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Richard W. Burns, MD, FACP, ACP Governor

Governor Comments

Greetings ACP colleagues,

Summer is upon us and I hope everyone has plans to get away and recharge, at least for a short time. The downside of vacation? Coming back to a pile of emails, forms, and phone calls to clean up; if someone has a solution other than quitting, retiring or ignoring please share with the rest of us!

2016 has already seen its share of issues that impact internal medicine. Here are my top three, paying homage to the epic Clint Eastwood spaghetti western movie: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (in this case 'Uncertain').

The Good: The ABIM announced in early May plans to offer two options as part of the Maintenance of Certification (MOC) assessment starting in 2018: 1) The standard ten-year exam, which many have come to know and loathe, or 2) A shorter test taken at an office or home computer, perhaps annually or less frequent (details still being worked out). Physicians must perform well enough on the latter to opt out of the ten-year exam. Replacing this high-stakes test with a series of shorter assessments is one of several changes the ACP has been pushing the ABIM to make.

The Bad: Missouri Legislature's inability to establish a reasonable Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). House Bill 1892 had overwhelming support by multiple groups including the Missouri ACP chapter; special thanks to **Steve Keithahn, MD, FACP** and the rest of our Health and Public Policy Committee for their efforts in Jefferson City. The bill made it to the Senate floor where Senator Robert Schaaf attached an amendment requiring a state-wide public vote, effectively killing any hope of passage this year. Once again Missouri remains the only state in America without a PDMP.

The Uncertain: The passage of the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA) in 2015 ushers in a new era of reimbursement *intended to align payment with value*. Will this be the case? The ACP believes MACRA has great potential, but how certain measures (clinical, meaningful use, practice improvement, etc.) are selected and reported will be critically important. Much work remains, and the ACP will labor on behalf of internal medicine to help the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Congress get it right.

Please read on for more chapter news. Questions? Don't hesitate to contact myself or Pat Mills. I hope to see many of you at the Chapter CME meeting in September!

Sincerely,

Richard Burns, MD, FACP

ACP Leadership Day



Jennifer McBride w Rep Cleaver's Health Legislative Aide



Missouri contingent with Rep Luetkemeyer's Health Legislative Aide



Missouri with Sen Blunt's Health Legislative Aide

The Missouri Chapter had great representation at Leadership Day this year represented by **Drs. Richard Burns, Elizabeth Andes, Brent Beasley, Steve Keithahn, Jennifer McBride, and Nathan Nolan**. ACP provided talking points on opioids, prescription drug costs, chronic care management, telehealth, and HIT. Your Missouri physicians described how legislation and regulations affect their patients. Congress was not in session so meetings were with the health legislative aides.

Doctors Dilemma Team



The Saint Louis University Internal Medicine residency Doctors Dilemma team won its first round match at IM16 in Washington DC before finishing second in the second round and getting knocked out of the competition. **Drs. Ahmad Al-Tae, Anes Gremida, and Martin Schoen** represented the Missouri Chapter by virtue of winning the chapter competition last September at Tan Tar A.

This year's chapter competition will be Saturday, September 16 with all seven Missouri IM programs competing to represent Missouri at IM17 in San Diego.

New Chapter Website, Same URL

The Missouri Chapter website has received a facelift. You will notice the update right away at www.missouriacp.org when you check out the details and register online for the chapter meeting at Tan Tar A.

Aligning GME Financing with Workforce Needs

The Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine and ACP released a new policy paper calling for changes that better align funding for Graduate Medical Education (GME) with the nation's health care workforce needs. The paper, [Financing U.S. Graduate Medical Education](#), was published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* on May 3.

Immediate Attention Required: Value Based Payments in 2019 will use 2017 data

Now is the time to act if you want to modify your practice for how you will be reimbursed in 2019. CMS has issued proposed regulations migrating Medicare to a quality reimbursement environment for physicians. MACRA (Medicare Access & CHIP Reauthorization Act of 2015), which repealed the SGR is creating new regulations related to PQRS, Meaningful Use, and the Value Based Modifier. They are all being rolled in MIPS (merit based incentive payment system) for those who choose not to participate in APMs (alternative payment models) which have more risk and therefore more upside potential. CMS has recognized smaller groups have fewer resources to accommodate significant change and has made available free assistance for physicians to comply with this rapidly evolving landscape. Let ACP help you by requesting assistance [online](#) or by [email](#).

Save the Date: Updates in Internal Medicine CME Meeting

Your Missouri Chapter CME meeting will offer 20.5 CME hours September 15-18 at Tan Tar A including two ABIM SEP modules: 2016 Update in Hospital Medicine and 2016 Update in Internal Medicine. Details and registration are [online](#). Note your APRNs and PAs may also receive continuing education at this meeting at a reduced registration rate.

Missouri HPPC Update

Your chapter's Health & Public Policy Committee met monthly during the Missouri Legislative session. This year the committee's efforts were focused on PDMP (prescription drug monitoring program).

As Dr. Burns describes, a viable PDMP bill made it to the senate floor before being killed by Sen. Schaaf's amendment. The HPPC was a vocal member in the pro PDMP coalition, and we will be so again this coming session. Patience and persistence will win the day...

Looking ahead, there may be two ballot initiatives that the MO Chapter will weigh in on. We expect that the tobacco tax increase will not be significant enough to have a public health benefit so we will likely recommend opposition to this. Legalization of medical marijuana may also be put to a vote of the people. Our stance will be consistent with the ACP's stance which does not support medical marijuana statutes.

Dr. Burns also touched upon the uncertainty of MACRA and Medicare payments. The six chapter members who attended Leadership Day in DC in May heard the latest on the program but the details are still being worked out. Stay tuned!

We are grateful for the support of MO Chapter members during this past legislative session. Best wishes for a wonderful summer and hope to see you at the annual Chapter meeting in September. As always, we welcome your input.

Steve Keithahn, MD, FAAP, FACP

Missouri Membership Committee

Your Membership Committee wishes to remind all members to encourage their colleagues to apply for ACP Membership and Fellowship. Member benefits and applications are [online](#).

Leticia Alaniz, MD, FACP

Missouri Receives Chapter Excellence Award

The Missouri Chapter received the Chapter Excellence Award for 2015. This 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 ten 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.

Medicare Updates

If you or your staff are interested in remaining informed about the latest changes to Medicare check out this [website](#) and subscribe to the weekly email update.

New Members

Pratibha M. Abraham, MD
Oluwaseun G. Adeola, MBChB
Roomana Ahad, MD
Waqas Ahmed, MBBS
Nizar G. Al-Nimri, MD

Abdullah Aljorayid, MBBS
Shehabaldin Alqalyoobi, MD
Roula Altisheh, MD
Surachai Amornsawadwattana, MD
Mohammed Ansari, MD
Christopher Anzeveno, MD
Andre J. Arsenault, MD
Fahad Aziz, MD
Sudarshan Balla, MBBS
Blake W. Barnes, MD
Rhea Bhargava, MD
Udit Bhatnagar, MD
B. Adam Bolyard, DO
Sarah Boutwell, MD
Margaret Bozarth, MD
Cynthia KJ Brooks, DO
Christopher Bernard Brown, MD
Harleen K. Chela, MBBS
Bhavana Chinnakotla, MBBS
Salik Choudhary, MD
Farhanaz Chowdhury, MBBS
Kasey C. Cornell, MD
Adam Cox, MD
Jennifer V. Crouch, MD
Qiqiong Cui, MD
Anna Kathryn Dauer, MD
Sarah Davis, MD
Kyla A. Dewar, MD
Rachel S. Dorson, DO
Heather E. Doss, MD
Colleen Emge, DO
John T. English, MD
Hermina Deepika Fernandes, MD
David A. Galli, MD
Namratta K. Ghatehorde, MD
Thulasi Ram Gogireddy, MD
Scott R. Goldsmith, MD
Yochita Gullapalli, MD
Christopher B Hamm, MD
Amanda Harrell, DO
Syed Danish Hasan, MD
Samantha C. Hathaway, MD
George A. Heberton, MD
Kirstin Hirni, MD
Zachary M. Holliday, MD
Jemila Maxine Joseph

Sudhir Kapoor, MBBS
Devika Kapuria, MD
Kamalesh Karthikeyan, MD
Jeffrey Ketchersid
Darshan S. Khangura, MD
Andrew B. Kichura
Charu Kolekar, MD
Swapna Kolli
Niraj Kothari, MD
Hrishikesh S. Kulkarni, MD
Bohdan A. Lebedowicz, MD
Alex Li, MD
Timothy B. Lumpkin, MD
Christopher R. Lynch, MD
Andrea Man, MD
Sriram Maringanti, MD
Daniel Michael Marion, MD
Conor T. McCartney, MD
Andrew Michelson, MD
Ravi Prashant Mishra, MD
Preeti Modi, MBBS
Jennifer M Moore, MD
Nathan Moore, MD
Brent A. Murphy
Usha R. Muthyala, MD
Nigel Naman, MD
Melin J. Narayan, MBBS
Saiprasad Narsingam, MD
Eric M Neverman, DO
Khanh To Nguyen, MD
Michael Ogawa, MD
Hema Pamulapati, MD
Govind Pandompatam
Niral M. Patel
Chelsea E Pearson, MD
Nileena Philip, MD
Abdul Qazi, MD
Krunal D. Raval, MD,MBBS
Hariharan Regunath, MD
Bhupinder Romana, MD
Ian Ross, MD
Michael T. Rouse, DO
Nicholas Ruthmann, MD
Jose B Saenz, MD,PhD
Matthew D. Schmitt, MD
Christine Schneider, DO

Shahed M Shams, MD
Mazen Shobassy, MD
Sarah Smitherman, MD
Umair Sohail, MBBS
Amanbir S Sohal, MD
Shuang Song, MD,PhD
Scott L Spradlin, DO
Joseph A Stauber
Adam Sternberg, MD
Suman Vaddi, MD
Dana R Vietti, MD
Tiphonie P Vogel, MD PhD
Rajashree Voraganti Ramamurthy, MD
Murali Vuda, MBBS
Fang Wang, MD,PhD
Michael Weaver, MD
Rachel T Weihe, MD
Sarah J Wescott, DO
Daniel R Woolery, DO
Mohamad H Yousef, MBBS
Chad P Zeglis, MD
Xiaozhuo Zhang, MD
Li Zhou, MD

New Fellows

Sivakumar Ardhanari, MD, FACP
Angela L. Brown, MD, FACP
Fred R. Buckhold, III MD, FACP
Sonal Dhuper, MD, FACP
Abigail K. Emerson, MD, FACP
Jacqueline Fairchild, MD, FACP
Nicholas S. Havens, MD, FACP
Mayank Mittal, MD, FACP
Christian A. Rojas Moreno, MD, FACP