

## From President Bulger It's All About the *Why*



Championing the cause of people and populations is a privilege. It is the essence of *why* we practice osteopathic internal medicine. It is *why* we get up in the

morning. It is *why* we go to meetings to be better osteopathic internists. It is *why* we share our time and talents with trainees. It is *why* we belong to the ACOI.

On a trip to Italy this summer with my family, I was struck by the prominence of the notary guild hall in the main square in Bologna. Guilds were associations of artisans or merchants who controlled their craft in a particular town. Guilds were focused on their members, for mutual aid and protection.<sup>1</sup> While guilds gave rise to universities, including in Bologna, they generally do not exist

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## John B. Bulger, DO, MBA Inaugurated as 2015-2016 President



John B. Bulger, DO, MBA, FACOI was inaugurated as the 2015-16 President of the ACOI at the Annual Meeting of Members on Sunday, October 4, in Tampa, FL. The Member Meeting was the concluding event of the 2015 Annual Convention and Scientific Sessions. Dr. Bulger is a board-certified general internist who is the Chief Medical Officer of the Geisinger Health Plan in Danville, PA. He has served on the Board of Directors since 2005.

A record 1400 physician members attended the Convention. During the business meeting, the mem-

bers elected a slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee. John R. Sutton, DO, an endocrinologist from Carson City, NV, was elected to the office of President-elect. Martin C. Burke, DO, FACOI, a cardiologist practicing in Chicago, was elected Secretary-Treasurer. Michael A. Adornetto, DO, Robert A. Cain, DO, and Mitchell D. Forman, DO, all were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Dr. Adornetto is a general internist. Dr. Cain is a pulmonary specialist and Dr. Forman is a rheumatologist. Robert T. Hasty, DO, a general internist, was elected to complete the one year remaining in Dr. Burke's Board term.

The business meeting included reports from the Executive Director and Finance Committee. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, the ACOI experienced a profit of \$633,328. The Finance Committee, chaired by Rick A. Greco, DO, reported that revenues were approximately \$4.17 million and expenses were \$3.52 million. Total assets of the College grew to \$3.72 million.

The Convention was chaired by ACOI Board member, Samuel Snyder, DO and featured a theme of "Guidelines and Controversies in Medicine." Sessions were

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## Volunteer For an ACOI Committee

Volunteers are needed for a variety of ACOI committees, councils and task forces. Appointments will be made by incoming President John B. Bulger, DO, MBA and the Board of Directors by the end of the year. More information on the committees and the appointment process can be found on the ACOI website, [www.acoi.org](http://www.acoi.org).

**2015 Convention Roundup Inside!**



## American College of Osteopathic Internists

*In Service to All Members; All Members in Service*

### MISSION

*The mission of the ACOI is to promote high quality, distinctive osteopathic care of the adult.*

### 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*

### 2015-2016 OFFICERS

John B. Bulger, DO, MBA, FACOI.....President  
jbulger@geisinger.edu

John R. Sutton, DO, FACOI.....President-Elect  
suttonendo@msn.com

Martin C. Burke, DO, FACOI.....Secretary-Treasurer  
mburke@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu

Judith A. Lightfoot, DO, FACOI.....Immediate Past-President  
jlightfoot@gsida.org

Rick A. Greco, DO, FACOI.....Past-President  
donotsmoke@msn.com

### 2015-2016 BOARD of DIRECTORS

Michael A. Adornetto, DO, MBA, FACOI...maadornetto@aol.com

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## Letter from the President

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any longer. One reason that they ceased to exist is that their focus was inward, on their own existence, rather than outward. Their *why* was egocentric.

Andrew Taylor Still founded osteopathic medicine “to improve our present system of surgery, obstetrics, and treatment of diseases generally.”<sup>2</sup> Osteopathic internal medicine focuses on the treatment of diseases of the adult. Dr. Still’s *why* was directed outward. Dr. Still founded a profession, not a guild. As a profession, our *why* is bigger than us. Our *why* is about others. It is focused on the people and populations we serve.

Osteopathic internal medicine provides benefits for those we serve. This is part of our *why*. Much debate exists regarding measurement of distinctiveness. It is important that we codify the attributes so they can be spread. It is also important that we understand that “not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.”<sup>3</sup> Some part of the distinctiveness is sharing within the family of osteopathic internal medicine. Giving back is part of the *why* and inherent to a profession.

Osteopathic internal medicine continues to thrive. As osteopathic internal medicine looks to the future, we will continue to be faced with important decisions. Our deliberations must be grounded in our *why*. We must always ask ourselves what is best for the people and populations that we serve.

I am proud to be an osteopathic internist. I am honored and humbled to lead the ACOI. *Why* do I lead, *why* do we do this? We do it to improve our present system of care for the people and populations we serve.

<sup>1</sup> Dictionary.com

<sup>2</sup> The legal charter issued by the State of Missouri to the American School of Osteopathy, 1892

<sup>3</sup> Albert Einstein

*John B. Bulger, DO, MBA, FACOI  
President*

## Dr. Bulger Inaugurated

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well attended, with 600 or more physicians typically present for the plenary sessions. In particular, a vascular medicine symposium and a cardiology symposium saw standing room crowds. Other sessions attracted hundreds of attendees throughout the week.

During the Convention, the College began the celebration of the 75th anniversary of its founding in 1941. A “Hall of History” was put together by Director of Administration and Finance, Susan B. Stacy, FACOI. In it, attendees could view early photographs and convention programs from the ACOI archives. The anniversary celebration will continue over the next year. A history of the College, authored by Kevin P. Hubbard, DO, MACOI, is among the activities planned. Members in attendance were also very generous in their contributions to the ACOI’s Generational Advancement Fund, and the new 75th Anniversary Circle, which has as its goal the preservation of distinctive osteopathic internal medicine practice as the profession transitions to allopathic accreditation of its residency programs. The Generational Advancement Fund provides assistance to residents and students in the form of textbook vouchers and stipends to attend the meeting, among other things. There were approximately 335 residents and fellows and 40 students in attendance.



# government RELATIONS

Timothy McNichol, JD

## White House Announces Efforts to Address Prescription Drug Abuse and Heroin

The ACOI and nearly 40 other provider groups support efforts announced by the White House to stem prescription drug abuse and heroin use. President Obama traveled to West Virginia to hear firsthand about the toll drug abuse and heroin use is taking on Americans and their families, while straining law enforcement and treatment programs. During his visit to West Virginia, the President announced federal, state, local and private sector efforts aimed at addressing the prescription drug abuse and heroin epidemic. As part of the effort, the ACOI and others will work to train more than 540,000 health-care providers in opioid prescribing over the next two years. Groups such as CBS, ABC, the New York Times and others will donate millions of dollars in media space for PSAs about the risk of prescription drug misuse.

In addition to the efforts of providers and other organizations to address the drug abuse epidemic, the President issued a memorandum to federal departments and agencies. The memorandum directs federal departments and agencies to provide training on the prescribing of opioids by federal health care professionals who prescribe controlled substances as part of their federal responsibilities. Further, the memorandum directs federal departments and agencies that directly provide, contract to provide, reimburse for, or otherwise facilitate access to health benefits, to identify barriers to medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorders and develop action plans to address these barriers.

## CMS Issues Final Rule Impacting Stages 2 and 3 of the Meaningful Use Program

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently released a final rule modifying Stage 2 and implementing Stage 3 of the Meaningful Use (MU) Program. The MU program is an incentive program created in 2009 to promote greater efficiency and improve patient outcomes through the use and adoption of certified electronic health records (EHRs). The program was designed to be implemented through three stages over five years.

In an effort to remove some of the perceived barriers to successful reporting, CMS shortened the 2015 (Stage 2 MU) reporting period from a full year to 90 days and reduced the number of objectives required for eligible professionals to successfully participate in the incentive program. In addition, in response to concerns raised by the ACOI and other physician groups, mandatory participation in Stage 3 will be delayed until 2018 with optional participation in Stage 3 for 2017. CMS signaled additional changes to the rule may be forthcoming. The final rule provides an additional 60 days for public comment. You can learn more about the MU program and provider requirements at [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov).

The Office of National Coordinator for Health Information Technology concurrently issued a rule addressing the certification of EHR technology. The ACOI and others continue to express concern with the reporting program and the certification of EHRs. You can view a copy of these and other comments submitted at <http://www.acoi.org/advocacy/legislative-and-regulatory-comments.html>.

## Bill Introduced to Expand Open Payment Reporting Requirements

A bill was recently introduced in the Senate to expand reporting requirements under the Open Payments Program. The proposed legislation would expand the current reporting program to require applicable manufacturers to report payments made to physician assistants, nurse practitioners and other advanced practice nurses. The reporting

program was created under the Physician Payment Sunshine Act, which was included in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to promote transparency. According to CMS, under the current reporting program there were more than \$6 billion in financial transactions between drug and device manufacturers, physicians and teaching hospitals in 2014. You can learn more about the Open Payments Program by visiting [www.cms.gov/openpayments/](http://www.cms.gov/openpayments/).

## ACA Case Continues in US District Court

As previously reported, the US District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that the House could proceed in a lawsuit brought against the Obama Administration challenging the legality of using unappropriated funds to implement the ACA. In an effort to end the legal action, the Administration appealed the decision to allow the case to proceed. In a setback for the Administration, a judge refused to certify the case for appeal prior to the issuance of a final judgment. As a result of this most recent ruling, the case will continue to proceed in the US District Court. The ACOI will continue to monitor this case and its potential impact as it works its way through the judicial system.

## HHS Awards Funds to Expand Primary Care Workforce

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the award of more than \$240 million to expand the primary care workforce under the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) and NURSE Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs. The funds will provide: new awards to students pursuing primary care training leading to a degree in medicine, dentistry or a degree as a nurse-midwife, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner; new awards under the NHSC Student-to-Service Loan Repayment Program for medical students in the last year of school; and new awards to educators to serve as faculty and eligible health profession schools, among other things. Additional information is available at [www.NHSC.hrsa.gov](http://www.NHSC.hrsa.gov).

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# coding CORNER

Jill M. Young, CPC, CEDC, CIMC

*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.*

## Low Utilization of Chronic Care Management Codes Seen by CMS

According to CMS, doctors are not taking advantage of the new code for chronic care management services. American Medical Association Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) code 99490 was implemented to improve care and reduce hospital readmissions and overall costs by providing a per-patient per-month payment for non-face-to-face chronic care coordination services. According to CMS, it has received 100,000 reimbursement requests for an estimated 35 million eligible beneficiaries. Concerns have been raised by the physician community that the complexity of compliance has steered doctors away from the program. As a result, of the intent of the code and the limited utilization to date, CMS is trying to raise awareness and interest among Medicare beneficiaries and providers. To learn more about chronic care management services visit [www.cms.gov](http://www.cms.gov).

## Texas Osteopathic Medical Association Installs Steven Gates, DO as 115th President

ACOI Member Steven L. Gates, DO, FACOI of Corpus Christi, TX, was installed in August as president of the Texas Osteopathic Medical Association (TOMA). Dr. Gates is certified by the AOBIM in internal medicine and geriatrics. He assumed the presidency at the 2015 Texas Osteopathic Medical Association's annual convention in Corpus Christi.

"I was born to be a DO, and am proud that the profession is very well situated for the future of medicine," says Gates. "Already one of every four medical school graduates are DOs and we will impact patient care. By applying our philosophical tenets to our patient's needs, we will show the world how to truly practice Ideal Patient Care."

Dr. Gates is the Vice President of Graduate Medical Education and also holds the positions of Director of Medical Education, Designated Institutional Officer, and Internal Medicine Residency Program Director at the Corpus Christi Medical Center – Bay Area. He is also the vice-chair of the Texas Medical Foundation Health Quality Institute.

In addition to the ACOI, Dr. Gates is a member of Association of Osteopathic Directors and Medical Educators (AODME) Board of Trustees. He has been a leader and mentor training medical students and residents for over 17 years. During his career, Dr. Gates has held numerous leadership roles within TOMA and the American Osteopathic Association (AOA). Dr. Gates Chairs the AOA's Bureau of Osteopathic Medical Educators and serves on the AOA's Bureau of Medical Education and Council on Osteopathic Postdoctoral Training.

## 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](http://www.acoi.org)**

# Interview with Jack D. Bragg, DO

## Why Supporting the ACOI is Important

*(This is one in a series of interviews with ACOI members who are strongly committed to the College and why they believe it has made a difference in their lives. This series is presented by Barbara L. Ciconte, CFRE, Development Counsel to ACOI.)*



Meet **Jack D. Bragg, DO, FACOI**, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, Division of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine. A former member of the ACOI's Board of Directors, he served as President in 2011-2012. Dr. Bragg has volunteered on a number of ACOI committees, including the Program Committee, Ethics Committee and currently the Development Committee. He participates in the College's Visiting Professor Program and is a nationally-known speaker in gastroenterology.

**Ms. Ciconte:** Tell me why you have dedicated your time and talents to ACOI.

**Dr. Bragg:** Given ACOI's size, I saw that it was able to utilize the skills and knowledge of its members in order to get things done that would benefit the members and the internal medicine profession. I thoroughly enjoyed my years of service on the ACOI Board because the Board was committed to govern and had the authority to determine what the College needed. We then acted in partnership with the senior staff to accomplish those goals.

**Ms. Ciconte:** How can ACOI continue to serve its members in the future?

**Dr. Bragg:** I realize there is some uncertainty as to what the future might hold for the ACOI due to the changes associated with the single pathway for GME accreditation. For that reason, I believe we need to continue doing what we have done well in the past. This includes quality CME sessions at the annual convention, our advocacy efforts in Washington, DC, and the recertification work we do. The College is a leader and has demonstrated forward thinking for internal medicine. This is needed now more than ever.

**Ms. Ciconte:** In addition to sharing your time and talents with ACOI, you are a donor and Charter member of the Legacy Society that honors those who include the College in their will or estate plan. Tell me what motivated you to make a planned gift to the ACOI.

**Dr. Bragg:** When the ACOI offered a special program to its members to assist them in their estate planning a number of years ago, I was involved at the leadership level and knew firsthand what the College did for the members. I could see that osteopathic internal medicine had a bright future. Including ACOI in my will allowed me to demonstrate my commitment to the College and its future financial security. My annual gifts to the Generational Advance-

ment Fund help ACOI provide support to medical students and residents, which help to advance the next generation of osteopathic internists.

**Ms. Ciconte:** What can ACOI do to encourage other ACOI members to give annually and consider joining the Legacy Society?

**Dr. Bragg:** ACOI needs to remind members that they can have a direct impact on our profession. As I mentioned earlier, given ACOI's size, the College is able to utilize the skills and knowledge of its members to benefit the osteopathic internal medicine profession. I always encourage members to get involved on committees which will identify them to the ACOI Board and staff leadership.

Last year, I rotated off the ACOI Board but I must tell you that my experience on the Board and as the ACOI President was truly memorable. I felt a great sense of accomplishment of what the ACOI staff and Board achieved during my tenure in leadership. Members who are involved and see what the College does will understand how important their financial contributions are to the ACOI and give. Service and financial support to the ACOI are wonderful ways to give back.

**Ms. Ciconte:** Dr. Bragg, ACOI thanks you for the many contributions you have made and continue to make to help the College plan for its future while educating and training the next generation of osteopathic internists.



## Tax and Estate Planning Seminar Series Continues

Nationally-recognized planned giving consultant Sandy Macnab, FAHP, CFRE, President, Alexander Macnab & Co., presented “Gaining through Giving - Doing Well While Doing Good,” at a Sunrise Session at the 2015 Annual Convention in Tampa. An appreciative group of ACOI Fellows and other members learned about ways to help themselves, their families, and ACOI while saving income and estate taxes.

The session provided general information on how charitable gifts can help families with tax and estate planning issues. Attendees learned about helping ACOI while reducing income and estate tax

liabilities, especially gift plans that benefit donors with lifetime income and that then go on to support ACOI programs.

For those unable to attend the session, brochures describing the plans are available from the ACOI office. Email Brian Donadio at [bjd@acoi.org](mailto:bjd@acoi.org) or call 301-231-8877 to request a copy of “The Gift Annuity” or “Remarkable Unitrusts” brochures.



## New Members Welcomed

*The ACOI Board of Directors and staff welcome the following members whose membership applications or changes in membership status have been approved by the Credentials Committee and Board of Directors.*

### Active Members:

Charles J. DeFraia, DO	Jennifer L. Mojica-Itidiare, DO	Sheel Y. Tolia, DO
Nathan R. Duffin, DO	Melissa M. Odermann, DO	Louis E. Volino, DO
Ann E. Hackfort, DO	Brandon S. Roberts, DO	Lorien R. Wallace-Pierron, DO
Dora Kirschweg, DO	Niyati P. Sheth, DO	Marianna Zelenak, DO
Allen D. McGrew, DO	Apoorva Srivastava, DO	



## New 75th Anniversary Circle Launched at Annual Convention

Members of the ACOI 75th Anniversary Circle have agreed to contribute \$1000 or more over the next two years to support the ACOI initiative to assist all residency and fellowship programs to maintain their osteopathic focus under the ACGME. Each supporter will be recognized with a leaf on the ACOI 75th Anniversary Circle Tree to be located permanently in the ACOI office.

ACOI is pleased to recognize these members who made their commitment at the Annual Convention in Tampa:

Michael A. Adornetto, DO, MBA, FACOI  
 Lee Peter Bee, DO, FACOI  
 John B. Bulger, DO, MBA, FACOI  
 Martin C. Burke, DO, FACOI  
 Robert A. Cain, DO, FACOI  
 Annette T. Carron, DO, FACOI  
 Robert L. DiGiovanni, DO, FACOI  
 Brian J. Donadio, FACOI and Ellen Donadio  
 Bruce D. Dubin, DO, MACOI  
 Mitchell D. Forman, DO, FACOI  
 Pamela R. Gardner, DO, FACOI  
 Scott L. Girard, DO, FACOI  
 Rick A. Greco, DO, FACOI and  
 Carol A. Greco, DO  
 Lawrence U. Haspel, DO, MACOI  
 Robert T. Hasty, DO, FACOI  
 Kevin P. Hubbard, DO, MACOI and  
 Roxanne Hubbard  
 Joanne Kaiser-Smith, DO, FACOI  
 Judith A. Lightfoot, DO, FACOI  
 Donald S. Nelinson, PhD  
 Eugene A. Oliveri, DO, MACOI  
 Susan O'Neal, DO, FACOI  
 Anthony N. Ottaviani, DO, MPH, MACOI  
 Morvarid Rezaie, DO, FACOI  
 Christine M. Samsa, DO, FACOI and  
 Nathan P. Samsa, DO, FACOI  
 Samuel K. Snyder, DO, FACOI  
 William D. Strampel, DO, FACOI  
 John R. Sutton, DO, FACOI  
 Richard R. Thacker, DO, FACOI  
 Larry A. Wickless, DO, MACOI

Information on how to join the 75th Anniversary Circle will be shared with ACOI members during the Anniversary Celebration.



# Convention ROUNDUP

## 2015 Resident Research Abstract Contest Winners



A record 120 residents and students entered the 2015 ACOI Research Abstract Poster Contest in Tampa. From these, three finalists were selected to present their original research during a plenary session of the Convention and three case presentations were selected by the judges for cash prizes. The ACOI congratulates all of the trainees who entered the contest, and in particular, the following prize winners:

### ORIGINAL RESEARCH

Hepatitis C Screening in Baby Boomers (\$1500)

*Daniel Haddad, DO (Genesys Regional Medical Center)*

Scoping Gastroenterology Journals: 100% of Meta-Analyses Tested

Positive for Publication Bias (\$1000)

*Trace Heavener, DO (Adena Health System)*

Utility of Galectin-3 in Ischemic Cardiomyopathy (\$500)

*Marcel Letourneau, DO (Genesys Regional Medical Center)*

### CASE PRESENTATIONS

Life-Saving Inhaled Sevoflurane Administered to an Adult with Severe

Bronchospasm Secondary to COPD Exacerbation (\$500)

*Sara Ancello, DO (RowanSOM/KUH/Our Lady of Lourdes)*

Delirium and Low Oxygen Saturation Secondary to Drug-Induced

Methemoglobinemia: A Case Report (\$250)

*David Heger, DO (Mercy Health Hackley Campus Muskegon)*

Diffuse Lymphadenopathy: Surely it Must be Lymphoma!

A Rare Presentation of Prostate Cancer (\$100)

*Stephen Eikermann, DO (Bay Area Corpus Christi Medical Center)*



## Fun Run Winners

The following participants earned trophies for finishing within the top three places in the four mile or two mile runs during the Annual Convention:

### 4 Mile (Men)

1st Dustin Tompkins

2nd Dale Leffler

3rd Dave Folkmier

### 4 Mile (Women)

1st Rebecca Armbruster

2nd Diane Meeda

3rd Mary Jo Voelpel

### 2 Mile (Men)

1st Jeff Packer

2nd Jim Strand

3rd Paul McGowan

### 2 Mile (Women)

1st Sherry Kuo

2nd Jo Levan

3rd Jozia McGowan

## Raffle Winners

Congratulations to the following convention attendees, lucky recipients of a multitude of prizes made possible by the generosity of our sponsors:

Zaid Saffo  
\$150 Amazon gift card  
(donated by Centura Health)

Najad Mirza  
\$100 Target gift card  
(donated by Healthcare Partners - JSA)

Dina Seibert  
Gift Card (donated by Leapdoctor.com)

David Cullen  
Certificate Package  
(donated by MedStudy Corp)

James Martin  
\$100 Mastercard Gift Card  
(donated by MidMichigan Health)

Thomas Naseri  
Pen Set (donated by MidWestern University)

Janet Cheek  
Gift Bag (donated by MSU COM)

Samanda Durand  
Gift Bag  
(donated by NOVA Southeastern Univ.)

Bridget Tah-Clayton  
Backpack (donated by Schumacher Group)

Christine Guenther  
Books (donated by TEAMHealth)

Mohammed Khaleel  
\$200 Marriott Gift Card

Roger Schwartzburg  
\$200 Marriott Gift Card

Sherry Kuo  
Tampa Marriott Weekend for Two

Erenee Sirinian  
Marco Island Marriott Gift Certificate

Justin Zamoyski  
San Francisco Marriott Marquis Weekend for Two

Ducatel Watson  
Bose Sports Performance Headphones

Tyree Seals  
Bose Portable Speakers

Christine Samsa  
Bose Speaker System

Sue Castleman  
Apple TV

Dustin Thompkins  
iPad Mini

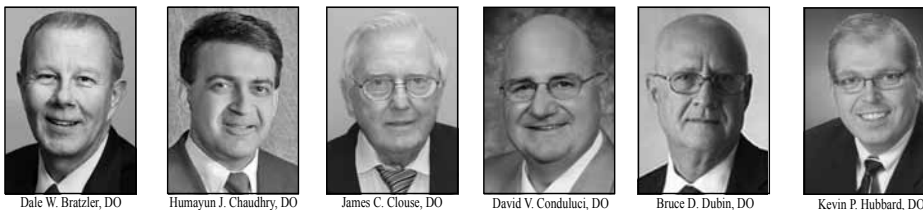
# Convention ROUNDUP

## 2015 ACOI Fellows



- |                       |                      |                                 |                             |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Onyema E. Amakiri     | Brian J. Garrity     | Dale G. Leffler                 | Christine M. Samsa          |
| Andrew W. Ambler      | Jacob B. Gibson      | Elias O. LeMoine                | Nathan P. Samsa             |
| Muneer E. Assi        | Joshua D. Glauser    | Rubaiya Y. Mallay               | Natalie R. Sessions         |
| Jessica M. Baer Mears | Johnathan R. Grant   | Jozia C. McGowan                | Maria N. Setlak             |
| Michael H. Bojarski   | Margaret M. Hallahan | Caroline E. Merritt-Schiermeyer | Kristin A. Severson-Solberg |
| Janet E. Cheek        | T. Scott Hamilton    | Joseph Morris, III              | Erenee Sirinian             |
| John M. Clair, Sr.    | Kara J. Hoisington   | Jose M. Pestana                 | Mark A. Smalley             |
| Kevin S. Combs        | Tamara J. Holloway   | Dana F. Planer                  | Ronald J. Stewart           |
| Jennifer L. DiNubila  | Preeti Jhwar         | Brian A. Pollock                | Mahdi A. Taha               |
| Leslie E. Easley      | Oksana O. Karpov     | Sarah J. Potter                 | Nopporn Unnoppet            |
| Christy M. Fagg       | Nathaniel J. Kesner  | Brian R. Poustinchian           | Robbie D. Wall              |
| Marie R. Fleury       | Zane M. Knoer        | Heidi L. Putt                   | JoAnn Wang                  |
| Pamela R. Gardner     | Kingsley A. Lartey   | Maria E. Ramos                  | Matthew L. Woodham          |

## 2015 ACOI Master Fellows



Dale W. Bratzler, DO   Humayun J. Chaudhry, DO   James C. Clouse, DO   David V. Condoluci, DO   Bruce D. Dubin, DO   Kevin P. Hubbard, DO



Armen A. Korkigian, DO   Joseph J. Namey, DO   Joanna R. Pease, DO   Frederick A. Schaller, DO   Ronald L. Walsh, DO

## Certificates of Appreciation

The following members were honored at the Convention for Active membership in the College for at least 30 years:

### 45 YEAR MEMBERS

- Julian Kutinsky
- Leonard Mennen

### 40 YEAR MEMBERS

- Jay Beckwith
- Anthony D'Errico
- James Giudice
- David Hall
- Lawrence Haspel
- W. Gordon Irwin
- Robert McCullough
- Ronald Stewart
- Larry Wickless
- Gerald Williams

### 35 YEAR MEMBERS

- Jeffrey Bruner
- Lawrence Cowsill
- Lowell Greer, III
- David Hough
- David Kazmierski
- Kenneth Kruczek
- Carl Kupferer
- Eugene Langevin
- Dane Maxfield
- Harry Pierce
- Roy Sartori
- Michael Slavin
- Mark Smalley
- Dennis Spiller
- Michael Stanek
- Allen Trager
- Neil Tytler
- Dennis Watson

### 30 YEAR MEMBERS

- Charles Bisogno
- Dale Bratzler
- John Brenner
- Ronald Bruce
- Phillip Cohen
- Robert Cohen
- David Condoluci
- Gary Cornette
- William Esper
- James Fitzpatrick
- Cliff Glasser
- Robert Grant
- Andrew Hano
- Charles Hanshaw
- Leonard Hock
- Allan Kurtz
- Marc Loundy
- Robert Low
- J. Robert McGhee
- Karen Nichols
- Patrick Nolan
- Leatrice Olson
- I. Philip Reese
- Joel Retholtz
- Lisa Rogers
- David Sisam
- James Smith
- Thomas Snyder
- Alan Sommers
- David Stern
- Ronald Walsh
- Philip Watson
- Bruce Weber
- Stephen Weis
- David Walker

## 2015 Special Awards

### TEACHER OF THE YEAR



David V. Pizzimetti, DO

### INTERNIST OF THE YEAR



Felix J. Rogers, DO

### 2015 MEMORIAL LECTURE



Rick A. Greco, DO

### Resident Humanism And Teaching Award



Brenton Rogers, DO

### AOF/ACOI Internal Medicine Resident Of The Year



John R. Dahdah, DO



# PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

## PHYSICIAN CAREER

**OPPORTUNITIES - California.** Dignity Health offers career opportunities in some of the fastest growing communities in America. We are one of the largest healthcare systems in the nation and the largest hospital system in California. We invite you to explore our outstanding provider opportunities in California. You can control your professional future while giving yourself and family a superb quality of life. Enjoy endless access to outdoor activities, sports teams, golf or big city culture. Please forward CV to Amanda West, Physician Recruitment at [providers@dignityhealth.org](mailto:providers@dignityhealth.org) 888-599-7787, website [www.dignityhealth.org/physician-careers](http://www.dignityhealth.org/physician-careers).

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR INTERNAL MEDICINE -

**Southern New Jersey.** Large internal medicine program seeking a physician Program Director with a minimum of 5 years faculty experience and 3 years administrative hands-on academic work. Must be ABIM certified. Program has over 100 residents. This opportunity encompasses a full range of responsibility including supervising, teaching and evaluations as well as curriculum development. Hospital has over 10 residencies and fellowships and is part of a small hospital system. Both a hospitalist and primary care tract are offered. Subspecialty affiliation with Fox Chase. New Jersey is noted for its 130 miles of coastline and white-sand beaches, barrier islands, light houses and the Boardwalk. Wanda Parker, The HealthField Alliance, 203-778-3333, [healthfield@mindspring.com](mailto:healthfield@mindspring.com).

## Gastroenterologist - Michigan

Mercy Health Physician Partners – West Michigan Gastroenterology is seeking a Gastroenterologist to join our well established and very busy practice. We have a very strong and collaborative team who supports each other and have the highest level of patient centered care. We also benefit from a large primary care and specialty referral base. The candidate must be BC/BE in Gastroenterology and be comfortable with ERCP.

Muskegon is located along the shoreline of beautiful Lake Michigan and has 27 inland lakes, 400 miles of rivers and miles of woods and dunes. It offers a taste for every season and is just a short drive, flight, bus, or ferry ride from cities like Detroit, Milwaukee, and Chicago. Forbes magazine recently ranked Muskegon as #12 nationwide for culture and leisure venues among cities its size and Muskegon is ranked as #13 in the nation as best metropolitan places for physicians. Muskegon is also the highest-ranking city in Michigan for job growth.

Mercy Health is a regional healthcare system serving both Muskegon and Grand Rapids, and is part of Trinity Health, the second largest Catholic healthcare system in the U.S.

To learn more about the practice please visit:

<http://mercyhealthphysicianpartners.com/muskegon/physicians/Gastroenterology>

Please contact our Physician Recruiter: Camille VanDyk at phone number: 616.685.6814 or email: [vandykca@mercyhealth.com](mailto:vandykca@mercyhealth.com)

## Internal Medicine Core Faculty Opportunity

- Academic Partnership with Pacific Northwest University
- Accredited by the American Osteopathic Association
- OPTI West member
- Full time position
- .60 FTE outpatient practice at Skagit Regional Clinics - .40 FTE core faculty position instructing residents at Skagit Regional Clinics' Residency Clinic
- 26 FM and IM residents
- EMR
- Relocation assistance
- Experienced support staff
- BC in Internal Medicine
- Preference given to BC in NMM or CSPOMM
- We would like to start an NMM +1 program in the near future

Skagit Valley Hospital is a healthcare leader in Northwest Washington, providing advanced, quality and comprehensive services to the residents of our communities. Skagit Valley Hospital features private room throughout; from the Level III Trauma Emergency Department to the Family Birth Center the hospital offers a full range of surgical services, renal dialysis, advanced diagnostics, including CT, MRI and PET, and a spacious center for Sleep Studies.

Skagit Valley Hospital is home to the areas' only cardiac catheterization labs and offers advanced heart and vascular care.

Located in Mount Vernon, Washington in the heart of the beautiful Skagit Valley, 60 miles north of Seattle and 86 miles south of Vancouver, B.C. The area offers quick access to the San Juan Islands and the North Cascade Mountains; hiking, camping, biking, skiing right in your back yard! Endless water sports and mountain activities provide an amazing lifestyle. Bike to work! Close enough to all major metropolitan areas, enjoying all the best in world class sports and entertainment.

*Please visit us at*

<http://www.skagitvalleyhospital.org>  
and <http://www.srclinics.org>.



# CME CALENDAR

## ***Future ACOI Education Meeting Dates & Locations***

### **NATIONAL MEETINGS**

- 2016 Internal Medicine Board Review Course  
March 30-April 3 Renaissance Resort at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL
- 2016 Clinical Challenges in Inpatient Care  
March 31-April 3 Renaissance Resort at SeaWorld, Orlando, FL
- 2016 Residency Trainers Congress/Chief Resident/Emerging Leaders Training Program  
May 5-7 Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa, Savannah, GA
- 2016 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions  
Date and Location to be Announced
- 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
- 2020 Annual Convention & Scientific Sessions  
Oct 21-25 Marco Island Marriott Beach Resort, Marco Island, FL

*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).*

## **2016 Certifying Examination Dates & Deadlines**

### **Internal Medicine Certifying Examination**

Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide

September 15, 2016 - *Application Deadline: February 1, 2016*

*Late Registration Deadline: April 1, 2016*

### **Subspecialty & Certification of Added Qualifications:**

Aug. 20, 2016 • Lombard, IL - *Application Deadline: April 1, 2016*

*Late Registration Deadline: May 1, 2016*

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

### **Internal Medicine Recertifying Examination**

Computerized Examination 200 Sites Nationwide

September 15, 2016 - *Application Deadline: April 1, 2016*

*Late Registration Deadline: May 1, 2016*

### **Focused Hospital Medicine Recertification**

Aug. 20, 2016 • Lombard, IL - *Application Deadline: April 1, 2016*

*Late Registration Deadline: May 1, 2016.*

### **Subspecialty and Added Qualifications Recertifying Examinations:**

Aug. 20, 2016 • Lombard, IL

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

*Application Deadline: April 1, 2016*

*Late Registration Deadline: May 1, 2016*

*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, email: [admin@aobim.org](mailto:admin@aobim.org).*

*Contact the AOBIM at [admin@aobim.org](mailto:admin@aobim.org) for deadlines and dates for the **Hospice and Palliative Care, Pain Medicine, Undersea/Hyperbaric Medicine and Correctional Medicine** examinations.*

## **Government Relations**

*continued from page 3*

### **Washington Tidbits:**

#### **HELP WANTED...**

#### **Speaker of the House**

Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution provides, "The House of Representatives shall choose their Speaker and other officers." The Speaker has been chosen 123 times since 1789. With the announced resignation and retirement of current Speaker John Boehner, the House will again choose its leader who is certain to be challenged by both institutional and partisan job requirements.

In the coming days the two major parties will put forth candidates to fill the position of Speaker of the House. The name of each member of the House will be called alphabetically, at which time he or she will state the name of the person for whom they are voting for Speaker. The voting member does not have to vote for a member of the House. A majority of the votes cast will select the next Speaker. The process continues until an individual is selected. The process of selecting a Speaker in 1849 took 63 ballots and three weeks. The process took 133 ballots and two months in 1855. How many ballots will it take to select the next Speaker when the House votes later this month? Stay tuned!

## **In Memoriam**

Word has been received of the death of **Andrew J. Cohen, DO, MPH, FACOI**, 48 of Ocala, FL on September 8, 2015. Dr. Cohen was a 1993 graduate of NOVA Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine. A board-certified general internist, Dr. Cohen recently retired from his practice as chief medical officer of the Veteran's Ocala Cascade.