INTERNAL MEDICINE 2013 ~ SAN FRANCISCO

Internal Medicine 2013 will be held April 11-13 in San Francisco, CA at the Moscone Center. Attendees will choose from more than 200 CME courses in internal medicine and the subspecialties presented by distinguished faculty.

ACP has developed an app for mobile devices where you can access comprehensive meeting information from your smart phone. With the new “American College of Physicians Internal Medicine 2013” app you will be able to build and store a schedule that meets your needs and get the most out of the meeting. Visit http://im2013.acponline.org/for-meeting-attendees/mobile-app/ to download the app today!

If you aren’t able to travel, consider purchasing virtual sessions, and/or watching Webcasts from the meeting on a wide variety of topics in the format of your choice. Visit http://im2013.acponline.org for registration information and more details about IM2013.

NORTHWEST REGIONAL RECEPTION

For those members planning to attend IM2013, please consider dropping by the Northwest Regional Reception for light hors d’oeuvres and drinks. The reception is being hosted by the Oregon, Alaska, Montana, Washington and Wyoming Chapters of the American College of Physicians.

Please join us Friday, April 12, 2013 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Marriott Marquis hotel - Golden gate Section/C3.

www.acponline.org/about_ACP/chapters/WY/
The 2013 WyomingACP Scientific Meeting will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn in Laramie Wyoming with the Wyoming Medical Society Annual meeting. Planning is underway now. Internal medicine topics are taking center stage this year with CME topics ranging from management of thyroid disease and updates in multiple sclerosis to the latest in connective tissue disorders. This year’s conference will feature highly respected Wyoming physicians as well as physicians like ACP Fellow Jacque Murray, MD from Canada to talk about the differences between canadian and american healthcare systems. Don’t miss out on this fabulous opportunity to network with colleagues and gain valuable CME hours.

WY-ACP GOVERNOR SELECTED FOR HEALTH AND PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Dr. Bush was recently selected to participate on the ACP’s Health and Public Policy Committee. It is a 2 year term. The mission of the committee is to develop and assist with implementation of College policy on issues affecting the health care of the American public and the practice of internal medicine and its subspecialties.

If anyone has any input on the issues affecting Medicine whether it be at the State or National level, I welcome your input. Sheila and I will be traveling to Washington, DC next month for Leadership day and will be meeting with our State representative and Senators, and will be happy to carry your views and concerns forward.
2013 LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

The WY-ACP was represented by the WMS lobbying team this year. WMS, as many of you know, is the leading physician advocacy voice at the state capitol and ACP was in good hands.

The 2013 General Session kicked off on January 8th and wrapped up 36 days later on February 27. More than 420 bills were considered and approximately 30 of those bills related to healthcare. Only 13 of the health related initiatives were passed into law.

Big wins for the ACP, and all Wyoming physicians, included preventing chiropractors from defining themselves as physicians, positively shaping the framework for comprehensive Medicaid reform, protecting patients in legislation aimed to allow pharmacists to administer medication, stopping government from dictating the practice of medicine so far as to give physicians a script of what to say to patients when certain procedures are in question, and saving the Universal-Select State Vaccine program designed to provide vaccines to all Wyoming children regardless of ability to pay.

Medicaid Expansion was high on the priority list for legislators this Session with a wide gap in opinion about the best way to move forward. The WY-ACP took a firm position of support of expanding the program and participated in the Wyoming Medicaid Expansion Coalition formed by almost every healthcare organization across the state to encourage legislators to consider offering increased access to care for Wyomingites. Although the initiative was defeated this year, the legislative body and the Governor's office made it clear that the discussion is far from over, and next year will potentially be the year to really dig into the details of what expanding Medicaid in Wyoming might mean for our communities. WY-ACP was encouraged by the positive response from a good number of staunch Republican Senators and Representatives. The issue is a sensitive one and one of the most politically charged debates of the session. WY-ACP advocates will remain in the conversations and will continue working throughout the interim to educate lawmakers and other leaders across the state about Medicaid Expansion and what options are available to the state to modify the program to work in a rural frontier state.

Other issues of importance to WY-ACP members this session that were ultimately unfortunately defeated included an increase in tobacco tax, and more strict penalties for individuals who assault a healthcare provider in a healthcare setting.

Wyoming’s current cigarette tax is $0.60 per pack, which ranks Wyoming 40th in the nation, meaning that 39 states have higher tobacco taxes than us. The average cigarette tax in all 50 states is $1.48, and Wyoming is the second lowest in the region. The legislative proposal debated this year attempted to increase Wyoming’s cigarette tax by a dollar taking us to $1.60 per pack. Legislators defeated the tax for a host of different reasons including opposition to sin taxes and the like. WY-ACP offered support of the initiative, and was happy to see it make it farther this session than it has in year’s past. There’s no doubt that this effort will continue to be attempted until success is achieved.

For more detailed information on all of the legislative proposals monitored or lobbied by your advocacy team please consider visiting www.wyomed.org/legislative-and-regulatory. Here you will find detail about all of the bills, their final status and each weekly report submitted by the WMS advocacy team throughout session.
BECOME A FELLOW OF THE ACP TODAY

There are many of you who are ACP Members of the Wyoming Chapter who are well qualified for Fellowship. To become a Fellow you must be a Board Certified internist and have been a Member of the ACP for two years. You need two letters from Fellows supporting your application for Fellowship. The most time consuming part of the application process is putting together a CV which demonstrates that you have been active in a combination of teaching, learning, hospital committee work, community service or working for the ACP (one, several or all of these). For specific information about advancing to Fellowship go to http://www.acponline.org/membership/fellowship/.

That is it! It is not too difficult. Contact Governor Jim Bush, MD or Sheila Bush at the office for more information if you are interested.

CALLING FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Wyoming Chapter of the ACP is proud of our members and their accomplishments. Wyoming internists are a dedicated group of individuals who have dedicated their lives to the health and wellbeing of Wyoming patients.

Dr. Brent Sherard chairs the WY-ACP Awards Committee and would welcome nominations for the Laureate Award, Volunteerism Award, and the Wyoming Chapter Award. Please contact the WY-ACP office at 307-635-2424 or info@wyomed.org to nominate a colleague.

The Laureate Award is designed to honor those Fellows and Masters of the College who have demonstrated, by their example and conduct, an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, and research, and service to their community, their chapter, and the ACP. A Laureate nominee is usually a senior physician who has been a Fellow or Master of the College for at least 15-20 years and meets all other categories of eligibility.

The Chapter Volunteerism Award was developed in 1999 by the Chapters’ Subcommittee to recognize the work of members who are involved in volunteerism and community service activities. This award enables our Chapter to raise the level of awareness and promote dialogue and action in volunteerism within our region.

The Wyoming Chapter award is awarded to a Wyoming internist who has made a great impact in the state of Wyoming.

For all three awards nominees must be Masters, or Associates of ACP and must have provided volunteer service post-training. Self-nominations are not permitted. The services must have been performed on a voluntary basis and not required for the completion of teaching, training, or position requirements. Volunteer work must have been done as a physician and be medically related.