

*From President Greco*

## GME Unification Dominates Trainers' Agenda



The 2014 ACOI Trainers' Congress convened early this month at the World Center Marriott in Orlando, FL, bringing together resident program

directors and trainers, medical education coordinators and rising chief residents. The program was led by Council on Education and Evaluation members Robert Hasty, DO and Jo Ann Mitchell, DO. It provided the opportunity for attendees to learn, network and share best practices to help them further develop their expertise in teaching and evaluating the over 1900 internal medicine residents and fellows in osteopathic programs throughout the country.

Central to this conference was a Town Hall session on the agreement by the AOA and ACGME to unify the GME accreditation system. We welcomed AOA Trustee Boyd Buser, DO who has been the lead negotiator for the AOA. Our own John Bulger, DO, also participated in the discussion.

While every DO has a stake in this landmark agreement, the program directors are truly on the frontlines. They must take on the challenge of

*continued on page 2*

*October 15-19, Baltimore Inner Harbor*

## Patient-Centered Innovation Is 2014 Convention Theme



The 2014 ACOI Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions will take place October 15-19, in Baltimore's beautiful Inner Harbor. President-elect Judith A. Lightfoot, D.O., will chair the program and has selected the theme of "Patient-Cen-

tered Innovation in a Rapidly Changing Environment – Internal Medicine 2014."

Leading off the program on Wednesday, October 15, will be Patrick M. Conway, M.D., the Deputy Administrator for Innovation and Quality and Chief Medical Officer of CMS, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The CMS Center for Innovation and Quality was created by Congress to develop and implement cutting-edge healthcare delivery programs, such as accountable care organizations. Dr. Conway was recently ranked sixth on a list of the 50 Most

*continued on page 5*

## Board of Directors Nominations

Active members of the ACOI who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors are invited to contact 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 19 in Baltimore, MD.

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 16, 2014. The slate of candidates will be announced in the July issue of the newsletter.

**PURDUE**

Funding in part for *ACOInformation* has been provided by Purdue Pharma, L.P.



## 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*

### 2013-2014 OFFICERS

- Rick A. Greco, DO, FACOI.....President  
donotsmoke@msn.com
- Judith A. Lightfoot, DO, FACOI.....President-Elect  
jlightfoot@gsida.org
- John B. Bulger, DO, MBA, FACOI.....Secretary-Treasurer  
jbulger@geisinger.edu
- Robert G. Good, DO, FACOI.....Immediate Past-President  
robert.good@carle.com
- Jack D. Bragg, DO, FACOI.....Past-President  
jackbragg0429@gmail.com

### 2013-2014 BOARD of DIRECTORS

- Michael A. Adornetto, DO, MBA, FACOI...maadornetto@aol.com
- Martin C. Burke, DO, FACOI...mburke@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu
- Annette T. Carron, DO, FACOI.....acarron@bostonford.org
- Robert L. DiGiovanni, DO, FACOI...robdsimc@tampabay.rr.com
- Scott L. Girard, DO, FACOI.....grrdsctt@yahoo.com
- Mitchell D. Forman, DO, FACOI...mitchell.forman@tun.touro.edu
- Joanne Kaiser-Smith, DO, FACOI.....kaiserjo@rowan.edu
- Samuel K. Snyder, DO, FACOI.....snyderdo@nova.edu
- John R. Sutton, DO, FACOI.....suttonendo@msn.com
- Christopher Sciamanna, DO, Resident Rep...csciamanna@gmail.com

### STAFF

- Brian J. Donadio, FACOI.....Executive Director  
bjd@acoi.org
- Timothy McNichol, JD.....Deputy Executive Director  
tmcnichol@acoi.org
- Susan B. Stacy, FACOI.....Finance/Administration Director  
susan@acoi.org
- Christina A. Smith.....Postdoctoral Training Specialist  
christy@acoi.org
- Keisha L. Oglesby.....Senior Member Services Specialist  
keisha@acoi.org
- Katie E. Allen.....Member Services Specialist/Certification Liaison  
katie@acoi.org
- Claudette Jones.....Executive Assistant  
claudette@acoi.org
- Melissa R. Stacy.....Member Services/Development Program  
melissa@acoi.org
- Ellen J. Donadio.....Website/Graphic Design  
ellen@acoi.org

11400 Rockville Pike  
Suite 801 • Rockville MD 20852  
301 231-8877 • 800 327-5183 • Fax 301 231-6099  
acoi@acoi.org • www.acoi.org

## Letter from the President

*continued from page 1*

preparing their programs for review under a new set of standards. They do so with an awareness that recognition of their AOBIM certification and their ability to continue as program directors is not guaranteed.

Certification is only one of the five required characteristics of an ACGME program director. I encourage my fellow program directors to focus their efforts toward strengthening our programs and demonstrating their quality, effectiveness and other attributes. The overall preservation and success of our programs will have a long-term effect on osteopathic medicine. We cannot let the distraction of the challenge to our own leadership be an obstacle for the success of these programs. We cannot lose sight of the great value that we bring to our communities and to our country. Let us focus on the opportunity to promote our values and strengths and to positively impact medical education on a larger scale.

There is a series of steps that must take place as this complicated process plays out. There are political issues to be addressed on both sides of any controversy. While we may wish for answers now and be impatient with the slow pace of the ACGME bureaucracy, we must remember that changing AOA standards and bylaws is also a long process.

Following the Trainers' Congress, ACOI Executive Director Brian Donadio and I traveled to Chicago where we had the opportunity to examine the Memorandum of Understanding guiding the unification process. I can say that the biggest mystery is why this document was not made public earlier. It truly has been a great distraction. The document basically sets the six-year unification process in motion. Events will most certainly evolve over time. We anticipate a review of existing ACGME standards and hope for the opportunity to participate in the favorable evolution of those standards.

There is much work to do. We must not lose sight of our strengths and values, such as our ability to staff programs in a variety of teaching settings at an efficient cost. Our high-tech, high-touch and highly-personal training environment has proven to be successful in providing our country with quality, competent, compassionate physicians. As the ACOI works toward gaining the acceptance of AOBIM certification for program directors and addressing other concerns, we also will concentrate on preserving and promoting these values and highlighting our successes so we can continue to have a positive impact on the health of the American people.

## Have You Moved?

**Keep us updated. If you have recently made any changes in your address, phone number or email, please notify the ACOI.**

***www.acoi.org***



# government RELATIONS

*Timothy McNichol, JD*

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## **President Nominates New Health and Human Services Secretary**

President Obama announced the nomination of Sylvia Mathews Burwell to the recently-vacated position of Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) April 11 in the Rose Garden. The nomination came at the same time as the President accepted the resignation of HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Ms. Burwell is the White House Budget Director. She was confirmed to her current position by the Senate in April 2013 by a vote of 96-0.

Prior to her time in the Obama administration, Ms. Burwell was president of the Wal-Mart Foundation and served as President of the Global Development Program at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Ms. Burwell worked in the Clinton administration as the deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget, deputy chief of staff and chief of staff to the Treasury Secretary, and staff director of the National Economic Council. Her nomination now goes before the Senate for consideration. While her last confirmation sailed through, this one is expected to be contentious in light of ongoing opposition to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The Senate Committees on Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will conduct hearings prior to her consideration by the full Senate.

## **New ICD-10 Implementation Date Released**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has indicated in a proposed rule that October 1, 2015 will be the new implementation date for the ICD-10 code set. Implementation was set to begin October 1, 2014, but was delayed by legislation recently signed into law by the President. The ACOI will continue to monitor this matter as CMS moves closer to implementation of ICD-10 and provides additional information to assist providers in the adoption of the ICD-10 code set.

## **House Approves Budget Plan for 2015**

The House approved a budget blueprint for fiscal year 2015 by a vote of 219 - 205. Under the plan, federal spending would be cut by \$5.1 trillion over 10 years. This would include significant reductions in Medicare, Medicaid and other health-related programs. Specifically, the plan calls for the following: Medicare would be transitioned to a “premium support” model; Medicaid would be paid for under a block grant system; and the ACA would be repealed, among other things. It is unlikely that this budgetary blueprint will be considered by the Senate. This is just the first of many steps in the budgeting process.

## **Bill to Amend the ACA Clears the House**

The House approved legislation to amend the definition of “full-time” employee as set forth in the ACA. The present definition under the ACA is an employee who works 30 or more hours per week. Employers with 50 or more employees are required to provide health care coverage for full-time employees under the “employer mandate.” The legislation approved by the House would amend the ACA to define a full-time employee as one who works 40 or more hours per week. Supporters of this legislation contend that the amendment would address concerns that employers have reduced the number of hours worked by their employees to avoid application of the ACA employer mandate. While this provision of the ACA gained attention and was a concern prior to its enactment, it appears unlikely that the Senate will consider this or similar legislation this session.

## **Enrollment under ACA Exceeds Expectations**

The Obama administration announced enrollment in state and federal health exchanges surpassed eight million. This exceeds the administration’s goal for the first open enrollment period and marked a significant improvement from its rocky initial stages. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, 35 percent of the new enrollees are between the ages of 18 and 34. While the goal for this segment of enrollees was 40 percent to ensure the creation of a stable risk pool, the final numbers are a significant improvement over the initial enrollment data. The Administration indicated that it will continue to reach out to those who are eligible to enroll prior to the next open enrollment period later this year.

## **Washington Tidbits: 50 Years... We Have Come a Long Way**

As the cherry blossoms display their magnificence each spring in Washington, there is a renewed hope that Congress will proceed in a fashion that advances the nation. Congress did just that 50 years ago.

On February 10, 1964 the House approved the Civil Rights Act of 1964 sending it to the Senate for consideration. Then-Majority Leader Mike Mansfield, in an effort to prevent the bill from dying in committee, placed it directly on the Senate calendar. The bill was brought up for consideration on March 9. A 60-day filibuster ensued before the debate was cut off on June 10 by a vote of 71 – 29 (60 votes needed to end debate). The debate was punctuated by Senator Robert Byrd’s historic 14-hour and 13-minute speech against the legislation. With a few additional votes, the legislation was sent to President Lyndon B. Johnson’s desk with bipartisan support, where it was signed into law 50 years ago.

# Your Contributions at Work!

The ACOI sponsors Visiting Professor lectures at more than 20 osteopathic college campuses each year. The speakers inform the medical students about the benefits of an internal medicine career and serve as role models for what a successful osteopathic internist can accomplish. The Visiting Professor Program is funded through contributions to ACOI's Generational Advancement Programs, which are part of our fundraising and development efforts. Members can make a donation to these efforts via the ACOI website, or as a check-off on your dues invoice.



Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine-Sam Snyder, DO, center, visiting professor. ACOI Board member Joanne Kaiser-Smith, DO at far right.



Past ACOI President, Michael B. Clearfield, DO, center; visiting the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Immediate Past President Robert G. Good, DO, left, addressed the William Carey University College of Osteopathic Medicine.



Jack D. Bragg, DO, far right, visited the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine. ACOI member David Broder, DO, the internal medicine club advisor, is second from right.

ACOI Past President, and current President and CEO of the Federation of State Medical Boards, Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO, MS, addressed students at the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.



# coding CORNER

*The ACOI Coding Corner is a column written by Jill M. Young, CPC, CEDC, CIMC. Ms. Young is the Principal of Young Medical Consulting, LLC. She has over 30 years of experience in all areas of medical practice, including coding and billing. Additional information on these and other topics are available at [www.acoi.org](http://www.acoi.org) and by contacting Ms. Young at [YoungMedConsult@aol.com](mailto:YoungMedConsult@aol.com).*

*The information provided here applies to Medicare coding. Be sure to check with local insurance carriers to determine if private insurers follow Medicare's lead in all coding matters.*

## Defining Time for E&M Codes

Challenges abound when utilizing time as a deciding factor for Evaluation and Management Codes (E&M). Unfortunately, CMS guidelines are inconsistent on how to meet time requirements and on how to document the time in a compliant manner. For E&M services, the typical published time for the code must be met or exceeded in order to select that code based on counseling and coordination rules. The Prolonged Service first-hour codes have a threshold of 30 minutes. As a result, the code is actually for 30-60 minutes. The Prolonged Service code that is for each additional 30 minutes (beyond the first 60), is selected at minute 61, according to CPT. To this end, one minute into the 30 minute block of time for the code allows its use. According to CMS, "The duration of counseling or coordination of care... may be estimated, but that estimate, along with the total duration of the visit, must be recorded." For Prolonged Service codes start and stop times are required. It is suggested that you always document start and stop times, your billing staff can apply the differing rules. This documentation proves not only that you met the code requirement, but it also shows when in the day your services were provided, if needed on an appeal for payment.



## Try ACOI's New App For the Latest Information



The ACOI has introduced a new way for members to learn about its education programs, news of note and other important information: the ACOI app for smart phones and tablets. The app includes much of the information that is available on the ACOI website. It has links to certification information, GME standards and reports, member services information, Board, committee and staff contacts and more. In addition, the agenda

materials and syllabuses for all continuing education meetings will be accessed via the ACOI app.

There is no charge for the ACOI app and it is available in all major formats. Learn how to download it via this link: <http://eprodirect.com/ema-sites/acoi/>.

## 2014 Convention *continued from page 1*

Influential Physician Executives and Leaders compiled by Modern Healthcare magazine. He will speak on the topic of Innovation and Health System Transformation.

Additional keynote addresses will underscore the convention theme on Thursday and Friday. Debra Roter, DrPH, will present "Bridging the Gap Between Evidence-Based Medicine and Patient-Centered Care: the Doctor-Patient Relationship," on October 16. Dr. Roter is a professor in the Center for Genomic Literacy at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. ACOI past President and Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences, Kevin P. Hubbard, D.O., will make a presentation entitled, "The Evolution of Patient-Centered Medical Practice: Osteopathic Medicine As the Forerunner."

The 2014 Convention also will include a variety of clinical topics on the latest developments in internal medicine and the subspecialties. A subspecialist-level cardiology symposium has been scheduled on Wednesday afternoon. In addition, a full-day Fundamental Critical Care Support training program will be offered on Saturday, October 18. There is a separate registration for this Society for Critical Care Medicine-developed course, which prepares non-intensivists to manage critically ill patients for the first 24 hours until transfer or appropriate critical care consultation can be arranged. The course and its companion text assist the non-intensivist in dealing with the sudden deterioration of critically ill patients.

The host hotel for the 2014 Convention is the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. Numerous off-site activities and networking events are planned. Approximately 36 category 1A CME credits are anticipated. Registration materials will be available in June.



# Corpus Christi Medical Center

Corpus Christi Medical Center is affiliated with Hospital Corporation of America (HCA), which is the nation's leading provider of health care services. Founded in 1962, Corpus Christi Medical Center has been a growing part of South Texas for the past 50 years. What began as a 26-bed facility has grown into a nationally recognized 631-bed health care system with more than 1,200 medical professionals and 600 medical staff members. From caring for fragile newborns to complex cardiovascular patients, Corpus Christi Medical Center ensures the community receives the highest quality care available.

## Amenities:

- **Online Preregistration at [www.ccmedicalcenter.com](http://www.ccmedicalcenter.com)**
- **Surgery OR Boards in Waiting Rooms**
- **Private and Semiprivate Rooms**
- **Electronic Patient Medical Record/Patient Portal**
- **Case Management, Social Workers and Financial Counselors**
- **H2U – Health and Wellness Program**



3315 S. Alameda Street • Corpus Christi, TX 78411  
[ccmedicalcenter.com](http://ccmedicalcenter.com) • 361.761.1000

## Our Locations:

- Bay Area
- The Heart Hospital
- Doctors Regional
- Northwest Regional
- Bayview Behavioral Hospital
- Northshore Emergency Center
- Radiation Oncology at CC Cancer Center

## Hospital Quality/Core Measures:

- Acute Myocardial Infarction = 100%
- Heart Failure = 99.22%
- Pneumonia = 100%
- SCIP = 99.06%

## Awards/Accreditations:

- Joint Commission Accreditation
- Joint Commission Primary Stroke Center
- Joint Commission *Top Performing Hospital/Quality Measures\**
- American Heart Association/Stroke Association's
- Get with the Guidelines Award/Stroke
- Level IV Emergency Trauma Center
- Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care – Chest Pain Center Accreditation
- TMF® Health Quality Institute's Texas Health Care Quality Improvement Award
- Thomson Reuter's Top 100 Hospital® Award (2011)
- Thomson Reuter's Top 50 Cardiovascular Hospital® Award (2012)
- State of Texas Ten Step Facility
- Mother-friendly Worksite

## Postgraduate Medical Education Cardiology Fellowship Training Program

HCA affiliate, Corpus Christi Medical Center provides postgraduate educational training in the highest level of patient care. Our program is accredited by the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) as a three year general cardiology fellowship program and is designed to provide Cardiologists with high quality instruction and experience in Cardiology techniques plus education. Cardiologists who train in the program will acquire the medical knowledge and experience in all facets of general cardiology with multiple faculty members.

Our Cardiology Fellowship Training Program provides clinical learning opportunities on two hospital campuses. The Bay Area and Doctors Regional Campuses are Accredited Chest Pain Center by the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care and is certified by the Joint Commission as a Primary Stroke Centers. In addition, both hospitals are recognized nationally by the Joint Commission as a Top Performing Hospital™ in Key Quality Measures.

### Cardiology Fellowship Training Program Application

The Cardiology Fellowship Position begins on July 1, 2014. Interested applicants must be a graduate of an accredited AOA or ACGME Internal Medicine Residency Program and be board certified or board eligible to sit for the American College of Osteopathic Internal Medicine boards. The application deadline is May 15, 2014. To apply, please submit the following information:

- A current photograph
- Current Curriculum Vitae—Current ERAS submission preferable
- Copy of all training contracts to date
- A typed personal statement
- Original medical school transcript sent directly from the sending institution
- Copy of your medical school diploma
- Copies of any/all applicable licensure/permits
- Copy of current ACLS and BCLS
- COMLEX score reports (official/not computer)
- Three (3) letters of recommendation current within 90 days sent directly to our program from the sender—One letter of recommendation must be from your Internal Medicine Residency Program Director
- Medical school deans' letter
- Other documentation as desired



Please submit information to:

Susan.christiansen@HCAhealthcare.com

Or Fax Attention Sue Christiansen at 361-761-3689

# AOA House Will Consider GME Unification

The ACOI Board of Directors and staff leadership have received many comments concerning the unification of the AOA and ACGME graduate medical education systems. The ACOI has responded to the AOA Board of Trustees with its concerns (<http://www.acoi.org/Newsletters.html>). The AOA House of Delegates will deliberate on this matter in July. Voting in the House is controlled by the state societies (specialty colleges receive only one vote each). Members who wish to make their opinions known to the AOA leadership are encouraged to contact their state osteopathic association presidents and delegates.

## Future ACOI Education Meeting Dates & Locations

### NATIONAL MEETINGS

- 2014 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions  
Oct 15-19 Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, MD
- 2015 Internal Medicine Board Review Course  
March 18-22 The Cosmopolitan Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
- 2015 Challenges in Inpatient Care  
March 19-22 The Cosmopolitan Hotel, Las Vegas, NV
- 2015 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions  
Oct 28-Nov 1 Location TBD
- 2016 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions  
Oct 12-16 San Francisco Marriott Marquis, San Francisco, CA
- 2017 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions  
Oct 15-19 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](http://www.acoi.org).*

## 2014 Certifying Examination Dates & Deadlines

### Internal Medicine Certifying Examination

Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide  
September 11, 2014 - *Application Deadline: Expired*  
*Late Registration Deadline: Expired*

### Subspecialty & Certification of Added Qualifications:

Aug. 23, 2014 • Lombard, IL - *Application Deadline: Expired*  
*Late Registration Deadline: Expired*

Cardiology • Critical Care Medicine • Endocrinology • Gastroenterology • Hematology • Infectious Disease  
Interventional Cardiology • Nephrology • Oncology • Pulmonary Diseases • Rheumatology

### Internal Medicine Recertifying Examination

Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide  
September 12, 2014 - *Application Deadline: Expired*  
*Late Registration Deadline: Expired*

### Focused Hospital Medicine Recertification

Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide  
May 8, 2014 - *Application Deadline: Expired*

### Subspecialty and Added Qualifications Recertifying Examinations:

Aug. 23, 2014 • Lombard, IL - *Application Deadline: Expired*  
Cardiology • Clinical Cardiac Electrophysiology • Critical Care Medicine • Endocrinology • Gastroenterology • Geriatrics • 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](http://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](mailto:admin@aobim.org).*



- CME Calendar...8
- Professional Opportunities...6-7
- ACOI App...5
- Coding Corner...5
- Visiting Professor Photos...4
- Government Relations...3

In The May 2014 Issue:

American College of Osteopathic Internists  
11400 Rockville Pike • Suite 801 • Rockville, MD 20852

# ACOInformation

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