



# College Advantage

A Publication of the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

ACAAI.ORG

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## Use your member benefits to the max

The College has resources to meet your practice and educational needs

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American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

# A glimpse into 2023

Only a short time has passed since so many of us had the privilege of gathering in person for the ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting in Louisville.

I really enjoyed seeing all of our members who were able to attend in person, and I know that many more of you were with us virtually as you participated in the Livestream program. It was wonderful to see everyone soaking up first-class education, enjoying the fun events and interactions with peers, and generally having a great time. As this year's president of the College, I'd like to give you a glimpse into plans for 2023.

In December, we continued with our incredibly successful outreach campaign targeted to primary care physicians and other providers as well as the public. Making use of the full range of digital advertising strategies, as of Dec. 1, we had more than 2 million views of our award-winning commercials

talking about the value of board-certified and fellowship-trained allergists. Find the videos at [allergistfinder.com](http://allergistfinder.com). In addition, PCPs and others checked out our special microsite more than 172,000 times to learn more about what we do; 9,400 of them looked for an allergist near them based on the campaign ads. We'll continue this outreach into February and beyond. The campaign also includes a special toolkit for ACAAI members, with communication pieces you

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Kathleen R. May, MD, FAAAAI, President, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

**More than TWO MILLION** PCPs and others viewed our campaign videos

**172,000** PCPs and others visited our microsite

Average time spent visiting microsite **FIVE MINUTES**

More than **9,400** used our Find an Allergist tool

Refer to an allergist. Prescribe control. [AllergistFinder.com](http://AllergistFinder.com)

Connect with us at [acaai.org](http://acaai.org) or through:



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## COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE



## Award-winning work

The College's successful "Time for an Allergist" campaign that focused on the value of board-certified and fellowship-trained allergists has already won several coveted PR industry awards.



The campaign ads featuring celebrity John C. McGinley have been honored with a Gold Viddy Award in the Short Form Video category. The College also received Gold and Platinum MarCom Awards in the Web Video/Marketing category. Both of these prestigious awards are administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals. As a 2022 honoree, the College was in good company with other winners like AARP, PepsiCo, American Heart Association, New York Philharmonic, and UPMC Health Plan. In addition, the "Time for an Allergist" campaign was also recognized with two gold awards from AVA Digital Awards, an international competition that recognizes excellence in digital communication by creative professionals.

### A glimpse into 2023... (Continued from page 2)

can use to reach out to PCPs near you. Check it out at [college.acaaai.org/time-for-an-allergist-campaign-toolkit](http://college.acaaai.org/time-for-an-allergist-campaign-toolkit).

In early January, I spoke at the Winter Assembly of the Allergy-Immunology Training Program Directors from around the country to let them know all about the College products and services geared to fellows-in-training, such as the FIT and New Allergist Toolkit at [college.acaaai.org/toolkits/fit-and-new-allergist-toolkit](http://college.acaaai.org/toolkits/fit-and-new-allergist-toolkit). We have a huge interest in nurturing these trainees and our early career professionals, whether that means board exam preparation, education tailored to specific career stage, community grant opportunities, or scholarships to attend the ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting. On a side note, it was amazing seeing so many fellows-in-training and other early career members at our meeting in Louisville.

During the upcoming year, we'll be developing another project for learners that is close to my heart, which will focus on elective rotation opportunities with community allergy practices. This project is currently in development, so stay tuned for further details!

I am also committed to guiding College work – collaboratively with other organizations, or solo, as per our needs – on projects that enhance care for our patients and improve public health outcomes. This may take the form of

clinical guidelines, yardsticks, better definitions of disease states, and/or patient education designed for underserved populations. It also means going to Capitol Hill this spring to advocate for fair payment for you, our members, as well as optimal treatment options for our patients. These and many other projects are in motion as I write this, and we will keep you apprised of ways that you can be involved. As our theme for the next Annual Meeting reflects, there is no time like the present to embrace the evolution of patient care.



The *Annals* article and white paper resulting from our 2022 Roundtable on Racial Disparities in Atopic Dermatitis and Food Allergy were published online in December, and I hope you'll read the takeaways from that discussion, if you haven't already.

Time moves quickly, and I'd like to leave you with one more thought.

May is widely recognized as Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month, and it will be here before you know it. Please make plans to take the message to your community about the value of care provided by allergists. The College makes it easy to do as much or as little as you like – please check the article on page 7 for all the ways you can contribute, and thanks in advance to all of you who continue to promote our specialty!

I look forward to supporting and collaborating with you, the ACAAI community, throughout 2023.

### ADVOCACY ADVANTAGE

By James L. Sublett, MD, FACA, executive director, advocacy and governmental affairs

# Why do we need an Advocacy Council?

**It may come as a surprise, but “Why do we need an Advocacy Council?” is a question we are sometimes asked by members and, occasionally, by College leadership.**

Since a significant portion of your dues is devoted to fund activities that protect our members – the practicing allergists – in both community-based and academic practices, it is an important question we at the Advocacy Council should always be able to answer. So, why is the Advocacy Council needed?

As many of us who are past chairs and current leaders of the Advocacy Council like to say, our role is much like air conditioning on a hot summer day – only missed if it’s not working. We are the organization that interacts with various governmental and pseudo-governmental agencies – i.e., the FDA, CMS, NIH, Congress, AMA’s Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and AMA/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee (RUC) – on behalf of the entire specialty. Most of these activities are fairly routine, but sometimes we face crises.

A few years ago, the initial version of the latest revision of USP 797 could have been catastrophic for the allergy community. It would have required allergy vials to be produced under the same rules as compounding pharmacies. **The Advocacy Council took the lead in representing allergists, and working with other stakeholders, we preserved the right to mix allergen extracts in our offices.**

We also advocate on behalf of members with insurance companies, especially when the companies misinterpret the rules under which we are to be paid. A prime example we are currently working on is related to allergy shots (CPT code 95117), and allergen extracts (CPT code 95165). In order to be paid for these codes, some insurance companies are currently requiring unreasonable documentation. The Advocacy Council developed a template letter that allergists experiencing this problem can use when appealing claims. We are working hard to educate insurance companies about the proper use of allergy tests and allergy shots.

When an insurance company decided to require “self-administration” for Xolair,<sup>®</sup> we were able to work with the company and revise the policy language within a few days. Allergists now have several options to attest and support a request for continuing administration in the office setting. We also provided a template letter for members to use in their appeals.

These are the kinds of services and support you can receive as a member of the College. Many of the activities performed by the Advocacy Council (like lobbying government officials) can’t be done by the College because of various

governmental rules and regulations. While the Advocacy Council is funded by the College, it is a separate organization with its own board of directors and bylaws. The Advocacy Council has the flexibility to perform functions that a committee of the College would not be allowed to perform.

For more than 35 years, the Advocacy Council has been represented in Washington, DC by our lobbying firm, Capitol Associates, and our legal advisors, Powers Law. Both firms specialize in issues related to the allergy specialty. They offer so much more than just legal advice and lobbying; they are truly experts in most of the socioeconomic issues we face.



While there are many voices in Washington advocating on our collective behalf, like the AMA, the Advocacy Council advocates on its own as well. Our teams work together to provide members with the most useful information relative to their practices. Having a full team dedicated to serve the specific needs of allergists sets us apart and ensures the advice we provide is focused on what is best for our specialty.

So, to answer the question, why do we need our Advocacy Council? We need it for many important reasons that will continue to be crucial as long as we are caring for patients. The College and its members are fortunate to have a strong group working for the needs of practicing allergists.

The Advocacy Council – ADVOCATING FOR ALLERGISTS AND THEIR PATIENTS.

# Maximize your member benefits

## We've got resources to meet your practice and educational needs

Make the most of your College membership! Whether you're looking to work with your patients on treatment options, find accurate coding resources, resolve staffing issues or find educational opportunities, the College can help.

Check out the resources below – most are free to members – for the answers you're seeking.

### PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

#### Toolkits

Our wide range of toolkit topics spans many aspects of running an allergy practice. Find them at [college.acaa.org/practice-management](http://college.acaa.org/practice-management). New and updated toolkits include:

- **Coding Toolkit** – updated and expanded to include 2021 E&M coding changes and new ICD-10 codes. Our coding resources, including our recorded webinars, educational modules and FAQs, are the gold standard for allergists/immunologists.
- **Human Resources Toolkit** – now includes tools to help with current staffing issues!
- **Marketing and Practice Profitability Toolkits** – both of these have been revamped to include new resources and tips.
- **FIT and New Allergist Toolkit** – NEW! Resources to get started in practice, plus help choosing and negotiating your first position as an allergist.
- **Time for an Allergist Toolkit** – Communication pieces you can use to reach out to primary care physicians near you to promote the value of board-certified, fellowship-trained allergists.

#### Allergy Office modules

Get real-world allergy practice management advice – in about 15 minutes – with our Allergy Office modules. Our latest module, **Allergy Office: Using Social Media and Managing Your Online Reputation** shows you how to use

social media to engage, educate and attract patients to your allergy practice. Find Allergy Office modules at [education.acaa.org/aomodules](http://education.acaa.org/aomodules).

#### Shared decision-making tools

Use our shared decision-making tools to work with your patients to find the best-fitting treatments. The College's most recent shared decision-making (SDM) tools are **Peanut OIT and Chronic Rhinosinusitis with Nasal Polyps**. Both are available on the College public and member websites.

### EDUCATION

The College has a convenient place to meet all your educational needs – the College Learning Connection (CLC). Go to [education.acaa.org](http://education.acaa.org) to access your CME transcript and certificates, online learning modules, recorded webinars and more. Check out our extensive catalog of CME and MOC education!

#### Courses

Many courses are offered at no charge for members, such as

- Atopic Dermatitis Practice Improvement Module
- Infant Anaphylaxis
- Rhinoscopy in Your Allergy Practice
- Safe Steroid Use: A Self-assessment Module

#### MicroCME

Our MicroCME modules are designed to fit busy allergist schedules. Earn CME credit in as little as 15 or 30 minutes! Try topics such as:

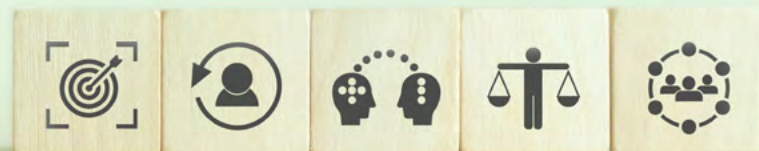
- Addressing Unproven Diagnostic Testing
- Targeted Therapies for Specific Asthma Phenotypes
- Treatment Approaches for Difficult to Control Urticaria

#### AllergyTalk Podcast

The College also offers free CME for some of our AllergyTalk podcasts, including our Disparities in Atopic Dermatitis series and Cough series. Find AllergyTalk where you get your podcasts.

Also in the CLC, take a look at some of our non-CME resources such as the Office-based Anaphylaxis Toolkit, our

*Continued on page 6*





## College management firm earns AMCI reaccreditation

We're proud to announce that the College's management firm – Executive Administration, Inc. (EAI) – was recently reaccredited by the AMC Institute (AMCI) following an extensive accreditation review. The comprehensive audit was conducted by AMCI, the global trade association representing the association management industry. The AMCI accreditation process is the most demanding and comprehensive in the industry and requires firms to demonstrate adherence to the highest level of operational and ethical best practices (and just 10% of all association management companies have achieved this nationally recognized status). We applaud EAI for its ongoing commitment to meeting the incredibly high standards required for AMCI accreditation.

### Maximize your member benefits...

*(Continued from page 5)*

collection of eParameters and eYardsticks, and our archive of clinical webinars.

#### Other member benefits

College members get exclusive access to **DocMatter** – our online forum for high-quality, clinical and practice management discussions. This popular forum has generated millions of interactions between members. Learn more on page 16.

The College has partnered with **Resolve** to offer employment contract review services to members at a reduced rate. Resolve provides physicians with professional guidance on navigating and negotiating salary and benefits. College members get discounted rates on Resolve's services. Learn more at [m2.resolve.com/acaai](http://m2.resolve.com/acaai).

College members get a discounted subscription to **UpToDate**, the clinical decision support resource that medical trainees and physicians trust for reliable clinical answers. For more details, visit [college.acaai.org/subscribe-to-uptodate](http://college.acaai.org/subscribe-to-uptodate).

College resources are here for you, ready to help with practice challenges and educational needs.

# Representing the College internationally

**College members who present at international meetings provide insights from U.S. allergy/immunology practice and learn about research, trends and practices in other parts of the world.**

Each year, the College supports sending one or more speakers to several international allergy meetings. This program allows us as an organization to support our peers around the world, to provide insights from U.S. practice to others, and to learn about research, trends and practices in other parts of the world.



In 2020 and 2021, travel to international meetings was halted due to the pandemic. However, we were able to participate in a few meetings virtually each year, including presenting our Sister Society Symposium at the largest international meeting – the European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI). In 2022, thanks to the lifting of travel restrictions, we sent speakers to meetings in the South American, Asian-Pacific, and European regions, including the EAACI meeting and the World Allergy Congress.

Plans for 2023 include representation at several international meetings, including EAACI, World Allergy Congress, Egyptian Society of Pediatric Allergy/Immunology; Hong Kong Institute of Allergy/Immunology; Brazilian Association of Allergy/Immunology; and perhaps others as travel restrictions allow.

The College appreciates the time and effort of our speakers who make the journey to the far corners of the world, as well as the enormous hospitality of the host organizations in other countries, both of which are so important to the success of this program.



# Think Spring

It's still winter, but it's not too early to plan for National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month in May. It's a great time to spread the word about allergic conditions and how allergists can help patients find relief. The College's Asthma and Allergy Awareness Toolkit makes it easy! Some of the ideas in the kit require a bit of advance planning. Others can quickly be implemented during the month of May.

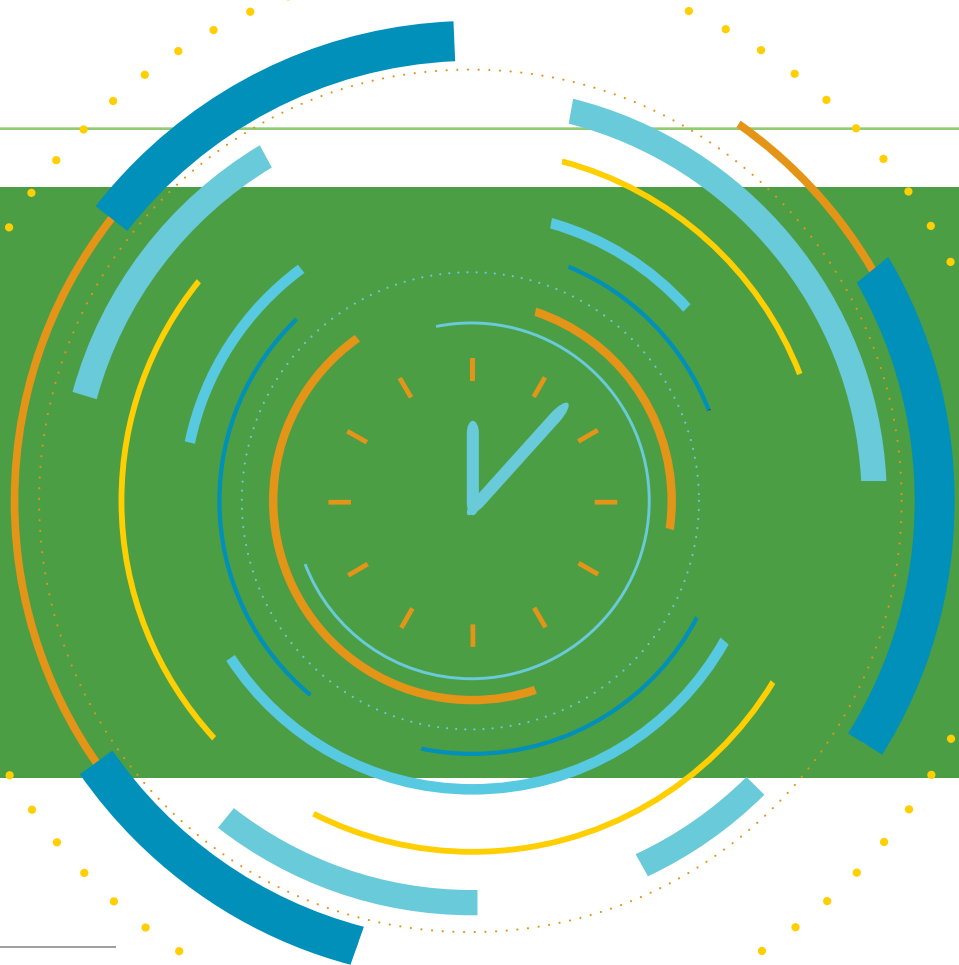
Plan ahead:

- **NEW! Outreach to primary care physicians** – Use our ready-made messages to email primary care physicians to let them know how your expertise as a board certified/fellowship-trained allergist can help their patients with unresolved allergy symptoms.
- **Health fairs or outreach activities** – Check with your local hospital, YMCA or other community organizations to see what they're planning. Health fairs are a great opportunity to offer free asthma screenings. Our Asthma Screening Guide offers tips on getting started and resources to help run the screening.
- **In-person or virtual presentations** – Your local library or high/middle school may be looking for speakers on health topics or for career days, and you might be an ideal fit. Our PowerPoint presentations can be used for virtual or live presentations geared to these audiences.
- **Media relations** – Local media can help spread the word about allergies and asthma and might be looking for content or local experts. Use our article templates to craft a news release to send to your local media.

During May:

- **ACAAI public website** – Looking for some great links to share with your patients? We have informative web articles about asthma, all types of allergies, treatments, and management on our public website, [ACAAI.org](http://ACAAI.org).
- **YouTube videos** – Promote allergy and asthma awareness on your practice website or in your waiting room! Find videos on the College's YouTube channel that offer patients' perspectives on allergic conditions and getting care from an allergist. They can be found at [youtube.com/allergists](http://youtube.com/allergists). We've also added 27 new, short and sweet videos featuring allergists answering common questions.
- **Social media** – Help spread the word on social media. Our Toolkit provides sample posts and images ready to be used on your practice's social media. Also, follow the College on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram, and "Like," "Retweet" or "Share" our Awareness Month content during May. Join the conversation by using the hashtags [#AllergyAndAsthma](https://twitter.com/AllergyAndAsthma), [#allergist](https://twitter.com/allergist), and [#FindRelief](https://twitter.com/FindRelief).

These resources and more can be found at [college.acaa.org/toolkits/allergy-asthma-awareness-toolkit](http://college.acaa.org/toolkits/allergy-asthma-awareness-toolkit). Help your community find relief! The Allergy and Asthma Awareness Toolkit is supported by AstraZeneca.



## PRACTICE ADVANTAGE

# Everything you need to know about 2023 E&M time-based coding

## You can now use time to determine the level for consultation codes

In 2021 the rules for selecting E&M codes for outpatient visits were overhauled. Under the new rules, E&M codes can now be based on either time or medical decision-making. These rules were extended in January 2023 to incorporate other E&M codes, including hospital visits and outpatient consultations. Time or medical decision-making can now be used to select the E&M visit level for all these visit types.

Members tell us they are still confused as to what counts toward time for an E&M visit, so we're detailing it for you here, along with the times required for both Outpatient Office Visit and Consultation E&M codes. Note: you must still perform a medically appropriate history and/or physical exam for these visits, but they do not determine the level of service.

### New Patient Office Visit E&M Codes

Code	Minutes
99202	15-29
99203	30-44
99204	45-59
99205	60-74

*\*For services 75 minutes or longer, use a prolonged service code.*

### Established Patient Office Visit E&M Codes

Code	Minutes
99212	10-19
99213	20-29
99214	30-39
99215	40-54

*\*For services 55 minutes or longer, use a prolonged service code.*

### Outpatient Consultation E&M Codes

Code	Minutes
99242	20 – must be met or exceeded
99243	30 – must be met or exceeded
99244	40 – must be met or exceeded
99245	55 – must be met or exceeded

*\*For services 70 minutes or longer, use a prolonged service code.*

The prolonged service code you'll use will depend on whether you are billing Medicare or a private payer. The time requirements for Medicare and non-Medicare prolonged services codes are also different



Everything you need to know about 2023 E&M time-based coding... (Continued from page 8)

**PROLONGED SERVICE CODES**

**New Patient Prolonged Service E&M Codes**

Non-Medicare		Medicare	
Standard Level 5 (60-74 minutes)	99205	Standard Level 5 (60-88 minutes)	99205
Prolonged (75-89 minutes)	add 99417	Prolonged (89-103 minutes)	add G2212
Extra prolonged (90 or more minutes)	add additional 99417 codes as needed for each 15-minute interval	Extra prolonged (104 or more minutes)	add additional G2212 codes as needed for each 15-minute interval

**Established Patient Prolonged Service E&M Codes**

Non-Medicare		Medicare	
Standard Level 5 (40-54 minutes)	99215	Standard Level 5 (40-68 minutes)	99215
Prolonged (55-69 minutes)	add 99417	Prolonged (69-83 minutes)	add G2212
Extra prolonged (70 or more minutes)	add additional 99417 codes as needed for each 15-minute interval	Extra prolonged (84 or more minutes)	add additional G2212 codes as needed for each 15-minute interval

Time for E&M services is the **total time on the date of the encounter**. It includes both face-to-face and non-face-to-face **time personally spent by the allergist or NP/PA** on the day of the encounter. It does NOT include time for activities performed by clinical staff. Do NOT include time spent on services that are separately reported.

The following activities count toward time:

- Preparing to see the patient (e.g., review of tests and outside medical records).
- Obtaining and/or reviewing separately-obtained history.
- Performing a medically necessary appropriate examination and/or evaluation.
- Counseling and educating the patient/family/caregiver.
- Ordering medications, tests, or procedures.
- Referring and communicating with other health care professionals (when not reported separately).
- Documenting clinical information in the record.
- Independently interpreting results (*not reported separately*) and communicating results to the patient/family/caregiver.
- Care coordination (*not reported separately*).

Coding based on time can make sense for visits that are low acuity yet require significant physician time for the activities listed above. When billing based on time, be sure to

document all relevant activities in the patient’s chart, and note the total time spent. For example, a note might read:

*My total time on this date and for this encounter was 60 minutes, which included the following activities: preparing to see the patient, performing a medically appropriate examination and/or evaluation, counseling and educating the patient about asthma management, ordering medications and tests, referring to and communicating with the patient’s primary care physician about management, and documenting clinical information in the electronic health record. This time is independent and non-overlapping.*

Make the most of your time and make sure you get compensated appropriately for your time-based work.





# A warm welcome in Louisville

The College's 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting brought together more than 2,300 health care providers face to face in Louisville or through our Livestream Program.

*A bugler welcomes guests to the 2022 President's Welcome Reception at historic Churchill Downs, home of the Kentucky Derby.*

The Annual Meeting began with the International Food Allergy Symposium, a full day dedicated to food allergy with a focus on epidemiology and diagnostics. And the meeting kept going strong! Participants had their pick of sessions on topics ranging from anaphylaxis, atopic dermatitis, biologics, coding, EOE, OIT and more. Workshops provided a full spectrum of instruction and hands-on techniques in patch testing, punch versus shave biopsy, performing a rhinolaryngologic exam, SQ immunoglobulin infusion and anaphylaxis.

During the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, we celebrated our award recipients and welcomed Kathleen R. May, MD, FACAAI as 2022-23 ACAAI president.



*2022 Annual Meeting Program Chair Dr. Brian T. Kelly (left) and ACAAI President-elect Dr. Kathleen R. May (right) present a plaque to Dr. Thomas B. Casale, (center) who delivered the 2022 Edward J. O'Connell lecture.*



*2023 Annual Meeting Program Chair Dr. Jay A. Lieberman presents a plaque to Dr. Aikaterini Anagnostou, who delivered the 2022 Luisa Businco lecture.*



*2022 Annual Meeting Program Chair Dr. Brian T. Kelly (left) and 2023 Annual Meeting Program Chair Dr. Jay A. Lieberman (right) present a plaque to Dr. Cherie Y. Zachary, who delivered the 2022 Bela Schick lecture.*



*Kathleen R. May, MD, FAAAAI is welcomed as 2022-23 ACAAI President by 2021-2022 President Mark L. Corbett, MD, FAAAAI.*



*2021-2022 ACAAI President Mark L. Corbett, MD, FAAAAI presents the Gold Headed Cane Award to James L. Sublett, MD, FAAAAI.*



*Winners of the 2022 FIT Bowl: Dr. Charles Miller (left) and Dr. Robert Brooks (right) from Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center.*



*ACAAI welcomed 20 SPARK Award recipients to the Annual Meeting in 2022. SPARK Awards are presented to residents who were considering a career in Allergy/Immunology.*



*Workshop attendees complete hands-on activities during the workshop "Making the Cut: Punch vs. Shave Biospy."*



*A participant gets hands-on experience at the "Performing a Rhinology Exam" workshop.*

# The College's Annual Scientific Meeting gets major media attention

**If you couldn't attend the ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting this year in Louisville, you may have read or heard about it through one of your local media outlets. The media attention was vast, and some media outlets provided "gavel to gavel" coverage.**

The College maintains strong relationships with national and regional print and broadcast media outlets, regularly sending out news releases on seasonal allergy topics, as well as on new research being published in *Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*. And while the College is regularly quoted on A/I issues in mainstream media and is viewed as a reliable source of A/I information, the coverage of this year's Annual Meeting was unprecedented.

The College garnered more than 3,000 individual media hits in the days leading up to the Annual Meeting, throughout the course of the meeting, and immediately following. Some of the top hits were thanks to HealthDay, a leading producer and syndicator of evidence-based health news for consumers and physicians and one of the largest health news syndicators to internet sites. Four HealthDay reporters covered five different stories out of the meeting, and those five stories were carried on hundreds of internet news sites, including top news outlets such as U.S. News & World Report.

Additional media outlets that covered stories from the Annual Meeting included NBC's Weekend Today, Healthline, New York Post, MSN, Gizmodo, U.S. News and WebMD. Members of the College who presented sessions or research and were quoted in news stories included Drs. Stanley Fineman, Payel Gupta, Ariel Leung, Andrea Pappalardo, Purvi Parikh, Jonathan Romeo and Angela Hogan.

Health care trade press also showed strong interest in the news from our meeting. Healio, a medical website that provides news and information for physicians and health care practitioners, ran approximately 45 stories on the College's Annual Meeting. The stories ranged from an interview prior to the meeting with outgoing President Mark Corbett, MD, FAAAAI to individual interviews with presenters who brought their innovative research to the meeting. Other health care-focused websites that covered the meeting included Medscape and MedPage Today.

This level of media coverage not only shines a spotlight on the accomplishments of the College, but also raises the profile of allergists regarding the kind of work they do and their areas of research. Widespread consumer media coverage also helps inform the public about how allergists can help them manage allergies and asthma and keep symptoms under control.



# The more the merrier

## College member Dr. Ruchi Gupta brought a team of 20 to the 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting

Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH attends the Annual Scientific Meeting every year. In 2022, 20 members of her team at the Center for Food Allergy and Asthma Research (CFAAR) traveled to Louisville to attend the meeting as well.

Dr. Gupta is a pediatrician and health researcher who has conducted food allergy and asthma research for over 18 years. She is a Professor of Pediatrics & Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and a Clinical Attending Physician at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. She is also the Founding Director of the Center for Food Allergy & Asthma Research (CFAAR), a collaborative research center within Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

CFAAR's team members are experts in allergy, pediatrics, epidemiology, health services research, health behavior, patient care, and advocacy. They are dedicated to finding answers and shaping policies around allergic conditions through epidemiological, clinical, and community-engaged research, with a strong focus on addressing disparities in care and improving clinical guidelines to achieve health equity for patients.

The College's expert speakers from the U.S. and around the world were a major draw for the team to attend the Annual Meeting. "It's incredibly important to our team to attend this annual conference," said Dr. Gupta. "It's an opportunity to keep up with the current food allergy landscape and



*Members of the CFAAR team celebrate at the President's Welcome Reception at Churchill Downs.*

breakthroughs on the horizon. It also allows us to continue building an interdisciplinary and collaborative center by forging new research and clinical partnerships."

At the meeting, Dr. Gupta's team shared their latest research findings during five poster presentations, and Dr. Gupta spoke during two sessions: "7 for 11 – Hot Topics in Pediatrics A&I" and "Lessons Learned on Primary Prevention of Food Allergy."

For many of the team, it was their first time at a national allergy and immunology conference. "The conference was a great learning and networking platform," said a CFAAR team member. "Having conversations with subject matter experts and industry partners was an advantage of attending the event in person. In particular, I really enjoyed the sessions on lessons learned on primary prevention of food allergy and an oral presentation on multi-omics to identify predictors of a food allergic reaction."

Dr. Gupta was especially excited that the meeting was held in Louisville, her hometown. "I grew up in Louisville and it was such a special, full-circle moment to be back in my hometown with my team and surrounded by people from all over the world who are dedicated to allergy and immunology research and care," she said. "I have so many wonderful memories associated with my hometown, and this past November, I collected many more."



*(Left to right) Ruchi Gupta, MD; Helen Brough, PhD; Aikaterini, MD, FAAAAI; Anne Nowak-Wegrzyn, MD, PhD, FAAAAI; M. Antonella Muraro, MD.*

# Revisit the 2022 Annual Meeting – and get credit!

The College's Annual Scientific Meeting is the premier opportunity to get the allergy/immunology education you need. With so much offered at the ACAAI Annual Meeting, it's difficult to attend every session you're interested in. The College's On Demand program is the answer! On Demand gives you access to view and get credit for more than 60 hours of sessions presented at the meeting.

**If you attended the Annual Meeting, you have complimentary access to our On Demand courses.** If you didn't attend in 2022, there are On Demand packages for purchase. Access the On Demand Program at [education.acaa.org/ondemand](http://education.acaa.org/ondemand).

The On Demand Sessions include:

## Annual Meeting General Sessions

- This collection includes the general sessions from throughout the meeting from Friday through Monday. See all the sessions you missed or couldn't attend due to simultaneous session times. *56.75 Credits*

## Thursday International Food Allergy Symposium

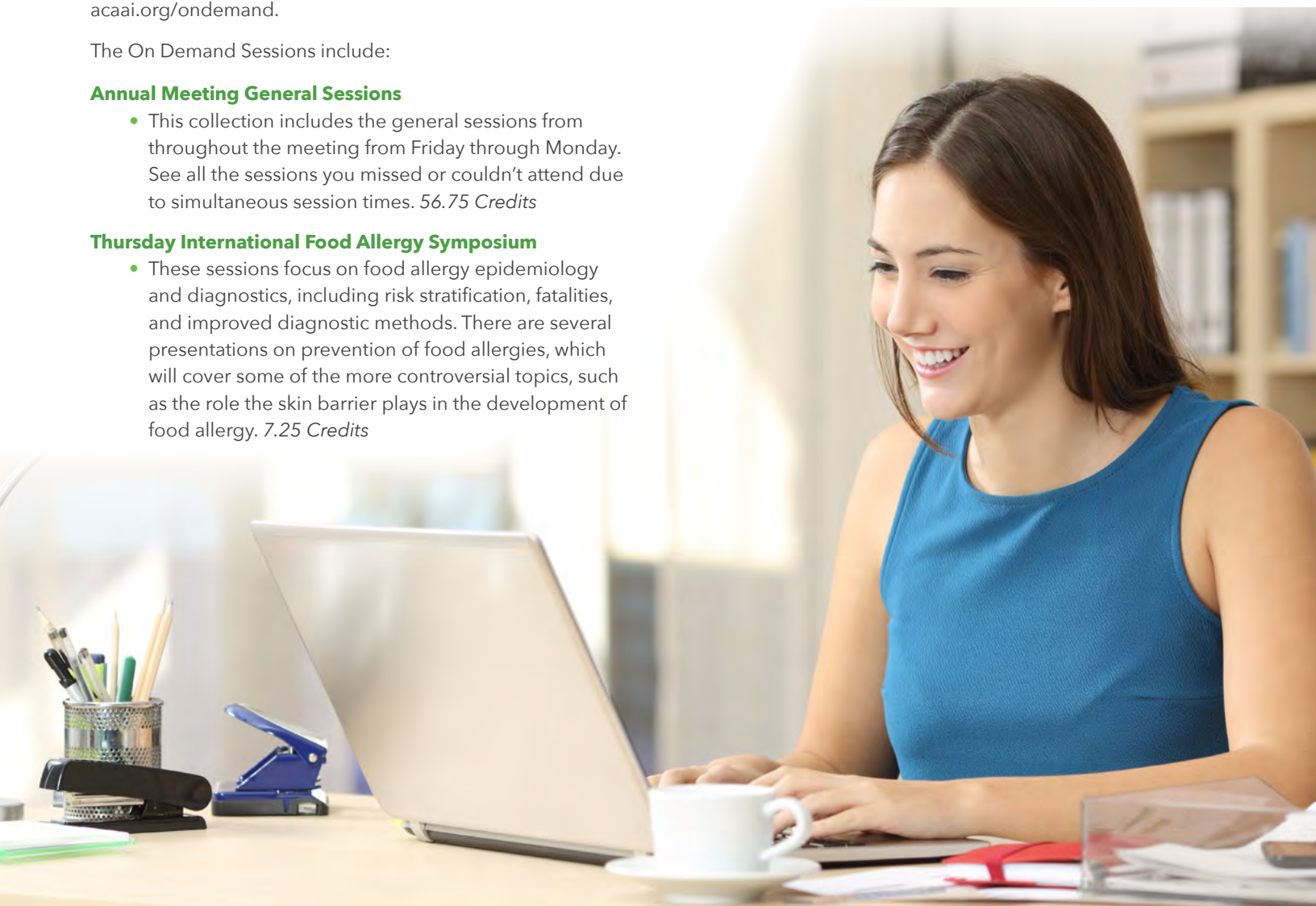
- These sessions focus on food allergy epidemiology and diagnostics, including risk stratification, fatalities, and improved diagnostic methods. There are several presentations on prevention of food allergies, which will cover some of the more controversial topics, such as the role the skin barrier plays in the development of food allergy. *7.25 Credits*

## Annual Literature Review

- Stay abreast of the latest clinical developments in allergy and immunology by viewing ACAAI's highly successful Literature Review program. It's a review of the most important, clinically relevant literature of the specialty published between November 2021 and October 2022. Hear from top allergy/immunology training program directors and specialists in practice. *6.25 Credits*

## Practice Management Program

- This program is designed for office administrators and physician practice leaders alike and delivers dynamic updates on efficiently and effectively running your allergy practice. *4.25 Credits*





## FELLOW-IN-TRAINING ADVANTAGE

By Brent Griffin, MD, MPH, senior FIT representative

# Looking forward to 2023

Time really does fly when you're having fun! 2022 flew by, and we are planning the next year of growth for the College's Fellow-in-Training (FIT) Section. As I reflect on the past year, I am continually amazed by the dedication of our FIT members and by the support of the administrative staff behind the scenes. We had an excellent response last year to our Board Review Corner, as volunteers from the FIT Section's Executive Committee were paired with experts on the College's Scientific Committees to produce challenging, high-yield questions encompassing a wide variety of topics within Allergy and Immunology. If you haven't seen it, I would highly encourage you to check out the FIT Board Review Corner on the ACAAI website.

The College's 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting was once again a resounding success. Fellows-in-Training from across the country met in beautiful Louisville, KY to network, learn about new therapeutic modalities, discuss updates and changes within the specialty, and hear from experts in the field on translating emerging science in Allergy and Immunology into clinical practice. The FIT Section would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the many members of the College administrative staff, without whom the Annual Meeting could not have happened. We would also like to thank Dr. Brian Kelly and the 2022 Annual Meeting Program Committee for their tireless efforts resulting in an unforgettable professional experience.

The 31st Annual FIT Bowl Competition was once again an event not to be missed! Wilford Hall successfully defended their title despite the fierce competition. The FIT Section thanks the FIT Bowl Committee members for their hard work putting together another excellent program!

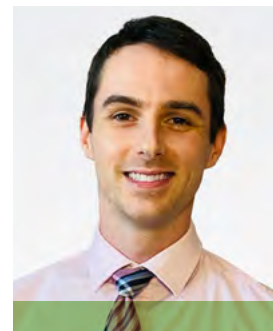
During the FIT business meeting, we heard from Dr. Chris Foster, the immediate past Senior FIT Representative,

regarding updates for FITs and opportunities within the Section and the College. The FIT Section elected Dr. Vinh Nguyen from National Jewish Health as the next Junior FIT Representative to the Board of Regents. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Nguyen as we look forward to another rewarding and productive year!

I would like to thank our panel of speakers, Drs. Heather Lehman, Jerald Koepke, and John Anderson, for their excellent presentations on genetic testing, rhinoscopy, and clinical research. Finally, I would like to thank Dr. Chris Foster for his outstanding work and leadership within the FIT Section for the past two years.

Even though time flies, it's never too late to get involved with the College!

This is a great time to consider the many opportunities to serve your peers within the Allergy/Immunology community while gaining valuable leadership experience and training. There are many opportunities for FITs within the College, including advocacy work, committee membership, contributing to board preparation materials, and mentoring students and residents considering Allergy/Immunology as a specialty. I highly encourage you to join us in Anaheim, CA in November 2023 for the Annual Scientific Meeting. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Dr. Nguyen or our FIT representatives if you have any questions or feedback for the FIT Section. You can find us in the Governance area (under "About Us") of the member website at [college.acaa.org](http://college.acaa.org). I am looking forward to another excellent year and wish you all the best in 2023!



Brent Griffin, MD, MPH

## COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE

# Millions of member-to-member interactions

## DocMatter boosts interactive, physician-to-physician communication on clinical A/I topics

One of the most exclusive member benefits for physicians offered by the College is DocMatter – our online forum for high-quality, clinical and practice management discussions. Since its launch in 2019, DocMatter has been a very active community for physicians to engage in online allergy-immunology discussions.

Since the site launched, more than:

- 782 “discussion threads” have been started.
- 4685 “posts” have been approved/posted.
- 894 “unique members” have contributed.

- 3,097,681 “member to member interactions” have occurred. These include starting a discussion thread, replying to a discussion, reading a discussion email, logging into the system to view a discussion, and viewing a member’s credentials.

“It’s clear that DocMatter is a top member benefit,” said ACAAI Executive Medical Director Todd A. Mahr, MD, FACAIA. “There are always robust discussions on many A/I topics. It is private and secure, so members feel confident posting clinical questions.”

During the COVID pandemic, it may be no surprise that there has been a lot of discussion on COVID vaccines. In fact, three of the top posts since the College’s DocMatter forum opened have focused on reactions to COVID vaccines. The discussion on increased hives with COVID booster vaccines got more than 59,000 views.

Other popular topics include:

- Provocation testing for cholinergic urticaria
- Extreme smell sensitivity
- Exercise-induced anaphylaxis
- Epinephrine autoinjector cost

Got a unique case you’d like feedback on? Or a question about how other allergists solve a practice issue? Post on DocMatter for responses from your peers. If you’re not active on DocMatter, it’s easy to take part. Every College physician member has an active account, with a unique username and password. If you would like to become active on DocMatter, please email our DocMatter representative, Emily Seferovich, at [eseferovich@docmatter.com](mailto:eseferovich@docmatter.com).



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