Hello friends.

I am writing this after a great vacation and I'm still reverberating with the philosophical perspective that sometime comes with getting out of the grind.

I was informed that the late Dr. Charley Gutch's wife, Betty, recently passed away and that perhaps the membership should be made aware to allow for her remembrance. This has been a year of deaths for this chapter. As we lost our friends Drs. Tom Braithwaite and Don Humphreys, we saw how two men faced their situation with courage, calm, and consideration for those around them. They were two heroes in how they lived their lives, and then how they graciously finished their day.

Most of us deal with dying patients almost daily and I realize Internists commonly have a different perspective on this process. Sometimes it brings an over-active feeling of responsibility, which compels us to try and do better and/or unfortunately to detach. Sometimes it brings a great feeling of reward in having the training, ability, and experience to help people and families through this difficult time. Death is always in the room, we know him well, and we are best off not fearing the rascal.

You should know changes have been happening with the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and Maintenance of Certification (MOC). Dr. Matt Bien and I, representing your concerns, have voiced significant frustration with the ABIM MOC process, along with a crowd of other internists, and we were heard. Dr. Steve Weinberger and our leadership at ACP came forth with the following:

"Our recommendations to ABIM have most recently centered around 4 broad areas:

1) content, i.e. making substantive changes in the MOC process, including the secure examination and the self-assessment of practice component;
Governor’s Greetings  
(Continued)

2) timing, i.e. making the changes on a very rapid timeline; 
3) website reporting, i.e. changing "meeting MOC requirements" to "participating in MOC"; and 
4) tone of communication, i.e. accepting responsibility for the problems (and for fixing them) rather than defending the current MOC process."

The result was that the ABIM apologized. Wow!

Go to https://attach.acponline.org/docs/01130548_150203142535.pdf for the full ABIM letter of apology, which was in response to our ACP pressure to change and to our Dr. Steve Weinberger’s leadership. For Steve's full letter of response go to https://leadership.acponline.org/sites/default/files/shared/documents/resources/college-resources/20150204_moc_email_to_members.pdf.

Here we realize one more reason to be a member of the ACP. Please encourage your Internist friends to join the noble effort with membership.

I am excited about our up and coming September meeting in Omaha. It will truly be "the best meeting of your year."

Message from Governor-Elect
Matt N. Bien, MD, FACP FAAP

Greetings, I hope this ACP update finds each of you enjoying the New Year. These past few months have been full of transition for our chapter. We will dearly miss Tom Braithwaite and his many contributions. Thank you to Rick Holm for his service as Acting Governor and to Kris Rahm for keeping the chapter strong, steady, and moving forward.

Looking ahead in 2015, I invite you to consider two great meetings. This year’s National Meeting will be held in Boston, MA, from April 30-May 2. Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the ACP should make the 2015 event even more exciting. Details can be found at http://im2015.acponline.org/home-page.

Our annual South Dakota Chapter Meeting will be held with our ACP neighbors to the south. We will all gather in Omaha, NE, on September 17-18. We have an outstanding meeting planned with something for everyone from student to seasoned clinician. More info can be found after June 1st on our chapter website http://www.acponline.org/about_acp/chapters/sd/news_meet.htm.

I have met many of you over the past 15 years. For those I have yet to meet, here is a quick background. I grew up on a farm in northeast South Dakota, graduated from Augustana and then medical school at the University of South Dakota, ventured to the land of cheese and trees to complete a combined residency program in Internal Medicine and Pediatrics in Marshfield, Wisconsin, and then returned to the community of Brookings to build a primary care practice. I enjoy running which helps me keep up with three teens - one in college and twins who are juniors in high school.

Medicine is truly a rewarding profession. Yet, each of us can think of ways to make it better. I look forward to working with you in the coming years to advance the ACP in our state and nationally. Please feel free to reach out to me at bien@brookings.net any time with questions, concerns, or new ideas.
Donald W. Humphreys, MD, MACP

The Chapter Centennial Legacy Award celebrates ACP’s centennial by recognizing one seminal chapter member whose service to the chapter had a significant impact on the chapter’s viability. This individual should exemplify ACP’s core values including Leadership, Excellence, Respect, Compassion, Professionalism and Responsibility.

In the four decades since moving to South Dakota following residency and fellowship at Indiana University, Dr. Donald W. Humphreys has made an indelible mark on the South Dakota ACP chapter. Within the chapter he has served in numerous roles including Governor from 1987 to 1992. His commitment to the profession and the ACP was recognized with the chapter’s Laureate award in 1999.

Many know him for his tireless pursuit of excellence, most notably in teaching and scholarly activities. Dr. Humphreys has received teaching awards from his department, the medical school, and residency programs. His devotion to scholarly activity continues as an Emeritus professor. He teaches regularly at the medical school and sponsors an annual poster competition for internal medicine residents. Colleagues and students hold Dr. Humphreys in highest regard for his kindness and compassion. This lifelong devotion to medicine was acknowledged with the state medical association’s Distinguished Service Award in 2014.

In 1992, the South Dakota Chapter of the ACP began awarding the Donald W. Humphreys Scholar’s Day Award, which has enabled our winning resident to present their poster each year at National ACP’s Annual meeting each spring. With his passing, we have received several donations in his memory:

Tacey Braithwaite
Dr. H. Bruce & Judy Vogt
James and Virginia Collis
Dr. Rick & Joanie Holm

If you wish to contribute in Dr. Humphreys’ memory, please send a check payable to SD ACP to:

Kris Rahm
4904 S. Sweetbriar Dr.
Sioux Falls, SD 57108
The SD, IA, KS and NE Chapters of the American College of Physicians invite you and a guest to their reception during IM 2015 in Boston Friday, May 1st

Boarding begins at 5:30 pm
Cruise is from 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Light hors d’oeuvres
Gourmet coffee station
Cash bar

Space is limited so registration is required
Directions to dock and boarding pass emailed upon completion of registration
No registration fee for ACP members from host chapters
Guests pay $63

Please see this website for registration form: (insert chapter URL here)

Questions? Contact Kris Rahm at krisrahm@me.com

For IM2015 Meeting Details: http://im2015.acponline.org/
Personal Financial Planning

As a supplement to the ACP Leadership Academy, the College offers a series of free online webinars on leadership topics relevant to internal medicine. These webinars provide both an educational experience and a discussion forum so that ACP members can learn, pose questions, and share ideas with leaders in the internal medicine field.

Registration is now open for the next webinar in the series, “Personal Financial Planning for Physicians,” which will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 6:30 p.m. ET. The webinar, which is intended for early career physicians, will be presented by Ralph L. Hibbs, Jr., MBA, CPA, Chief Financial Officer at American College of Physicians.

Register for the Personal Financial Planning for Physicians webinar and visit learn more about the ACP Leadership Academy.

Webinar Details:

Topic: Personal Financial Planning for Physicians
Date: March 17, 2015
Time: 6:30-8:00 PM EST
Presenter: Ralph L. Hibbs, Jr., MBA, CPA
Cost: FREE

Registration:
https://acpmeetings.webex.com/acpmeetings/onstage/g.php?

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NE/SD ACP CHAPTER SCIENTIFIC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2015 - OMAHA, NE
DETAILS ON SD ACP WEBSITE AFTER JUNE 1ST
What ACP Advocacy Did for You in 2014

ACP advocacy and policy development, with other allied organizations, worked to improve your practice environment and help you provide high quality care. Here’s a summary of our most important efforts and initiatives in 2014, and why they matter:

1) Progress made to reduce egregious practice in health plans
2) Payment for chronic care management
3) Increased transparency for physician fee schedule
4) More flexible meaningful use criteria
5) Improved Medicare shared saving program
6) ACP member was appointed Surgeon General
7) Uninsured rate reached historical low
8) Increased funding to train primary care physicians
9) Reduced administrative burden on physicians

Progress in Other Areas:
We are continuing to make progress in other areas as well, due to ACP advocacy and policy development efforts, working with other allied organizations.

1) Bill to repeal the SGR
2) Legislation to extend the Medicaid Primary Care Parity Program.

More information can be found at:
http://www.acponline.org/advocacy/where_we_stand/other_issues/top_wins_2014.htm

ACP LEADERSHIP DAY

MAY 20-21, 2015

WASHINGTON, DC

Grants for Early Career Physicians, Residents and Students will be available to help offset travel expenses.
If interested in attending, please notify Kris Rahm at krisrahm@me.com.
Receive Benefits from Recruiting New Members

We would like to increase our membership numbers for South Dakota ACP.

Do you know of an internist in your community who is not currently a member but might consider joining ACP? If so, please talk to her/him about the benefits of ACP membership including MOC help, advocacy regarding physician reimbursement and practice issues, CME opportunities, etc.

Under the “Recruit-a-Colleague Program” you will receive a $100 credit toward your 2015-16 annual dues when you recruit a new member - be sure to have your name on the application. If your recruit 4 new members, your national dues will be paid in full. This also translates to more funds for the chapter to host a high quality chapter meeting each year and continue the work of ACP. You can find more information at http://www.acponline.org/membership/recruit/domestic.htm

Each new member and the recruiter will have their South Dakota Chapter meeting fee waived this year (contact Kris Rahm at krisrahm@me.com for details).

Thank you for your help in strengthening our chapter!

2014 Chapter Excellence Award
Kris Rahm, Executive Director

I am pleased to announce that our chapter is in receipt of the 2014 Chapter Excellence Award! The award recognizes chapters which successfully meet the standards for managing a chapter. In order to achieve the Chapter Excellence Award, chapters must meet all basic criteria and seven optional criteria. Criteria include such activities as formulating an effective Governor’s Council and committees, communicating frequently with membership, providing educational opportunities, recruiting and advancing members and celebrating membership through local awards. I would like to extend a special thanks to those chapter members who assisted me in all of these endeavors! For their hard work and dedication, we received this award.