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Medicaid Reform Public Hearings Announced

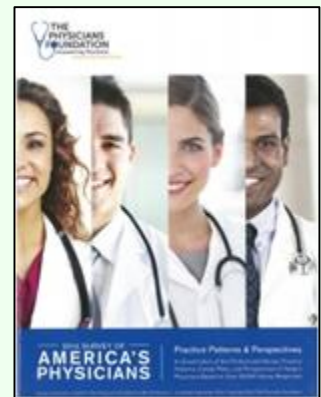
The NC Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) has announced a schedule of 10 public hearings for North Carolinians to learn more about and share their thoughts on the recently unveiled NC Medicaid reform implementation plan. The public hearings are scheduled between March 30 and April 18, and we urge you to participate.

- Begin with this [NCMS summary of the Medicaid waiver proposal](#).
- Then, [download these talking points](#) developed by the NCMS to help physicians discuss the key aspects of the state's implementation plan.
- Visit the [NC DHHS website for the hearing schedule](#), the full draft waiver application, an online comment submission form, and more information.

Many questions remain regarding Medicaid reform implementation and whether progress is being made quickly enough to satisfy a legislature that is anxious to transfer financial risk for the program out of the state budget. NC DHHS Secretary Rick Brajer and Dee Jones, chief operating officer at the new Division of Health Benefits – a new NC Medicaid agency created by last year's Medicaid reform law – presented [the details of the state's CMS waiver application](#) to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Medicaid and NC Health Choice. All appears to be running on schedule, though there is still much work to be done. Jones described the current status as the "end of the beginning." According to Brajer, the next steps include public hearings and a final report to the legislature before the waiver application is submitted to CMS on June 1.

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Physicians Foundation Survey

[Participate in the Physicians Foundation's fourth national survey of physicians and let your voice be heard.](#)



Nurses Push for Independent Practice

Nurses in North Carolina are attempting to pass an unprecedented scope of practice expansion. On February 9, Christopher Conover, PhD, of Duke University, provided legislative testimony recommending the [relaxation of supervision requirements for all Advanced Practice Registered Nurses \(APRNs\) in NC](#). This recommendation was based on a meta-analysis study paid for by the North Carolina Nurses Association. The study, which was premised on the expectation of a physician shortage, speculates that APRNs are the solution to such a shortage. The conclusion asserts that relaxing supervision would have a three-fold benefit of (1) improving access, (2) improving quality and (3) lowering cost.

Please watch for information from the NC Chapter and the NCMS regarding opportunities to communicate with your legislators about the resources needed to provide care to North Carolina's citizens.

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Internal Medicine's White Coat Wednesday @ the Legislature, May 18



Dr. Peter Lichstein and the Governor's Advisory Council invite you to participate in the 2016 Internal Medicine White Coat Wednesday at the Legislature on May 18! Internists from across the state will gather in Raleigh on Wednesday, May 18, to discuss Medicaid reform implementation and other priority issues with state policy-makers. There is no fee to participate. Practicing physicians, practice managers, retired physicians, residents and fellows-in-training are invited to participate.

The schedule runs from 7:30 am to 1:00 pm (lunch is provided). Following a legislative briefing at the NC Medical Society, participants will meet with legislators and attend legislative committee hearings at the NC General Assembly. We'll have you on the road home by 1:00pm (earlier, if necessary).

[Complete this online sign-up form to participate on May 18](#). Not available on that day? You can also use this form to indicate the date that works best for your schedule.

This event is jointly presented by the NC Chapter and the NC Medical Society.

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Get the Facts on MACRA. Download the [recent webinar on MACRA](#), presented by the NCMS Foundation and the NC Medical Group Managers Association (NCMGMA). This webinar reviews key elements of the recently passed Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), including how the current Medicare quality reporting programs will be affected by MACRA. Viewers will learn more about CMS' plans for Medicare reform and key timelines to consider in the implementation process.

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Chapter Awards Presented to Dawn Brezina and Elaine Hart-Brothers

The NC Chapter is pleased to announce the recipients of two Chapter Awards, which were presented on Friday, February 26.

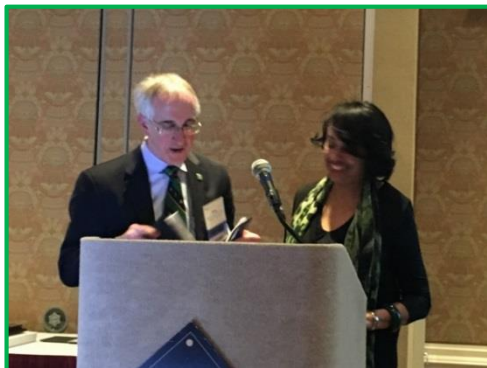


Dr. Dawn Brezina (Hillsborough) was presented with the prestigious Laureate Award.

The Laureate Award honors those Fellows or Masters of the College who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, or research, and in service to their community, their Chapter, and the American College of Physicians.

Dr. Brezina has been actively involved in the NC Chapter, serving on the Governor's Advisory Council, and as the program co-chair of the 2015 Annual Scientific Session. She was instrumental in streamlining the Chapter's resident and student poster competition, serving in recent years as chair and as a judge. Because of her leadership and vision working with the Chapter poster competition, she was asked to chair the North Carolina Medical Society's poster competition, which was modeled after our own exceptional poster competition. Dr. Brezina has worked in the Section of Hospital Medicine at Duke Regional Hospital for the last 13 years and presently spends most of her clinical time in consultative services, particularly pre-operative evaluation and post-operative co-management.

Recipients of this award bear the title, Laureate of the North Carolina Chapter.



Dr. Elaine Hart-Brothers (Durham) was recognized with the NC Chapter's Volunteerism Award.

The Chapter Volunteerism and Community Service Award was initiated to honor members who have distinguished themselves in voluntary service in the area of medicine and are eminent as true humanitarians.

Dr. Hart-Brothers is founder of the Community Health Coalition, Inc. (www.chealthc.org), which aims to address the elimination of health disparities in Durham. Her team is involved in local, state, and national initiatives to eliminate health disparities. Many of these projects provide opportunities for student internships and research. Dr. Hart-Brothers mentors and precepts students from NC Central University, Duke and UNC in public health, medical, and allied health programs both through the Community Health Coalition and through her group private practice.

As a Chapter Volunteerism Award recipient, she will be eligible for nomination for the National Oscar E. Edwards Memorial Award for Volunteerism and Community Service presented by the American College of Physicians each year at the national Internal Medicine Conference.

UNC Team Moves on to National Doctors Dilemma Competition

Three teams faced off in the final round match-up of Doctors' Dilemma at the NC Chapter Annual Scientific Session. The UNC team comprised of **Dr. Eric Hard**, **Dr. Evan Zeitler** and **Dr. Russell Coletti** are now headed to the National Doctors' Dilemma Competition at the ACP Internal Medicine Meeting 2016 in Washington, DC, next month. The Chapter extends its gratitude to **Dr. Kirsten Feiereisel** (Wake Forest), **Dr. Wes Willeford** (Wake Forest) and **Dr. Ajay Dharod** (Wake Forest) for organizing and delivering a great event!



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WCMS "Heart of the Healer" Retreat, April 16

The Western Carolina Medical Society (WCMS) invites you to attend a "Heart of the Healer" retreat on **April 16, 2016 from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Montreat Conference Center** in Montreat, NC. The conference focus on "Preventing Burnout & Promoting Wellness for Physicians" will equip physicians with practical and field-tested tools to prevent and treat burnout in themselves and their colleagues. Spouses and significant others are invited. Childcare is available for ages 3+. [Visit the WCMS page for complete event details](#). Through your participation, you will:

- Improve work-life balance
- Prevent burnout
- Reconnect with your Joy in Medicine
- Earn 4.5 hours of CME

Nationally recognized speaker, **Dr. Dike Drummond**, will lead the retreat. Dr. Drummond's expertise includes being a Mayo trained family doctor, executive coach, CEO of [TheHappyMD.com](#) where he has over 6000 physician subscribers, speaker at numerous trainings, and author of the book, "Stop Physician Burnout."

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Poster Competition Winners Selected at NC Chapter Meeting

The competition was fierce at this year's Resident and Student Poster Competition, held at the NC Chapter's Annual Scientific Sessions, February 26-27, but only one poster can claim the title Best Overall. The 2016 Best Overall Poster was awarded to **Nicholas Turner, MD** (Duke) and co-author **Jane Trinh, MD** for the poster, *"Improving HCV Screening Rates in a Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics Clinic."* The Chapter received nearly 140 abstract submissions, from which 72 abstracts were accepted. The winners in all categories were:



- *Best Overall:* **Nicholas Turner, MD** (Duke)
- *Best Clinical Vignette:* **Hannah Bensimhon, MD** (UNC)
- *Second Place Clinical Vignette:* **Collin Burke, MD** (WFU)
- *Third Place Clinical Vignette:* **Tony Mazzella, MD** (UNC)
- *Best Clinical/Basic Research:* **Eric Black-Maier, MD** (Duke)
- *Best QI:* **Lucy Witt, MD** (UNC)
- *Best High Value Care:* **Samaya Qureshi, MD** (Cone)
- *Best Student:* **Thanh-Tam Le** (UNC)

For the first time this year, the NC Chapter invited posters from early career physicians for the first "Research, Innovations, and Clinical Vignette Poster Competition for Early Career Physicians." Congratulations to **Dr. Ajay Dharod** (WFU) and co-authors **Rebecca Omlor, MD**, **Muhammad K. Hayat Syed, MD**, **Pradeep Yarra, MD**, and **Richard Wyderski, MD** on their first place win with the poster, *"Holiday discharges are associated with higher 30-day hospital readmission rates on two academic general internal medicine (IM) services."* Due to the positive response to this pilot effort, the Chapter intends to incorporate ECP posters into the Chapter meetings annually. The winners of the ECP poster contest were:

- First Place: **Ajay Dharod, MD** (WFU)
- Second Place: **Jennifer Rymer, MD** (Chief Resident, Duke)
- Third Place: **David Ming, MD** (Duke)

Many hands were involved in putting together this wonderful showcase of our state's academic institutions and the future of our profession. A hearty thanks goes out to **Dr. Richard Wardrop** (UNC) and **Dr. Lalit Verma** (Duke), co-chairs of the resident/student poster competition, for the enormous effort that went into the project, which included reviewing all 140 abstract submissions! Special thanks to **Dr. Richard Wardrop** for coordinating the ECP poster competition and to **Dr. Joey Cristiano** (WFU), **Dr. Lee Berkowitz** (UNC), **Dr. Scott Furney** (CMC) and **Dr. Dawn Brezina** (Duke) for serving double duty as judges of both the resident/student posters as well as the ECP posters. Our appreciation also goes to the resident/student poster judges: **Dr. Lacy Hobgood** (ECU), **Dr. Andrew Buzan** (WakeMed), **Dr. Poonam Sharma** (Duke), **Dr. Jamison Chang** (UNC), **Dr. James Granfortuna** (ConeHealth), **Dr. Matt Blackwell** (CMC), **Dr. David Miller** (WFU), **Dr. Larry Klima** (ConeHealth), **Dr. Deb Bynum** (UNC), **Dr. Bhuvana Guha** (Dept. of Veterans Affairs) and **Dr. Emily Mullen** (ConeHealth).

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Be a judge for the national poster competition. [Email your interest to Dr. Richard Wardrop.](#)

Early Career Physician Update

On January 26th, the national ACP Council of Early Career Physicians (CECP) hosted a webinar for Chapter ECP leaders and early career physicians from all around the country.

Several important new programs were explored, including ECP-focused webinars open to all early career physicians from around the country supported by the Southern Illinois Chapter of the ACP. Also discussed was a new video series that will soon be posted on the ACP website called *Masters and Mentors*. In these videos, Masters and ACP mentors from across the country will be featured in short and focused interviews on topics relevant to early career physicians. Please follow the webinar recording link to see a sample featuring NC member, **Dr. Richard Wardrop** (Chapel Hill). Dr. Wardrop will be involved in leading the *Masters and Mentors* program next year along with others on the CECP.

- [Webinar recording](#)
- [Webinar series slide presentation](#)
- [Masters and Mentors slide presentation](#)

The webinar also featured an update on the *ACP Wellness Champions* program, a national initiative focused on eliminating physician burnout and fostering personal resiliency in practice. For this update please feel free to listen to the webinar. The NC Chapter hosted a Wellness Champions update at the recent NC Chapter 2016 Annual Scientific Session (February 26-27 in Greensboro), as well as a workshop on *Wellness and Burnout* in order to start this conversation and better support our internal medicine community.

The webinar also includes resources for starting ECP councils within state chapters, something that does not currently exist in NC but is a Governor's Advisory Council priority.

- [ACP RESOURCE GUIDE: Creating and Maintaining a Chapter Council of Early Career Physicians \(CECP\)](#)

Finally, the national CECP was happy to welcome a second NC physician onto the group. **Dr. Lacy Hobgood** (Greenville) will join Dr. Richard Wardrop and the other nine members on the national CECP. His three year term will start in May. Given the size of the national council and the scope of its work, the Chapter is grateful to have this level of representation in the program. Congratulations Dr. Hobgood!

For more information about CECP or Chapter ECP and wellness activities, please contact Dr. Richard Wardrop at richard_wardrop@med.unc.edu, or Denna Suko with our NC Chapter staff at dsuko@ncmedsoc.org.

New Faces Join the Governor's Advisory Council

Chapter members in attendance at the Annual Business Meeting on Saturday, February 27, voted on a slate nominees to fill open positions on the Governor's Advisory Council. We're proud to present the newest Council members.



Mary Catherine Brake Turner, MD, FACP, FAAP

Dr. Turner is the Residency Director in the Internal Medicine - Pediatrics Residency Program at ECU/Brody School of Medicine.



Duncan Vincent, MD

Dr. Vincent has served as the Resident Member since 2015. He has been elected to a regular seat on the Council.



David L. Tolentino, DO, FACOI

Dr. Tolentino is the incoming Associate Dean for Postgraduate Affairs at Campbell University. He will start in the position this spring.



Erik Hoffman, DO, MPH

Dr. Hoffman is a 2nd year internal medicine resident at Moses Cone. Dr. Hoffman will serve as the Resident representative.



Victor Appau

Mr. Appau is medical student at Campbell University. Mr. Appau will serve as the Medical Student Representative.

NC Doctor of the Year Award

March 30, National Doctors' Day, is a time to recognize and celebrate the hard work of physicians – all of the many medical specialties make up a remarkable community, coming together as one to help and heal patients. The observance dates back to 1933 and was officially established by Congress in 1990.

In 2015 the North Carolina Medical Society (NCMS) instituted a new, homegrown tradition with North Carolina Doctors' Day. To celebrate the day, NCMS is sponsoring the 2016 North Carolina Doctor of the Year Award, allowing patients and the public to honor our state's exceptional physicians. The 2016 winner will be announced soon at: www.ncdoctorsday.org.

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UNC Medical Student Selected for ACP Policy Internship

UNC medical student [Rita Kuwahara has been selected as the 2016 American College of Physicians National Health Policy Intern](#). As the nation's only medical student to receive this honor, Kuwahara will have the unique opportunity to work with government affairs staff at the American College of Physicians' Washington DC office and spend time on Capitol Hill working on health policy and advocacy issues for the American College of Physicians, the nation's largest medical specialty organization. Congratulations, Rita!

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2017 NC Chapter Annual Scientific Session, February 24-25

Mark your calendar and plan to join us at the Sheraton Imperial Hotel and Convention Center RTP for the 2017 NC Chapter Annual Scientific Session, February 24-27. Participants will enjoy hours of educational programming, social and networking opportunities, a vibrant poster competition, chief resident presentations, our state final round match-up of Doctors' Dilemma and more!



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Chapter Strategic Plan

ACP's Vision

“To be the recognized leader in quality patient care, advocacy, education and enhancing career satisfaction for internal medicine and its subspecialties.”

ACP's Mission

“To enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine.”

The NC Chapter shares the vision and mission of the American College of Physicians. In developing a Chapter Strategic Plan, the Council recognized the need to focus on the daily activities that advance the strategic goals of delivering quality patient care, reforming the health care delivery system, assuring excellence in medical education, positioning the Chapter as a leader and unifier in the internal medicine community in North Carolina.

The Council began the process of strategic planning by surveying members and nonmembers in North Carolina to better understand their professional wants and needs. Over the course of the past several months, the Council worked to incorporate that feedback into an actionable plan to ensure a strong and effective NC Chapter.

Membership - Increase membership by 2% in 2015-2016 (to 3,267 members) in the NC Chapter of the American College of Physicians to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care in North Carolina and represent the interests of internal medicine physicians.

- Improved communications
- Increased engagement, with targeted focus on early career physicians, residents and students

Physician Wellness & Satisfaction in Practice - Help ACP members experience greater professional satisfaction and fulfillment by developing resources to decrease burnout, and promote resilience and practice efficiencies; advocating for change in the underlying causes of dissatisfaction; and facilitating effective use of HIT and awareness of reporting requirements and timelines.

- New resources and programming
- New mentor network
- New services and support

Advocacy - Ensure that the interests of internal medicine physicians is represented in public policy decisions impacting patient care, population health and health care payment.

- Improved collaboration
- Enhanced communications
- Greater engagement, with targeted focus on early career physicians, residents and students

Education - Serve the professional needs of members and foster excellence in the practice of medicine by developing and delivering high-quality continuing medical education activities.

- More CME and MOC opportunities
- Better marketing
- Refined Education Innovation Grant Program