Warm greetings to all members of the South Dakota Chapter of the ACP! I’m hoping each of you has enjoyed a memorable, meaningful holiday with your family and friends, and that 2013 will be a year of good health, peace, and prosperity for all.

Looking to this past year we had a wonderful annual meeting in Sioux Falls this past September, thanks to the many excellent presenters, moderators, and to our planning chairs, Drs. Eric Larsen and Jeremy Cauwels. It is always, without question, my favorite meeting of the year, and it was a supreme disappointment that my health precluded my attendance.

We had an extraordinary opportunity just this past month to host the President/CEO of the ACP, Dr. Steven Weinberger, as he visited our state to meet with members of our Council, as well as appear on an extremely informative episode of “OnCall,” hosted, as always, by our very own Dr. Rick Holm.

As it relates to national ACP, I would strongly encourage everyone to consider attending the annual scientific meeting, this year held April 11-13, 2013, in the ever popular destination of San Francisco, CA. Talk to anyone who has attended and they will tell you it is a stimulating time of learning and networking, and it is undoubtedly (in my opinion) the pre-eminent scientific meeting of Internal Medicine. We will be hosting a South Dakota reception on Friday night, April 12th, and we will be forwarding additional information of this gathering very soon, so stay tuned! Also, the Board of Governors will be meeting prior to this, on April 9-10, where amongst other key business new resolutions will be considered. These resolutions will be posted on www.acponline.org very soon, and we will also send out blast email notification of this posting. Please forward any comments or suggestions to me, or any of our council members, as we will be meeting on March 15, 2013, to discuss state positions on these important issues.
Governor’s Greetings (continued)

This upcoming year promises to be a fascinating, and hopefully exciting year for our chapter, and internal medicine in general. The challenges are known to almost all of you....the ongoing federal fiscal crisis and political gridlock, the ongoing lack of any sort of permanent fix to the SGR debacle, as well as anticipated attempts to defund key provisions within the ACA. On the state level a one-time increased dispersal of Medicaid payments obscures the much deeper concerns regarding recommendations by the governor to neither participate in Medicaid expansion (and the federal dollars available with such participation), nor establish state level exchanges. Both have huge ramifications upon access, as well as the potential to create large numbers of newly under or uninsured. Therefore opportunities for grass roots connections with our local, as well as national legislators, will be abundant. Organized medicine’s voice must be heard, and the ACP has done a marvelous job of keeping patient access, as well as models for cost containment, at the forefront. Please consider using the support of the ACP for your individual efforts to inform political leaders of the needs of your practice, and the patients who depend upon your services. Consider becoming a “key contact” of the ACP, and you may find further information at the ACP website, www.acponline.org.

As many of you already know, I have been “in absten(ia)” from the state for several months, having resided in Rochester, MN beginning in late October, to receive medical treatment surrounding an allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant I received this November 15th past. I am now three months along in that medical adventure, doing reasonably well, and have just returned to Sioux Falls on February 9th, where I will continue treatment, monitoring, and recovery. As you can well imagine, regardless of my current state of health, it is wonderful to be home. Many of you, my treasured colleagues, have been so terrifically supportive of me, Tacey, and our entire family as we have faced this monumental challenge, and I want to express our deep thanks and appreciation for your concern, thoughts, notes, email, cards, and prayers. They have buoyed us up at countless points along the way. I would also want to extend a special thanks to two key individuals who have kept our marvelous chapter moving ahead without missing a beat....our executive director, Kris Rahm, and our appointed vice-chair, Matt Bien. You two have been phenomenal, and have lifted a great burden from my shoulders. Thank you.

Finally, be sure to block out your calendars for the annual scientific and business meeting of our South Dakota chapter to be held September 11-13, 2013, at SpringHill Suites in Deadwood, SD. The planning committee, led by local chair Dr. Ashok Kumar, has put together another terrific meeting, including updates, case reports, and a SEP module useful for recertification, as well as a fantastic springboard for very lively discussion and debate. The banquet will be held at Jake’s, arguably the best restaurant in the state, and the Fall setting should bring great weather and colors....Ashok has assured us of that....so don’t miss it.
2012 Annual Meeting Highlights:
On behalf of the Awards and Nominations Committee, I would like to again congratulate our 2012 SD ACP award recipients:

Jeremy Cauwels, MD FACP – Young Physician of the Year

This award honors an internist who is practicing in the state of South Dakota and is within sixteen years of graduation from medical school. The recipient should demonstrate the ideals of the profession and maintain an active role in the SD ACP.

Dr. Cauwels began his ACP involvement while in residency in Kansas. For the South Dakota chapter, he has served as a SEP module moderator, Co-Coordinator of the 2012 ACP meeting, and currently chairs the Young Physicians committee.

Eric Larson, MD FACP – Teacher of the Year

This award honors a member who exemplifies talent, enthusiasm, and professionalism in medical education. The recipient may demonstrate excellence in education at the medical student, graduate, or continuing education level. Beyond his ACP activity, Dr. Larson is an Associate Professor with the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and serves as the Associate Residency Director for the Department of Internal Medicine. His teaching endeavors involve all levels of medical education. In recognition, he has received multiple teaching awards with the university and residency program.

Annette Bosworth, MD – Award for Volunteerism

This award is bestowed upon a member who has initiated or been involved in volunteer programs or provided exemplary volunteer service. The volunteer activity may include education and teaching endeavors, service to the underprivileged, or work with community service organizations and should be medically related. Dr. Bosworth’s volunteer activities include many presentations and seminars on preventive medicine. Her service to the underserved is highlighted by multiple medical mission trips to Haiti.

Richard Holm, MD FACP – Laureate Award

This award honors Fellows or Masters of the ACP who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, and service to their community, their Chapter, and the American College of Physicians. Beyond his busy clinical practice, Dr. Holm has been active throughout his career in all aspects of medicine at the local, state, regional, and national level, including terms as President of the SDSMA and Governor of SD ACP. His advocacy efforts also involve hosting radio and television shows that have been on the air for more than a decade.

The committee has reviewed nominations for 2013 at our meeting in early January. If members have questions for the committee, please feel free to contact me at matt.bien@usd.edu. I hope to see everyone in Deadwood for our state meeting September 12-13, 2013.
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