



Wisconsin
Chapter

BADGER BEAT



ACP Badger Beat - January, 2018

Greetings from the North Coast of Wisconsin. As of this writing, we are experiencing some seasonally brisk (some would say frigid) winter weather. I hope that you had a pleasant Holiday season and that you found some time for family activities, relaxation, and maybe some recreation. I will use this newsletter to bring you up to date on past and upcoming events and on other matters.

2018 Doctor Day

As I mentioned in the most recent issue of this newsletter, we have an upcoming opportunity for our voices to be heard at the state Capitol on January 30th. The Wisconsin Medical Society (WMS) is convening the 2018 annual Doctor Day in Madison. Please join our Wisconsin ACP and other physicians and physician organizations as we come together to advocate for our patients and our profession.

We plan to caucus as a group before and after the morning session to organize our thoughts and priorities to present to our state legislators. We hope to see many of you there. If you are interested in attending and have not yet registered, please [click here](#) to access the WMS website for further information and to register. If you do plan to attend the event, please let me know of your plans (belknapfacp@centurytel.net) and please seek out our ACP-Internal Medicine table when you arrive.

Internal Medicine 2018

Now is the time to make plans to attend the annual national ACP meeting which takes place in 2018 in New Orleans on April 17 - 21. Pre-courses are held on April 17 - 18, and the Scientific Program is on April 19 - 21. This meeting provides the opportunity to learn from high quality faculty from around the country and to earn MOC points and CME credits.

[Click here](#) to access the Internal Medicine 2018 web page.

New Fellows and Masters from the Wisconsin Chapter and other chapters will be formally inducted at the Convocation Ceremony on Thursday evening.

Each year, a highlight for many of us who attend the meeting from Wisconsin is the Wisconsin Chapter Reception. This year it will be held at Arnaud's, which is near the Convention Center meeting site, on Thursday, April 19 just following the Convocation Ceremony. Arnaud's is a well-known restaurant featuring Creole cuisine. The reception is a chance to get together with colleagues from around the

state, to renew old friendships and to meet new acquaintances, and to do this in a relaxed, welcoming environment. We always have a good turnout of practicing physicians and residents from Wisconsin, as well as a few who drop by who have roots in Wisconsin. This will also be an opportunity for you to meet Dr. Noel Deep, our incoming Governor of the Wisconsin Chapter who will begin his term at the close of this annual meeting.

I hope that many of you will plan on attending the meeting and that we see you at our reception.

Chapter Membership and Activities

As Governor of our Wisconsin Chapter of ACP, I have considered that one of my principle goals has been to represent, serve, and engage the broad spectrum of our members, considering the variables of location in the state, practice type (whether inpatient or outpatient or a combination of both, self-employed to employment with a large integrated healthcare system), stage in career (student to resident to practicing to retired), as well as other aspects of diversity. Our chapter has a relatively stable membership, but we need to continually consider how to reach out to include those of our colleagues who are not ACP members. If you have thoughts on how the chapter might reach internists in your community, please let me know (belknapfacp@centurytel.net).

However, we know well that the most effective way to recruit a new member to ACP is by a personal contact from a current member. As an added incentive for you to encourage colleagues to join ACP, there is a program through national ACP, called appropriately enough the Recruit-A-Colleague Program, that provides a discount on membership fees for recruiting colleagues to membership. Here is a [link](#) to the ACP webpage that describes the program. Please think about internists in your community and consider reaching out to them about joining ACP.

I plan to write about opportunities for involvement in our chapter activities for the next issue of the chapter newsletter, but if you have interests or ideas that you wish to discuss sooner, please let me know.

Chapter Awards

We believe in the importance of awards from our chapter to acknowledge contributions to our chapter and to the community, to inspire and support each other in our endeavors, and to increase our sense of community within our chosen specialty of Internal Medicine.

We are extremely interested in receiving nominations of highly deserving internists from around Wisconsin for our state chapter awards, of which there are several in various categories. These awards are presented at the George Magnin Awards Luncheon, which is part of our Chapter Meeting in September. Our hope is that we can increase the geographic diversity of award recipients. Please take a look at the list of awards via the link below and give serious thought to which internist(s) in your community is/are deserving of one of the awards and then make use of the form on the ACP-WI website to submit the nomination(s). The deadline for submitting the awards this year is March 21, 2018.

[Click here](#) to access the ACP-Wisconsin Chapter Awards Nomination Website

2018 Herbert S. Waxman Chief Resident Teaching Scholarship Awarded to Wisconsin Chapter Member
Dr. Sara Dunbar, a chief resident in the Medical College of Wisconsin Internal Medicine Residency Program, recently received this award.

This scholarship was established to recognize outstanding Chief Medical Residents and to provide them an opportunity to assist teaching popular workshops, under the guidance and mentorship of expert faculty, in the Herbert S. Waxman Clinical Skills Center at ACP's 2018 Internal Medicine Meeting. Dr. Dunbar shares this honor with five other Chief Residents from across the country, so this is indeed a selective award and an honor. Congratulations to Dr. Dunbar!

Resolutions from the Fall Board of Governors Meeting

The last round of resolutions was large in number, and several of the resolutions elicited much discussion. For those of you interested in reviewing all of the resolutions, I refer you to this link, where they are available:

https://www.acponline.org/system/files/documents/about_acp/chapters/wi/f17_mtg_resolutions.pdf

In the effort to keep this newsletter of readable length, I will keep the number of resolutions and corresponding discussion brief. My choices among the resolutions was a bit arbitrary and was based on my opinion of what will be of most interest to you, the readers.

Resolution 8-F17. Addressing the Impact of and Establishing Guidelines for Electronic Patient-Physician Communication Methods:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents initiates an evaluation of the extent and impact of electronic communication methods on patient care, access, privacy, quality and physician burnout; and be it further RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents creates "reasonable expectation" guidelines for electronic patient-physician communication that can be a basis for patients, physicians, and institutions to reference; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents develops and makes available to ACP members a "patient guide to communication with your health care team" that can be distributed to patients and their families by their physician offices.

This resolution was wordsmithed considerably to make its intent more clear and actionable. I think that it addresses an increasing concern for practicing physicians.

Resolution 13-F17. Invoking Patent Law to Make Direct Acting Antivirals Accessible to Medicaid Populations:

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents should advocate for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to take urgent steps to lower the price of medications for low-income populations, including invoking 28. U.S.C. (§)1498 to obtain direct acting antivirals to treat HCV at a cost which will make them accessible to the Medicaid populations.

This resolution had strong support. I include it because we have previously had discussion in our

Wisconsin Chapter Health and Public Policy Committee about this issue as a result of our state's administration's policies on this issue.

Resolution 11-F17. Developing Guidance to Support ACP Members in States that Have Legalized Physician Aid in Dying (PAD)

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents develop guidance to support ACP members in states that have legalized Physician Aid in Dying (PAD); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents assess the literature and resources on best practices in advanced care planning (including goals of care discussions), provision of palliative care in advanced disease, and compassionate patient-centered end of life care, and develop educational resources should these be inadequate.

As you might expect, this resolution engendered a lot of discussion. An updated policy on PAD has recently been approved by the Board of Regents, and there was a predominance of opposition to changing that policy shortly after its adoption, which would have been the outcome of the resolution as submitted. The second Resolved was actually submitted by its authors as a substitution; it is more nuanced, acknowledges the current policy, and was thought by most on the Board of Governors to be acceptable.

Resolution 14-F17. Adopting ACP Policy Protecting Access to Essential Reproductive Health Services including Contraceptive Services and Abortion

RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents develop policy recommending that access to comprehensive reproductive health services including all medically-accepted forms of contraception and abortion is assured.

This resolution also had long and vigorous discussion. The wording was modified to some extent after the discussion, but the essential intent remained. The argument for the less nuanced language regarding abortion was that the current political climate requires strong wording to avoid the loss of access to abortion in situations where the life of the mother is endangered. There remained considerable opposition to the resolution, but it passed on a majority vote.

Please contact me if you have questions or comments on any of the resolutions or on my commentary. My email address is belknapfacp@centurytel.net.

I am interested to hear from you about issues of interest to you regarding ACP, both nationally and in our chapter.