As this issue of Notes goes to press, final preparations are underway for the ACLM 2004 Mid-Year Meeting, on the topic of Cancer and the Law. This outstanding meeting, chaired by Dale Cowan, will bring together a nationally renowned faculty to address critical medical legal issues that challenge physicians involved in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Speakers will focus on various topics, including malpractice liability and damages, truth-telling and informed consent, management of pain, and end-of-life issues. Additional emphasis will be placed on medical legal and ethical considerations relating to cancer research and a variety of compelling social issues. I look forward to attending what promises to be an excellent meeting.

Along with Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Law and SIU School of Medicine, Department of Medical Humanities, the American College of Legal Medicine and the ACLM Foundation will co-sponsor the 2004-2005 National Health Law Moot Court Competition (NHLMCC) on the campus of SIU School of Law in Carbondale, Illinois on November 12-13, 2004. The hypothetical problem for this competition involves a civil commitment proceeding against a pregnant woman who is abusing drugs; it may be viewed at the following URL: <www.law.siu.edu/healthlawmootcourt/problem%2004_05.pdf>. Currently 23 teams from 17 schools are entered in the competition. The presiding judge for the final round will be Judge Julio M. Fuentes, of the Third Circuit United States Court of Appeals. Judge J. Phil Gilbert, of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois, also will be a member of the final round panel. Consistent with past tradition, I will serve as the third member of the panel in my capacity as ACLM president. This year marks the 13th year for the NHLMCC and, through the years, ACLM has proudly provided financial support as a co-sponsor of this competition. ACLM also has taken a lead role in evaluating and judging student briefs. This year, the College’s NHLMCC Ad Hoc Committee, chaired by Gene Basanta, will serve in this important role.

Brochures are now being distributed to law schools, medical schools, dental schools, and other health professions education programs throughout the country in connection with the College’s 2004-2005 student writing competitions. A $1,000 award for an outstanding original paper on legal medicine will be provided to the 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). 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. The ACLM also will pay the costs of travel and lodging for the first prize bioethics competition winner to present his or her paper at the 2005 Annual Meeting. ACLM members who teach courses in legal medicine or bioethics to medical students, law students, dental students, or other health professions students should encourage their students to consider submitting an original paper to the appropriate contest. Contest brochures, which set forth applicable rules, are available at the ACLM website.

The College’s publications continue to be most impressive, with Legal Medicine Sixth Edition having an extremely strong year. Since its release in February, more than 1,000 copies of the treatise have been sold. The Journal of Legal Medicine continues to offer outstanding scholarly articles and student commentaries and the December 2004 issue will feature a Five-Year Index that will conveniently allow readers to locate past articles by author, title, or subject. 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 SIU 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. All College publications are available for complete review at the ACLM website. Kudos are in order for the excellent work of our editors: Sandy Sanbar; Marshall Kapp; Skip Rosoff; Tom McLean; Ed Richards; Chris White; and Judith Gic.

The 2005 Annual Meeting program, entitled: “Legal Medicine 2005: Confronting the Challenges,” has been reviewed and approved by the ACLM Education and Professional Development Committee. Gary Birnbaum, committee chair, has recommended that the Board of Governors grant final approval at its mid-year meeting on October 2. Program chair, Mel Shiffman, has done a fantastic job in bringing together an internationally renowned faculty who will address a compelling, timely, and diverse array of critical issues in legal medicine. Following approval by the Board of Governors, the program will be placed on the ACLM website and program brochures will be distributed in November to allow for early registration. The meeting venue is the Paradise Point Resort and Spa in San Diego, California; the meeting dates are March 4-6, 2005. I encourage you to mark your calendars now for what promises to be another excellent annual convocation.

At least ten officers, governors, and members of the College attended and presented papers at the 15th World Congress on Medical Law in Sydney, Australia in early August. This four-day Congress 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. ACLM was well-represented through the scholarly work of William Barnes, John Blum, Jonathan Davies, Alan Hoffman, Tom Noguchi, Mel Shiffman, James Stephenson, Dick Wilbur, Miles Zaremski, and myself. Before the Congress began, I delivered a 30-minute PowerPoint presentation to the WAML Board of Governors inviting the organization to hold its 2008 World Congress in Chicago, to be hosted by ACLM. A detailed written proposal also 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, ACLM was encouraged to consider hosting an International Congress in the United States in 2007 or to consider resubmitting its proposal to hold a World Congress in 2010. Currently, Tom Noguchi and Dick Wilbur are taking the lead to develop a proposal for hosting an International Congress, likely to be held in conjunction with the 2007 ACLM Annual Meeting, with an anticipated Florida venue. Preliminary reaction from WAML regarding a 2007 International Congress in the U.S. has been quite positive. Newly elected WAML Secretary General Rafael Aguiar-Guevara has offered his personal encouragement and support. The ACLM Board of Governors will discuss the International Congress proposal in detail at its October meeting.

I greatly appreciated the opportunity to represent ACLM at the 15th World Congress on Medical Law and to convey the College’s clear support as a Silver Sponsor of this important international meeting. I want to 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.

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.

ACLM FOUNDATION DONATION FORM

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Please visit the ACLM website regularly to update your member profile, particularly your mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address.

Mark Your Calendars

45th ACLM Annual Meeting
Legal Medicine 2005: Confronting the Challenges
March 3 - 6, 2005
Paradise Point Resort
San Diego, California
Call for Submission of Abstracts for Poster Session Presentations
at the 45th Annual Conference on Legal Medicine
The Paradise Point Resort & Spa
San Diego, CA
March 3 - March 6, 2005

A Request for Submission of Papers for “Poster Presentation”

The American College of Legal Medicine encourages you to participate in its annual program by submitting a paper for “Poster Presentation”. Poster Presentations involve:

- Selecting a scholarly topic or area of Legal Medicine that interests you
- Researching the legal opinions, medical literature or case studies
- Preparing PowerPoint slides, tables, graphs, or other exhibits that educate and inform the attendee about the topic
- Discussing your work with other experts in law and medicine in a friendly, collegial way

The Program Committee hopes that this format will: (1) encourage more presenters to submit abstracts, (2) permit papers which might have avoided selection due to time constraints to be presented, (3) broaden the scope of presented topics, (4) increase the opportunity for conference attendees to interact personally with other faculty members and presenters, and (5) provide more time for discussion and questions.

The American College of Legal Medicine invites members of the College, non-members and medical and law students who receive sponsorship from a College member, to submit an abstract of a paper for possible presentation during the Poster sessions at the 45th Annual Conference on Legal Medicine to be held March 4 - March 6, 2005 at the Paradise Point Resort & Spa, in San Diego, CA. This is your opportunity to report an interesting case or prepare a scholarly analysis of a medical, legal, or ethical issue that is of particular interest to you. Then, you will have occasion to discuss your opinions and conclusions with the brightest minds in legal medicine.

David M. Benjamin, Ph.D., FCLM
Poster Session Moderator

Instructions for Authors

Abstracts should be typed, double-spaced on 8 ½” x 11” paper and should be limited to two pages. Non-members of the College are required to have their abstract sponsored by a College member, and the sponsor’s name should be stated in the cover letter accompanying the abstract. At the top of the abstract, indicate the author’s name, professional degrees, affiliation, and address. Authors will be expected to prepare a “Poster Presentation” consisting of approximately 8-10 pages of outlined or bulleted statements (extensive narratives are discouraged). Presentations should be printed in 14 pt. type or larger, or using “PowerPoint” or other computerized presentation program. The presentation format should be: Approved abstract, Introduction (Background or History), Major Points, Graphs, Tables, Supporting Literature or Case Law, Brief Discussion, Conclusions, and References.

Submit abstracts to: Abstracts/ACLM Executive Office, 1111 N. Plaza Drive, Suite 550 Schaumburg, IL 60173, telephone (847) 969-0283, e-mail: info@aclm.org. Accepted abstracts become the property of the ACLM and will be published in the conference syllabus. Poster session presentations may be expanded into longer manuscripts and submitted to the Journal of Legal Medicine for consideration.

The Deadline for Abstract submission is January 15, 2005. Non-members must include a statement in the cover letter identifying a College member, whom they have contacted, who has agreed to serve as a “sponsor”. For those individuals who have questions about their submissions, or non-members who require a referral to a College member in their vicinity who could serve as a sponsor, please contact Dr. Benjamin by phone at (617) 969-1393 or e-mail at MEDLAW@DOCTORBENJAMIN.COM. You will be notified about the Program Committee’s decision on your abstract in January 2005.