

ACAAI NEWS

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DECEMBER/JANUARY 2002

College launches biweekly e-mail newsletter

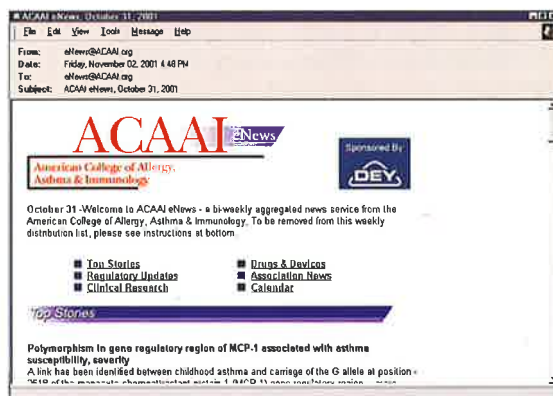
News travels fast. Are you finding it difficult to keep up with new developments and stay one step ahead of Internet-savvy patients?

Beginning October 31, the College launched ACAAI eNews as a membership benefit to help keep you abreast of important news quickly and conveniently and provide new tools for your practice.

The biweekly e-mail newsletter, generously supported by a grant from **Dey LP**, offers the latest news from around the world of importance to allergists, including quick updates on clinical research, FDA decisions, and summaries related to drugs and devices.

Each issue features a timely message from the president. **Dr. Bobby Lanier's** columns have included a free offer for

interactive patient behavioral modification games for handheld computers, PowerPoint moving images and tips for patients during the holidays.



“My eNews message will always include an invitation to members to share patient education materials,” said Dr. Lanier. “We want to provide tools for our members to

help in the exam rooms. We will be looking for standard operating procedures, compliance forms, skin test sheets, immunization cards – anything our members will share to help a new member.”

Each news item in the ACAAI eNews is a brief, single-paragraph summary of the article that is published in full elsewhere on the Internet. A mouse click on the word “more” takes the reader to the full article.

All members who have e-mail addresses on file in their ACAAI membership record are automatically receiving the biweekly e-mail newsletter. If you have not received ACAAI eNews and would like to be added to its distribution, visit the member Web site at www.acaai.org and click “Members update email address here.”

Dr. Harold Nelson receives first Gold Headed Cane Award



Dr. Harold S. Nelson (left) receives the Gold Headed Cane Award from Dr. Bobby Q. Lanier during the Convocation.

Considered by his peers to be the greatest allergist of his time, **Dr. Harold S. Nelson**, Denver, was honored by the College with the first Gold Headed Cane Award at the Convocation held during the Annual Meeting in Orlando.

He was elected from 691 Fellows of the College for demonstrating the highest standards of scientific excellence and integrity.

Dr. Nelson is senior staff physician at National Jewish Medical and Research Center; and professor of medicine at the University of Colorado Health Science Center in Denver.

An ACAAI Fellow since 1979 and a former Board

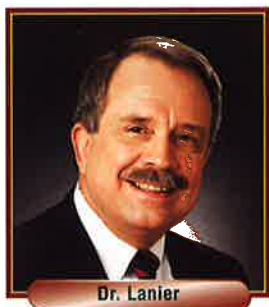
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Allergists caution Manhattan patients in aftermath of attack

... see story on page 3

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Practical take-home tools offered in Annual Meeting lectures



Dr. Lanier

"I can't get a full breath," is the type of complaint that often frustrates allergists as they try and fit patients into diagnostic categories.

If you attended the opening session of the ACAAI Annual Meeting in Orlando, you obtained the diagnostic tools in questionnaire form that make those "funny" complaints fall into a perceptual pattern. Dr. Richard Schwartzstein performed an extremely important service with that session and fulfilled my charge to Drs.

Phil Lieberman and Ira Finegold and the rest of the program committee to make sure that every lecture had some practical take home message for the practicing allergist.

Along that line, our own bio-terrorism expert, Col. Renata Engler, gave an incredible discussion of what people need to know about smallpox and anthrax. If you had a vaccination for small pox, are you still protected 40 years later? You'd know all the details if you had heard Renata. Ira Finegold's group on Sunday gave the most cogent discussion of the Tower of Babel that is allergy/immunotherapy I've ever heard. If you missed that session or any of the others, you

can pick them up on the CD-ROM that will be coming out soon.

We feel fortunate that the attendance at the Orlando meeting was average in view of the cataclysmic events that preceded it, including a plane crash on the Monday before and the Friday debacle at the Atlanta airport caused by a passenger who decided to circumvent security for a camera. It stranded a number of members and a few speakers overnight. All in all, it was a friendly meeting marked by a real family feeling where members learned new information to apply immediately.

Perhaps the most inspiring moment came as Dr. Harold Nelson was given, according to your wishes in a general membership vote, the most prestigious "Gold Headed Cane." It's symbolic of lifetime achievement in the field of allergy, asthma and immunology. The passing of the cane will likely become one of the most cherished traditions of the College in years to come because it is a reflection of the membership, not a nominating committee or small group of people. True to form, when given the opportunity to speak, Hal preferred to let his stature speak for him and gave a simple "thank you." But those of us who counted the votes recount the heart warming testimonies members gave to Hal on their ballots. The cane is not restricted to training directors, but open to any fellow with greater than 20 years of membership.

The leadership of the College is dedicated to helping you treat patients better and more efficiently. Dr. Bill Berger proposed a "test" for new programs – that they should be judged primarily by whether they put more patients in your office. It won't be our only measure, but it will be more and more a consideration as we work for you. Give us some feedback – me, Drs. Berger (president-elect) Mike Blaiss (vice president), Larry Mihalas (treasurer) or any board member. We want to do our jobs better.

by Bobby Q. Lanier, M.D.

Nationwide Asthma Screening Program registration underway

Plans are moving forward for the sixth year of the ACAAI Nationwide Asthma Screening Program.

The annual campaign, funded by an unrestricted educational grant from AstraZeneca, identifies asthma in adults and children with breathing problems and refers them for a professional diagnosis. ACAAI members who want to bring the program to their community in 2002 can register through an upcoming mailing from the College.

More than 100 College members signed up to be local coordinators for the 2002 campaign at the ACAAI Annual Meeting in Orlando. The registration deadline is March 15, 2002.



Screening program coordinators Dr. Richard Gower, Spokane, Wash., Dr. Marianne Frieri, East Meadow, N.Y., and Dr. Santiago Martinez, Winter Park, Fla., stop by the asthma screening program booth at the ACAAI Annual Meeting. They are among the 11 College members who have conducted a screening program every year since the public service campaign was first launched in 1997.

Allergists urge New Yorkers with lung disease to use caution in aftermath of attack

Following the collapse of the World Trade Center towers, a statement was issued jointly by ACAAI and the New York Allergy Society cautioning those with asthma or other chronic lung diseases to consult with their physicians if they experience new or worsening respiratory symptoms caused by the heavy dust hanging over Manhattan.

"This is a volatile time and things are exacerbated by the fact that this is peak ragweed season," said **Dr. Daniel Mayer**, president of the New York Allergy Society. "I recommend that people with chronic lung conditions and allergies don't go near the site."

The dust is also affecting those who were initially vacated from their nearby homes and workplaces, but have since returned, said ACAAI Past President **Dr. Ira Finegold**, New York City.

"Their apartments were covered in dust, and have since been professionally cleaned," Dr. Finegold was quoted in *American*

Medical News. "But they return, and after 20 minutes, they're developing a raspy cough, I haven't seen any patients who are truly toxic, but clearly there are things in the air that are irritating."

Substances in the dust include pulverized concrete and glass, and the chemical products of combustion, including materials such as rubber, paper and plastic. The irritants can combine with other allergens in the air to make patients with lung conditions and allergies especially sick.

A health advisory was issued by the New York City Department of Health suggesting that those who have asthma may need to increase their medications and those who experience symptoms should see their doctors. The concern is that those who develop respiratory ailments now could develop chronic asthma.

The College's media advisory resulted in placements in New York newspapers, trade publications and on Web sites.

Dr. Bobby Q. Lanier installed as ACAAI President

The College installed **Dr. Bobby Q. Lanier**, Fort Worth, Texas, as president at its Nov. 20 Annual Business Meeting in Orlando. Dr. Lanier succeeds **Dr. Emil J. Bardana, Jr.**, Portland, Ore.

Other elected officers are: **Drs. William E. Berger**, Mission Viejo, Calif., president-elect; **Michael S. Blaiss**, Memphis, Tenn., vice president; and **Lawrence S. Mihalas**, Los Angeles, treasurer.

Dr. Lanier is medical director for North Texas Institute for Clinical Trials in Fort Worth, Texas, and a private practitioner.

He is serving his third term on the ACAAI Board of Regents (1989-91, 1992-95 and 1999-2002) and has been alternate delegate to the AMA since 1991. He received the 1995 ACAAI Distinguished Fellow Award and 1996 Bela Schick lectureship.

Dr. Lanier founded Fort Worth Allergy and Asthma Associates in 1977 and he sustains a practice for the indigent and non-insured

community. He is medical director of Lanier Education and Research Network, a corporation developed for

trials. He is president of the Texas Medical Association Foundation.

He was founder and executive director of the National Association of Physician Broadcasters, and anchor/editor of *Medical Economics Video Magazine*. Dr. Lanier produces "Sixty Second House Call," a daily national radio, television and Internet health information syndication.

Dr. Berger is clinical professor of pediatrics in the Division of Allergy and Immunology, University of California College of Medicine, Irvine, Calif.; adjunct professor of health care management at the Graduate School of Management of the University of California, Irvine; medical director at Southern California

Research Center; and private practitioner at Allergy & Asthma Associates in Mission



Dr. Emil J. Bardana, Jr. (right) passes the gavel to incoming ACAAI President Dr. Bobby Q. Lanier during Annual Business Meeting in Orlando.



Retiring regents (left to right): Drs. Richard W. Weber, Suellyn S. Rossman and John Meiser. Not pictured: Dr. John A. Winder.

educational technology and pharmaceutical research. Dr.

Lanier founded the Society of Principal Investigators, a professional society of physicians conducting FDA pharmaceutical

... continued on page 10

Dr. Ira Finegold recognized for service and leadership

Whether referred to as “allergy shots,” “allergy vaccinations” or “specific immunotherapy,” more patients know about the



Dr. Finegold

treatment and are seeing an allergist because of the commitment of **Dr. Ira Finegold**, New York City.

Dr. Finegold was honored with the ACAAI Distinguished Service Award at the Annual Meeting in Orlando for founding the Immunotherapy Coalition, initiating and overseeing the College’s *Get Tested! Get Treated! Get Better!* immunotherapy public awareness campaign, and organizing the *Immunotherapy and Allergic Asthma Consensus Conference*.

- A total of 450 consumer and trade media placements, reaching an estimated audience/circulation of 178 million.
- Consensus conference proceedings were published as a supplement to the July 2001 issue of *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*.
- An online CME course, based on conference presentations, is posted on the ACAAI Web site.
- A 32-slide presentation and companion speakers’ manual were created to help College members raise awareness among health professionals about the role of immunotherapy in treating and preventing allergic asthma. These are available for download from the ACAAI Web site.
- The *Immunotherapy for Asthma* Speakers Bureau was launched, with postcards mailed to CME Directors at respiratory disease, nursing and national medical associations.

Outcomes of the 3-year campaign include:

Gold Headed Cane Award ...continued from page 1

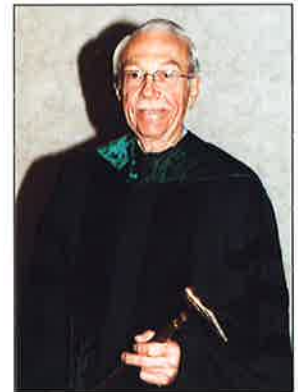
member, Dr. Nelson served on the Program Committee, 1983-97; chaired the Abstract Committee, 1983-97; and served on the *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology* Editorial Board, 1979-89 and 1992-96. He has been awarded the Distinguished Fellow Award, Bela Schick Lectureship, Jaros Lectureship, McGovern Lectureship and Lester Mittelstaedt Lectureship.

The tradition of the Gold Headed Cane started in 1689, with Dr. John Radcliffe, who had a particular interest in asthma

as the personal physician to King William III, an asthmatic. Dr. Radcliffe began the tradition of passing the cane to a successor whom he considered to be the greatest physician of his time.

The award is sponsored by **Merck US Human Health**. It serves as an inspiration to younger doctors and encourages them in family, social, civil religious and professional life to cultivate character that earns the respect and good will of colleagues and the profession at large.

Dr. Nelson will hold the Gold Cane until he passes it to his successor at the 2002 Annual Meeting in San Antonio.



Dr. Nelson

\$57,500 awarded in ACAAI research and education grants

The College awarded \$57,500 in grants for research and education at its Annual Meeting in Orlando.



Dr. Busse

The \$20,000 ACAAI Young Faculty Support Award was presented to **Dr. Paula Busse**, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York, N.Y., for her study entitled, *Effect of a Multi-Disciplinary Asthma Outreach Program to Decrease Morbidity and Mortality of Adult Asthmatics from an Inner-city Population*.

Three fellows-in-training were awarded \$10,000 research grants: **Drs. Tracy Brooks Fausnight**, Children’s Hospital

of Pittsburgh; **Mokhtar Hacena**, Nassau University Medical Center, East Meadow, N.Y.; and **Vasif C. Kalfa**, UCLA, Los Angeles.

Scholars Return Awards were presented to **Drs. Shields B. Abernathy**, Templeton, Calif.; **Steve Cole**, Memphis; **Joseph S. Fakhour**, Germantown, Tenn.; **Indar M. Jhamb**, Bowling Green, Ky.; and **Frederic K. Renold**, Northbrook, Ill. \$1,000 is awarded to the institution and \$500 to the scholar.

The deadline for applying for an ACAAI 2002 Young Faculty Support Award, Fellows-in-Training Research Grant or Scholars Return Award is August 21. Look for information in future issues of *ACAAI News*.

Public awareness initiatives put ACAAI in the news

Press coverage of the ACAAI Annual Meeting in Orlando was an all-time high, with over 100 reporters attending lectures, participating in press briefings presented by 16 faculty members, or conducting interviews remotely.

A fully-equipped Press Room and professional staff assistance was made possible through a grant from **Sepracor, Inc.**

"My favorite thing about the press room, and the one that came in most handy, was how you highlighted newsworthy presentations and arranged press briefings and interviews with the speakers," said Damian McNamara, reporter for *Internal Medicine News*. "At a meeting the size of the ACAAI, where most presentations are in a giant ballroom with speakers up on stage and behind a podium, it's sometimes difficult to ask them questions directly."

The College also initiated media campaigns on a physician's survey, its "Immunotherapy for Asthma" speakers bureau and a new educational campaign on eye allergy.

Physician survey

The College sponsored a survey conducted by Harris Interactive to poll allergists and primary care physicians about the need for additional medications within the arsenal of allergy treatment.

Physicians indicated that though they were somewhat satisfied with current medications for treating allergies, there is room for improvement. Although prescription medications are seen as more adequate than OTC medications, both types are not considered by physicians to be completely effective at providing allergy system relief.

Both allergists and PCPs agreed that the main reason patients switch medications is because they want improved relief of the symptoms associated with allergies, including sneezing, stuffy or runny nose, itching of eyes, nose and throat and watery eyes. Consequently, more than 50 percent of allergists and 39 percent

of PCPs prescribe more than one medication to their patients.

Results of the survey, made possible through an educational grant from **Sepracor, Inc.**, were released during the Annual Meeting in Orlando through a press briefing, video news release and satellite media tour.

Immunotherapy for asthma

Making the case for immunotherapy in allergic asthma, the College is reaching more than 3,000 respiratory disease, nursing and national medical associations with direct mail postcards promoting its "Immunotherapy for Asthma" speakers bureau.

An informative and compelling slide presentation and an accompanying speakers' manual are available to members who want to help the College spread the word



about the effectiveness of immunotherapy in treating and preventing allergic asthma.

The presentation, made possible by an unrestricted educational grant from **ALK-Abello, Inc.**, is posted on the ACAAI Web site at www.acaa.org.

Eye allergies

The College will be asking people with allergies to "believe their itchy, red, watery eyes" when it launches a public and professional education campaign on eye allergy early in 2002.

The campaign, funded by an unrestricted educational grant from **Alcon Laboratories, Inc.**, will include a new consumer education brochure, a national media relations campaign and a physician support kit for ACAAI members.

The campaign is scheduled to begin with the spring allergy season.

Jim Slawny honored with ACAAI Distinguished Service Award

James R. Slawny, ACAAI executive director since 1982, received with 2001 Distinguished Service Award during the Convocation in Orlando.

Mr. Slawny is founder, president and CEO of his own association management company, Executive Administration, Inc. (EAI). EAI is a successful Chicago-based firm that specializes in the management of mid-size national medical societies. Under Mr. Slawny's executive leadership, each of his medical association clients have grown in size and financial stability.

He is responsible for many firsts in the industry, such as the recording of an entire medical convention on interactive DC-ROM in 1993. He instituted CME and self-assessment tests in medical journals, developed doctors' "job fairs" at annual conventions, launched the first satellite journal club, and helped establish two successful medical foundations.



James R. Slawny (left) receives Distinguished Service Award from President Dr. Bobby Q. Lanier.

Clemens von Pirquet Awards presented to seven investigators

Seven research abstracts were selected from 246 submissions for the 2001 Clemens von Pirquet awards sponsored by the Auxiliary of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Following are highlights of these key findings presented at the ACAAI Annual Meeting in Orlando.

- **Dr. William A. McCann**, Augusta, Ga., First Place: *Sensitization to Recombinant Aspergillus Fumigatus Allergens in Allergic Fungal Sinusitis (#24)* – Concludes that the striking prevalence of specific IgE to recombinant A. fumigatus allergens among allergic fungal sinusitis patients may reflect cross-reactivity with other fungi and suggest it might be an important causative agent in allergic fungal sinusitis.

- **Dr. Pearl A. Barzaga**, Davis, Calif., Second Place: *Walnut ImmunoCAP FEIA Inhibition by Other Nut Protein Extracts (#57)* – Reports that patients with severe walnut food allergy also have reactions when they eat pecans, with rare exceptions. Findings support the current theory that some patients develop multiple, separate sensitivities to seed storage proteins.

- **Dr. Saba Samee**, Charlottesville, Va., Third Place: *Lung Ventilation in Asthmatics Before and After Inhalation of Methacholine and Albuterol Using Hyperpolarized Helium-3 MRI (#31)* – Using new lung imaging technology of hyperpolarized helium-3 MRI, study demonstrates the presence of reversible ventilation defects in the lungs of asthmatics, which may reflect fluctuation in

other symptoms of joint and muscle pain, thirst, fever and chills. According to authors, researchers have located the disease chromosome and efforts are underway to identify the gene.

- **Dr. Noga Askenazi**, Chicago, Fifth Place: *Prophylaxis for High Risk Cardiac Patients with Recurrent Anaphylactoid Reactions to Radiocontrast Media (#79)* – Investigators developed a premedication protocol that is safe, effective and well-tolerated for two high-risk cardiac patients with recurrent anaphylactoid reactions to radiocontrast media. Authors recommend intensive therapy with prednisone, H1 and H2 blockers and a leukotriene modifier for 5-7 days prior to angiography for high-risk cardiac patients.



Auxiliary of ACAAI presents 2001 Clemens von Pirquet Awards (left to right): Drs. Reid F. Johnstone, Carol D. Currey, Pearl A. Barzaga, Auxiliary President Sandra Newsom, Noga Askenazi, Saba Samee, Shailee Kapadia and William A. McCann.

airway caliber. Authors suggest a correlation between the size and number of ventilation defects with asthma severity.

- **Dr. Reid F. Johnstone**, Augusta, Ga., Fourth Place: *A New Kindred with Familial Cold Urticaria (#33)* – Study evaluates 41 family members affected with familial cold urticaria, a rare hereditary systemic inflammatory condition that is not a true urticaria. Patients described rashes usually within 45 minutes of prolonged cold exposure, and

- **Dr. Carol D. Currey**, Augusta, Ga., Sixth Place: *Abnormal Neutrophil Chemotaxis and Poor Wound Healing (#36)* – Investigators performed a female patient's immunological evaluation for a nonhealing wound resulting from an obstetric tear during delivery four years prior. The patient's clinical history and laboratory results suggest a specific protein deficiency - a condition not previously described in literature.

- **Dr. Shailee Kapadia**, Manhasset, N.Y., Memorial Award: *Eosinophilic Esophagitis with Food Hypersensitivity – Attributed to Gastroesophageal Reflux. A Case Report. (#39)* - Symptoms associated with food allergies are often similar to those associated with gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD). Authors suggest diagnosis of patients with common gastrointestinal symptoms associated with GERD who have an eosinophilic infiltration of the esophageal mucosa should include consideration of hypersensitivity to dietary proteins regardless of the results of prick skin testing to foods.

CME programs jointly sponsored by ACAAI

Upcoming programs jointly sponsored by ACAAI include the following:

January 27-31, 2002 – *Western Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology 40th Annual Scientific Session*. CME hrs, 16. Location: The Orchid at Mauna Lani, Island of Hawaii. Contact: Rebecca Gough (817) 491-2616.

December 5-9, 2002 – *First Brazilian International Congress of Allergy & Immunology*. CME hrs., 19. Location: Rio de Janeiro Brazil. Contact: Jaqueline Roberts (703) 998-6091.

Ongoing Programs – *Future Directions in Asthma & Allergic Disease Management for the New Millennium*: Immunology Educational Institute of New England. Contact:

Terri Norton (978) 632-7361.

204 fellows-in-training attend meeting in Orlando

by Dr. William A. McCann, Sr. FIT Representative to the Board of Regents

With the busy holiday season upon us, it is worthwhile to reflect for a few minutes on the recently completed ACAAI Annual Meeting in Orlando. I think all in attendance will attest that the meeting was a resounding success!

Overall, 204 fellows-in-training attended with the generous support of travel grants while 33 pediatric and internal medicine residents participated in the College's Residents for Allergy program. FIT events included:

- The annual Welcome Reception sponsored by **Greer Laboratories**.
- Dr. Stephen Smart's look at the transition from training to practice during the training program directors' breakfast, sponsored by **Aventis Pharmaceuticals**.
- The always entertaining FIT Bowl, sponsored by **Pfizer Inc.**, proved one of the most competitive (and amusing) in years with the team from the Medical College of Georgia emerging victorious.



FIT Bowl Competition (left to right): Drs. Pierre-Alain Dauby, Ron England, Champion William A. McCann, and Champion Reid F. Johnstone.

- During the annual FIT business meeting, sponsored by **Aventis Pharmaceuticals**, Dr. Gary Gross of the Joint Council gave a very informative and practical approach to billing and coding for the allergists. In addition, Dr. Ted Kim was elected as the Junior National FIT representative.

Our thanks to the other outstanding nominees and our congratulations to Ted.

- The FIT activities concluded with a wonderful reception sponsored by **Aventis Pharmaceuticals**.

Other programs for FITs included the annual Doctors' Job Fair and *Your Entry Into Medical Practice* workshop.

Over the next year, your FIT representatives look forward to working with you to make the section even more responsive to your needs.

Keep a look out for news and updates on the FIT bulletin board on the College's Web site and feel free to contact me at wmccann@mail.mcg.edu if I can be of any help.

I hope everyone who made it to Orlando had a great time. Start marking your calendars for San Antonio in 2002!

Deadline nears for new junior faculty award in geriatrics

The ACAAI and the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI) are pleased to announce a new junior faculty development award. This collaborative effort is part of the Association of Subspecialty Professors' (ASP) Geriatrics Development Initiative, which is funded by the **John A. Hartford Foundation**.

Award applications are due by January 15, 2002.

The Geriatrics Development Initiative is a response to the increased aging of the U.S. population and is intended to help the growing number of internists

who are being asked to fill the healthcare needs of the elderly not being provided by board-certified geriatricians.

The award provides \$150,000 in funding over two years, beginning July 1, 2002.

To be eligible for the award, a candidate must possess a faculty appointment as of July 1, 2002. Candidates must be board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Allergy and Immunology and be within the first three years of a faculty appointment. All candidates must have U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status classification in the United States.

The new award is entitled the "The John A. Hartford Foundation, Association of Subspecialty Professors, American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, and American College of Allergy Asthma and Immunology Geriatrics Development Initiative Junior Faculty Development Award" or the JHF/ASP/AAAAI/ACAAI/GDI Junior Faculty Development Award.

For an application contact Mike Slawny at the ACAAI Executive Office, phone (847) 427-1200 or e-mail mikeslawny@acaa.org.

Annual Meeting Scrapbook



American Comedy Award winner George Wallace kicked off the convention with a special ACAAI performance. The event was supported by a grant from Aventis Pharmaceuticals.



The ACAAI Speakeasy transported attendees back in time to the "Roaring Twenties" beat of Swing Society at the Grand Presidential Reception. The event was supported by a grant from AstraZeneca LP.



ACAAI salutes its Past Presidents. Left to right (front): Drs. Burton M. Rudolph, Charles H. Banov, Betty B. Wray, Don L. Unger; (back) Drs. Rufus E. Lee, Robert M. Miles, Robert J. Dockhorn, Jean A. Chapman, Edward J. O'Connell, Dale B. Sparks, Ira Finegold, Don Q. Mitchell and Emil J. Bardana, Jr. The Past Presidents Breakfast was supported by a grant from GlaxoSmithKline.



Dr. Bettina C. Hilman was honored with the ACAAI Women in Allergy Award in Community Development. Left to right: Drs. Joann Blessing-Moore, Hilman and Deborah Ho Lin.



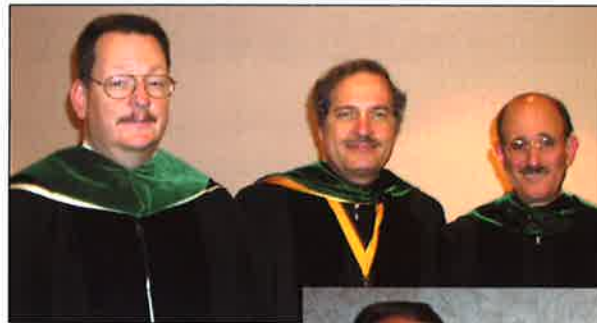
Innovations in products and services were featured at some 350 annual meeting scientific exhibits.



246 abstract concurrent and poster presentations were made during the annual meeting. Concurrent sessions and poster reproductions were made possible by an educational grant from Sepracor.



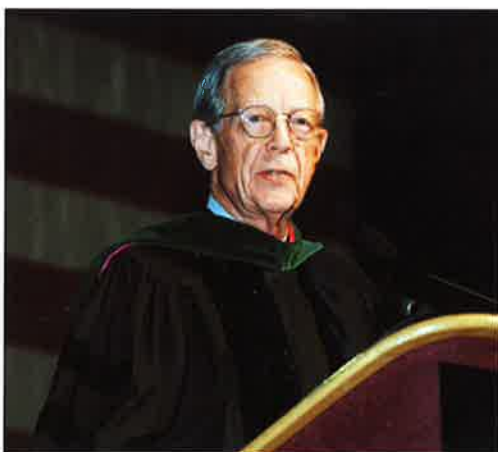
Grammy Award winning singer and songwriter Gladys Knight gave an exquisite performance at the Fundraising Dinner. Her performance was supported by a grant from **Schering/Key Pharmaceuticals**. Dinner was supported by grants from **Aventis Pharmaceuticals, GlaxoSmithKline and Sepracor Inc.**



Six allergists were recognized by the College at the Convocation for their contribution to the specialty. Left to right (above): Drs. **William K. Dolen**, Augusta, Ga., **Jay M. Portnoy**, Kansas City, Mo., and **Nathan Segall**, Atlanta, received the Distinguished Fellow Award; (right) Professors **Maurizio Miraglia del Giudice**, Naples, Italy, **Anthony J. Frew**, Southampton, United Kingdom, and **Marek L. Kowalski**, Lodz, Poland, received the International Distinguished Fellow Award.



Winners of the ACAAI National Media Awards program, sponsored by **Aventis Pharmaceuticals**, were announced at the Annual Business Meeting. Left to right: **Andy Anderson**, Aventis, **Ted Streuli**, Galveston County Daily News, **Crystal Edgington**, Informational Television Network, and ACAAI PR Network Chair **Dr. A. M. Aminian**.



Dr. John A. Benson, Jr., dean and professor of medicine Emeritis at Oregon Health Sciences University, and past president of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology was keynote speaker at the Convocation. The event was supported by a grant from **Merck & Co., Inc.**



Awards were presented to 22 annual meeting corporate sponsors. Left to right: ACAAI President-Elect **Dr. William E. Berger**; representatives from **Aventis Pharmaceuticals**, **Dennis O'Hara**, **Greg Lund**, and **Jeffrey Janofsky**; ACAAI President **Dr. Emil J. Bardana, Jr.**

Special thanks to sponsors of the ACAAI Annual Meeting

The College greatly appreciates the sponsors that helped make our Annual Meeting in Orlando successful.

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Dr. Lanier installed as ACAAI President ...continued from page 3

Viejo. He authored the book, *Allergies and Asthma for Dummies*.

An ACAAI Fellow since 1980, Dr. Berger is serving his second term on the Board of Regents. He is on the Board of Directors of the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, a member of the ACAAI/AAAAI Joint Task Force on Practice

Parameters, and serves on the editorial board of *Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*. Dr. Berger was awarded the ACAAI 1998 Distinguished Fellow Award, the 1999 Distinguished Service Award and the 1998 Bela Schick Lectureship.

Dr. Berger was president of the California Society of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, 1996-97, and president of the Orange County Society of Allergy & Clinical Immunology, 1994-95. He served as medical correspondent for Orange County News Channel, 1990-97.

Dr. Blaiss is clinical professor of pediatrics and medicine at the University of Tennessee, Memphis.

He became an ACAAI Fellow in 1984 and served on its Board of Regents, 1990-93. Dr. Blaiss is Editor-in-Chief of the ACAAI Annual Meeting on CD-ROM. He also serves on the editorial board of *Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*, chairs the CD-ROM Oversight Committee, and is member of the

Technology and Computers Committee. Dr. Blaiss was recognized with the ACAAI 1996 Distinguished Fellow Award and the 1998 Jaros Lectureship.

He also is treasurer of the American Board of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and a past officer of the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. He is president of Le Bonheur Pediatric Specialties, Inc., and Mid-South Pediatric Specialists.

Dr. Mihalas is associate clinical professor at the UCLA School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics, Division of Allergy and Immunology, and a private practitioner at the Allergy and Asthma Center Medical Group, Inc. in Los Angeles.

A Fellow since 1982, Dr. Mihalas is serving his second year as Treasurer and second term on the Board of Regents and Executive Committee. He is also Treasurer of the Foundation of ACAAI, and is on its Board of Directors. He chairs the ACAAI Finance Committee and is a member of the Investment Oversight Committee, Research Funding Review Committee, Ethics Committee, Publications Committee, Bylaws Committee, Ad Hoc Guidelines Committee for the Fellows-in-Training Member Section and Ad Hoc Committee to Select Allergy/Immunology Fellowship Awards.

Dr. Mihalas was honored with the ACAAI 2000 Distinguished Fellow Award.

Calendar of events

The following programs may be of interest to allergists, but are not sponsored by ACAAI.

March 1-6, 2002 - 58th AAAAI Annual Meeting: American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. CME and CEU credits are offered. Location: New York, N.Y. Contact: AAAAI Executive Office: (414) 272-6071 or e-mail am2002@aaaai.org.

March 16-19, 2002 - *Interasma 2002: XVII World Congress of Asthma*. Location: Florence, Italy. Contact: OIC Srl., Viale G. Matteotti 7, 50121 Firenze, Italy. Tel. 39-055-50351; Fax: 39-055-5001912; e-mail: info@oic.it.

July 24-27, 2002 - 20th Annual Aspen Allergy Conference: Colorado Allergy Society, the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. Location: Given Institute of Pathobiology, Aspen, Colorado. Contact: Kathleen Goldy: (303) 282-0491; e-mail: swgoldy@aol.com.

September 14-18, 2002 - 12th European Respiratory Society Annual Congress. Location: Stockholm, Sweden. Contact: Ms. Alessandra Bonazza, ERS headquarters Lausanne, 1 Boulevard de Grancy, CH-1006 Lusanne, Switzerland. Tel. 41-21-6130203; Fax: 41-21-6172865; e-mail: congres@ersnet.org.

For information on ACAAI joint sponsorship for CME-credited programs, contact Jean Lynch at (847) 427-1200.

ACAAI to co-sponsor International Congress in Brazil

Sunny Rio de Janeiro is an ideal setting for the First Brazilian International Congress of Allergy & Immunology, Dec. 5-9, 2002, co-sponsored by the ACAAI, the Brazilian National Academy of Medicine, International Center for Interdisciplinary Studies of Immunology, and the Universidade do Grande Rio.

The 4-day conference includes scientific programs by distinguished lecturers including the following College members: **Drs. Sami L. Bahna**, Fresno, Calif.; **Joseph A. Bellanti**, Washington, D.C.; **Michael S. Blaiss**, Memphis, Tenn.; **William E. Berger**, Mission Viejo, Calif.; **Lawrence D. Frenkel**, Rockford, Ill.; **Mario Geller**,

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; **Constance H. Katelaris**, Sydney, Australia; **Bobby Q. Lanier**, Fort Worth, Texas; **Edward J. O'Connell**, Rochester, Minn.; **Anthony Rooklin**, Upland, Pa.; **Aderbal Sabr**, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and **Sherry Hubbard**, RD, Oklahoma City, Okla.



ACAAI designates this continuing medical education activity for a maximum of 19 Hours in Category I of the Physician's Recognition Award (PRA) of the American Medical Association.

Programs with registration information are included with this newsletter. For more information, contact Jacqueline Roberts at IRConsult@aol.com or phone (703) 998-6091.

EAACI Summer Course enhances ACAAI international presence

More than 100 allergists attended ACAAI lectures during the EAACI 2001 Summer Course in the Ukraine, Kiev, and Yalta, Crimea.

"Potentially valuable new liaisons were made with Eastern and Central European allergists," said program organizer **Dr. Lawrence M. DuBuske**, Boston, team leader for the ACAAI European Subcommittee and director of Immunology Research Institute of New England (IRINE). "The ultimate goal of the meeting is not only to increase the knowledge of allergy among the attendees, but also to integrate approaches to allergy diagnosis and treatment."

"The course significantly enhanced the visibility of the ACAAI, with faculty also serving in the capacity of mentors," he said.

Representing the College, **Drs. Michael S. Blaiss**, Memphis, Tenn., and **Stephen A. Tilles**, Seattle, explored membership recruitment opportunities and distributed ACAAI membership packages to attendees. Other College members presenting included Dr. DuBuske and **Drs. Edwin A. Bronsky**, Salt Lake

City, Utah, **Mark S. Dykewicz**, St. Louis, Mo., **Sandra Gawchik**, Chester, Pa., and **Sheldon L. Spector**, Los Angeles.



ACAAI representatives **Dr. Lawrence M. DuBuske**, center, and **Dr. Michael S. Blaiss** participated in the EAACI Summer Course with **Dr. George Drannik**, president of the Ukrainian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology.

For the past three years, Dr. DuBuske has lectured at these sessions and for the past 10 years has sponsored ACAAI Annual Meeting attendance for international scientists from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Poland and Hungary. He was awarded honorary medical degrees from the Polish Society of Allergy, Crimea State Medical University in the Ukraine, National Medical University in the Ukraine, and Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology of Belarus.

ABAI Exam syllabus available

The course syllabi for The 2001 ACAAI Review for the ABAI Recertification Exam and the Literature Review Course for the ABAI Exam are available for \$75 each by contacting Dianne Kubis at (847) 427-1200 or diannekubis@acaaai.org. Supplies are limited.

Auxiliary introduces new officers and board members

by Auxiliary President-Elect Sandy Lanier

Perfect weather, Ikebana, the Kennedy Space Center, Winter Park shopping, photo preservation, Chinese cooking and a preview of San Antonio were only part of what made the Orlando meeting so special. In light of the recent events in our country, it was very special to see auxiliary friends from around the U.S.A. The Auxiliary officers and Board truly appreciate all who participated in the many activities available in Orlando.

We once again sponsored a Hospitality Suite which was enjoyed by almost 1,000 early morning



Auxiliary officers (left to right): Sandy Lanier, Judy Fineman, Sandra Newsom, Jacqueline Bellanti, Sharon Mihalas and Barbara Finegold.

risers. This number does not include the multitude of children who enjoyed their own room with entertaining activities and a kid-sized breakfast buffet where the T-shirts with our new logo were proudly worn. Auxiliary greeters welcomed all of those who took bus tours and we were feted at the lovely Lake Nona Country Club for our annual business luncheon.

Mary Costa, the voice of the original Sleeping Beauty and a renown opera star, gave an inspirational address.

We greatly appreciate **Aventis Pharmaceuticals**



ACAAI Kids were entertained in Orlando by "The Balloon Twister" in the Hospitality Suite.

- 2001-2004 Board members: **Jan Gower**, **Adrienne Rosenberg** and **Lani Silvers**.
- Committee Chairs: **Barbara Finegold**, Auxiliary Liaison; **Mary Julia Lee**, Bylaws; **Marcee Claflin**, Education; **Sharon Mihalas**, Finance; **Judy Fineman**, Membership; **Sandra Newsom**, Nominating; **Sandy Lanier**, Program; **Jeanne Zitt**, Public Relations; **Sandy Lanier**, Social; **Randee Mansfield**,



Winners of the AACAAI "Youth Impressions" premier juried art show for grades K-12 received awards during the Annual Business Meeting. Left to right: Drew Bardana, Portland, Ore., for Best of Show; Rosetta Curry, Orlando, for AACAAI President's Award; and Jared Santiago, Orlando, for "The Sneeze and Me" Award.

Calling all Chefs!!

The Auxiliary of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology is creating its own Cook Book. We invite the Auxiliary, College members and friends to send in "tried and tasty" recipes.

All categories are welcome, in addition to international recipes.

- Appetizers
- Soups, Salads & Dressings
- Main Dishes
- Desserts
- Just for Kids
- Allergy-Free: That's For Me

Include a one-line personal comment on the recipe and your name. Send to Cook Book co-chairs Jackie Bellanti (fax to 301-320-4688 or e-mail at jbella007@aol.com) or Sandy Lanier (fax to 817-731-0476 or

12 e-mail at sandy Lanier@askdrbob.com).

for sponsoring our Hospitality Suite, annual business luncheon and Ms. Costa's presentation,

We all enjoyed our first annual juried art show and plan to make it an ongoing project.

Many thanks go to **Marcee Claflin**, **Judy Fineman**, **Jan Gower**, **Aury Holt**, **Randee Mansfield**, **Margaret Nelson** and **Sandra Newsom** for all of their hard work for the meeting.

For those of you who did not get to the Orlando meeting, here is an update on some of the happenings.

- 2001-2001 officers: **Jacqueline Bellanti**, president; **Sandy Lanier**, president-elect; **Barbara Finegold**, vice president; **Judy Fineman**, secretary; **Sharon Mihalas**, treasurer; **Jeanne Zitt**, historian; **Mary Julia Lee**, parliamentarian.

Hospitality; **Sandra Newsom**, Past Presidents' Council.

- Funds were allotted for a Strategic Planning Meeting to be held in 2002.
- We decided to continue the very successful art show involving the children of the convention city and all the College kids.

Planning for the San Antonio meeting is already in progress and a site visit will be held in February. San Antonio is one of the premier vacation spots in the country and we're planning a true fiesta! We hope that all of you will mark your calendar for Nov. 15-20, 2002 and plan to attend. We will have our first edition, hot off the press Auxiliary cookbook for sale. (And no, its not too late to send your recipes to either Jackie Bellanti or Sandy Lanier).

During this season of family, friends and celebration, may your have a happy and healthy New Year and enjoy the holidays.

Some 250 allergens in the workplace are linked to cases of allergic asthma and allergic rhinitis

Workplace allergens and irritants of concern to international experts are a multitude of animal, vegetable, microbial, mineral and chemical agents.

New findings on some of the more common allergens – including dust mites, spider mites, latex, ammonia, chlorine, detergents, Western Red Cedar, and isocyanates used in the manufacture of polyurethane and plastics – were presented at the second *Occupational Asthma and Allergy International Conference* sponsored by the College.

“Some 250 agents have been implicated in workplace-related allergies and asthma, causing an estimated 5 percent of all adult asthma cases,” said conference organizer and past president **Dr. Emil J. Bardana, Jr.**, Portland, Ore. “Adverse effects can include skin sensitization associated with allergic contact dermatitis, and sensitization of the respiratory tract associated with allergic rhinitis and allergic asthma.

“Experts on a global scale from multiple disciplines are collaborating to investigate risk factors, diagnostic procedures, treatment approaches, and to establish threshold limit values for controlling adverse-effect levels of common allergens in the work environment,” he said.

The rising number of workers sensitive to latex - a natural rubber made from the *Hevea Brasiliensis* tree - has led to widespread use of synthetic rubber or powder-free latex gloves in the health care and restaurant industries. Recent concerns about bioterrorism have resulted in an increased risk of latex exposure in the workplace, with many businesses providing lower-priced powdered latex gloves for mailroom and office staff.

Risk factors for latex sensitization include frequent use of gloves (especially powdered latex gloves), history of allergic disease, and hand dermatitis.

“Occupational latex exposure can be through the skin or by inhalation,” said

Dr. Dennis R. Ownby, Augusta, Ga.. “Latex allergens can easily become airborne on glove dusting powder. The first step for effective treatment is to distinguish asymptomatic latex sensitization from true occupational allergy or asthma.”

“Allergists utilize several tools for diagnosing latex allergy, including a detailed review of patient history, physical exam, skin tests, antibody blood tests, pulmonary function tests and allergen challenges. Dr. Ownby said, “Skin tests with a high quality latex extract appear to be very sensitive and specific, but the Food and Drug Administration is still considering a candidate latex extract for approval.”

Dr. Raymond G. Slavin, St. Louis, Mo., said, “Occupational rhinitis is the episodic work-related occurrence of sneezing, nasal discharge and nasal obstruction due to natural or synthetic causes including:

- Annoyance - perfumes, detergents
- Irritative - talc, coal dust
- Allergic - high and low molecular weight substances
- Corrosive - ammonia, chlorine

“Occupational rhinitis is often neglected because its appearance is not as dramatic as occupational asthma. However, it has a profound effect on the worker and can result in performance deficits, reduced productivity and psychosocial problems. Environmental controls and preventive pharmacotherapy are often needed for proper management of symptoms,” Dr. Slavin said.

Occupational asthma is now the most common form of industrial lung disease throughout the developed world. Patients with this condition may also experience symptoms outside the workplace, especially if they have been exposed to the inciting agent or long periods before diagnosis.

“All countries have reported a steady increase in the prevalence and incidence of occupational asthma over the past 30 years,” said **Dr. Anthony J. Frew**, Southampton, United Kingdom.

“Occupational asthma is principally caused by immunological mechanisms, with a latent period between first exposure and the development of allergy symptoms.”

“High molecular weight agents, such as vegetable proteins or laboratory animal proteins, induce an IgE response - analogous that is seen in dust mite asthma or pollen asthma.” Dr. Frew said, “Immediate skin tests are usually positive, although not particularly specific. Inhalation challenge tests will show typical early-and late-phase bronchoconstriction responses.”

In contrast, he said, reactions to low molecular weight agents do not always involve IgE response, but are associated with mast cell degranulation, histamine release and leukotriene generation following exposure. Agents like acid anhydrides and platinum salts induce an immunologic response and are associated with allergy to common airborne allergens. Other antigens, such as isocyanates and various conifer resins do not seem to induce IgE.

Workers have been exposed to an increasing number of chemicals, especially in industries using plastics and the manufacturing of electronic goods. Proper enclosure of industrial processes or appropriate ventilation can greatly reduce the risk.

Reactive airways dysfunction syndrome (RADS) is the original term for a form of work-related asthma in which patients are exposed to a single, massive concentration of irritant vapors or gases causing hyper-responsive airways. According to Dr. Frew, the condition also can develop after multiple exposures to moderate levels of irritants, and the term irritant-induced asthma is now preferred by many authorities.

Leadership broadens educational and collaborative activities

ACAAI leaders will broaden the College's educational and collaborative activities nationally and globally in support of its strategic goals. Following is a summary of actions taken by the Executive Committee at its Sept. 7 phone conference and the Board of Regents at its Nov. 14 and Nov. 20 meetings.

- Approved a grant to support two ACAAI-sponsored faculty to participate in the EACCI Summer Course in Sofia, Bulgaria, August 2002.
- Approved a grant to support two ACAAI-sponsored faculty to participate in the Advances in Allergy meeting in Lodz, Poland, June 2002.
- Agreed to participate in the development and planning of the 2003 World Allergy Organization in Vancouver.
- Accepted the offer from the World Allergy Organization to have an ACAAI personalized Web page on the WAO Web site.
- Designated the Opryland Dallas Hotel in Dallas as the site for the Nov. 8-14, 2007, Annual Meeting.
- Established a deadline of June 21, 2002, for international authors requesting their abstracts to be reviewed and critiqued by the International Committee, and July 16, 2002, for all other abstract entries.
- Agreed to promote the ACAAI Visiting Professor Program to those predominantly African-American Medical Schools which do not have active allergy/immunology training programs.
- Revised the criteria for the Visiting Professorship Program to allow an allergist to initiate a professorship on a local level.
- Adopted the following three-year tiered cycle for CME Joint Sponsorship programs:
 - 1-4 programs — \$400 per 3-years
 - 5-9 programs — \$800 per 3-years
 - 10-14 programs — \$1,200 per 3-years
 - 15-19 programs — \$1,600 + \$200 each additional program per 3-years
- Approved the proposed Medem guidelines for physician office online communications with patients, other healthcare providers and industry.
- Approved the study on the role of probiotics as a novel approach for the management of food hypersensitivity and allocation of funds.
- Approved the protocol for *Evaluating the Ability of a HEDIS Process Measure for Primary Asthma Therapy for Persistent Asthma to Predict Asthma-related Hospitalization* and authorize the committee to proceed with the project.
- Approved an Internet link between the AANMA Web site and the College's Allergist Locator.
- Voted to use the ACAAI eNews to encourage allergists to utilize the specific anaphylaxis ICD-9 codes wherever possible. Failure to utilize these codes may adversely affect future food labeling.
- Agreed to use the ACAAI eNews to encourage ACAAI members to participate in an expanded study of medication exposure in pregnancy coordinated by the Organization for Teratogen Services.
- Updated the name of the Pregnancy Committee to the ACAAI Committee on Women's Health.
- Approved creation of a "listserv" or its equivalent to facilitate committee communication.
- Reviewed the AAAAI nominations for the Immunology Study Section Design Team, highlighting individuals the College would also support for nomination, and include additional individuals to create the ACAAI nomination list.
- Established a policy for Executive Committee review of ACAAI liaison activity to other organizations on a three-year rotation.

Appointments

- Ratified the President's appointment of **Drs. Bobby Q. Lanier, William Berger and Thomas Casale** to a Blue Ribbon Panel on Clinical Research.

- Appointed **Dr. Donald Zedalis** as ACAAI liaison representative to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine for a three-year term.
- Appointed **Dr. Don Q. Mitchell** to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the ACAAI Foundation
- Voted to develop for distribution for the Tithe-a-Talk program an information card, acknowledgment letter to contributing speakers and notification letter for industry.
- Reappointed **Dr. Suellyn R. Rossman** as chair of the Mentor/Resident Program.

Collaboration

- Approved ACAAI participation in a Pharmacia-sponsored roundtable discussion concerning the diagnosis and management of allergies for primary care physicians resulting in a paper to be published in the official journal of the American Academy of Family Physicians.
- Voted to support the position of ACP/ASIM in reference to the ABIM's proposed Continuous Professional Development recertification program to be implemented in 2004.
- Approved funds requested by the Dermatological Allergy Committee for data input and statistical analysis of the 2000 Membership Survey on Dermatological Allergy.
- Voted to collaborate with AAAAI to assist new allergy training programs in the accreditation application process and develop a peer review process for programs on probation or in jeopardy of losing accreditation.
- Accepted GlaxoSmithKline's invitation to participate as an advisor in the Women & Allergy project which includes the *National Survey of Women with Asthma* questionnaire.
- Approved participation in the Caucus of Cognitive Subspecialties as proposed by the American Association of Clinical endocrinologists.