



CollegeAdvantage

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

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Unlock your practice's full potential

Use our new toolkits to open the door to practice management success

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American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

Shoulders to stand on



Gailen D. Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD, FAAAAI, *President, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*

To say serving as ACAAI President is simultaneously an incredible honor and humbling experience is a definite understatement. I am very grateful for the outpouring of support that I experienced at the ACAAI 2023 Annual Meeting in Anaheim, as well as the emails, texts and calls with well wishes and offers to assist me that I have continued to receive. It seemed most reasonable to me to begin my tenure by letting you, the membership, know what to expect from me this year.

First, **the College is already an extremely strong**

organization that has always had the benefit of the practicing allergists/immunologists and our patients at the center of all we do – education, advocacy, support of our profession and guidance of our increasingly diverse organization. I will continue to support and advocate for all of those functions. We have an extraordinary organizational structure with many opportunities for service on various committees, editorial boards and other ad hoc opportunities.

The incredible history of leadership in our organization has produced many broad shoulders on which we currently stand. We have a leadership structure that comes from members who demonstrate their potential through service opportunities. We also are training our next generation of leaders through our annual Leadership Summit. The senior leadership team for the College is the Board of Regents (BOR) and Officers. As President, I function as a Chair of the

Board, offering guidance and support for the many programs and services ultimately approved and overseen by the Board. This group of colleagues, with the incredible assistance and support of our College staff, **makes our organization the strongest of its kind in the country.**

Each year, the President is empowered to develop an initiative to expand and/or improve this great organization. My initiative for this year is fairly unique to College presidents in that it is actually the second part of a two-year initiative begun by my predecessor, Immediate Past President Kathleen R. May, MD, FAAAAI. Almost three years ago, Kathleen and I began discussions about what areas of improvements for the College we could identify that we might uniquely contribute because of our personal and collective talents, interests and experiences. We realized that with our respective career pathways – hers to academia from a successful private practice and mine as an academic allergist/immunologist (I actually did a short six-month stint in community practice before returning to academia some 34 years ago) – we could pool our efforts into one two-year initiative aimed at fostering and developing strong, lasting partnerships between community and academic allergists/immunologists.

During this past year, the **Community Allergists Partnership in Education (CAPE)** Program was launched. The CAPE Program provides resources for community allergists who wish to develop educational opportunities in their offices aimed specifically at trainees from medical schools around the country without any allergy/immunology faculty. This toolkit has been launched and the CAPE Program is well on its way to accomplishing these goals. I intend to fully support the implementation of this effort, which will clearly benefit the membership by exposing trainees to what we do for patients on a daily basis. Undoubtedly, this will positively impact future referral patterns for these trainees as they become full-fledged providers.

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SHOULDERS TO STAND ON (CONTINUED)

This year, we will extend the program into scholarship and research with the **Community and Academic Allergists Partnership in Education and Research (CAPER)**. The specifics for this part of the two-year initiative are still in development and I will keep you updated as we flesh out the program details. We want to provide resources to foster development of collaborative partnerships between academic allergy/immunology investigators and community allergists who may themselves be investigators or may wish to develop this skill set.

The research opportunities will be investigator driven and may vary from specific clinical trials to population-based studies that, for example, may compare different therapies for similar clinical conditions. The focus will be on community-based research that addresses issues with direct application to patient care. The BOR has set aside significant financial resources to fund this initiative and we have formed a CAPER Task Force that will soon begin meeting and planning. The hope is to launch the program later this year.

Finally, let me close by pledging to you my dedication and transparency as I serve the College. Feel free to reach out with suggestions, criticisms, evaluations and volunteerism. I will try to find opportunities to serve in some capacity for all who are interested. My hope and daily prayer will be that I can stand with you to provide shoulders for others to stand on as we all work to build ever stronger structures for our beloved College. I invite you to join me in this journey.



Enhance your leadership skills

Ready to boost your leadership skills? Apply to attend the ACAAI Leadership Summit on March 23-24, 2024 in Chicago! This is a great opportunity for physician members 45 years and younger – or within the first 10 years of practice – to acquire the foundational skills needed to be an effective leader in your practice. Attendance at the conference also counts toward ABAI MOC Part 4. The summit is supported by Astra Zeneca. **Make sure to apply by Feb. 16!** Learn more and apply at college.acaaai.org/get-involved/grow-your-leadership-skills.



In case you missed it...

Read a summary of the first 80 years of *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*:

Bellanti JA, Schroer B, Marshall GD Jr, Grayson MH. The 80th anniversary of *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology* (1943-2023). *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol*. 2023 Jul;131(1):128-130

ADVOCACY ADVANTAGE

By J. Allen Meadows, MD, FAAAAI, Executive Director, Advocacy and Governmental Affairs

What's the Advocacy Council done for you?

As the leader in advocacy, the College's Advocacy Council has been busy representing your interests in many areas this past year. Throughout 2023, we advocated on behalf of allergists and their patients and took the following actions on topics important to College members.



J. Allen Meadows, MD, FAAAAI

ALTERNATIVE PAYMENT MODELS

- Recommended that CMS develop alternative payment models with realistic and attainable incentives.

ANTIMICROBIAL STEWARDSHIP

- Joined other medical specialties in supporting the Pasteur Act – legislation to strengthen the antibiotic/antifungal pipeline and increase support for antimicrobial stewardship programs.
- Supported increased funding for antimicrobial resistance research. This will continue in 2024.
- Advocated for antimicrobial resistance to be included in the *Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act* reauthorization.

ASTHMA

- Supported the funding request for the CDC's National Asthma Control Program.

ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFERS

- Supported legislation that protects physician payments from electronic fund transfer (EFT) fees.
- Supported legislation attempting to prohibit EFT fees for physician payments.

EPINEPHRINE

- Supported the review of Emergency Medical Kits in airplanes at least every three years with the intention to get epinephrine autoinjectors placed in the kits.

FOOD ALLERGY

- Submitted comments regarding the FDA notice on front-of-the-package labels, raising concerns about the use of "nondairy" and "dairy-free" labels that can be misleading for milk allergy patients.
- Opposed the addition of sesame in previously sesame-free products to the American Baker's Association.
- Supported a request to Congress for increased food allergy research funding in fiscal year 2024.
- Joined the *Food Labeling Modernization Act* stakeholders' group.

INSURANCE ISSUES

- Advocated for CIGNA Insurance to revise its policy on providing patient notes for each claim where modifier -25 is used.
- Joined with the AAAAI and AAOA to write a consensus statement about what should and should not be required when documenting allergy extracts as part of insurance claims and audits.

MIPS VALUE PATHWAY

- Recommended more allergy/immunology measures for the 2024 MIPS program to CMS, including the addition of pneumococcal vaccination under the Allergy/Immunology Measure Set.
- Submitted comments to CMS on their proposed Pulmonary MIPS Value Pathway (MVP).
- Submitted comments to CMS on the Allergy/Immunology Specialty Measures set and the MVP Pulmonary Measure.
- Submitting comments to CMS on 2022 MIPS scores, associated 2024 payment adjustments, and value-based payment opportunities for allergists – including APMs.

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

- *JAMA* published an article criticizing AMA's Specialty Society RVS Update Committee's (RUC) process and accused its medical specialty society volunteers of unprofessional and unethical behavior. As part of the Coalition of Sub-specialty Societies, we developed a response in support of the RUC.
- Supported *S.470/H.R. 977* – Legislation that supports the repeal of a physician self-referral law banning physician ownership of hospitals.
- Supported *Smoke & Heat Ready Communities Act* – Legislation regarding the impact of wildfires' smoke and extreme heat on vulnerable communities.
- Supported the proposed rule that would update and advance protections for people with disabilities under Section 504 of the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973*.

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ADVOCACY ADVANTAGE (CONTINUED)

- The College and AAAAI stood in solidarity, along with other medical societies, to condemn the horrific acts of violence committed against humanity in Israel and Gaza, by terrorists affiliated with Hamas.

PHARMACY BENEFIT MANAGERS

- Endorsed the Senate Finance Committee's proposed legislation on Pharmacy Benefit Managers, which would prevent PBM reimbursement from being linked to drug prices, improve audit and enforcement measures, offer support to community pharmacies, and prohibit PBMs from receiving payments for drugs covered by Medicare Part D.
- Endorsed the Senate Finance Committee's legislation – *Modernizing and Ensuring PBM Accountability Act* – that addresses critical issues related to Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) and has the potential to improve the accessibility, affordability, and quality of health care for patients, particularly those with allergies, asthma, and immunological conditions.

PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE – PAYMENT REFORM

- Urged Congressional action for an annual inflation-based physician payment update based on the full Medicare Economic Index (MEI).
- Supported the AMA's Physician Practice Information Survey. The practice-cost data collected will be used to advocate for physicians to accurately represent their practice, patients, and profession.
- Continued support of Medicare Payment Reform.
- Contacted 1,200 members of Congress encouraging them to sign on to Representatives Ami Bera (D-CA) and Larry Bucshon's (R-IN) Medicare physician reimbursement reforms bill.
- Supported H.R. 6683, which would offset the 3.37% reduction to the 2024 MPFS Conversion Factor.
- Continued to support H.R. 2474: *Strengthening Medicare for Patients and Providers Act*.

POLICY AND TECHNICAL CHANGES

- Commented on proposals concerning the utilization management techniques by Medicare Advantage plans, as well as proposed changes to provider networks in the 2024 Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage Program.
- Developed comments to support the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education funding provision of the *Lower Cost More Transparency Act*.
- Reviewed and advised members on information-blocking issues.

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

- Supported a collaboration with the AMA and other specialties advocating for prior authorization (PA) reforms including delay in care, improper denial of PA requests, and overturning previous denials.

STEP THERAPY

- Supported a step-therapy coalition opposing the reinstatement of Step Therapy in Medicare Advantage plans.

WORKFORCE

- Responded to HHS' request for information on the Healthcare Workforce.
- Continued to support requests for pediatric subspecialty loan forgiveness for underserved areas.
- Added "allergists" to the role of supervising physicians in Ohio H.B. 102 – *Licensed Advanced Practice Respiratory Therapists*.
- Supported the Specialty Physicians Advancing Rural Care Act that established student loan repayment programs to encourage physicians to practice in rural areas.
- Responded to the House Ways and Means Rural Health Committee's RFI on improving access to health care in rural and underserved areas.
- Submitted comments to the Senate HELP Committee on the *Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act* which would mandate a specific amount of funding per resident to be consistent through FY2028.
- Submitted comments to the Senate HELP Committee in support of the investments in health care workforce training initiatives included in the *Bipartisan Primary Care and Health Workforce Act*.
- Supported physician-led team care.

We'll continue to monitor and advise you of these and other critical issues affecting you, your practice, and your patients.

The Advocacy Council – ADVOCATING FOR ALLERGISTS AND THEIR PATIENTS



Get unparalleled insight in pediatric allergies



ACAAI and the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology have partnered again for the 2024 North American Pediatric Allergy and Asthma Congress (NAPAAC). Join us for this one-of-a-kind event! The three-day CME program, April 12- 14, 2024 in Las Vegas will focus entirely on pediatric allergies and related conditions.



Experts in the specialty of allergy/immunology will offer insight and perspective on new paradigms of care. You'll hear evidence-based practical approaches to assist diagnosis and management of common pediatric conditions, with information you can apply immediately in your practice. Sessions are designed to be engaging, interactive, and entertaining. Don't miss this unparalleled event! Register at education.accai.org/NAPAAC24.

The ACAAI Allergen Extract Mixing Course: Back again in 2024

The College's popular Allergen Extract Mixing Course will be back in 2024! Registration is open for the course, to be held April 20 at the Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport Hotel.

This hands-on workshop is geared to train physicians and allied health professionals how to appropriately mix allergen extracts for use with their patients. It will focus on USP Chapter 797 compliance, which includes detailed procedures and ensures the extracts do not get contaminated.

The course sold out last year. Don't wait to register for the 2024 course! Register at education.accai.org/AMC24.



Our new practice management resources

Whether you're an employed allergist, a practice owner, FIT or new allergist, we have tools for you.

The Practice Management Committee, with help from the Billing and Coding Committee, has been working hard to develop new resources for College members. "Whether you're an employed allergist, a practice owner, a FIT or new allergist, one or more of our new toolkits will benefit you," said Melinda Rathkopf, MD, MBA, FACAAI, Chair of the Practice Management Committee.

NEW RESOURCES

Relative Value Unit (RVU) Toolkit

(college.acaaai.org/rvutoolkit)

The RVU toolkit demystifies the complicated topic of RVUs and explains why they're important to employed allergists and practice owners – and **especially for FITs negotiating new contracts**. Whether you're an employed allergist or a practice owner, RVUs likely impact your compensation. "We've heard from many members that RVUs are a confusing topic, but allergists owe it to themselves to take time to understand it," said Dr. Rathkopf. "The College's RVU toolkit makes it very accessible."

The RVU toolkit also provides RVUs for common allergy codes plus the latest wRVU and compensation data for allergists.

Appeals and Denials Toolkit

(college.acaaai.org/toolkits/appeals-and-denials-toolkit)

College members are increasingly concerned about denied claims. Our new Appeals and Denials toolkit provides solutions by:

- Providing key strategies to prevent claim denials up front.
- Helping you troubleshoot – and get to the bottom of – existing denials.
- Providing resources and tips for common allergy/immunology appeals, including sample appeal letters for typical visit/procedure types.

Audit Toolkit

(college.acaaai.org/audit)

Audits for allergy services are on the rise, and our new Audit Toolkit can help. It will:

- Explain how to respond to an insurance carrier's audit.
- Explain why and how to do an internal audit of your practice.
- Provide coding and documentation examples for common allergy visits.



Allergy Office Module: Clinical Research

This 15-minute educational module helps you determine whether implementing a clinical research program is a good fit for your private practice. It explains what you need to get started with clinical research, regulatory requirements, and other considerations (education.acaaai.org/aomodules).

UPDATED TOOLKITS

In addition, some of our most popular toolkits have been updated this year!

Coding Toolkit (college.acaaai.org/coding) – Our coding resources are the gold standard for allergy/immunology! Get allergy coding education plus answers to your coding questions in our coding FAQ database.

Allergen Extract Mixing (college.acaaai.org/extract) – This Toolkit has all the resources you need to implement the new USP 797 rule, including our summary of the rule, instructions, staff competency assessments, our extract preparation guide, checklists and links to our popular USP webinar and extract mixing quiz.

Practice Assessment Quiz (college.acaaai.org/pmc) – Not sure where to start? Our updated quiz will quickly assess your practice strategies and policies in key practice management areas like coding, allergen extract mixing, telemedicine and more – and then recommend College resources to help.

Elevate your practice today! Check out the College's Practice Management Center at college.acaaai.org/pmc, where you'll find more than 20 toolkits on business and clinical topics.



Apply for leadership positions

College Fellows, apply for positions of Vice President, Treasurer and Regent.

Fellows, the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (ACAAI) is seeking leaders and visionaries to guide the College into the future.

If you have served on ACAAI committees or substantially contributed to other College activities, you are encouraged to apply for positions on the ACAAI Board of Regents (BOR). Those interested in one of the three Regent positions must have been an ACAAI Fellow for at least three years before nomination. Selected Regents serve three-year terms. Those candidates interested in the positions of Treasurer and Vice President must have previously served a three-year term on the BOR.

Interested candidates can find the application at college.acaaai.org/get-involved/nomination-applications. Completed applications should be emailed to miriamstandish@acaai.org or mailed to the ACAAI Executive Office and received by the submission deadline date. A curriculum vitae and a cover letter indicating any special professional relevant information not included in the application form, along with a personal statement, should be included with the application.

The Nominating Council will review all applications and provide their proposed slate of nominees to the BOR for formal consideration. **The deadline for submission is Friday, Feb. 16.**

American College of
Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

SAVE THE DATE!

**PODIUM
TO
PRACTICE®** 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting
**Advancing Allergy/
Immunology Discovery**
OCT. 24-28 ■ BOSTON, MA



Community Allergists Partnership in Education program takes off

ACAAI CAPE Program gives you the tools to teach future physicians about the A/I specialty.

At the recent ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting in Anaheim, a new College program was introduced – the **Community Allergists Partnership in Education (CAPE)** Program.

The ACAAI CAPE Program explores the important opportunity of teaching in a community allergy practice setting and provides tools for each step along the way.

Partnering between the community and academic realms to create office-based clinical elective rotations serves an important unmet

need. By pairing learners, medical students, residents and fellows with opportunities to learn in real-world settings, these elective rotations offer many benefits to our specialty, and to health care in general.

College members are enthusiastic about this new opportunity introduced by Immediate Past President Kathleen May, MD, FACAIAI. To date, there are 42 physicians or practices enrolled in the CAPE Program – and that means 42 potential community programs in various parts of the country. In addition, 375 members have visited the CAPE website to learn more.

Many of the enrolled physicians and their practices have already hit the ground running with this program and have been inspired to start new teaching and mentoring activities or to build on existing ones using the CAPE model.

Dr. Alnoor Malick, with the Houston Allergy and Asthma Clinic, said, "My interest in the CAPE Program stems from three things. First, from the (Revised) Hippocratic Oath I took in medical school which in part said, "I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow." Second, I participate with a local hospital's Family Medicine Residency Program to enable their residents to do an elective in allergy with me. I was interested in the CAPE Program to see how I could improve on what and how I teach. Third, and last, Jean A. Chapman, MD, Past President of ACAAI (1997-1998) impressed upon me the importance of offering such a program when he created the teaching (allergy) syllabus for medical students, and the CAPE Program reminded me of his legacy."



Another CAPE Program enrollee, Dr. Caroline Caperton, shared her enthusiasm for the program. "I'm very honored to be able to be in private practice in a city with an A/I academic fellowship here in Shreveport, Louisiana. Recently, we had a wonderful collaborative CME activity on hereditary angioedema where we had dinner with the internal medicine residents, as well as Dr. David Kaufman & the LSU-S A/I

fellows, plus several community allergists. One of the highlights was a Zoom collaborative lecture with HAE expert Dr. Marc Riedl. Through the CAPE Program, having the fellows and residents as well as medical students rotate through my clinic gives them

the opportunity to see real world, practical applications of the principles and practice of allergy & immunology, while giving me the benefit of enriching the experience of the next generation of physicians."

If you are a community allergist who would enjoy teaching future generations of physicians about our specialty, then the CAPE Program is an ideal program to help you get started.

As an allergist, you already have the skills needed – after all, physicians teach every day! You'll find the CAPE Program materials – videos, curriculum, resources and more – in the College Learning Connection at education.acaai.org/CAPE.



FELLOW-IN-TRAINING ADVANTAGE

By Vinh Nguyen, MD, Senior FIT Representative

Looking forward to the new year

It has been my great honor to continue representing Fellows-In-Training (FITs) as ACAAI's FIT representative, and I am happy to give a brief review of our accomplishments in the past year.

The **Board Review Corner**, which is curated by FITs, continues to prosper as volunteers from the FIT Section's Executive Committee were paired with experts on the College's scientific committees to produce questions for board review. If you have not done so, I would highly encourage you to visit the FIT Board Review Corner on the ACAAI website. It contains one of the largest question banks for the allergy immunology boards and is vetted intensely for board-relevant quality. Find it at education.acaaai.org/content/board-review-corner.

The College's **2023 Annual Scientific Meeting** was held in sunny Anaheim, California, where attendees came to network, learn about advancements in allergy/immunology, and perhaps visit one of the nearby amusement parks. The FIT Section would like to thank the many members of the College administrative staff as well as the Annual Meeting Program Committee for organizing another fun and successful meeting.

The **SPARK program** continues to grow as medical students and residents interested in allergy/immunology were paired



Vinh Nguyen, MD



Kylie Jungles, MD

with current A/I fellows. It was a pleasure to witness the blossoming relationships between trainees and program directors as ACAAI provided mentorship and networking opportunities for our future colleagues. Equally impressive and exciting was the diversity of backgrounds that was demonstrated in this year's SPARK program participants.

This year's annual **FIT Bowl** competition will go down as one of the most exciting and suspenseful in its 32-year history! Congratulations to the team from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, who survived a triple sudden death round to be crowned winners of this year's Fit Bowl. The FIT Section thanks the FIT Bowl Committee members for their hard work putting together another excellent competition!

During the FIT business meeting, the FIT Section elected Dr. Kylie Jungles from Rush University as the next Junior FIT Representative to the Board of Regents. I would like to thank our panel of speakers, Drs. Cherie Zachary, Travis Miller, and Mitchell Grayson, for their excellent presentations on disparities in allergy, transitioning to community practice, and clinical research. In addition, I would like to thank Dr. Brent Griffin for his dedication and leadership as a FIT representative for the past two years.

2023 was a remarkable year and has given me the opportunity to meet amazing people thanks to ACAAI. To those who haven't engaged with ACAAI leadership, I wholeheartedly would recommend you reach out and get involved. ACAAI continues to have many opportunities to serve your peers within the allergy/immunology community while gaining valuable leadership experience and training. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Dr. Jungles or our regional FIT representatives if you have any concerns, questions, or feedback. I hope to meet you all in Boston in October 2024 for the Annual Scientific Meeting.



Plan ahead for Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month

It's not too early to plan for National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month in May. The College's Asthma and Allergy Awareness Toolkit makes it easy to spread the word about allergic conditions and how allergists can help patients find relief! Find the toolkit at college.acaai.org/toolkits/allergy-asthma-awareness-toolkit.

Highlights from the toolkit:

- **Reaching out to primary care physicians** – Find our ready-made messages to email primary care physicians. Let them know how your expertise as a board certified/fellowship-trained allergist can help their patients with unresolved allergy symptoms.
- **Health fairs** – These are a great opportunity to offer free asthma screenings. Check with local hospitals or community organizations to see what they're planning. Our Asthma Screening Guide offers tips on getting started and resources to help run the screening.
- **In-person or virtual presentations** – Have you been asked to be a speaker for a community group or library on allergies or asthma? Our PowerPoint presentations can be used for virtual or live presentations.
- **Media relations** – Local media can help spread the word about allergies and asthma and might be looking for content. Use our article templates to easily craft a news release to send to your local media.
- **ACAAI public website** – Geared toward patients, we have informative web articles about asthma, all types of allergies, treatments, and management on our public website, [ACAAI.org](https://acaai.org).
- **YouTube videos** – We've added new, short videos featuring allergists answering common questions. Find videos on the College's YouTube channel that offer patients' perspectives on allergic conditions and getting care from an allergist. They can be found at youtube.com/allergists. These are ideal to provide information on your practice website or in your waiting room.

These resources and more can be found at college.acaai.org/toolkits/allergy-asthma-awareness-toolkit. Remember to follow the College on social media during May and help to share information with your followers. Help your community find relief!



The Allergists' Foundation's Community Grant recipients address important educational gaps



The Community Grant Program, initiated by the Allergists' Foundation in 2021, has funded 18 projects that address many different areas of need for our specialty, including clinician knowledge gaps. Two grantee projects from 2021 are spotlighted below. The projects investigate emerging educational needs related to patients' cannabis use and knowledge gaps related to food allergy among residents in pediatrics.

CANNABIS

Anil Nanda, MD, FAAAAI and his team addressed knowledge gaps related to cannabis, based on a survey that revealed that 75% of surveyed allergists were only somewhat knowledgeable about the respiratory effects and possible allergic reactions to cannabis. Furthermore, nearly a quarter of the surveyed allergists indicated they never ask their patients about cannabis use.

Dr. Nanda's team created six CME modules to address the educational needs that were identified via the survey. They include 1) Cannabis 101; 2) Benefits & Adverse Effects; 3) Allergic Sensitization; 4) Knowledge, Attitudes and Practice (KAP) in Followers of the Allergy and Asthma Network; 5) Allergist Cannabis KAP; and 6) Talking to Patients. The educational resource, which will be available via the College Learning Connection once finalized, includes a cannabis intake questionnaire ACAAI members can use with their patients.

These projects would not be possible without the generosity of ACAAI members who contributed to the Allergists' Foundation. Please consider joining your colleagues in making a gift to the Foundation so that we can continue to expand and strengthen the Community Grant Program. You can give online at college.acaai.org. We thank our grantees for their exceptional work and our members for giving them the opportunity to address important needs in our specialty. Learn more about our grantees at college.acaai.org/grants.



Anil Nanda, MD, FAAAAI

FOOD ALLERGY



Michael Pistiner, MD, FAAAAI

Michael Pistiner, MD, MMSc, FAAAAI and his team explored knowledge gaps related to food allergy among residents in pediatrics. With the increasing prevalence of food allergy in the United States, there is a greater need for the management of infant/toddler food allergies amid an aging population of allergists and diminishing number of residents pursuing allergy/immunology fellowships. Dr. Pistiner conducted a national educational needs assessment among pediatric residents regarding infant/toddler food allergy and anaphylaxis. The assessment explored residents' current knowledge on the latest guidelines and recommendations regarding infant/toddler food allergy and anaphylaxis. The project aimed to

identify and characterize opportunities for formal interaction with community practicing allergists and identify opportunities for a standard infant/toddler food allergy curriculum that could be implemented at a national level.

Dr. Pistiner's research revealed there are many gaps with respect to where pediatric residents obtain information about food allergy and their comfort level for diagnosing, managing and counseling parents about infant/toddler food allergy. Furthermore, they found that only a minority of surveyed residents expressed interest in pursuing allergy/immunology fellowships after graduation. Since most residents found participation in an allergy elective and working with an allergist as the most informative experiences, the College has an indispensable opportunity to design a standard national curriculum, with input from pediatric allergists, to address the knowledge gaps of pediatric residents and foster more collaboration with practicing community allergists.

Dr. Pistiner's research revealed there are many gaps with respect to where pediatric residents obtain information about food allergy and their comfort level for diagnosing, managing and counseling parents about infant/toddler food allergy. Furthermore, they found that only a minority of surveyed residents expressed interest in pursuing allergy/immunology fellowships after graduation. Since most residents found participation in an allergy elective and working with an allergist as the most informative experiences, the College has an indispensable opportunity to design a standard national curriculum, with input from pediatric allergists, to address the knowledge gaps of pediatric residents and foster more collaboration with practicing community allergists.

On Demand — Your opportunity to revisit the 2023 Annual Meeting — and get credit!

Ready for more of the College's Annual Scientific Meeting? With so much offered at the meeting, it might have been difficult to attend every session you're interested in. The College's On Demand program is the answer, giving you access to view and get credit for more than 60 hours of sessions presented at the meeting.

If you attended the Annual Meeting, you have complimentary access to our On Demand courses.

- To access the courses, simply go to the College Learning Connection at education.acaaai.org and log in using your College username and password. Not sure about your login information? These credentials were emailed to you after the Annual Meeting. Need assistance? Call ACAAI Director of Membership, Karla Kaschub, at 847-725-2282.
- Click on 2023 General Sessions (Friday through Monday). Once you've logged in, click on the green **TAKE COURSE** button to get started.
- Please note: to access the Thursday program and Literature Review recordings, you must have purchased access to these courses during registration for the in-person meeting or the Livestream program.

If you didn't attend in 2023, there are On Demand packages for purchase. Access the On Demand Program at education.acaaai.org/ondemand.

The On-Demand Sessions include:

- **Annual Meeting General Sessions** – general sessions from throughout the meeting from Friday through Monday.
- **Thursday's special focus on Anaphylaxis and Mast Cell Diseases** – the latest developments in the science, diagnosis, and therapeutics for mast cell diseases and anaphylaxis.
- **Annual Literature Review** – a review of the most important, clinically relevant literature of the specialty published between November 2022 and October 2023.
- **Practice Management Program** – dynamic updates on efficiently and effectively running your allergy practice.





Musicians rocked the Welcome Reception, which was held outside in beautiful weather in the Grand Plaza.

A big welcome from Anaheim for the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting

The College's 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting brought together nearly 2,000 health care providers in person in Anaheim, California and an additional 530 through our Livestream program.

The meeting began with Thursday's program, a full day dedicated to the latest science in mast cell biology and anaphylaxis. And the meeting kept going strong! Participants had their pick of sessions on topics ranging from asthma, atopic dermatitis, biologics, coding, EOE, OIT and more. Workshops provided a full spectrum of instruction and hands-on techniques in patch testing, punch versus shave biopsy, performing a rhinolaryngologic exam and SQ immunoglobulin infusion.

Attendees enjoyed our social events, including Friday evening's Welcome Reception, which was held outside in beautiful weather in the Grand Plaza, and Saturday night's exciting FIT Bowl.

During the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, we celebrated our award recipients and welcomed Gailen D. Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD, FACAIA as 2023-24 President.



The Grand Plaza set the scene for the 2023 Welcome Reception. Guests were treated to a variety of fare from food trucks, a photo booth and live music and entertainment.



Gailen D. Marshall, Jr., MD, PhD, FACAAl is welcomed as 2023-24 President by 2022-23 ACAAl President Kathleen R. May, MD, FACAAl.



Gary N. Gross, MD, FACAAl was the recipient of the 2023 Gold Headed Cane Award.



Winners of the 2023 FIT Bowl: Drs. Jeremy McMurray and Andrew Weskamp of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.



John J. Oppenheimer, MD, FACAAl presented the Edward J. O'Connell Lecture during Sunday's plenary. The plenary focused on biologics in asthma.



David R. Stukus, MD, FACAAl presented the Bela Schick Lecture during the Presidential Plenary on Saturday. The plenary focused on trending allergy/immunology topics.



Participants in the "Nut and Bolts of Patch Test, Wet Wraps and Creams" workshop practice placing patch tests.

AllergyWatch: Keeping you updated with the latest medical research

AllergyWatch is one of the most valued College member benefits. It provides an unbiased, comprehensive review of 23 major medical journals. It is supported by Sanofi & Regeneron.



For 25 years, *AllergyWatch* has helped allergists/immunologists stay abreast of research. Emil J. Bardana, MD, FAAAAI (Emeritus), *AllergyWatch*'s first Publication Editor and ACAAI President in 2001, said it was created because it was becoming "very difficult, if not impossible, to keep pace with the myriad of important

articles published in both U.S. and European allergy and immunology journals."

It was launched as a four-page publication during the 1998 Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. In 1999, it became a bimonthly publication with 12 pages.

"Thanks to Bud Bardana, who had the inspiration to start *AllergyWatch* in the late 1990s," said current Editor-in-Chief Stanley Fineman, MD, MBA, FAAAAI. "I have had the privilege of participating as an Associate Editor and now Editor-in-Chief and have seen *AllergyWatch* continue to improve and evolve into the publication that truly helps the busy allergist keep up with the literature."

Along with Dr. Fineman as Editor-in-Chief, the Associate Editor, Assistant Editors and a scientific writer work diligently on *AllergyWatch* content. Assistant Editors review three or four specific journals each month, select articles and provide comments for each article summary.

Each issue of *AllergyWatch* summarizes 20 to 25 articles. Content from *AllergyWatch* is often the focus of the College's podcast, AllergyTalk.



Meet the *AllergyWatch* editorial team:



Stanley Fineman, MD, MBA, FAAAAI
Editor-in-Chief

"College members have benefitted from this bimonthly review of relevant scientific articles," he said. "The biannual issues reviewing the ABAI MOC articles have been extremely beneficial in helping prepare for the MOC exams."



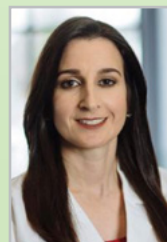
Shyam R. Joshi, MD
Associate Editor

"I have had the opportunity to review incredible research," he said. "I have enjoyed working with the other editors of *AllergyWatch* and have learned an incredible amount through this experience."



Timothy G. Chow, MD
Assistant Editor

"One of the things that I enjoy most about working on *AllergyWatch* is the opportunity to consider specifically how studies may (or may not) impact allergists in their day-to-day practice," he said. "It's a fun exercise to think about how the often incremental steps taken in published research fit together to reinforce or change our practice."



Vivian Hernandez-Trujillo, MD, FAAAAI
Assistant Editor

"I enjoy working on *AllergyWatch* because it is an opportunity to share tips on topics which affect the practicing allergist/immunologist in this age of ever-changing health care," she said. "I also appreciate the opportunity to share reviews on topics that are increasingly important, such as the effects of mental health on atopic disease and health care disparities."

Continued on page 17

ALLERGYWATCH (CONTINUED)

**Samantha M. Knox, MD****Assistant Editor**

"Being an editor for *AllergyWatch* keeps me engaged, not only with the dominant allergy journals, but also with a variety of other medical journals," she said. "I am excited to see what research has been published with each cycle and how this could be important for all of our practices."

**Gerald B. Lee, MD, FAAAAI****Assistant Editor**

"I absolutely enjoy discussing *AllergyWatch* articles with my co-editors on the AllergyTalk podcast," he said. "The podcast is a wonderful opportunity to integrate *AllergyWatch* articles and our own clinical experiences to explore how we can integrate the latest advances into practice."

**Iris M. Otani, MD****Assistant Editor**

"I have always appreciated the *AllergyWatch* publication as a way to help stay updated with the literature and was excited to join the editorial board," she said.

**Sarah W. Spriet, DO, FAAAAI****Assistant Editor**

"It has been a privilege to join the *AllergyWatch* editorial board. The concise summaries of current literature have been very valuable to me as a practicing allergist-immunologist," she said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to bring this resource to others in our specialty."

**Anthony Montanaro, MD, FAAAAI****Associate Editor, Retired**

Dr. Montanaro recently retired as Associate Editor. "I had the privilege of working on *AllergyWatch* since the start of the publication. It has been a pleasure to share in the success of this valuable resource with our readership."

College helps with career planning

Use our Career Center and Resolve contract negotiation resources.

Are you new to allergy practice or considering a different practice type or location? The College's **Career Center** can help. Visit the site and you'll find listings searchable by job title, keyword or location. You can also set up alerts, so you'll be notified of the latest listings. Our Career Center also provides resume review and advice on career planning. If your practice has positions to fill, College members receive discounts on job posting prices and provides areas to keep track of job candidates. Find the Career Center at jobs.acaaai.org.



Another aspect of career planning is contract negotiation. For employed physicians in particular, a contract not only determines compensation and benefits, but also outlines a work schedule, paid time off, personal property rights, restrictive covenants, and much more.

Get the help you need! The College has partnered with **Resolve**, a national firm that specializes in physician employment contracts. Resolve offers professional guidance on navigating and negotiating compensation and benefits. Whether you are signing your first contract or thinking of renegotiating an existing agreement, Resolve can help with every step of the process. College members get a discount on Resolve's services. There are several packages to choose from. Learn more at m2.resolve.com/acaaai.

A record-breaking year for media coverage

The College's 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting brought together nearly 2,000 health care providers in person in Anaheim, California and an additional 530 through our Livestream program.

Media coverage of the College's Annual Scientific Meeting is always robust, but **this year the number of media stories about the College was record-breaking!** More than 4,000 media stories tied to the meeting appeared in national, regional, international and local news outlets.

But more than coverage in traditional media outlets, this year the College expanded its reach by increasing the number of avenues through which it reaches the public, as well as members and other health care professionals who treat those with allergies and asthma.

Media coverage

In the days leading up to the Annual Meeting, during the meeting, and immediately following, the College saw coverage in every type of media outlet. HealthDay, a leading producer and syndicator of evidence-based health news and video for consumers and physicians and one of the largest health news syndicators to Internet sites, was again front and center in covering the meeting. Five stories out of the meeting were carried on hundreds of internet news sites, including top news outlets such as US News & World Report and Yahoo! News.

Additional media outlets that covered stories out of the Annual Meeting included NBC News, The Washington Post, WebMD, Newsweek, the New York Post, Fox News, and Everyday Health.

Health care trade press also showed strong interest in the news from our meeting. Healio, a medical website that provides medical news and information for physicians and health care practitioners, was the official media partner of the meeting and ran more than 60 stories. Other health care focused websites that covered the meeting included Medscape and MedPage Today.

Social Media Subcommittee steps up!

The College has a new Social Media Subcommittee whose purpose is to amplify the messages of the College to both the public and member allergists. These members, who are active on various social platforms, will be creating collaborative posts with the College on a regular schedule. One goal is to

stop the spread of misinformation about allergies and asthma and to promote evidence-based material to help those with allergic conditions manage their symptoms. The number of followers of the College on Instagram has already more than doubled thanks to the great messaging of the subcommittee.

Consider following these College members on Instagram and other platforms, or joining the effort with your own social media posts: Farah Khan, @farah.khan.md, Zachary Rubin, @rubin_allergy, Tania Elliott, @drtaniaelliott, Douglas Jones, @drdouglassjones, Tamara Hubbard, @foodallergycounselor, Payel Gupta, @nycdoctor, Sakina Bajowala, @allergist.mommy, Manisha Relan, @pedsallergymd.

New YouTube videos

The College's YouTube channel now boasts 30 additional videos. Member allergists attending the Annual Scientific Meeting had the opportunity to record "allergist on the street" interviews answering common questions that are either in the news or that they hear from patients. The videos are short and packed with useful information for the patient population. The videos will be featured once a week on the College's social media platforms. Consider posting them to your member website or re-posting them on your social media platforms to spread the great information they contain.

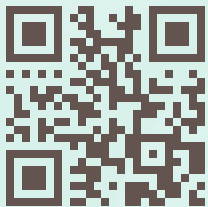


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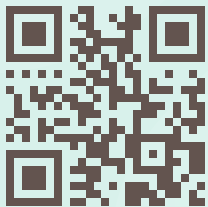
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