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**Government Relations and Advocacy Corner**

**Erica J Cohen, DO, MPH – Committee Chair**

ACNM attended the American Medical Association’s 2014 Interim Meeting in Dallas, TX in early November. ACNM was voted on and approved to retain representation in the House of Delegates for five more years. Some of the major topics and goals identified by the AMA included repeal of the SGR, freezing ICD-10, working with CMS to ensure that the Sunshine Act encourages transparency but also contains accurate information, support domestic and global efforts to fight the Ebola epidemic, scaling back value-based modifier, PRQS, and meaningful use penalties, facilitating multiple state licensure for telemedicine, and maintaining separation of MOC from MOL. The ACNM Government Relations and Advocacy Committee (GRAC) is working to identify potential Resolutions to bring before the House of Delegates to strengthen our voice within the organization.

It was recently announced that CMS will extend no-cost coverage for lung screening CTs to Medicare beneficiaries who have a 30 pack-year smoking history, even if they quit smoking as long as 15 years ago. This also applies to asymptomatic beneficiaries ages 55-74 and requires a written order, lung cancer screening counseling and a shared decision making visit. It is estimated that this coverage could save 20,000 lives per year. Current requirements for interpretation of lung screening CTs include: current ABR or equivalent certification, documented training in diagnostic radiology and radiation safety, involvement in/supervision of and interpretation of at least 300 chest CTs in the past 3 years, and documented participation in CME in accordance with ACR standards. Radiology imaging centers themselves must also meet certain eligibility requirements in order to perform lung screening CTs. This proposal is expected to be finalized in February 2015.

The GRAC currently has representation in several organizations outside of the College, including ACR, ABSNM, ARR, IAC, and ACGME. We have many exciting projects currently underway and look forward to updating you in the coming months. Thank you to Dr. Hadyn Williams, ACNM Delegate to the AMA, for his contributions to this article.