ONCE AGAIN, THE DEDICATION OF MORE THAN 50 ACG GOVERNORS AND SENIOR LEADERSHIP WAS ON FULL DISPLAY as they participated in more than 250 unique meetings on Capitol Hill during the annual ACG Board of Governors Fly-In to Washington, DC on April 19, 2018. The Governors advocated on behalf of the College's legislative and public policy agenda in meetings with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Joining the Governors were non-Governor College leaders including ACG officers President Irving M. Pike, MD, FACG, Vice President Mark B. Pochapin, MD, FACG, Treasurer David A. Greenwald, MD, FACG, and Secretary Samir A. Shah, MD, FACG. Adding their voices to the Fly-In were also the Chair of the ACG Legislative & Public Policy Council, Whitfield L. Knapple, MD, FACG, and Council members R. Bruce Cameron, MD, FACP, and Ramona O. Rajapakse, MD.
Many months of preparation preceded the day’s visits to Capitol Hill. First, ACG staff and the ACG Legislative & Public Policy Council membership, led by Dr. Knapple, helped define the key legislative initiatives that the College is pursuing in 2018. From there, the Governors and senior leaders were well prepared over the course of four weeks with policy briefs and other documents.

When the day of advocacy finally came, the ACG Governors took the following messages to Congress:

- **Support Legislation that Improves Colorectal Cancer Screening Access for Medicare Beneficiaries**
  The ACG Governors thanked the more than 50% of legislators who have co-sponsored the “Removing Barriers to Colorectal Cancer Screening Act” (S.479 & H.R.1017) and encouraged the non-co-sponsoring legislators to do so as well. This bill corrects a glitch that allows cost-sharing for a screening colonoscopy turned therapeutic, with the removal of polyps.

- **Support Legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives that Provides Exemptions to the Current “Step Therapy” Requirements**
  H.R. 2077, the “Restoring the Patient’s Voice Act,” would allow patients enrolled in health insurance plans covered under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act access to the medication originally prescribed by the provider, rather than being forced to try and fail with other drugs first. Prior authorizations are just one example of burdensome commercial insurance requirements that consume significant administrative resources, but do not improve quality of patient care or decrease overall health care costs.

**Thank You ACG Governors!**
The ACG Board of Governors is a unique body within the College. It represents ACG membership both to the ACG Board of Trustees, and to legislators and policymakers in Washington, DC. I have been privileged to lead these dedicated leaders to two Capitol Hill Fly-Ins. I extend my sincere gratitude to all Governors and senior leaders who took time away from their patients and families to come to Washington, DC. The Governors continue to represent you and your interests. Please contact your Governor today. You can find contact information for your ACG Governor at gi.org/governors upon login to the ACG website.
ACG Governors Meet During Fly-In on Capitol Hill

The ACG Board of Governors met and had a tremendously productive meeting, discussing a wide range of topics of concern from all regions of the country. The Board of Governors meeting had several guest speakers, most notably ACG Vice President Mark B. Pochapin, MD, FACP, who shared his personal views on leadership in medicine.

Overall the 2018 ACG Board of Governors Legislative Fly-in and Meeting was a tremendous success. Many thanks to Board Chair Dr. Costas H. Kefalas, Dr. Whit Knapple, Dr. Pochapin, and ACG staff including Brad Conway, Brad Stillman, Maria Susano, Valencia Waller and Jil Staszewski for all of their hard work for this critical meeting sponsored by the ACG.

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