Colleagues,

**Chapter meeting abstract competition!**

Is your research elective or project starting to show some interesting results or have you recently seen a "fascinoma" that your colleagues would be interested to hear about? If so, why not write it up? Now is the time to start thinking about putting together your abstract for the Rhode Island American College of Physicians Annual Scientific Meeting to be held at historic Rhodes on the Pawtuxet on May 7. The deadline is not too far off, so don’t delay! Details about the requirements can be found on the Chapter web site available [here](#).

**ACP Smart Medicine excellent on-the-fly resource**

In case you have not yet had a chance to try it out, I would recommend checking out the College’s clinical decision support tool "Smart Medicine", web-based and mobile-optimized. The resource is available at [Smart Medicine](#); sign in once and let it remember your password. A short video on a hallway use of the site is available [here](#), your team will be amazed at your knowledge base!

**Teaching resource available**

Have a few minutes left over with your team after rounds or mid-afternoon? Take advantage of the the great "In the Clinic" slide sets available [here](#). Numerous topics to help your team learn, they can also be used for attending rounds.

**Advocacy Assistance needed**

As you may know, one component of the Affordable Care Act is a temporary boost to Medicaid Payments to bring Medicaid payments into line with local Medicare rates. Historically, Rhode Island Medicaid rates are well below commercial and Medicare rates (for state specific comparisons, look [here](#)); this has resulted in significant access issues for those who are insured through the state’s Medicaid plan. Through this ACA provision, there has been a temporary boost to payment for treatment by board certified internists, family physicians and pediatricians but this will expire on January 1st this year. The College has a major advocacy campaign underway to extend this program on the theory that better access will lead to treatment that is both more effective and more cost-effective, in other words a **good investment** for the Medicaid program. We have reached out to both Senators Whitehouse and Reed but have not yet gotten a commitment from them to co-sponsor the relevant legislation. Please join us in urging Senators Whitehouse and Reed to get behind this effort, ideally through co-sponsorship. A convenient link to reach out to them is available [at this link](#). Thanks in advance for your help with this! (The College makes advocacy efforts like these easy at the [Advocates for Internal Medicine Network](#) site, register there if you have not yet done so. Be a part of the solution!)
ACP Doctor's Dilemma (a.k.a. "Medical Jeopardy") Competition coming soon

Residents are encouraged to start thinking now about putting together a team for the local competition, the winning team will represent the Rhode Island Chapter at the College's 100th Anniversary national meeting IM2015 in Boston next spring. More on this shortly from your Chief Residents. Test your knowledge (and start practicing!) on your laptop, tablet or smart phone now at this link.

I hope your year is going well and that you are taking every advantage of your training both offered by your training programs and most importantly by your patients!

Thomas A. Bledsoe MD FACP

American College of Physicians

Governor, Rhode Island Chapter