Notes from the President:

Dale H. Cowan, MD, JD, FCLM

One of the major missions of the American College of Legal Medicine (ACLM) is education in the area of medical law. To achieve this, the ACLM publishes a number of important publications. The major publication is the Journal of Legal Medicine (JLM). This continues to be a scholarly journal that is widely quoted and cited in law review articles and in decisions in state and federal courts. Marshall Kapp, JD, MPH, who recently stepped down as editor of JLM to assume the post of director of the Florida State University Center for Innovative Collaboration in Medicine and Law, is establishing a new electronic journal entitled Medical-Legal Studies. He has invited Vicky Green, Cyril Wecht, Ted LeBlang, and myself to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board of this new journal. The journal will be published online by the Social Services Research Network (SSRN) and subscriptions to it are free. It is anticipated that this new publication, although not a publication of the ACLM, will nonetheless advance the mission of the ACLM in promoting learning in medical law.

Also in furtherance of the mission to promote education in medical law is the collaboration that has been developing between the ACLM and the American Board of Legal Medicine (ABLM) under the leadership of Sandy Sanbar, MD, JD, FCLM and a Past President of ACLM. For several years now, Sandy has organized and directed an educational program entitled, "A Day with the Judges." Each year he has invited the President of ACLM to present at that program and has extended invitations to members of ACLM to attend it. This year is no exception. In addition to extending to me the opportunity to present at this year's program, scheduled for October 15, 2010, in Oklahoma City, OK, the Executive Committee (EC) of the College has approved the ACLM serving as a sponsor for this program. This sponsorship does not include a financial commitment. Rather, it involves ACLM promoting the meeting to the ACLM membership as a joint program between ACLM and ABLM.

Related to this collaboration are plans for the ACLM and the ABLM to participate jointly in other educational programs directed to the membership of the College and to members of other medical organizations that are interested in acquiring information about medical-legal topics.

In order to support the educational programs, particularly, some of the named lectureships at the Annual Meeting, discussions are underway with the ACLM Foundation, headed by Bob Buckman, PhD, JD (Dr. Bob) to establish a significant endowment fund. A proposal will be presented to the EC and to the Board of Governors to promote this initiative. Once approval has been given, an announcement will go out to all members of the College with information about how members can contribute to an endowment fund at different levels of giving and, if interested, establish a legacy for future lectureships. I am happy to announce that all Committee Chairmanships have been filled. Following is a list of the Committees and the respective Chairpersons. The Chairpersons will be contacting the members of their Committees to plan the activities for the year.

One of the important activities of the ACLM is the preparation of amicus curiae briefs in support of one side or the other in cases that are of significance to medical jurisprudence. Miles Zaremski, JD, FCLM, Chair of the Amicus Curiae Committee, recommended to the EC that the ACLM join the Amicus brief submitted by the AMA in support of the plaintiffs in the gene patenting case, Association for Molecular Pathology, et al v.
United States Patent and Trademark Office, et al. Much has been written about this case in both professional and lay publications. The EC concluded that the case is of considerable importance to the practice of medicine and therefore approved Miles' recommendation. Miles secured the approval of the counsel for the AMA for the ACLM to join in the brief.

Finally, I want to announce that Richard Wilbur, MD, JD, FCLM has agreed to be the representative of the ACLM to the Council of Presidents of the World Association for Medical Law at its forthcoming meeting this August in Zagreb, Croatia.

As President, I welcome feedback/comments from our members. I want to ensure that the College is meeting the goals of our membership. Please feel free to contact me regarding any ideas, thoughts or concerns you have regarding ACLM activities.

**ACLM Gold Medal Award Nominations**

As chair of the Honorary Fellowship and Gold Medal Committee, I invite all members of the ACLM to submit names of qualified individuals to be considered for the ACLM Gold Medal Award. Responses can be directed to my email address, jbgdrg@mymailstation.com.

-Dorothy Rasinski Gregory

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2011 SAVE THE DATE!

ACLM 51st Annual Meeting
"Medicine and Law for Health Care Professions"
February 24 - 27, 2011
Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino
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