I'm hoping that this finds you with some sense of work/life balance and enjoying all that this season has to offer us. I will touch on a few recent, current, and upcoming topics in this newsletter.

**Election Results**

The results of the elections and their implications for the delivery of health care are still being evaluated with many predictions being made for what changes will occur as the result of the election, being that the presidency and both houses of Congress will be in Republican control. There will most certainly be major changes in provisions of the Affordable Care Act, though its outright repeal called for previously by the president-elect and some Republicans in Congress is thought by most to be unlikely, as millions in the U.S. have become insured under its provisions and there are aspects that are acceptable to most members of both parties. There will most certainly be changes to Medicaid funding and possibly even to aspects of funding of Medicare. At this writing it is too soon to say much about the specifics, even for someone with much more knowledge on the topic than me.

In our state control of the legislature remained in Republican hands, and so there will likely not be as much change in the course going forward on the state level. Click here for a link to the post-election issue of the ACP Advocate from the national ACP office and Bob Doherty which discusses potential implications and also click here for the most recent issue which has an article discussing some implication of the election results on a state level across the country.

**Resolutions from the Fall Board of Governors Meeting**

I will quote or summarize a few of the resolutions that were passed at the fall Board of Governors meeting in October and which have been approved by the Board of Regents of ACP since my last newsletter.

Resolution 1-F16: Developing Policy to Address the Gender Pay Gap within the Field of Medicine: the resolution directs the Board of Regents (BOR) to develop policy specifically addressing the gender pay gap within medicine and to start a national dialog and create a culture within medicine at large in which men and women physicians are paid equally and fairly. A part of the resolution specifically directed the BOR to address "the issue within the specific contexts of (1) the lack of transparency of physician salaries, (2) burnout and physician wellness, and (3) resultant negative effects on the strength of our medical workforce."
Resolution 3-F16: "Modifying HCAPS Questions and Eliminating Associated Financial Incentives to Improve the Safety of Opioid Prescribing: Resolved, that the BOR advocates to revise pain-related questions on the Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey to better reflect the appropriateness of pain management interventions with particular attention to the differences between acute and chronic pain and also attention to the goals and risks of the clinical situation; and be it further resolved, that the BOR advocates to remove financial incentives based on the HCAHPS that could inadvertently incentivize inappropriate opioid administration and prescribing."

Resolution 6-F16: Advocating for Formal Infrastructure to Support Expansion and Sustainability of Wellness Initiatives: the resolution as amended instructs the BOR to explore how to best develop such an infrastructure and "to become a leading voice in addressing areas such as changes in the practice environment, burnout prevention, physician wellness, and professional satisfaction and (to) collaborate with like-minded organizations and entities in these areas."

It also approved a resolution that reaffirmed the ACP's policy to oppose rising out-of-pocket patient spending on health care.

American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) Update

It seems that I give an update on this topic in nearly every newsletter that I write, which is as it should be, as this aspect of practice is critically important and an increasing burden to most of our members. This issue of the chapter newsletter is no exception. As an ACP member you should have received an email letter on December 1 from Darilyn Moyer, MD FACP, the new CEO of ACP, on this topic. In the letter she describes an initiative which I believe is a potential breakthrough in the current situation. It provides an option for internists to the high-stakes 10-year exam or other options that may be developed by ABIM, that being a model that follows the concept of continuous learning. The ACP and also two internal medicine subspecialty societies, the American College of Cardiology and the American Society of Clinical Oncology, have been selected after negotiations with ABIM to create pilot programs. ACP plans to model their pilot program after the Medical Knowledge and Self-Assessment Program (MKSAP). I am personally cautiously optimistic that this concept is a constructive move forward which is much more aligned with maintaining the high quality of one's ongoing practice of medicine than has been the current process. In case you didn't see the letter from Dr. Moyer and/or cannot now currently find it for review, please [click here].

ACP Internal Medicine Meeting 2017

The annual national ACP meeting takes place in 2017 in San Diego on March 28 - April 1. Precourses are held on March 28 - 29, and the Scientific Program is on March 30 - April 1. This meeting provides the opportunity to learn from high quality faculty from around the country and to earn MOC points and CME credits. New Fellows from the Wisconsin Chapter and other chapters will be formally inducted at the convocation ceremony. Each year, a highlight of the
meeting for many of us who attend the meeting from Wisconsin is the Wisconsin Chapter Reception, which this year will be held at the Gaslamp Union Kitchen & Tap, which is a restaurant near the Convention Center meeting site on Thursday, March 30. 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.

I hope that many of you will plan on attending the meeting. Please click here for further details.

**MKSAP Live Online Study Hall**

MKSAP Live Online Study Hall is an opportunity for ACP Members to prepare for recertification in a weekly, casual, collegial, online setting. Participation is limited. Please see below for the tentative schedule of topics:

- Infectious Disease: Dec 6th-Jan 24th
- Nephrology: Jan 31st-March 21st
- Endocrinology: March 28th-May 9th
- Pulmonary/Critical Care: May 16th-July 18th
- General Medicine: July 25th-October 17th

For more information, please click here.

**SAVE THE DATE - 2017 ACP-WI Annual Scientific Meeting**

Please be sure to save the date for the 2017 ACP-WI Annual Scientific Meeting at the Wilderness Resort and Glacier Canyon Conference Center in Wisconsin Dells: Friday, September 8, 2017 through Saturday, September 9, 2017.