



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS
SERVICES, INCORPORATED
INTERNAL MEDICINE | *Doctors for Adults*

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 1, 2013

TO: Board of Governors (US Chapters)

FROM: Bob Doherty, ACP Senior Vice President, Governmental Affairs and Public Policy
Shuan Tomlinson, ACP State Health Policy Analyst

SUBJECT: ACP Leadership Day on Capitol Hill, May 21-22

CC: Board of Regents, Members of Chapter Health and Public Policy Committees (HPPC),
Chapter Staff, National HPPC, Medical Practice and Quality Committee (MPQC),
Council of Associates, Council of Medical Students, and Council of Young Physicians

Welcome to Leadership Day 2013, an annual event in Washington, D.C. that enables the College to increase its presence on Capitol Hill and bring our issues of concern to U.S. lawmakers. We will have an exciting program and experience in store for you, including many educational briefings on the key policies you will be discussing with lawmakers as well as an opportunity for you to socialize with your colleagues.

This year, lawmakers will be particularly focused on the budget, which means all of our priority issues will need to be understood in the context of how they impact the budget and the national deficit. This spring, Congress must contend with several key dates that could trigger significant changes to the federal budget and consequently to key federal programs important to internal medicine. On March 1, a process known as “sequestration” was triggered and set into motion billions of dollars in automatic across-the-board reductions in virtually all federal agencies, which could have devastating consequences for many federal health programs. On March 27, dollars that fund the federal agencies through the annual appropriations process were scheduled to run out but, at the last hour, Congress stepped in and passed legislation to extend funding through the end of this fiscal year, but at reduced levels. And, in mid-May, the federal government is expected to reach its borrowing limit which, unless addressed by Congress, would likely mean another down-grade in the nation’s credit rating. These circumstances all conspire to create a very difficult budgetary environment on Capitol Hill; one that our Advocates need to be aware of and one that poses challenges to our advocacy efforts.

Your participation at Leadership Day is critical if we are to advance our key priorities, which include: Eliminating Medicare’s Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and transitioning to new value-based payment models, replacing sequestration cuts and preventing future disruptions in funding for critical health care, by enacting fiscally- and socially- responsible alternatives to reduce unnecessary health care spending, enacting meaningful medical liability reforms, including piloting testing of health courts.

The official Leadership Day program will begin Tuesday, May 21 at around 12:45 PM with opening remarks from the President of ACP and the Chair of the Board of Governors followed by in-depth issue briefings by key congressional and Administration staff. Attendees will hear from a host of Washington insiders who will assess the current political environment and its impact on ACP issues.

An *optional* grassroots advocacy training session will be offered on Tuesday morning, May 21, at 10:30 AM to help our first-time attendees prepare for their Hill visits. It is also open to all attendees who just want to refresh

their skills. The training will be interactive, lively and well worth the time commitment. A special *briefing* for associates and medical students will be held again this year at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 21, at the Liaison Hotel.

The registration desk will be open on Tuesday morning, May 21, at 8:00 AM for attendees to pick up briefing packets and name badges. On Tuesday, a light lunch will also be provided for all participants.

As for evening activities on Tuesday (May 21), there will be two receptions held early that evening, one for members of the ACP Services PAC and one for medical student members and associates. There will be no formal dinner that evening; allowing attendees to enjoy dinner on their own in Washington or gathering with their chapters to coordinate for the following day's congressional meetings. A list of nearby restaurants including relatively inexpensive ones will be provided.

We will start our Capitol Hill Day, Wednesday, May 22 at the Liaison Hotel (Metropolitan Ballroom) with breakfast and remarks from key members of Congress. Immediately following the presentations, attendees will disperse to their scheduled congressional appointments. A hospitality/debriefing room on Capitol Hill will be available throughout the day of May 22 for attendees in room **345 Cannon House Office Building from 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.**

Selecting Your Chapter's Delegation – Those you might consider for your delegation include: Governors, Governors-Elect, Regents, Health and Public Policy Chairs, Advocates, and Associate and Student Members. (*For a list of Advocates from your state that have been particularly engaged in the legislative process, please contact Jolynne Flores, Grassroots Associate and PAC Supervisor, at 1-800-338-2746, Ext. 4532 or by E-mail at jflores@acponline.org.*)

Leadership Day Registration – The Leadership Day online registration form and link to the Liaison hotel reservation site are available on the Leadership Day webpage at <http://capwiz.com/acponline/home/LD>. Governors/chapters can register their chapter's participants online or simply forward the online registration form <https://www.acponline.org/eBizATPRO/Default.aspx?TabId=55&ProductId=20608> to the individuals being asked to participate.

Hotel/Flight Reservations – Hotel reservations can also be made for the Liaison hotel online at <https://gc.synxis.com/rez.aspx?Hotel=19828&Chain=5158&group=LEAACP> (a link is also available on the Leadership Day webpage) or by phone at 866-233-4642/202-638-1616. Please use **Reservation ID: LEAACP** for online reservations. If you call in your hotel reservations, our block rooms are under **ACP Leadership Day**. Room requests and rates cannot be guaranteed after **April 29** so please reserve now if you have not already.

As you are aware, three major airports service the Washington D.C. area, Ronald Reagan National Airport, Dulles International Airport, and the Baltimore-Washington International Airport (BWI). You may find substantial savings with flights into BWI. While the trip from BWI to downtown Washington is longer than the trip from Ronald Reagan National Airport, limousine/shuttle service is available. BWI is only a few miles farther from downtown Washington than Dulles Airport. During weekday travel, MARC trains make frequent trips from the BWI airport to Washington's Union Station (one-way ticket is \$6). A free shuttle is available for the 5-minute ride from the BWI Airport, baggage claim level to the BWI rail station. Go to http://mta.maryland.gov/sites/default/files/Penn_March2013.pdf for more information and the MARC Penn Line train schedule.

Arranging Your Chapter's Hill Meetings for Wednesday, May 22 –For those chapters that are scheduling their own congressional meetings, contact information for U.S. Senators and U.S. House Members is available online on the Leadership Day webpage <http://capwiz.com/acponline/home/LD> under "Spotlight," located on the right side bar (pocketsize congressional directories are being printed and will also be available at the registration desk on Leadership Day). For those chapters scheduling their own meetings, please fill out and fax to Shuan Tomlinson at 202-835-0042 the enclosed form entitled "Appointments Arranged Form." Having this information in advance will give the governmental affairs staff the information they need to tailor their advice to you for your individual

meetings. Those chapters that have asked us to schedule their congressional meetings will receive their congressional visits schedule at Leadership Day on May 21-22.

Background Materials to Follow – In May, briefing materials for Leadership Day will be made available electronically and posted on the website <http://capwiz.com/acponline/home/L.D>. These materials will include background information on our policy issues. Leadership Day attendees will be notified when these materials are available for viewing.

The Washington staff is available for any assistance you may need in preparing for and conducting your meetings.

For other information or questions about Leadership Day, please contact *Shuan Tomlinson, State Health Policy Analyst*, at 1-800-338-2746, Ext. 4547 or by email at stomlinson@acponline.org.

Chapter participation in Leadership Day and the Advocates for Internal Medicine Network are the bedrocks of ACP's advocacy program. Thank you for your chapter's support and we look forward to seeing you at Leadership Day!