



HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY ACAAI!

- ***The first 50 years. Part 1 (1942-1992)***
- ***The next 20 years. Part 2 (1992-2012)***
- ***The next 10 years: Part 3 (2012-2022)***

***Joseph A. Bellanti, MD
Historian***

Presidential address

Proud of the past: planning for the future

Joseph A. Bellanti, MD*

INTRODUCTION

Members and Fellows of the American College of Allergy and Immunology, friends and guests, it is a special honor and privilege for me to give this Presidential Address on the occasion of this year's meeting which marks the 50th Year Anniversary of the founding of the College. At the outset, I should like to express my sincere thanks for the privilege you have given me to serve as your President. I wish particularly to thank the Board of Regents, the Executive Staff, and the entire membership for your unstinting support and encouragement over this past year. I would also like to express my thanks to the Past Presidents for their wise counsel and contributions upon which the progress of this organization has occurred. I also wish to express publicly my gratitude to the many people who have enriched my life: my parents who gave me the gift of life and who encouraged me always to strive for excellence; my wife Jacqueline and children and grandchildren, who have stood beside me in all my work and who have helped me find the joy in it; my teachers, colleagues, students, fellows at Georgetown University and my friends in the College who have

guided me and taught me and who have made me proud of the past and with whom I have been privileged to participate in planning for the future.

At this 50th Year Anniversary of the founding of the College, we return to Chicago, the site of the first annual meeting. As the 50th President, I thought it would be appropriate to reflect on how the College began, how it has grown, and how we are planning for the future.

THE EARLY YEARS (1942-1956)

The American College of Allergists was officially incorporated as a legal entity on November 23, 1942 in Minneapolis, MN.¹ On December 11, 1942, at the first meeting of the incorporators which was held at the Muebach Hotel in Kansas City, MO, its first officers were selected (Table 1) and consisted of a 5-member Board of Directors which appointed a 9-member Board of Regents. At this meeting, the goals of the organization were fully discussed and it was tentatively decided that no national meeting be held until after the war and that all functions of the College would continue to be carried out either by the Board of Directors or by the newly created Board of Regents. At this meeting the qualifications of a number of individuals seeking membership were also considered and 45 founding members were elected (Table 2), two of whom were women.

In order to understand the dynamics that led to the formation of the College, it is important to review the diverse forces that were operative at this time. In 1942, there were a number of powerful national fig-

ures such as Dr. Robert A. Cooke of New York City who were shaping the destiny of allergy in the United States. The two major allergy organizations prevalent at that time were the Western Society for the Study of Asthma, Hayfever and Allergic Diseases referred to as the "Western Society" founded in 1923 and the Society for the Study of Asthma and Allied Disorders referred to as the "Eastern Society" which was founded in 1924. Amalgamation of these two national allergy societies led to the formation of the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology on December 4, 1943, 1 year after the founding of the College.

Cooke held the view that certification of physicians should occur only as a subspecialty of internal medicine under the auspices of the new subspecialty board of Allergy a subspecialty of the American Board of Internal Medicine. A grandfather mechanism had been set in place that allowed internists to be certified by the ABIM if they held a faculty position at a class A medical school and if they had reached the age of 40 by July 1, 1937. Owing to a technicality amounting to a 1-day late submission of a membership application, a Dr. Frederick W. Wittich of Minneapolis set out on a divergent and unanticipated course and founded the American College of Allergists.²

FREDERICK W. WITTICH: THE MAN WHO FOUNDED THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ALLERGISTS AND WHO NEVER BECAME PRESIDENT! (1885-1965)

What do we know about this man? What were his motivations? What

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were his contributions? Dr. Wittich was no ordinary man, he was a dynamic individual with a great deal of drive, a strong will, and a capacity for leadership. Dr. Frederick William Wittich (Fig. 1) was born in Carlisle, PA in 1885 of a notable

family of Lutheran pastors, educators, and physicians.³ His grandmother, Pauline Wittich, was accorded the distinct honor of being the first woman to practice medicine in Germany and his grandfather established an academy in

Brooklyn, NY from which the famous preacher, the Reverend Henry Ward Beecher, was graduated. Dr. Wittich graduated from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1913 and received his postdoctoral training in medicine and pulmonology at the University of Minnesota Extension at Minneapolis where he later became Assistant Professor. In addition to his role as the founding father of the College, Dr. Wittich's research contributions are noteworthy. He is perhaps best known for his studies of models of allergic disease in the experimental animal and was the first to demonstrate clinical allergy in the dog.

His services to the American College of Allergists were many. He was the driving force behind the founding of the College and he served as Secretary-Treasurer from 1942-1955. Dr. Wittich also served the College for many years as Managing Editor of the *Annals of Allergy* and in that capacity used the *Annals* as a vehicle of communication for events occurring in allergy, as a forum for exchange of ideas, and for implementation of the goals of the

Table 1. The Founding of American College of Allergists*

Incorporators of the American College of Allergists, Inc.
Dr. Bernard Efron, New Orleans, LA
Dr. Ralph Bowen, Houston, TX
Dr. Fred Wittich, Minneapolis, MN

First Board of Directors
Dr. Ralph Bowen, Houston, TX, Vice-President
Dr. Bernard Efron, New Orleans, LA, President
Dr. French Hansel, St. Louis, MO
Dr. Orville Withers, Kansas City, MO
Dr. Fred Wittich, Minneapolis, MN, Secretary-Treasurer

First Board of Regents
Dr. Ralph Bowen, Houston, TX
Dr. Ethan Allan Brown, Boston, MA
Dr. French Hansel, St. Louis, MO
Dr. Bernard Efron, New Orleans, LA
Dr. Tell Nelson, Evanston, IL
Dr. J. Warrick Thomas, Cleveland, OH
Dr. Erich Urbach, Philadelphia, PA
Dr. Orval Withers, Kansas City, MO
Dr. Fred Wittich, Minneapolis, MN

* Articles of Incorporation filed in Minneapolis, Minnesota November 23, 1942 by Mr. Elot Bauers, Counsel.

Table 2. Original Membership: "the 45 Founding Members"

Name	Location	Name	Location
Marion T. Davidson	Fort Benning, Georgia	G. W. Owen	Jackson, Mississippi
Hal M. Davison	Atlanta, Georgia	Orval R. Withers	Kansas City, Missouri
Mason I. Lowance	Atlanta, Georgia	French K. Hansel	St. Louis, Missouri
Ralph G. Mills	Decatur, Illinois	Earl Carpenter	Superior, Wisconsin
Tell Nelson	San Francisco, California	J. W. Thomas	Cleveland, Ohio
Edward G. Tatge	Evanston, Illinois	Fannie Lou Leney	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
John Peters	Maywood, Illinois	Carrol M. Pounders	Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mildred Merkle	Peoria, Illinois	Erich Urbach	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
C. B. Bohner	Indianapolis, Indiana	Philip Gottlieb	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Lawrence J. Halpin	Atlanta, Georgia	Berthold M. Stern	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
S. W. French (Honorary Fellow)	Atlanta, Georgia	George C. Hardie	Jackson, Michigan
B. G. Efron	New Orleans, Louisiana	Robert S. McGrath	Washington, D.C.
Nathan I. Schaffer	New Orleans, Louisiana	R. H. Alter	Jackson, Michigan
W. H. Browning	Jefferson Barracks, Missouri	Barney Credille	Flint, Michigan
Ethan Allan Brown	Boston, Massachusetts	A. A. Gavey	Springfield, Ohio
W. L. Marr	Galveston, Texas	Michael Zeller	Chicago, Illinois
Ralph Bowen	Houston, Texas	Herbert Rinkel	Kansas City, Missouri
Homer E. Prince	Houston, Texas	Albert R. Zoss	Cincinnati, Ohio
George J. Seibold	Fort Sam Houston, Texas	John P. Henry	Memphis, Tennessee
James E. Stroh	Oakland, California	George C. Rockwell	Cincinnati, Ohio
W. A. Mowry	Madison, Wisconsin	Cecil M. Kohn	Kansas City, Missouri
F. W. Wittich	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Meryl Fenton	Miami, Florida
		I. M. Hinnant	Santa Ana, California



Figure 1. Frederick W. Wittich (1885–1965).

College. His role and motivation in the founding of the College are best summarized in his own words excerpted from an August 27, 1949 letter⁴ which he wrote to the Board of Regents:

"My correspondence files show that the College was conceived in my office and at my own desk. I had been for some time engaged in the preparation of a written statement, the purpose of which was to point up the evils of sub-certification as they then were, and now are, established. I was striving in this statement to crystallize the thoughts and the gist of many conversations on the subject which I had had over the years and long before the establishment of a College for the great number of men including many of you. It was my purpose in these joint talks to try and establish a procedure of certification in allergy and it became apparent to me that if this goal were to be accomplished, it would require an extensive campaign of education among medical men generally and more especially those engaged in the field of allergy. I came to the conclusion that the logical way to carry on such an educational campaign and reach the men in the fields concerned

would be through the establishment and circulation of a publication. It was desirable, however, that the publication if it were to carry weight be authorized to speak as the official organ of some established national group such as ours. It was the development and carrying out of this thought that was responsible for the birth of The American College of Allergists.

The establishment and circulation of a new publication is always a difficult task and as we were at that time engaged in World War II, the difficulties were greatly multiplied. The first President of the College as well as another member of its first Board of Regents, were both bitterly opposed to my starting a new publication because to them it looked like an extravagant and almost hopeless task and one which was practically certain to be doomed to failure. While in my own mind, I realize that these good men were probably right in the conclusion they had reached, I also knew that if we were to establish such an organ someone had to take a chance and I decided that I would take that chance and that I would ignore their opinions and go ahead with THE ANNALS OF ALLERGY in spite of their repeated objections. Acting upon that impulse I almost single handedly set up the first issue in which I undertook to explain our aims, ambitions and purposes in an optimistic editorial of which I shall always be very proud."

WHY A COLLEGE?

In the first issue of the *Annals of Allergy*, there appeared a lead editorial written by Wittich himself entitled "Why A College?"⁵ together with the Aims and Purposes of the College.⁶

The overall goals of the College as set forth in the original Charter were:

- the establishment of an organiza-

tion of qualified medical men and scientists of good standing who shall meet from time to time for the purpose of promoting and advancing the study, research and clinical knowledge of allergy as it applies to the various specialties in medicine;

- to maintain and advance the highest possible standards among those engaged in the practice of allergy;
- to perpetuate the best traditions of medicine and medical ethics;
- to establish standards for the qualification, and procedure for the certification of men engaged in the specialty of allergy;
- to maintain the dignity and efficiency of this specialty and its relation to public welfare;
- to promote friendly intercourse among those engaged in the practice of allergy.

In order to attain these overall goals, a set of specific objectives was also delineated in the original Charter:

- to consider allergy as a specialty which must be correlated with every other specialty of medicine;
- to give proper recognition to those serious, earnest, and conscientious workers practicing allergy as well as any scientist who has made valuable contributions to our knowledge of allergy;
- to integrate, harmonize and centralize, without losing the identity or encroaching upon the rights of the various allergy societies in the American states into a College with a clear perspective of the latter's definition as set forth by the other Colleges for the purpose of establishing certain standards for the practice of allergy;
- to standardize methods for the diagnosis and treatment of allergic states by means of a central laboratory for such purposes, as well as a statistical bureau of information on any and all subjects pertaining to allergy;
- to make possible through the facilities of certain of its "Fellows"

- or the central laboratory, a course for the training and recognition of laboratory technicians in allergic procedures as well as postgraduate studies for any of its members;
- the dissemination of knowledge pertaining to allergy through the medium of a current journal which will contain departments representing all phases of the subject;
- the establishment of a Foundation through funds donated by wealthy persons or grateful victims of the disease who are desirous of furthering our knowledge and scope of allergy;
- the holding of an annual, and later, if possible, sectional meetings of the College at which the various existing allergy societies would participate for the purpose of presenting articles on scientific research and practical refresher courses on allergy.

The reason why the College came into existence is found in the lead article⁷ and is best expressed in Wittich's own words:

"The American College of Allergists came into existence because of the deep-seated conviction of its founders that a liberal organization, based upon and combining the principles of humility and justice, is needed to fill an important gap in the present structure of allergic affairs. In all sincerity the College invites the cooperation, respect and support of all those who consider allergy as a specialty, and who share the conviction of its founders that the internists of the future must be, first of all, a master of allergy. It will be the purpose of the A.C.A. and the *Annals of Allergy* to emphasize and consider numerous phases of allergy heretofore entirely overlooked by other groups. It is hoped in this connection, that the central laboratory for the making of standardized purified diagnostic allergenic extracts will eventually be made available to all who wish to make use of its facilities.

Recognizing and upholding reasonable standards, the policy of the A.C.A. is to be, at all times, a liberal and a democratic one, a fact which should prove especially heartening to the younger men interested in this specialty, who need the encouragement that comes with early and fitting recognition. . . .

The A.C.A. wishes to be helpful, sympathetic and understanding. Its doors are at all times impartially open to all who possess the necessary qualifications to meet its standards and requirements for eligibility to membership. It bespeaks for itself the good will and support of all medical organizations, including existing allergy groups and societies." F.W.

The purpose, the motivation and the genesis for the formation of the College, was that of a group of dedicated visionaries who believed that there was a need for a liberal democratic organization, ecumenical in its composition and receptive to its charge to build and develop an organization that could meet the needs of the practicing allergist and ultimately the patient whom we serve—a charge that has been maintained with fidelity.

LEADERSHIP IN THE EARLY YEARS

The succession of College presidents in the early years is shown in Table

3. Although no meeting was held during the first year (1942) because the country was at war, Dr. Bernard J. Efron served as first President of the College from 1942–1943 (Fig. 2) and business was conducted by the Board of Regents. Dr. Efron is best remembered for his work on the development of the method for purification of house dust extract and for the demonstration of the unitarian and specific nature of this antigen by comparative skin tests with extracts prepared from multiple sources.⁸ Of the original founding group, Dr. French Hansel (Fig. 3) was to play one of the most significant roles in shaping the future of the College during its formative years.⁹ In addition to serving as President during the first annual meeting in 1944, he was the first Editor-in-Chief of the *Annals of Allergy*.

The first annual meeting of the American College of Allergists was held on June 10–12, 1944 (Fig. 4) at the Palmer House in Chicago.^{10,11} The program consisted of 28 presentations with a significant number devoted to allergic disease in the military with papers presented by Colonel French and Major Halpin. Other topics included otolaryngologic, pediatric, gastroenterologic allergy and allergy of the central nervous system as well as some pioneering lectures in dermatologic manifestations of nonreaginic food allergy by Dr. Arthur Coca, immu-

Table 3. Milestones in the Development of the ACAI: the Early Years (1942–1956)

President	Year	Meeting Site (Year)
(1) Bernard J. Efron	1942–43	—0—
(2) French K. Hansel	1943–45	Chicago (1944)
(3) Harry L. Rogers	1945–46	San Francisco (1946)
(4) Leon Unger	1946–47	Atlantic City (1947)
(5) Hal M. Davison	1947–48	New York City (1948)
(6) George E. Rockwell	1948–49	Chicago (1949)
(7) Johnathan Forman	1949–50	St. Louis (1950)
(8) John H. Mitchell	1950–51	Chicago (1951)
(9) Harold A. Abramson	1951–52	Pittsburgh (1952)
(10) J. Warrick Thomas	1952–53	Chicago (1953)
(11) M. Murray Peshkin	1953–54	Miami Beach (1954)
(12) Homer E. Prince	1954–55	Chicago (1955)
(13) Lawrence J. Halpin	1955–56	New York (1956)



Figure 2. Bernard G. Efron (1902–1960).



Figure 3. French K. Hansel, M.D. (1893–1981). (From *Ann Allergy* 1944;2:150).

nologic studies of hayfever by Dr. Mary Loveless, asthma, by Dr. Leon Unger and drug allergy by Dr. Ethan Allan Brown. At the time of this first meeting a veterinary section of immunology and allergy was organized and was included in the pro-

gram. The purpose of this section was:

“To closely coordinate the investigative and clinical observations of immunology and allergy observed in the lower animals with those in humans in a united effort to further our knowledge of these subjects for the health betterment of both man and animal”

probably reflecting the influence of Wittich who pioneered this field.¹²

The 1940–1945 Board of Regents of the American College of Allergists is shown in Figure 5. In 1945 the annual meeting, originally scheduled for Philadelphia, June 16–17,

was canceled. This action was taken voluntarily because so many of the membership were serving in the military. By 1946 the College had grown and three functions were delineated¹³: education, certification, and public relations, the latter including a research foundation (Table 4). Dr. Harry L. Rogers presided over the second meeting of the College which was held on June 28–30, 1946 in San Francisco.¹⁴ In the January 1946 issue of the *Annals of Allergy*, the formation of the American Society of Certified Allergists was announced¹⁵ as a division of the American College of Allergists.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

First Annual Meeting *American College of Allergists*

June 10 and 11, 1944
Palmer House
Chicago, Illinois



9th Annual Meeting, American Medical Association, Palmer House, Chicago, June 12–16, 1911
10th Annual Meeting, American College of Chest Physicians, Stevens Hotel, Chicago, June 10–12, 1911

Figure 4. First Annual Meeting, American College of Allergists, June 10 and 11, 1944, Palmer House, Chicago, Illinois. (From *Ann Allergy* 1944;2:129–150).

AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ALLERGISTS—BOARD OF REGENTS
1944-1945



Figure 5. The 1944-1945 Board of Regents of the American College of the American College of Allergists. (From *Ann Allergy* 1945;3:72).

"The purpose of this Board is to certify physicians in the specialty of Allergy. The need for this action is apparent since allergy permeates so many special fields of medicine that any other method of certification will be inadequate."

Although a number of College leaders were involved in this endeavor, prominent in this movement was Dr. Murray Peshkin, then Secretary-Treasurer, a feisty allergist

from New York who was later to become our 11th President.

Although a number of certificates were issued, this Certifying Board was eventually terminated by Peshkin and the endeavor became an important forerunner for the eventual establishment of a separate certifying board in allergy and immunology as we know it today.

Several other prominent figures led the organization during these early years. Significant among these

were Dr. Leon Unger of Chicago (Fig. 6) our 4th President (1946-1947), a pioneer scholar, teacher, and clinical researcher who contributed immeasurably to our basic knowledge in allergy notably in the field of bronchial asthma¹⁶; Dr. Hal M. Davison of Atlanta, our 5th President (1947-48) a keen diagnostician and a leader in allergy who was acknowledged to be the first physician who practiced allergy in the southeastern part of the US and who became the first President of the Southeastern Allergy Association. In 1949 the College returned to the Palmer House in Chicago for its 5th annual meeting during the presidency of Dr. George Rockwell (1948-49) whose work in the fractionation of ragweed pollen established the basis for future characterization of the active component.

Shown in Figure 7 are the 10 members of the 1948-1949 Board of Regents. Included on the Board were Dr. Johnathan Forman (1949-50) of Columbus, Ohio our 7th President, a scholar, clinician, and scientist who during a long and distinguished career contributed greatly to many scholarly subjects including the role of trace elements and nutrition; John H. Mitchell (1950-1951), a good clinician who served diligently as our 8th President; Dr. Harold Abramson (1951-52) of New York City our 9th President, a brilliant pulmonary physiologist who contributed greatly not only to our knowledge of aerosols and their therapeutic applications but also in later years to our understanding of the psychological factors involved in allergic disease; and Dr. Boen Swinny of San Antonio who made great leadership contributions to the College and who later became our 22nd President (1964-65).

The year 1951 marked another landmark date for the leadership role of the College in the international arena. Conceived through the efforts of Dr. Wittich, the International Association of Allergology

Table 4. ACA Organizational Chart (1946)

THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF ALLERGISTS, INC.		
Staff of Officers		
President, President-Elect, First and Second Vice Presidents, Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Regents (10 members) (Constitution and By-Laws)		
Division of Education (Separate Governing Rules and By-Laws)	Division of Certification The American Society of Certified Allergists	Division of Public Relations (Separate Governing Rules and By-Laws)
Dean, Asst. Dean, Secretary	(Separate Governing Rules and By-Laws) President, Secretary-Treasurer, Board of Directors	Director, Asst. Director, Secretary
(1) Intensive Fall Instructional Course	The American Board for the Certification of Allergists	(1) National Foundation for Allergy. (Fund rais- ing by laymen—Annual Membership) A. Fund for Research B. Fund for Prevention of Asthma
(2) Regional Spring Instructional Courses		(2) News and Press Re- leases
(3) College Annual Session— Joint meeting with The Ameri- can Society of Certified Allerg- ists		(3) Certification of Aller- genic Extracts, Drugs, Cosmetics, etc, for Al- lergists. F.W.W.
(4) The official publication of the College— <i>Annals of Allergy</i> — Spanish Supplement		
(5) Committee on Undergraduate and Graduate Education in Al- lergy—Speakers Bureau		



Figure 6. Leon Unger, MD (1891–1979); President (From *Ann Allergy* 1947;5:160; 1980;44:250–251).

held its first meeting in Zurich, Switzerland (September 23–29, 1951) and was attended by 600 participants from 28 different countries.¹⁷ Dr. Wittich served as the first President and the College has continued

to play a major role in this organization both as a sponsoring member and also in the organization of programs and special workshops as well as the publication of the proceedings in special supplements to the *Annals*.

In 1952 the College celebrated its decennial anniversary. In 10 years the College membership had increased from 45 to 1050 and had become a thriving organization fulfilling many of the objectives for which it was originally conceived.¹⁸ One nagging problem that still remained was the issue of certification and the early leaders were intent on continuing the struggle for the establishment of a separate board for the certification of allergists and devoted considerable energy to this end.

The period of the early years ended with the presidencies of such leaders such as J. Warrick Thomas of Richmond, a gentleman who guided the organization as our 10th President (1952–53); Dr. Murray M. Peshkin our 11th President

(1953–54), an intense, highly energetic leader; Dr. Homer E. Prince our 12th President who contributed much to our knowledge of mold allergy; and Dr. Larry Halpin who brought the voice of moderation in bringing together disparate elements into a semblance of order and continued progress.

Since there was no support for full-time faculty or funding for research or training programs during this period, these early pioneers were both the founding fathers of the organization and they also served as the backbone of the specialty through their contributions as voluntary clinical chiefs at many hospitals and medical schools. Were it not for the efforts of these individuals, the field of allergy probably would not have had a start.

THE MIDDLE YEARS (1957–1974)

The middle years were significant for other reasons. This period represented a transitional interval of continued growth that linked the early pioneering efforts of the first period with the significant accomplishments of recent years. The leadership of the middle years is shown in Table 5. It can be seen that the leaders of this period were not only practicing allergists but also were individuals who were starting to make connections with academic institutions. In assessing the contribution of the College it is important to reflect upon the tone of the country at this time. This was a time of peace and prosperity. The nation had gone through World War II and the Korean War and during this postwar period, the fruits of technology were beginning to be applied. The discovery of IgE, one of the great contributions of this period, has had profound effects on the field of allergy and immunology. The technologic applications of this discovery continue to occur and have led to better diagnostic and therapeutic approaches to the patient with allergy.



Figure 7. The 1948-1949 Board of Regents of the American College of Allergists. (From Ann Allergy 1949;7:122).

Ethan Allan Brown, the 14th President (1956-57) and Editor of the *Annals of Allergy* (1956-1965), was a colorful, intelligent, somewhat eccentric individual who was an accomplished lecturer and teacher and who was a firm believer in the so-called "repository" or emulsion form of immunotherapy (Table 5). Several issues of the *Annals of Allergy* during this period are full of voluminous reviews written

by Brown himself that describe this form of therapy. Other College leaders who followed were Drs. Withers (1957-58), Moore (1958-59) and Kohn (1959-60) who made their contributions in development of fine educational programs and each stressed the importance of more allergy in medical school curricula. President Moore wrote in his 1959 Presidential Address,¹⁹

"It is our obligation as allergists

to see that allergy is given ample time in the curriculums of our medical schools. The physician will encounter the allergic reaction in every phase of medicine, and he should be able to recognize it in all forms. Then too the medical student must be exposed to education in allergy if he is to consider it as a specialty. The need for more men in our field may not seem too acute now but it can be expected to become very real in a few years. . . .

I would like to see a full time instructor in allergy in each medical school. This of course would be a long term objective but perhaps we should use it as a goal towards which to work. Those of us who teach or hold clinics in medical schools can work towards this individually. There is much we can do by presenting the cause for allergy and the need for more education in allergy, thus strengthening our relations with the deans and professors of medicine."

President Giles A. Koelsche (Fig. 8), our 18th President (1960-61) was the first of a group of leaders from the Mayo Clinic who was a champion of the establishment of a separate board. He served on the Committee of Certification and together with other College and Academy leaders led the campaign for this cause. He fought and opposed the creation of autonomous boards, the rumblings of which were resurfacing at this time, re-echoing the aborted certifying board that Peshkin had attempted in the 1940s.

One of our College's best and brightest leaders was Philip M. Gottlieb, 19th President (1961-62), who joined as a founding College member while still a young 1st Lieutenant stationed at that time in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. One of the most dedicated leaders in the field, his contributions span over four decades as a teacher, clinical investigator and a creative and innovative leader. In the 1970s he spearheaded

Table 5. Milestones in the Development of the ACAI: the Middle Years (1957-1974)

President	Year	Meeting Site (Year)
(14) Ethan Allan Brown	1956-57	Chicago (1957)
(15) Orval R. Withers	1957-58	Atlantic City (1958)
(16) Merle W. Moore	1958-59	San Francisco (1959)
(17) Cecil M. Kohn	1959-60	Miami Beach (1960)
(18) Giles M. Koelsche	1960-61	Dallas (1961)
(19) Philip M. Gottlieb	1961-62	Minneapolis (1962)
(20) Mayer A. Green	1962-63	New York (1963)
(21) Morris A. Kaplan	1963-64	Miami Beach (1964)
(22) Boen Swinny, Sr.	1964-65	Las Vegas (1965)
(23) M. Coleman Harris	1965-66	Chicago (1966)
(24) Lowell L. Henderson	1966-67	New Orleans (1967)
(25) Howard G. Rapaport	1967-68	Denver (1968)
(26) John P. McGovern	1968-69	Washington, D.C. (1969)
(27) Paul F. deGara	1969-70	Miami Beach (1970)
(28) G. Frederick Hieber	1970-71	San Francisco (1971)
(29) Ralph Hale	1971-72	Dallas (1972)
(30) Lamar B. Peacock	1972-73	Atlanta (1973)
(31) William Sawyer Eisenstadt	1973-74	Paris (1974)



Figure 8. Giles A. Koelsche, MD, President 1960-1961. (From *Ann Allergy* 1961;19:180).

the self-assessment program, which was supported by each of five of the sponsoring organizations including the four professional organizations and the ABAI. This highly innovative program given in 1977 and 1980 consisted of questions, references and critiques, the forerunner of present day self-assessment programs. The College was well represented in this endeavor and I was privileged to serve on the drafting

committee with Dr. Gottlieb and was most impressed with the indefatigability and the excellent work he did as chair of this committee. Perhaps one of his greatest achievements is the textbook in allergy which he co-authored with Urbach during the 1940s which is still probably the best textbook ever written in allergy.

Another of our great leaders is Dr. Mayer A. Green, our 20th President (1962-63), who led the organization with distinction always bringing a wisdom and a gentility to the office. Later as Chair of the section of the Council on Allergy of the AMA, he was most helpful in shepherding the final resolution and establishment of the ABAI in 1972.

The continuity of leadership during the Middle Years included the leadership contributions of Dr. Morris Kaplan (1963-1964) and Dr. Boen Swinny, Sr. (1964-1965) as well as Dr. M. Coleman Harris our 23rd President (1965-1966) and Editor of the *Annals of Allergy* (1965-1982) (Table 5).

Dr. Lowell Henderson of the Mayo Clinic, our 24th President (1966-67), who chose as his title of his Presidential Address "Begin Tomorrow" offered a prescription for prevention of "running out of steam for those reaching mid-career."²⁰

His message was that practicing allergists need to be scientists and need to use the clinic, the office, the hospital setting as a laboratory for clinical research. This presentation impressed me as I have long held this belief and have given this message to my fellows. In short, the clinician needs continually to ask questions of his patients. In his Presidential Address, Dr. Henderson, quoting da Costa's valedictorian address to the graduating class of Jefferson Medical College citing the importance of investigation expressed this sentiment:

"And let me beg of you all to have always on hand something that you are investigating. This gives freshness and interest to your life, keeps the intellect active, benefits those who apply to you for advice, and enriches your profession. Thus discoveries are made; thus chiefly, is medicine daily extending its usefulness and power. The fountain of perpetual youth in the mind of the searcher, it becomes a lasting blessing to many others. Nor must you delay to become investigators. Begin with the first opportunity. Begin tomorrow;..."

I would like to make one suggested change to this quote to read "Begin today," which is consistent with the theme of this year's Congress, *Carpe Diem!*

The period of the 1960s represented a critical period for the College and for the field of allergy. As described previously, 1967 marked the year of discovery of IgE by the Ishizakas and Johansson which provided a major impetus for new discoveries and applications to diagnosis and treatment. The second event important to certification occurring during this period was that a group of allergists dissatisfied with their inability to gain access for certification since they lacked primary certification by the ABIM and ABP was led by Stanley Jaros. In 1964 this group established a separate organization, the American Associa-

tion of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (AACIA) whose expressed purpose was to establish a separate autonomous certifying Board. Later that year the Association established a self-proclaimed American Board of Clinical Immunology and Allergy which was prepared to certify as diplomates any and all who met its requirements.

It fell to the lot of the next group who led the College during this period to address this situation carefully and to steer the ship of state of the College safely and adroitly to a reasoned resolution. Thus, Drs. Rapaport, McGovern, deGara, Hieber, Hale, Peacock and Eisenstadt were intimately involved with these issues. In 1965 a resolution by the Board of Regents disavowing the formation of the newly formed certifying Board of the AACIA was published in the *Annals*.²¹ Yet the College chose to participate in these discussions and established the ACA Committee on Certification consisting of Drs. Brennan (Chairman), Berman, Browning representing internal medicine, Jaros and McLaren. The Committee met regularly at O'Hare Airport to discuss and resolve differences. At the first meeting, Dr. Jaros suffered a massive cerebrovascular accident and was unable to participate in subsequent meetings. Although there were initial conflicting views between ABIM and the ABP representatives, these were eventually resolved. Drs. Brennan, Berman, Browning and McLaren representing ACA and AACIA worked very closely throughout this period along with Dr. P. Seebohm representing the Section on Allergy of AMA and gradually the ABAI took shape. The Sherman resolution² was finally offered by a committee established by the Section on Allergy of the AMA which read

"Be it resolved that the Section on Allergy of the AMA favors the establishment of an independent Board to certify in allergy physicians already certified in internal

medicine or in pediatrics. The Section requests its Chairman to take suitable steps to seek the concurrence of the national Allergy Societies in presenting a petition for the establishment of such a Board to the Advisory Board for Medical Specialties."

Howard G. Rapaport, our 25th President (1967-68) provided strong leadership to the organization and in subsequent years represented a towering figure as Chairman of the Scientific and Educational Council (SEC). Drs. Hale and Berman from the ACA together with Drs. Boen Swinny, Sidney Friedlaender, and Jackson Raymer from AACIA mobilized the first of the educational courses for preparation of individuals for certification. These courses became the prototype for subsequent courses offered by the College. I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the great role of the AACIA which in 1972 hosted the first of these postgraduate courses to prepare candidates for the examination.

Dr. John P. McGovern, our 26th President, was one of the College's finest leaders in the best of the Oslerian tradition (Fig. 9). This great clinician-educator-scientist not only provided wisdom and leadership but also taught us the importance of



Figure 9. John P. McGovern, MD, President 1968-1969.

humanism in science and medicine, providing a role model for many of us in the field of allergy and immunology. He is a true friend and colleague and has done so much for so many, and his services to the College will always be remembered. Among his many contributions to American medicine he recognized both the need and the importance of having qualified faculty at medical schools for quality education in allergy and has directed his efforts in support of this cause.

Dr. Paul deGara was a wise, very pleasant, and effective leader who provided leadership during 1969-1970 and who was followed by G. Frederick Hieber, one of our dear colleagues and friends who with wisdom and gentility guided us through this crucial period and provided strong leadership in 1970-71. In addition, Dr. Hieber has been a dedicated leader in the organization and has also documented many of the historical happenings of meetings through his creative photography and writings of echoes of previous conventions. Dr. Ralph Hale, our 29th President and Dr. Lamar B. Peacock, our 30th President, also provided strong leadership during this critical period of the development of the College. Dr. Sawyer Eisenstadt presided over the first and only international meeting in Paris in 1974, which was organized by then President-elect Bernard Berman. The theme of Dr. Eisenstadt's Presidential Address was a plea for unity that was centered around the patient. The rumblings of possible amalgamation of the College once again began to surface at this time.

The Middle Years represented a period of relative peace and prosperity at the national level, and funding for research was adequate. The discovery of IgE was of monumental importance. The formation of a splinter group, the AACIA, occurred, which provided a continuing stimulus to the ultimate development of the ABAI. At the end of this period at a national level, the

medicine, many of immunology and collaboration for so the College. The members, contributions to recognized importance at mediation in efforts

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country had moved from a period of peace and prosperity and was engaged in a full-scale war with social unrest domestically, with active civil rights movement, with assassinations of the Kennedys and Martin Luther King and the great society of Johnson.

THE RECENT YEARS (1975-1992)

At the beginning of this period, the country was demoralized by the Vietnam War, Watergate, and the resignation of a president. It was a time of oil crises, long gasoline lines, and double digit inflation. Attention at the national level was focusing on cost containment of health care and curtailment of funding for research and training programs was beginning. Despite this, these years reflected a period of rejuvenation and explosive growth for the College both in membership and in financial stability as well as fulfillment of many of the objectives set by the founding fathers, ie, quality educational programs, attainment of a separate Board for certification, and more efficient administration of the organization.

The leadership of this period once again responded to the challenges of

the era (Table 6). One of the College's most beloved and respected senior statesman is Dr. Bernard A. Berman, our 32nd President (Fig. 10). An articulate, compassionate diplomat, Bernie led the organization during his presidential year with great skill and dignity. Dr. Berman continues to play a major role as a statesman and a leader and his



Figure 10. Bernard A. Berman, MD, President 1974-1975.

Table 6. Milestones in the Development of the ACAI: the Recent Years (1975-1992)

President	Year	Meeting Site (Year)
(32) Bernard A. Berman	1974-75	Miami Beach (1975)
(33) Ben C. Eisenberg	1975-76	San Francisco (1976)
(34) Nathan Ernest Silbert	1976-77	New York (1977)
(35) Orville C. Thomas	1977-78	Las Vegas (1978)
(36) Albert E. Hensel, Jr.	1978-79	San Francisco (1979)
(37) T. Reed Maxson	1979-80	Bal Harbour (1980)
(38) Solomon D. Klotz	1980-81	Washington, D.C. (1981)
(39) Robert J. Dockhorn	1981-82	Bal Harbour (1982)
(40) Gilbert D. Barkin	1982-83	New Orleans (1983)
(41) Rufus E. Lee, Jr.	1983-84	San Francisco (1984)
(42) John G. Leonardy	1984-85	Bal Harbour (1985)
(43) Charles H. Banov	1985-86	Phoenix (1986)
(44) Peter B. Boggs	1986-87	Las Vegas (1987)
(45) Robert J. Becker	1987	Boston (1987)
(46) R. Faser Triplett	1987-88	Los Angeles (1988)
(47) Donald W. Aaronson	1988-89	Orlando (1989)
(48) Dale B. Sparks	1989-90	San Francisco (1990)
(49) Edward J. O'Connell	1990-91	New York (1991)
(50) Joseph A. Bellanti	1991-92	Chicago (1992)

counsel is often sought. In 1972, the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (ABAI), a Conjoint Board of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and the American Board of Pediatrics (ABP) was formed and the first certifying examination was given in March of 1974. Finally, after a 30-year struggle, the College had achieved one of its primary founding goals! I was privileged to serve on the ABAI with Bernie during this period and he was always an ardent and true supporter of the College and a loyal representative for the practicing allergist. In 1974 in response to the changing socioeconomic climate of the country, the Joint Council of Allergy and Immunology (JCAI) was established through the creative efforts and vision of Dr. Robert J. Becker. This organization, which is jointly supported by the College and the Academy, represents one of the most significant achievements in the history of the field of allergy and immunology. It brings the voice of allergy into the political arena and addresses socioeconomic and legislative matters of importance to the practicing allergist and for the patient with allergic disease.

The storm clouds of social and political change were gathering during this period and continued to affect the practice of medicine. The College responded to these new challenges with the dedicated leadership of Drs. Eisenberg, Silbert, and Thomas each bringing their own expertise to the position. Although the College had achieved its dream of an autonomous certifying Board, the issue of recertification of its members still remained unsolved. The questions of recertification included how best to accomplish this in an equitable voluntary and non-punitive manner. The issue of amalgamation of the two organizations was raised once again and in 1977 during the presidency of Dr. Silbert, a joint meeting of the College, the Academy and the Association was held in New York City

and it was decided at that time not to pursue the issue of amalgamation.

In 1977, while planning the 1979 meeting, President-Elect Frank Pearlman was stricken with a massive cerebrovascular accident and the College suffered a great loss. But out of their grief, these great leaders of the College including Drs. O. C. Thomas, Nathan Silbert, and Bernard Berman rallied, and Al Hensel stepped forth to pick up the torch of a fallen leader as our 36th President. Dr. Reed Maxson, Dr. Klotz and Dr. Dockhorn followed and led the organization with distinction, each providing his unique contributions to fostering excellent postgraduate courses and addressing the issues of certification and recertification, committee structure and in serving the needs of the membership.

The presidency of Dr. Gilbert D. Barkin was a particularly important juncture in the history of the College (Fig. 11). In 1982 the organization had found itself in a relatively weak financial state, the membership had plateaued to a total membership of 1750 most of whom were over the age of 60. Dr. Barkin decided that something needed to be done and together with other College leaders decided to move the College offices from Boulder to Chicago and a professional management team was brought in under the leadership of Mr. Jim Slawny. The Editorial Office of the *Annals* was moved to Washington and a new Editor was selected. The publication of the *Annals* was moved from the Bruce Publishing Company in Minneapolis, MN to Waverly Press in Baltimore, MD. The College invested also in a major strategic planning campaign and launched a massive recruitment drive with an emphasis on bringing in younger members at all levels of organizational activities. As a result of this, the College has witnessed an unprecedented growth in membership and financial stability over the subsequent years that



Figure 11. Gilbert D. Barkin, MD, President 1982-1983.

has continued to the present. Behind all of these successes was the work of Dr. Barkin and other dedicated leaders in subsequent years who provided strong leadership. These included Drs. Lee, Leonardy, and Banov. Their wisdom, organizational talents and clinical acumen provided the impetus for continued growth and development of the organization.

In 1987, another important landmark event occurred under the leadership of Dr. Boggs, another of our dedicated, hard-working presidents. Dr. Boggs provided the leadership for the merger of the AACIA and the College and the name of the new organization changed from the American College of Allergists (ACA) to the American College of Allergy and Immunology (ACAI). This was a most positive and significant undertaking and represented the union of two national organizations with similar constituencies. The AACIA had completed its mission of the establishment of a certifying board and AACIA and College leaders felt that it was in the best interest of both organizations to merge. This occurred through the joint efforts of such leaders as Drs. Boggs, Becker, and Triplett with Dr.

McLean. Dr. Boggs introduced other innovative programs including the Biennial Board Review Course for preparation for the certifying examination and a Literature Review Course summarizing the most recent articles and a College Awards Program honoring media and other leaders.

In 1987, the College held two national meetings during the presidency of Dr. Boggs who presided over the January meeting in Las Vegas and Dr. Becker at the fall meeting in Boston. In his Presidential Address, Dr. Becker addressed several problems facing the field and articulated the importance of working together with other organizations with the goal of synergism, ie, the process of vectorizing forces so that the combined action is greater than either alone, and he set in motion areas of cooperative involvement. Dr. Triplett also provided strong leadership to the College during his presidency (1987-88) and he worked diligently in bringing the political process to support the interests of the allergist at the national level.

In 1989 during the presidency of Dr. Aaronson, a major restructuring of committees took place with the development of the scientific, communication and educational councils with major streamlining and By-Laws revisions resulting in greater efficiency of the organization. Patient education programs were also introduced. In the spring of 1989, a planning retreat was held out of which a proposal to revisit the issue of amalgamation was entertained and a committee was established to explore the feasibility of merger. In May 1990, after a year's deliberation, the Board of Regents of the American College of Allergy and Immunology voted to discontinue further discussions of merger and to explore areas of mutual cooperation with the Academy.

Under the subsequent presidencies of Dr. Sparks and Dr. O'Connell, strong leader in productive discussions, several innovations oc-

curred including asthma patient conferences, visiting professor programs, fellows in training programs and other programs. At the 1991 meeting, the Board of Regents voted to produce a white paper informing the membership of the pertinent issues surrounding merger and subsequently to conduct a survey of its membership. This Committee, chaired by Dr. Diane Schuller, has worked most diligently and their efforts are greatly appreciated. The results of their efforts will be presented at this year's 1992 meeting.

THE HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE COLLEGE

Dr. Frederick W. Wittich, founder of the College, functioned as the Chief Administrative Officer of the College from the inception of the organization in November 1942 until December 31, 1955 at which time he announced his retirement. Following this Mr. Eloi Bauers, who had been legal counsel, continued the administration until 1956 at which time Dr. John Gillaspie of Boulder, CO assumed the role of Executive Secretary and Treasurer and conducted the administrative affairs of the College while Mr. Bauers continued as executive vice president. In 1973, Dr. Gillaspie retired because of illness. Mrs. Frances White, who had worked as secretary for Dr. Gillaspie, then continued to manage the College as Executive Secretary and Treasurer and served in that capacity until 1980 following a brief interval of interim administration by Mrs. Shirley Schoenberger. In 1982 the College brought in a professional management organization under the direction of Mr. Jim Slawny and the Executive Offices were moved from Boulder to Palatine, IL where it is still located (Table 7).

HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE ANNALS OF ALLERGY

The American College of Allergy and Immunology was established

Table 7. Historical Review of the Administration of American College of Allergy and Immunology

Date	Principals	Location
1942-55	F. W. Wittich, Secretary-Treasurer	Minneapolis, MN
1942-76	Eloi Bauers, Counsel and Executive Vice-President	Minneapolis, MN
1956-73	Dr. John Gillaspie, Executive Secretary and Treasurer	Boulder, CO
1973-80	Mrs. Frances P. White, Executive Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Shirley Schoenberger, Secretary-Treasurer	Boulder, CO
1982-present	Mr. James R. Slawny and Staff	Palatine, IL

with the educational objectives that included the establishment and circulation of a publication. The first issue of the *Annals* appeared as a bimonthly publication beginning with the July-August 1943 issue. The various editors are shown in Table 8.

Although Dr. French Hansel was the first Editor, it was obvious that much of the early leadership of the *Annals* and editorial writing was conducted by Wittich who served as Managing Editor. In 1956 Ethan Allan Brown became the Editor-in-Chief and served until 1965 at which time Dr. M. Coleman Harris assumed the Editorship. From 1965-1982, Dr. Harris served with distinction as Editor-in-Chief and in 1982 Dr. Bellanti was appointed Editor. A peer review process was instituted as well as many innovative sections including review articles with CME credit, clinical allergy-immunology rounds, and a journal club. In 1990 Dr. Sly became Editor-in-Chief and the *Annals* has continued to grow and to provide a very important vehicle of communication for the College.

RELATIONSHIP OF THE COLLEGE WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

On April 5, 1954 at the Decennial Congress of the American College of Allergists, the Board of Regents

Table 8. Historical Review of the Editorship of the *Annals of Allergy*

Editor	Tenure
French Hansel, MD	1942-1956
Editor-in-Chief (Wittich, Managing Editor)	1942-1956
Ethan Allan Brown	1956-1965
M. Coleman Harris	1965-1982
Joseph A. Bellanti	1982-1990
R. Michael Sly	1990-present

approved the Establishment of the Women's Auxiliary "As an independent legal entity, to work very closely with and to complement wherever possible that functions of the American College of Allergists." The first President of the organization was Mrs. Morris A. Kaplan of Chicago, IL and President-Elect was Mrs. Ethan Allan Brown of Boston, MA and Vice President Mrs. Fred W. Wittich of Minneapolis, MN. Secretary was Mrs. J. Warrick Thomas of Richmond, VA, Treasurer was Mrs. Boen Swinny of San Antonio and Historian was Mrs. Lester L. Bartlett of Pittsburgh, PA. Over the years the Auxiliary has fulfilled its mission and has performed a most important role in the support of College programs. These women have demonstrated true dedication to the mission of the College and have come forth with the Clemens von Pirquet Award for fellows-in-training, the annual Bela

Schick Award which has helped to foster young members through educational and research support. The College is indebted to the fine work of the Auxillary and wishes to acknowledge its thanks for their unstinting and dedicated support over the years.

Another organization that has worked closely with the College is the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA). Asthma and Allergy Foundation was established in 1953 as the American Foundation for Allergic Diseases and was incorporated in the State of New York.²² The Foundation is sponsored by both national allergy societies and according to its original charter, "is a national voluntary supported, non-profit organization of physicians and laymen for work in the field of allergy. It will ethically present the subject to the public, stimulate research in allergy and the allergic diseases, improve medical training and induce more competent young physicians to specialize in allergy, increase hospital and clinic facilities for allergy patients, develop home care and ambulatory treatment for less-privileged patients and encourage the program for the rehabilitation of the chronic pulmonary cripple especially the intractable chronic asthmatic child not responding to the modern allergy practice in his own community. . . The Foundation is the only acceptable link between organized allergy and the public. The initial success of launching the Foundation is the responsibility of allergists." The first President of the Foundation was Dr. Horace S. Baldwin a conscientious, diligent, hardworking individual who led the organization in the early years. Over the years the Foundation has grown and has continued to be an important link with the public and has worked very closely with the College. This past year the College jointly sponsored the first community-based inner-city asthma conference in Washington, DC with AAFA and

plans more collaborative activities for the future. More recently, Allergy and Asthma Network/Mothers of Asthmatics (MA) was incorporated in 1985 as a non-profit organization and has provided an important resource for patient education in the field of allergy and asthmatic conditions and has also worked closely with the College.

LEADERSHIP OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY AND ALLERGY (AACIA)

The important leadership role of the AACIA in establishing a separate certification board for allergy and immunology and in developing premier education programs cannot be over-stressed. I was privileged to serve on the faculty of the original postgraduate course held in July 1972 in Seattle, Washington organized by the AACIA which was the first of what was to become a prototype for a series of courses which were subsequently developed by the AACIA and the College during the 1970s. The leadership of this organization is shown in Table 9.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The College is indeed proud of the past and the accomplishments of the organization obviously reflect the hard work of the membership and the leadership who have preceded us over the 50 years since its founding. I would be remiss if I did not make some recommendations to those who will guide the destiny of the College in the future and I envision several areas for continued growth (Table 10). The first of these is the emphasis on membership recruitment with particular attention to younger members. In order to accomplish this we must strive to make the organization meaningful for young allergists. Our focus in recent years on fellows-in-training is quite correct and with the provision of travel grants, awards, courses, a separate organization, opportunities

Table 9. Leadership of the AACIA

President	Year
Stanislaus H. Jaros, MD	1964-67
James E. Stroh, MD	1967-68
Johnny A. Blue, MD	1968-69
Mason I. Lowance, MD	1969-70
Alex S. Friedlaender, MD	1970-71
Boen Swinny, Jr., MD	1971-72
Richard H. Jackson, MD	1972-73
Robert J. Brennan, MD	1973-74
John L. Dewey, MD	1974-75
Lester W. Mittelstaedt, MD	1975-76
Alexander McCausland, MD	1976-77
Gustav J. Beck, MD	1977-78
Stanley L. Goldman, MD	1978-79
William H. Wilson, MD	1979-80
Walter R. MacLaren, MD	1980-81
Warren J. Raymer, MD	1981-82
Sidney Friedlaender, MD	1982-83
Burton M. Rudolph, MD	1983-84
Albert G. Corrado, MD	1984-85
Donald L. Unger, MD	1985-86
Donald C. McLean, MD	1986-87

Table 10. Planning for the Future: Suggested Areas for Continued Growth of the College

- Continued membership recruitment; emphasis on younger members
- Support of fellows-in-training and younger allergists entering practice
- Greater participation of members in the work of the College (committees, leadership positions)
- Encouragement of clinical research by the practicing physician
- Greater involvement with training directors committee
- Greater liaison with NIH (NIAID and NHLBI)
- Stronger liaison and input with ABAI, identification of new disease entities for management with the new tools of clinical immunology
- Strengthening relationships with voluntary groups (AAFA, MA and ALA)
- New technologies—computers and tele-satellite substance first → Process later
- Development of a strong research and education fund; inner city asthma initiative and scholars' program
- Fostering greater liaison and expanded relationships with pharmaceutical industry; "Partners in Research and Education"
- Continued support by and involvement of membership with the JCAI
- Enhanced advocacy position for the patient and expansion of our social responsibility

for leadership and for publication as well as presentation of their clinical research at annual meetings. The College has clearly demonstrated its dedication to fellows-in-training. We have also formed a young physicians committee to consider the needs of allergists under the age of 40 and have planned meetings to meet the needs of physicians recently entering practice. This past year, for example, this committee organized a highly successful new practice management course for fellows-in-training to meet these needs. In addition to the annual meetings which stress important educational programs for the practicing allergist we have developed, in conjunction with the JCAI and the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology, innovative regional CPT coding workshops, which have been well received and of immense value in response to changes in the RBRV. I also encourage greater participation of our membership on committees and strongly urge clinical research in the physician's office as I described earlier which is important for re-creation and self-renewal.

Another area about which I feel strongly is the greater involvement of the College with training directors. The College has assisted both training directors and trainees through travel grants, the provision of a directory, a four volume "Selected Articles in Allergy and Immunology" designed for ABAI candidates preparing for their certification examination as well as the circulation of an interactive computerized program on rhinoscopy. I have been most impressed with the work of the Training Directors' Committee and I feel that the College can and should continue to help in even greater ways in the future and should in turn be recognized for its contribution to this cause. The graduates of training programs are the life blood of our organizations, of the field, and the leaders of tomorrow and we should do all that

we can to support this important endeavor.

Our relationships with the National Institutes of Health are likewise important in providing new directions for research and training. We need also to continue a strong liaison with the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (ABAI). The field of allergy and immunology is in a state of flux at the present time where many issues relating to certification and recertification are unclear and questions about the relationship of clinical immunology to allergy are being raised. Clearly, the proper directions of clinical immunology are yet to be determined.

I have been privileged to serve on the ABAI with several other members of the College and other colleagues from the Academy. I have also this past year served on a subcommittee of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) and with other colleagues from the AAAI, the Clinical Immunology Society, and the ABAI looking at how clinical immunology can be best placed and integrated at medical centers.

Although there is some concern on the part of the clinical allergist about the domination of clinical immunology, I would suggest that this fear is not substantiated. The practicing allergist needs to embrace clinical immunology and to identify new disease areas and to use the tools of clinical immunology, which are becoming ever-increasingly available for the diagnosis and treatment of these disorders. Such diseases as the chronic fatigue syndrome, chemically induced environmental disorders and other poorly defined clinical entities that appear to have an immunologic basis are presenting as new challenges for the practicing allergist. The use of interferons and interleukins, for example, is becoming available for treatment and the allergist needs to broaden his knowledge base beyond IgE disease. If allergists continue to only look at IgE mediated diseases, con-

tinued progress may not occur and the field may pass us by.

The College has enjoyed a good liaison with voluntary health organizations and we need to strengthen our relationships with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA), Mothers of Asthmatics (MA), the American Lung Association (ALA) and other groups interested in patient education.

New computer technologies present yet other opportunities for the allergist for education, communication and data management in our offices for educational programs as well as the preparation for certification and recertification. Also the use of telesatellite communication is now appearing and this past year we held our first telesatellite conference on allergic rhinitis. Dr. Peter Boggs is proposing some very innovative programs that can be used for continuing education and for recertification and Dr. Selner is planning some very exciting projects relating to computers.

One word of caution, however, in the use of these new technologies is that we need to keep "substance" and "process" clearly delineated and to keep substance as the driving force for action. Just as our founding fathers set lofty goals for the organization, we, too, need to set clear objectives first and then identify the means to accomplish them.

Programs that serve the needs of the patient should be encouraged such as the patient asthma projects that the College has conducted in recent years. This year a new inner city asthma initiative was launched by the College in cooperation with AAFA and the first community-based inner city asthma conference was held in May in Washington, DC to address the rising morbidity and mortality associated with asthma in children from disadvantaged populations. A second set of conferences is being held in New York City under the direction of Dr. Chiaramonte and others are being planned in other cities for the future.

The involvement of the College in medical schools through visiting professor programs should be expanded to encourage the teaching and presentation of our specialty in medical schools as did our forefathers. The newly established Scholars Program conceived by Dr. Selner represents yet another innovative program that should assist in this effort.

The establishment of a research and education fund last year following our first fundraiser and now this year with our second fundraiser really fulfills one of the main objectives of our founding fathers. As described earlier a research foundation was one of the specific aims of the College at its founding and gifts were solicited both from industry and individuals. This is a most important goal which we are planning for the future that will assure additive funding for worthwhile research and educational programs of the College. Fostering greater liaison and expanding relationship with the pharmaceutical industries through out Partners in Research and Education Program is essential and will require new strategies in the light of the regulations that are being imposed upon us.

Key to the continued success of the organization will be the need for active involvement of the membership. As in the past, and now, this will be based on the gathering of information, time for reflection and decision.

This year a committee chaired by Dr. Diane Schuller was established by the Board of Regents to develop a white paper examining issues relating to the continuation of two separate national allergy societies or their merger into a single organization. The committee has worked diligently with the consulting firm Herman Smith Associates, a Division of Coopers and Lybrand and their efforts are to be commended. It is now time for the active involvement of a fully informed membership to have their input into the

process. We have asked the membership to review the white paper carefully and to be prepared to participate in a town hall discussion at this year's Business Meeting. Later this year a scientific sampling of the membership will be conducted. This will involve a 12- to 15-minute interview that will be conducted by the Gallup Organization. We ask your cooperation in this most important survey, which will be significant in guiding the future directions of the College.

The leadership should be dedicated to serving the needs of the members and the programs should not only reflect the needs of physicians but ultimately the patients whom we serve. This year the College has established a new category of associate membership for allied health professionals in recognition of their valued service to the field of allergy. This new category will include other health care professionals such as RNs, LPNs, PAs as well as other nonphysicians engaged in technical or administrative positions in allergy and immunology.

We need to continue our support and involvement of JCAI which has been one of the key organizations that have monitored and effected sociopolitical and economic change not only for the benefit of the practicing allergist but ultimately for the patient. Thus, the practicing allergist needs to assume an ever-increasing role as a physician-advocate for the patient and to expand his social responsibilities.

For me this year is drawing close to an end. It has been a good year and I have enjoyed it immensely. It also represents a 20-year culmination of my service to the College as an educator, an Editor, and as President. I would again like to express my appreciation to the membership for the extraordinary opportunity you have given me and for the honor to serve as your President. When I was selected to be Editor-in-Chief in 1982, I wrote an Editorial in the *Annals of Allergy* entitled

"The Passing of the Torch."²³ In ancient Greece, the passing of the torch represented an unbroken succession of runners, each passing a light from one runner to the next. This concept of passing the torch has special meaning for me and my vision for the College at this Golden Anniversary. The torch that was passed to me is the same torch that was lit by the founding fathers which through the years has been passed from leader to leader symbolizing the passage of responsibility. There have been times in the history of the organization where the flame has flickered as it did in World War II, in Korea and in Vietnam, when the country was at war. It also occurred within our own organization when conflicts and disagreements over the direction of the College occurred and led to bitter divisions between brothers at which time the flame dimmed but was never extinguished. And what kept the flame alive came from the heart and from the spirit of leaders and members of this organization who wanted that flame to live on. And today, the flame that burns high on this our 50th Year Anniversary burns brightly. May the College flourish and may it fulfill the promise and high ideals for which it was originally established, ie, to serve the needs of the practicing allergist and ultimately the needs of the patient with allergic disease. It is this dedication to the patient that makes all our travail worthwhile and which symbolizes what the College stands for. I wish Dr. Selner success during his Presidency and in the important year ahead and I am confident that this seasoned runner will carry the torch with distinction.

And some day long after this Congress has ended, long after the signs come down and crowds stop cheering, and the bands stop playing, may it be said of the College that we kept the faith. May it be said that in 1992 we again found our faith.

And may it be said of us both in dark passages and in bright days and

of the Torch."²³ In the passing of the torch, an unbroken line of runners, each passing the torch to the next. If passing the torch to me and my college at this Golden Anniversary, the torch that was the same torch that the founding fathers the years has been passed to leader symbolizing the passing of responsibility. It has been times in the organization where the torch has been passed as it did in Korea and in Vietnam. The torch was in our own hands in our own conflicts and disasters. The torch has been passed in the direction of the torch and led to bitter enemies at which the torch has been dimmed but was not extinguished. And what kept the torch came from the heart and spirit of leaders and the organization who made the torch live on. And the torch burns high on the 50th Year Anniversary. May the College of Allergists fulfill the promise for which it was established, i.e., to serve the practicing allergist and the needs of the allergic patient. It is this torch that makes the torch worthwhile and which the College stands for. The torch has been successful during the years and in the important years. I am confident that the torch will carry the torch on.

How long after this Congress, how long after the signs of the torch stop cheering, how long after the torch stops playing, may the College that we kept the torch be said that in 1992 the torch is our faith. The torch be said of us both in the torch and in bright days and

in the words of Tennyson that have special meaning for me today:

"I am a part of all that I have met...
 Tho much is taken, much abides...
 That which we are, we are.
 One equal temper of heroic hearts...
 Strong in will
 To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield."
 Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to sincerely thank the members of the Commemorative Book Committee, Dr. Michael S. Blaiss, Chairman, Dr. Sheldon G. Cohen, Dr. R. Michael Sly, Dr. Bernard A. Berman, and Ms. Judith Legg for their dedicated efforts in the preparation of this presentation. We hope that it will serve as a lasting historical remembrance of the 50th Year Celebration of the founding of the American College of Allergy and Immunology.

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Perspective

The American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology: a 70-year legacy of accomplishments (1942–2012), part 2: events and achievements (1992–2012)

Joseph A. Bellanti, MD

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In 2012, the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) celebrated its 70th anniversary. As ACAAI historian, I was asked by the Board of Regents to continue writing the history of the College, updating events that have occurred since the first 50-year history of our organization from 1942–1992 was documented as part of my presidential address at the 50th annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois, in November 1992 and that was subsequently published in the *Annals*.¹ This publication continues our ACAAI history in the making and includes a 20-year follow-up of College events and achievements from 1992 to 2012.

50-Year Highlights of the History of the College (1942–1992)

The American College of Allergists was officially incorporated as a legal entity on November 23, 1942, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The events that led to its establishment have a poetic and poignant history. In 1942, the destiny of the practice of allergy in the United States was being shaped by a number of powerful professional forces and prominent national figures. The 2 major professional allergy organizations prevalent at that time were the Western Society for the Study of Asthma, Hayfever and Allergic Diseases, commonly referred to as the Western Society, which was founded in 1923, and the Society for the Study of Asthma and Allied Disorders, commonly referred to as the Eastern Society, which was founded in 1924. Amalgamation of these 2 national allergy societies led to the formation of what was to become the American Academy of Allergy on December 4, 1943, approximately 1 year after the founding of the College.

One of the most prominent national figures in the field of allergy during this period was Robert A. Cooke, MD, of New York City, who was not only making significant scientific contributions to the study of allergic diseases and establishing a premier program for the training of allergists but also, with others, shaping the policies for the certification of allergists in the United States. Cooke held the view that certification of physicians should

occur only as a subspecialty of internal medicine under the auspices of the new Board of Allergy, a subspecialty of the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM). A grandfather mechanism had been set in place, which allowed internists to be certified by the ABIM if they held a faculty position at a Class A medical school and if they had reached 40 years of age by July 1, 1937.

At this point, Frederick W. Wittich, MD, entered into the history of the College. Dr Wittich was a 57-year-old internist-allergist practicing in Minneapolis who held a clinical faculty position at the University of Minnesota and who met all the Cooke qualification criteria for certification. Owing to a technicality amounting to a 1-day late submission of a membership application, however, Dr Wittich set out on a divergent and unanticipated course and founded the American College of Allergists.

Dr Wittich was no ordinary man, and although he was responsible for the founding of the College, he never became its president but was the driving force for many of the policies and projects of the infant organization. Among his many contributions, he established the *Annals of Allergy* as the official publication of the College and used it as a vehicle for communication of events pertinent to allergists, as a forum for exchange of ideas, and for the implementation of the goals of the College. The first president of the College was Bernard J. Effron, MD (1942–1943), and although no annual meeting was held during the first year (1942) because the country was at war, business was conducted by the Board of Regents.

The first issue of the *Annals of Allergy* contained a lead editorial written by Wittich entitled "Why A College?"² The following overall goals of the College set forth in the original Charter were enumerated:

- The establishment of an organization of qualified medical men and scientists of good standing who shall meet from time to time for the purpose of promoting and advancing the study, research and clinical knowledge of allergy as it applies to the various specialties in medicine
- To maintain and advance the highest possible standards among those engaged in the practice of allergy

Disclosures: Dr Bellanti is the past-president (1991–1992) and historian of the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. Author has nothing to disclose.

- To perpetuate the best traditions of medicine and medical ethics; to establish standards for the qualification, and procedure for the certification of men engaged in the specialty of allergy
- To maintain the dignity and efficiency of this specialty and its relation to public welfare
- To promote friendly intercourse among those engaged in the practice of allergy

To attain these goals, a set of specific objectives was also delineated in subsequent years that included:

- The establishment of a Foundation through funds donated by wealthy persons or grateful victims of the disease who are desirous of furthering our knowledge and scope of allergy
- The promotion of international educational relationships with other countries through the establishment of chapters
- The creation of a mechanism for certification of allergists by the College

In subsequent years these 3 objectives defined by our founding fathers were successfully pursued and accomplished by future leaders of the College, leading to the following:

- Establishment of the Foundation of the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology in 1990 as a not-for-profit, charitable 501(c)3 organization to initiate, promote and fund clinical research and educational programs related to allergy, asthma & immunology
- Continued support of speakers through our Visiting Ambassador Program
- Establishment of the new Conjoint Board of the ABIM and the American Board of Pediatrics in 1971

Thus, the purpose, motivation, and genesis for the formation of the College derived from a group of dedicated visionaries who believed that there was a need for a liberal, democratic organization ecumenical in its composition and receptive to its charge to build and develop an organization that could meet the needs of the practicing allergist and ultimately the patients whom we

serve—a charge that has been maintained with fidelity to the present day!

A more detailed description of the first 50-year history of the College (1942–1992) can be found in my article published in the *Annals* in 1993.¹ The 49th Annual Meeting of the College, which was held in New York City in 1991, under the presidency of Edward J. O'Connell, MD, had as its programmatic theme *Quo Vadis?* (Where Are We Going?). This was an appropriate theme because the leadership was confronted with the issue of merger with the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI). With the unanimous support of the membership, the College opted against a merger, thus ensuring the vitality of the organization to perform its mission as a single entity and to fulfill the mandate of its founding fathers. At the annual meeting the first fund-raising event, which I organized, was held. The event raised funds for the support of the newly established inner-city asthma initiative and the college scholars program. These fund-raising events have continued to the present and have supported the ACAAI Foundation programs.

The History of the College (1992–2012)—the Next 20 Years

Table 1 lists the presidents, years of term, meeting sites, and programmatic themes of the annual meetings of the College for the past 20 years.



Figure 1. Joseph A. Bellanti, MD

During my presidency (1991–1992) (Fig 1), there was continued membership recruitment, with emphasis on younger members and support of fellows-in-training (FITs) and younger allergists entering practice. Development of a strong research and education fund was initiated, which continued the support of the inner-city asthma initiative and college scholars program. I also emphasized the broadening of the scope of the allergist to include other aspects of clinical immunology and championed the continuation of the fund-raising event for support of other College initiatives.

Table 1
Presidents, Years of Term, Meeting Sites, and Programmatic Themes of Annual Meetings of the College (1992–2012)

President	Year of presidency	Meeting site	Program theme
Joseph A. Bellanti, MD	1991–1992	Chicago, IL	<i>Carpe Diem!</i>
John C. Selner, MD [†]	1992–1993	Atlanta, GA	Health Care Reform!
Robert T. Scanlon, MD [†]	1993–1994	San Francisco, CA	Prescription for Change!
Diane E. Schuller, MD	1994–1995	Dallas, TX	Expanding Horizons!
Ira Finegold, MD	1995–1996	Boston, MA	Meet the Challenge!
Betty B. Wray, MD	1996–1997	San Diego, CA	Pathways to the Future!
Jean A. Chapman, MD [†]	1997–1998	Philadelphia, PA	Gateway to the 21st Century!
Robert M. Miles, MD	1998–1999	Chicago, IL	Follow the Leader Into the New Millennium!
Don Q. Mitchell, MD	1999–2000	Seattle, WA	Distilling the Past & Envisioning the Future!
Emil J. Bardana, MD	2000–2001	Orlando, FL	Scientific News You Can Use!
Bob Q. Lanier, MD	2001–2002	San Antonio, TX	First the Patient!
William E. Berger, MD	2002–2003	New Orleans, LA	Defining the Allergy/Immunologist: The Multidisciplinary Approach to Care
Michael S. Blaiss, MD	2003–2004	Boston, MA	Lighting Our Path to the Future!
Myron J. Zitt, MD	2004–2005	Anaheim, CA	<i>Vade Mecum!</i>
William K. Dolen, MD	2005–2006	Philadelphia, PA	We Have Only Just Begun
Daniel Ein, MD	2006–2007	Dallas, TX	Across the Quality Chasm
Jay M. Portnoy, MD	2007–2008	Seattle, WA	Embracing the Challenges of Change
Richard G. Gower, MD	2008–2009	Miami Beach, FL	Expanding the Spectrum
Sami L. Bahna, MD, DrPH	2009–2010	Phoenix, AZ	eACAAI: Excellence in Clinical Education, Communication and Patient Care
Dana V. Wallace, MD	2010–2011	Boston, MA	Proud of Our Past – Preparing for Our Future
Stanley M. Fineman, MD	2011–2012	Anaheim, CA	Over the Horizon: Expanding Expertise

[†]Deceased.

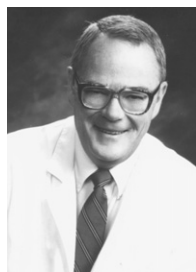


Figure 2. John C. Selner, MD

The presidency of John C. Selner, MD (1992–1993) (Fig 2), witnessed the continued growth of the College. He advocated the ongoing support of the inner-city asthma initiative and college scholars programs and positioned the College financially for better support of its research and education programs. During his presidency, the College launched its first television satellite program.



Figure 3. Robert T. Scanlon, MD

Robert T. Scanlon, MD (1993–1994) (Fig 3), recognized the importance of marketing and educating the public on the importance of an allergist as the best trained specialist for the management and treatment of allergic diseases. He initiated early seminal marketing programs and launched the first marketing film, *A Second Wind*, highlighting the important role of the allergist in management of asthma.



Figure 4. Diane E. Schuller, MD

Diane E. Schuller, MD (1994–1995) (Fig 4), was the first female president of the College. During her presidency, the 'A' for asthma was added to ACAAI to emphasize the role of the allergist in treatment of asthma. She and the Board of Regents worked diligently with the American Medical Association and other specialty organizations to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of allergy-immunology care by the allergist. She also focused on education of the primary care physician and continued the development of practice parameters.



Figure 5. Ira Finegold, MD

Ira Finegold, MD (1995–1996) (Fig 5), addressed 2 significant challenges to the field of allergy. The first was the decreased teaching and appreciation of immunotherapy as a bona fide therapeutic option, and the second addressed the transition from metered-dose inhalers that contain chlorofluorocarbons to nonozone, chlorofluorocarbon-free types that do not deplete ozone levels. An immunotherapy campaign was initiated to reestablish the importance of this treatment, and through many collaborative efforts the non chlorofluorocarbon transition was accomplished.



Figure 6. Betty B. Wray, MD

During the presidency of Betty B. Wray, MD (1996–1997) (Fig 6), the College continued to promote travel grants for FITs to attend meetings and to create awards for best abstracts and grants to young faculty for research. The ACAAI produced the publication *Expert Care and Immunotherapy for Asthma: A Review of Published Studies With Emphasis on Patient Outcome and Cost* in November 1996 and made it widely available to the membership for use with insurance and managed care

companies. There was participation with the AAAI in board review courses for certification and recertification, and most importantly, the College planted the seed that led to grants to training programs to help maintain and even start new fellowship programs.



Figure 7. Jean A. Chapman, MD

Jean A. Chapman, MD (1997–1998) (Fig 7), and the Board of Regents developed the comprehensive Strategic Plan for 1998–2001 that included the following:

- Established the allergist as principal caregiver for allergic diseases and asthma
- Ensured the highest levels of care
- Facilitated communication (eg, website)
- Supported education at various levels (undergraduate, graduate, and postgraduate)
- Recognized the need for reimbursement
- Expanded College membership
- Maintained relationships with other organizations

Through his efforts, the College continued as a viable entity dedicated to the practicing allergist.



Figure 8. Robert M. Miles, MD

During the presidency of Robert M. Miles, MD (1998–1999) (Fig 8), the College initiated a model project to screen school children for asthma using a validated questionnaire. Using the validated questionnaire developed from this prototype, pilot projects were introduced in several Chicago schools. During this period, the college continued promotion of membership recruitment and support of fellows-in-training.



Figure 9. Don Q. Mitchell, MD

The fiscal stability of the College was ensured during the presidency of Don Q. Mitchell, MD (1999–2000) (Fig 9). This presidential year witnessed the establishment of the ACAAI Investment Oversight Committee for College Investments and for fiscal policy and actions and the strengthening of travel grants for FITs and invitations to medical/pediatric residents to attend the ACAAI meetings. It also initiated the establishment of the 2000–2001 named lectureships and created the Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters.

The first biannual immunotherapy conference was held in New York City, Medem launched the "Your Practice Online" website, and the Scholars Return and Young Faculty Support grant program was strengthened.



Figure 10. Emil J. Bardana, MD

During the presidency of Emil J. Bardana, MD (2000–2001) (Fig 10), the College focused on a variety of global initiatives with the goal of using its excellent continuing medical education (CME) resources, including ACAAI lecturers, to expand its international educational efforts, thus fulfilling the international of the founding fathers. He also developed AllergyWatch and expanded its electronic access to the membership. The fiscal status of the College was strengthened by

initiation of programs that enriched the Foundation that provided continued funding support for allergy/immunology training programs and the scholars program.



Figure 11. Bob Q. Lanier, MD

The 60th year anniversary of the College in 2002 was celebrated during the presidency of Bob Q. Lanier, MD (2001–2002) (Fig 11), who was responsible for the creation of several innovative electronic communication techniques, including the ACAAI e-news feature. He promoted several international educational programs and championed World Allergy Association programs. Dr Lanier was the creator of the “Gold Headed Cane” award, which recognizes an allergist who symbolizes the pursuit of the highest standards of scientific excellence and integrity and who is a role model for younger physicians.



Figure 12. William E. Berger, MD

During the presidency of William E. Berger, MD (2002–2003) (Fig 12), the ACAAI responded to over-the-counter switches of prescribed medications by education of professional and lay groups through media programs. Also accomplished during this year was the publication of the Immunotherapy Practice Parameters and the second edition of *Asthma Management and the Role of the Allergist*, which clearly documented that patients under the care of an allergist had fewer hospitalizations, fewer sick care office visits, decreased

absenteeism from work or school, and an improved quality of life. The ACAAI Board of Regents held their first joint board meeting with the AAAAI Board of Directors in Chicago, Illinois.



Figure 13. Michael S. Blaiss, MD

During the presidency of Michael S. Blaiss, MD (2003–2004) (Fig 13), continued growth of the College occurred. The highlights of this year included hosting the interim board meetings in Washington, DC, to allow for legislative advocacy meetings with the US Congress for continued support of programs that benefited patients with allergies and asthma. Another major initiative during this year conceived by Dr Blaiss was the ACORN Project, which funded up to 5 allergy fellows per year to cover stipends

for training. This successful endeavor led to the training of many board-certified allergists practicing throughout the United States without which many allergy training programs would have lost training positions or possibly their entire programs.

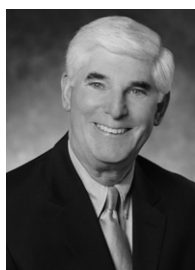


Figure 14. Myron J. Zitt, MD

The 63rd Annual Meeting of the College, which was held in Anaheim, California, in 2005, under the presidency of Myron J. Zitt, MD (2004–2005) (Fig 14), had as its programmatic theme *Vade Mecum!*—a reference to the College motto, “Follow the Leader Into the Future!” This was an appropriate theme during this time and emphasized the role of the allergist as the best trained specialist for the management and treatment of patients with allergic diseases, which gave rise to Dr Zitt’s mantra

of “Nobody does it better.” Recognizing the importance of preserving and developing the specialty of allergy not only at home but throughout the world, he championed promoting international educational activities and building diplomatic relationships throughout the world and working with lay allergy organizations.



Figure 15. William K. Dolen, MD

During the presidency of William K. Dolen, MD (2005–2006) (Fig 15), promotion of graduate medical education became a priority focus, and a major legislative effort was directed to making the Congress aware of the impending crisis in funding. The ACORN Project continued awarding 5 new first-year 2006–2008 fellowship stipends, bringing the total to \$750,000. The College continued its support of international, regional, state, and local allergy society meetings, conducted a successful long-range planning process, and had a successful joint meeting with the AAAAI.



Figure 16. Daniel Ein, MD

During the presidency of Daniel Ein, MD (2006–2007) (Fig 16), the College initiated the marketing program based on recommendations of a task force committee chaired by Dr Richard Gower that raised the visibility of ACAAI as a major leadership organization, and “Hot Topics in Allergy” was initiated on XM Radio. The College continued its legislative advocacy initiative for increased funding for allergy-immunology training programs and its CME program was recertified with commendation.



Figure 17. Jay M. Portnoy, MD

Under the leadership of Jay M. Portnoy, MD (2007–2008) (Fig 17), the Board of Regents voted to continue the ACORN Project, funding 5 additional fellowship stipends for \$50,000 per year for 2009–2011. An innovative Conferences On-Line Allergy program developed by Dr Portnoy was initiated and has become a first for the College in teleconference education programs. The public awareness campaign “Find an Allergist, Find Relief” was unveiled during the meeting and has continued since 2009. The College

continued its support for the World Allergy Organization and its Emerging Societies Program.



Figure 18. Richard G. Gower, MD

During the presidency of Richard G. Gower, MD (2008–2009) (Fig 18), a new position of executive medical director of the ACAAI was created. Dr Bob Q. Lanier was selected for this important role and assumed his duties on September 1, 2009. The Board of Regents updated the ACAAI strategic plan and adopted 4 main goals and numerous objectives for each area of focus. The “Find an Allergist, Find Relief” campaign was fully launched, with more than 1,100 members joining the “relief team” to help educate the public about allergic diseases and the important role played by specialty trained allergists.



Figure 19. Sami L. Bahna, MD, DrPH

The presidential year of Sami L. Bahna, MD, DrPH (2009–2010) (Fig 19), witnessed the continuation of the ACAAI as a prominent national and international organization dedicated to education, collaboration, and advocacy. The College increased its membership by 5,708, representing 89 countries, increased its collaboration with the AAAAI in addressing practice issues and preparation of joint statements, and continued its support of the EAAACI.

During this presidential year, the ACAAI partnered with National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in developing the *Guidelines on Food Allergy Diagnosis and Management* publication.



Figure 20. Dana V. Wallace, MD

Operational excellence and a balanced budget were the defining measures of the presidential term of Dana V. Wallace, MD (2010–2011) (Fig 20). Under her leadership, the College focused on 3 priorities: the annual meeting, the *Annals*, and CME. During this presidential year, the leadership developed and implemented evaluation instruments and a policy and procedure book for the Board of Regents, the executive medical director, and the executive director, which provided a blueprint and guideline for all ACAAI

operations, including organizational structure, informational services, professional standards, strategic planning, and finances. Another major achievement of this presidential year was the creation of a new and ever-improving ACAAI.org website, representing a key member's go-to place for all allergy-related information and communication.



Figure 21. Stanley M. Fineman, MD

During the presidential year of Stanley M. Fineman, MD (2011–2012) (Fig 21), the College celebrated its 70-year anniversary. The College continued its promotion of the needs of the practicing allergist, maintaining excellence in CME, the changing marketplace, and ultimately the patients whom we serve. The College has also helped provide our members with the tools to manage the changes in health care delivery, both understanding the

new developments in allergy and adapting to changes in practice regulatory requirements and in the marketplace. A new section on the ACAAI website was introduced during this presidential year, which provides a resource for the new federal health regulations. Since its founding, the College has increased to nearly 6,000 members. Through the dedication of its leaders and members, it continues to excel in innovation and excellence.

Other Highlights of the College in the Last 20 Years

During the 1992–2012 period, the *Annals of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology* has continued to be the premier vehicle of communication of clinical and research contributions under the leadership of Dr Sly, Dr O'Connell, and, at present, Dr Gailen Marshall.

Since its inception in 1954, the Alliance of the ACAAI continues to support and augment the activities of the College and its mission of education and research by encouraging the growth of the specialty of allergy and clinical immunology. The Alliance continues to provide Clemens von Pirquet Awards and travel grants to FITs for their outstanding abstracts in the field of allergy, asthma, and immunology and offers ACAAI KIDS programs, hospitality, and its well-attended international reception at the ACAAI annual meetings.

The College also continues its support and affiliation with several lay organizations, including the Allergy and Asthma Foundation and the Allergy & Asthma Network Mothers of Asthmatics and the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network.

The administration, under the direction of Mr Rick Slawny and staff, has continued to provided excellence in the management of College programs.

Conclusion

The legacy of accomplishments of the ACAAI from its past, present, and future directions can be best highlighted by the following themes of 3 previous ACAAI meetings:

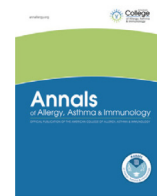
Quo Vadis? (Where Are We Going?)

Carpe Diem! (Seize the Day!)

Vade Mecum! (Follow the Leader Into the Future!)

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Special Perspective

The American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology: An 80-year legacy of accomplishments (1942–2022), part 3: Events and achievements (2012–2022)



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Introduction

In 2022, the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) celebrated the 80th anniversary of its founding in 1942. The history of the first 50 years of the College was written by Dr Bellanti in his presidential address (1991–1992) and published in the *Annals*,¹ documenting events that occurred during the first 5 decades of our organization from 1942 to 1992. The next 20-year follow-up of College events and achievements was published in the *Annals*,² documenting events and achievements that occurred during the period from 1992 to 2012. This publication continues our ACAAI history in the making and together with the previous 2 publications, collectively reflects 8 decades of College events and achievements as we celebrate the 80th anniversary of its founding in 2022.

The First 50-year History of the College (1942–1992)

The American College of Allergists was officially incorporated as a legal entity on November 23, 1942, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The events that led to its establishment have a poetic and poignant

history and are described in detail in a previous publication of the history of the College.¹

The Ending of the First 50-year History of the College (1942–1992)

The first 50-year history of the College (1942–1992) ended with the 49th annual meeting of the College, which was held in New York City in 1991, under the presidency of Edward J. O'Connell, MD (1990–1991). The programmatic theme of the meeting, *Quo Vadis?* (*Where Are We Going?*), was ironically appropriate because the College had reached a defining moment in its history. The leadership was confronted with a watershed crisis of deciding a possible merger with the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology as a single professional organization. With the unanimous support of the membership, however, the College opted against a merger, thus ensuring the vitality of the organization to perform its mission as a single entity and to fulfill the mandate of its founders. A more detailed description of the first 50-year history of the College (1942–1992) can be found in study by Bellanti.¹

The History of the College (1992–2012): The Next 20 Years

Dr Bellanti completed his Presidency in the 50th year of the College during the annual scientific meeting in Chicago in 1992, whose programmatic meeting theme was *Carpe Diem!* (*Seize the Day!*). The

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chapter for the next 50 years was launched during the Presidency of the late Dr John “Jack” Selner (1992–1993). The continued growth of the College occurred under the guiding leadership of the next 20 College presidents, who are shown in Table 1, together with the years of their presidency, meeting sites, and programmatic themes of their meeting programs. During this period, there were continued membership recruitment and growth, with an emphasis on younger members and support of fellows-in-training (FITs) and younger allergists entering practice. In addition, this period saw the development of a strong research and educational fund under the aegis of the Foundation, which was newly established and which continued the support of many innovative College programs. A more detailed description of this subsequent 20-year history of the College (1992–2012) can be found in study by Bellanti.²

Specific Goals Set Forth by our Founders

Thus, the purpose, motivation, and genesis for the formation of the College derived from a group of dedicated visionaries who believed that there was a need for a liberal, democratic organization that was ecumenical in its composition and receptive to its charge to build and develop an organization that could meet the needs of the practicing allergist and ultimately the patients whom we served, a charge that has been maintained with fidelity to the present day!

To attain these goals, a set of key specific objectives was also delineated in subsequent years that included:

- The establishment of a Foundation of the College through funds donated by benevolent patrons or grateful victims of the disease who are desirous of furthering our knowledge and scope of allergy;
- The promotion of international educational relationships with other countries through the establishment of chapters;
- The creation of a mechanism for certification of allergists by the College.

The Attainment of Goals of the Founders of the College . . . a Dream Fulfilled!

Over the years, all the goals of the founders of the College have been fulfilled. Of these, 3 accomplishments stand out and warrant special recognition:

- The creation of a mechanism for certification of allergists by the College.

In 1972, the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (ABAI), a Conjoint Board of the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Pediatrics, was formed, and the first certifying examination was given in March of 1974. After a contentious 30-year struggle, the College leadership prevailed in having its membership eligible for certification by this newly formed Board and continues to play a vital role with the ABAI in establishing qualifications and in examining physicians to become recognized specialists in allergy and immunology.

- The establishment of a Foundation of the College.

The establishment of a foundation of the College was finally accomplished in 1999, when Dr Don Q. Mitchell was president. The first members of the foundation's board of directors included Dale B. Sparks, MD (foundation president), Jean Chapman, MD, Robert Miles, MD, Linda Ford, MD, Rufus E. Lee, MD, and Don Q. Mitchell, MD, and this board has become 1 of the key elements for support of the research and educational programs of the College. Recently, the name of the foundation has been changed to The Allergists Foundation of the ACAAI and is currently focusing its programming on empowering community practicing allergists on the front lines of patient care by funding innovative projects with grant support that address barriers to asthma and allergy care, particularly in underserved populations.

- The role of the College in promotion of international educational relationships with other countries through the establishment of chapters.

This accomplishment fulfilled the dream of Fred Wittich, who was one of the pioneers in identifying the importance of international educational collaboration. In 1951, the leaders in allergy from all over the world came together to form the International Association of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, and Dr. Wittich was installed as the first president of the organization at its first meeting in Zurich, Switzerland.⁴ For the next 60 years, the allergy world converged at meetings of the International Association of Allergology and Clinical Immunology, which in later years became the World Allergy Organization.

- The gradual changes to the College's name.

Table 1

Presidents, Years of Term, Meeting Sites, and Programmatic Themes of Annual Meetings of the College (1992–2012) [Reproduced with permission from Bellanti²]

President	Year of presidency	Meeting site	Programmatic theme of Annual Meeting
Joseph A. Bellanti, MD	1991–1992	Chicago, Illinois	Carpe Diem!
John C. Selner, MD ^a	1992–1993	Atlanta, Georgia	Health Care Reform!
Robert T. Scanlon, MD ^a	1993–1994	San Francisco, California	Prescription for Change!
Diane E. Schuller, MD ^a	1994–1995	Dallas, Texas	Expanding Horizons!
Ira Finegold, MD	1995–1996	Boston, Massachusetts	Meet the Challenge!
Betty B. Wray, MD	1996–1997	San Diego, California	Pathways to the Future!
Jean A. Chapman, MD ^a	1997–1998	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Gateway to the 21st Century!
Robert M. Miles, MD	1998–1999	Chicago, Illinois	Follow the Leader Into the New Millennium!
Don Q. Mitchell, MD ^a	1999–2000	Seattle, Washington	Distilling the Past & Envisioning the Future!
Emil J. Bardana, MD	2000–2001	Orlando, Florida	Scientific News You Can Use!
Bob Q. Lanier, MD	2001–2002	San Antonio, Texas	First the Patient!
William E. Berger, MD	2002–2003	New Orleans, Louisiana	Defining the Allergist/Immunologist: The Multidisciplinary Approach to Care!
Michael S. Blaiss, MD	2003–2004	Boston, Massachusetts	Lighting Our Path to the Future!
Myron J. Zitt, MD	2004–2005	Anaheim, California	Vade Mecum!
William K. Dolen, MD	2005–2006	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	We Have Only Just Begun!
Daniel Ein, MD	2006–2007	Dallas, Texas	Across the Quality Chasm!
Jay M. Portnoy, MD	2007–2008	Seattle, Washington	Embracing the Challenges of Change!
Richard G. Gower, MD	2008–2009	Miami Beach, Florida	Expanding the Spectrum!
Sami L. Bahna, MD, DrPH	2009–2010	Phoenix, Arizona	eACAAI: Excellence in Clinical Education, Communication and Patient Care!
Dana V. Wallace, MD	2010–2011	Boston, Massachusetts	Proud of Our Past -Preparing for Our Future!
Stanley M. Fineman, MD	2011–2012	Anaheim, California	Over the Horizon: Expanding Expertise!

^adeceased.

Table 2

Presidents, Years of Term, Meeting Sites, and Programmatic Themes of Annual Meetings of the College (2012–2022).

President	Year of presidency	Meeting site	Programmatic theme of Annual Meeting
Richard W. Weber, MD	2012–2013	Baltimore, MD	New Frontiers in Allergy and Immunology: From Bench to Clinic
Michael B. Foggs, MD	2013–2014	Atlanta, GA	Faces and Facets of Allergy & Immunology
James L. Sublett, MD	2014–2015	San Antonio, TX	Practice Excellence – Education, Patient Care, Leadership
Bryan L. Martin, DO	2015–2016	San Francisco, CA	New Times, New Treatments, New Standards
Stephen A. Tilles, MD	2016–2017	Boston, MA	Precision Medicine in Allergy Practice
Bradley E. Chipps, MD	2017–2018	Seattle, WA	Practice Empowerment – Patients, Community, Partners
Todd Mahr, MD	2018–2019	Houston, TX	Advocating for Patients, Practices and Research
J. Allen Meadows, MD	2019–2020	Virtual meeting, was slated for Phoenix, AZ	The Changing Practice Landscape – Rising to the Challenge
Luz Fonacier, MD	2020–2021	New Orleans, LA	Promoting Innovation & Diversity
Mark Corbett, MD	2021–2022	Louisville, KY	Advancing Allergy & Immunology Care

In 1942, the founders named the organization the American College of Allergists, which was then changed to the American College of Allergy and Immunology in 1987 and subsequently to the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) in 1993, as it now exists.

The History of the College (2012–2022): The Last 10 Years

Table 2 shows a list of presidents who served the College over the previous 10 years, together with the years of term, meeting sites, and programmatic annual meeting themes. Figure 1 provides a

Richard W. Weber, MD 2012–2013



Prior to his presidency, Richard Weber, MD, (2012–2013) was well known to College members as the author of the “Allergen of the Month” column in each issue of the Annals, an artistically illustrated monthly piece with an equally superb description of the allergenic product. During his tenure as president, he proposed expanding the role of the allergist in providing optimal care for a wider array of allergic diseases with expansion to immunologic disorders. Recognizing early in his career that a diagnosis of allergic disease brings with it a psychological, social, and economic burden on patients, their households, teachers, schools, and workplaces, he contended with the introduction of the Affordable Care Act during his presidency, which threatened to diminish the role of the allergy specialist in delivering optimal care to individuals with allergic disease. Through his efforts and those of others, this policy was rescinded. During his tenure he highlighted the detriment of the use of compounded medications to unnecessary deaths. Stimulated by his efforts, the College dedicated a major effort in initiating better FDA regulation and control of compounding products while protecting the allergist to provide safe and effective allergy extracts for immunotherapy.

Michael B. Foggs, MD 2013–2014



During the presidency of Michael B. Foggs, MD, the first African-American president who served the College with distinction from 2013–2014, he focused on expanding the horizons of allergy-immunology beyond the confines of the IgE-mediated atopic diseases to address those immunological disorders in which the allergist-immunologists both in private practice and in academia are uniquely trained to manage including the immunodeficiencies, the autoimmune diseases, and the infectious diseases. This was highlighted during the annual meeting of his presidency where presentations that were highly successful were conducted by specialists in endocrinology, rheumatology, gastroenterology and dermatology who addressed the applications of immunology to diseases within their specialties. Several challenges faced the College during his tenure including the abrupt dissolution of the JCAAI, the revamping of the College organizational infrastructure under the 2020 Vision paradigm and addressing the multiple lawsuits against the College regarding the encroachment on the specialty of allergy and immunology. Through the diligent efforts and diplomacy of the College leadership and staff, these challenges, often involving altercations with groups both within and outside of the College, were successfully resolved. Dr. Foggs so personally states, ‘Serving as College president was one of the highlights of my professional career and a privilege to have done so’. As he has so often stated, “THE COLLEGE IS A SPECIAL PLACE!”

Figure 1. Contributions of each of the presidents who served the College during the period (2012–2022), including a summary of the events and accomplishments during their term of leadership.

**James L. Sublett, MD
2014-2015**

As College president, James L. Sublett, MD, (2014-2015) oversaw the launch of Vision 20/20, the five-year transformational strategic plan designed to mold the ACAAI into a member-driven organization benefiting the

practicing allergist and the patients whom we serve. His term ushered in successes specifically targeting three of the guiding principles of Vision 20/20: effective leadership and membership, advocacy and education. The College bylaws were revised and ratified by electronic voting – a first, and a new Governance Manual was written which better defined a new structure of Councils made up of committees that fit in each Council’s mission. Establishing term limits for members, vice-chairs, and chairs serving on these committees opened the door to increased diversity and inclusion of membership participation and expanded growth opportunities for new leaders. For over thirty-five years, the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (JCAAI) had served the advocacy needs of the practicing allergists. When the AAAAI ended their shared support, the JCAAI was brought into the College and rebranded as the Advocacy Council of the ACAAI; still providing the same essential work with the same experienced leadership team. Another first for the College was the launching of the Learning Connection initiative, that offered a wide range of educational opportunities, featuring courses for CME, Board Review, MOC, practice management, including virtual sessions for the 2015 annual meeting.

**Bryan L. Martin, DO
2015-2016**

During the presidential year of Bryan L. Martin, DO, (2015-2016) a major challenge was mandated to restructure the College to better meet the needs of the practicing allergist which had been laid out in the document “Vision 2020” in 2014-2015. This effort would require

review and revamping of all areas of College activity to ensure that the programs remained relevant to the needs of the practicing allergist. By 2015, it was clear that the world of the allergist was changing and that one of the key considerations for an effective response was to modify the College into a more representative, transparent organization open to new talent. The College leadership decided that the time had come where we needed to take a more data-driven overarching and strategic approach to delivering real value to the membership and to make membership relevant. Several changes were introduced including a new College logo, and a complete revamp of patient and membership websites. More importantly, many of the recommendations of Vision 2020 focusing on College structure and leadership were implemented with an emphasis on increasing new opportunities for increased participation of members in College activities. A new Governance Manual was written to administer the operations of Councils and Committees, and a new Appointments Committee was created, that allowed for all ACAAI members to apply for committee positions and for appointing Committee Chairs. At the end of the 2016 annual meeting, the College was well on its way to creating a more proactive, equitable institutional structure to meet the emerging challenges facing the College in the all-important years ahead. Dr. Martin is currently serving as president of the WAO.

Figure 1 Continued.

description of the contributions of each president who served the College during the period (2012-2022), including a brief summary of the events and accomplishments during their term of leadership.

Accomplishments of the College Over the Last 10 years (2012-2022)

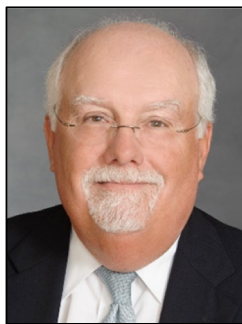
There have been notable achievements of the College in its historical trajectory, many occurring during the last decade, associated with the expanding scope of the field of allergy and reflected by the College’s gradual name changes. These have included the College’s seminal role in the creation of the Joint

Council of Asthma, Allergy, and Immunology, and its continuing role in specialty advocacy with the creation of the Advocacy Council, one of the premier ways we best serve our membership. During our history, the House of Delegates was created and later aligned—through changes in bylaws—with the Advocacy Council, and most recently, a grass-roots campaign was created to align national advocacy issues with those at the state and regional levels. The involvement of past and current College leaders serving on the ABAI Board of Directors has contributed to the collaborative reshaping of the ABAI, and the ABAI Maintenance of Certification (MOC) process has additionally occurred in the past 10 years. The challenges and resolution of the USP 797 compounding issue best illustrate how the College led the

Stephen A. Tilles, MD
2016-2017


The presidential year of Stephen Tilles, MD, (2016-2017) started with a clear mission: to continue advancing the VISION 2020 strategic plan and to tackle the proposed changes to USP 797. Under the proposed standards, to continue in-office

compounding for individual prescription sets for patients, allergy practices would require compounding activities to be conducted in either a (1) ISO Class 5 Primary Engineering Control chamber (PEC), or (2) in a dedicated Allergenic Extracts Compounding Area (AECA). Responding to this challenge, Dr Tilles took the initiative and formed a task force that successfully worked out a plan to resolve this potential problem. However, the most difficult challenge during the tenure of Dr Tilles arose from an unanticipated interruption of the transition of leadership of the Annals. Dr. Tilles recognized this as a “make or break” moment for the College’s hopes of taking the Annals to new heights. After countless hours of strategizing and lobbying, Dr. Tilles and colleagues managed to retain Dr. Gailen Marshall for yet another term as Editor-in-Chief, hire Donald Leung as Executive Editor, fund additional Associate Editor and Deputy Editor positions, and bolster the Publications Committee’s role in overseeing the journal. As a result of these strategic accomplishments, the impact factor of the Annals has skyrocketed and publishes cutting-edge original manuscripts.

Bradley E. Chipps, MD
2017-2018


During the leadership of Bradley E. Chipps, MD, (2017-2018) the compounding of allergy extracts, USP 797, continued to surface as a major issue for the College which required a rapid well-thought-out response to provide protection for the allergists' current practices.

Responding to this challenge, Dr Chipps continued contesting the restrictive potential of this proposal. Another practice gap arose, involving the need for practical guidelines to assist the allergist with day-to-day clinical management decisions not currently provided by current guidelines. Recognizing the lag between the speed of science and need for clinical guidelines, he was instrumental in putting into operation the “Yardstick” concept. It emerged to provide practical, concise, evidence-based documents to assist with every day clinical decision-making. The final product of this vision – The Asthma Yardstick – was published in the Annals in February (Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2017 Feb;118(2):133-142.e3). Led by Bradley Chipps, MD, FAAAAI, the authors of this document specifically addressed important areas that were not included in other guidelines. Other Practice Yardsticks were developed with atopic dermatitis and three with asthma which were published in the Annals. In addition, two innovative programs of shared decision making and oral corticosteroid stewardship were developed and introduced during the stewardship of Dr Chipps.

Figure 1 Continued.

way during difficult times and could be held up as a specific example of leadership.

With general shifts in demographics over the past 10 years, there has been a major effort by the College to engage fellows and new members with programs that include FIT representation on the College Board of Regents as voting members, formation of a vibrant New Allergist Committee, and changes to bylaws creating a new committee structure and selection processes that allow for increased inclusiveness and participation in College programs. Moreover, there have been positive development opportunities for future College leaders (ie, the Leadership Summit), which also represent a positive change in the past 10 years. A new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force is currently assessing ways to bring diverse voices into

College membership and leadership, and also increasing health diversity, equity, and inclusiveness for our patients. These changes dovetail with the Allergists' Foundation Community Grants Program.

Other Highlights of the College in the Last 10 Years

A major educational objective of the founding of the American College of Allergy in 1942 was the establishment and circulation of a journal, which was originally named the *Annals of Allergy*. The *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology* has continued to be the premier vehicle of communication of clinical and research and educational contributions for the College under the capable

**Todd A. Mahr, MD
2018-2019**

Under the leadership of President Todd A. Mahr, MD, (2018-2019) the College focused on addressing the important concept of member value, the benefit that College members receive from belonging to our organization. Dr. Mahr recognized early and with

great prescience that if member value was not addressed it would have long term effects on recruitment, retention, growth, participation and engagement of our members. A compelling value proposition of an annual meeting redesign was introduced during his president-elect year with a change to 90 minutes blocks coupled with an expansion of different formats and sessions. This also included a FIT track and the International Food Allergy Symposium. Highlights also included at the annual meeting included the promotion of an all-inclusive President's Reception, an upgraded FIT Bowl, and a Distinguished Industry Oral Abstract session. Dr. Mahr was also instrumental in initiating strategic planning for a new format for the Foundation and in making the College Learning Connection a major member benefit. The AllergyTalk podcast and DocMatter.com, the online member community, initiated by Dr. Mahr, were immediately popular and valued by College members.

**J. Allen Meadows, MD
2019-2020**

Under the leadership of President J. Allen Meadows, MD, (2019-2020), the College continued its efforts to promote a voice in medical socio-economics for the practicing allergist which has enabled patients to receive the highest quality allergy care. The effort, originally conceived more

than four decades ago as the Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology (JCAAI), became the Advocacy Council in 2015 and continues to be the voice that provides the stimulus for optimal patient healthcare services. In addition to his work on the Advocacy Council Dr. Meadows has served on the Budget and Finance Committee, and the Allergists' Foundation of the ACAAI where he continues to provide his expertise to the service of the College. He continued the defense of our ability to mix allergy extracts with USP, including successfully raising contributions through the DASH program. When the COVID crisis threatened our very existence, the College responded immediately. In 2019, Meadows' administration became the first to be affected by the COVID epidemic. His adaptations led to the first virtual annual meeting, a remarkable achievement in emergency times that he modestly credits to the College leadership and a huge team of dedicated staff.

Figure 1 Continued.

leadership of several editors,¹ who historically have included Dr French Hansel (1942-1956), Dr Fred Wittich (Managing Editor) (1942-1956), Dr Ethan Allen Brown (1956-1965), Dr M. Coleman Harris (1965-1982), Dr Bellanti (1982-1990), R. Michael Sly (1990-1998), Edward J. O'Connell (1998-2006), and Dr Marshall (2006-2021). In one of his prescient editorials, Dr Wittich penned the future of the College in the article Why a college [editorial]? *Ann Allergy*. 1943;1:62e63.³ During the 2012-2022 period, the *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology* has continued to be the premier vehicle of communication of clinical and research and educational contributions for the College under the outstanding leadership of Dr Marshall. In January 2022, Mitchell H. Grayson, MD became Editor-in-Chief and will continue to serve in upholding the commitment of the journal to the practicing allergists and the patients whom we serve.⁵

Established as the American College of Allergy Auxiliary in 1954, and now referred to as the Alliance of the ACAAI, the organization continues to support and augment the activities of the College and its mission of education and research by encouraging the growth of the specialty of allergy and clinical immunology. The Alliance continues to provide Clemens von Pirquet Awards and travel grants to FITs for their outstanding abstracts in the field of allergy, asthma, and immunology and offers ACAAI KIDS

programs, hospitality, and its well-attended international reception at the ACAAI annual meetings.

The College also continues its support and affiliation with several lay organizations, including the Allergy and Asthma Foundation, the Allergy & Asthma Network, and the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network.

The administration, under the able direction of Mr. Rick Slawny and staff, has continued to provide excellence in the management of College programs. A special thanks is due to Rick and all the staff for their outstanding contributions to the College.

Conclusion

The legacy of accomplishments of the ACAAI over the past 80 years is a remarkable history of the contributions of many. The Archives Committee wishes to congratulate the College on the occasion of its 80th anniversary.

Acknowledgments

The Committee Chair wishes to acknowledge the diligence, perseverance, and contributions of committee members and reviewers,



<p>Luz Fonacier, MD 2020-2021</p>  <p>President Luz Fonacier was the first Asian-American, the fourth female president of the ACAAI (2020-2021) and the first to serve concurrently as president of the ACAAI and the Chair of the ABAI (2021). During her tenure, she became the driving force in expanding and integrating the fields of allergy and dermatology. True to her programmatic theme of innovation, diversity and expansion, during her presidency, she developed a Diversity Task force directed at racial and economic disparities, addressing “Atopic Dermatitis in Skin of Color”, and offering grants to students of historically black colleges to consider careers in allergy-immunology. The College formed a COVID Task Force and online COVID-19 Resource Center which provided important and timely information regarding the pandemic and emerging COVID-19 vaccines to the membership and the patients whom we serve.</p>	<p>Dr. Mark Corbett 2021-2022</p>  <p>Under the leadership of President Mark Corbett, MD, (2021-2022) the College has embarked upon a new initiative focusing on promoting the allergist-immunologist as the principal caregiver for allergic diseases and asthma. A major part of the initiative was directed at communicating the importance of allergy-immunology fellowship training in rigorously structured ABAI-approved fellowship training programs. The rationale for the project was stimulated by the need to stress the value of the fellowship-trained allergist in providing optimal patient care. A major effort of the initiative was devoted to the creation and production of a high-quality video which could communicate this message to the primary care community and ultimately to the patient whom we serve.</p>
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Figure 1 Continued.

and a special thank you to Cathy Hodson, the ACAAI staff liaison to the Archives Committee, for her indefatigable efforts devoted to the preparation of this report.

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