On behalf of the South Dakota ACP, and as Chair of the Nominations and Awards Committee, I am pleased to announce that Dr. David Sandvik has been selected for advancement to Mastership with the American College of Physicians.

ACP Bylaws state that Masters shall be Fellows who have been selected because of “personal character, positions of honor, contributions towards furthering the purposes of the ACP, eminence in practice or in medical research, or other attainments in science or in the art of medicine”. Masters must be highly accomplished individuals. Evidence of their achievements can come from many types of endeavors such as research, education, health care initiatives, volunteerism, and administrative positions. The Master must be distinguished by the excellence and significance of his or her contributions to the field of medicine.

David E. Sandvik is a native of Colton, South Dakota. He graduated from St. Olaf College in 1966, majoring in Philosophy. Utilizing a Rockefeller Theological Fellowship, he earned a MA in Biblical Literature and Religion from Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University. After stints as a social worker and middle school teacher in New York City, he obtained his MD from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School at Dallas in 1976, followed by an Internal Medicine Residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. He moved to Rapid City, SD in 1979, working as a traditional internist until taking the newly-available Geriatrics Boards in 1988. With other South Dakota geriatricians, he has practiced primarily geriatrics since then. He served as Governor of South Dakota's Chapter of the American College of Physicians 2000-2004. Beginning in 2005, he served as founding Director of the SD Institute of Geriatrics, continuing to practice in nursing homes until 2014. In 2010, he started a Geriatrics Fellowship at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, serving as Program Director until October 2015. He plans to continue teaching geriatrics at all levels, though at a slower pace, after retiring as the Fellowship’s Program Director. He joins a select group of South Dakota ACP members who have achieved Mastership status: Jack Barker, Rick Holm, Mary Nettleman, Rodney Parry, and Robert Talley.

Recipients are invited to the spring national meeting to receive this honor, and we will recognize Dr. Sandvik at our annual meeting next fall. In the meantime, please extend your congratulations to our latest South Dakota ACP Master, Dr. David Sandvik at david.sandvik@usd.edu.

Candace Zeigler, MD, FACP, Chair, Awards Committee