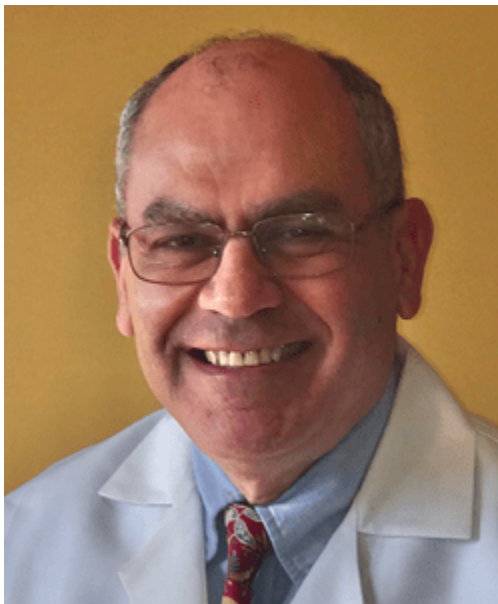




GOVERNOR'S UPDATE

September 2021

Governor's Corner



As the first Newsletter of my term, I would like to thank you for trusting me with this incredible honor. I would also like to thank Dr. Alan Yeasted, Dr. Thomas Grau, and Dr. Melissa McNeil for reaching out to me with advice.

My first priority is to affirm the ACP position as your partner and resource for accurate information for both clinical as well as “real life” needs.

I plan to reach out to our colleagues at all settings; community, academic, traditional internal medicine, hospitalist, and subspecialist to seek your input looking for areas of improvement and growth. We need to take

advantage of the available virtual tools to meet on regular basis first to listen to your needs and to update you with upcoming ACP activities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought challenges, but it has also taught us many lessons and created opportunities. As we all talk about equity, I observe notable misinformation and mistrust as a barrier to taking advantage of available preventive measures for both COVID-19 as well as many preventable medical conditions. I plan to initiate community outreach activities to discuss barriers to care, from COVID vaccines to cancer screening and beyond.

I would like to seek your participation in ACP advocacy work. It is hard to browse through any medical journal without finding an article on physician burnout. However, I see most of the attention being focused on different forms of exercise, mindfulness, and mental health; and very few addressing the root causes of the problem, long work hours, extensive documentation, unpredictable insurance coverage, the constant addition of tasks within a limited time, frustrating barriers to provide care to needy patients, etc. The ACP has been leading the way for genuine and meaningful reforms and connects with the state as well as national policymakers to improve the environment of care. This work needs to be shared with you. We all have to do our part.

I also like to take advantage of the expanded role of virtual meetings to initiate regular board preparation sessions involving residency programs as well as community physicians and launch forums for case discussions.

We are very excited about the new Annals for case reports journal and advise you to read and participate at this platform for case-based learning.

I also plan to reach out to other medical organizations, family medicine, pharmacy, etc., to consolidate our efforts.

I truly encourage everyone to be an active participant in these activities. Please feel free to contact me or my colleagues in leadership with questions, comments, concerns, or suggestions. We can be reached at the link below.

<https://pa-acp.org/leadership-pennsylvania-american-college-of-physicians/>

Ibrahim Isaac Ghobrial, MBBCh, FACP, MRCP
Governor, Western Region

PA-ACP – On the Ground in Harrisburg

At the state level, the PA-ACP has taken a leading role in working with state government and the General Assembly, pushing for needed guidance, reforms, and changes to allow our practices and facilities to deal with COVID-19 and provide necessary health care to all Pennsylvanians now and in the future.

PA-ACP has been providing regular COVID-19 updates for members on state data, programs, policy, and guidance documents on [the Chapter Website](#). The Chapter's Twitter account @PAChapterACP also posts information and updates in real-time, as does the Chapter Facebook page.

Direct advocacy efforts on practice, insurance, and patient safety issues are ongoing daily through grassroots contacts and "boots on the ground," with ERG Partners providing government relations and lobbying services in the Capitol and with the Wolf Administration. Ongoing information on [PA-ACP Priorities and Advocacy Update Reports](#) are also on the website.

PA-ACP had lobbied for use of telemedicine and for parity in reimbursements to practitioners for those services and is now working to extend the state's telemedicine regulations permanently.

We asked that prior authorization for ongoing care and treatment of existing patients and prescription of generic drugs be waived during the COVID-19 and emergency declarations, and are working to get legislation passed to reform prior authorization processes and better define medical necessity.

PA-ACP has prioritized efforts on the scope of practice legislation, for nurse practitioners, physical therapists, physician assistants, pharmacists, and even acupuncturists, promoting patient safety.

This June, PA-ACP held its first "Capitol Day," with members receiving training in face-to-face relationship building with elected officials followed by meetings with more than a dozen key committee legislators and staff.

PA-ACP's advocacy for its members goes beyond legislation. The chapter filed amicus curiae briefs in court cases over rulings that impact the MCARE Act and practices on matters of venue, the statute of repose, discovery, and most recently, even "cause of death."

Beyond that, the Chapter's advocacy for you now includes providing regular [alerts for emerging health care issues](#).

Upcoming Events

Internal Medicine Residency: Insider Tips for Interviews and Program Selection
Tuesday, September 21st, 2021 - 7:00 pm

The Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP) is pleased to sponsor the 3rd Annual round table for medical students focused on interviewing for and

selecting internal medicine residency programs. The free virtual event will feature a panel of experienced program directors and current residents giving insider tips on how to succeed. An opportunity for detailed Q&A will follow. Although this event targets 4th-year students currently applying for Internal Medicine residency programs, students of all years interested in Internal Medicine are welcome to attend. Please feel free to share with anyone you think this might be of interest to.

[Register Here!](#)

Preventing a Geriatric Catastrophe: How To Perform Comprehensive Geriatrics Assessment in Less Than 15 Minutes

Tuesday, September 28, 2021 - 12:15 pm

Speaker: Aroonsiri (June) Howell, MD MPH FACP

If you have questions or challenging patient cases related to comprehensive geriatrics assessment, please send them to Dr. Howell at howella@temple.edu, and your questions will be answered by Dr. Howell during the talk!

This is a free, virtual event, but registration is required.

[Register Here!](#)

PA ACP - EMR Efficiency

October 11, 2021 - 12:00 to 1:00 pm

Speakers: Swati Shroff, MD, MS, FACP; Nina Mingioni, MD FACP; Bracken P. Babula, MD

The goal of this session is to increase internal medicine physicians' proficiency and efficiency with the electronic medical record (EMR) inbox management. The presenters will represent Epic and offer inbox management tips that are both generalizable and specific to attendees' needs. Presenters will reflect on the challenges of inbox management, discuss how to respond to various examples of inbox messages, and share personal and data-driven tips for inbox management.

[Register Here!](#)

2021 Abstract and Doctor's Dilemma® Competitions Eastern Region

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Penn State College of Medicine - University Conference Center
Hershey, PA

2021 Abstract and Doctor's Dilemma® Competitions Southeastern Region

Saturday, October 23, 2021

Temple University - MERB Commons
Philadelphia, PA

2021 Abstract and Doctor's Dilemma® Competitions Western Region

Saturday, October 23, 2021

UPMC

Pittsburgh, PA

ACPNJ Invites You to a Webinar - Physician as Activist

Wednesday, November 3, 2021 - 06:30 pm

[Register Here](#)

2021 Annual Scientific Meeting!

The 2021 PA-ACP Annual Scientific Meeting will be held on **November 20, 2021, in Harrisburg!**

[Register Here](#)

ACP Resources

Learn About ACP Fellowship

Fellowship in the College is an honor. Being a FACP® is a distinction earned from colleagues who recognize your accomplishments and achievements over and above the practice of medicine. The most important considerations for ACP Fellowship are excellence and contributions made to both medicine and to the broader community in which the internist lives and practices.

[Find out more!](#)

Learn About ACP Mastership

The first Mastership in the College was presented in 1923 to Dr. James M. Anders, who served the College as President for two terms. He was recognized for extraordinary service to the College and for being one of the most outstanding internists and medical teachers of his day.

ACP Bylaws state that Masters shall be Fellows who have been selected because of "integrity, positions of honor, impact in practice or in medical research, or other attainments in science or in the art of medicine." Masters must be highly accomplished persons demonstrating impact in practice, leadership, or in medical research. Evidence of their achievements can come from many types of endeavors such as renown within their field and/or ACP chapter, research, education, health care initiatives, volunteerism, administrative positions, care of patients, and service to their community.

[Find out more!](#)

News from the Field

Hesitant to get the COVID-19 vaccine? Your primary-care doctor can help.

The Philadelphia Inquirer

What I hope for most is that patients will view me, and other clinicians, as partners in decision making. I am there to listen and understand first, not to judge. [READ MORE.](#)

Fall BOG Meeting Moves to Virtual Event

ACP

After careful consideration, review of the BOG Travel Survey, and the ongoing conditions with the Delta variant locally and nationally, the ECBOR has agreed to replace the in-person Fall BOG Meeting in Boston with a virtual meeting. We recognize that this decision is disappointing and we share those feelings. [READ MORE.](#)

As Covid-19 hospitalizations increase, a greater number of Americans are deciding to get vaccinated

CNN

With an alarming rise in [Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations](#), more Americans have recently made the decision to get vaccinated than in the last six weeks. More than 1 million doses of the vaccine were reported administered Thursday, new US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data showed, marking the first time since early July for the single-day change in reported doses. The average pace of those initiating vaccination is more than 70% higher than one month ago. [READ MORE.](#)

CDC advisory group recommends extra shot for immunocompromised patients

NBC News

An advisory committee to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention voted Friday to recommend that certain patients with weakened immune systems receive an extra dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine. [READ MORE.](#)

Covid — not vaccination — presents biggest blood clot risk, large study finds

CNBC

The risk of rare blood clotting is significantly higher as a result of catching Covid-19, than it is from being vaccinated against the virus, a new study has found. [READ MORE.](#)

Keep up with PA-ACP Events - <https://pa-acp.org/upcoming-events>

Follow Us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)