Gibson MD, FACP** for his years of service to the Oklahoma Chapter ACP as a council member, council treasurer, and most importantly, as governor. Eldon, you always will be welcomed as a trusted ACP friend.

**New Oklahoma Chapter Members**

The Oklahoma ACP Chapter would like to welcome the following new Members who were elected to ACP Membership since February 2012:

Karamba J. Ceesay MD, Tulsa
Amgad F. Helmy MBChB, Tulsa
Kavita K. Shah MD, Tulsa
Robert T. Wells MD, Tulsa

**CHAPTER ETERNAL**

It is on a sad note that I report the loss of R. Wayne Neal MD FACP, a long time ACP member, who died 12/5/2011. I did contact Mrs. Neal who granted us permission to honor him in this newsletter. Mrs. Neal reported that they enjoyed 54 years of marriage.

Dr. Neal graduated from high school in Adair, Oklahoma where he was valedictorian. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Phillips University in Enid, Oklahoma and a Doctor of Medicine Degree from Washington University School of Medicine in Saint Louis, Missouri. He received his Internal Medicine training at the University of Chicago where he was Chief Resident of Medicine.

Mrs. Neal told me that Dr. Neal was the University of Chicago Heart Catherization Laboratory Director for seven years. He moved to Tulsa and practiced at Saint Johns Hospital as the first Board Certified Cardiologist in Tulsa.

Dr. Neal died at age 99, having been diagnosed with T cell Lymphoma in 2010. Dr. Neal was also a farmer, who loved fishing and boating. He was well respected in Tulsa and the Oklahoma medical community. He will be missed.
I still obtain CME the old fashioned way. My wife graciously planned our airfare, hotel, and itinerary for New Orleans. I am not a trip planner. We packed our bags, flew to the Crescent City, settled into our hotel, and headed to Antoine’s for fine French cuisine. I received my 21 ¾ hours CME credits in lecture halls, workshops, and tutorials. For me, ACP Internal Medicine 2012, New Orleans was hands down better than free online CME. You may be able to punch out 2-3 hours of CME a night online. Maybe you are faculty and you do not need any more CME. Whatever! Watching Martin Samuels MD, MACP, Professor of Neurology, Harvard Medical School perform a focused neurologic exam in a “Grand Rounds in Neurology: A Live Patient Experience”, took me back to residency. I presented a hospital neurology case to him when he came to Oklahoma as a visiting professor in 1983. I am invigorated. I do not feel that way with online CME. I was able to hear Wayne Riley MD, MBA, MACP speak as the Opening Ceremony Keynote Speaker on Health Disparities and Inequity in the Era of Health Reform: Why Internal Medicine Must Lead the Way. I left motivated. I always try and stay for the Internal Medicine Highlights and Doctor’s Dilemma—more on this to come. I just don’t feel the same when I am at home late at night finishing online course objectives.

For me, ACP I. M. 2012, New Orleans was hands down better than free online CME.

Our Oklahoma Chapter reception was once again shared with Missouri and Arkansas. It was fun to see old friends, but I also noticed many of you were not there. Please consider coming back to Internal Medicine 2013 in San Francisco. It is always a popular destination. Trust me, you can achieve your Maintenance of Certification and complete 1, 2, or 3 Modules. Give OFF line CME a try—April 11-13, 2013

ASSOCIATES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Our Oklahoma ACP Chapter is honored to have the these chapter associates selected to represent our chapter in the Associate Abstract Competition held at Internal Medicine 2012 in New Orleans. It is my understanding that not everyone could attend, but to be selected is an honor.

2012 Internal Medicine Abstract Presenters
Harsh Golwala MD, Associate Research Poster Presenter
Howard Y. Lee DO, Associate Clinical Research Poster Presenter

Welcoming New Fellows
One of the greatest thrills of being governor is leading in the new fellows at convocation. This year I had the privilege of being present when Ashraf R. Mihanni MD FACP of Altus marched at convocation. Please share with me a “hearty congratulations” to Dr. Mihanni. New fellows recently elected include Ann Kent MD, FACP-Muskogee, George Pikler MD, FACP- Tulsa (effective July 1, 2012), and Tim M. Hsieh MD, FACP-Tulsa.
ACP Leadership Day — June 2012

June 6-7, 2012

This was my first Leadership Day and trip to Capitol Hill. Matlock Jeffries MD, ACP Associate, and myself had a busy schedule meeting all of our congressman and/or their representatives. We met face to face with Senator Tom Coburn, Representative Dan Boren, Representative Tom Cole, and Representative James Lankford. We also met with teams of Senator James Inhofe, Representative John Sullivan, and Representative Frank Lucas. Both Matlock (read his experience later in this newsletter) and myself felt that our meetings were positive. We have follow up communication in the works to stress the ACP agenda.

Most of our ACP agenda focused on four major points, which we expressed at each of our seven appointments.

- **Point one dealt with repeal of the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR).**

  The two-day meeting began at the Liaison Hotel, a ritzy establishment about two blocks from the Capitol with an extensive update of the present state of health care legislation and its relevance to us as internists. These included a comprehensive review of the Affordable Care Act, a panel discussion on physician payment and deliver system reforms, and a review of how these reforms fit within the present budget framework. Members of the ACP Leadership in Washington also outlined the key priorities for the College in the coming legislative session, which we would present the following day to our Senators and House Members. For the curious, what follows is a brief description of the four positions we argued for this year:

  ▶ **Eliminate Medicare’s Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR).** Although we present this request annually, this year we had a piece of legislation to point to: H.R. 5707, the Medicare Physician Payment Innovation Act, sponsored by Rep. Allyson Schwartz (D-PA-13) and co-sponsored by Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV-3). If signed into law, this would repeal the SGR, provide more than five years of stable physician payments with positive increases for services and increase primary and preventative care, during which time innovative new models of physician payment based on effectiveness would be explored.

  ▶ **Ensure Full Funding for Essential Health Programs.** As the reader may be aware, our government is facing a fiscal cliff of across-the-board cuts in funding to all federal programs known as sequestration, totaling $1.2 trillion, which will be enacted 1/1/2013, barring bipartisan congressional action. While we certainly agree that reducing government spending and moving towards a balanced budget is essential for the future financial solvency of the

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nation, we argue that reducing funding for all programs, regardless of their efficacy, is a poor game plan. Instead, we introduced five-step plan developed by the College to achieve savings in a more responsible manner, including (1) eliminating the SGR, (2) enacting meaningful medical malpractice reform, (3) promoting high-value care (the high-value, cost-conscious care initiative — See: www.acponline.org/clinical_information/resources/hvccc.htm), (4) making structural improvements to entitlement programs (e.g. allowing the federal government to negotiate drug prices under Medicare Part D), and (5) reforming federal tax policies (including accelerating the ACA’s tax on high-cost health plans).

In closing, I will argue one more point: the absolute necessity of having constituent physicians lobby for these reforms. Through our travels in the hallowed halls of House and Senate office buildings, it became abundantly clear that our elected officials are bombarded nearly every minute of every day with requests for support by professional lobbyists; and one more from the ACP would no doubt have planted the seed of our message upon deaf ears. Having constituent physicians whose practice and daily life are directly impacted by the policies we hope to change imposes an aura of knowledge and real-world experience that elevates our message above the fray and allows us to be much more effective. Both Dr. Baker and I strongly encourage members of the ACP’s Oklahoma delegation, at any point in their career, to consider spending two days in Washington as participants in this vital program. Many physicians are critical of healthcare policy; we owe it to ourselves, our practice, and our nation to move beyond punditry into participation and strive through advocacy to make the future of our noble profession brighter for everyone involved.
2012 FALL SCIENTIFIC SESSION OUHSC/TULSA
As per last year’s evaluations, this year’s topics focus on Palliative Care, Psychiatry, Nephrology, and General Internal Medicine. In addition, we look forward to our ACP Associates presentations/poster presentations, ACP Town Hall Meeting, and our Oklahoma ACP business meeting. Doctor’s Dilemma will be a new special event that I believe all will enjoy. Below is the program schedule and speaker overview.

**Morning Session**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Welcome and Opening Remarks&lt;br&gt;James Baker, MD, FACP&lt;br&gt;ACP Governor, OK Chapter</td>
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<td>8:10 - 900 a.m.</td>
<td>Providing High-Quality Care In Line with Individualized Patient Goals—Current Concepts in Palliative Care&lt;br&gt;Jennifer K. Clark, MD, FAAP</td>
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<td>9:00 - 9:50 a.m.</td>
<td>Demystifying Advances in Psychiatry for the Internist&lt;br&gt;Brian Touchet, MD</td>
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<td>9:50 – 10:15</td>
<td>Break&lt;br&gt;Visit exhibits</td>
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<td>10:15 a.m.</td>
<td>Doctor’s DilemmaTM competition</td>
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<td>11:05 a.m.</td>
<td>ACP Update, Weight of the Nation, and IMPACT&lt;br&gt;James H. Baker, MD, FACP</td>
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<td>11:30</td>
<td>Town Hall Meeting&lt;br&gt;James H. Baker, MD, FACP, Governor, ACP OK Chapter</td>
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<td>12:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Awards Luncheon and Business Meeting</td>
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**Afternoon Session**

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Need To Know Nephrology—Clinical Advances That Will Change Your Practice&lt;br&gt;Charles J. Foulks, MD, FACP, FACN</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Salient Pearls in General Medicine&lt;br&gt;Erik A. Wallace, MD, FACP</td>
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<td>3:20</td>
<td>Break&lt;br&gt;Visit the College table and exhibits</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:40</td>
<td>Associates’ Oral Presentations</td>
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<td>4:40 – 6:00</td>
<td>Poster Presentations/Reception</td>
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DOCTOR’S DILEMMA

Did you see the Doctor’s Dilemma at Internal Medicine 2012 (formerly Annual Session)? If you come to our Oklahoma Chapter 2012 Fall Scientific Session, you are in for a treat. Resident physicians, our own ACP associates from OKC and Tulsa, will compete in a jeopardy style competition of medical questions. Although you will not personally be able to compete, each audience member will be able to test their mettle and medical knowledge as contestants earn points for correct answers and lose points for incorrect answers. Don’t miss this special event. Make the effort to come to OUHSC Schusterman Center/ Tulsa during our Oklahoma ACP Fall Scientific Session, April 28, 2012; and enjoy a competition full of fun and surprise.

Faculty

James H. Baker MD, FACP, is a medical director for Care ATC and a practicing primary care internist with interest in preventative health and chronic disease management. Dr. Baker earned his medical degree from the University of Oklahoma. He did an internal medicine-pediatrics internship at the University of Oklahoma/Tulsa, internal medicine residency/chief residency at the Kansas University/Wichita.

Charles J. Foulks, MD, FACP, FACN is the Chair of the University of Oklahoma, College of Medicine – Tulsa; the Chief Administrator Officer University of Oklahoma School of Community Medicine, Tulsa and Director, OU Wayman Tisdale Health Center in Tulsa. He completed his medical education at the University of Tennessee in Memphis. He completed his residency and fellowship in Nephrology at Brooke Army Medical Center in Fort Sam Houston, TX.

Jennifer K. Clark, MD, FAAP is an Assistant Professor at the University of Oklahoma – Tulsa, School of Community Medicine. She went to medical school at the University of Kansas and completed her residency in Internal Medicine at the University of South Carolina. She is the Division Director of Palliative Medicine, University of Oklahoma – Tulsa and was a participant in Palliative Care Education and Practice at Harvard Medical School Center for Palliative Care in Boston, MA.

Bryan K. Touchet, MD is Vice-Chair, Department of Psychiatry, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine – Tulsa. He received his medical education at the OU – Tulsa.

Eric A. Wallace, MD, FACP is an Associate Professor in the Department of Internal Medicine, University of Oklahoma College of Medicine-Tulsa and the Faculty Administrator at the OU Physicians Clinic. He completed his residency at the University of Alabama in Birmingham. He has served the ACP in many ways as a member of the Membership Committee, a participant in the ACP LEAD Program, chair of the Council of Young Physicians, and as an ex-officio Member of the Board of Regents for ACP.

Program Committee:

John Carment, MD, FACP — Program Chair
Erik Wallace, MD, FACP
Michael Weisz, MD, FACP
James Baker, MD, FACP
ACTION ITEMS —-

Register today for the Oklahoma Chapter Annual Meeting
Enhance your clinical knowledge and skills
Earn CME credit
Network with colleagues
Schusterman Center — Tulsa, OK
Friday September 28, 2012
Register online:  http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/ok/

September 27, 2012 (Time and Place yet to be announced)

Three regional dinner forums
for recruiting new Internal Medicine physicians for ACP membership across Oklahoma
Dates to be determined (Between now and October 2012)