

**Missouri Chapter
GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER
December 2015**



Richard W. Burns, MD FACP, ACP Governor

Table of Contents

- Governor's Message
- ABIM MOC update
- IM16
- Missouri Chapter 2016 Meeting
- Health & Public Policy Advocacy Update
- Doctors Dilemma Won by SLU
- Student Update
- MO ACP 2015 Poster Contest
- Medicare Revenue
- Tax Return Identity Theft
- Chapter Excellence Award
- Immunizations 411: Missouri Department of Health Webinars
- Chapter Council Ballot (due January 30)
- Calendar of Events

Governor's Message

Red tape. I was recently plunking away at my VA computer, finishing off some requisite clinical reminders on our electronic medical record when the term popped into my head. I know what it means and why it came to mind; in this case exasperation over providing redundant information that needs to be captured by a higher authority. I wondered if the term was limited to my generation; I asked my two college-aged daughters what they thought 'red tape' meant. Both

believed that it had something to do with government, although I sensed they didn't drop the term on their friends with any regularity.

It doesn't matter what the practice environment is, all internists are dealing with more red tape. This comes in a variety of irritations, whether it is medication reconciliation or ensuring a progress note has all the minutiae needed to satisfy both E/M and ICD-10 requirements. Part of me has accepted this as inevitable. But part of me wants to push back, if not for my self-preservation, at least for a future group of medical students who may decide a career in internal medicine is not worth the bureaucratic hassle that comes with it. Although immediately gratifying, nagging hospital administrators and policymakers isn't going to achieve much in the long run.

For most of us the ACP has long stood as an institution of higher learning: great CME meetings, great educational products. This organization is also our most collective, effective, and articulate voice in these very practice management issues that are hurting our profession. Last year the ACP launched a 'Patients before Paperwork' initiative, a campaign to revive the patient-physician relationship by challenging unnecessary practice burdens. A policy paper has been published ("[Clinical Documentation in the 21st Century](#)," Ann Intern Med. Online First February 17, 2015), and feedback to regulatory agencies (i.e. CMS) is ongoing. For more information go to https://www.acponline.org/advocacy/where_we_stand/patients_before_paperwork/.

What can we do to slow this scourge of red tape? Review this information and email me with your thoughts and opinions. Keep Internal Medicine and the ACP strong. Continue to renew your membership and encourage others to join. The benefits go well beyond a discounted MKSAP.

Richard Burns, MD, FACP
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ABIM MOC Update

Last fall at the Missouri ACP CME program at Tan Tar A, we had a town hall discussion on the ABIM's Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process: were ACP members satisfied with the progress made to date on revamping the program? The response appeared to be mixed. Fortunately, input from specialty societies (including the ACP) continues to be making an impact. Earlier in December the ABIM announced it will not require the Practice Assessment, Patient Voice, and Patient Safety in the MOC process through December of 2018. Many saw these particular modules as impractical and redundant, as physicians frequently are involved in QI/QA projects already with their affiliated hospital or practice. Discussion is ongoing regarding the replacement of the ten year secure exam with more frequent, lower stakes assessments. Would this be a welcome change? Please contact me with your opinions and suggestions.

Richard Burns, MD, FACP
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IM16

The 2016 National Meeting will be held in Washington, DC on May 5-7, 2016. It will be combined with Leadership Day (May 3-4) for those attending that event. If you are planning to attend IM16 go to www.acponline.org to register and make hotel reservations. Our Missouri reception will be 5:30-7:00pm Friday, May 6 in Velocity at the headquarters hotel: Marriott Marquis.

Missouri Chapter 2016 Meeting

Your Missouri Chapter CME meeting will have its usual compliment of outstanding speakers including two ABIM SEP modules at Tan Tar A Sept 15-18, 2016. As more details become available they will be posted on the chapter website: www.missouriacp.org. Block your calendar now.

Health & Public Policy Advocacy Update

The Missouri Chapter of the ACP Health and Public Policy Committee reconvened at the fall Chapter Meeting in September after a summer hiatus. Members of the committee include **Drs. Steve Keithahn - chair, E-P Barrette, Richard Burns, Bill Fogarty, Warren Lovinger, Jennifer McBride, Bridget McCandless, Peggy Barjenbruch, and Mr. Nathan Nolan** (MU SOM). Advocacy topics for the 2016 Missouri legislative session were chosen and approved by the Council. Creation of Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) for the state of Missouri (the only state without such a program) remains at the top of the advocacy agenda. The Chapter will advocate for a PDMP that will allow point of care access for physicians and pharmacists as is the case in other states but not include punitive measures. *If you are in agreement, please contact your state representative and senator to articulate this position.* The second item on the advocacy agenda is raising the state tobacco tax. To this end, a coalition is creating a ballot initiative for 2016. Your ACP Chapter will be examining this initiative in detail before weighing in. Finally, the Chapter remains in support of the expansion of Medicaid in Missouri under the ACA; however, we doubt that this issue will gain traction in the 2016 election year. Nonetheless, we will continue to build working relationships with other advocacy groups and leaders to prepare for the discussion of this issue in future years. Of note, several Missouri municipalities have raised or are looking to raise the legal age to purchase tobacco to 21. The HPPC supports these efforts and will continue to explore advocacy opportunities. At the national level, the Chapter is filling the slate for Leadership Day which will occur in conjunction with the ACP Annual Meeting in DC the first week of May. As always, if you have any comments, concerns or input for the HPPC or can offer avenues for advocacy, please feel free to contact **Dr. Steve Keithahn** at skeithahn@aol.com.

Doctors Dilemma Won by SLU



MO ACP 2015 DD winners

Saint Louis University Internal Medicine Residency Program

Anas Gremida, MD (PGY 4); **Ahmed Al-Tae**, MD (PGY 1); and **Martin Schoen**, MD (PGY 3)

Doctors Dilemma was very exciting this year with six Missouri IM residency programs participating. Saint Louis University won for the first time in the modern era. The past four were won by Wash U, UMKC, and MU twice. SLU will represent Missouri at the ACP IM16 Doctors Dilemma Contest in Washington DC.

Student Update



ACP Student Q&A

Missouri IM Program Directors: **Drs. Wooldridge, Fleagle, Buckhold, Wren, Gardner, Fairchild, and Forget**

As we end the first half of this academic year, we are pleased to say there has been active participation in all Internal Medicine Interest Groups in the Missouri schools so far. ACP funding has been a critical component, allowing for various interactive workshops/simulations, presentations, and other formats like subspecialty “speed-dating” to help hone the skills of

students already interested in Internal Medicine as well as help pique the interests of students that are still deciding.

Noting that there was significant student participation at this September's ACP Chapter Meeting, our goals for the second half of the academic year are to increase cohesion between the Missouri medical schools through discussions on medical policy and collaborative research. We'd like to thank the Missouri ACP Council and Chapter for their support.

Rimmy Garg SLU SOM and **Rahul Maheshwari** UMKC SOM



Clerkship Winners

Clerkship Awards: **Clifton Davis** – UMKC, **Daniel Van Aartsen** - SLU, Sophia Li – Wash U, Nathaniel Moulton, and **Dr. Richard Burns**



Physical Diagnosis Winners

Physical Diagnosis Awards: **Julia Lange** – Wash U, **Carlee Oakley** – UMKC, Ambrose Campbell – SLU, and **Dr. Richard Burns**

MO ACP 2015 Poster Contest



MO ACP 2015 Poster Chair Dr. Fred Buckhold

Poster Chair **Dr. Fred Buckhold** announcing student and resident winners

The Missouri Chapter hosted its annual poster contest September 19 in conjunction with its CME meeting. The following five posters were selected from 85 resident posters and 15 student posters to represent the Missouri Chapter at the IM16 Poster Contest in Washington DC.

Student Research: **Comron Hassanzadeh** UMKC School of Medicine - *Regulation of locomotor activity to amphetamine injection by acid-sensing ion channel 1a and 2 in adult mice*

Student CV: **Nathaniel Moulton** MU School of Medicine - *The Resurgence of the Great Masquerader: Syphilis Awakens*

Resident Research: **Martin Schoen, MD** SLU - *Outcomes of acute myeloid leukemia induction with addition of Cladribine*

Resident PSQI : **Yazan Ghanem, MD** UMKC - *Improving Compliance of Guideline-Recommended Screening Measures of Health Maintenance in TMC-HH Clinics: A QI Project*

Resident CV: **Ian Ross, MD** Wash U - *Candida parapsilosis prosthetic valve endocarditis presenting as ST elevation myocardial infarction*



MO ACP 2015 Laureate Bridget McCandless, MD

MO ACP 2015 Laureate **Bridget McCandless, MD, FACP** receiving her medallion from **Chris Perryman, MD, FACP**

Medicare Revenue

Your opportunities for additional Medicare revenue are limited, but **Bob Doherty's** ACP Advocate Blog details some recent changes to Medicare which can help. The Nov 25 blog is available online (<http://advocacyblog.acponline.org/2015/11/heres-way-for-primary-care-doctors-to.html>) and includes a link to an Excel file which provides further details for each billing code. The WPS Medicare website is another great source for billing questions: <http://www.wpsmedicare.com/j5macpartb/news/current-news/>

Tax Return Identity Theft

Identity theft is a sad but true situation that has affected many physicians in recent years. If you become a victim, first consult with your tax professional and then review the following article recommended by AICPA which has step-by-step advice: <http://www.thetaxadviser.com/issues/2015/dec/assisting-clients-with-tax-related-identity-theft.html>

Chapter Receives Excellence Award



The Missouri Chapter is in receipt of the 2015 Chapter Excellence Award. The award recognizes chapters which successfully meet the standards for managing a chapter. In order to achieve the Chapter Excellence Award, chapters must meet all basic criteria and seven optional criteria. Criteria include such activities as formulating an effective Governor's Council and committees,

communicating frequently with membership, providing educational opportunities, recruiting and advancing members and celebrating membership through local awards. The Chapter has received this award every year since the ACP-ASIM 1998 merger.

Immunizations 411: Missouri Department of Health Webinars

Immunizations 411 (the phone number for telephone company information back in the 1900s) is a program designed to give Missouri physicians updates from nationwide experts. Details are [online](#).

CHAPTER COUNCIL BALLOT – due January 30

The following have completed one term and are re-nominated for a second term (vote for four):

- ___ **Elizabeth Andes, MD, FACP** – Kansas City
- ___ **Jennifer McBride, MD** – Kansas City
- ___ **Fariha Shafi, MD, FACP** – Kansas City
- ___ **Wanda Terrell, MD** – St. Louis

Nominated for a first term to the Council are (vote for three):

- ___ **Richard Butin, MD, FACP** – Kansas City
- ___ **Chad Miller, MD, FACP** – St Louis
- ___ **Neil Schwartzman, MD, FACP** – Lebanon

Fax your ballot to: 573-636-8552 or mail to: ACP; PO Box 1028; Jefferson City, MO 65102

Calendar

Jan 6, 2016	Missouri Legislature begins
May 5-7, 2016	IM 16 in Washington DC
May 13, 2016	Missouri Legislature adjourns
Sept 15-18, 2016	Missouri Chapter meeting at Tan Tar A in Osage Beach