Greetings everyone! I hope this finds you well and well satisfied in the work you do for your patients!

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New governor-elect announced!
Congratulations to Audrey Kupchan of Anchor Medical Associates, recently announced as the new "Governor-elect designee" for the Rhode Island Chapter. Dr. Kupchan's bio and personal statement are still up on the Chapter website here. She will become the Governor-elect at the national IM2014 meeting in Orlando and will take over as the Chapter Governor in April of 2015. Warm thanks for all that Mark Braun, election runner-up, has done for the Rhode Island Chapter over the years, a great member of the ACP and terrific asset to our chapter!
Chapter Scientific Meeting
You recently received a "save the date" notice about the upcoming Chapter Scientific Meeting scheduled for May 8, 2014. Put this date onto your calendar now, and if you are scheduled to see patients that day, let your office manager know today that you will not be in the office that afternoon. Russ Corcoran and the program committee have once again put together a great program. You will certainly leave the meeting better informed both about science and about the Rhode Island and national medical delivery "scene". We are pleased to welcome both College EVP Bob Doherty to give the national perspective and our own Christie Ferguson to discuss the development, launch and (by then!) workings of HealthSourceRI, our locally developed and launched Health Insurance Exchange (no failed launches in RI!), in addition to a series of clinical updates I'm sure you will find interesting and well worth your time. More details to follow.

MOC module at Chapter meeting, would you use it?
We had a couple of highly rated MOC modules offered at the Chapter meeting last year. These modules are worth 10 MOC points in exchange for a lively, participatory and informative 2 hours before the start of the actual meeting (last year, they ran 10:00 am-12:00 pm). With continuous MOC coming soon, we will all be working toward ongoing education (and demonstration thereof!) going forward and this may be a good option for you to earn your points (100 points needed every ten years, 10 points earned per year!)
Please take a moment to answer this one question survey about whether we should offer this resource at the meeting.

Changes to UnitedHealthcare's Medicare Advantage program
We are trying to get a handle on how many of you are directly or indirectly affected by United's recent changes to its Medicare Advantage "network". Certainly, network participation and selection in Rhode Island has been less of a factor than elsewhere (and to those primary care practices involved in CSI Rhode Island, the all-payor PCMH project, this has been a non-factor), those days may be coming to a close if United's move is a harbinger of things to come. For the purposes of assessing the scope of the problem, please take a moment to answer (another!) survey on this subject. Making claims that business-related moves by insurers in Rhode Island are bad for patients or practitioners requires data, and your participation will help us to collect that data. Survey link is available here.

Doctor's Dilemma 2014: The Rhode Island Chapter "medical jeopardy" competition!
The program directors and chief medical residents have been gearing up for the 2014 version of our Doctor's Dilemma competition. Each program has promised to put forward at least one team. Local competition winners in 2013 Tim Amass, Steve Kassakian and Matt Lynch made quite a respectable showing last year in San Francisco and we are hoping to build on our success with this year's competition. The winning team will be sent to Orlando to represent Rhode Island. It would be great to have a good crowd on hand for the competition. More details on the local event (in February) to follow!

Are you interested in helping out the Rhode Island Chapter?
Did you know the Rhode Island Chapter has a number of working committees? We currently have groups or individuals related to Advocacy ("Health and Public Policy"), Membership, Early career physicians, Hospitalists, the undergraduate Internal Medicine Interest Group, Program and
Education, Laureate and Chapter Awards as well as the Governor's Advisory Council. Please let me know if you are interested in joining any of these committees. The "ask" by the committee chairs is quite modest!

_Do your patients need help accessing the Rhode Island Health Insurance Exchange HealthSourceRI?_

The College has put together some helpful resources for our patients who will be purchasing insurance through the new Health Insurance Exchange. You may wish to print these out and distribute to your patients or place the link on your practice's website. Check out both physician resources and a printable patient information document.

I hope you all have a nice break over Thanksgiving, and thanks!! to those of you who are covering for the rest of us on that day, we owe you one!

Thomas A. Bledsoe MD, FACP
Governor, Rhode Island Chapter
American College of Physicians