Hello RI ACP Chapter members!

I hope you are enjoying our snowy February. If your thoughts are turning to Spring, I hope they are turning to the Rhode Island Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting scheduled for May 8, once again at the historic Rhodes-on-the-Pawtuxet in Cranston (more on that below).

**Topics for this newsletter:**

- Congratulations (and correction) to Audrey Kupchan, Governor-elect designee
- Congratulations to Doctor's Dilemma winning team, off to Orlando for national competition
- Important SGR advocacy information act now!
- Register now for RI Chapter scientific meeting

**Congratulations** again to **Audrey Kupchan MD FACP** of Coastal Medical on being elected to be the next Rhode Island Governor. (Dr. Kupchan was incorrectly identified as being affiliated with another medical group in my previous email.) Having the privilege of serving as your Governor these past three years has been a great honor and the most interesting and rewarding activity in my professional career. Be sure to give Dr. Kupchan a hearty congratulations (coupled with an offer of support when she takes over!) when you see her around. Her term as Governor-elect will begin at the IM2014 meeting in Orlando in April, she will assume the role of Governor at the 100th anniversary of the College IM2015 meeting in Boston!

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2014 marks our second foray in recent years into the College's **Doctor's Dilemma** Competition. This year was had a total of 4 teams competing from Kent Hospital, Memorial Hospital, and Rhode Island and Miriam Hospitals. All four teams competed in the elimination round (total points after 2 games) followed by a championship round with single and double "Jeopardy". All four teams were able to amaze and astound those in attendance with their
knowledge of medical facts both useful and arcane (and some both useful and arcane!). Thanks to each of these programs for putting together a team (and to their program directors for their assistance and support!

**pictured:** RI ACP Gov. Tom Bledsoe; Danica Buzniak, Chris Peters and Palmer (Kent Hospital); Caitlin Dugdale (RIH/Miriam); Abdallah Kharnaf, Kawther Alquadan and Mervat Saleh (Memorial); Elizabeth Ko, Patrick Gleason, Sarah Freeman, Matthew Lynch and David Chu (RIH/Miriam); Judge and moderator Amos Charles.

Special congratulations to winning team **Caitlin Dugdale, Sarah Freeman and Elizabeth Ko** whose impressive performance has earned them the opportunity to represent the Ocean State in Orlando at IM2014 in April!

Thanks also to the **RI/Miriam programs** for supplying refreshment and to **Alpert Medical School** of Brown University and new Associate Dean for Medical Education **Allan Tunkel** for hosting the event!

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**Advocacy Alert:** Act now to finally and permanently **fix the SGR!** As you read this, legislation with bipartisan and bicameral support is being advanced to once and for all eliminate the SGR. Act now to get in touch with both Senators Whitehouse and Reed and your Representative Cicilline or Langevin. Urge them to:

1. Cosponsor the SGR Repeal and Medicare Provider Payment Modernization Act (H.R. 4015/S.2000).
2. Bring H.R. 4015 to a vote in the House, and S. 2000 in the Senate, before April 1, when the current SGR patch expires.
3. Do not enact any more SGR patches.

If you are able to attend a town meeting (Rep Cicilline has scheduled one for this Tuesday, 5:30-7 at Hope High school, no RSVP necessary), some talking points are outlined here. If you would be motivated by a short video by ACP President Molly Cooke, watch this! **Be active for your patients, it is part of the profession!!**

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**RI Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting**

Make 2014 the year you reconnect with colleagues and the local Chapter by putting the Annual Scientific meeting onto your calendar! This year, we are pleased to get national and local presentations on the effects of the Affordable Care Act from College Senior Vice President for Governmental Affairs **Bob Doherty** as well as Rhode Island Health Exchange Christie Ferguson, as well as an impressive line-up of speakers. Meeting details and registration information are available at **RI ACP Annual Scientific Program**. We hope to see you there!

Until next time,