Holiday greetings from La Crosse!
I hope everyone found the opportunity to take a break from the usual work activities during the holiday season and to spend some time with family and friends.
In this issue of the Badger Beat, we will take a brief look back at some of the ACP highlights of 2013 and a quick look ahead to some of the key events occurring in 2014.

2013
In 2013, the ACP prioritized advocacy efforts to support funding of what they felt were the most important elements of the Affordable Care Act and state Medicaid changes. The ACP continues to support the basic premise of affordable health insurance for all U.S. citizens, with the most needy and vulnerable patients being covered in state Medicaid programs.

Strong efforts continued throughout the year in lobbying to get rid of the SGR (automatic Medicare payment cuts to physicians) and to replace it with a stable, predictable model of payment reforms. These reforms would ideally include ‘quality of care’ as a factor in reimbursement. It appears the ACP’s long term lobbying efforts may finally be paying off, as congress implemented a .5% increase in physician payments for the first 3 months of 2014 giving them time to finalize, what is hoped to be, bipartisan legislation that does away with the SGR.

In September, the national ACP in their continued efforts to support evidence based medicine and cost effective care rolled out their new educational website (replacing PIER Online) entitled: ‘Smart Medicine’. If you have not investigated the ‘Smart Medicine’ site yet, it is very much worth your time to do so. ‘Smart Medicine’ is only available online to ACP members. [Click here](#) to check out ‘Smart Medicine’.

The Wisconsin Chapter of the ACP held another very successful State Meeting in September with outstanding poster presentations offered by residents from the five Internal Medicine residency programs from around the state plus numerous clinical updates from various specialties. This is an outstanding meeting that offers the chance to network with other internists from around the state. The presentations from the September 2013 State Scientific meeting can be found on the State Chapter Website. [Click here](#) to view the Wisconsin Chapter website.

2014
A very brief look ahead at a few of the highlights coming in 2014 include:

Internal Medicine 2014 is being held in Orlando, Florida April 10-12. This premiere meeting of the year for internists and primary care physicians is a ‘can’t miss’ event for those looking to stay current with the latest in health care guidelines and advances. Don’t miss our Wisconsin
Reception being held the evening of Thursday April 10th at Café Tu Tu Tango in downtown Orlando (more details will be provided later this spring).

‘Leadership Day on Capitol Hill’ will be occurring May 21-22, 2014 in Washington D.C. at the Westin Hotel. If you have never attended, this is a very interesting event in which representatives from our state ACP chapter visit the offices of Wisconsin congressmen/women and advocate for prioritized ACP agenda items. Expenses for this event are generally significantly defrayed by state chapter funds.

Our 2014 State Scientific Meeting will be occurring September 5-6th, once again at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. Please mark your calendars! We are extremely interested in receiving nominations of highly deserving internists from around Wisconsin for our State Chapter Awards. These awards are presented at our state meeting every September. Please see the attached PDF for the award descriptions and nomination form.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the ACP or if you are interested in applying for advancement to Fellowship in the ACP. My email is sbpearso@gundersenhealth.org.

Reminder - Dr. Mark Belknap, an internist from Ashland, Wisconsin, is the current Governor-Elect for the Wisconsin ACP Chapter. He will be assuming the Governorship at the conclusion of Internal Medicine 2014 in Orlando in April.

Attachments:

NOTE: The links below will direct your browser to the location where the documents attached to this email have been posted.

ACP-WI Awards Nomination Form