Governor’s Column

My wish for you throughout the New Year is great joy. I view joy differently than happiness. Material things, events and successes may make us happy. Joy, to me, is an internal jubilation not requiring any external stimulus. As we move into our ACP centennial year, look for the blessing of joy in your own life.

The new year is here and we are finishing up what might be the most successful Oklahoma ACP Chapter year in our history. As I close out my term as your Governor, I want to share the state of our chapter. The finances are in the black and the membership is at an all time high. The achievements and accomplishments of our students, residents, members, fellows, and masters are astonishing.

So, is it all roses? Where the roses grow, so are there thorns. Unless you’ve been asleep for the last twelve years, you know that SGR remains yet to be repealed. It remains the "discouraging word " of my term as your governor. Improvements to the maintenance of certification process have been too slow, and late in getting started.

In 100 years of ACP, internists have never given up the fight. Let us unite and muster our unified strength to continue the fight for our patients and a quality healthcare system. A quality system that allows us as physicians time for joy.

God bless you, your loved ones, and your patients during the new year. May the ACP Centennial Year bring you joy.

Jim
DO NOT MISS THE 2015 ACP CENTENNIAL IN BOSTON!

In the words of Dave Loggins, “Please come to Boston in the springtime, I'm stayin' here with some friends and they've got lotsa room.”

- We have not finalized our Oklahoma Reception, but it will be grand. I am still counting on a Boston Tea Party.

- For you Yankees-Red Sox fans, the answer is yes! The two teams will be playing each other at Fenway Park Friday, May 1st, and Saturday, May 2nd. Is the Green Monster and Fenway on your bucket list? Here are links to ticket prices on StubHub for both games:
  - Tickets for Friday, May 1, 2015, at 7:10pm
  - Tickets for Saturday, May 2, 2015, time TBD

- For you history buffs, Boston is enchanting. Meet at the North Church. One if by land, two if by sea.
  - What an honor to be a new fellow and march in convocation during the ACP Centennial! We are four months away. Make your plans now! This will be one of the MOST popular and rooms in Boston will fill up fast.

PLAN NOW on attending this year’s ACP Centennial Internal Medicine 2015 Meeting in Boston from April 30 through May 2. Our Oklahoma Chapter will have a special centennial reception. You will not be disappointed. Register online here.
Awards and Advancements

Masterships

We now have seven living Oklahoma ACP Masters including DeWayne Andrews MD, MACP; Dan Duffy, MD, MACP; Boyd Shook, MD, MACP; and William Smith, MD, MACP. Oklahoma has seen three new ACP masters in the last two years including Mike Bronze, MD, MACP (2015); John Kalbfleisch, MD, MACP (2014); and Mike Weisz MD, MACP (2014). Each of you stay healthy. You are a blessing to us. Our chapter looks up to you as the standard for scholarly excellence. We welcome and honor our newest Master later in this newsletter.

Laureates

We have honored three new Laureates to our Oklahoma Chapter in the last four years. The Laureate is the highest recognition that we as a chapter can bestow on our membership. The Oklahoma Chapter Council makes these recommendations. I have had the honor of bestowing this honor to Dean Drooby MD, FACP and Robert Hauger, MD, FACP. Ali Mohammad MD, FACP also was named a Laureate this year, but could not attend our Fall meeting. He will be formally awarded his Laureate next year. Thanks to each of you Laureates for your service and devotion to ACP and our Oklahoma Chapter.

Mike Bronze, MD, MACP
Oklahoma’s New Master

Ali Mohammad, MD, FACP
Oklahoma’s New Laureate

Robert Hauger, MD, FACP
Oklahoma’s New Laureate
Awards and Advancements

Lifetime Achievements

In 2013, we had the privilege of honoring another Lifetime Achievement Award to Eldon Gibson, MD, FACP (posthumously). He joins Kay Bickham, our Chapter staff executive, as a fellow honoree.

Humanitarian Award

In 2013, we presented the Humanitarian Award to Hanna Sadaah, MD, for his multiple publications on a variety of humanitarian topics.

Advocacy Award

This year, Matlock Jeffries, MD, ACP, was awarded the Oklahoma Advocacy Award. Dr. Jeffries has attended Leadership Day in Washington DC as a resident, chief resident, and early career physician. He has been invaluable in speaking FOR repeal of Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR), FOR Medicaid Primary Care Pay Parity Program, AGAINST Sequestration, and FOR Graduate Medical Education Funding. He is a gifted advocate for our chapter on Capitol Hill.

Fellowship

We have had multiple new fellows in the past four years. Congratulations to each of you fellows for your professional advancement. Obviously, this list is too long to place in this newsletter.
Awards and Advancements

Residents

Our residents have represented the Oklahoma Chapter very well in their oral presentation, poster presentations, and Doctor's Dilemma. Each year we award our winners (top three places) at the state meetings, and we are in our third year of Oklahoma Doctor's Dilemma and interest continues to grow. At Internal Medicine 2015, in Boston, your Oklahoma Chapter will field a team for the national competition, once again representing us nationally after every annual state competition.
Awards and Advancements

Chapter Legacy Centennial Award

In honor of the ACP Centennial, ACP has asked chapters to nominate a member who most exemplifies the attributes of ACP. The award celebrates ACP’s centennial by recognizing one seminal chapter member whose service to the chapter had a significant impact on the chapter’s viability. This individual should exemplify ACP’s core values including leadership, excellence, respect, compassion, professionalism, and responsibility. The Oklahoma ACP Chapter nomination for the Chapter Legacy Centennial Award will be announced in the next few months. Stay tune.
Awards and Advancements

Previous Oklahoma ACP Chapter Masters, Laureates, and Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

Masterships
1984  Solomon Papper, MD, MACP
1987  C. S. Lewis, Jr., MD, MACP
1993  Jay H. Stein, MD, MACP
1999  F. Daniel Duffy, MD, MACP
2004  M. Dewayne Andrews, MD, MACP
2004  M. Boyd Shook, MD, MACP
2007  William R. Smith, MD, MACP
2013  John Kalbfleisch, MD, MACP
2013  Mike Weisz, MD, MACP
2014  Mike Bronze, MD, MACP

Laureates
1988  William L. Hughes, MD, FACP
1988  C. S. Lewis, Jr., MD, MACP
1990  Richard Marshall, MD, FACP
1992  F. Daniel Duffy, MD, MACP
1995  John M. Kalbfleisch, MD, MACP
1998  R. Timothy Coussons, MD, FACP
1999  Marcus Boyd Shook, MD, MACP
2000  M. Dewayne Andrews, MD, MACP
2002  Boyd O. Whitlock, MD, FACP
2003  Eldon V. Gibson, MD, FACP
2008  Michael Weisz, MD, MACP
2009  L. Scott Owen, MD, FACP
2011  S.A. Dean Drooby, MD, FACP
2014  Robert Hauger, MD, FACP
2014  Ali Mohammad, MD, FACP

Lifetime Achievement
2006  Kay Bickham
2013  Eldon V. Gibson, MD, FACP
Membership

I am most proud of our Oklahoma ACP membership growth, particularly medical student membership growth. Over the last four years, the message has been “ACP” and “Internal Medicine” and that message has gone out; Governors received correspondence from ACP national titled “Hot Topics.” To my delight, in the August 2014 release of “Hot Topics,” your Oklahoma ACP Chapter was ranked 6th out of 74 chapters for the highest percentage increase in total membership and was 1 of only 3 chapters that increased growth in every membership category! That’s pretty cool! See below for their “Hot Topics” report.

ACP Hot Topics

Congratulations to all of you! Because of your efforts at the chapter level, ACP membership has reached just over 141,000 members and continues to grow. Your Chapter Liaison should have sent your chapter's Membership Analysis chart. This chart contains year-end, chapter-specific membership data for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Special congratulations to the following 3 chapters who experienced growth within every major membership category (Fellow, Member, Resident, Fellow, and Student):

- Oklahoma – 10.87% overall growth with 99 new members. Oklahoma won an Evergreen award in 2013 and 2014 for targeted recruitment initiatives aimed at medical students and converting resident/fellow members to Big M members.
- Georgia – 5.15% overall growth with 149 new members. Georgia won an Evergreen award in 2013 for special advocacy training and events geared to Early Career Physicians. These events were planned by the chapter’s Council of Young Physicians.
- Ontario – 7.97% overall growth with 112 new members. Ontario has made considerable effort to increase its resident members by identifying resident leaders at each of the medical schools to start ACP clubs and promote membership. They also encourage attendance at the chapter meeting with travel stipends for presenters and awards for the winners to attend IM.
Membership

Below is a list of the chapters, as shown in “Hot Topics,” who had the highest percentage increase in total membership last fiscal year.

**Membership Growth Analysis:**
**Percentage Increase in Total Membership for 2013-2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Percentage Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>48.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>39.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
<td>15.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas</td>
<td>12.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>11.16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Oklahoma</strong></td>
<td>10.87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Asian</td>
<td>8.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>8.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ontario</td>
<td>7.97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>7.91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Michael Bronze for Mastership

Mastership is reserved for the best of the best. This year, the ACP advancement committee was flooded with nominations for Mastership during the centennial year. Below is Dr. Andrews nomination letter for Dr. Michael Bronze. I asked Dr. Andrew’s permission to print this so you, our Oklahoma membership, can be as proud of Michael Bronze MD, MACP as I am. Congratulations, Dr. Bronze.

Chair, Awardee Committee
American College of Physicians
190 N. Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-1572

RE: Michael S. Bronze, M.D., Proposal for ACP Master

Dear Colleagues:

It is my pleasure to support Michael Bronze, M.D., FACP, for being named a Master of the American College of Physicians. Dr. Bronze is currently Professor of Medicine, the Stewart G. Wolf Chair in Internal Medicine and Chairman, Department of Medicine at The University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, a position he has held since 2000. In 2011, he was named a David Ross Boyd Professor, one of the University’s distinguished professorships. Dr. Bronze was elected to Fellowship in the ACP in 2005.

Dr. Bronze was an AOA graduate of the University of Tennessee College of Medicine in Memphis. He took his residency training in internal medicine at the same institution and did a splendid job, being asked to serve a year as chief resident. Residence training was followed by a fellowship in infectious diseases with Dr. Ed Beachey’s group at Tennessee. His fellowship research focused on streptococcal proteins and diseases carried on a long-established tradition at that institution. In 1988, Mike joined the faculty in Memphis as Assistant Professor of Medicine. He was made associate professor with tenure in 1994 and subsequently full professor in 1999. While at Tennessee, Mike was given numerous positions of responsibility handling all of them extremely well. These positions included internal medicine residency program director, co-director of the infectious diseases fellowship program, associate chairman of the department, and associate chief medical officer of the faculty medical practice group.

In 2000, Dr. Bronze was recruited to the University of Oklahoma and its current position. He has done an excellent job in leading the Department of Medicine, strengthening the educational programs, bringing greater cohesion and effectiveness to the interdepartmental faculty practice, recruiting some outstanding new faculty leaders, and working effectively to build the research infrastructure and productivity of the department. He also serves as Chief of Medicine at the OU Medical Center, the large hospital complex that is the primary teaching and faculty inpatient practice facility for the College of Medicine. Mike has enthusiastically served on many important committees and task forces during his tenure here. He is highly regarded among his
Finance

The bulk of our Oklahoma ACP payments were for chapter support, state/national meeting and receptions, Leadership Day, Council Meetings, and recruitment/retention meetings (for medical students, residents, and general membership) – all totaling - $27,767. This compares to $29,667.78 in average payments for seventeen, small to medium chapters our size.

The bulk of our Oklahoma ACP deposits were from dues and ACP activity funding. You do need to know that we still receive some industry support, mostly from hospitals and recruiters. We are certainly much less dependent on the pharmaceutical industry, but we do still utilize them on a much smaller scale than previous. Our deposits were $37,487.94. This compares to $38,540.74 in average deposits for seventeen, small to medium chapters our size.

This results in a net profit of $9720.94 and an ending balance of $89,080.50 (or 3.21 year reserves). We are definitely in the black. We want to be transparent with all our endeavors. I continue to encourage the council to responsibly spend some of this money “back on our membership.” We are continually trying to give you more for your membership dues.

We continue to discuss advocacy and education as potential interest topics. Would you be interested in us sponsoring state and national representatives to speak on healthcare issues? Would you be interested in us sponsoring ICD 10 coding education?

Advocacy

As ACP’s Bob Dougherty says “The saga of Congress and the Medicare Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula is a classic example of bad government.”

Consider this:

- February 20, 2015, marks the 12th anniversary of the first-ever SGR patch, when Congress enacted legislation to temporarily stop the SGR from cutting physician payments.
- Congress has since enacted a total of 17 SGR patches.
- The cumulative budget cost of all the patches comes to nearly $154 billion. Full repeal of the SGR is now estimated to cost less than that.

The fight must continue. David Fleming, MD, MACP, writes:

“This must not spell the end, though, of the effort made by so many members of Congress and their staff members, with the support of ACP and many others, to reach agreement on policies to replace the SGR. The bipartisan, bicameral SGR repeal bill agreed to earlier this year included

David Fleming, MD, MACP
ACP President
several ACP priorities in addition to SGR repeal: creating positive payment incentives for physicians who practice in Patient-Centered Medical Homes; simplifying and harmonizing Medicare reporting programs (including removing scheduled penalties under those programs); and many other improvements. We fully expect that this bill will be considered by the new 114th Congress next year, and we will redouble our efforts to get Congress to act upon it before the current patch expires on March 31.

Similarly, Congress’s failure to reauthorize the current Medicaid primary care pay parity program— which pays primary care physicians and internal medicine and pediatric subspecialists no less than the Medicare rates for designated services to Medicaid enrollees— must not be the end of the story. Because Congress did not reauthorize this program, most physicians in the currently eligible specialties will see deep cuts in their Medicaid primary care payments on January 1. ACP will continue its efforts to inform the new 114th Congress of the devastating impact such cuts will have on Medicaid patients’ access to primary care, and to seek to get the Medicaid pay parity program renewed early in the new Congress.

It is regrettable that the 113th Congress is adjourning without completing action on critically important legislation to reform Medicare physician payments and ensure that Medicaid patients will continue to have access to primary care physicians. The new 114th Congress can, and must, do better.”

What Internal Medicine and the ACP Means to You

On a final note, I wish to share your homework assignment with our Oklahoma ACP membership. If you forgot, I will remind you. You were asked to describe what Internal Medicine and/or the American College of Physicians means to you in a few words.

“Best thing that happened to me!” - Bassam Bilal, MD, OKC

“Excellent Information Resource” - Julun Hong

“Intellectually Challenging, Dynamic, Intense” - Kelly Sprawls, DO, Tahlequah

"Lifetime Of Priceless Satisfying Career” - Lee Allice Goscin, MD, McAlester

“Thoroughly invested in patient care” - Brandon Greene, Cookson

“Caring for the complete adult” - Oliver Cerqueira, DO, Collinsville

“Collegial source of continuing education and experience” - Richard Slagle, MD, Tulsa

“Excellence in medicine” - John Kalbfleisch, MD, Tulsa

“Learning, fellowship, expert, fun, rejuvenating” - Robert Hauger, MD, Tulsa

“Physician continued education and board prep” - Bernadette Miller, MD, Tulsa

“General I.M. – The Greatest Show On Earth!” - Dean Drooby, MD, OKC

“ACP gave me my career” - Mike Weisz, MD, Tulsa

“A genuine melting pot for physicians“ - Tamunosisi Legg-Jack, MBBS, OKC

“Friendship, scholarship, advocacy, and collaboration” - Martina Jelley, MD, Tulsa

“A place and source of learning, excellence, and professional development” - Hamid Mahmood, MBBS, Mustang
The Doctors are Coming!
The Doctors are Coming!

April 30–May 2, 2015 • Boston, MA
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Matlock Jeffries, MD - OKC
Jennifer Ferrell, DO, FACP - Stillwater
Michael Gebetsberger, MD, FACP - Tulsa
James Madison, MD, FACP - Tahlequah
Ali Mohammad, MD, FACP - OKC
Boyd Shook, MD, MACP - OKC
John Schumann, MD, FACP - Tulsa
Sudip Tripathy, MD - Tulsa
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