



CollegeAdvantage

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

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We're advancing allergy/ immunology discovery

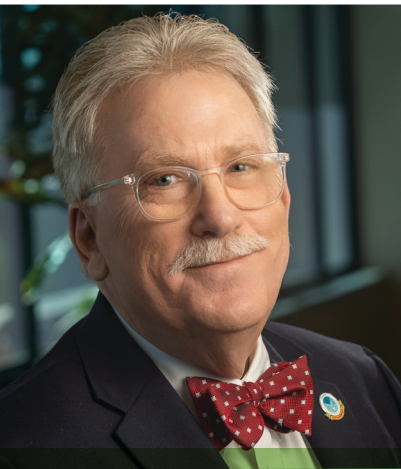
Get the latest science and Podium to Practice® tips from renowned experts for every stage in your career at the ACAAI 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

President's message	2	Outstanding achievers	11	Honoring excellence in A/I	17
College's advocacy efforts	3	Maximize your team's skills	12	New campaign raises awareness of Type 2 inflammation	18
Make the most of your Annual Meeting experience	5	Women allergists: Join Breaking the Mold™ discussions	13	2024-2025 candidates for election	18
Livestream program	7	FIT opportunities	14	Make time to socialize!	19
Streamlined meeting information	7	Now available: ACAAI Review for the A/I Boards, Fifth Edition	15	Gold Headed Cane Award	20
2023 allergist compensation gains outstrip inflation	8	Board Preparation content	15	From grantee to grant reviewer	21



American
College
of Allergy, Asthma
& Immunology



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

Turning the page – Another year of College progress

I remember as a child hearing from my parents that time would speed up as I got older. Turns out they were right. It is hard to believe that it was almost 12 months ago I became ACAAI president. Usually in these types of columns, the president recaps his/her accomplishments over the past year and wishes the organization continued success.

I most certainly do wish the College all possible future success, and I fully realize and embrace that my role in this has been a very small piece, when put into the context of the organization and those great leaders who have gone before me and will succeed me in this presidential role. So, I will take this opportunity to share my perspective of the state of the College, where we are headed, and who has – and will – lead us to continued success in the future.

First, I want to thank you, the membership, for allowing me the honor of ministering in College leadership over the past 19 years. It began with an invitation from then-President Michael Blaiss, MD, FAAAAI to serve as editor-in-chief of the *Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*. I served as a member of the Board of Regents and officer, culminating in being your president this past year. This journey has allowed me to have had a small influence on the College performance in the past and on the strategic direction we are headed into the future. Truly, it has been an honor of a lifetime.

Our greatest lasting strengths are embodied in those who work (often behind the scenes) to promote the health and vitality of the College. This begins with our extraordinary staff led by Rick Slawny, our Executive Director, and the incredible team that he has built to serve us. I cannot name them all here but intend to do so at our upcoming Boston meeting. Along with our professional staff, the College established the office of Executive Medical Director as a stabilizing force from a former president who knows the workings of the College and provides continuity between the College leadership and the staff. Our current EMD is Todd Mahr, MD, FAAAAI, who has been incredibly supportive of me and the College overall. He has become a trusted advisor with strong institutional memory. We are all blessed to have him in this role.

College presidents come and go each year. Each of us has our presidential initiatives based upon our vision to make the College stronger and better for our membership. Immediate Past President Kathleen May, MD, FAAAAI and I partnered in a two-year initiative that is designed to bring academic programs and their faculty together in educational and research venues to assist our fellowship training programs, increase the influence of allergy/immunology in medical schools that do not have a fellowship training program or even a full-time allergist, and provide research opportunities for community-based, real world studies conducted by an academic-community investigator process. More details are available on our website education.acaai.org.

There are so many continuing successes in our College that space does not allow me to mention. We have phenomenal

Continued on page 4

Connect with us at acaai.org or through:



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Get a close-up look at the College's advocacy efforts

Attend sessions at the ACAAI Annual Meeting to see how we're working for you



Advocacy Council Chair Travis Miller, MD, FAAAAI leads a discussion at the 2023 House of Delegates meeting in Anaheim.

ADVOCACY ADVANTAGE

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

The Advocacy Council knows you're interested in our advocacy work, and we want you to get an up-close look at our efforts, so we've planned programs during the College's Annual Meeting to address your interests.

Friday, Oct. 25

8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Our Practice Management Committee offers a day-long program that covers practice topics currently on your radar:

- 2024 Allergy Coding Update
- The Great Pro/Con Debate – AI for A/I
- Top Tips from PM Experts to Increase Revenue and Operational Efficiency
- Everything You Need to Know About 95165
- Value-Based Care Options for Allergists

- Operational Efficiencies: Harnessing Technology and Templates to Optimize Workflow
- Achieving Success With Prior Authorizations

4:30 – 6:00 pm

The House of Delegates will be hosting its Annual Town Hall Meeting in Boston. Along with a wine and cheese reception, the HOD plans a brief Business Meeting followed by a program titled "Pharmaceuticals - From Production to Patient." Please join us for an interesting discussion.

Continued on page 4

ADVOCACY ADVANTAGE (CONTINUED)

Saturday, Oct. 26

1:00 – 2:30 pm

Our Billing and Coding Committee is focusing on a program for Fellows-in-Training and new allergists – using E&M codes, ICD-10 codes, CPT coding vignettes, and how RVUs impact your practice's revenue. Learn how to maximize your income with correct coding.

Sunday, Oct. 27

10:00 – 11:30 am

Advocacy Council leaders address your Coding and Government Relations concerns in this symposium. They'll provide an update on 2025 codes, discuss issues allergists are currently facing and provide the latest on government and legislative updates. This is a session you won't want to miss!

Help us advocate for a change in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule payment formula

Visit qrco.de/acaai-advocacy to read and sign on to a letter advocating for a change in the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule payment formula. We have and will continue to advocate for a permanent, annual, inflationary payment update tied to the Medicare Economic Index. *Stop making us the cut!*

Free Resources

If you haven't been to the College's website lately, you don't know what you're missing! We provide resources to help you navigate your practice more efficiently and effectively. The **Practice Management Center** on the College's website (college.acaai.org/practice-management/) offers more than 20 toolkits – covering a wide range of topics – to all College members at no cost.

Everything you need to be compliant with USP 797 requirements is included in the **Allergen Extract Mixing Toolkit** (college.acaai.org/toolkits/allergen-extract-mixing-toolkit/).

The Prior Authorization (PA) Letter Generator creates evidence-based, customized PA appeal letters for specific drug/disease combinations in just a few minutes. Member feedback has indicated these letters are very successful. Find the letters in our **Prior Authorization Toolkit** at college.acaai.org/toolkits/prior-authorization-toolkit/.



J. Allen Meadows, MD

Check out our **FAQs** (college.acaai.org/resource/frequently-asked-questions/) and get answers to many of your coding questions. If you can't find an answer there, our coding experts (AdvocacyCouncil@acaai.org) can help.

We've partnered with a national firm, **Resolve** (college.acaai.org/new-member-benefit-employment-contract-service/), which provides guidance to professionals negotiating new contracts. College members receive discounts on Resolve's services.

All these resources and more are available to you as member benefits. Find out what you've been missing today at college.acaai.org/practice-management/.

**The Advocacy Council -
ADVOCATING FOR ALLERGISTS
AND THEIR PATIENTS.**

TURNING THE PAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

advocacy for us as members, our patients and our specialty through our Advocacy Council. We have our upcoming annual meeting in Boston (Oct. 24-28), which I believe will be our best meeting yet. Our membership gets younger and more diverse every year. Our leadership development program has been incredibly successful, with more and more young members taking positions of leadership in committees, councils and even on our Board of Regents. This provides an important complement to the perspectives of more seasoned

leaders. In short, the College is vibrant, growing and very healthy thanks in large part to your support.

So, as the page on this year's College life turns, and I hand the reins to Jim Tracy, DO, FAAAAI at the end of our Boston meeting, I am so very proud and thankful to know that I am part of the best professional organization in the world for the practicing allergist/immunologist – the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology.



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

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING ADVANTAGE

Make the most of your Annual Meeting experience

It will be here before you know it – The 2024 ACAAI Annual Meeting is just a few weeks away! Join your colleagues in allergy/immunology in Boston Oct. 24-28 for a long weekend of education and networking. The ACAAI meeting leads the way over other national meetings with Podium to Practice® solutions you can use right away in your practice.

Haven't registered for the meeting? There is still time! Go to annualmeeting.acaai.org/2024. If you can't attend in person, attend via Livestream. Read more on page 7.

What should you do first?

Start by downloading the **Annual Meeting app**. You'll be able to access the schedule 24/7, participate in the Passport Contest, search for specific speakers and exhibitors, access handouts and ePosters, claim CME credit, submit evaluations, and more! The app will be available a week before the meeting. Download the app by searching for "ACAAI" in your app store.

What's new this year?

The all-day **Thursday program** promises to kick off the meeting with practical, evidence-based information on new advancements in asthma care.

ePoster Day – attend Friday afternoon for a focused event featuring groundbreaking research and extraordinary challenging cases.

Try some **new sessions!** Every year the meeting has a variety of new sessions – or a new take on something familiar.

You'll notice the printed program has been replaced with a **pocket guide**. It will have important information in a slimmer, easy-to-carry format.

What about your meeting favorites?

Some sessions come back year after year because of their excellence. Returning in 2024 are the popular Literature Review, 7 for 11 pediatric update, Practice Management Program and the Advanced Practice Health Care Providers and Allied Health Professionals courses.

Continued on page 6

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING ADVANTAGE (CONTINUED)

Named lectures return! Dr. Melinda M. Rathkopf presents the Bela Schick Lecture titled “Don’t be Afraid to Pivot: Changing Your Career Rather Than Abandoning It.” Dr. Mariana C. Castells presents the Edward J. O’Connell Lecture titled “How To Physically Set Up a Desensitization Protocol for Biologics and Chemotherapeutic Agents.”

Plenaries are always a hit! During the **Presidential Plenary** on Saturday, experts discuss how community-based research directly improves patient care. Sunday’s plenary will provide practice guidance on drug allergy. During Monday’s plenary, experts will provide a sneak peek at the asthma practice parameter that’s in development.

What else should you add to your schedule?

Don’t forget social events – the **President’s Welcome Reception** on Friday night and the fun, competitive **FIT Bowl** on Saturday evening.

Explore the **exhibit hall** and visit companies waiting to discuss the latest products and services.

Don’t forget to visit the **College Resource Center** – your College membership gives you access to many resources –

learn more about them! Members of ACAAI’s Social Media Subcommittee will be at the College Resource Center on Saturday to help you make the most of your practice’s social media outreach (and don’t forget to attend the session **Social Media and Podcasting: The Changing Face of Medical Education** on Sunday).

How can you get the most from your Annual Meeting experience?

There’s so much more to the top A/I meeting of the year! Attend **Non-CME Corporate Forums** and **Product Theaters** throughout the meeting. The **Alliance Hospitality Committee** will again be hosting hospitality suites with fun and educational speakers for registered spouses and guests. See how the College is working for you at the **Annual Business Meeting** and during the **Coding and Government Relations** session.

Explore the meeting program at annualmeeting.acaai.org/2024/at-a-glance.cfm for more sessions and activities you’ll want to attend.



Ten reasons the Annual Meeting Livestream program can work for you

Can't attend the Annual Meeting in person? Try our streaming option.

You want to experience the College's 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting, but traveling to Boston isn't an option for you. The College's Livestream program is the answer! You'll have live access to plenaries and symposia in real time using any device. Plus, earn CME!

There are countless reasons to attend the ACAAI Annual Meeting via Livestream. Here are 10:

- 1 Earn up to 28 hours of CME credit (which includes the Thursday program and Literature Review).
- 2 Learn from international experts in allergy, asthma and immunology.
- 3 See the live broadcasts of speakers and slides from the Saturday, Sunday and Monday plenary and symposia sessions.
- 4 Attend the live broadcast of Thursday's program on asthma and/or Friday's Literature Review Sessions – a separate purchase is required.
- 5 Participate in question-and-answer sessions with faculty.
- 6 See the live viewing of the Opening Ceremonies.
- 7 Celebrate award recipients and get an update on ACAAI activities with the live viewing of the College Business Meeting.



- 8 Stay on the cutting edge of allergy and immunology research via 24/7 access to ePosters.
- 9 Increase your productivity – attend sessions where they fit into your schedule.
- 10 Access 60 hours of recordings of symposia and plenaries after the meeting at no charge.

Don't take our word for it! A past participant of the Livestream Program said, "Having the virtual option made it possible to obtain all the content. The option to review sessions at a later date is helpful to continue to review missed content."

Register for the Livestream program at annualmeeting.acaai.org/livestream.cfm. **Please note – all Livestream sessions will take place in Eastern Standard Time. The deadline to register for Livestream is Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2024 at 5:00 pm, EST.**

New in 2024 – Streamlining Annual Meeting information

For the 2024 ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting, we will be pushing more information from the printed program to the annualmeeting.acaai.org website and the mobile app.

Moving some items to the website, such as general information, learning objectives and more, will allow both the registration and final programs to be streamlined, while still offering the important information you have come to rely on. The website will be the main source for Annual Meeting details that have, in the past, been found in the printed programs.

Some other things to be aware of:

- **Annual Meeting website.** The Annual Meeting website is rich with details and the navigation is well-organized and intuitive.

- **Printed pocket guide.** The printed program available at the Annual Meeting will be narrower – more of a "pocket" guide rather than a full-size program. It will have all the information you need to navigate the meeting, right at your fingertips.
- **Mobile app planner.** The mobile app will be as robust as ever, allowing you to plan your schedule by adding the sessions and activities that you are interested in attending to "MyPlanner."

We look forward to introducing you to these new features of the Annual Meeting website and programs.



PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ADVANTAGE

2023 allergist compensation gains outstrip inflation

Here's the latest compensation data for allergists.

We have good news for allergists: allergist median academic compensation and non-academic compensation both saw increases in 2023 – and both benchmarks rose more than the reported 3.4% rate of inflation.

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.

Allergist/immunologist MGMA survey participation

Allergist/immunologist participation in the MGMA Provider Compensation Survey increased 12.8% in 2024, in conjunction with the rollout of MGMA's easier survey

Continued on page 9

Table A: MGMA Provider Compensation Survey Participation Allergist/Immunologist Counts by Report Year

Non-academic	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Allergy/Immunology	413	372	391	354	370
Pediatrics: Allergy/Immunology	62	52	52	85	53
Total Non-academic Allergy/Immunology	475	424	443	439	423
Academic	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Allergy/Immunology	135	121	97	96	103
Pediatrics: Allergy/Immunology	70	58	84	73	60
Total Academic Allergy/Immunology	205	179	181	169	163
Total Allergy/Immunology	680	603	624	608	586

Source: 2024 MGMA DataDive Provider Compensation. Used with permission from MGMA Copyright 2024. <https://www.mgma.com/data>. Data is protected by MGMA copyright and is prohibited to be shared or published without MGMA's consent.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ADVANTAGE (CONTINUED)

methodology (practices can simply upload financial reports to MGMA and avoid all data entry). Compensation data was collected for a total of 680 allergists/immunologists – the most ever reported.

A total of 475 non-academic allergists/immunologists participated in the 2024 survey (which is based on 2023 data), a 12.0% increase over 2023. Participation among academic allergists increased 14.5% to the highest amount ever: 205. 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).

For full-time physicians, the **median non-academic total compensation** (including provider wages, bonus/incentive payments, research stipends, honoraria and profit distributions) for 2023 was \$351,757 when allergy/immunology (A/I) and pediatrics A/I were combined. This was an increase over 2023 and continued an upward trend from 2019 (which was pre-COVID). 2023 median work relative value units (wRVUs), which measure physician productivity, decreased from its high in 2022 to 4,778, but still represents a substantial increase over pre-COVID levels in 2019.

Last year we began reporting a new data point for non-academic allergists: the Compensation to wRVU ratio. In 2023, this number declined to \$74.98 from the prior year.

This data is important to many employed allergists since it is common in compensation formulas. Note: this is not the same as dividing median total compensation by median wRVUs. Since there are different numbers of allergists reporting compensation and wRVUs, this is not an apples-to-apples comparison. For more information on the relationship between total compensation, wRVUs and the ratio of compensation to wRVUs, we encourage you to explore the College's RVU toolkit at college.acaa.org/rvutoolkit.

Median **academic total compensation** for the combined A/I and pediatrics A/I in 2023 was \$214,788, an increase over both the prior year and 2019 (pre-COVID). Median academic wRVUs of 3,032 increased slightly over the prior year to the highest level we've reported yet – but note wRVU data was only collected for 31 academic allergists. We are not reporting the Compensation to wRVU ratio for academic allergists because there is limited data for this statistic.

For comparison purposes, Medscape's 2023 allergist compensation data (reported in 2024) showed average A/I compensation of \$307,000, with data from less than 70 allergists. Medscape's survey does not break out academic vs. non-academic compensation, and it uses **average** compensation instead of **median** compensation; the median is typically a better representation for salary data. For all these reasons, it is difficult to rely on the Medscape data.

Continued on page 10

Table B: 2023 MGMA Provider Compensation Data Full-time Allergists/Immunologists

Non-academic data	# Reporting	Combined A/I and Peds A/I
Median total compensation ¹	338	\$351,757
Median work RVUs ²	182	4,778
Compensation to work RVU ratio	177	74.98
Academic data		
Median total compensation ¹	187	\$214,788
Median work RVUs ²	31	3,032

Source: 2024 MGMA DataDive Provider Compensation, based on 2023 data. Used with permission from MGMA Copyright 2024. <https://www.mgma.com/data>. Data is protected by MGMA copyright and is prohibited to be shared or re-published without MGMA's consent.

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

²RVUs = 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.

Table C: Medscape Allergist/Immunologist Compensation Data¹ Full-time Allergists/Immunologists

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Average A/I compensation	\$307,000	\$282,000	\$298,000	\$274,000	\$301,000
Approximate # reporting	<70	100	131	179	175

¹Medscape survey data for each year was reported in the following year. For example, the 2023 data shown here was reported in the 2024 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.

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ADVANTAGE (CONTINUED)

Table D: 2023 MGMA Provider Compensation Data – Full-time Allergists/Immunologists

Non-academic data	Combined A/I and Peds A/I	
	Physician-Owned	Hospital/ IDS Owned
Median total compensation ¹	\$356,394	\$347,407
# reporting	105	185
Median work RVUs ²	4,148	4,715
# reporting	55	89

Source: 2024 MGMA DataDive Provider Compensation, based on 2023 survey data. Used with permission from MGMA Copyright 2024. <https://www.mgma.com/data>. Data is protected by MGMA copyright and is prohibited to be shared or re-published without MGMA's consent.

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

²RVUs = 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.

Table E: 2023 MGMA Provider Placement Starting Salary Data Median Guaranteed Compensation – Combined A/I and Peds A/I

	# Reporting	Starting Salary
Academic + Non-academic	31	\$240,000

Source: 2024 MGMA DataDive Provider Placement Starting Salary, based on 2023 survey data. Used with permission from MGMA Copyright 2024. <https://www.mgma.com/data>. Data is protected by MGMA copyright and is prohibited to be shared or re-published without MGMA's consent.

MGMA reported 2023 A/I total compensation by ownership type for non-academic practices, and we've observed some interesting trends over the last few years. Median compensation for physician-owned practices dipped for the second consecutive year to \$356,394 in 2023. Median compensation for hospital/integrated delivery system (IDS) owned practices, however, has increased over the past several years to \$347,407 in 2023.

Key takeaway: the gap in median compensation by ownership type has narrowed significantly, with physician-owned practices earning only 2.6% more than hospital/IDS-owned practices in 2023. Historically, median compensation for physician-owned practices has consistently exceeded that for hospital/IDS-owned practices by double digits.

Another key takeaway: for the second year in a row, wRVUs for hospital/IDS-owned practices significantly exceeded wRVUs for physician-owned practices. In 2023 the difference was 13.7%. This is a reversal of the previous several years, when physician-owned practice wRVUs exceeded hospital/IDS wRVUs. One caveat, however, is that the number of reported wRVUs in 2023 for both groups was down over previous years, which may be skewing the results.

An additional interesting observation: for the past three years, the reported number of allergists working for hospital/IDS-owned practices has exceeded the reported number of allergists working for physician-owned practices. This is consistent with the overall trend of increased employment among allergists.

Finally, a third ownership category has emerged: Other Majority Owner, which includes allergists employed by an insurance company, HMO, the government, private equity, or a university/medical school. 48 allergists, or 14% of those reporting, were in that category in 2023.

For practices planning to hire a new allergist this year, a total of 31 allergists reported 2023 starting salary guaranteed compensation data in MGMA's Provider Placement Starting Salary survey. 27 of those reporting were non-academic allergists, and four were academic allergists.

Please help us continue to provide this important data for allergy and immunology practices by participating in MGMA's surveys in 2025. Participating practices get free, direct access to the survey results (versus the limited data we can report here), and all survey data is completely confidential. Participating really is easier than ever; simply upload your reports to MGMA and you're done! "The process was very easy. I downloaded a couple of reports from Quickbooks, removed the physician's name from the report, and emailed the report to the MGMA team," said Jean Owen, MBA, vice chair of the Practice Management Committee.

Watch your email and College Insider for survey announcements in January.

Spotlight on outstanding achievers

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

Distinguished Fellow Awards

This year's Distinguished Fellow Awards are presented to Luz S. Fonacier, MD, FAAAAI of Mineola, New York and Alnoor A. Malick, MD, FAAAAI of Houston, Texas. This award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions and commitment in the United States or Canada on behalf of the specialty of allergy.

International Distinguished Fellow Award

The recipient of this year's International Distinguished Fellow Award is Elham M. Hossny, MD of Cairo, Egypt. This award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions and commitment on behalf of allergy in the recipient's respective country.

Distinguished Service Awards

This year's Distinguished Service Awards are presented to Mitchell H. Grayson, MD, FAAAAI of Columbus, Ohio, Gerald B. Lee, MD, FAAAAI of Atlanta, Georgia and Jay A. Lieberman, MD, FAAAAI of Memphis, Tennessee. This award is given in recognition of tireless efforts, dedication and enthusiasm on behalf of the College.

Woman in Allergy Award

The recipient of this year's Woman in Allergy Award is

The College is pleased to announce the recipients of our 2024 awards. Honorees will be recognized at the Annual Business Meeting on Sunday, Oct. 27, during the College's Annual Scientific Meeting.



Dr. Luz Fonacier



Dr. Alnoor Malick



Dr. Elham Hossny



Dr. Mitchell Grayson



Dr. Gerald Lee



Dr. Jay Lieberman



Dr. Marcella Aquino



Gina Steiner



Dr. Hugh Sampson



Dr. Thomas Bieber



Dr. William Busse



Dr. David Khan

Marcella R. Aquino, MD, FAAAAI of Providence, Rhode Island. This annual award honors an individual who has advanced the role of women in medicine or made a significant contribution to the specialty.

Executive Medical Director Award

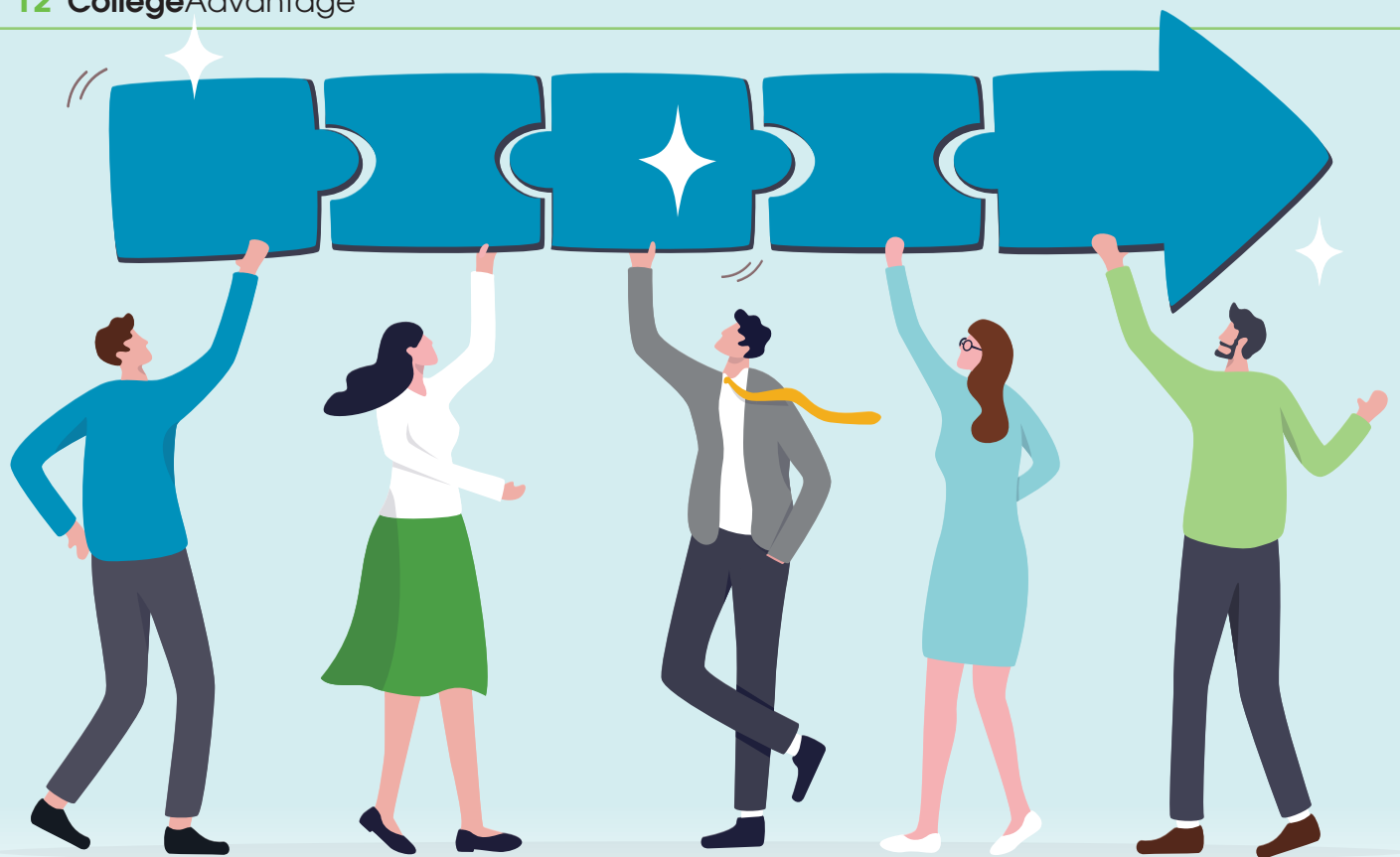
The College honors Gina L. Steiner, MS, of Arlington Heights, Illinois who is ACAAI Director of Communications. This award is in recognition of her outstanding management of the College's communications activities.

Annals Distinguished Author Awards

Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology recognizes Hugh Sampson, MD, FAAAAI of New York, New York, Thomas Bieber, MD, PhD, MDRA of Bonn, Germany and William Busse, MD of Madison, Wisconsin for their contributions to the fields of allergy, asthma and immunology.

Education Council Award

This year's Education Council Award recipient is David A. Khan, MD, FAAAAI of Dallas, Texas. This award honors an individual that has made a demonstrable impact on advancing training and professional education in the field of allergy and immunology.



ANNUAL MEETING ADVANTAGE

Maximize your team's skills

Annual meeting programs for staff – and allergists – keep your team in sync with best practices.

Give your team the edge! Our **Practice Management Program**, **Advanced Practice Health Care Providers Course** and **Allied Health Professionals Course** will help keep your staff up to date on new regulations, codes, allergic conditions and more.

Registration for these programs is included in general Annual Meeting registration – so attendees of the courses can also attend other sessions throughout the Annual Meeting! Register today at annualmeeting.acaai.org.

The Practice Management Program – Hitting the hottest topics in allergy

The College's Practice Management Program on Friday, Oct. 25 is **essential for allergists and their teams** – you'll get information you need on key practice management topics. Starting with a coding update, test your skills with real-life allergy coding scenarios. Next is the AI for A/I ProCon Debate, a fun way to learn how allergists can use artificial intelligence in practice and be aware of potential risks.

To round out the morning, practice management experts will discuss top tips to increase revenue and operational efficiency. You won't want to miss this discussion, which will cover G2211, principal care management codes, e-visits,

e-consults, clinical research, and buy/bill for biologics, as well as patient text reminders, automated check-in and billing, scribes and more.

Start the afternoon with one of the hottest topics in allergy: 95165. Learn how to properly code and document for 95165, as well as how to handle limits, prepayment insurance audits, denials and appeals. Next, get the latest information on value-based care (VBC) options for allergists –and how you can benefit. The afternoon continues with a thorough discussion of how to harness technology and templates to optimize practice workflow. End the day with another hot topic: how to achieve success with prior authorizations. Find out how our experts maximize PA efficiency!

Don't miss this opportunity to elevate your practice! The PMP is included in your Annual Meeting registration.

The Advanced Practice Health Care Providers Course - an investment in your practice's excellence

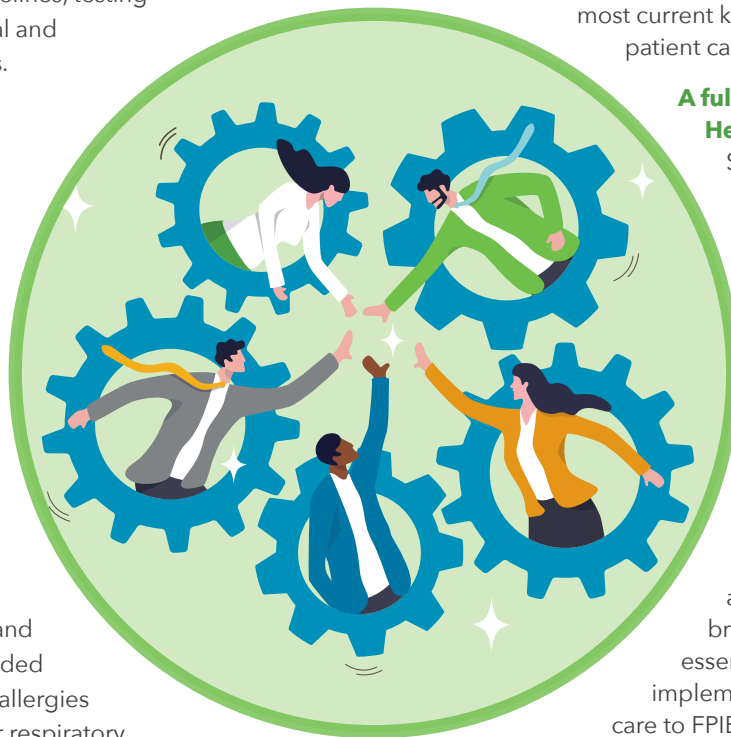
The Advanced Practice Health Care Providers Course on Friday, Oct. 25 will advance your team's allergy and asthma care expertise. The AHP program offers a unique blend of sessions for a thorough exploration of allergy and asthma care, presenting an unparalleled opportunity to update your

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ADVANTAGE (CONTINUED)

practice with the latest advancements, debunk myths, and learn practical management strategies.

The comprehensive program includes:

- Updates in EoE: Increase your knowledge of EoE with the latest management guidelines, testing modalities and psychological and financial impacts for patients.
- Myth Busting in the Allergy Practice: Transform patient outcomes by learning how to effectively dispel common myths and misconceptions with empathy and evidence-based information.
- An Overview of Chronic Sinusitis: Get the latest on symptoms, prevalence, diagnosis and treatment methods.
- New Kids on the Block: Explore the latest in allergy and asthma care, from the expanded use of omalizumab for food allergies to cutting-edge biologics for respiratory conditions and innovative topical treatments for atopic dermatitis.



The Advanced Practice Health Care Providers Course is not just an educational opportunity – it's a great opportunity to network with peers, share experiences, and learn from leading experts in the field. For physicians, sending your APPs to this conference is an investment in your practice's excellence, ensuring your team is equipped with the most current knowledge and skills to enhance patient care.

A full day dedicated to Allied Health Professionals

Saturday, Oct. 26, is also a day dedicated to Allied Health Professionals. The full-day program is geared toward registered and licensed practicing nurses, registered respiratory therapists, medical assistants and other allied health professionals.

The day starts with an interdisciplinary panel on day-to-day living with food allergies. Next, a choice of breakout sessions – either allergy essentials for AHPs or practical implementation guidance for providing care to FPIES patients with confidence.

The day ends with two more breakout sessions – choose either "Spirometry Basics and Interpretation" or "Is it MCAS?"

Women allergists: Join the "Breaking the Mold" discussions

The Women in Allergy Committee is hosting a Zoom call series, titled "Breaking the Mold," with conversations on topics of interest to women allergists. The robust discussions are hosted by members of the Women in Allergy Committee. Topics for the calls include:

- ACAAI Annual Meeting
- Childcare
- Contract negotiations
- Leadership
- Mentorship
- Work/Life balance
- Working from home

Some of the discussion points in the calls come from the committee's resource guide, a document for women allergists that is an ongoing project of the committee. Key takeaways from each call are added to the resource guide on the Women in Allergy Committee web page at college.acaii.org/women-in-allergy-committee.

The entire resource guide will be available on the website in the next few months. Women allergists – check your email for the next Breaking the Mold call!



FELLOW-IN-TRAINING ADVANTAGE

Vinh Nguyen, MD, Senior FIT Rep

Take advantage of opportunities for FITs at the ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting

I'm looking forward to ACAAI's Annual Scientific Meeting in Boston, Oct. 24-28, with the theme "Advancing Allergy/Immunology Discovery." I encourage you to register early and consider attending the highly-rated Annual Literature Review, where experts will provide an overview of significant literature from the past year across various sub-fields of allergy and clinical immunology.



Vinh Nguyen, MD

The meeting offers a diverse range of sessions, including invited plenaries, rapid reviews of high-yield topics and focused discussions on recent guidelines and emerging interests. I urge you to engage in the discussions in the poster hall and explore the research advances presented at the abstract sessions.

On Oct. 25, the FIT integrated business program will focus on preparing Fellows-in-Training for their transition to practice,

covering essential topics such as advocating for yourself and your patients in clinical practice. FITs will also have the opportunity to vote for the new Junior FIT Representative to the ACAAI Board of Regents at the FIT Business Meeting. Plan to attend the President's Welcome Reception on Friday night.

Additionally, do not miss the Program Director's breakfast and the FIT Bowl trivia competition on Oct. 26. Make plans to participate in the Doctor's Job Fair on Saturday, where I myself found my upcoming job appointment after fellowship. Register ahead for this event.

Reflecting on the past year, it is evident that life moves swiftly, whether you are in the middle of training or just beginning. As my term concludes, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as your FIT representative. I have gained invaluable experience and met remarkable colleagues. I am confident that my successor, Dr. Kylie Jungles, will lead the section with distinction. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the regional FIT representatives for their dedication in communicating member needs and contributing to the FIT Board Review Corner.

The FIT Section has actively supported the College's efforts to recruit and mentor residents and medical students through the SPARK program. I strongly encourage all FITs to consider applying as a SPARK mentor next year. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the FIT Section, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or your regional FIT representative. Contact information is available on the College's member website at college.acaa.org/about-us/governance/fit-section/.

I look forward to seeing you all in Boston.



Now Available! The ACAAI Review for the Allergy & Immunology Boards, Fifth Edition

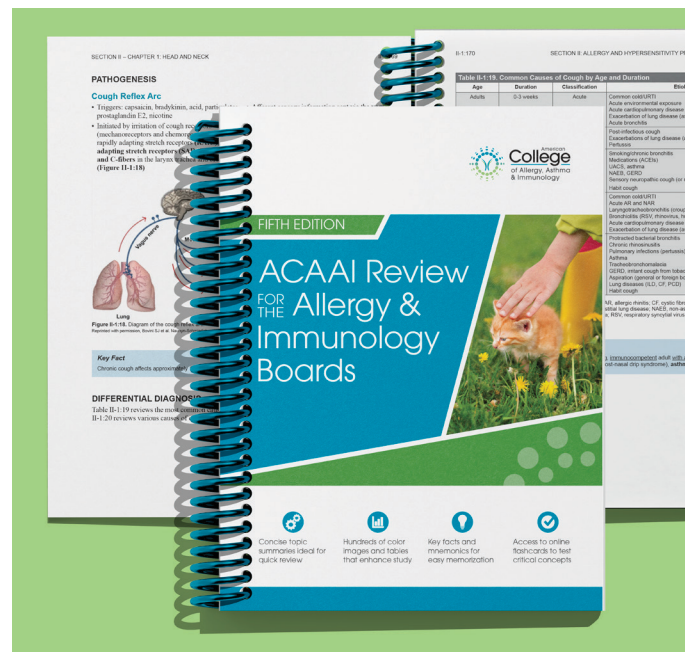
Elevate your expertise, empower your practice

The ACAAI Review for the Allergy & Immunology Boards, Fifth Edition is a meticulously crafted resource for Fellows-in-Training preparing for the boards or those interested in the most current information in allergy and immunology.

What's Inside?

- **Precision alignment with the ABAI Blueprint:** Time is precious, and this edition respects that. It aligns seamlessly with the most recent ABAI Blueprint, ensuring that every chapter is relevant to the examination, so your studying is as productive as possible.
- **Concise summaries:** The Fifth Edition provides concise topic summaries, allowing you to validate your grasp on every topic as you complete it.
- **Visual aids:** New images, tables, and diagrams enhance your understanding. From the intricacies of type I hypersensitivity to the dance of cytokines, these visuals make complex concepts clearer.
- **Mnemonics:** The book includes key facts and clever mnemonics. Whether it's recalling the steps of anaphylaxis management or the immunoglobulin classes, these memory aids are sure to stick.
- **Interactive flashcards:** Quiz yourself anywhere! More than 660 electronic flashcards await you. These cards reinforce knowledge.

Get your copy at education.acaaai.org/brbook5. Online or printed versions are available.



The College gratefully acknowledges the contributions of our member volunteers: Gerald Lee, MD, Editor-in-Chief; Benjamin Prince, MD and Joyce Yu, MD, Senior Editors; and 30 volunteer contributing authors.

Whether you're preparing for board exams, refreshing your knowledge, or simply indulging your passion for immunology, the College is your trusted companion.

Don't miss out on all the Board Preparation content the College has to offer as well!



- Visit the Board Review Corner at education.acaaai.org/content/board-review-corner to review and quiz yourself every month with new sets of practice questions and archives of previous topics.
- Check out the Allergy and Immunology Medicine Self-Assessment volumes one and two at education.acaaai.org/aimselfassessment and education.acaaai.org/aimvol2 to test and compare your knowledge with over 200 questions featuring detailed discussions and references. Special FIT pricing is available!
- Don't miss the fully online 2024 Joint AAAAI and ACAAI Board Review Course. View presentations from expert physicians discussing the exam topics and how to best prepare. Take the course at education.aaaai.org/2024jbrc.

ANNUAL MEETING ADVANTAGE

Honoring excellence in allergy/ immunology



Plenaries and named lectures deliver information on high-impact A/I topics

The College is proud to announce this year's Annual Meeting plenaries and named lectures. The Bela Schick and Edward J. O'Connell lectures were named for leaders in allergy and immunology, and their presenters embody the achievements of the physicians for whom the lectures are named.

Attend the plenaries in person or as part of the Livestream program.

Presidential Plenary – Community-based Research in Allergy/Immunology: Studies That Directly Improve Patient Care

This year's Presidential Plenary presents the process of taking cutting-edge research through the steps of establishing efficacy and applying the research to direct patient care. Attend on **Saturday, Oct. 26 at 8:00 am ET**, following the Opening Ceremony. Topics include:

- **The Bench to Bedside Pathway to Bring a Biologic to the Clinic**
Thomas B. Casale, MD, FAAAAI
- **Turning Efficacy Into Effectiveness – Implementation Science in Allergy/Immunology**
Stanley J. Szefler, MD, FAAAAI
- **Which Specific Products Are Best for Which of My Patients? Using Population Science To Identify Best Options for Asthma Patients**
Michael E. Wechsler, MD, MMSc

Practical Drug Allergy

Drug allergy experts will provide practical, clinical guidance on various drug allergy topics. Attend on **Sunday, Oct. 27 at 8:00 am ET**. Topics include:

- **Beta-lactam Challenges in the Clinic**
Kristin C. Sokol, MD FAAAAI and Cosby A. Stone, Jr., MD
- **Edward J. O'Connell Lecture**
How to Physically Set Up a Desensitization Protocol for Biologics and Chemotherapeutic Agents
Mariana C. Castells, MD, PhD, FAAAAI
- **Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors - What Are They, and What Are They Causing?**
Kimberly G. Blumenthal, MD, MSc, FAAAAI



Mariana C. Castells, 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.

ANNUAL MEETING ADVANTAGE (CONTINUED)

The 2025 Severe or Difficult-to-Control Asthma Practice Parameter: A Sneak Preview

Get a preview of the upcoming severe asthma parameter, including the latest science and possible recommendations regarding severe asthma. Attend **Monday, Oct. 28 at 8:00 am ET**. Topics include:

- **The Health Problem and Burden of Severe or Difficult-to-Control Asthma**
Giselle S. Mosnaim, MD, MS, FAAAAI
- **The Comparative Efficacy and Safety Among Biologics, Macrolides and Thermoplasty for Severe or Difficult-to-Control Asthma**
Leonard B. Bacharier, MD, FAAAAI
- **The Comparative Efficacy and Safety of Reliever Therapies for Severe or Difficult-to-Control Asthma**
Bradley E. Chipps, MD, FAAAAI

- **Bela Schick Lecture**
Don't Be Afraid To Pivot:
Changing Your Career Rather
Than Abandoning It
Melinda M. Rathkopf, MD, MBA, FAAAAI

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, and was a pediatrician at Mt. Sinai in New York for many years. He is best known for his work with Clemens von Pirquet on anaphylaxis and for the test he developed to assess immunity to diphtheria.



Melinda M. Rathkopf, MD



COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE

New College campaign raises awareness of type 2 inflammation

In August, the College launched a project to raise awareness among primary care practitioners about type 2 inflammation and the allergic conditions related to this type of immune response. A special microsite was developed with support from Sanofi and Regeneron, targeted to primary care physicians and advanced practice nurses as well as patients/parents dealing with more than one allergic condition. The project has been overseen by Drs. Todd Mahr and Michael Blaiss, with additional subject matter expertise provided by Drs. Justin Greiwe, Benjamin Prince, Maureen Petersen and J. Wesley Sublett.

The microsite, Type2Connection.org, includes a robust collection of unique collateral developed by our experts in conjunction with our health communication pros. It addresses type 2 inflammation; the atopic march; and the individual conditions that can be caused by type 2 inflammation, which often co-occur-- atopic dermatitis; allergic rhinitis; asthma; CRSwNP; food allergy; and EoE. It includes narrative information; charts depicting controlled vs. uncontrolled conditions; a symptom checklist; and interactive graphics depicting the spectrum of conditions and the inflammatory cascade. The site also contains a special episode of the AllergyTalk podcast on this topic, plus a slide deck for physicians.

A patient page includes two excellent animated videos depicting the adult and pediatric patient journey with multiple Type 2 conditions, culminating in EoE.

Throughout the site and the campaign ads, board-certified allergists are highlighted as important specialists in treating these patients, and links to the College's Find an Allergist tool are prominently displayed on the microsite and in the ads.

Promotion will include a digital ad campaign targeting primary care physicians and nurses, patients and caregivers; inserts and ads in physician publications; and outreach via trade media and social media. There is a toolkit for allergists to use for reaching out to primary care colleagues as well. Stop by the College Resource Center booth to learn more about this campaign and how you can participate!

Meet your 2024-2025 candidates for election

During the 2024 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 Marcella R. Aquino, MD, FAAAAI, Theresa A. Bingemann, MD, FAAAAI and Jeffrey G. Demain, MD, FAAAAI. We believe the nominees proposed by the Nominating Council embody the philosophy of their predecessors, whose combined efforts have made the College the success it is today. The Board of Regents recommends your support for the following slate:



President

James M. Tracy, DO, FAAAAI

Dr. Tracy is in private practice in Omaha, Nebraska with Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Associates, P.C. He is Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Nebraska. He was an ACAAI Distinguished Fellow in 2019 and was the recipient of an ACAAI

Distinguished Service Award in 2020.

"I am honored to serve the members of ACAAI as president. My goal as ACAAI president is to support the needs of the practicing allergist as well as the allergist educator. As ACAAI members and allergists we are Servant Leaders. We serve first our patients, then their families, our College, and our specialty. Our goal, 'to make the world a better and healthier place to live.'"

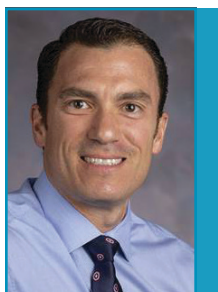


President-elect

Cherie Y. Zachary, MD, FAAAAI

Dr. Zachary is in private practice in Eagan, Minnesota.

"It is an honor to work with the leadership of ACAAI on behalf of the practicing allergist and our patients."



Vice President

David R. Stukus, MD, FAAAAI

Dr. Stukus is Professor of Clinical Pediatrics, Department of Pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine in Columbus, Ohio. He is Director of the Food Allergy Treatment Center, Division of Allergy and Immunology at Nationwide Children's

Hospital in Columbus, Ohio and Chair of the ACAAI Education Council.

"Contributing to various ACAAI initiatives has been extremely rewarding for me, particularly seeing how the College benefits practicing allergists/immunologists and our patients. I look forward to participating in new ways in the years to come."



Treasurer

Kelly M. Maples, MD, FAAAAI

Dr. Maples is Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School at Old Dominion University, Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk Virginia.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to continue to serve our members as Treasurer on the Board of Regents. My goal is to help create solutions to address the needs of allergists practicing in our ever-changing health care environment."



Regent

Karla E. Adams, MD, FAAAAI

Dr. Adams is Program Director of the Allergy and Immunology Fellowship, San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium in San Antonio, Texas. She is Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Uniformed Services

University in Bethesda, Maryland.

"I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work alongside ACAAI leadership in our collective effort to advance the College's mission. It's exciting to be part of a team that is dedicated to elevating the practice of allergy/immunology and improving the health of our patients."

ANNUAL MEETING ADVANTAGE

Make time to socialize!

Eat, drink and be merry – and enjoy some healthy competition among FITs – at this year's Annual Meeting social events.

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

Enjoy a warm welcome to the Annual Meeting at Friday night's President's Welcome Reception at the Sheraton Boston Hotel. The event will highlight the food and vibes of many of Boston's diverse neighborhoods. Catch up with colleagues from 6:00 – 7:30 pm for an evening of appetizers, drinks and camaraderie.

FIT Bowl

Who will be this year's FIT Bowl champions? Teams of Fellows-in-Training compete for the trophy at Saturday evening's FIT Bowl competition. Teams of allergists from around the country are asked serious (and not so serious) questions by an expert panel. Who will answer correctly to win? It's an exciting evening full of competition. Enjoy appetizers and an open bar at this fast-paced, dynamic event at 5:45 pm on Saturday, Oct. 26 in the convention center's Ballroom BC (third level).



Regent

Tania Elliott, MD, FAAAAI

Dr. Elliott is founder and CEO of Modern Medical in New York, New York. She is Associate Attending, Department of Medicine and Co-chair of the Virtual Health Steering Committee at NYU Langone School of Medicine in New York. She is chair of

the AAAAAI Public Relations Committee.

"A member of the AAAAAI since 2011, I have been deeply committed to the organization. The future of allergy and immunology will undoubtedly involve new care delivery models involving hybrid care and embracing emerging technologies, and I look forward to partnering with AAAAAI leadership to assure our clinicians are prepared for this evolution."



Regent

Niraj C. Patel, MD, MS, FAAAAI

Dr. Patel is Associate Professor, Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. He is chair of the AAAAAI Clinical Immunology & Autoimmune Diseases Committee and Chair of the Scientific Council. He was the recipient

of the AAAAAI Distinguished Service Award in 2021.

"I am delighted for the opportunity to work with the AAAAAI leadership to advance the College's mission of patient care and education, research, and advocacy, and enhance the practice of allergy and clinical immunology for the benefit of our patients."





Luz S. Fonacier, MD

Dr. Luz S. Fonacier to be awarded the 2024 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 Luz S. Fonacier, MD, FAAAAI. The award will be presented during the Opening Ceremony and Welcome Announcements at the ACAAI 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, Oct. 26.

*Biography provided by
Dr. Fonacier*

*"It has been the honor of a
lifetime to be selected to*

receive the ACAAI Gold Headed Cane Award. I am Professor of Medicine, Head of Allergy/ Immunology and Training Program Director at the New York University Grossman School of Medicine-Long Island (currently a World Allergy Organization [WAO] Center of Excellence). I graduated Cum Laude from the University of the Philippines, then completed residencies in Dermatology and Internal Medicine. I completed two fellowships - one in Allergy and Immunology at New York Hospital-Cornell and another in Dermal Immunology at NYU Medical Center.

In 1993, I became a Fellow of the College and since 2006 have been an active member of the ACAAI Board of Regents. In 2020, I became the fourth female and the first Asian American to be selected to serve as College president. While serving as ACAAI president, I was also named chair of the American Board of Allergy and Immunology (ABAI), becoming the first person to take on both roles at the same time. I continue to be a member of the ABAI Test Writing Committee.

Involvement in the College committees allowed me to learn the intricacies of a major national organization. I chaired seven committees (Dermatological Allergy, Women's Involvement, Credentials, Workshop, Finance/Budget, International and Nominating Committees) and additionally served as a member of 10 committees (Annual Meeting Program, Continuing Medical Education, Publications, Training Program Directors' Planning, International, Occupational Health, Advocacy Council, Board of Trustees, Foundation, Archives and Membership Committees).

I received the Presidential Award of the Asian Pacific Association of Allergy and Clinical Immunology and had the honor of presenting the ACAAI Edward J. O'Connell

Lectureship, John P. McGovern Lectureship, and Jean A. Chapman Memorial Lectureship.

I have participated and chaired workgroups that curated numerous informational and educational resources, developed guidelines and updates on critical allergy and immunology issues, chaired the Work Group on Update on Contact Dermatitis Practice Parameter; the Practice Improvement/CME activity on Atopic Dermatitis; the Workgroup on Atopic Dermatitis Shared Decision Making Tool; the GA²LEN/ACARE/EAACI/APAACI/AAAAI/ACAAI HAEi project to establish a global consensus on angioedema and the 2024 GA²LEN Global Urticaria Forum. I was a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS)/ABAI/AMA-convened Physician Consortium for Performance Improvement® Atopic Dermatitis Work Group; the AAAAI-ACAAI Joint Task Force on Quality Measures, Urticaria measure development workgroup; and represented the ACAAI to the National Advisory Allergy and Infectious Disease Council.

Beyond the College, I was a founding member and president of the International Association of Filipino Allergists and Immunologists, and past president of the Long Island Allergy Society. I am the current chair of the WAO Skin Allergy-Atopic Dermatitis and Eczema Committee. I believe there is no better way to give the best care to our patients than to use leadership and mentorship positions to advance professional knowledge and skills and to be intimately immersed in the activities of the College. The College allows me the opportunity to give back, in my own small way, to the specialty and organization that have provided me with an immeasurable amount of personal and professional fulfillment regionally, nationally and internationally. My theme as president, to "innovate, diversify and expand" will continue in all my future work in the College, for our specialty and our profession."



American College of Allergy Asthma & Immunology
Gold Headed Cane
Lifetime Achievement Award



COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE

A journey from a grantee to a grant reviewer



Marcella Aquino, MD

The Allergists' Foundation is dedicated to improving access to allergy and asthma care by funding innovative projects under its Community Grant Program. Marcella Aquino, MD, FAAAAI, was awarded a Community Grant in 2021 to lead a two-year study exploring the various risk and resource factors affecting children with asthma and atopic dermatitis (AD) in urban areas. Now

she serves on the Foundation's Grants Allocation Committee, where she helps to select projects for funding. We asked Dr. Aquino about her transition from being a grantee to becoming a grant reviewer and what advice she would give to College members who are considering applying for a Community Grant in the future.

Q. How has your perspective on the Community Grant Program changed from being a grantee to now being a grant reviewer?

I was honored to be granted an award from the program. My research would not have been possible without it. I learned so much from the process and am currently working on data analysis for publication. I am grateful to be able to advance our understanding of the barriers faced by children with asthma and AD and their families in obtaining care. At the same time, I feel so honored to be part of the College's process for granting future awards and contribute to our specialty's future. The proposals this year have been truly outstanding.

Q. How have you been able to leverage your grantee experience in your new role?

My experience as a grantee has honed my skills in the practical implementation of research - regulatory approval, participation recruitment and retainment, training research personnel, data entry, and data management. These skills have aided me in the critical evaluation of the current proposals.



**THE ALLERGISTS'
FOUNDATION**

of the American College of
Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

Q. What advice would you give to members who are considering applying for a community grant?

My advice is to be brave and apply. Many of the struggles we face in our specialty are shared by others. I encourage you to give your time and share your expertise with our community. I am confident you will find this to be a meaningful and fulfilling experience. We learn from others as much as we learn on our own. The College is seeking to advance the field and we need College members with great ideas to join us in these efforts.

Ready to apply for a grant? Visit college.acaai.org/grants to learn more.

Thank you to the 2024 ACAAI Corporate Council Members

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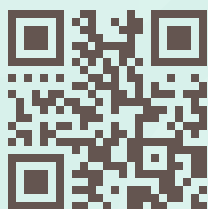


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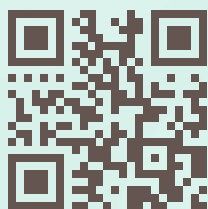
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