



Wisconsin
Chapter

BADGER BEAT



Spring seems to be here, but with fits and starts, though we were even given a foretaste in February this year. This newsletter is meant to bring you up to date (hopefully succinctly) on some aspects of ACP issues and activities both nationally and in our chapter.

Healthcare Legislation

The biggest recent news at this writing is the non-vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on the American Health Care Act. The ACP was firmly opposed to the American Health Care Act (AHCA) because its provisions are contrary to ACP's policies of achieving universal access to affordable health care and would reverse many of the gains in coverage resulting from passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The current (at the time of this writing) issue of the ACP Advocate describes proposed changes to the AHCA for possible reconsideration that would eliminate the requirement for essential benefits and would allow charging higher premiums for pre-existing conditions. Here is a link to this issue of the ACP Advocate:

<https://www.healthbanks.com/PatientPortal/NewsletterArchive.aspx?UCID={F151DAE7-AF91-4D5B-B402-126BDDEFC59F}&Date=04/07/2017>

If you are concerned about the current healthcare legislation initiatives, I encourage you to consider becoming a part of the ACP Advocates for Internal Medicine Network. It is designed to help members engage with their federal lawmakers on policy issues important to ACP and internal medicine. Here is a link the page on the ACP website that further describes the network and provides the opportunity to enroll: <https://www.acponline.org/advocacy/advocates-for-internal-medicine-network> I am personally a member of the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network, and I have used it to help me craft and send email letters to the members of Congress who represent me. Now is a particularly crucial time for you and other ACP Wisconsin Chapter members to become involved, so I encourage you to check out the webpage link above.

ACP Internal Medicine 2017

ACP's annual meeting was held this year in San Diego on March 30-April 1. It was again an opportunity to attend a high quality internal medicine continuing education meeting, and a good number of our chapter members did attend. Eight members who were recently elected to fellowship in the college marched in the Convocation: Drs. Thomas Bugliosi, Evelyn Chan, Karen Fickel, Ahsan Khalid, Tanya Lechtev, Kimberly Ogle, Lawrence Omole, and Jeffrey Whittle. Dr. Whittle also participated as a Wisconsin Chapter awardee, as did Dr. Michael Dolan.



Pictured from Left to Right: Dr. Belknap, Dr. Khalid, Dr. Chan, Dr. Ogle, Dr. Bugliosi, Dr. Omole, Dr. Finkel, Dr. Lechtev, Dr. Whittle, Dr. Dolan

In conjunction with the meeting, our chapter held a reception at a nearby restaurant, and we had a good turnout of meeting attendees from our chapter and their families. We had a pleasant time meeting and interacting with our colleagues from throughout the state and with a few who now hail from elsewhere but who have roots in Wisconsin.

2017 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 8 - 9 which are a Friday and Saturday. Dr. Eileen Barrett, current member of the ACP Board of Regents from New Mexico, is scheduled to be our visiting representative from national ACP.

This year, the Friday morning program will offer a choice between SEP modules, which recently have been offered every year, and a pre-course on point-of-care ultrasound. Friday afternoon is given to resident case vignette and poster presentations followed by Doctor's Dilemma, a Jeopardy-like competition between the five Wisconsin residency programs. Saturday is devoted to a series of presentations of various pertinent topics in various specialties of Internal Medicine. Dr. Barrett will be speaking on the topic of Using Evidence to Promote Physician Wellness and Reduce Burnout. She will also be giving an update of college activities and offerings, and she will be available for questions throughout the meeting.

Wisconsin Doctor Day

Doctor Day 2017, organized by the Wisconsin Medical Society, was attended by more than 400 physicians and medical students from across the state to Madison to meet with legislators and their staffs on March 29th. Key issues included the Heroin, Opiate Prevention and Education [HOPE] bills currently part of a special session of the state legislature, the potential for fundamental changes to the Medicaid program, and promoting greater access to mental and behavioral health services. ACP-Wisconsin Chapter was represented by a reduced number of internists this year due to its juxtaposition on the calendar with the ACP Annual Meeting.

New Paper from ACP Examines the Ethical Use of EHRs and Health IT

A new ACP paper "[Ethical Implications of the Electronic Health Record: In the Service of the Patient](#)," addresses how EHRs can best serve the patient-physician relationship and patient care; patient autonomy, privacy, and confidentiality; and professionalism, clinical reasoning, and training.

The paper asserts that electronic health records should facilitate high value patient-centered care, strong patient-physician relationships, and effective training of future physicians. EHR use should assist and enhance clinical reasoning and the development of cognitive and diagnostic skills. Features such as copy-and-paste should be employed judiciously, reflect thought processes about the current patient encounter, and meet the ethical requirements for an accurate and complete medical record. The paper also addresses confidentiality issues and the risk of unauthorized disclosure and use of protected health information.

The paper was developed by ACP's Ethics, Professionalism, and Human Rights Committee, and was published in in the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

Further Development of Recertification Options by ABIM

I expect that you received a letter from ABIM on March 27. In it were described options for recertification being developed that involve open book exams that will be put in place in 2018. There has been strong arguments for this option from many of our members, and I believe that this development by ABIM is a result of the strong advocacy of ACP with ABIM on behalf of our members. [Click here](#) to read that letter.

Help Support the April 22 March for Science

ACP encourages members and all internists, as part of the scientific community, to support the March for Science. The March for Science will be held on April 22, 2017 in over 400 cities worldwide in support of scientific research, evidence-based policies, and the critical role of science in today's world. [Online registration and information](#) about march locations is available.