ACAAI.ORG VOLUME 8, NUMBER 4 ◆ FALL 2022



# It's "Time for an Allergist"

The College's digital campaign reaches primary care physicians to encourage referrals

#### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Honored to serve members
Stay updated with Advocacy
Council

"Time for an Allergist" campaign encourages referrals ACAAI, AAN effort recognized

5

Make your "To Do" List	6
Annual Meeting Livestream	7
Honoring outstanding achievers	8
AIM Self-Assessment Vol. Two	9
MGMA compensation and	
productivity data	11

)	FIT Advantage	13
,	Meet your candidates	14
}	Award recipients	16
)	Gold Headed Cane Award	17
	Alliance activities	18

Paying it forward



## Honored to serve our members

As president, I've had the privilege of launching our biggest outreach campaign in a decade and working with the best and brightest.

As my presidential year will soon come to a close at the Annual Scientific Meeting, I am honored to have served in this role, and I'm gratified to look back on what the College has accomplished so far in 2022.

Membership continues to grow. This year we surveyed our members to find out how the College is meeting their needs. It's valuable to hear what members value most about the College: Staying up to date with the latest developments for the specialty; interacting with colleagues and peers; benefiting from advocacy efforts related to the specialty; having access to free MOC, CME and clinical and practice management resources; and contributing our knowledge and voice to advance the specialty.

This summer, we achieved a goal that I've been working toward since 2021. In response to member concerns, we launched our biggest outreach campaign in more than



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

10 years. Our goal is to tell primary care physicians about the unique qualifications of board-certified and fellowshiptrained allergists and what sets us apart from other providers of allergy services.

The "Time for an Allergist" campaign has already garnered tens of thousands of impressions from our target audience of PCPs as well as the public, and I hope that many of you – our

members – have engaged with this effort on the local level. This digital advertising campaign will run until February. Check out the campaign at TimeForAnAllergist.com and look for our member toolkit to help you market your practice. The toolkit is found on the College homepage and on the Practice Management Center page of college.acaai.org



In line with the continued strategic priorities that came out of Vision Forward, this year we expanded our practice management and educational resources. Just a few highlights: Our Telehealth and Coding toolkits were revamped; our Risk & Compliance toolkit was updated to reflect new regulations, including the No Surprises Act and Information Blocking Rule. Our Biologics toolkit has been updated as new treatments have become available; our new Chronic Rhinosinusitis yardstick was published, and a new FIT Toolkit was developed with a bundle of practice management resources for new allergists starting their careers.

In addition to another stellar Annual Scientific Meeting around the corner, this year we added to our popular MicroCME bite-sized learning product with topics including sleep, urticaria, pediatric food allergy and more.

In 2022 we (fortunately) saw less need to provide new and original resources related to COVID-19; however, we made substantive and frequent updates to our COVID-19 guidance on vaccines and our COVID-19 Resource Center.

Continued on page 3

#### Connect with us at acaai.org or through:













College Advantage is published by the American College of Allergy,
Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI)
85 W. Algonomia Boad Suite 550

85 W. Algonquin Road, Suite 550 Arlington Heights, IL, 60005 Phone: 847.427.1200 info@acaai.org

#### **Board of Regents**

President: Mark L. Corbett, MD, FACAAI
President-elect: Kathleen R. May, MD, FACAAI
Vice President: Gailen D. Marshall Jr., MD, PhD, FACAAI
Treasurer: James M. Tracy, DO, FACAAI
Immediate Past President: Luz S. Fonacier, MD, FACAAI
Past Immediate Past President: J. Allen Meadows, MD, FACAAI
Regents: Marcella R. Aquino, MD, FACAAI; Theresa A. Bingemann,
MD, FACAAI; Jeffrey G. Demain, MD, FACAAI; Joseph P. Forester, DO,
FACAAI; Kevin R. Murphy, MD, FACAAI; Maureen M. Petersen, MD,
FACAAI; John R. Seyerle, MD, FACAAI; David R. Stukus, MD, FACAAI;
and J. Wesley Sublett, MD, MPH, FACAAI.

Advocacy Council chair: Warner Carr, MD, FACAAI
Fellow-in-Training Representatives: Christopher Foster, MD and
Brent Griffin, MD, MPH

Executive Medical Director: Michael S. Blaiss, MD, FACAAI Editor-in-Chief, Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology: Mitchell H. Grayson, MD, FACAAI

Alliance Co-presidents: Charlotte Meadows and Lelia Sublett Executive Director: Richard J. Slawny

# Advocacy Council helps you stay updated

#### Plan to attend Annual Meeting sessions on billing/coding and government relations.

The Advocacy Council of ACAAI has programs to address your billing and coding questions during the College's 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting.

Stay current with coding changes! Plan to attend the **"2022 Allergy Coding Update"** on Friday, Nov. 11. Gary N. Gross, MD, FACAAI will provide updates to effectively manage your revenue cycle.

Later that day at the House of Delegates Town Hall Meeting, James Tracy, DO, FACAAI will present "An Alternative Payment Model for Patient-Centered Asthma Care." Gary Gross, MD, FACAAI will present the "Cost Effectiveness of Venom and Allergen Immunotherapy," and Matt Reiter, our Washington consultant, will provide an update on legislation related to the cost effectiveness of allergy treatment.

Plan to attend "Coding and Government Relations" on Sunday, Nov. 13. Advocacy Council leaders and ACAAI consultants will present an update on coding that's relative to your allergy practice. Washington consultant Matt Reiter will discuss the importance of physician advocates and provide an update on government/legislative issues relating to allergy.

Advocacy Council leaders look forward to seeing you in Louisville. While you're at the meeting, don't forget to stop by the College booth in the Exhibit Hall – booth 901. See how the College and the Advocacy Council are working for you!



#### Honored to serve our members... (Continued from page 2)

We continued our popular COVID-19 News Brief. As long as there is a need, we will stay on top of this and other public health priority issues as they affect allergists/immunologists and our patients.

One of my priorities for this year was to continue the emphasis on racial disparities and health equity that my predecessor, Dr. Fonacier, set into motion. In February, the College hosted an important Roundtable on Racial Disparities in AD and Food Allergy, with a variety of interested organizations attending and contributing. Their discussion and recommendations will be published soon. The College created and translated more patient education materials than ever into Spanish, which we are committed to doing into the future. We also are looking at how best to provide patient materials that speak to people of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and we continue our programs meant to encourage more people of color to join the medical profession and the allergy profession. In addition, the Allergists' Foundation is supporting several community grants in this area. I encourage you to learn about the work of the foundation and to support it if you can. Read more about it on page 19.

Our Advocacy Council continued to build on its work with our Asthma Alternative Payment Model, and to monitor regulations and advise changes that will promote allergists and the allergy specialty while reducing administrative burdens. We were fortunate to be able to carry out our Strike Force meetings on Capitol Hill in May, with a focus on preventing payment reductions to health care providers, permanently extending Medicare telehealth coverage policies, and eliminating administrative burdens.

There is much more that has been accomplished so far this year, and I have no doubt that even more will be accomplished before we ring in 2023. None of this work would happen without the tireless efforts of our volunteers, who give of their time and expertise on task forces, committees, the Board of Regents, editorial boards and other leadership roles. I hope that each and every member of the College has found ways to engage with YOUR professional organization, and to contribute to the work of advancing our profession in 2022.

# College's new "Time for an Allergist" digital campaign encourages referrals from PCPs

The College has been working tirelessly on behalf of our members to help boost referrals from primary care providers (PCPs). This summer, we launched an entire creative campaign to tell PCPs and the public about the unique qualifications of board-certified and fellowshiptrained allergists, and what sets us apart from other providers of allergy services.

The centerpieces of this campaign are the engaging ads that PCPs and the public will see on popular medical websites and e-publications, on social media and as they're browsing or searching the web. From now until February, these ads will take viewers to a wealth of information on our appealing, user-friendly campaign microsite "TimeForAnAllergist.com," complete with a call to action to "Find an Allergist."

We've even partnered with a celebrity! John C. McGinley played a blustering but eminently knowledgeable doctor on the Emmy award-winning comedy series Scrubs. He played Dr. Cox with a level of humor and intelligence that we knew would fit this campaign perfectly. The campaign videos he stars in are not just funny, educational and relatable, but credible. Find them on the College's You Tube channel at youtube.com/user/allergists.

The microsite and videos will live on even after the ad campaign as enduring assets for the College and our members.

As part of the campaign, we've also provided a toolkit of materials to help you promote your practice to PCPs and patients in your community.



The leadership of the College has heard our members' concerns. As board-certified, fellowshiptrained allergists, you know how important it is for patients to consult us if they're struggling with any of the symptoms caused by allergic conditions. You also know how important it is to identify the source of the symptoms to properly treat the patient. Patients and their PCPs may wonder if their issue is caused by mold, pets, dust, outdoor allergens, food or even exercise. But do they understand the tremendous value and improved

quality of life that board-certified and fellowship-trained allergists can deliver?" The answer is likely, "Not really."

#### What are the goals?

With this campaign, we aim to meet PCPs and patients where they are, when they are looking for information about asthma and allergies. The goal is to shine a light on the importance of seeing a board-certified, fellowship-trained allergist for unresolved symptoms from allergies, asthma, atopic dermatitis, food allergies, urticaria, recurrent infections and all the other conditions we treat. With our digital ads, we aim to get more than a million "eyes" on this message, and tens





of thousands of visits to the microsite to learn more. And we expect to see a healthy increase in the number of PCPs and patients who answer the "call to action" to find an allergist and find relief.

#### **Tools just for you**

We've also developed a toolkit for you to help build awareness in your community about the conditions you're specially trained to treat. We hope you'll use it to increase patient referrals from PCPs and expand your services to current patients as well as attract new ones who may not currently be aware of all that you treat. You can find the campaign information and the toolkit on the home page of the College website at college.acaai.org. Here's what you'll find:

- Several customizable email templates to send to current and prospective patients as well as to area health care providers.
- Two customizable postcard templates—one to send to PCPs and one to send to snifflers, sneezers and wheezers to let them know that relief could be an appointment away.
- Two web posts with space for your own content and photos in case some of your patients are itching to sing your praises.
- Why Use a Board-Certified Allergist" infographic that can be printed and posted in your office or used as an email attachment or even a social post.
- A two-sided flashcard to point out to patients all the ways you can help solve their trickiest allergy problems.

The purpose of this campaign and toolkit is to get the word out about the benefits of care provided by board-certified, fellowship-trained allergists. You know patients don't have to suffer. We know patients don't have to suffer. And now they and their PCPs will, too. Leave the heavy lifting to us with our outreach efforts, but we encourage you to download the kit and use the tool that most suits your practice—or use all of them to really pack a punch. For help using the kit, contact Gina Steiner, ACAAI Director of Communications, at ginasteiner@acaai.org.

Find the "Time for an Allergist" campaign and the toolkit at College.acaai.org.

# ACAAI and AAN effort recognized nationally

Our Eczema in Skin of Color campaign received Ragan's highest Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award.

ACAAI and Allergy & Asthma Network (AAN) won Ragan's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Award for our joint effort on the Eczema in Skin of Color campaign. The award recognizes influential communications work that has been instrumental in positively impacting communities.

The campaign centers on the Eczema in Skin of Color website at eczemainskinofcolor.org, which provides information to aid physicians and patients in recognizing eczema in people with all skin types. The web site includes an image library, videos, links to journal articles, patient resources and more to help health care providers and patients differentiate eczema in skin of color from other diseases. It includes information on eczema management and treatment. Social media posts and other promotional efforts were also a part of the campaign. The overall campaign brought in more than 15 million views and more than 12,000 clicks, with 485,000 social impressions.

The awards program is sponsored by Ragan Communications and PR Daily, and celebrates the most successful campaigns, initiatives, people and teams in the communication, PR, marketing and employee wellbeing industries.





ANNUAL MEETING ADVANTAGE

# Make your Annual Meeting "To Do" list

When it comes to the ACAAI Annual Meeting, there are so many choices! We've got ideas on how to spend your time for a well-rounded experience.

#### Top of the list

Topping your "to do" list should be downloading the Annual Meeting app. Access the schedule 24/7, find your way around the convention center, search for specific speakers and exhibitors, and more! Download the app, available Nov. 4, by searching for "ACAAI" in your app store.

#### Try something new

The meeting's plenaries provide important, new information on hot topics in allergy. Plan to attend the Presidential Plenary "Food Allergy – Where Are We in 2022?" following the Opening Ceremony on Saturday morning. Plenaries continue with "Practicing Allergy/Immunology Into the Future" on Sunday morning and "Implementing New Guidelines Into Practice" on Monday morning.

#### **Returning stars**

There's a reason some sessions return year after year! Perennial favorites provide updated information on essential allergy-related topics. Plan to attend the Thursday's International Food Allergy Symposium and Friday's Literature Review Session (separate registration required), and the Jeopardy-style session "What's That Rash, Doctor?" Also try Ask the Expert Roundtables, Clinical Conundrums, and Interdisciplinary Panel sessions.

#### **Working for you**

The College is always working to meet our members' needs. Attend the ACAAI House of Delegates (HOD) Town Hall Meeting on Friday, Nov. 11 to learn how the HOD has been addressing important advocacy issues affecting allergy practice. Add the ACAAI Annual Business Meeting to your schedule on Sunday, Nov. 13 for an update on the state of the College, award presentations and more.

#### Take a tour

The Annual Meeting wouldn't be complete without visiting the exhibit hall! Be sure to stop by the College Resource Center to explore some of your member resources, and then continue your visit with stops to the many companies ready to show you the latest allergy-related products and services. The exhibit hall is also home to ePosters for a fresh look at A/I research. And don't forget Product Theaters!

Add the sessions above to your ACAAI Annual Meeting "To Do" list, but don't stop there! Explore the meeting program at annualmeeting.acaai.org/program\_toc for more sessions and activities you'll want to attend. Don't forget social media. Tag your meeting tweets with #ACAAI22 so you can join the conversation with fellow attendees at the Annual Meeting. And follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up with the College!

# If Louisville isn't in your travel plans, you can still enjoy a robust Annual Meeting experience

Not traveling to Louisville for the ACAAI 2022 Annual Meeting? You can participate from the comfort of your home or office. Here's how:

0

#### Livestream

Get the education you're looking for with our Livestream platform. It will feel almost as if you're there! The Livestream platform offers:

- Up to 29.25 CME credits.
- Live broadcast of speakers and slides from the Saturday, Sunday and Monday plenary and symposia sessions.
- Live broadcast of speakers and slides from Thursday's International Food Allergy Symposium and/or Friday's Literature Review Sessions – a separate purchase is required.
- Participation in question-and-answer sessions with faculty.
- Livestream viewing of the Opening Ceremonies and the College Business Meeting.
- Access to ePosters.

See which sessions will be streaming at annualmeeting.acaai.org/2022/livestream. Registration for the Livestream programs ends Nov. 9.

Follow along on social.

Just because you're not there in person doesn't mean you can't catch the best pearls and tidbits from #ACAAI22! Keep up on Facebook and Twitter and post your own takeaways.

Revisit the Meeting On Demand.

Once the Annual Meeting is over, you'll have access to 60+ hours of presentations. Access the sessions from a desktop, tablet or mobile device – anytime, anywhere – and earn credit.



# Honoring outstanding achievers

The College is proud to announce this year's Annual Meeting plenaries and named lectures. Presenters of the Luisa Businco, Bela Schick and Edward J. O'Connell lectures embody the high standards and achievements of the physicians for whom the lectures are named.

# Plenary – International Food Allergy Symposium

Luisa Businco Lecture



Aikaterini Anagnostou, MD

Aikaterini Anagnostou, MD, FACAAI, PhD will deliver the 2022 Bela Schick lecture "Common Oral Immunotherapy Challenges in Your Allergy Clinic" on **Thursday, Nov.**10 during the International Food Allergy Symposium's luncheon program. Dr.
Anagnostou is director of the Food Allergy Program at Texas Children's Hospital.

The Businco Lecture is named in honor of Professor Luisa Businco of Rome, Italy. Her hard work in providing excellent patient care, effective teaching and quality

research led to significant advances in understanding several aspects of pediatric food allergy. Her clinical and laboratory research was focused on the development, prediction and prevention of allergy in children. Dr. Businco worked with dedication to promote the specialty of pediatric allergy, and her work continues in the careers of the many physicians taught and trained by her. This lecture is presented during the International Food Allergy Symposium.

### Presidential Plenary – Food Allergy – Where Are We in 2022?

Food allergy is the focus of the Presidential Plenary on **Saturday, Nov. 12 at 8:00 am**, following the Opening Ceremony and 80th Anniversary Presentation. Three allergy experts explore advances in diagnosis and management of food allergies:

- Food Allergy Testing What is the Best Choice? Hugh Sampson, MD, FACAAI
- Food OIT Are We Desensitizing or Curing? Robert A. Wood, MD
- EoE What To Do and What Not To Do Jonathan M. Spergel, MD, PhD, FACAAI

## Plenary – Practicing Allergy/Immunology Into the Future

#### **Edward J. O'Connell Lecture**

Thomas B. Casale, MD, FACAAI will present the 2022 Edward J. O'Connell lecture at Sunday's Plenary – Practicing Allergy/ Immunology Into the Future on **Sunday, Nov. 13 at 8:00 am**. Dr. Casale's lecture is titled "What Does the Landscape of Therapeutics Look Like in Allergy Practice?" Dr. Casale is a professor of medicine and pediatrics and chief of clinical and translational research at the University of South Florida Division of Allergy and Immunology in Tampa and



Thomas Casale, MD

The annual Edward J. O'Connell Lecture Award honors the legacy of Dr. O'Connell, a past president of the College (1990-1991), who was a caring, compassionate physician with a life-long passion for serving children. He was an adept educator and authored nearly one hundred original articles, along with many book chapters related to allergy and immunology.

# Plenary – Implementing New Guidelines Into Practice

#### **Bela Schick Lecture**

former ABAI chair.

Cherie Zachary, MD, FACAAI will present the 2022 Bela Schick lecture at Monday's Plenary – Implementing New Guidelines Into Practice on Monday, **Nov. 14 at 8:00 am**. Dr. Zachary's lecture is titled "Implicit Bias: It Is Not Always What You See." Dr. Zachary is in private practice in Eagan, MN.

The annual Bela Schick lecture is named in honor of one of medicine's most respected scientists. Bela Schick was born in Hungary emigrated to the U.S. in 1923. He was a pediatrician at Mt. Sinai in New York for many



Cherie Zachary, MD

years. Dr. Schick is best known for his work with Clemens von Pirquet on anaphylaxis and for the test he developed to assess immunity to diphtheria.



# Add fun to your schedule

# Enjoy the rich history of Churchill Downs and the excitement of the FIT Bowl

After a day of the Annual Meeting's immersive sessions, take a break and enjoy our social events. All meeting registrants are invited to attend.

#### **President's Welcome Reception**

A trip to Louisville wouldn't be complete without a visit to historic Churchill Downs, and you'll get the opportunity at the President's Welcome Reception, on Friday, Nov. 11 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm. We've got a one-of-a-kind experience planned at the home of the Kentucky Derby. Enjoy an evening of hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and camaraderie. Buses will transport meeting attendees from their hotels to Churchill Downs.

#### **FIT Bowl**

Who will be this year's FIT Bowl champions? Fellows-in-Training teams compete for the trophy at Saturday evening's FIT Bowl competition. Teams of allergists are asked serious (and not so serious) questions from an expert panel. Who will answer correctly to win? It's an exciting evening full of competition. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar at this fast-paced, dynamic event at 5:30 pm on Saturday, Nov. 12 at the Omni Louisville Hotel.

**EDUCATION ADVANTAGE** 

# Are you competitive?

# Put your A/I knowledge to the test with AIM Self-Assessment Volume Two

Use this online program to obtain new knowledge and reaffirm existing knowledge. It consists of 120 all new case-based, multiple-choice questions to help evaluate and maintain clinical competence.

Questions address these five categories from the ABAI blueprint:

- allergy and hypersensitivity
- immunological disorders
- immune system/research
- pharmacology/therapeutics
- allergens/antigens/extracts

The four modes in the self-assessment (pretest, learn, posttest, comparison) provide a comprehensive learning experience. Participants can measure their initial knowledge, learn through evidence-based discussions and references, test their knowledge after study, and get peer-to-peer comparison based on the responses of others who have completed the assessments.

College members can purchase the AIM Self-Assessment for \$199 - nonmembers \$299. Order this product at **education.acaai.org/aimvol2**.

The module satisfies the American Board of Allergy & Immunology (ABAI) designates this program for 24 ABAI MOC Part II (Self-Assessment) credits.



PRACTICE ADVANTAGE

# MGMA compensation and productivity data shows recovery for many allergists/immunologists

While practices continued to cope with COVID-19 disruptions, many also saw productivity and compensation restored to pre-pandemic levels. Median total compensation for nonacademic allergists exceeded pre-pandemic 2019 levels. Median work relative value units (wRVUs) also reached pre-pandemic levels in 2021.

The College appreciates our partnership with MGMA, which enables us to collect and report allergy-specific provider compensation data. We are particularly grateful to allergy practices (and multi-specialty practices with allergists) that took the time to participate in the Provider Compensation survey and made it possible for the College to report this important information.

A total of 443 nonacademic allergists/immunologists participated in the 2022 survey (which reflects 2021 data), a slight increase over 2021. Participation among academic allergists increased 7.1% to 181. The total number of participating allergists increased 2.6% to 624. Additionally, allergists from across the country participated in the survey this year, with a generally even mix across all four geographic sections (Eastern, Midwest, Southern and Western).

#### MGMA Provider Compensation Survey Participation Allergist/Immunologist Counts by Report Year

Nonacademic	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Allergy/Immunology	391	354	370	418	322
Pediatrics: Allergy/Immunology	52	85	53	39	41
Total Nonacademic Allergy/Immunology	443	439	423	457	363
Academic	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Allergy/Immunology	97	96	103	68	85
Pediatrics: Allergy/Immunology	84	73	60	54	77
Total Academic Allergy/Immunology	181	169	163	122	162
Total Allergy/Immunology	624	608	586	579	525

Source: 2022 MGMA DataDive Provider Compensation. Used with permission from MGMA Copyright 2022. https://www.mgma.com/data. Data is protected by MGMA copyright and is prohibited to be shared or published without MGMA's consent.

For full-time physicians, the median nonacademic total compensation (including provider wages, bonus/incentive payments, research stipends, honoraria and profit distributions) for 2021 was \$332,634 when allergy/immunology (A/I) and pediatrics A/I were combined. This was an increase over both 2020 (which was dominated by COVID) and 2019 (pre-COVID). Median work relative value units (wRVUs), which measure physician productivity, increased substantially over 2020, when volumes were down due to COVID-19. In fact, 2021 wRVUs even slightly surpassed 2019 wRVUs, which represent pre-COVID levels of productivity. These results were similar to MGMA's overall findings for nonsurgical specialists, which experienced an increase in 2021 median total compensation of 3.1% over

the prior year and wRVUs comparable to 2019 levels.

Median academic total compensation for the combined A/I and pediatrics A/I in 2021 was \$195,000, down slightly over the prior year. However, there were more pediatrics A/I survey participants this year than in prior surveys. Since pediatrics A/I tends to have lower median compensation than A/I, that is pulling the median downward. Additionally, the Western geographic section has significantly higher median total compensation than the Eastern, Midwest and Southern geographic sections.

Median academic wRVUs increased significantly from COVID-based levels in 2020 and reached 2019 wRVU levels.



#### 2021 MGMA Provider Compensation Data Full-time Allergists/Immunologists

Nonacademic data	# Reporting	Combined A/I and Peds A/I
Median total compensation <sup>1</sup>	348	\$332,634
Median work RVUs <sup>2</sup>	265	4,571
Academic data		
Median total compensation <sup>1</sup>	161	\$195,000
Median work RVUs <sup>2</sup>	62	2,596

Source: 2022 MGMA DataDive Provider Compensation, based on 2021 data. Used with permission from MGMA Copyright 2022. https://www.mgma.com/data. Data is protected by MGMA copyright and is prohibited to be shared or re-published without MGMA's consent.

<sup>1</sup>Total compensation = provider wages, bonus/incentive payments, research stipends, honoraria and profit distributions. <sup>2</sup>RVUs = relative value units. Work RVUs are a measure of physician productivity and are calculated by multiplying the number of services for each CPT code times the specific wRVU value for that code based on the CMS fee schedule.

For comparison purposes, Medscape's 2021 allergist compensation data (reported in 2022) showed average A/I compensation of \$298,000, with approximately 131 allergist participants. This was an 8.8% increase over the prior year and was just under Medscape reported allergist compensation for 2019. In the Medscape survey, all specialties reported an increase in compensation over 2020.

However, the number of allergists participating in the

Medscape survey dropped considerably this year to only 131, compared a total of 624 for MGMA. In addition, Medscape's survey does not break out academic vs. nonacademic compensation. Finally, the MGMA data shown is median compensation, compared with average compensation from Medscape; the median is typically a better representation for salary data. For all these reasons, it is difficult to compare MGMA and Medscape data.

#### Medscape Allergist/Immunologist Compensation Data<sup>1</sup> Full-time Allergists/Immunologists

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Average A/I compensation	\$298,000	\$274,000	\$301,000	\$275,000	\$272,000
Approximate # reporting	131	179	175	193	203

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Medscape survey data for each year was reported in the following year. For example, the 2021 data shown here was reported in the 2022 Medscape survey. For employed physicians, compensation = salary + bonus + profit sharing. For self-employed physicians, compensation = earnings after taxes and deductible business expenses before income tax.

#### MGMA compensation and productivity data shows recovery... (Continued from page 11)

MGMA reported 2021 A/I total compensation by ownership type for nonacademic practices. 2021 median compensation for both physician-owned and hospital/integrated delivery system (IDS) owned practices increased from both 2020 and 2019. The 2021 median total compensation for physician-owned practices was 15.1% more than the median total compensation for hospital/IDS owned practices. Work RVUs were also higher, but only by 1.8%. While median work RVUs for physician-owned practices increased significantly over 2020, they were still below 2019 levels. 2021 work RVUs for Hospital/IDS owned

practices, however, exceeded 2019 levels.

Interestingly, another ownership category for nonacademic allergy practices has grown over the past two years: Other Majority Ownership. This category is comprised of practices owned by Insurance Company/HMO + Government + Private Investor + University/Medical School. We suspect the growth in this category reflects the increase in private equity investment in the allergy specialty. While we are unable to report this data, we can share 46 allergists surveyed are in that group.

#### 2021 MGMA Provider Compensation Data – Full-time Allergists/Immunologists

Nonacademic data	Combined A/I and Peds A/I		
	Physician-Owned	Hospital/ IDS Owned	
Median total compensation <sup>1</sup>	\$370,949	\$322,298	
# reporting	143	159	
Median work RVUs <sup>2</sup>	4,642	4,559	
# reporting	106	140	

Source: 2022 MGMA DataDive Provider Compensation, based on 2021 survey data. Used with permission from MGMA Copyright 2022. https://www.mgma.com/data. Data is protected by MGMA copyright and is prohibited to be shared or re-published without MGMA's consent.

For practices planning to hire a new allergist this year, a total of 21 allergists reported starting salary guaranteed compensation data in MGMA's 2021 Provider Placement Starting Salary survey. This year we are breaking the results into two groups: nonacademic and academic allergists. The

2021 median guaranteed **nonacademic** compensation for combined A/I and pediatrics A/I was \$227,497. The 2021 median guaranteed **academic** compensation for combined A/I and pediatrics A/I was \$182,040 – but this represents only five respondents.

### 2021 MGMA Provider Placement Starting Salary Data Median Guaranteed Compensation – Combined A/I and Peds A/I

	# Reporting	Starting Salary
Academic	5	\$182,040
Nonacademic	16	\$227,497

Source: 2022 MGMA DataDive Provider Compensation, based on 2021 survey data. Used with permission from MGMA Copyright 2022. https://www.mgma.com/data. Data is protected by MGMA copyright and is prohibited to be shared or re-published without MGMA's consent.

Please help us continue to provide this important data for allergy and immunology practices by participating in MGMA's surveys in 2023. Participating practices get free, direct access to the survey results (vs. the limited data we can report here), and all survey data is completely confidential

and is never seen by any College member or staff. The Provider Compensation survey will open next year in January and the Cost & Revenue survey will open in March. Watch your email and College Insider for announcements.

¹Total compensation = provider wages, bonus/incentive payments, research stipends, honoraria and profit distributions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>RVUs = relative value units. Work RVUs are a measure of physician productivity and are calculated by multiplying the number of services for each CPT code times the specific wRVU value for that code based on the CMS fee schedule.

By Chris Foster, MD, senior FIT representative

# Out with the old, in with the new



Chris Foster, MD

My knees and my kids remind me almost daily that I am indeed old. Facts are facts. It is time for me to shuffle along, but please know that it has been an absolute privilege to serve as your Senior Fellow-in-Training Representative to the Board of Regents this past year. Thankfully, our SPARK Program is thriving, in both numbers and diversity, as eager allergy/immunology hopefuls will be joining us in Louisville this November. Thanks to all of you, we had an outpouring of FIT support and heard back from far

more volunteers than we are able to pair up to serve as SPARK mentors this year. If you are a current first-year fellow, please consider volunteering for this rewarding opportunity next summer.

The Annual Meeting in Louisville marks the end of the FITs' "business year." Just as our College leadership changes hands, so too our FIT Committee will usher in new fellows in training to serve on the FIT Section Executive Committee. I'd like to recognize the individuals who have been working hard over the past year serving for the benefit of all FITs. A very special thank you to the following:

- Dr. Brent Griffin, University of Alabama at Birmingham

   Junior Fellow-in-Training Representative to the Board of Regents and Alternate Delegate to the American Medical Association.
- Dr. Esel Abud, Scripps Clinic San Diego West regional rep (CA, AZ, AK, HI, NV, UT, OR, ID, WA, MT).
- Dr. Christopher Brooks, Ohio State University/Nationwide Children's – Upper Midwest regional rep (IL, WI, MI, IN, OH).
- **Dr. Giulia Marone**, University of Buffalo Northeast (New England) regional rep.
- Dr. Mechelle Miller, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center – Southwest regional rep (OK, AR, TX, NM).
- Dr. Aishwarya Navalpakam, Children's Hospital of Michigan – Central regional rep (CO, KS, MO).
- **Dr. Matthew Norris**, Penn State Hershey Medical Center Northeast regional rep (Mid-Atlantic).
- Dr. Jessica Plager, Emory University Southeast regional rep (NC, SC, GA, FL, AL, LA, MS).

- Dr. Isma Shah, Nemours Children's Hospital North Central regional rep (ND, MN, WY, NE, IA).
- Dr. Abeer Siddiqi, Columbia University Medical Center International and Northeast regional rep (NY).
- Dr. Brynne Underwood, Cincinnati Children's Hospital –
   East Central regional rep (KY, TN).

Each of the above individuals contributed many additional hours, outside of their routine fellowship training, to impact your learning. The Board Review Corner is a direct result of these individuals' time and energy preparing board-style questions for you to assess your knowledge of key topics in allergy and immunology. Check it out today at education. acaai.org/content/board-review-corner. Their contributions can be seen rolling out each month as a new set of questions "written by FITs for FITs," gets posted. Thank you, team!

At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, Dr. Brent Griffin will assume the role of Senior FIT Representative to the ACAAI Board of Regents and chair the FIT Executive Committee. He has already done an outstanding job as your advocate and will lead you into the next chapter in the College's FIT history. With his steadfast lead from the front mindset, we're excited for the coming year!

The next Junior FIT Rep position will be peer selected at the meeting in Louisville, KY. Regional Representative positions are filled by nomination and require endorsement by your Program Director.

Whether you are seeking a leadership position within the FIT Section or not, we do hope you will join us in Louisville for our FIT Section education session and business meeting on Friday, Nov. 11. We are exploring innovation in allergy/immunology. Speakers will address FITs directly on the topics of genetic testing in practice, the role of rhinolaryngoscopy as an allergist, and incorporating clinical research into one's practice. It is an exciting era in allergy/immunology and the College is your place for professional development, practice management, continuing education, and patient/physician advocacy.

I hope to see you all soon!

# Meet your candidates for election

During the 2022 Annual Business Meeting, our current president-elect will become the College's president. ACAAI Fellows will elect a president-elect, vice president and treasurer for one-year terms. They will also elect three regents for three-year terms to succeed Kevin R. Murphy, MD, FACAAI, John Seyerle, MD, FACAAI and J. Wesley Sublett, MD, MPH, FACAAI. We believe the nominees proposed by the Nominating Council embody the philosophy of their predecessors, whose combined efforts have made the College the success it is today. The Board of Regents recommends your support for the following slate:

#### Kathleen May, MD, FACAAI **President**

Augusta, GA

Current academic/ professional positions: Dr. May is division chief of allergy-immunology and pediatric rheumatology at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University, the Betty B. Wray MD Chair in



Dr. Kathleen May



Dr. Gailen Marshall, Jr.



Dr. James Tracy



Dr. Cherie Zachary

Pediatrics, associate professor of pediatrics and medicine, and serves as the training program director for the allergy-immunology fellowship program. Before her teaching career, she was in private practice for more than 20 years.

"I have a unique perspective on the trends and challenges we face, given my background in a small, rural community practice for more than 20 years, as well as in an academic practice, training allergist-immunologists for our future. There are opportunities and challenges that span across community and academic practice settings, and as president I hope to continue our important initiative to raise the visibility of our specialty to those in primary care, as well as expanding options for education/teaching in community allergy practices."



Dr. Jeremy Katcher



Dr. Meagan Shepherd

both community-based and academic. The College has a bright future in developing and implementing care for patients with allergy, asthma and/or immune-based diseases. I am honored to continue as part of the leadership team fully committed to accomplishing these goals with sustainable programs."

#### Gailen D. Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD, FACAAI **President-elect**

Jackson, MS

Current academic/professional positions: Dr. Marshall is the R. Faser Triplett Sr, MD, Chair of Allergy and Immunology; executive director of the Mississippi Clinical Research and Trials Center; medical director for the Clinical Research Support Program; vice chairman of research, department of medicine; director, division of allergy, asthma and clinical immunology, department of medicine and professor of medicine, pediatrics, pathology and population health sciences, all at the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, MS.

"I will be delighted to serve as president-elect of the ACAAI to further our mission as the premier professional advocate for our patients, our training programs and our practicing clinicians,

#### **James Tracy, DO, FACAAI**

Vice president

Omaha, NE

Current academic/professional positions: Dr. Tracy is in private practice in Omaha, Nebraska with Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Associates, P.C. He is associate clinical professor of pediatrics, University of Nebraska.

"As the past chairman for the Advocacy Council and ACAAI Treasurer for the last two years, it has been my pleasure to serve members of ACAAI Community. As we move into 2023, it is my goal as ACAAI vice president to continue supporting the needs of the practicing allergist as well as the allergist educator, both informally and in the formal academic teaching arena. Just as we have persevered through 2021 and 2022,

Continued on page 15

#### Meet your candidates for election... (Continued from page 14)

what we have learned about ourselves, our profession and our College will in the end make us better stewards to our chosen profession and the patients we serve. Serving our patients, their families, our College and our specialty should be our goal. To that end, we each need to endeavor to 'find our own voice,' and add that voice to the chorus of growth and change, making the world a better and healthier place to live."

#### Cherie Zachary, MD, FACAAI

#### **Treasurer**

Bloomington, MN

Current academic/professional positions: Dr. Zachary is in private practice in Eagan, MN.

"I appreciate the opportunity to work with the leadership of ACAAI and the allergist community as we continue to advance the practice of allergy in both the private and public sector for the benefit of our patients."

#### Jeremy Katcher, MD, FACAAI

#### Regent

St. Louis, MO

Current academic/professional positions: Dr. Katcher is in private practice in St. Louis, MO with Gateway Asthma & Allergy Relief, Esse Health.

"I am humbled and excited for the opportunity to join the Board of Regents. In a health care system where allergists face increasing challenges, I look forward to working on strategies to improve the careers of our membership and foster the success of our specialty."

#### Travis Miller, MD, FACAAI

#### Regent

Roseville, CA

Current academic/professional positions: Dr. Miller is in private practice in Rosedale, CA and serves as CEO and Medical Director of The Allergy Station.

"I am honored for the opportunity to serve with the ACAAI Board and leadership and the allergist community, helping allergists and their teams adapt to the challenges of an everchanging practice environment and excel in practice and caring for their patients."

#### Meagan Shepherd, MD, FACAAI

#### Regent

Huntington, WV

Current academic/professional positions: Dr. Shepher is in private practice in Hungtington, WA.

"I am thankful for the work of ACAAI in promoting the sanctity of the practice of allergy/immunology and above all, excellence in patient care, and I am honored to be able to help serve."

# Submit 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting proposals

Even though the ACAAI 2022 Annual Meeting is right around the corner, we're already thinking about the 2023 Annual Meeting. The College is accepting session and presentation proposals that echo the 2023 theme "Podium to Practice: Embracing the evolution of patient care." We're

PODIUM

looking for session ideas that will stimulate discussion and challenge mindsets. Find out more and submit your ideas at annualmeeting.acaai.org/2023/proposal\_submission.cfm. The submission deadline is January 6, 2023.



American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

#### **CALL FOR** SESSION PROPOSALS

2023 ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING **Embracing the Evolution** of Patient Care NOV. 9-13 • ANAHEIM. CA



# We celebrate our award recipients

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

The College is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2022 awards. Honorees will be recognized at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, Nov. 13, during the College's Annual Scientific Meeting.















Hernandez-Trujillo



Katerina Barcal

**Distinguished Fellow** 

**David I. Bernstein, MD, FACAAI**, is professor emeritus of medicine in the Division of Immunology and Allergy at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, where he is associate director of the allergy fellowship training program. Dr. Bernstein has a long history of academic research, including authoring or co-authoring more than 270 original publications. He has significantly contributed to our understanding of risks associated with SCIT as well as the impact of occupational and environmental exposures on asthma.

**William Silvers, MD, Emeritus Fellow**, is clinical professor of medicine, allergy clinical immunology and faculty affiliate of the Center for Bioethics and Humanities at University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus. He is the founder of Allergists for Israel and is a former allergy fellow at National Jewish.

#### **Distinguished Service Fellow**

**Bill Finerfrock** is former president and owner of Capitol Associates, which has guided the College's Advocacy Council in regulatory and legislative areas for many years. Capitol Associates monitors actions from the administration, Congress or governmental agencies that could impact allergy/immunology. In his career, Bill has worked for two U.S. Senators.

**John Seyerle, MD, FACAAI**, in private practice at Allergy and Asthma Care in Cincinnati, OH and Richmond, IN. He is a member of the ACAAI Board of Regents.

**Lelia Sublett** is a long-time member of the ACAAI Alliance. She was Alliance president in 2015-16 and is currently Alliance co-president.

#### **International Distinguished Fellow**

M. Antonella Muraro, MD, PhD, is chief of the Food Allergy Referral Center at Padova University Hospital in Padova, Italy; professor of food allergy at Padova University School of Medicine and consultant pediatric allergist at the Department of Woman and Child Health, Padova University Hospital. She was EAACI president in 2015-2017 and is currently a member of the executive committee of the Global Allergy and Asthma Network of Centres of Excellence.

#### Woman in Allergy Award

**Vivian Hernandez-Trujillo, MD, FACAAI**, is founder of the Allergy and Immunology Care Center of South Florida. She trained in allergy/immunology at the University of Tennesee-Memphis/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and is clinical professor of pediatrics at the Herbert Wertheim School of Medicine/Florida International University. She is the fellowship training program director and division director of allergy/immunology at Nicklaus Children's Hospital in Miami, Florida.

#### **Executive Medical Director Award**

**Katerina Barcal** is ACAAI director of administration and has been with the College since 2015. After working in public health and community development for nearly two decades, she moved to association management. Her career has included research capacity building in Africa, Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East, as well as nonprofit work with community-based service organizations. As director of administration, Kate oversees the College's governance and plays a key role in strategic planning, committee engagement and leadership development. She also serves as a liaison to many committees under the Administrative, Science and Membership Councils.

# And the winner is...

#### Dr. James Sublett is the recipient of the 2022 Gold Headed Cane Award

The Gold Headed Cane Award is given annually to a College Fellow who has demonstrated the highest standards of scientific excellence and integrity. This year, College Fellows selected James Sublett, MD, FACAAI. The award will be presented during the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Announcements during the ACAAI 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Biography provided by Dr. Sublett

I am deeply honored to be the recipient of the Gold Headed Cane Award.

My career has been highlighted by my work in advocacy for issues facing our specialty along with the business challenges of practice. I was nominated by ACAAI to the Joint Council (JCAAI) board in 2004, leading me to become JCAAI president (2010-2012) when it was still an independent organization representing both ACAAI and AAAAI. I facilitated the reorganization of JCAAI to become the Advocacy Council of the College during my tenure as ACAAI president (2014-2015). I have served as executive director of advocacy and government relations for the Advocacy Council for the past six years. Among my most significant advocacy accomplishments are: representing the College to assure that allergy extracts were given special consideration in the USP <797> Chapter on Compounding; and transforming the House of Delegates to act as a grassroots organization at the state and local levels. I also have represented the College as advisor to the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT®) Panel and the RVS Update Committee (RUC).

Other milestones of my service include chairing the Marketing Task Force during the development of the Find an Allergist, Find Relief campaign and the development of the Find an Allergist functionality on the ACAAI website. During my term as College president, the implementation of the Vision 2020 strategic plan resulted in advocacy becoming a benefit of College membership,



Dr. James Sublett

a redesigned patient website, refreshed College brand, change in annual meeting planning to include committee chairs, the launch of the College Learning Connection and committee reorganization to ensure diversity and inclusion in those participating in this critical College activity.

I have been honored by the College with the Distinguished Fellow Award, the Bela Schick Lectureship, served on numerous ACAAI committees, task forces, and workgroups (chairing 14 of them), co-chaired the Environment Practice Parameter Work Group and served on the Annals editorial board.

Beyond the College, I am co-founder (along with Stephen Pollard MD, FACAAI) and chief medical officer of Family Allergy & Asthma, based in Louisville, KY. I serve on the board of the World Allergy Organization and the editorial board of the WAO Journal. I also serve on several other boards, including the University of Louisville President's Council and the Norton Healthcare board of trustees. I am a clinical professor at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. For over 20 years I served as the section chief of Pediatric Allergy & Immunology.

I live in Anchorage, KY with my wife Lelia and have four grown children and four grandchildren.



# History, fine dining, book discussions and more

#### Remember to include Alliance activities in your busy Annual Scientific Meeting schedule.

The Alliance of the ACAAI has a tradition of featuring events that highlight the history and culture of ACAAI Annual Meeting host cities. The following presentations/programs for Alliance Members and participating spouses/guests are tentatively scheduled to take place during the ACAAI 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting.

## Friday, November 11 Alliance Hospitality Suite

8:00 – 10:30 am Omni Louisville Hotel

Registered spouses and guests are invited to start the day with a visit to the hospitality suite.

#### **Kentucky Derby History**

Omni Louisville Hotel

Learn about the history of the Kentucky Derby and historic Churchill Downs. You'll also have the opportunity to create a "Derby Hat" to wear to Friday evening's Welcome Reception at Churchill Downs.

#### Field Trip to Stoneware and Co.

Take a guided tour of one of the oldest stoneware companies in the United States, Stoneware and Co., founded in 1815.

## Saturday, November 12 Alliance Hospitality Suite

8:00 – 10:30 am Omni Louisville Hotel

#### **Little Mount Lavender with Jason Woodlief**

Omni Louisville Hotel

Join Jason Woodlief, the owner of Little Mount Lavender, who will talk about the organic lavender he grows and all the products he has produced.

#### The History of Bourbon with Michael Veach

Omni Louisville Hotel

Bourbon Veach, LLC owner and Kentucky Bourbon Hall of Fame member Michael Veach joins us to discuss the rich history of bourbon.

#### **Field Trip Lunch with Lelia**

Alliance Co-president Lelia Sublett has planned a six-course luncheon at her historic home. She has been teaching a cooking class for the University of Louisville's Women's Organization for nearly 20 years. Participants will receive copies of recipes. Space is limited to 30 participants who will need to provide their own transportation. Details will be available at the Hospitality Suite.

## Sunday, November 13 Alliance Hospitality Suite

8:00 – 10:30 am Omni Louisville Hotel

#### **Authors GT Hawkins and Virginia Davis**

Omni Louisville Hotel

Hear the personal and professional stories and discuss the books of well-known authors GT Hawkins and Virginia Davis.

#### **Annual Brunch**

Noon – 3:00 pm The Seelbach Hilton Hotel

Fee \$30 – Registration required and limited to active members of the Alliance. Register at annualmeeting.acaai. org/registration\_info.



**COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE** 

# We're paying it forward

The Allergists' Foundation's Community Grant Program not only seeks to remove barriers to care in our communities, but also strengthens the clinical, research and leadership skills of our grantees.

Since launching the program in 2021, The Allergists'
Foundation has awarded nearly \$200,000 to support a wide range of innovative projects. It is a nimble and high-impact program that yields tremendous value for every dollar of seed funding invested, thanks to the intimate firsthand knowledge that our clinician-researchers have of their own patients and communities, and the challenges they face.

Timothy Chow, MD and Kelsey Kaman, MD are both early career allergists who received their grants while still in their allergy and immunology fellowships. Their interventions are practical and focus on delivering immediate and readily observable results.

#### **Timothy Chow, MD**

#### Project title: Shouldering the Burden of Pediatric Penicillin Allergy Labels: Delabeling in the Primary Care Setting

Project aim: Evaluate risk-stratification and direct amoxicillin challenges in an outpatient pediatric primary care clinic, while assessing implementation barriers and their impact on referrals for outpatient allergist evaluation.

"I really appreciated how the Allergists' Foundation has prioritized early career allergists," said Dr. Chow. "They've been very intentional about removing barriers that can exist in pursuing grant funding... there are numerous opportunities [in the way the program is structured] for early career allergists to bring their ideas forward."





#### Kelsey Kaman, MD

Project title: Learning Educator's Anaphylaxis Response Needs: Optimizing the Safety of Children in Head Start

Project aim: Explore the means to collectively address barriers to care and foster long-term relationships between community allergists and early childhood educators. (Selected as a planning grant in 2021 and an implementation grant in 2022.)

"I think it's integral that we as allergists get involved in the community," said Dr. Kaman. "We have found that [many of the children in our project] don't have access to an allergist... by working with pediatricians, schools and families, we're able to provide collaborative care."

If you'll be attending the Annual Scientific Meeting in Louisville, KY, be sure to stop by the Exhibit Hall to view the e-posters summarizing the preliminary results of these two projects.

To learn more about the Community Grant Program, stop by the College Resource Center (booth #901) or visit college. acaai.org/grants.

# Thank you to the 2022 **ACAAI** Corporate Council Members

#### BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP

























#### **PATRON MEMBERSHIP**















