The legislative process is long and arduous, and to most physicians appears to be full of political overtones and wasted time. There are many emotions and partial truths that influence enacted laws and regulations. This was certainly evident during my recent trip to Washington, DC, where Tim McNichol and I spent time advocating on behalf of ACOI members across the country.

My specific recommendations were to keep healthcare policies as simple as possible and to prevent the creation of additional barriers for physicians to provide care for their patients. In my meetings, I pointed out that healthcare access has been decreasing as a result of policies that are very structured and require physicians to spend additional time with documentation that may not benefit overall patient care.

It is important that the healthcare system continue to provide access to care for those who need it when they need it most. While the Affordable Care Act is intended to improve access to affordable, quality care, it may actually decrease the ability of physicians to see additional patients due to increased regulatory requirements. Future meaningful use criteria are an additional example of increased stress in providing healthcare services.

There is consensus in Washington that the current Medicare Sustainable

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ACOI President Advocates On Behalf of Profession

ACOI President Robert G. Good, DO, FACOI, recently visited Washington, DC to meet with congressional leaders. During two days of meetings with key congressional staff and others, Dr. Good spoke on the importance of advancing meaningful reform for Medicare physician reimbursement; expanding graduate medical education; increasing access to affordable quality care; and reducing regulatory burdens. Concern was expressed by Dr. Good that the ever-increasing regulatory requirements are counter-productive and negatively impact quality, efficiency and access to care by diverting limited resources. Dr. Good emphasized the importance of ensuring that healthcare reform efforts are not overly complicated, thus predisposing them to failure. In addition, he informed those with whom he met that the ACOI stands ready to assist congressional efforts to ensure that patients have access to high quality care.

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2013 Annual Convention
From Bench to Bedside: Translating Research To Clinical Practice: Diabetes Mellitus

The 2013 ACOI Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions will provide the opportunity to see a case study in the way basic research informs clinical trials and how, ultimately, these impact approaches to care for patients with diabetes. Two of the world’s leading diabetologists, Drs. John Leahy, Professor, Department of Medicine and Co-Director, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at the continued on page 4
American College of Osteopathic Internists

In Service to All Members; All Members in Service

MISSION

The mission of the ACOI is to advance the practice of osteopathic internal medicine. Through excellence in education, advocacy, research and the opportunity for service, the ACOI strives to enhance the professional and personal development of the family of osteopathic internists.

VISION

The ACOI seeks to be the organization that osteopathic internists think of first for education, information, representation and service to the profession.

VALUES

To accomplish its vision and mission, the ACOI will base its decisions and actions on the following core values:

LEADERSHIP for the advancement of osteopathic medicine

EXCELLENCE in programs and services

INTEGRITY in decision-making and actions

PROFESSIONALISM in all interactions

SERVICE to meet member needs

2012-2013 BOARD of DIRECTORS

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Letter from the President

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Growth Rate (SGR) calculations are unsustainable. Clearly, Congress does not want to continue to deal with reimbursement fixes on an annual basis. Healthcare policy makers within the House Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce and Senate Finance Committees, however, appear to support quality and pay-for-performance measures that improve patient safety and outcomes. The senior legislative staff of these powerful committees requested additional input from the ACOI.

I am concerned that policymakers have lost sight of the vital role small physician practices play in the healthcare delivery system. We attempted to promote consideration for the many primary care and specialty physicians who are not employed by larger entities, and who traditionally have been the mainstay of healthcare. For example, while physicians and groups may have been provided economic incentives to initiate electronic medical records, no consideration seems to have been given to the ongoing cost to maintain and develop software programming in a small practice setting. Many physicians are working as hard as they can to see patients. They do not have the time or expertise to deal with a very complex healthcare environment that is asking a lot of the physician and healthcare system.

There is also a basic agreement on the need for change in the funding of graduate medical education. Due to budgetary restrictions, it appears unlikely that significant changes will occur in this Congress to increase funding for residency training.

We will continue to provide specific comments to Congress. It appears that we provided some unique insights to the representatives we met with. I believe that the ACOI needs to continue its efforts to develop graduate medical education programs that may need to be funded by a different paradigm. While Medicare and Medicaid recipients are a significant proportion of the healthcare dollar in the hospital setting, private insurers have responsibilities, as well.

Efforts are well underway to replace the SGR formula. It appears, however, that quality indicators and outcome analysis will be part of the calculated compensation for care. Policymakers continue to believe the Institute of Medicine’s decade-old data on safety issues and mortality/morbidity within our current system. They are seeking to tie compensation to quality. It is my belief that their current efforts are simply too complicated and that the complexity will result in additional cost and administrative burdens without the benefit that are sought.

Some type of tort reform also is needed to reduce overutilization. This does not appear to be something that the people we met with are willing to pursue. There is a naïve concept that improving documentation of standards to reduce medical liability overutilization is the answer. While this may be helpful, it is evident that there is not a good concept of how the medical liability system actually works.

There is a need for us to change and to improve health care access in a country with a decreasing supply of primary care physicians and an aging population. The skills of the ACOI-developed Phoenix Physician will be increasingly important, and we emphasized that value with the congressional leaders we met with.

As we continue the process of providing input into policy development efforts in Washington, DC, we welcome specific and detailed comments from our membership. We have the ear of influential members of Congress and leadership within powerful congressional committees. Now is the time to be involved!

Contact me at President@acoi.org.

Bob
ACOI President Advocates on Behalf of Profession

ACOI President Robert G. Good, DO, FACOI, recently visited Washington, DC to meet with congressional leaders. During two days of meetings with key congressional staff and others, Dr. Good spoke on the importance of advancing meaningful reform for Medicare physician reimbursement; expanding graduate medical education; increasing access to affordable quality care; and reducing regulatory burdens. Concern was expressed by Dr. Good that the ever-increasing regulatory requirements are counter-productive and negatively impact quality, efficiency and access to care by diverting limited resources. Dr. Good emphasized the importance of ensuring that healthcare reform efforts are not overly complicated, thus predisposing them to failure. In addition, he informed those with whom he met that the ACOI stands ready to assist congressional efforts to ensure that patients have access to high quality care.

Efforts to Advance Medicare Physician Reimbursement Reform Continue

Congressional committees of jurisdiction in both the House and Senate are continuing to work to develop legislation to reform the current Medicare physician payment formula. The House Energy and Commerce Committee released draft legislation that is under review by the ACOI and others. A hearing by the Committee has been scheduled and is expected to explore the barriers and opportunities existing in the current healthcare environment to achieve a long-term solution to this ongoing problem. Central to the policy proposals advanced in Congress thus far is the belief that there is a need to expand “quality reporting” mechanisms to control costs and improve patient care.

The ACOI has conducted an initial review of the draft legislation produced by the Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as policy statements put out by other committees. Further review is underway. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.

Tavenner Confirmed as Head of CMS

Marilyn Tavenner was confirmed by the Senate to lead the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on May 15. Her nomination was approved by a vote of 91-7. Tavenner is the first confirmed CMS administrator since Mark McClellan held the position in 2004 through 2005 under President George W. Bush. The nomination was stalled twice before clearing the Senate with strong bipartisan support. In addition to overseeing the Medicare and Medicaid programs, Administrator Tavenner is also responsible for implementing significant parts of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA, Pub. L. 111-152). She is the first democratic nominee approved in over 15 years. Prior to her confirmation, Tavenner served as Acting Administrator for more than a year.

House Votes to Repeal the ACA

The House considered and approved H.R. 45 by a vote of 229-195 on May 16. The bill, which was approved along party lines, would repeal the ACA in its entirety. It is the 37th vote by the House to either fully or partially repeal the ACA. Prior to its approval, the Administration released a statement of administrative policy indicating that President Obama would veto the legislation should it make it to his desk. Due to the current composition of the Senate, it is unlikely that the similar legislation will be considered and advanced beyond the House.

Medicare Trustee Report Extends Medicare Solvency

According to a report released on May 31, the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will remain solvent through 2026. This represents an additional two years over last year’s report. The report entitled, “2013 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Fund,”

suggests caution due to the many uncertainties that remain. For instance, the report assumes that the Medicare physician reimbursement formula will remain in place in its current form. If Congress acts to freeze or increase Medicare rates, overall Medicare spending will increase and impact the long-term solvency estimates of the program. Reforming Medicare is certain to continue to receive a great deal of attention from Congress. Any changes implemented by Congress will impact the estimates outlined in the report.

Hospital Readmission Rates Decline Under Medicare

According to a report recently released by CMS, hospital readmission rates for fee-for-service Medicare beneficiaries fell in 2012. Rehospitalization within 30 days of discharge from an inpatient stay for Medicare beneficiaries fell from 19 percent in 2007 – 2011 to 18.4 percent in 2012. CMS estimates that the reduction in readmissions equated to approximately 70,000 fewer readmissions last year. It was also noted by CMS that hospitals participating in the Partnership for Patients Program were more likely to have lower readmission rates than those not participating the Program.

Washington Tidbits: Five Words...The Election of a Senator

The framers of the U.S. Constitution were challenged to draft a document that would be ratified by the colonies and weather the storms of time. In an effort to achieve these goals, compromises and policy decisions were made directly impacting the direction and operation of the Federal Government. One such compromise involved the wording of Article 1 Section 3 which provides for the election of senators.

For more than 120 years, senators from each state were chosen by the state legislatures. Overtime, however, this proved to be increasingly problematic in divided states. This resulted in vacancies that would go unfilled for extended periods of time. To address this, the 17th Amendment to the Constitution was ratified on April 8, 1913 changing “chosen by the legislature thereof” to “elected by the people thereof.” As the saying goes, “The rest is history.”
Deadline to Avoid 2014 eRx Penalty is June 30

Officials from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have again urged doctors to act now to avoid the 2014 two percent e-prescribing penalty. If you are an individual eligible professional (EP) or participating in the Group Practice Reporting Option (GPRO), you must successfully report as an electronic prescriber before June 30, 2013 or you will experience a two percent payment reduction in 2014 for professional services covered under Medicare Part B’s Physician Fee Schedule. Medicare officials are encouraging physicians to submit claims above the established minimum thresholds. The reporting requirements are as follow: individual EPs – 10 eRx events via claims; GPRO of 2-24 EPs – 75 eRx events via claims; GPRO of 25-99 EPs – 625 eRx events via claims; and GPRO of 100+ EPs – 2,500 eRx events via claims. Requests for exemptions must also be applied for by June 30, 2013. Additional information is available at www.cms.gov.

Conventional Keynotes

continued from page 1

University of Vermont, and Edward Horton, Senior Investigator in the Section on Clinical, Behavioral & Outcomes Research at the Joslin Diabetes Center and Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School, will provide keynotes for the meeting.

Dr. Leahy’s animal research on beta cell mass and function, and the role of various agents in beta cell preservation, particularly GLP-1 and the PPARs, has been a driving force in the development of new targets to support glucose metabolism and the testing of new generations of agents. He will share insights into this work and some recent clinical trials in which he is currently engaged on Thursday, October 10.

The story will continue on Friday when Dr. Horton summarizes the genesis and impact of such pivotal studies as the Diabetes Prevention Program (he is the primary investigator), which investigates the comparative efficacy of various agents in reducing impaired glucose tolerance, and the Look AHEAD study, which is examining various interventions to reduce CVD in patients with T2DM.

These two important scientists and excellent speakers will offer a view of the future of diabetes management. They are illustrative of the Convention program theme of how bench research translates to the bedside.

The 2013 Convention and Scientific Sessions will take place at the beautiful Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa in Indian Wells, CA. Martin C. Burke, DO, FACOI, is the program chair. The program will feature late-breaking information in internal medicine and all of the subspecialties. Registration materials will be available at www.acoi.org this month.
ACADEMIC INTERNAL MEDICINE FACULTY— Missouri. Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences invites applications from outstanding candidates for a full-time faculty member in the Department of Internal Medicine. The successful candidate must be a graduate of an AOBIM accredited College of Osteopathic Medicine, have completed an IM residency and be certified by the ACOI. Eligibility for Missouri licensure required.

Interest in teaching medical students at all levels is essential; osteopathic residency training preferred, but not required. In addition to patient care, an interest in clinical trials will be helpful.

To apply, go to https://jobs.kcumb.edu. Specific questions may be directed to Kevin P. Hubbard, D.O., FACOI, Chair of Internal Medicine, 1-800-234-4847 ext. 7392 or 816-654-7392 or email at khubbard@kcumb.edu.

A private university comprising a College of Osteopathic Medicine founded in 1916 and a College of Biosciences, Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences is the oldest medical school in Kansas City and the largest in Missouri. We are a tobacco-free environment.

SEEKING BC/BE PHYSICIANS— Oregon. Oregon State Hospital is looking for BC/BE physicians. We have it all! Oregon State Hospital is a brand new hospital that incorporates modern architecture, treatment spaces, and technologies.

Our Medical Clinic provides general medical care for psychiatric in-patients at both Salem and Portland campuses. A generous and comprehensive benefit and PERS retirement package is included as well as opportunities to have an academic appointment with the Oregon Health Sciences University.

Monday – Friday work week is available, with potential for compensated night/weekend call.

Contact by Phone: (503) 945-2887; email: lila.m.lokey@state.or.us; www.oregon.gov/OHA/mentalhealth/osh. The State of Oregon is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HOSPITALIST WANTED— Pennsylvania. Full time Internal Medicine Hospitalist needed to join private Hospitalist group in suburban Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Join our small private practice and still be part of a large, physician managed, multispecialty group. We look forward to adding a qualified partner in July, 2013. Practice in a community hospital setting.

Our hospital is a residency site for IM, FP and Anesthesia. Must be comfortable with caring for a full range of general IM patients, including critical care. Full scope of subspecialty consultants and procedural support available. We follow a comfortable rotating schedule and provide excellent compensation. The community offers excellent schools and safe neighborhoods.

Contact Joseph C. MacDonald DO at HLRMCIM@gmail.com or call Christa at 717 735-3630 for inquiries.

INTERNAL MEDICINE HOSPITALIST— Michigan. Internal Medicine hospitalist group servicing several hospitals, nursing homes and assisted living facilities throughout Oakland County is currently looking to add additional full-time physicians to their growing practice.

Our ideal candidates should be board certified or board eligible in internal medicine and possess excellent communication, teaching and clinical skills.

OFFERING
• Competitive Compensation
• Quarterly Bonuses
• Health Insurance
• Malpractice Insurance
• Paid Vacation & CME time
• Partnership Opportunity

RESPONSIBILITIES
• Full-time employment as hospitalist
• Teaching/educating residents and students

INTERNAL MEDICINE PHYSICIAN— Arizona. Would you like to be part of an Internal Medicine group located in the picturesque Cottonwood/ Sedona Arizona? We are seeking an Internal Medicine Physician to join our team (MD or DO).

• Practice demographic is retirement age
• Patient base established

continued on page 7
INTERNAL MEDICINE PROGRAM DIRECTOR
Osteopathic, Faculty
Christiansburg, Virginia

Carilion Clinic is seeking an Internal Medicine Osteopathic Program Director to direct a new residency program. Over the next year this position will be charged to lead the development and credentialing of the program, the next year will be available for recruitment of the incoming class and developing the educational program. Anticipated start date for the new residency would be July 1, 2015.

The program will be located on the campus of Carilion New River Valley Medical Center in Christiansburg, Virginia, a busy, modern, 146-bed medical center that serves a regional population of 185,000.

The ideal candidate will be osteopathic trained in internal medicine with at least 5 years of practice experience, three years teaching experience, board certified by the American Board of Osteopathic Internal Medicine, and possess a background in the development of an AOA-approved training program. The administrative FTE assigned to this position will be 0.5, with outpatient, specialty and hospitalist opportunities available to complete the successful applicant’s full-time position.

Submit CV and cover letter to Andrea Henson, Manager, Physician Recruitment and Onboarding, Carilion Clinic, POB 40032, Roanoke, VA 24022-0032, or ahenson@carilionclinic.org, 540-224-5241. AA/EOE.

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL EDUCATION (DME), SYSTEM DIRECTOR OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICAL EDUCATION (DOME)
Osteopathic, Faculty
Roanoke, VA

Carilion Clinic is seeking a Director Medical Education to lead the education development of their regional campus at Carilion New River Valley Medical Center. This position will lead overall program development and directly lead medical student education, primarily in conjunction with the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM). Carilion is developing two residencies on this campus as well, Internal Medicine and Emergency Medicine, and these two program directors would report to this position as well. Anticipated start date for the new residencies is July 1, 2015.

The program will be located on the campus of Carilion New River Valley Medical Center in Christiansburg, Virginia, a busy, modern, 146-bed medical center that serves a regional population of 185,000.

The ideal candidate will be osteopathic trained in internal medicine with at least 5 years of practice experience, three years teaching experience, board certified by the American Board of Osteopathic Internal Medicine, and possess a background in the development of an AOA-approved training programs. The administrative FTE assigned to this position will be 0.4.

This position will also serve as the Director of Osteopathic Medical Education (DOME) for the entire Carilion system headquartered in Roanoke, VA. In addition to the above two residencies at CNRV, this position would have responsibility for oversight of the AOA-accredited Neurosurgery residency, and a portion of the two Roanoke-based dual-accredited training programs, Family Medicine and Internal Medicine. This additional system responsibility and title would carry an FTE assignment of 0.2, leading to a combined total for this position of 0.6 administrative, 0.4 clinical with outpatient, specialty and hospitalist opportunities available to complete the successful applicant’s full-time position.

Submit CV and cover letter to Andrea Henson, Manager, Physician Recruitment and Onboarding, Carilion Clinic, POB 40032, Roanoke, VA 24022-0032, or ahenson@carilionclinic.org, 540-224-5241. AA/EOE
Professional Opportunities continued from page 5

• Work alongside a team of medical professionals
• Must be willing to participate in a group call schedule
• Board Certification required or Board Eligible
• Competitive package
• Participate in rotating in-patient and out-patient call group
• Partnership available or employment model available
• Serious inquiries only

For further details, please submit your CV with work history to cottonwood.human.resource@gmail.com

INTERNAL MEDICINE PROGRAM

MULTIPLE POSITIONS—New Jersey. Hospitalist/ Night Float Position
Available for a Board Certified/Eligible Internist/Family Practitioner to join a medicine based Hospitalist group in Bergen County, NJ at a prestigious, nationally ranked institution. Position is for a Night Float physician with No Call. The position offers an excellent compensation package including Medical Insurance and 401K as well as a highly competitive salary. To apply or inquire for further information about this opportunity please contact Timothy Hermansen. E-mail: timothy.hermansen@yahoo.com Phone: 973-653-9898.

Daytime Hospitalist Position
Available for a Board Certified/Eligible Internist/Family Practitioner to join a medicine based Hospitalist group in Bergen County, NJ at a prestigious, nationally ranked institution. Daytime hours with No Call. The position offers an exceptional compensation/benefit package including Medical Insurance and 401K, as well as a competitive salary including productivity bonuses. To apply or inquire for further information about this opportunity please contact Timothy Hermansen. E-mail: timothy.hermansen@yahoo.com Phone: 973-653-9898.

P/T Hospitalist Position
Available for a Board Certified/Board Eligible Internist/Family Practitioner to assist with medical rounds on weekends at an acute rehabilitation hospital. Multiple shifts available on both Saturdays and Sundays of each month. Competitive hourly reimbursement. To apply or inquire for further information about this opportunity please contact Timothy Hermansen. E-mail: timothy.hermansen@yahoo.com Phone: 973-653-9898.

P/T Hospitalist Position
Part-time Daytime position with Full time Benefits. Daytime hours typically 10AM – 3PM Monday through Friday with No Call and some weekend coverage. Position available for a Board Certified/Board Eligible Internist/Family Practitioner to assist with medical rounds at an acute rehabilitation hospital. The position offers exceptional benefits including Medical Insurance and 401K, as well as a competitive salary and with productivity bonuses. To apply or inquire for further information about this opportunity please contact Timothy Hermansen. E-mail: timothy.hermansen@yahoo.com Phone: 973-653-9898.
Future ACOI Education Meeting Dates & Locations

NATIONAL MEETINGS

• 2013 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 9-13  Renaissance Esmeralda Resort and Spa, Indian Wells, CA
• 2014 Internal Medicine Board Review Course
  March 26-30  Westin Savannah Harbor Resort & Spa, Savannah, GA
• 2014 Challenges in Inpatient Care
  March 26-30  Westin Savannah Harbor Resort & Spa, Savannah, GA
• 2014 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 15-19  Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore, MD
• 2015 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 28-Nov 1  Marco Island Marriott Golf Club and Spa, Marco Island, FL
• 2016 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 12-16  San Francisco Marriott Marquis, San Francisco, CA
• 2017 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 4-8  Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, Washington, DC
• 2018 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 17-21  Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, FL
• 2019 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions
  Oct 30- Nov 3  JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, Phoenix, AZ

Please note: It is an ACOI membership requirement that Active Members attend the Annual Convention or an ACOI-sponsored continuing education program at least once every three years.

Information on any meeting listed here may be obtained from ACOI Headquarters at 800 327-5183 or from our website at www.acoi.org.

2013 Certifying Examination Dates & Deadlines

Internal Medicine Certifying Examination
Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide
September 9, 2013 - Application Deadline: Expired
Late Registration Deadline: Expired
Subspecialty & Certification of Added Qualifications:
Aug. 24, 2013 • Lombard, IL - Application Deadline: Expired
Late Registration Deadline: Expired
Cardiology • Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology • Endocrinology • Gastroenterology • Geriatric Medicine • Hematology
  • Infectious Disease • Nephrology • Oncology • Pulmonary Diseases • Rheumatology • Sleep Medicine

Internal Medicine Recertifying Examination
Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide
September 10, 2013 - Application Deadline: Expired
Late Registration Deadline: Expired
Subspecialties and Added Qualifications Recertifying Examination:
Aug. 24, 2013 • Lombard, IL - Application Deadline: Expired
Cardiology • Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology • Critical Care Medicine • Endocrinology • Gastroenterology • Geriatric Medicine • Hematology
  • Infectious Disease • Interventional Cardiology • Nephrology • Oncology • Pulmonary Diseases • Rheumatology
Late Registration Deadline: Expired

Further information and application materials are available at www.aobim.org or by writing to: Gary L. Slick, DO, MACOI, Executive Director, American Osteopathic Board of Internal Medicine, 1111 W. 17th Street, Tulsa, OK 74107. admin@aobim.org.

Board of Directors Nominations

Active members of the ACOI who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors are invited to call the College’s office and request a nominating packet. The members of the ACOI will elect three individuals to three-year terms on the Board at the Annual Meeting of Members, October 13 in Indian Wells, CA.

As part of an ongoing self-assessment process, the Board has developed a position description for Board members and a list of competencies that should be possessed by the Board as a whole. Potential candidates must complete an application form that allows them to describe how their experience and expertise match up with the desired competencies.

In order to be considered by the Nominating Committee, the completed nomination packet must be returned to the ACOI office no later than June 15, 2013. The slate of candidates will be announced in the July issue of the newsletter.