Greetings from the North Coast of Wisconsin, where we are enjoying a pleasant fall, though with ongoing plentitude of rain. We can be grateful that we have been spared the consequences of the extreme weather events experienced elsewhere in the U.S. and outlying islands, and our thoughts are with those who have suffered from those storms. I will use this newsletter to bring you up to date on past and upcoming events and other issues.

2017 Wisconsin Chapter Meeting

Our chapter meeting was held at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells on September 8 - 9. We had a very good attendance of practicing and retired physicians, along with a large contingent of residents from the five programs in the state. The Friday program started with three Maintenance of Certification (MOC) modules presented by Drs. Kurt Pfeifer, Ann Maguire, and Theresa Maatman. The residents presented a full schedule of fascinating case vignettes along with the largest number of poster presentations in our chapter's history, continuing the recent trend of increasing resident participation in our meeting. As always, the Doctors Dilemma competition was exciting and educational. It was won by the team from the residency program at the University of Wisconsin.

The Saturday program covered diverse clinically relevant topics with uniformly high quality presentations. Dr. Eileen Barrett attended our meeting as the College Representative. She is a Regent of the College; she is a General Internist, and she practices Hospital Medicine at the University of New Mexico. She gave a very informative and inspiring talk entitled Using Evidence to Promote Physician Wellness and Reduce Burnout: Unexpected Lessons in Physician Wellness from Sierra Leone, in which she connected her experience in the extremely stressful environment of caring for Ebola patients in Sierra Leone with the current burdens of an internist's practice in the our country. Special thanks go to Drs. Bipin Thapa and Tom Shiffler, who served as Co-Chairmen of the Program Committee this year, and to Dr. Rachel Hawker, who again served as Chairman of the residents' portion of the program with the assistance of Dr. Kurt Pfeifer. During the Town Hall, we discussed current ACP national initiatives and priorities. Chapter bylaws, which had been distributed to members ahead of the meeting, were presented and approved by a vote of members present.

The clinical vignette competition winners and the displayed poster competition winners are listed below:

The 2017 Addis and Mary Lou Costello Family Award for Excellence in Medicine Displayed Posters
Winners (Three-Way Tie for First Place)
1st Place Winner: Vimalkumar Patel, MD - Aurora Health Care
"A Life Threatening and Uncommon Cause of Nontraumatic Subdural Hematoma"

1st Place Winner: Reggie Thoimes, DO - Gundersen Medical Foundation
"Insulin-Derived Amyloidosis"

1st Place Winner: Yaoli Yang, MD - University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics
"When Pulse Oximetry Lies"

The 2017 Case-Based Vignette Winners

Winner: Kurt Swanson, MD - Medical College of Wisconsin
"Sweet's Syndrome"

Runner Up: Jamal Janjua, MD - Gundersen Medical Foundation
"Hemophagocytic Lymphohistiocytosis as an Initial but Fatal Presentation of T-Cell Lymphoma"

The 2017 Research-Based Vignette Winners

Winner: Matthew Brunner, MD - University of Wisconsin
"Fluoroquinolone Restriction Decreases Rates of Clostridium Difficile: Results of a Mixed-Methods Study"

Runner Up: Bilal Unar, MD - Marshfield Clinic
"Implementing Structured Bedside US Curriculum for Internal Medicine and MED-PEDS Resident Education: A Signal Center Experience"

2017 Wisconsin Chapter Awards

The George Magnin Awards Luncheon was held in conjunction with the chapter meeting, and seven awards were presented to members of our chapter. The importance of these awards is to acknowledge the contributions of colleagues to our chapter and to the community, to inspire and support each other in our endeavors, and to increase a sense of community within our chosen specialty of Internal Medicine. Nominators gave personal tributes and recollections in presenting the awardees. These heartfelt presentations were inspiring to all of us present. Below are names of the awardees, descriptions of each award, and photos of the award winners.

2017 ACP-WI Laureate Award: Geoffrey C. Lamb, MD, FACP
2017 ACP-WI Distinguished Internist of the Year Award: Kathlyn E. Fletcher, MD, FACP
2017 ACP-WI Helen Dickie Woman Physician of the Year Award: Elizabeth Trowbridge, MD, FACP
2017 ACP-WI Community Based Physician and Mentor Award: Ryan Blenker, MD and Amy J. Muchow, MD, FACP
2017 ACP-WI Volunteerism and Community Service Award: Mansoor H. Mirza, MD, FACP
2017 ACP-WI Young Internist of the Year Award: Sean M. O'Neill, MD, FACP
Dr. Geoffrey C. Lamb, FACP from Brookfield, WI accepts the 2017 ACP-WI Laureate Award from ACP-WI Governor, Dr. Mark Belknap, FACP, along with Dr. Lamb's nominator, Dr. Julie Mitchell, FACP. The Laureate Award is given to Fellow or Master of the College who demonstrates by example and conducts an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, research and service to their community and the College.
Dr. Elizabeth R. Trowbridge, FACP from Madison, WI accepts the 2017 Helen Dickie Woman Physician of the Year Award from ACP-WI Governor, Dr. Mark Belknap, FACP, along with Dr. Trowbridge’s nominator, Dr. Ann Schmidt, FACP. The Helen Dickie Woman Physician of the Year Award is in memory of Dr. Helen Dickie, a renowned clinician and academic professor at the University of Wisconsin. She was also the first female Wisconsin Master of the College. This award recognizes an outstanding woman physician with a distinguished career including leadership, exceptional patient care and medical education and/or research.
Dr. Sean O’Neill, FACP from Waunakee, WI accepts the 2017 ACP-WI Young Internist of the Year Award from ACP-WI Governor, Dr. Mark Belknap, FACP, along with Dr. O’Neill’s nominator, Dr. Laura Zakowski, FACP. The Young Internist Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of a young internist in primary care and medical education.
Dr. Kurt Pfeifer, FACP accepts the 2017 ACP-WI Community-Based Physician and Mentor Award on behalf of recipient, Dr. Ryan Blenker, MD from Muskego, WI from ACP-WI Governor, Dr. Mark Belknap, FACP. The Community-Based Physician and Mentor Award recognizes an exceptional community preceptor who has demonstrated a commitment to the mentoring of medical students and/or residents outside of major teaching centers.
Dr. Amy Muchow, FACP of Sun Prairie, WI accepts the 2017 ACP-WI Community-Based Physician and Mentor Award from ACP-WI Governor, Dr. Mark Belknap, FACP, along with Dr. Muchow's nominator, Dr. Sharon Haase, MACP. The Community-Based Physician and Mentor Award recognizes an exceptional community preceptor who has demonstrated a commitment to the mentoring of medical students and/or residents outside of major teaching centers.
Dr. Kathlyn Fletcher, FACP of Milwaukee, WI accepts the 2017 ACP-WI Distinguished Internist of the Year Award from ACP-WI Governor, Dr. Mark Belknap, FACP, along with Dr. Fletcher’s nominator, Dr. Julie Mitchell, FACP. The Distinguished Internist of the Year Award recognizes a career distinguished by diligent effort or remarkable achievements in medical practice.

Dr. Mansoor Mirza, FACP of Sheboygan, WI accepts the 2017 ACP-WI Volunteerism and Community Service Award from ACP-WI Governor, Dr. Mark Belknap, FACP, along with ACP-WI Treasurer, Dr. Rupesh Prasad, FACP. The Volunteerism and Community Service Award recognizes lasting and meaningful contributions in the area of volunteerism and medical service in the state of Wisconsin.
ACA Open Enrollment

At the time that you receive this newsletter, the open enrollment period for 2018 for insurance exchanges under the ACA will be about to begin. The enrollment period is November 1 - December 15.

Many people have been able to get financial assistance to help them afford the plans offered by the marketplaces. Physicians and their staffs can help get the word out about enrollment opportunities and educate their patients about community-based health insurance enrollment assistance. To help you help your patients make informed health insurance choices, as well as to answer questions that you might have, the American College of Physicians has put together a series of documents to address questions about the changes in healthcare coverage brought about by the marketplaces. Please follow this link to find more information:

https://www.acponline.org/advocacy/state-health-policy/help-your-patients-enroll-in-health-insurance

There is information that is specific for Wisconsin, with separate links for you as a physician and for your patients.

ACP Board of Governors Fall Meeting

The Board of Governors fall meeting was held in Montreal, Quebec, where we had the opportunity to experience north of the border hospitality and French-Canadian culture. We heard reports from the College’s EVP, Dr. Darilyn Moyer, and from the College’s Treasurer, Dr. Robert Lohr, who presented information indicating that the College is currently on solid financial footings. There were several workshops to support governors in their work for their chapters, and we had a chance to network with our fellow governors on chapter and member activities. Dr. Noel Deep, our chapter’s Governor-elect,
attended along with me and had the opportunity to orient to the processes involved in governorship. There was a larger number of resolutions than in recent memory, with spirited but civil discussion on several of them during the meetings. I will summarize those of particular interest in the next issue, after they have been considered and acted upon by the Board of Regents.

2018 Doctor Day

Legislative Advocacy is one of the ACP priorities. The annual Leadership Day organized by the college is an excellent opportunity for us to meet and present important issues, which the College provides as talking points, with our Senators and Congressmen, or their staff, at the national level. Our chapter has always had a strong presence at those meetings, and attendees uniformly feel the experience is valuable.

In Wisconsin we now have an opportunity for our voices to be heard at the state Capitol on January 30th, when the Wisconsin Medical Society 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. A social gathering after this event allows for attendees to interact with WMS Staff, some legislators or their staff persons, and our colleagues.

We hope to see many of you there. If you are interested in attending, please plan now and make time in your schedules. Further details will be forthcoming in the next issue of Badger Beat, which will come out closer to the time of the event.

Internal Medicine 2018

It’s not too early to be planning to attend the premier national internal medicine meeting. Next year it will be held in New Orleans on April 19 - 21 with pre-courses on April 17 - 18. What an ideal time to escape the winter-spring doldrums to take in a high quality educational experience and possibly to plan in some associated decompression time in some warmer weather and take in the unique New Orleans culture and sites! Follow the attached link to pique your interest further:

https://annualmeeting.acponline.org/node/242