



Wisconsin
Chapter

BADGER BEAT



ACP Badger Beat—June 2017

Summer is now with us with its attendant transitions. For those in academic medicine, it marks the end of the training period for some residents and fellows and the beginning for others. For all of us there are other transitions and shifts in seasonal leisure time activities. Following is a recap of recent activities of our ACP and our Wisconsin Chapter and of other events.

Federal Health Care Legislation

Since the previous issue of Badger Beat, there has been little movement in this area. The Republican majority in the U.S. Senate is largely aware of the major inadequacies of the AHCA (American Health Care Act) passed by the House and is grappling with the complexities of trying to find a viable legislative alternative to the ACA (Affordable Care Act). Nonetheless, there are renewed rumblings of a push to get a bill through the Senate in short order without adequate input from the public on details of the Senate version and without adequate consideration of the implications of the measures of that legislation. Meanwhile, the health care insurance markets remain unstable in the environment of pervasive uncertainty. I will again provide you a [link to the most recent issue of the ACP Advocate](#).

ACP 2017 Leadership Day

This year's ACP Leadership Day was held in Washington, DC on May 23 – 24. Our Wisconsin Chapter had a delegation of 10 members who were uniformly very engaged throughout the meeting. During the preparatory portion of the meeting, we had good discussions within our group, and our members' active participation and knowledge of the issues was evident in their frequent questions to the speakers and panelists, which were were insightful, probing, and just spot on!

At the visits on Capitol Hill, our group worked very well together to present our issues and asks, and I think that our mix of patient anecdotes and policy information was very effective in getting our points across, even though we sometimes met with less than warm agreement with our positions. We were able to begin or solidify some contacts with staffers, and we had good discussions with a couple of Congressmen. I really think that we worked very well as a team, and I again thank each of our participants for their contributions to our efforts.

[Click here](#) for a very well done and more detailed description of the event and the issues discussed with our members of Congress and their staff written by Dr. Abby Bales, a member of our delegation.



Members of the ACP Wisconsin Chapter delegation attend visits with legislative staff during ACP's 2017 Leadership Day.



From Left to Right: Dr. Huong DangVu; Dr. Abby Bales; Lindsay Hammons Dr. Noel Deep, FACP; Dr. Kesavan Kutty, MACP; Dr. Katherine Reimer; Dr. Mark Belknap, FACP; Dr. Richard Dart, MACP; Dr. Mark Chelmowski, FACP; Dr. Don Lee, FACP.



Members of the ACP Wisconsin Chapter delegation meet with Representative Mark Pocan.



Members of the ACP Wisconsin Chapter delegation meet with Representative Michael Gallagher.

Resolutions from the Spring Board of Governors Meeting

I will summarize a few of the resolutions that were passed at the spring Board of Governors meeting in April and which have been approved by the ACP Board of Regents since the last issue of Badger Beat.

Resolution 1-S17: Updating ACP Policy to Oppose the Sale of Tobacco Products at All Retail Pharmacies: in addition to updating ACP policy, Board of Regents to support legislation that opposes the sale of tobacco products at all retail pharmacies and to join with other medical organizations in an open letter to retail pharmacies that asks them to eliminate the sale of tobacco.

Resolution 2-S17: Recognizing Hate Crimes as a Public Health Issue: directs the Board of Regents to publicly recognize hate crimes as a public health issue and to oppose all legislation with discriminatory intent upon people based on their race, ethnic origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity, nationality,

primary language, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, cultural background, age, disability, or religion.

Resolution 6-S17: Promoting Transparency in Conversion to Medicare Advantage Plans: the resolution directs the Board of Regents to advocate that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) implement an immediate moratorium on seamless conversion, which is a means by which insurance companies transition seniors from their commercial insurance into the same company's Medicare Advantage plan (often with narrow networks) when they turn 65 years old rather than give them the option of considering traditional Medicare and without giving adequate education on the options.

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.

ACP Unveils New Section Online: Sharing Our Stories

A new page on ACP's website, "[Sharing our Stories](#)", features a collection of personal perspectives, anecdotes, and reflections about internal medicine, career paths, and achieving professional satisfaction from ACP members and other internists. Additionally, the page features "My Kind of Medicine Profiles," an ongoing series of physician profiles, highlighting physicians who chose internal medicine as a career path and have had fulfilling and successful lives based on that choice.

Visit [Sharing our Stories](#) to access the page.

Wisconsin Medical Society CEO Search

The Wisconsin Medical Society is in the midst of a search for a new CEO. This is an opportunity in Madison for a full time physician leader with Wisconsin ties who has the business experience to lead the largest physician advocacy organization in the state, representing nearly 13,000 physicians statewide. Here is a link to the [WMS webpage](#) that has more details of this opportunity.