TNACP Literature in Medicine Reading Retreat

Our retreat this year occurred March 3-5 at Fall Creek Falls and was the 30th. It was once again facilitated by Gregory O’Dea, PhD and organized by Mark Anderson, MD, FACP. The theme was: Ecosystems: Interconnections of Our Worlds. In the program announcement Dr. Anderson, had laid out the premise of the meeting in his program announcement:

“As our knowledge base in medicine has grown exponentially and specialization has resulted, our care has often become more and more fragmented. The knowledge of our environment and the effects of our behavior on it has also expanded markedly and how we care for patients has often failed to keep pace. Optimizing health for people must increasingly take into account the interconnectedness of the systems in our body and of our bodies with the world around us (and worlds in us, i.e., the microbiome), or we doctors risk creating problems even as we work to fix them. Our attempts to better understand all of these issues can be assisted by reading eminent and eloquent thinkers who have thought and written for years about the world and our relationship to it.”

The following books were included in the reading list as well as a list of selected poems and essays

The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry – Wendell Berry
Pilgrim at Tinker Creek – Annie Dillard
Ecology of a Cracker Childhood – Janisse Ray
The World Without Us – Alan Weisman

The venue over a late winter weekend at a state park allows not only an opportunity for CME but time to relax and spend time with family. I would particularly encourage participation from early career physicians as this is a break from traditional medical knowledge accumulation of the usual CME meetings or MKSAP modules and children love being at the state park. Next year’s Reading Retreat will be Friday evening March 2 through Sunday morning March 4, 2018. I would suggest contacting Connie Reece, reservationist, Fall Creek Falls Inn (1-800-250-8610) and mention you will be attending the ACP meeting now as there are limited rooms. Cabins, if you are bringing friends or family, are particularly hard to get. Dr. Anderson mails out the announcement to register for the meeting with book selection and theme in the fall and there will be a reminder in the newsletter. Additional questions regarding the Reading Retreat may be emailed to Mark at maidpc@epbinternet.com.