

*Fred H. Hanold, MD, MACP, originally wrote this history in 1986. We are most grateful for his contribution.*

## **THE HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS IN NEW MEXICO**

### **CHAPTER ONE**

New Mexico, the Land of Enchantment, apparently cast its spell on the physicians early in this century. Physicians were reasonably well distributed in the early days of statehood. Those medical doctors, interested in Tuberculosis, probably were lured to New Mexico because of its reputation for a healthful climate, which attracted tuberculous patients and physicians alike.

The founding of tuberculosis sanatoria seemed a natural evolution with the attraction of more physicians with an interest in tuberculosis. The mining operations in New Mexico also attracted physicians to the state. Some physicians came to New Mexico for a cure of their own tuberculosis and remained to practice in the Wild West.

Robert Edwin McBride, M.D., was the first physician, to practice in New Mexico with a particular interest in Internal Medicine. He graduated from Tulane University School of Medicine in 1896 and began practice in Las Cruces in 1904. He served on the staff of the Hotel Dieu



Although Dr. Chester Kurtz is a year

Pierre Salmon, M.D. graduated from Long Island College of Medicine in 1937 and received his postgraduate training at Brooklyn Hospital. He chose to practice in Roswell. He was a great asset, but the story goes that he moved on to San Mateo, California, because his wife yearned for the sounds and sights of the big city.

Eric Hausner, M.D., a refugee physician from Prague, engaged in graduate studies at the Mayo Clinic and then began practice in Santa Fe, after having served at Burns General Hospital in Santa Fe during World War II.

Dr. Charles McGoey graduated from New York University and received his internship and residency training at Bellevue Hospital. He contracted tuberculosis toward the end of his residency after World War II, gravitated to Denver and then to Santa Fe, where he initiated



for members of the house staff. It also provided an honorarium for several visiting professors. These post-graduate programs at the County Indian Hospital required weekly conferences and monthly clinical pathological conferences. The internists on the staff contributed admirably to these, which, along with ward rounds, represented considerable blocks of time away from their practices. All this was contributed essentially gratis.

McMurray established a free cardiac clinic. This effort was sponsored jointly by the Bernalillo County Health Department and the Bernalillo County Heart Association. The Clinic was held in the boiler room of the County Court House. Drs. Freidenberg, Harold Streeper, Tandysh, Gibbons, Luan and Conrad soon contributed to this effort. The Clinic moved to new quarters in the County Health building, nicely equipped with sound proof examining rooms. Many cases of congenital heart disease were diagnosed. A very successful cooperative relationship with the Crippled Children Association resulted in free surgical correction of defects when indicated. The clinic existed for twenty-five years. Drs. Richard Pyle, Frank Mowry and Alan King later joined in from the Lovelace Clinic, along with Dr. Robert Castle from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Similar clinics were established in Roswell, Santa Fe, and Los Alamos. Dr. Eric Hausner established a cardiac clinic in Santa Fe in 1951. After his death, Drs. Richard Streeper and Alvina Loorham ably staffed the clinic. Dr. Paul Noth initiated the cardiac clinic in Los Alamos. More recently Drs. Anne Linnebur and Jon Johnson have staffed the Los Alamos clinic.

Simson, George, 717 Encino PI NE---I, Card, DC  
Tomlin, Clyde Edward, 106 Encino PI NE---IM, Card  
VAN ATTA, JOHN ROBERTS, 801 Encino PI NE---R, Path  
WYLDER, MELDRUM KEPLINGER, 801 Encino PI NE---Pd

#### Carlsbad

Hauser, Theodore, Edwin, 906 Pierce St.---IM, Card, GE  
Sullivan, James Polk, 610 N. Canal St.---IM

#### Fort Bayard

KURTZ, CHESTER MOTT, V.A. Hospital---IM, Card  
Las Cruces  
BABEY, ANDREW MICHAEL, 250 W. Court Ave.---IM, Card

#### Los Alamos

Noth, Paul Henry, Los Alamos Medical Center---IM, Card

#### Santa Fe

FRIEDMAN, MURRAY MARCUS, 141 E. Palace Ave.---R  
LANDMANN, HEINZ RICHARD, 227 E. Palace Ave.---IM  
MARGULIS, AARON EDWIN, 141 E. Palace Ave.---Path

#### Valmora

GELLENTHIEN, CARL HERMAN, Valmora Sanitorium---IM, DC.  
CHAPTER THREE

During the 1950's, students from New Mexico could attend the respective medical schools of Universities, which were members of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), at tuition cost equal to that of in-state students. The state of New Mexico paid the difference between tuition and the actual cost of education; about \$2000.00 per student per year. This was a highly successful program. At its peak 52 students, spread over 4 years, were enrolled. It also represented a very inexpensive alternative to a medical school in New Mexico.

But good things are often short-lived. WICHE requested an outside evaluation on future trends. The conclusion was that the baby boom would result in a great increase in demand for post-graduate education, including medicine. The demand was anticipated to peak about 1970. Tom Popejoy, President of the University of New Mexico, believed that it was imperative to establish a medical school as expeditiously as possible. Otherwise, New Mexico students might be frozen out of the WICHE Program.

There were doubts and misgivings about both the need and chance for success of the projected medical school. There were three feasibility surveys. The combination of the County Indian Hospital and Veterans Administration Hospital, with residency programs in place, apparently impressed the survey teams. A grant from the Kellogg Foundation, somewhat token support from the state legislature, and a prayer were sufficient to establish a medical school.

In 1961, Reginald H. Fitz, M.D., F.A.C.P., was



Department of Medicine at the UNM School of Medicine. Dr. Williams' interest in rheumatology and his endeavors in basic research, particularly in immune mechanisms,

The membership increased and that trend continued with a doubling in five years. The 1979 directory listed 160 members. The names of women physicians appeared for the first time. Names included: Drs. Marlene Haffner, Maire Buckman, Dorothy Ghodes, Julia Pfile, Carolyn Linnebur, Frederica Smith, Barbara Bogart and Katharine Witherington. With a great increase in members representing sub-specialties, it became possible to design the program of the annual meeting around a theme and to group papers presented by related subjects. Also, the various sub-specialty societies contributed to the annual meeting by sponsoring a guest speaker. Overall, the excellence of the meetings was sustained. The College also initiated an associate level of membership for housestaff. The New Mexico Chapter has long sought to enroll housestaff members and has encouraged housestaff to present papers at the annual meetings.

Dr. Ulton Hodgin was installed as Governor-elect in 1978 and assumed his duties as Governor in 1979. He served through 1983. Dr. Hodgin introduced a new program, namely a reading retreat. Attendees received a packet of key journal articles on a chosen subject. Each participant discussed one or two articles with the guidance of two knowledgeable moderators.

During Dr. Hodgin's tenure, the College became convinced that the rapidly changing socio-economic scene demanded that the College become involved in politics. So that it might better represent the voice of Internists, the College issued policy statements, and served as a resource for legislators in Congress. Dr. Hodgin created a Health and Public Policy Legislative Committee to address similar needs in the state of New Mexico.

Dr. Hodgin was Chairman of this committee from 1982 to 1983. Dr. Paul Cochran then chaired this Committee. Contact was made with all of the New Mexico legislators offering them consultations, information and position papers published by the central office of the American College of Physicians. The first Legislative Retreat was convened in December 1983 and again in January 1985. These were planned to precede the NM State Legislature sessions. On both occasions nine members of the Legislature attended and served as a faculty to review atmosphere prevailed, a dialogue was established, and physicians and legislators alike felt there was mutual benefit from this learning process.

The annual meetings continued to be of high caliber, and the membership continued to increase, aided by a significant number of associate members. In 1982, Dr. Martin J. Conway was elected Governor-elect and began his tenure as Governor in 1983. He continued the programs evolved over the years. The annual meetings continued to be the focal point of Chapter activities and excellence persisted.

New Mexico can be proud of its medical heritage. This account reflects that there were capable medical pioneers, along with the adventuresome settlers in the early years of statehood. The American College of Physicians was well represented and exerted a positive influence on the development and trends in the practice of medicine. These effects were greatly amplified by World War II and the increased ease of travel. The inception of the UNM School of Medicine added another dimension as a resource to the State, a

stimulus for continuing education and the addition of many capable physicians to the roster of the College.

All members of the New Mexico chapter can be proud of the quality of medicine practiced throughout the state but cannot rest on these laurels. Many new and vexing

The Governors have consistently attended Chapter Council meetings and reported the activities and actions of the College, in depth. They have also kept the membership informed via excellent newsletters. Periodically, the Governors have received data, pro and con, on issues in advance of the College writing position papers. The Governors have enlisted the assistance of members of the Council to review and respond to this information in order to achieve a grass-roots consensus.

The President of the Chapter serves a one-year term. As has been noted, Presidents have Projects and activities of note undertaken by the chapter under the aegis of the successive Presidents include:

- Legislative retreats or workshops have been convened every other year just prior to the long session of the New Mexico Legislature. State legislators are invited to meet with physicians to discuss upcoming issues of concern. These sessions have been successful in stimulating debate on medically related issues and, in some instances, have favorably influenced legislation.

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American College of Physicians  
Governors of the New Mexico Chapter of the American College of Physicians  
1928-Present

1928-41 LeRoy S. Peters, Albuquerque  
1941-49 Robert O. Brown, Santa Fe  
1949-54 Walter I. Werner, Albuquerque  
1954-63 Robert Friedenber, Albuquerque  
1963-69 Reginald H. Fitz, Albuquerque  
1969-75 Thomas L. Carr, Albuquerque  
1975-79 Fred H. Hanold, Albuquerque  
1979-83 Ulton G. Hodgins, Albuquerque  
1983-87 Martin J. Conway, Albuquerque  
1987-91 Darwin Palmer, Albuquerque  
1991-95 Richard Honsinger, Los Alamos  
1995-99 Howard K. Gogel, Albuquerque  
1999-03 Barbara J. McGuire, Albuquerque

**Officers of the New Mexico Chapter**

**1975**

President: Thomas Gibbons  
Secretary: John Saiki  
Treasurer: Ralph Friedenber

**1976**

President: Ulton Hodgins  
Secretary: Neil Kaminsky  
Treasurer: Glenn Lubash

**1977**

President: Martin Conway  
Secretary: Jonathan Abrams  
Treasurer: Ralph Parks

**1978**

President: David Law  
Secretary: Ralph Parks  
Treasurer: Anthony Williams

**1979**

President: Richard Angle  
Secretary: Stanley Berman  
Treasurer: John Saiki

**1980**

President: Ralph Parks

Secretary: Darwin Palmer

**1989**

President:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

**1990**

President:

Secretary:

Treasurer: Neal Friedman

**1991**

President: Dianne Klepper

Secretary: Barbara McGuire

Treasurer: Neil Friedman

**1992**

President: Howard Gogel

Secretary: Lynn Bryant

Treasurer: Barbar McGuire

**1993**

President:

**1998**

President: President: Steven Kanig  
Secretary: Secretary: Lucy Fox  
Treasurer: Treasurer: James Sussman

**1999:**

President: President: Steven Kanig  
Secretary: Secretary: John Bell  
Treasurer: Treasurer: James Sussman