Hi everyone,

I'd like to introduce a new format for a periodic communication to the members of the Rhode Island Chapter of the American College of Physicians. I'll be sending this mini-newsletter from time to time with "hot links" to items of interest that I think will be of value to you, your colleagues and your patients.

I just returned from the ACP's Board of Governor's meeting in Vancouver and am more proud than ever to be part of such a progressive, enthusiastic, knowledgeable and ultimate professional organization as the College! In such a challenging time, it is both reassuring and exciting to have this organization as our partners in the professional side of our lives.

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**Politics and Policy:**

I hope you had a chance to watch the presidential debate earlier this week. To my mind, there was a bit too much "he said, she said" and not enough hard facts. As you may know, the College has a terrific website related to the election [here](#) with an easy to use comparison of both Romney and Obama plans for issues related to health care and health care reform relative to established College policy. In our practice, we have placed these two tables side by side in our examination rooms. While potentially adding another topic to an already over-burdened clinical encounter we, as members of the profession have a responsibility to counter the dominant "we're not going to let [this] campaign be dominated by fact-checkers" sentiment!

There is also a great issue brief on why it is necessary to reform Medicare on the College's policy page at [this site](#). I have found this site very helpful for a quick (or more in depth look at the College's well-reasoned and well-defended policies on a number of topics.
**Be a community mentor for a Brown Medical Student in your office:**

The Doctoring team at Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University is recruiting physician community mentors for first- and second-year medical students. Doctoring Years 1 and 2 is a two-year, four-semester required preclinical course designed to teach the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors of the competent, ethical, and humane physician. Doctoring combines instruction and assessment in medical interviewing, physical examination, and professional development using an educational paradigm that models interdisciplinary teaching and collaboration and promotes patient-centered care, reflection, teamwork, and teacher-learner partnerships. The course uses more than 250 community faculty each year as mentors in the outpatient, inpatient, and emergency room setting.

First-years begin at their mentor sites (Thurs afternoons) the last week of October this year, after their white coat ceremony and runs until early May (about 14 sessions in all). The course still has mentor openings to fill for the school's largest class ever (120!). The second year students have already started but substitute mentors are needed.

Physician mentors may get a Brown ID card, have access to the library (in person and electronically, including Up-to-Date and Dynamed, medical journals and more), fitness center (Brown affiliate discount), and are eligible for a Brown faculty appointment after mentoring and/or teaching 100 hours. Mentoring for 2 years would qualify a physician for the appointment. Mentors can also have access to Canvas, the student course website, which has a wealth of teaching tools, including video and heart sounds, and other resources. Doctoring now has a subscription to the *Teaching Physician* as well, allowing free access for mentors.

Is this a rewarding activity? You bet! This quote from Stephen Davis:

"A doctor I knew was telling me that when he was a medical student, he was asked to interview and work up a patient, but got caught up in listening to the patient's story, which was quite poignant, for all the time that he had for the work up. He was embarrassed to tell his preceptor, that all he had done was to listen to the man's story sympathetically. The preceptor, much to his surprise, responded, 'Maybe you are learning how to do this job.'"

Please contact Julia Noguchi, Assistant Director of the Doctoring Course, for more information. Phone: 401-863-9717. Email: Julia_Noguchi@brown.edu.
**RIMS Bicentennial lecture series:**
The Rhode Island Medical Society, in collaboration with the Brown Institute for Brain Science and the Norman Prince Neurosciences Institute, has put together a fantastic lecture series that I think you will find interesting, though the times may present some logistical challenges!

**October 23, Tuesday**
**Patricia Churchland**
University of California, San Diego & Salk Institute
*How the Mind Makes Morals*
Metcalf Auditorium, Brown campus
Lecture 5pm, Reception 6pm

**October 30, Tuesday**
**Steven Pinker**
Dept of Psychology, Harvard University
*The Better Angels of Our Nature*
Salomon Auditorium, Brown campus
Lecture 5pm, Reception 6pm

**November 1, Thursday**
**Paul W. Glimcher**
Center for Neuroeconomics, NYU
*Decisions, Decisions, Decisions: Understanding the Neural Circuits for Human Choice*
Metcalf Auditorium, Brown campus
Lecture 5pm, Reception 6pm

**November 5, Monday**
**John P. Donoghue**
Brown Institute for Brain Science, Brown University
*Neurobionics: Restoring and replacing lost brain functions with technology*
Location TBD
Lecture 5pm, Reception 6pm

More information at [this link](#).

**Applications being accepted for 2013 ACP Health Policy Internship Program:**
The ACP is accepting applications for the College's Health Policy Internship for Associate and Medical Student Members. This Internship represents a unique opportunity for Associate and Medical Student Members to develop legislative knowledge and advocacy skills by working directly with the College's Washington, DC staff and participating in the the ACP's annual Leadership Day. The internship will last 4 weeks starting on April 29, 2013. The deadline for applications is October 22, 2012. More information and application instructions are available [here](#).

**RI ACP Meeting set for May 9 at Rhodes on the Pawtuxet:**
What a great job Russ Corcoran and the program committee have done in developing a terrific program! Many major local experts, a revised format, likely to include MOC modules and updates from the College. Let your office manager know *today* that your
profession is calling and you won't be seeing patients that afternoon! Details on the program to follow.

More good information to follow! Please be in touch if you have other issues or concerns and wonder what resources the ACP has (or should have!) available. I hope you have a wonderful October, personally, my favorite season in New England,

Tom

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