



President

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005 * AMERICAN COLLEGE OF LEGAL MEDICINE

The 2005 annual conference of the American College of Legal Medicine is fast approaching. At this conference, I will conclude my term as ACLM president. It seems only a short time ago that I returned from the 44th Annual Conference in Las Vegas, where the College's leadership gavel was transferred to me. As I look back on the past year, I can say with confidence that it has been an outstanding year—one in which the College continued its record of important and significant successes—evidencing strength in educational programming and scholarship, while providing singular leadership in the field of legal medicine. The following highlights are demonstrative of the excellent work of the College during my tenure as president.

- The ACLM's 45th Annual Conference will take place at the Paradise Point Resort & Spa in San Diego, California, March 3-6. Entitled "Legal Medicine 2005: Confronting the Challenges," the conference features over 50 nationally and internationally recognized speakers, and will focus on a diverse array of timely and important medical legal issues. This will be a truly outstanding meeting and special thanks are in order for the impressive work of Mel Shiffman, Annual Meeting Program Chair; David Benjamin, Poster Session Chair; and Gary Birnbaum, Educational and Professional Development Committee Chair.
- On October 1-2, the College held a mid-year educational conference on the topic of "Cancer and the Law." This was the ACLM's first mid-year conference since 1999 and it was a great success. The faculty, comprised of 36 nationally recognized experts, gave presentations on a multitude of critical issues confronting physicians involved in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The superb efforts of Dale Cowan, Program Chair, and Gary Birnbaum, Educational and Professional Development Committee Chair, were responsible for the unambiguous success of this program.
- Against the background of the success of the 2004 mid-year educational conference, the Board of Governors gave tentative approval to hold a mid-year educational conference in Chicago, in 2005, entitled "Obstetrics/Gynecology and the Law." External grant funding is now being sought by Program Chair, Francois Blaudeau and Program Co-chairs, Frank Battaglia, Lynn Frame, Steven Nelson, and David Watson. The College looks forward to this important mid-year meeting in an effort to advance its long-term plan of reinstating a regular, specialty-focused, mid-year educational conference.
- The 13th Annual Health Law Moot Court Competition was held at Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale on November 12 and 13. Once again, the American College of Legal Medicine and the ACLM Foundation co-sponsored this highly regarded national competition. Twenty-one teams from 15 law schools throughout the country argued a hypothetical problem before the United States Supreme Court involving a civil commitment proceeding against a pregnant woman who was abusing drugs. All students who competed in the competition received a certificate of participation from the College as well as information regarding student membership. Kudos are in order for Gene Basanta, who chairs the ACLM National Health Law Moot Court Competition Ad Hoc Committee, as well as the individual members of this Committee. Their excellent work is very greatly appreciated. The College looks forward to continuing its active support of this prestigious national competition.
- *Legal Medicine, Sixth Edition* has been an extraordinary success for the College. It is viewed by many as one of the leading textbooks in the field of legal medicine and has served to showcase the eminent scholarship of ACLM members. Against the background of this success, on October 19, 2004, the College entered into an agreement with Mosby (Elsevier) to publish *Legal Medicine, Seventh Edition*. Efforts are now underway to prepare the manuscript, which will be delivered to Mosby in March of 2006, with anticipated release of the book in February 2007. Sandy Sanbar, editor-in-chief of every edition of the textbook since its initial release in 1988, has agreed to continue to serve in this important role. I congratulate Sandy and all contributing editors and authors for their tireless work—over the course of nearly two decades—and express deep appreciation for Sandy's leadership in connection with this keenly important College endeavor.
- The College's other publications continue to be most impressive. The *Journal of Legal Medicine* has maintained its high standards—offering outstanding scholarly articles, student commentaries, and book review essays throughout the year. The December 2004 issue features a Five-Year Index that conveniently allows readers to locate past articles by author, title, or subject. Copies of the December issue, as well as the Five-Year Index, will be available for members and non-members at the annual meeting in March. *Legal Medicine Perspectives* continues to provide timely analysis and summaries of key federal and state court decisions and legislative developments, complemented by case briefs written by Southern Illinois University law students. And *Legal Medicine Q & A* continues to offer answers to medical legal and ethical questions arising in clinical situations that form part of everyday medical practice. During the past year, all College publications have been made available for complete review at the ACLM website. Online access to College publications is particularly user friendly and constitutes an extremely important member benefit. We are indebted to our journal editors, Marshall Kapp, Skip Rosoff, Tom McLean, Ed Richards, Chris White, and Judith Gic, along with Bob Buckman, chair of the Directory and Cybernet Committee, as well as the staff of Weiser & Associates, whose excellent efforts have made this significant member benefit a reality. Additional thanks

are in order for Alison Heimburger, Communications and Publications Coordinator, and Mark Cakanic, IT/Web Developer (both of Weiser & Associates), for their success in translating the ideas and goals of ACLM leadership into such an impressive website success.

- In addition to facilitating online access to College publications for our members, we also initiated efforts to increase online access to other important ACLM reports and publications. In July, we added *Notes from the President* to the website, with a view toward allowing College members and non-members to conveniently review highlights of activities about the College during the past 12 months. ACLM staff regularly update this page to ensure that the most recent information about College activities is available. In addition, we have added to the website reports provided by Dick Wilbur, ACLM Delegate to the AMA Specialty and Service Society, describing important activities of the AMA at its annual and interim meetings. Various other resources and reports have been made available to members at the ACLM website during the past year, thereby further enhancing its value.
- The College continued its commitment to fostering research and writing in the field of legal medicine by students at law schools, medical schools, dental schools, and other health professions education programs throughout the country during the past year. As part of our student writing competitions, the ACLM continued to offer a \$1,000 award for an outstanding original paper on legal medicine to winners of each of the following competitions: the Schwartz Award (to a medical student); the Letourneau Award (to a law student); and the Hirsh Award (to a dentistry, podiatry, nursing, pharmacy, health science, health care administration, or public health student). Further, the student writing competition in bioethics will award a first prize of \$1,000, a second prize of \$500, and a third prize of \$250 for three outstanding original papers written by law or health professions students on topics in bioethics. Ila Rothschild and Dale Cowan, co-chairs of the Ethics Committee, and Alan Hoffman, chair of the Student Awards Committee, along with their committee members, deserve our thanks for their very important work. The College also initiated a new feature as part of its annual meeting program, reserving space for graduate students to present oral papers at a concurrent session in an effort to showcase high quality student research. I offer thanks to Kent Harshbarger, chair of the Graduate Student Ad Hoc Committee, for taking the lead with this innovative undertaking.
- At least ten officers, governors, and members of the ACLM attended and presented papers at the 15th World Congress on Medical Law in Sydney, Australia in August. This four-day Congress, for which the College was a Silver Sponsor, featured hundreds of presentations delivered in the context of more than 30 multi-speaker sessions, thematically arranged by topic. It was a rich, diverse, and impressive academic program in which the ACLM was well represented through the scholarly work of its members. Before the Congress began, I delivered a 30-minute presentation to the Board of Governors of the World Association for Medical Law (WAML), inviting the organization to hold its 2008 World Congress in Chicago, to be hosted by the ACLM. A detailed written proposal was submitted to the WAML Board. Although the College received extremely positive feedback with respect to its proposal and presentation, the WAML Board voted to

hold the 2008 Congress in Beijing. Nevertheless, the ACLM was encouraged to consider hosting an International Congress in the United States in 2007. Currently, Tom Noguchi and Dick Wilbur are taking the lead to develop a proposal for hosting this International Congress, likely to be held in conjunction with the 2007 ACLM annual meeting, with an anticipated Florida venue. I express my gratitude for the extraordinary assistance of Wendy Weiser, Sue O'Sullivan, and Jennifer Kehle, along with other Weiser staff, in preparing the oral and written materials presented to the WAML Board. Very special thanks also are in order for the terrific efforts of Tom Noguchi, ACLM governor and WAML vice-president.

- Under the leadership of Fill Buckner, the ACLM Foundation has dramatically improved its visibility in an effort to help provide financial support for important ACLM projects, such as the National Health Law Moot Court Competition at Southern Illinois University School of Law, annual meeting speakers, legal medicine and bioethics writing contests, and *textbook* awards to outstanding medical and law students. The Foundation regularly highlights its activities and encourages donations in a variety of ways, including publication of donation forms and other important information in *Notes from the President* and at the College website. As ACLM members become increasingly aware of the Foundation as a vehicle for making contributions to support the activities of the College, our financial vitality will be enhanced.
- This past year has seen a variety of efforts on the part of the ACLM Executive Committee, the Board of Governors, and Weiser & Associates to improve and streamline administrative and management activities. Of perhaps greatest significance in this regard was the establishment of a formal relationship with MEDIQUS Asset Advisors, Inc., a premier provider of investment, wealth accumulation, and wealth preservation advice for health care professionals and organizations throughout North America. MEDIQUS developed a proposed investment policy for the ACLM as well as an investment management plan, both of which were adopted by the Board of Governors, with the support of the Finance Committee, and implemented in April. This important transition to professional management of the ACLM investment portfolio has meaningfully contributed to the financial stability of the College.

Space does not permit a complete summary of the many activities that have so meaningfully advanced the ACLM mission during the past year. Nevertheless, as highlighted above, the 2004-2005 year has been most successful.

It has been a great honor and privilege for me to serve as president of this outstanding organization and to work with an exceptional Executive Committee, an outstanding Board of Governors, a talented and conscientious group of committee chairs and committee members, and a wonderful management staff.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting.

Warmest personal regards.

Theodore R. LeBlang
President

ACLM Foundation Corner

The ACLM Foundation is proud to offer the membership of ACLM a way to honor, memorialize, or wish a speedy recovery to friends, relatives and fellow members while contributing to the educational goals of ACLM. Each contribution will be acknowledged to both the honoree and donor, and hopefully will become a regular listing in Notes to the President. Such contributions are considered tax deductible by the IRS and will go to finance such projects as the National Health Law Moot Court Competition at Southern Illinois University School of Law, Annual Meeting speakers, Legal Medicine and Bioethics writing contests, and *Textbook* awards to outstanding medical and law school students. The donation form below may be clipped and copied or may be printed out from the ACLM website. Let us make this a growing part of ACLM's collegial life.

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January 17, 2005

Dear Colleague:

There are so many wonderful memories we all have of attending the ACLM Annual Meetings or serving on the various committees that it would take pages to list them. Recently, with the passing of fellow colleagues, I have heard members and friends of the College say, "I believe I would like to make a significant gift to the ACLM, but with all the uncertainties of the economy and world conditions, I don't feel comfortable transferring funds today." This is a very understandable position given the current environment.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that The ACLM Foundation would welcome your planned gift or bequest of cash, securities or property. I encourage you to consult with your financial advisor and/or estate planner, who should be able to offer some creative ideas to meet that objective without adversely affecting your present financial position.

If you have any questions concerning The ACLM Foundation, or its projects please contact me at 970-547-0217 or fillbuck@juno.com.

Sincerely,



Fill Buckner, President
The ACLM Foundation