

Annual Meeting media coverage reaches more than 650 million

Valuable research that is paving the future of allergy, asthma and immunology was presented during the 70th Annual Scientific Meeting, and more than 650 million people know about it. National media outlets, such as the *TODAY Show*, *Huffington Post*, *Weather Channel*, *TIME.com*, *CBS Radio*, *MSNBC* and all the major television networks were buzzing about meeting posters and presentations, putting the allergist specialty front and center in the news. Several trade journals, including *Medscape* and *MedPage Today*, also featured articles highlighting the Annual Meeting.

More than 600 articles featuring ACAAI and its members ran in national, local and international print, online and broadcast media outlets. The audience reach was 651 million, 571.7 million of which was from prominent, national media coverage.

The ACAAI communications team issued ten press releases and three news briefs during the meeting to garner this media attention. Invites were also sent to the media, welcoming them to attend the meeting.

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MSNBC's Craig Melvin (left) interviews Dr. David Stukus live from Baltimore. The topic was allergy myths, which was presented by Dr. Stukus and Dr. Bryan Martin during the Annual Meeting.

Registration opens for intensive Certification/Maintenance of Certification Board Review Course

Registration is now open for the 2014 ACAAI/AAAAI Certification/Maintenance of Certification Board Review Course, April 24-27, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago. Register online at www.acaaai.org/boardreview.

This intensive course will assist practicing physicians and fellows-in-training (FITs) to prepare for the initial certification exam, the maintenance of certification exam, or as an intensive review of allergy and immunology to strengthen physician competence. The practical application of key concepts in allergy and immunology to the management of clinical programs may also be discussed during this interactive and intensive course.

"Participants find that dedicating 3-4 days strictly to exam preparation, and having the comprehensive course syllabus containing pertinent information in a well-organized format, are priceless," said **David A. Khan**, MD, FAAAAI, co-chair. "They can reflect on content summaries and discuss pertinent questions/answers directly linked to the educational needs of allergists and immunologists during the course."

The course consists of content developed by outstanding experts in the field and endeavors to cover the major concepts included in the written exams.

In addition to Dr. Khan, the Planning Committee/Joint Board Review Task Force includes **Thomas A. Fleisher**, MD, FAAAAI, co-chair; and members **Scott P. Commins**, MD, **Stanley M. Fineman**, MD, MBA, FAAAAI, **David M. Lang**, MD, FAAAAI, **Dennis K. Ledford**, MD, FAAAAI, **Phillip L. Lieberman**, MD, FAAAAI, and **William T. Shearer**, MD, PhD.

ACAAI/AAAAI

Certification/Maintenance of Certification

Board Review Course



APRIL 24-27

2014

HYATT REGENCY
CHICAGO

The American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) designates this live activity for a maximum of 28.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.



Dr. Foggs

E-cigarette controversy



As clinicians, we have long been aware of the dangers of cigarette smoking about which there is no controversy. Many municipalities now ban smoking in public places. A new controversy has arisen regarding the benefits and utility of the electronic cigarette (e-cigarette). E-cigarettes are electronic delivery systems for nicotine and other substances in the form of a vapor that can be flavored. It is devoid of smoke. The development of the e-cigarette has been accredited to the Chinese pharmacist Hon Lik. After its development in 2003 it was introduced into the marketplace in 2004. Since then, a diverse range of battery-operated devices that vaporize nicotine for inhalation have surfaced around the globe. These devices have been designed to mimic the look and taste of a cigarette in order to satisfy the physiological and psychological needs of the addicted smoker. Current key performance indicators predict that the sales of e-cigarettes are increasing so rapidly that they may eventually surpass cigarette sales within a decade.

We all have patients in our practices who smoke cigarettes. Some have allergies; some have asthma; and some have COPD; and some have a combination of these disorders. Should we encourage



them to switch to e-cigarettes if they are unsuccessful in stopping cigarette smoking? The role of e-cigarettes in tobacco control is a subject of considerable controversy with limited data to inform the debate. Therefore, I bring this matter to your attention without staking out a personal position. There have been no large-scale clinical trials conducted to determine the safety and efficacy of e-cigarettes. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has conducted tests to determine if the safety claims by the manufacturers of e-cigarettes are accurate. Their Division of Pharmaceutical Analysis tested the contents of cartridges sold by multiple vendors. While e-cigarettes do not contain the 4,000 plus chemicals found in cigarettes, they detected dyethylene glycol, a toxin found in antifreeze, and tobacco-specific nitrosamines (TSNAs) in many of the cartridges. Moreover, the cartridges contained inconsistent amounts of nicotine. A non-FDA study demonstrated that some of the e-cartridges leak, potentially causing toxic exposure to nicotine.

Although the health risks of e-cigarettes do not appear to be as serious as that of smoking real cigarettes, one study showed that acute pulmonary function effects are possible after smoking an e-cigarette for just five minutes. These acute effects included an increase in impedance and an increase in peripheral flow resistance. An increase in oxidative stress was also documented.

Is federal oversight of e-cigarettes on the horizon? On their website, the FDA states the following: "E-cigarettes may contain in-

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ACAAI American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

ACAAI News is published by the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI), 85 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 550, Arlington Heights, IL, 60005; telephone (847) 427-1200; fax (847) 427-1294; email info@acaai.org; website www.acaai.org.

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Foggs installed as ACAAI president; Sublett president-elect

Michael B. Foggs, MD, Chicago, was installed as president of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) at the ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting in Baltimore on Nov. 11. **James L. Sublett, M.D.**, Louisville, Ky., was elected ACAAI president-elect.

Other newly elected officers are **Bryan L. Martin, DO**, Columbus, Ohio, vice president; and **Bradley E. Chipps, MD, FACAIA**, Sacramento, Calif., treasurer. Regents elected for three-year terms include: **Curtis L. Hedberg, MD, FACAIA**, Rogers, Ark.; **Rohit K. Katial, MD, FACAIA**, Denver; and **Christopher C. Randolph, MD, FACAIA**, Waterbury, Conn.



Dr. Richard Weber (right) passes the president's gavel to Dr. Michael Foggs.

Dr. Foggs is chief of allergy & immunology, Advocate Medical Group of Advocate Health Care in Chicago, and chief medical officer of 540 Protection, LLC, Naperville, Ill.

Dr. Sublett is the co-founder and managing partner of Family Allergy & Asthma, based in Louisville, Ky., with 22 offices throughout Louisville, Kentucky and Southern Indiana. He is clinical professor and the section chief of pediatric allergy at the University of Louisville School of Medicine and is the founder and chairman of AllergyZone LLC.

“As allergists/immunologists, we are proud of our scientific heritage and we are proud of the uniqueness of our cognitive specialty, however, we must prepare for the future,” Dr. Foggs said. “The shifting and rapidly evolving health care paradigm has resulted in

encroachments on the territorial domain of our discipline. Our specialty is being challenged from all sides. This paradigm has been shifting in favor of primary care providers with diminishing recognition of the value and importance of the cognitive specialties, especially the specialty of allergy and immunology. This observation constitutes a paradox as we witness the ever-increasing prevalence of allergic disorders, asthma, and autoimmune diseases.”

As we move forward to new frontiers, Dr. Foggs presented three important initiatives that will be his primary focus during his term:



Retiring Regents recognized for their service and dedication were Drs. Jana Tuck, David Weldon and Alnoor Malick.

(1) Promote the notion that we, as allergists/immunologists, embrace the diagnosis and management of disorders that fall outside of the traditional set of allergic disorders historically managed by allergists.

(2) Educate our membership about how to be proactive and maintain a thriving practice.

(3) Review the entire College committee infrastructure and determine which committees are viable and healthy, and determine how these committees can best serve the needs of the College and its members.

“If we, as allergists/immunologists, do not look out for ourselves, then nobody will. Thank you for entrusting me with the privilege of serving as captain of this ship for the next 12 months, as we very carefully navigate the rapids of this new health care paradigm,” he said.

E-cigarette controversy *continued from page 2*

ingredients that are known to be toxic to humans, and may contain other ingredients that may not be safe.” The FDA is also concerned that the marketing of e-cigarettes may lead to or increase nicotine addiction and encourage young people to experiment with real tobacco products. E-cigarettes are readily available to minors online and in shopping malls. They come with enticing flavors like strawberry, chocolate, vanilla and lemon. Many public health organizations, academic bodies, and municipalities have begun to support reg-

ulating e-cigarettes in hope of minimizing the public's potential health risks.

E-cigarettes meet the definition of a combination drug-device product, according to the FDA, which has been challenged regarding its jurisdiction over e-cigarettes. As a result of a 2010 ruling by the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, the FDA announced in 2011 that it plans to regulate e-cigarettes as tobacco products under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (the federal law granting the FDA the

authority to regulate tobacco products). If e-cigarettes are marketed for therapeutic purposes, they are likely to be regulated as drugs and/or devices. While the FDA's proposed rules have been generated and are now being reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), many state and local governments are now considering regulatory options that they may implement for e-cigarettes.

This saga will continue. Stay tuned!

Michael B. Foggs, MD, FACAIA, President
president@acaai.org

College invites its Fellows to apply for leadership roles

The College invites interested Fellows to apply for the 2014-2015 positions of vice president and treasurer, and for 2014-2017 positions on the Board of Regents (BOR).

Fellows with a track record of excellent service on College committees or who substantially contributed to other College activities are encouraged to apply. Candidates for the positions of treasurer and vice president must have previously served a three-year term on the ACAAI BOR. Candidates for BOR positions must have been an ACAAI Fellow for at least three years before nomination.

Interested candidates are encouraged to complete an application and email it to the College office to marlenehill@acaaai.org, or mail it to the ACAAI Executive

Office listed on the application, no later than Feb. 14. Please attach a *curriculum vitae* and a cover letter indicating any special professional relevant information not included on the application form.



The ACAAI Board of Regents meeting in Baltimore included: (from left, front row) Drs. James Sublett, Dana Wallace, Ellen Portnoy, Bryan Martin, Bobby Lanier, Michael Foggs and Richard Weber; (second row) Alnoor Malick, Jana Tuck, Curtis Hedberg, Tao Le, Maeve O'Connor, Chitra Dinakar and Leonard Bielory; (back row) Warner Carr, Christopher Randolph, Gailen Marshall, David Weldon, Gregory Bensch and Rohit Katial.

“Positions in leadership of the College provide Fellows the opportunity to direct their talents toward achieving stability and growth of our specialty allergy/immunology,” said **Stanley Fineman, MD, MBA, FACA**. “I encourage Fellows who have been active on an ACAAI committee, attended past meetings or participated in other areas to consider applying for one of these crucial leadership roles.”

Applications are available on the College member website (see the menu “Applications and Forms”), and the deadline is strictly February 14, 2014.

College membership surpasses 6,000

During the past year, the College recruited 276 new members, reaching a record high total membership of 6,063.

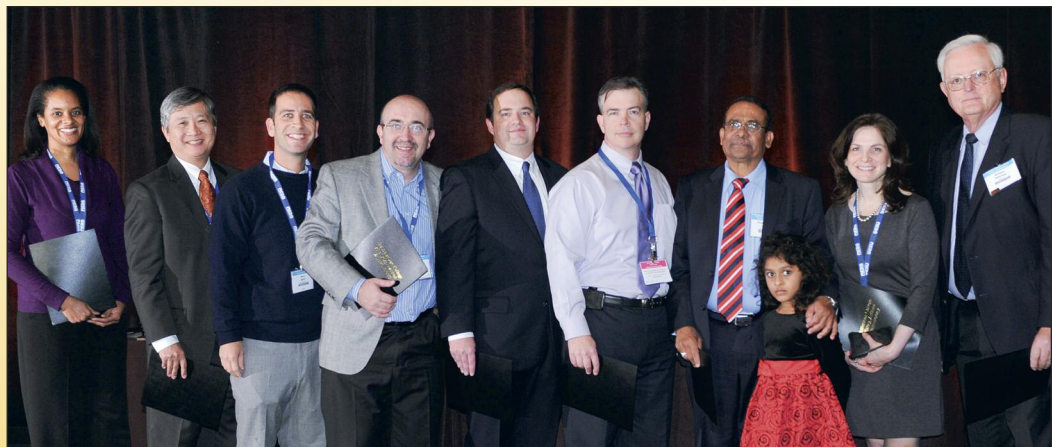
New members include: Fellows-in-Training (139), Fellows (43), International Affiliate Members (35), Allied Health (29), Medical/Resident Students (18) and Members (12).

The average age of the new physician members (that reported their age) is 33 years, and the median age is 30. States that provided the most new members are: New York (24), Texas (17), California (15), Pennsylvania (13), Illinois (11) and Ohio (11).

“In spite of the bad economy and turmoil in medicine, the College is doing well with recruitment and retention of members,” said **Kevin McGrath, MD, FACA**, chair

of the Membership Recruitment Committee. “The Membership Recruitment Committee is very dedicated to getting out the word about the benefits of ACAAI membership, but current Fellows and

Members are our best advocates for membership recruitment. I urge all members to tell their non-member colleagues about the great benefits of becoming a member, and Fellows can offer to sponsor them.”



Newly elected ACAAI Fellows were recognized during the Awards Ceremony held in Baltimore.

Allied health special courses score big in Baltimore

Meeting rooms were packed at the allied health special courses held during the ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting in Baltimore, with 326 professional staff in attendance.

“We greatly depend on the expertise of our professional staff to provide the best possible care for our allergy and asthma patients, which is crucial for our attainment of patient outcome goals,” said ACAAI President **Michael Foggs, MD, FAAAAI**. “The College’s planning committee and expert faculty are dedicated to providing current and relevant programs, some unique to our specialty and some overlapping with other specialties, to enrich medical knowledge and enhance professional growth.”

The special courses, which feature interactive workshops or panels, included:

- Office Administrators Course – Designed for office managers, administrators and others involved in the administration of an allergy/immunology/asthma office practice
- Advanced Practice Health Care Providers Course – Tailored to the needs of nurse practitioners, physician assistants, allergy/immunology nurses, other health care providers with extensive experience, and physicians
- Allied Health Professionals Course – Targeted audience includes health profes-



Faculty and moderators included: (from left) Gwen Carlton, DNP, FNP; Charlotte Jacobsen, RN, MSN; Maureen George, PhD, RN, AE-C; Mary Lou Hayden, MS, FNP-BC, AE-C; Kathy Chojnacki, RN, CPNP; Deidra Sanders, MSN, FNP; and Jodi Shroba, RN, MSN, CPNP.

sionals including, but not limited to, RNs, LPNs, MAs, PAs, NPs and MDs/DOs

Beginning with a patient’s first office contact, continuing through each routine visit, allied health professionals ensure the highest standards of care.

“In addition to patient education and contacts, it’s our health care professionals who assist with the care and education of allergy-immunology patients, conduct clinical trials and handle paperwork required such as prior authorizations for a particular medication, requests to change a medication or drug class, and even insurance denials,” said **Deidra Sanders, MSN, FNP-BC**, vice chair of the ACAAI Allied Health Professionals Committee.

Plan to bring your professional staff to the allied health courses at the 2014 ACAAI Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Nov. 6-10. General session registration fees for participants are waived, allowing them to attend plenary sessions and symposia.



Over 100 attendees participated in the ACAAI Advanced Health Care Providers Course.

Annual Meeting Media Coverage *continued from page 1*

The majority of reporters covered the meeting remotely, with the bulk of the coverage appearing within the first three days of the meeting. Several ACAAI spokespersons, presenters and abstract authors took part in dozens of media interviews, including a live MSNBC interview which was filmed in a Baltimore satellite office.

Aside from traditional media coverage, social media outlets such as Facebook and Twitter, were also pulsating with news from the

Annual Meeting, many of which linked to a national news article, and reached millions of other people.

More than a month after the meeting, the media continued to provide news coverage on meeting abstracts and presentations. We expect to see this for months to come. Thank you to all of our members for making this a successful Annual Meeting which received tremendous, national recognition.

2013 ACAAI Annual Science



Crowds danced and sang along with Michael Cavanaugh during his dynamic performance at the annual fundraising dinner benefiting the ACAAI Foundation.



More than 1,800 physicians attended the annual meeting for unique educational programs in "Eyes Have It." Dr. Allan Luskin gave the opening plause based on his discussion of "Eyes Have It." Dolen (left) and David Weldon (right).



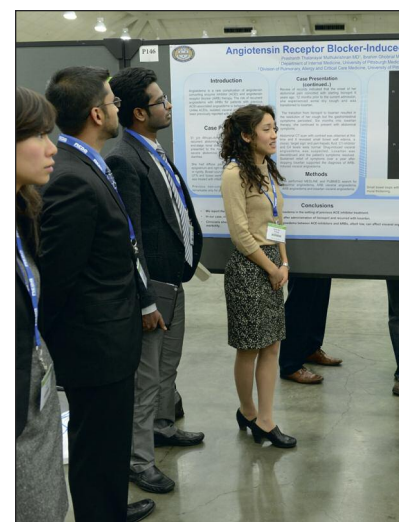
Innovations in allergy-immunology products and services were discussed at a variety of scientific exhibits.



ACAAI past presidents Drs. Daniel Ein and Richard Gower received the Gower Award in recognition for their outstanding contributions to the field. Drs. Michael Foggs, president, Gower, Ein and Richard Gower were the recipients of the award.



The "Hands-on-Session in Rhinology" (above) and "Skin biopsy: Procedure and Interpretation of the Report" (right) were two of the 33 workshops offered to attendees.



Preliminary research was unveiled at more than 100 Sessions and Poster Presentations.

Scientific Meeting in Baltimore



ended the meeting and participated in including the Great Raft Debate: The (above, center) won by audience ap- n Dermatoconjunctivitis. Drs. William were moderators.



The meeting kicked off with the Thursday Conference on Emerging Forms of Immunotherapy attended by nearly 350 participants. Faculty and moderators included (from left) Drs. David Skoner, Michael Nelson, Linda Cox, Jay Portnoy, Talal Nsouli, Kevin McGrath and Michael Blaiss.



ACAAI Past President Dr. Michael Blaiss (right) was honored with the prestigious Gold Headed Cane Award during the Awards Ceremony, presented by Dr. Richard Weber, immediate past president.



ard Gower received Distinguished Fellow tributions and commitment. From Left: Richard Weber, immediate past president.



Prof. Sandra González-Díaz, Mexico, received the International Distinguished Fellow Award from Drs. Michael Foggs, president (left) and Richard Weber, immediate past president, in recognition of her outstanding contributions on behalf of the specialty.



Dr. Amal H. Assa'ad received the Woman in Allergy Award at the Women in Medicine Luncheon for her outstanding contributions in the area of food allergy and nutrition. From left: Ellen Portnoy, Alliance president, and Drs. Assa'ad and Jana Tuck.



400 Concurrent



Corporate sponsors were recognized during the Opening Ceremony, including Sunovion Pharmaceuticals Inc. Jim Zahansky, vice president, Respiratory Marketing, received the award from Drs. Richard Weber (left) immediate past president, and Michael Foggs, president.



Distinguished Service Awards were given to (from left) Mrs. Jacqueline Bellanti, and Drs. Charles Siegel, Anthony Montanaro and Kevin McGrath in recognition of their tireless efforts, dedication and enthusiasm on behalf of the College.



FITs unite in Baltimore for Fun and Learning

By Monica Bhagat, MD, Senior FIT Representative to the ACAAI Board of Regents

A new College year is upon us as we look back at our ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting in Baltimore last November. Just as this city is home to the Ravens, it became home to over 1,800 allergists-immunologists and other attending physicians.

The FIT Symposium kicked off with two spectacular talks. **Tao Le**, MD, MHS, FAAAAI, captured our attention as he spoke about appropriate strategies to

aged all of us to go to the literature and to understand the evidence behind this novel therapy, since its approval by the FDA is forthcoming.

This year we had a record showing of 280 fellows, including 11 from Mexico, at our annual FIT General Meeting. Elections were exciting as vice-chair candidates spoke about their visions for the ACAAI FIT Committee, and as the fellows voted for six new regional representatives out of a record

number of candidates!

I am happy to welcome **Andrew Nickels**, MD, to the Board of Regents as your new Vice-Chair for 2013-2014!

He is a first-year fellow at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota and brings a unique

perspective to the Board's table, as a former graduate of the Maclean Center for Medical Ethics, University of Chicago.

I would also like to welcome our six new regional representatives to the FIT Committee team! They are **Niti Agarwal**, MD, New York and Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia; **Tara Shankar**, MD, University of Pitts-

burgh; **Lorraine Anderson**, MD, VA Greater Los Angeles Health System; **Reenal Patel**, MD, UMDNJ New Jersey Medical School;

Erin Kempe, DO, Ohio State University Hospital; and **Hannah Walford**, MD, University of California, San Diego.

The FIT Bowl was spectacular this year. **Merin Kuruvilla**, MD, and **Sharon Deol**, MD, won the ACAAI Fit Bowl championship for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, in the heated competition between 36 teams around the country. Second Place went to **Karla Adams**, MD, and **Priscilla Wong**, MD, Wilford Hall Medical Center's Team 1.

The FIT annual meeting programs are one of many ways fellows may become involved with the ACAAI. It is important for us, the Fellows, to truly unite now, as we prepare to become the world leaders in allergy and immunology. One day we could be organizing the entire ACAAI meeting...so why not dream big now, and engage yourself with the ACAAI?

Feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions: monicabhagat1@gmail.com.



Drs. Nickels and Bhagat



Top four FIT Bowl teams from left: Drs. Priscilla Wong and Karla Adams, Wilford Hall Medical Center's Team 1 – Second Place; Amir Shahlaee and Ponch Davoodi, Medical College of Georgia; Sharon Deol and Merin Kuruvilla, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center – Champions; and William Anderson III and Matthew Germinaro, University of Colorado Denver Program, Adult, Team 1.

utilize when hunting for the right job. He emphasized the importance of contract negotiation and answered questions from senior fellows who are currently in the interview process. **Linda Cox**, MD, FAAAAI, spoke about immunotherapy and what the data tells us about novel sublingual immunotherapy, or SLIT. Dr. Cox encour-

Board of Regents, Executive Committee report summary of actions

Following is a summary of key actions taken by the Executive Committee at its Sept. 18 phone conference and the Board of Regents at its Nov. 7 meeting:

- Ratified the president's nomination of **Ira Finegold**, MD, FAAAAI, to the FDA Pulmonary Allergy Drugs Advisory Committee.
- Ratified the president's inclusion of ACAAI on a joint letter to CMS regarding concerns with proposed revisions to the *Payment Policies under the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule for CY2014*; CMS 1600-P.
- Ratified the president's inclusion of ACAAI on a joint letter to CMS cautioning against packaging allergy testing services into payment for emergency department and clinic visit codes.
- Ratified the president's appointment of **John Oppenheimer**, MD, FAAAAI, as the ACAAI representative to the American College of Chest Physicians' panel tasked with updating the *Management of Cough: ACCP Evidence-based Guidelines and Expert Panel Report*.

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New Year's Resolution: Help meet the Foundation challenge

Financial support from ACAAI members is crucial for meeting the increasing needs for education and research within our specialty through Fellow-in-Training Program Relief Grants, Young Faculty Support Awards and other Foundation programs.



Dr. Rossman

"I am happy to report that the new complimentary workshop sponsored by the Foundation, *Retirement and Estate Planning for Allergists and Spouses*, was highly informative and successful, attracting more than 200 participants," said **Suelyn Rossman, MD, FACAIA**, appointed president of the ACAAI Foundation at the Baltimore meeting.

Industry experts discussed financial management, asset accumulation, asset protection and valuable tax strategies in light of the changing economy, profession and tax laws. Attendees learned how changes in the health care industry may impact their plans for a financially healthy retirement.

"The workshop is just one of many inspiring strategies we are utilizing to educate members about how their financial stability is intertwined with the stability of our specialty. The number of allergists-immunologists in many areas of the country is dwindling, yet allergic and immunologic diseases are on the rise. A gift to the Foundation is an investment in our future," Dr. Rossman said.

Other new Foundation officers include **Ira Finegold, MD, FACAIA**, vice president, and **Richard Gower, MD, FACAIA**, secretary.

The Foundation recognizes three donors who achieved *20K Club* status surpassing the \$20,000 giving level: **Lawrence M. DuBuske, MD, FACAIA**, Gardner, Mass., **David B. Engler, MD, FACAIA**, Bellaire, Texas, and **Nathan Segall, MD, FACAIA**, Stockbridge, Ga.

Special thanks to the Alliance for donating photo contest proceeds to the Foundation exceeding \$3,000.

Gifts to the Foundation – which will be applied toward your *20K Club*, *10K Club* or *5K Club* contribution goal – may be handled in a variety of ways, including cash donations, through a contribution of stock and charitable trusts/bequests. In times of bereavement, you can request donations be made in lieu of flowers – or easily establish a named memorial fund – to help advance the care of allergy and immunology. The Jean Chapman Endowment Fund for Education was established to help support fellows-in-training travel grants.



Donors who achieve *20K Club*, *10K Club* or *5K Club* levels are acknowledged at each Annual Meeting with listings on the Foundation Honor Roll display, in the Convention Program Guide and with a special ribbon.

The *Tithe-a-Talk* program makes it easy for you to donate honoraria from an upcoming speaking engagement. Simply complete the *Tithe-a-Talk* form available on the Foundation page of the College member website and present it to the association/company that is sponsoring your talk.

Donations are always welcome. Please send your contribution to: ACAAI Foundation, 85 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 550, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Checks should be made payable to ACAAI Foundation. Credit card donations may now be made on the Foundation page at www.acaaia.org.

Summary of actions *continued from page 8*

- Appointed **John Seyerle, MD, FACAIA**, as the Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association House of Delegates replacing **Bryan Martin, DO, FACAIA**, and **Meagan Shepherd, MD**, as the Young Physicians' Section Delegate to replace Dr. Seyerle.
- Requested the Budget/Finance Committee to address the issue of what are adequate financial reserves and to develop a strategic reserve policy, if deemed necessary.
- Approved funding of an ACAAI Sister Symposium at the 2014 EAACI Annual Meeting, June 7-11 in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Approved the slate of officers for the House of Delegates as proposed by the House of Delegates Nominating Committee: Speaker – **Kathleen R. May, MD, FACAIA**; Vice Speaker – **Maeve E. O'Connor, MD, FACAIA**; Recording Secretary – **Travis A. Miller, MD, FACAIA**.
- Combined the Aerobiology Committee and the Indoor Environment Committee creating the Environmental Allergy Committee to address issues and develop projects including aeroallergens and their impact on indoor environment, environmental assessment, quality of life, etc.

Get Social Join the conversation



The College invites you to interact with colleagues and patients using a variety of social media, allowing you to:

- Educate your patients using Allergist YouTube video channel featuring 38 educational videos which you can embed on your website (just click the “Share” link below the YouTube video player and click on the “Embed” button). The featured video in the “Why See an Allergist” series is “ABCs of Allergy and Asthma in Children.” The site has received more than 76,000 views.
- Receive early notification on topics that will impact your practice including deadlines, updates and breaking news that may generate calls to your office through Facebook and Twitter.
- Exchange knowledge, ideas and opportunities with a broader network of allergy-immunology professionals by joining the ACAAI group on LinkedIn. See what people are talking about and start a discussion.
- Share seasonal allergy tips, asthma information, news and more with the public through ACAAI’s Pinterest, the rapidly growing social media platform that uses images and hyperlinks to create virtual corkboards.

All social media is accessible through the ACAAI website home page at www.acaaai.org.

Alliance reports on Baltimore blast

By Margaret Quel, Alliance President

The cool temperatures in Baltimore did not deter Alliance members from enjoying a memorable 2013 ACAAI Annual Meeting.

I am very honored to accept the position of Alliance president and my sincere appreciation goes to **Ellen Portnoy** for her hard work this past year. Indeed I was impressed as I observed her keeping up with the marathon of required appearances throughout the November meeting.



The newly installed 2013-2014 Alliance officers are (from left): Treasurer Leila Sublett, Immediate Past President Ellen Portnoy; President Margaret Quel, Secretary Jan Gower and President-Elect Judy Fineman.

All of our activities could not take place if it were not for the dedicated Alliance members who offered support in so many ways: assisting at the Hospitality Suite welcome desk (special thanks to **Marilyn Bielory**), during the International Reception, the Alliance Business Meeting & Luncheon (special thanks to **Randee Mansfield**, **Jackie Bellanti** and **Sandy Lanier**) and at the ACAAI KIDS programs.

The children’s programs had many delightful moments. The Baltimore zoo mobile introduced the kids to a wide range of critters including reptiles, a skunk (fragrance free of course) and the special appearance of a penguin which whom they could actually get up close and personal. The zoo docent commented that she immediately noticed these were physicians’ children due to their exceptional behavior and the many questions asked about the animals’ diseases. Also impressive was the gentleman presenting the clown school: he put a philosophical touch to his teaching while making it all fun as well – pie in the face was great.

Many thanks to **Jeanne Zitt** and **Barbara Finegold** for their efforts in making the International Reception a hit again this

year. Pirates’ booty was in abundance and our guests from all over the world had an enjoyable time.

Our celebrity chef, Jerry Pellegrino, was delightful while creating some delicious local dishes. He took great care displaying ingredients including a three foot long fish; it looked like what most fishermen would call *the one that got away*.

This year’s Photo Contest had so many impressive entries (more than double last year’s) making judging a real challenge. The first place winners were: **James Sublett**, MD, FACAIA, *Nature and Landscapes*; and **Harold Nelson**, MD, FACAIA, *Pets and Animals, Travel and People*. Proceeds from this event exceeded \$3,000 this year. Congratulations to all the talented photographers! And a big thank you to Barbara and Jeanne.

During our Annual Business Meeting & Luncheon we were entertained by a talented duo that played and sang a selection of familiar tunes. My appreciation goes out to **Linda Horbal**, **Evva Hepner** and **Jane**



The ACAAI Alliance presented Clemens von Pirquet Awards to three Fellows-in-Training for their outstanding abstracts. The winners were (from left): **Caroline Yi-Shoo Kuo**, MD, UCLA Medical Center; **Paul Maglione**, MD, PhD, Mount Sinai Medical Center; and **Tania Mucci**, MD, Winthrop University.

Martin for accepting new positions on the Alliance Board. I look forward to working with them as well as **Judy Fineman**, president-elect; **Leila Sublett**, treasurer; and **Jan Gower**, secretary. I know the input of all these creative members will enhance our efforts for next year’s meeting.

We have wonderful plans for the 2014 ACAAI Annual Meeting in Atlanta, Nov. 6–10, with a great deal of southern hospitality and we look forward to having our members join in on the fun. Don’t miss out on Atlanta!



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