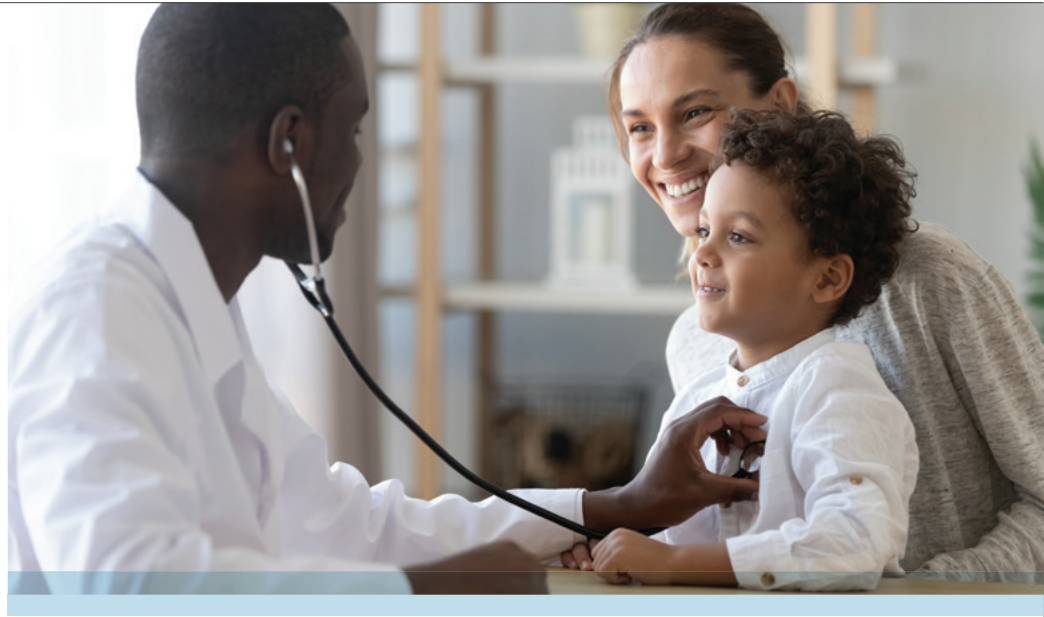


Increasing the diversity of the allergy community remains a priority



Mark Corbett, MD, FAAAAI,
President, American College of
Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

One of my priorities as College president is to address health equity, including reducing racial and other disparities and increasing the future diversity of the allergy community. This goal continues the great work of my predecessor, Luz Fonacier.

This is not a new area of interest for our members and leadership, but there has been an increased focus on reducing disparities in recent years. In the past few months, the College has made much progress in this area, and I'd like to share a few highlights with you here.

Following the precedent set years ago, we continue to seek out annual meeting presentations that address disparities in asthma and allergy, touching on barriers to care for underserved groups with a

variety of treatment needs. Our current vice president, Kathleen May, made this the topic of her 2021 Bela Schick lecture as well. Our planning committee is including this goal again for the 2022 meeting, and I look forward to seeing new information that emerges. As you know, our annual meeting lectures not only help to inform attendees, but this content is available year round for our members and other interested professionals.

In February, the College was pleased to convene a roundtable of thought leaders on the topic of Racial Disparities in Atopic Dermatitis and Food Allergy. This virtual event allowed a highly engaged discussion among health care

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FELLOW-IN-TRAINING ADVANTAGE (Continued from page 18)

- **Lifestyle creep:** Achilles heel of high income earners! This is the trap where one increases their lifestyle (bigger house, new/fancier vehicle purchases, expensive hobbies/toys, etc.) as one's income level increases and never gets ahead in overall wealth management.

You can take control of your own financial future through readily accessible online resources. Yes, there are financial advisors/consultants/planners eager to do it for you, for a significant fee, and they certainly love having physician clients who they anticipate will be high income earners for year to come. Partner with them as you see fit, but be cautious and do your homework before signing on



so you know how much you are paying and what exactly you are paying for.

Alternatively, **you** can not only quickly and easily educate yourself to the point of proficiency, but also be in a position to mentor others coming behind you, as we bring this topic out of the shadows and into the conversation of maintaining overall physician well-being. If you find personal finance daunting, just remember that you have the cognitive horsepower to understand the intricacies of immune concepts at play behind something as complex as chimeric antigen receptors – I am quite confident you can tackle becoming financially FIT!

Please reach out any time! cwfoosterkidsdoc@gmail.com

COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE (Continued from page 2)

professionals representing different specialties as well as lay organizations representing patients with these conditions. It was supported by Novartis.

During the roundtable, valuable insights were gained, priorities identified, and connections made. These will be captured in a white paper to be published later this year, and it is my hope that this group of leaders will continue to find ways to work together on common interests as we all work to better understand race-based, genetic and ancestry-based disparities.

Also in February, the College offered a webinar titled, "Moving Towards Equity: Disparities in Food Allergy." This educational event addressed the ways that food allergy can affect people of color differently, as well as challenges for management that include socioeconomic, geographic and other factors.

We've also launched our Allergy Talk podcast series on PIDD in minority and underserved patients, and we are planning new Moving Toward Equity podcast series on Disparities in CRSwNP and Disparities in Pediatric Asthma.

As previously reported, the College's Historically Black Medical Schools SPARK program is underway, with the committee implementing new scholarships for residents to attend the 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting. The goal is to "spark" an interest in the specialty of allergy/immunology among future physicians of color. Letters of invitation are being sent to the schools' academic and institutional officials to ensure the word gets to the institutions regarding this unique opportunity for medical students.

To address another type of health disparity, the College has surveyed our members who treat HAE patients. The purpose of the survey is to find out more about access to diagnosis and treatment for these patients, who might live in rural areas. By addressing rare conditions like HAE, we make sure that groups of patients are not forgotten simply because their numbers are small or they live outside of densely populated areas.

As part of our ongoing efforts to provide resources to our members that help to promote health equity, I'd like to remind you that we have a Racial Disparities and Health Equity Resource Center on the College website at college.acaa.org. Here you'll find education modules, research studies, and resources from the College, the federal government, and patient advocacy organizations. You'll also find a link to our continuing campaign, "Eczema in Skin of Color."

Ensuring that all patients have access to the treatment they need is important for all of us. While there will always be challenges, I'm confident that the work of the College is making a difference.

