I hope that all of you readers had a good holiday season and are having the beginning of a happy and productive new year. Winter here in the northland has so far been less severe than last year.

Following are a few items to bring to your attention:

**Letter from the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Regarding Changes in Maintenance of Certification (MOC)**

Most of you have probably already seen the email (attached) that was recently sent by Dr. Richard Baron, ABIM President, to all ABIM diplomates about Maintenance of Certification (MOC) and the subsequent letter to ACP members on this topic from the ACP CEO, Dr. Steve Weinberger. These developments are evidence of the effectiveness of the strong, persistent, and constructive communication and advocacy of ACP leadership. They are further evidence of our leadership's responsiveness to concerns voiced by our members directly and through us as governors. We will be staying tuned to observe the specific enactment of the promised changes in the near future.

**Internal Medicine Meeting 2015**

The annual national ACP meeting takes place this year in Boston from April 28-May 2. Pre-courses are held on April 28-29, and the Scientific Program is on April 30-May 2. This meeting provides the opportunity to learn from high quality faculty from around the country and to earn MOC points and CME credits. 2015 marks ACP’s 100th anniversary, and the meeting will include special centennial events. New Fellows from the Wisconsin Chapter and other chapters will be formally inducted at the convocation ceremony, and the new Master from our chapter, Dr. Sharon Haase, will also be recognized.

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 Strega, which is a restaurant near to the Boston Convention Center meeting site. 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.

**Legislative Issues**

The end of 2014 was marked by lack of legislative action on issues of financial importance to medicine and to internal medicine in particular. A demise of the Sustainable Growth Rate was again not achieved, and so ongoing funding mechanisms for healthcare remain in limbo. Legislation for expanded Medicaid
funding for primary care services sunsetted without being renewed, and so payments to internists and other primary care clinicians has reverted to the previously abysmal levels. Expansion of Medicaid in Wisconsin to include the group of people in the range of 100-134% of the Federal poverty level has not been achieved. These issues continue to hinder the ongoing provision of medical care to a significant segment of our population. So, with those and other issues regarding the health of our patients in mind, I encourage you to consider the two following opportunities to participate in the legislative advocacy process.

**Doctor Day**

This is an event sponsored and coordinated by the Wisconsin Medical Society. It will take place in Madison on March 11. Members of specialty organizations such as ACP are invited to participate in this daylong event along with colleagues from other specialties. Participants will hear from three high-level speakers and take part in an issue briefing before meeting with state legislators and/or their staffs in the afternoon.

Staff members from the Society and other sponsoring organizations will provide physicians with information about key issues affecting the medical profession and will schedule legislative visits for physicians. Organizers hope to bring at least 200 physicians in their white coats to advocate on behalf of patients and the medical profession at the State Capitol on March 11.

If you are interested in participating as a member of ACP in this event, please contact me by email, belknapfcp@centurytel.net.

**ACP Leadership Day**

I also invite you to consider attending Leadership Day. This is a two-day annual event in Washington, D.C. The first day consists of presentations educating attendees in the legislative and advocacy process. We are also informed on the particular legislative issues of priority to ACP and its members. On the second day we visit the offices of our legislators from Wisconsin and have the opportunity to educate and persuade them regarding our issues. This year Leadership Day will be held on May 20-21. We have a fund that defrays some of the costs for attendees. Exact amounts available per person are dependent upon the number of attendees. Please let me know if you have an interest in attending, belknapfcp@centurytel.net.

**2015 Wisconsin Chapter Meeting**

Please set aside time now to join your colleagues from around the state in attending the annual scientific meeting which will again be held at the Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This year the dates are September 11-12.

**Chapter Awards**

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 our Awards Luncheon, which is part of our Chapter Meeting in September (see above). Please take a look at the list of awards via the link below and give serious thought to which internist(s) in your area is deserving of one of the awards and then make use of the form on the website to submit the nomination(s). The deadline for submitting the awards this year is Friday, March 13.

**ACP-Wisconsin Chapter Awards Nomination Website:**


Please 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 address is belknapfcp@centurytel.net.

**Attachments:**

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

[ABIM_Email_Correspondence](mailto:ABIM_Email_Correspondence)