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Canada Hosts First ACP Internal Medicine Meeting

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Imagine thousands of physicians under one roof on a three day mission to strengthen their clinical knowledge with the latest guidelines. Each year, the American College of Physicians (ACP) organizes a meeting to update internal medicine physicians, fellows, residents, and medical students on the most current data available on the pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment of everything from congestive heart failure to eosinophilic esophagitis. Perhaps even more impressive, this conference offers free registration to all student members. This was the first year the event took place outside of the United States, being held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre from April 22–24, 2010.

The ACP is the largest international organization of internists today, with a membership of 129,000 internists, internal medicine subspecialists, fellows, residents, and medical students. One of the College's missions is education, and the annual Internal Medicine conferences are an example of this commitment. The meeting is structured to appeal to all participants, with seminars focusing on each subspecialty of internal medicine. As such, it is a great opportunity for early trainees and medical students to obtain concise, high-quality information about the latest trends in healthcare. In addition to the seminar sessions, hands-on clinical skills demonstrations, and opportunities to present research, the meeting is a way to network with colleagues and leading physicians throughout the United States and Canada.


This year's conference opened with a keynote address by Dr. James Orbinski, former president of Médecins Sans Frontières and recipient of the 1999 Nobel Peace Prize on their behalf. Dr. Orbinski is one of the world's leading scholars dedicated to global health policy, improvement of healthcare access, and medical humanitarianism. His inspiring talk set an enthusiastic tone, which was evident during the remainder of the conference: individuals with a vision improve the lives of others—one patient,

one hospital, one country at a time.

Over three days, Internal Medicine 2010 offered over 250 scientific sessions taught by internationally recognized faculty on subjects ranging from clinical updates to ethical issues to options for models of practice. This lecture diversity allowed attendees to fully tailor their experiences to their own areas of interest. In addition, the conference featured student and resident abstract, poster, and clinical vignette competitions. Students could also attend sessions on thriving during clerkship, mastering the match, and student-physician mentorship forums.

Perhaps most appealing to students early in their training was the impressively equipped Herbert S. Waxman Clinical Skills Center. This area featured small group sessions (with fewer than 15 learners) on numerous procedures, including ultrasound-guided central line placement, intra-articular injections, airway management, incision-and-drainage, and many other techniques. The center also featured physical exam skills development through an audio tour of cardiac murmurs, a fundoscopy training area, and a mock objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) track in which participants were mailed written feedback by experienced standardized patient-evaluators.

Lastly, the meeting featured Doctor's Dilemma™, a Jeopardy-style competition billed as the World Series of medicine. This exciting game pitted teams of top residents from across the world against one another in a test of clinical knowledge from all areas of medicine.

Students interested in attending next year's conference are encouraged to visit the ACP website and enroll as student members. In addition to free registration to Internal Medicine 2011, which is being held April 7–9, 2011 in San Diego, California, student members are offered numerous benefits, including clerkship preparation materials, physician mentors, and free access to ACP publications. Students interested in becoming ACP student representatives are encouraged to request additional information via e-mail to the corresponding author. 

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