



College Advantage

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

ACAAI.ORG

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 4 • FALL 2021



Podium to Practice™

Get the practical takeaways you're looking for at the ACAAI 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Leading during an unprecedented year	3	Eczema in people of color	7	It's all in the details	11
Coming to the Annual Meeting?	5	Community project spotlight	8	FITs in New Orleans	12
Staying home this year?	5	Elevate your practice	9	And the winner is...	13
The Advocacy Council is working for you	6	Not enough time?	9	Honoring excellence	14
		New public website	10	Candidates for election	15



American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

DIVE DEEPER

INTO EoE

AT

ACAAI 2021

Join us **live at the ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting** for dessert and an **expert-led discussion** about eosinophilic esophagitis (EoE)

November 6th, 2021 at 7:45PM (CDT)

New Orleans, Louisiana

This is a non-CME event sponsored by Takeda for US healthcare professionals only.

For more information about our event, **scan here.**



Actor portrayal



SEE ETM
SEE EOSINOPHILIC ESOPHAGITIS (EoE)

Learn more at **RevealEoE.com**

ACAAI = American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

The Non-CME Corporate Forum content and views expressed therein do not necessarily reflect the views, policies or position of the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

©2021 Takeda Pharmaceuticals U.S.A., Inc. All rights reserved. TAKEDA and the TAKEDA Logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of Takeda Pharmaceutical Company Limited. The SEE E logoTM is a trademark of ViroPharma Biologics LLC. US-NON-5855v2.0 09/21



Leading during an unprecedented year

It has been my pleasure and honor to serve the College's members as president this year. As my term comes to a close during the ACAAI 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting, I'm proud of the work we've accomplished this year to lead the College to innovate, diversify and expand.

The College continues to grow, not only in membership, but in our accomplishments in advocacy, education, practice management, public education and more. We have faced the challenges of the pandemic, both personally and professionally, and the College has worked to equip you with resources your practice needs.

From the beginning of the pandemic, the College has provided much needed information and resources pertinent to allergy practice. Our articles, emails, COVID-19 web page and educational opportunities provided timely information about the pandemic, the disease, its treatment, diagnosis and prevention.

Established in November 2020, the ACAAI COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force created resources related to COVID-19 vaccines, including information about mRNA vaccines; guidance on risk of allergic reactions for the available vaccines; frequently asked questions; reference guides and comparison charts. We continue to update as new information emerges in real time.

Advocacy continues to be a focus of the College's efforts, and our Advocacy Council continues to work for practicing allergists. We were thrilled with the passage of the FASTER act, which added sesame to the list of major food allergens. The College joined

Continued on page 4



Connect with us at acaai.org or through:



College Advantage is published by the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI)
85 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 550
Arlington Heights, IL, 60005
Phone: 847.427.1200
info@acaai.org

Board of Regents

President: Luz S. Fonacier, MD, FAAAAI
President-elect: Mark L. Corbett, MD, FAAAAI
Vice President: Kathleen R. May, MD, FAAAAI
Treasurer: James M. Tracy, DO, FAAAAI
Immediate Past President: J. Allen Meadows, MD, FAAAAI
Past Immediate Past President: Todd A. Mahr, MD, FAAAAI
Regents: Joseph P. Forester, DO, FAAAAI; Kelly M. Maples, MD, FAAAAI; Kevin R. Murphy, MD, FAAAAI; Maureen M. Petersen, MD, FAAAAI; Melinda M. Rathkopf, MD, FAAAAI; Michael R. Rupp, MD, FAAAAI; John R. Seyerle, MD, FAAAAI; David R. Stukus, MD, FAAAAI; and J. Wesley Sublett, MD, MPH, FAAAAI.

Speaker, House of Delegates: Curtis L. Hedberg, MD, FAAAAI
Fellow-in-Training Representatives: Timothy Chow, MD, and Christopher Foster, MD
Executive Medical Director: Michael S. Blaiss, MD, FAAAAI
Editor-in-Chief, Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology: Gailen D. Marshall Jr., MD, PhD, FAAAAI
Alliance President: Debra Mahr
Executive Director: Richard J. Slawny

4 CollegeAdvantage

other allergy organizations in support of the FASTER Act, which was signed into law last spring. We also made specific recommendations to the No Surprises Act and advocated for continued coverage of telemedicine. Recent efforts have helped clarify physician fee schedule changes in evaluation and management codes.

The College has developed an Alternative Payment Model (APM) for Asthma. APMs are physician-developed models with potential for quality of care improvements and lowering the cost of care to the Medicare program. Dr. James Tracy, chair of the ACAAI Alternative Payment Model (APM) Subcommittee, recently represented the College at a meeting to discuss the status of various APMs. The College's APM has been referred to Health and Human Services for consideration and testing.

We've focused on tackling racial disparities and health equity issues in A/I that gained prominence during my tenure. We established the College's Racial Disparities and Health Equity Resource Center, supported by Sanofi Genzyme and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals. The online resource presents easily accessible information, data and educational opportunities for health care providers to help close gaps in quality of care and reduce racial disparities in A/I patients. Find it at college.acaa.org/racial-disparities-resource-center.

We completed four extremely relevant and timely videos on navigating eczema diagnosis and treatment. Find them at youtube.com/user/allergists. We partnered with Asthma and Allergy Network on a new campaign, "Eczema in Skin of Color." See page seven for details.

What is to come? The College's Diversity Task Force is working on a program with the American Academy of Pediatrics to implement a visiting professorship program with historically Black colleges. Also, the College will begin to offer up to eight SPARK scholarships to support medical students from historically Black colleges to attend the ACAAI Annual Meeting. The ACAAI in collaboration with Pfizer is developing a request for proposals for educational interventions to improve the ability of practitioners to manage moderate to severe atopic dermatitis.

Another way the College is addressing health equity, particularly in underserved populations, is through The Allergists' Foundation. The Foundation recently announced nearly \$100,000 in funding through its Community Grants Program for six grants. The grant program's aim is to support projects for practicing allergists to develop creative solutions for challenges related to allergy care within their communities. Together with U.S. and International Allergy Societies, the foundation has established a grant to fund some of our

global initiatives. Explore the Foundation's initiatives at college.acaa.org/about-us/the-allergists-foundation.

Members of the public are searching for allergy-related content online. To help meet their needs, our public website, at acaai.org, was revamped this summer. Its clean design makes it easier for people to find information on allergies and asthma. Our popular Find an Allergist tool - one of the most-used features of our public website - is front and center on the homepage and appears at appropriate points throughout the site. I encourage you to list acaai.org as a resource on your practice's website. The public website also features some of our resources in Spanish, including patient information pieces that College members can use to better communicate with their Spanish-speaking patients. We already have Spanish materials on atopic dermatitis, asthma, and asthma in children and plans are underway for more resources to help meet your patients' needs.

It has been very rewarding - professionally and personally - to serve as College president in this very trying year. I'm proud of what we've accomplished in areas where we are needed the most! None of it would be possible without the hard work of our member volunteers and staff. Our team of volunteers cannot be matched! Members, leaders and College staff took on the challenges of this year and succeeded beyond my wildest expectations. Due to our team effort, the College is in a strong position moving toward the future.



If you're staying home this year...

If you're unable to travel to New Orleans for the ACAAI 2021 Annual Meeting, don't worry, we've got you covered!

- **Livestream.** Get the education you're looking for with our Livestream platform. It will feel almost as if you're there! The Livestream platform offers:
 - Eleven 90-minute sessions of Annual Meeting content.
 - Admission to the Thursday program and Literature Review, with separate purchase.
 - Up to 29.25 CME credits.
 - Participation in question-and-answer sessions with faculty.
 - Access to ePosters.

See which sessions will be streaming at annualmeeting.acaii.org/livestream.

- **Follow along on social.** Just because you're not there doesn't mean you can't catch the best pearls and tidbits from #ACAAI21! Keep up on Facebook and Twitter, and post your own takeaways.
- **Revisit the Meeting On Demand.** Once the Annual Meeting is over, visit education.acaii.org/ondemand - that's where you'll have access to 60+ hours of presentations. Access the sessions from a desktop, tablet or mobile device - anytime, anywhere - and earn credit.

If you're coming to the Annual Meeting...

Are you joining us at the Annual Scientific Meeting this year in New Orleans? Here are some important details and highlights to add to your schedule.

- **Download the Annual Meeting app.** Access the schedule 24/7, find your way around the convention center, search for specific speakers and exhibitors, and more! Download the app by searching for "ACAAI" in your app store.
- **Don't miss the keynote!** You'll want to hear what Peter Hotez, MD, PhD, FASTMH, FAAP, has to say during his presentation, "Vaccine Hesitancy and How to Prevent the Next Pandemic." Dr. Hotez is dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and professor of pediatrics and molecular virology & microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine.
- **Catch a debate.** Listen to different perspectives at our Pro-con Debates - "Biologics" during the Thursday program, and "ISC/Formoterol or SABA Alone" on Sunday. Can our presenters sway you?
- **Get expertise.** Plan to attend sessions with a twist, like Clinical Conundrums, Interdisciplinary Panel sessions, Product Theaters and Non-CME Corporate Forums.
- **Check out ePosters.** Use the app to search posters and view posters. Make time to visit authors, who will be speaking about their posters throughout the conference.
- **Visit us at the College Resource Center.** Stop by the Resource Center to find out about the College's resources for practicing allergists, what the Advocacy Council has been doing for you, and learn about new initiatives from The Allergists' Foundation. While you're there, stop by exhibitor booths too!
- **Follow the meeting as it happens.** Tag your meeting tweets with #ACAAI21 so you can join the conversation with fellow attendees at the Annual Meeting. And follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the College!
- **Safety first.** The College is closely monitoring all public health recommendations for the New Orleans area and will continue to prioritize the health and safety of faculty and attendees. As of publication time, the City of New Orleans and the convention center are requiring masks indoors and proof of vaccination or negative PCR test. Check the Annual Scientific Meeting website at annualmeeting.acaii.org for all of the latest information.



ADVOCACY ADVANTAGE

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



James L. Sublett, MD

The Advocacy Council is working for you at the Annual Meeting

Plan to attend sessions on billing for biologics, billing/coding, and government relations.

The Advocacy Council of ACAAI has programming to address your questions on billing for biologics, billing/coding, and government relations throughout the College's 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Beginning Friday, Nov. 5, Gary N. Gross, MD, FACAAl, helps instruct your staff on the best ways to bill and code "clean claims" to keep your cash flowing with "Can You Code It?" at 8:10 am CT. Actual allergy/immunology chart notes will be reviewed, and discussion will follow about how to code them correctly.

Saturday afternoon from 3:00 - 4:30 pm CT join Advocacy Council leaders James Tracy, DO, FACAAl, chair; Warner Carr, MD, FACAAl, vice chair; Gary N. Gross, MD, FACAAl,

consultant; and James Sublett, MD, FACAAl, executive director of Advocacy and Government Relations for "Coding and Government Relations." Dr. Gross will present an update on coding that's relative to your allergy practice. Dr. Tracy and Washington Consultant Bill Finerfrock will discuss the importance of physician advocates and provide an update on government/legislative issues relating to allergy.

Advocacy Council leaders look forward to seeing you in New Orleans at one of the events noted above, but don't forget to stop by the College booth in the Exhibit Hall - booth 229. See how the College and the Advocacy Council are working for you!



ECZEMA

in Skin of Color

New website highlights unique differences of eczema in people of color

In a mutual commitment to address disparities in treating eczema in skin of color, the College has partnered with the Allergy & Asthma Network to create a new campaign, "Eczema In Skin of Color." The goal is to aid physicians and patients in recognizing eczema in people with all skin types. The centerpiece of the campaign is a robust new website, [EczemaInSkinofColor.org](https://www.EczemaInSkinofColor.org).

Eczema affects nearly 32 million people in the United States, and it impacts all skin colors and ethnicities. And yet, many health care providers have only seen eczema (or images of this condition) as it appears on white skin. An online search for eczema symptoms typically yields descriptions and photos of bright red, bumpy, inflamed patches on light skin.

In people of color, eczema can be unique in its appearance, and can be hard to identify because the redness may be obscured in darker skin. Instead, eczema may present as dark brown, purple or ashen gray. As a result, misdiagnosis or delayed diagnosis can occur.

Studies show eczema and atopic dermatitis are more common in Black Americans, especially in children. They may have more itchiness and inflammation that requires higher doses of medications to get relief. Black and Hispanic children tend to develop more severe cases of atopic dermatitis compared to white children. They are also more likely than white children to miss school due to eczema.

Familiarity with how eczema looks in skin of color is essential in making a correct diagnosis and developing a treatment plan. [EczemaInSkinofColor.org](https://www.EczemaInSkinofColor.org) is designed to help doctors

and patients differentiate eczema in skin of color from other diseases. It includes information on eczema management and treatment.

The website also includes:

- An **Image Gallery** of photos for a closer look at eczema in skin of color.
- A **Video** section that includes informational webinars and "Ask the Allergist" segments.
- Summaries and links to **Journal Articles** that detail the latest research on eczema in skin of color.
- A review of **Health Disparities** and factors that can lead to inequity in eczema care.
- Additional **Patient Resources**.

Eczema's impact on quality of life in people of color can be significant. When eczema is persistent or uncontrolled in people of color, there may be discoloration – either darkening or lightening of the skin. Undertreatment or delayed treatment can lead to pigmentary changes or scarring. Skin discoloration may be more bothersome to people of color than the itch and inflammation. It can cause severe anxiety and distress.

Eczema treatment is the same for all skin tones, but it's more effective when diagnosed early. That's why proper diagnosis is so important for people of color.

We invite you to explore the [EczemaInSkinofColor.org](https://www.EczemaInSkinofColor.org) website. Use it as a resource and visual aid to show what eczema looks like in different skin tones. Learn how eczema impacts people of color in different ways. Share the website with your patients and colleagues so that we can spread the message far and wide that healthy skin is possible – for people of every skin color.

EczemaInSkinOfColor.org was created with support from Pfizer.



Community project spotlight: Multi-level Contributing Factors to Ethnic and Racial Disparities in Urban Children with Asthma and Atopic Dermatitis



Grant recipient Marcella Aquino, MD, FACAAl, offers insight on the potential impact of her two-year project.

The Allergists' Foundation implemented a new grant program earlier this year to inspire practicing allergists to develop creative solutions that lead to improvements in allergy care in their communities. We are funding

six innovative projects in 2021 that address important issues, including health disparities and access to care.

One of our grantees, Marcella Aquino, MD, FACAAl, will lead a two-year study that offers an innovative approach to identify multilevel risk and resource factors that may contribute to asthma and atopic dermatitis outcomes in urban minority children. Her project focuses on behavioral processes, such as adherence to AD and asthma medications and clinical processes such as asthma severity, AD severity, asthma quality of life and dermatologic quality of life. Dr. Aquino provided insight on how she envisions her project will make a difference.

Q. What inspired you to do this project?

The inspiration for this project has been my focus on and special interest in allergic skin diseases. We have a diverse patient population surrounding the hospital where I work, which inspired me to explore health care disparities in children with atopy. Many of our patients encounter barriers in receiving adequate care, including limited referrals to specialty care (allergy/immunology, dermatology and pulmonary), not having insurance, difficulties in communication due to language and health literacy, and lack of transportation. These factors further complicate and delay optimal care and increase morbidity in asthma and atopic dermatitis.

Q. How do you see this project making a difference in your community?

By understanding how children with asthma are further affected by atopic dermatitis and how differences in

ethnicity may further affect both asthma and atopic dermatitis outcomes, we hope to provide individualized care that addresses barriers to care.

Outcomes that will be assessed include lung function via daily spirometry measurements, asthma control, AD control, and asthma and AD health care utilization via questionnaires and confirmation from electronic medical records. This novel approach will shed light on specific contributors that may increase morbidity in urban minority children with asthma and AD and will inform future tailored interventions.

Q. What do you hope to learn that may be of benefit other allergists?

We envision being able to discern the factors that promote adherence to regimens in urban minority children with persistent asthma and AD. By elucidating these factors, as well as any possible barriers to adherence, we seek to inform allergists taking care of urban minority children with asthma and AD about specific interventions to improve care in this population.

To learn more about The Allergists' Foundation's Community Grant Program and the projects funded in 2021, visit college.acaai.org/grants. Have an idea you'd like to get funded? Look for the 2022 call for applications this fall or email us at foundation@acaai.org.





PRACTICE ADVANTAGE

Elevate your practice

Use the College's Practice Assessment Quiz to get a customized list of College resources to maximize your practice operations.

How often do you assess your overall practice operations to determine if you have opportunities for improvement? Monthly, annually, every two years – or never? Whatever your answer, the College has good news for you! We have a new tool that makes assessing your allergy practice easier.

Our new Practice Assessment Quiz, free to all College members, is a web-based assessment that evaluates your practice across 14 key areas. Developed by Practice Management Committee experts, it assesses where you stand today and pinpoints potential areas of improvement. Based on your answers, it recommends specific College resources to take your practice to the next level. Topic areas include coding, allergen extract mixing, practice profitability, marketing, biologics, practice parameters & yardsticks, and much more. And best of all, the quiz will only take 15 minutes.

"The College has a wealth of practice management resources for allergy practices, but we've heard from members that they aren't sure where to start," said Kevin McGrath, MD, FACAAl, chair of the Practice Management Committee. "The Practice Assessment Quiz creates an individualized action plan for each practice by recommending the specific College resources most helpful for them." Each plan includes links for all resources so it's easy to put your improvement plan into action.

Take our quiz (or have your manager take it) to get a personalized analysis of your practice's strengths and opportunities! Find the quiz at education2.acaai.org/wwwroot/pmresquiz. The quiz is supported by Sanofi Genzyme and Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

EDUCATION ADVANTAGE

Not enough time? You can catch up on what you miss

Every session at the ACAAI 2021 Annual Meeting has something to offer, but you can only be in one place at a time. How can you catch up on the information you missed? No worries. This year, all meeting registrants will receive complimentary access to our On Demand meeting courses.

This set of online courses contains almost all of the sessions from the meeting, including the Thursday program and Literature Review. Even better, you can claim credit for completing these online courses.

The On Demand courses will be available on the College Learning Connection shortly after the Annual Meeting concludes, so don't worry if you can't be everywhere at once. To find out more, visit education.acaai.org/ondemand.



The College's new website: helping patients and the public find allergy and asthma information

If you find yourself checking the College's public website now and then for information for yourself and/or your patients, you've probably noticed a new look. The College recently unveiled a revamped public website, and with it, some features that will benefit everyone who visits.

Here are some new highlights we believe visitors will particularly appreciate:

Home page with featured articles - The new, updated home page is now more dynamic, with a revolving series of articles of interest. We are keeping the articles updated with seasonal news releases as well as news items on studies published in *Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*. The new home page is bolder, brighter, and easier to navigate. It reflects the theme carried throughout the site of people fully living their lives with allergies and asthma.

Interactive tools - Anyone who suffers from allergies, asthma or atopic dermatitis will find our interactive shared decision-making tools easy to use and helpful in determining their next steps in treatment. We also have a tool for those with allergies and asthma to help decide if they might be a candidate for immunotherapy. The tools are designed to be used with their allergist to walk through potential treatments and medications to find the best fit to address their individual symptoms.

More Spanish content - Those who speak Spanish will find we have increased the amount of Spanish-language content. We will continue to add Spanish articles and news releases whenever possible to the existing content to make the site a robust source of information.

Compatibility with the new member site - The refreshed public site was designed in style, design, and branding as a companion to the ACAAI member site unveiled last year. The two sites work in tandem to offer members and patients the most up-to-date information on diagnosing, treating, and managing allergic diseases.

Updated Newsroom - If you are interested in reaching out to local media outlets in your area as a resource, check out the updated newsroom on the public site. You can use the press releases as a template for your own releases. Put your name and your practice information on the releases and send to local contacts. Or print out the releases as a handout for your patients on the latest allergy and asthma issues.

Find an Allergist - The tool to help patients locate an allergist in their area has been redesigned and updated. Now is the perfect time to update your profile to make sure your contact information is correct, along with office address(es), languages spoken and any specialty areas you want highlighted.

Encourage your patients to use the new site to find information they're looking for to help them or their family members deal with allergy and asthma symptoms. Then go check it out yourself to see how it might be a valuable tool for your own use.



It's all in the details

Add plenaries to your Annual Meeting schedule for in-depth discussion on A/I topics.

At the Annual Meeting, plenaries are a valuable way to get in-depth information on specific topics. We're proud to present the following plenaries at the ACAAI 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting. Make sure to attend!

Saturday, Nov. 6

Presidential Plenary: Innovate, Diversify and Expand Allergy/Immunology Practice

Moderated by ACAAI President Luz Fonacier, MD, FAAAAI, this plenary includes the Bela Schick lecture, titled, "The Three Ps: Revisited," presented by Kathleen R. May, MD, FAAAAI.

"The original 'Three P's' Bela Schick Lecture was presented in 1995 by the (then) upcoming ACAAI President Dr. Betty B. Wray, whose named chair I now hold at the Medical College of Georgia," said Dr. May. "My 2021 version will pay tribute to her historical presentation, while integrating modern themes and providing an updated narrative."

The plenary will also feature Susan Bailey, MD, FAAAAI, past president of the American Medical Association, whose presentation is titled "Innovation in Medicine: How Physicians Have Adapted Their Practices During the COVID Crisis."

Sunday, Nov. 7

Innovating Our Way Out of the Pandemic: Vaccines and Therapeutics

Moderated by 2021 Annual Meeting Program Chair Brian T. Kelly, MD, MA, FAAAAI, hear about issues related to COVID-19, starting with the meeting's keynote speaker, Peter Hotez,

MD, PhD, whose presentation is titled, "Vaccine Hesitancy and How to Prevent the Next Pandemic." Dr. Hotez is dean of the National School of Tropical Medicine and professor of pediatrics and molecular virology & microbiology at Baylor College of Medicine.

The plenary continues with "Development of Biologics for COVID-19 Disease," presented by Peter Marks, MD, PhD

Monday, Nov. 8

Implementing New Guidelines into Practice

Moderated by Jay A. Lieberman, MD, FAAAAI, the plenary includes the Edward J. O'Connell Lecture titled, "Drug Allergy Parameter," presented by David A. Khan, MD, FAAAAI.

"This lecture will give a preview of significant updates to the practice of drug allergy from the upcoming practice parameter, which was last updated in 2010," said Dr. Khan. "Major practice changes to be reviewed will include new approaches to penicillin delabeling and sulfonamide testing, updates to cross-reactivity of beta-lactams, and new recommendations on managing aspirin allergy."

The plenary continues with "Eosinophilic Esophagitis (EoE) Guidelines," presented by David R. Stukus, MD, FAAAAI and "NIH Asthma Guidelines," presented by Alan P. Baptist, MD, FAAAAI

Join your colleagues at these special presentations. All plenary sessions will be live streamed and available as recordings following the Annual Scientific Meeting.

FELLOW-IN-TRAINING ADVANTAGE

By Timothy Chow, MD, senior FIT representative

Education, networking and fun await FITs in New Orleans

It is hard to believe that it will have been two years since we last had the opportunity to gather together in person for the College's Annual Meeting, scheduled for November 4 - 8, 2021. I look forward to welcoming you in November and wanted to highlight some of the many opportunities for Fellows-in-Training (FITs).

Make sure to register for the meeting, if you haven't already done so. If you're able, I would consider registering for the Annual Literature Review, which has consistently been rated very highly by FITs. In these sessions, experts review highlights of the literature from different subfields of allergy and clinical immunology from the past year and provide a great overview of articles you may have missed.

The meeting offers a wide variety of sessions, ranging from the invited plenaries, rapid reviews of high-yield topics such as the "7 for 11, Updates on Pediatric Allergy and Immunology and focused sessions on recent guidelines, procedural topics, or emerging interests such as cannabis or COVID-19 vaccine hypersensitivity. Many of you will be presenting research advances at abstract sessions, and I encourage you to take time to explore and participate in the robust discussions in the poster hall.

I also want to highlight the FIT integrated business program, which will take place on Friday, Nov. 5. Our sessions will focus on preparing FITs for different aspects of the transition to practicing allergists, including the topics of contract negotiations, exploring different practice models, and how the College can help support FITs throughout the transition. In addition, FITs will hear and vote for nominees seeking to serve on the ACAAI Board of Regents as the junior FIT representative. On Saturday, Nov. 6, we will have Program Director's breakfast, a great networking opportunity! You'll want to attend the FIT Bowl, our A/I trivia competition, on Saturday night. It was a fun virtual event last year, but it's even better in person!

Don't forget to check out the President's Welcome Reception at Mardi Gras World on Friday evening, as well as the Doctor's Job Fair on Saturday. There's so much more, so be sure to review the complete conference program at annualmeeting.acaa.org for more details. Can't wait to see you in New Orleans!



Timothy Chow, MD



And the winner is...

Dr. Jay Portnoy is the recipient of the 2021 Gold Headed Cane Award

The Gold Headed Cane Award is given annually to a College Fellow who has demonstrated the highest standards of scientific excellence and integrity. This year, College Fellows selected Jay Portnoy, MD, FAAAAI. The award will be presented during the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Announcements at the ACAAI 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 6.

Biography provided by Dr. Portnoy

I am honored to be the recipient of the Gold Headed Cane Award. This award comes during a time when, in the face of COVID-19, the health of our nation and the future of our specialty have been at a crossroads. The passing of a Gold Headed Cane from an older to a younger physician as a sign of high regard and affection became a common practice in the seventeenth century. We now use it to indicate high regard to an older allergist for a productive career, yet I think of it as a way of encouraging younger allergists to strive to be worthy of it. I once was such an allergist.

After completing medical training at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of medicine, I trained in pediatrics at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City and then did an allergy/immunology fellowship at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. I attended my first College meeting in 1984 during that fellowship, courtesy of a travel grant. I made many new friends and learned the importance of participating in a professional society because it was educational, supportive and yes, fun to be part of. After that, I was hooked. Following completion of my fellowship, I joined the allergy faculty at Children's Mercy Hospital and began to study various topics including mold allergy, rush immunotherapy and continuous nebulization for asthma. I also joined several committees of the College and began the process of getting involved.

My first opportunity to participate in a College-sponsored project was the inner city asthma program in collaboration with the Mothers of Asthmatics (now called the Allergy and Asthma Network). Our group organized a weekend program in Kansas City that was observed by the College's Board of Regents. I think my involvement with this program led to my nomination to the Board of Regents. Drs. Jack Selner, Ira Finegold and Betty Wray were presidents during my term. As a member of the board, I learned the inside operations of the College, including how things worked. I also made many

friends during that time. That is why I see College meetings as a type of family reunion. I also got to know the College staff, including Mary Lou Callahan and James Slawny. This underappreciated group of individuals is what keeps the College going.

In addition to the Board of Regents, I also was appointed to the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology, where I learned about the political and socioeconomic aspects of the profession guided by the leadership of Dr. Don Aaronson. My first Capitol Hill Day experience when I called on my Congressional Representatives and Senators was scary, but also fulfilling. I made friends with several of the staffers. I also was appointed to the Joint Task Force for Practice Parameters (JTFFP) under the leadership of Dr. Dick Nicklas, on which I served for about 16 years and eventually became co-chair. The JTFFP became a second family to me. The discussions, arguments and development of guidelines to help the specialty were clearly the highlight of my career in allergy. The College and Academy are truly fortunate to have such a hardworking, dedicated and brilliant group of individuals who spend countless hours developing practice parameters. During this time, I received the Distinguished Service and Distinguished Fellow Awards for my participation in these groups.

In 2006 I received the phone call from Dr. Bill Berger asking if I would be willing to serve as College president. While nobody can feel entitled to receive such an honor, I was nervous about accepting the offer. Was I up to the task? I did have several objectives in mind including the creation of Conferences Online Allergy (COLA), development of guidelines for environmental control and continuation of an allergy marketing campaign spearheaded by Dr. Richard Gower. Fortunately, I had lots of help making that decision and those years were the highlight of my career.

Life does continue after being College president. I chaired the Future of the Specialty Taskforce and participated in converting our practice parameters to the evidence-based documents that they are now. I also have spent terms on the allergy/immunology RRC and on the American Board of Allergy and Immunology, where I learned that it is much harder to write good questions than it is to answer them.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of membership in the College has been the opportunity to make so many friends.



Dr. Jay Portnoy

Honoring excellence

We are proud to honor the following members for their contributions to the College and the allergy/immunology specialty.

The College is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2021 awards. Honorees will be recognized at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 7, during the College's Annual Scientific Meeting.

Distinguished Fellow

Bradley E. Chipps, MD, FAAAAI, has been in private practice in Sacramento since 1979. He trained at Johns Hopkins and is board certified in both Pediatric Pulmonology and Allergy and Clinical Immunology. He is a past president of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.

Stephen A Imbeau, MD, FAAAAI, is a board-certified internist and allergist in private practice with the Allergy, Asthma and Sinus Center, LLPC. He has been practicing allergy in Florence, SC, since 1980. He is past chair of the Advocacy Council, which he helped to reorganize with Drs. James Sublett and J. Allen Meadows after the incorporation of the Joint Council into the College. He continues to work in politics and advocacy locally, statewide and nationally. He has also worked for many years with the American Medical Association, serving as chair of the AMA's Southeastern Delegation from 2013-2015 and as its newsletter editor from 2011 to the present.

Russell Settignano, MD, FAAAAI, is in private practice at the Allergy and Asthma Centers in Rhode Island. He is a clinical professor of medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. He completed his allergy and immunology fellowship at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation. Dr. Settignano serves as editor-in-chief for the *Journal of Food Allergy*, associate editor for *Allergy and Asthma Proceedings*, and as the director of the Eastern Allergy Conference. A College Fellow since 1991, he has authored over 100 scientific articles, reviews, and book chapters in the field of allergy & immunology.

International Distinguished Fellow

Cezmi Akdis, MD, is the director of the Swiss Institute of Allergy and Asthma Research (SIAF) and professor in Zurich University Faculty of Medicine. He was president of the European Academy of Allergy & Clinical Immunology from 2011-2013. Dr. Akdis has published more than 450 articles.

Distinguished Service Fellow

Rebecca Burke, JD, served for more than 25 years as the general counsel to the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, and she continues to serve the Advocacy

Council of AAAAAI. She also serves as the legal advisor for the College to the AMA's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Editorial Panel and the RVS Update Committee (RUC). Ms. Burke specializes in federal laws and regulations governing health care and the private insurance marketplace.

David Engler, MD, FAAAAI, is in private practice in Houston, Texas, with the Houston Allergy and Asthma Clinic. He trained at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. A College Fellow since 1991, he has chaired the Credentials Committee, Young Physicians' Committee, the Public Education Committee and the Billing and Coding Committee, as well as serving two terms on the Board of Regents. He is currently the vice president of the Allergists' Foundation of the AAAAAI.

Dane McBride, MD, FAAAAI, recently retired from 35 years of private practice with Asthma and Allergy Clinics of Roanoke, Lynchburg and Salem, VA. Prior to that he served for nine years in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He trained at Fitzsimmons Army Medical Center and National Jewish Asthma Center. He also served as associate professor of medicine at the University of Virginia for 20 years. He continues to be actively involved in functions of the Advocacy Council, as he has for the past several years. He also served for 20 years as a trustee of Southern Virginia University, having just completed a five-year term as chairman of its board of trustees.

Niraj Patel, MD, MS, FAAAAI, is a Children's Healthcare of Atlanta immunologist/allergist in the Division of Pulmonary, Allergy/Immunology, Cystic Fibrosis, and Sleep at Emory University School of Medicine. He trained at Baylor College of Medicine, and is Board Certified in both Allergy/Immunology and Pediatric Infectious Disease. His clinical interests are in primary immunodeficiency and patient advocacy, and he continues to actively publish. He currently serves as the chair of the AAAAAI COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force.

Woman in Allergy Award

Mervat Nassef, MD, FAAAAI, trained at Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons and is professor of pediatrics at Columbia University Medical Center. A College Fellow since 1996, she has served as chair of the Women's Health Committee, the Population Health Committee and the Clinical Programs/Patient Safety and Quality Committee and

Continued on page 16

COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE

Meet your 2021-22 candidates for election

During the 2021 Annual Business Meeting, our current president-elect will become the College's president. ACAAI Fellows will elect a president-elect, vice president and treasurer for one-year terms. They will also elect three regents for three-year terms to succeed Kelly Maples, MD, FAAAAI, Melinda Rathkopf, MD, FAAAAI and Michael Rupp, MD, FAAAAI. We believe the nominees proposed by the Nominating Council embody the philosophy of their predecessors whose combined efforts have made the College the success it is today. The Board of Regents recommends your support of the following slate:



Dr. Mark Corbett



Dr. Kathleen May



Dr. Gailen D. Marshall, Jr.



Dr. James Tracy



Dr. Marcella Aquino



Dr. Theresa Bingemann



Dr. Jeffrey Demain

Mark Corbett, MD, FAAAAI

President

Current academic/professional positions: Allergy practice at Family Allergy in Louisville, KY; clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Louisville.

"My goal as upcoming president of ACAAI is to develop and enact initiatives to promote the value of the fellowship-trained allergist/immunologist to the community physician and continue to have the ACAAI be the leader in advocacy for the allergy community."

Kathleen May, MD, FAAAAI

President-elect

Current academic/professional positions: Division chief of Allergy-Immunology and Pediatric Rheumatology at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, the Betty B. Wray MD chair in pediatrics, associate professor of pediatrics and medicine, and serves as the training program director for the Allergy-Immunology Fellowship Program. Before her teaching career, she was in private practice for more than 20 years.

"I have a unique perspective on the trends and challenges we face as allergists, given my background in a small, rural community practice for more than 20 years, as well as an academic practice, actively training allergists for our future. During my practice lifetime, and this year in particular, we have seen unprecedented changes, challenges, and opportunities to move forward. I will bring my cumulative experiences to the position of ACAAI president-elect, and in the service of the practicing allergist - in whatever setting they might practice - as we emerge from the global pandemic."

Gailen D. Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD, FAAAAI

Vice President

Current academic/professional positions: The R. Faser Triplett Sr, MD, chair of allergy and immunology; executive director of the Mississippi Clinical Research and Trials Center; medical director for the Clinical Research Support Program; vice chairman of research, department of medicine; director, division of allergy, asthma and clinical immunology, department of medicine and professor of population health sciences, all at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS. He is completing his fourth and final term as the editor-in-chief of *Annals of Allergy & Immunology*.

"I would be delighted to serve as vice president of the ACAAI to further our mission as the premier professional advocate for our patients, our training programs and our practicing clinicians. The College has a bright future in developing and implementing care for patients with allergy, asthma and/or immune-based diseases. I am honored to become a part of the leadership team fully committed to accomplishing these goals with sustainable programs."

James Tracy, DO, FAAAAI

Treasurer

Current academic/professional positions: Private practice in Omaha, Nebraska with Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Associates, P.C.

"As your chairman for the Advocacy Council for the past year it has been my pleasure to serve members of the ACAAI Community, and a challenging year it has been. As we move into 2022, as treasurer, it is my goal to continue supporting

Continued on page 16

And the winner is... (Continued from page 13)

The College enabled me to travel around the world to attend international meetings and in doing so, I learned about the customs in countries from Asia to South America. Though allergy is a medical specialty, it is composed of a very collegial group of individuals who provide benefit to patients on a regular basis. It is that group that I am proud to be a member of.

Though the College has taken me away from my family through the years, they have always been there to support me. I wish to thank my wife, my son and daughter and their significant others for their support. And yes, I do have two cats, but at least nobody in my family has cat allergy. It has been a crazy ride and I am sure that there is more to come. Thank you for presenting this honor to me.



Honoring excellence (Continued from page 14)

as a member of the Annual Scientific Meeting Committee. For the past six years, she has been actively involved in creating the education blueprint for the College as a member and then chair of the Education Council.

Executive Medical Director Award

Hollis Heavenrich-Jones, Director of Public Relations, has been with the College since 2014. After starting as a TV

reporter in the Midwest, she moved to public relations. Her career has included opportunities at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, Rotary International and the American Academy of Pediatrics. Hollis is the liaison to the College's PR Committee and works with spokespersons throughout the country to deliver messages on allergy and asthma topics to the public via print and broadcast media.

Meet your 2021-22 candidates for election (Continued from page 15)

the needs of the practicing allergist. Just as we have persevered through 2020 and 2021, what we have learned about ourselves, our profession and our College will in the end make us better stewards to the patients we serve. Serving our patients, their families, our College and our specialty should be our goal. To that end, we each need to, "find our own voice," and add that voice to the chorus of growth and change, making the world a better and healthier place.

Marcella Aquino MD, FAAAAI

Current academic/professional positions: Allergist/immunologist at Brown Medicine Physicians/Rhode Island Hospital-Lifespan Physician Group.

"It is truly an honor and privilege to serve on the ACAAI board as I believe in the College's future and am eager to participate in strengthening our society."

Theresa Bingemann, MD, FAAAAI

Current academic/professional positions: Dual appointment in the University of Rochester Medical Center's department of pediatric allergy & immunology as well as the department of allergy, immunology & rheumatology.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the ACAAI leadership and the allergist community to help allergists address the challenges of the ever-changing practice environment and thrive in practice."

Jeffrey Demain, MD, FAAAAI

Current academic/professional positions: After retiring from the Air Force, Dr. Demain founded the Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Center of Alaska. He currently serves as medical director of the COVID Coalition for Providence Alaska Medical Center. He is the founder of the Alaska Allergy Society and is active in both the local and state medical associations. Dr. Demain is passionate about the incorporation of teaching into his practice and is a clinical professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine and adjunct professor at the University of Alaska.

"The past months have brought many challenges, adaptations, and changes. While it can be difficult, this season of change is also an opportunity to revise our vision and generate new energy. I am thrilled to be part of ACAAI leadership to harness this energy and enhance opportunities for the practicing allergist immunologist."