



# College Advantage<sup>®</sup>

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

ACAAI.ORG

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## 1-2-3 BREATHE

Allergists often need relief too!  
Your College membership delivers the tools to address your professional and patient care pain points.

### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

President's message	2	Building a strategic advisory board for private medical practices	9	Highlights from the ACAAI 2025 Annual Meeting	13
ACAAI advocacy – addressing issues so you don't have to	3	Building procedural confidence in fellowship: turning guidelines into day-to-day practice	10	New educational resources	14
Important deadlines	4	We'll be 'Building Bridges for the Future' at the ACAAI 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting	12	Apply for Pathways to Practice fellows funding	15
The College can help you find relief	5			Community Grant recipient expands access to allergy care in rural schools	16
National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month is in May!	8				



American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Cherie Y. Zachary, MD, FAAAAI  
President, American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

# Adapting to change

The College's strategic plan helps meet members' needs as we continuously adapt to a shifting health care landscape.

I've been a member of the College since 1990. Think of the changes in practicing medicine since then – such as electronic health records, remote visits, managed care, the Affordable Care Act, and more. And then there are the advancements in treating allergic conditions – second generation antihistamines, intranasal corticosteroids, the rise of biologics, improvements in care for food allergy patients, those with asthma and those with immunologic conditions, such as FPIES and EoE.

My point is - things change, often for the better. I would say the same about ACAAI. Over the years, the College has adapted to the changing health care landscape, shifting demographics of allergists and the way we practice. Every three years, the College embarks on the strategic planning process so it can meet the current and future needs of its members. It's that time again. This year we're working on the 2027-29 strategic plan. It started with the recent membership survey, where you – as ACAAI members – let us know what you need from the College to help you manage your practice and provide the best patient care. Next comes the months-long, extensive planning to define goals, strategies and initiatives, so the plan is ready to roll out by Jan. 1, 2027.

While we're developing the 2027-29 strategic plan, we are also completing the initiatives outlined in Vision Forward, the College's 2024-2026 strategic plan. The College listened



to members and took action. Read about just a few of the initiatives in advocacy, practice management, education, public outreach, and more on page 5.

Speaking of public outreach, National Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month is in May. This is the ideal time to plan some activities. For an entire month, the spotlight shines on allergic conditions – and the allergists/immunologists who treat them. Learn about the resources and ideas the College has for you to commemorate National Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month with your community on page 8.

It's also a great time to be thinking about the 2026 ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting, Nov. 12-16 in Phoenix and planning to attend. Read about what's in store on page 12, and see some photos from the 2025 meeting in Orlando.

The College is here for you as things change. Thank you for your ACAAI membership. I encourage you to take advantage of your extensive membership benefits. Visit [college.acaaai.org](http://college.acaaai.org) to learn more.

Connect with us at [acaai.org](http://acaai.org) or through:



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# ACAAI advocacy – addressing issues so you don't have to

*J. Allen Meadows, MD, FAAAAI; Executive Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs*

**The College's Advocacy Council is keenly aware of pain points in allergists' practices and works on the national, state and local levels to address them.**

- College leaders worked jointly with AAAAI and AAO to develop "Guidance for the evaluation by payors of claims submitted using Current Procedural Terminology code 95165, 95115, and 95117." It is an open-access document that clearly outlines to payers which documentation is reasonable to request and which is unreasonable. We sent this guidance directly to the medical leadership of the top health insurance companies across the country, emphasizing the importance of fairly paying these claims. Find it at [annallergy.org/article/S1081-1206\(24\)01532-1/abstract](http://annallergy.org/article/S1081-1206(24)01532-1/abstract). This document supersedes any document or manual published previously by the above organizations.
- Due to our efforts, seven Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) have agreed to pay allergists for build-up as well as maintenance doses of allergenic extracts. Their Oct. 26, 2025, Local Coverage articles state: **"There is no differentiation between initiation therapy and maintenance therapy. However, claims for maintenance allergen immunotherapy require the EJ modifier. Diluted doses for the purpose of "build-up" and maintenance dosing are the same, as long as reasonable and necessary and within CMS National Correct Coding Initiative (NCCI) Medically Unlikely Edits (MUEs)."**

Because of the above ruling, it's important to know the difference between "build-up" and "dilution" and to use the terms correctly when describing allergy extracts. CMS has stated that dilutions outside the initial build-up phase are not covered or separately paid for by Medicare. Therefore, these services should not be billed to Medicare to avoid claim denials or compliance issues. Learn more at

[college.accai.org/know-the-difference-between-build-up-and-dilution-of-allergy-extracts/](http://college.accai.org/know-the-difference-between-build-up-and-dilution-of-allergy-extracts/).

In addition to these national issues, we know it is imperative that we keep our fingers on the pulse of allergy practices and allergists' interests.

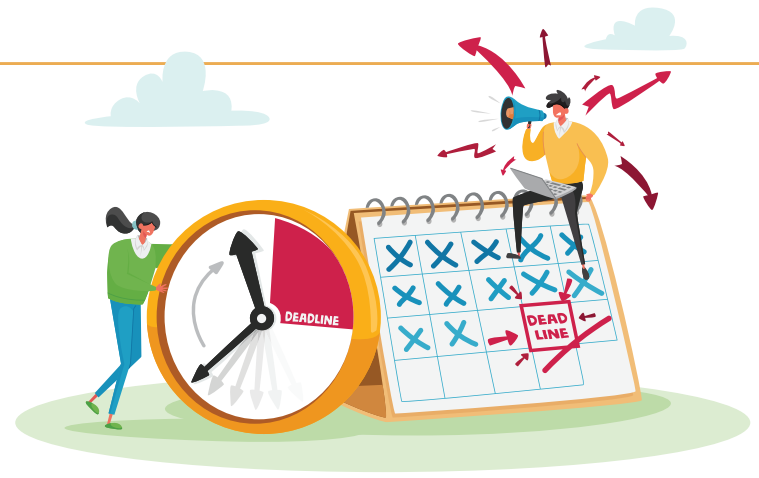
- During the College's Annual Meeting each year, the Advocacy Council develops a letter on a specific issue and gives all members the opportunity to support the effort. In 2025, our letter to congressional representatives supported a permanent fix to Medicare's Physician Payments.
- We sent a letter to Senators Mike Crapo (R-ID) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) expressing support for the PBM Price Transparency and Accountability Act.
- We endorsed Sen. Richard Durbin's (D-IL) and Sen. Deb Fischer's (R-NE) Protecting Children with Food Allergies Act, which funds food allergy training for school food service staff. This bill was signed into law by President Trump in January.
- The College's Advocacy Council signed on to:
  - The CHIME letter to HHS requesting rescission of the proposed HIPAA Security Rule
  - AMA's Federation letter in support of the Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act of 2025



*Continued next page*

- AAFA's joint letters to 11 state Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committees regarding needle-free access to epinephrine for Medicaid patients
- We submitted comments to the American College of Physicians Policy Brief on its draft paper, "Reforming 340B to Promote Program Integrity and Better Serve Vulnerable Populations." Our comments support reforms to the 340B Drug Pricing Program, including increased transparency, stronger program oversight, and ensuring drug discounts are used effectively to support the program's mission.
- We submitted comments on the Democratic and Republican Doc Caucus's MACRA Modernization RFI, respectfully urging Congress to:
  - Stabilize Medicare physician payments by developing and advancing long-term, sustainable solutions to the annual physician payment issue
  - Address statutory and regulatory flaws in MIPS through reform or replacement so that Medicare may move toward greater value-based care while reducing administrative burden on physicians
- Funding for Graduate Medical Education (GME) has been a long-time top advocacy effort of ours. CMS recently announced the distribution of 400 new federally funded GME residency positions to hospitals across the country. This move, which primarily supports training in primary care fields like internal medicine, builds on congressional efforts to expand the physician workforce after decades of funding limitations. The College's Advocacy Council will continue to monitor and push for further GME expansions to ensure the allergy and immunology workforce can meet future demands.

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



## Important deadlines

### ACAAI committee application deadline: April 15

Joining an ACAAI committee is an exciting opportunity for personal and professional development, while also strengthening the College as a whole. Learn more and apply today by visiting [college.accai.org/get-involved](http://college.accai.org/get-involved).

### Pathways to Practice (P2P) application deadline: April 15

This program addresses the growing shortage of practicing allergists across the United States by supporting the training of 16 new allergy and immunology fellows through four \$250,000 competitive (two-year) fellowship training grants awarded each year. Learn more at [college.accai.org/pathways-to-practice](http://college.accai.org/pathways-to-practice).

### ACAAI State Delegates and Regional Super Delegates application deadline: April 30

Become active in the College's advocacy efforts! Apply to be an ACAAI State Delegate or Regional Super Delegate. The College's House of Delegates helps identify and address policy issues at the local, regional and state levels - ensuring that lawmakers are working for our patients and the allergy specialty. Learn more at [college.accai.org/about-us/governance/house-of-delegates](http://college.accai.org/about-us/governance/house-of-delegates).

### Spark Awards application deadline: May 5

The ACAAI SPARK program provides annual meeting scholarships to residents interested in allergy/immunology. Encourage residents to apply! The application deadline is May 5. Visit [education.accai.org/spark](http://education.accai.org/spark).

### Submit an abstract for the ACAAI 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting: July 7 and Aug. 1

The abstract submission site opens in early April. Submit a research abstract by July 7 and a medically challenging case by Aug. 1. Learn more: [annualmeeting.accai.org/2026/abstract\\_faq.cfm](http://annualmeeting.accai.org/2026/abstract_faq.cfm).



# The College can help you find relief

## Your College membership delivers the tools to ease your professional and patient care pain points.

Relief is a word allergists/immunologists often use with their patients. Allergists use their expertise to help their patients get relief from their allergy and asthma symptoms.

Allergists often need relief too - relief from the pain points of practicing medicine - from falling behind on needed education; the pressure to reach new patients; the daily battle against misinformation on social media; and the need to ensure that government officials understand the policies that impede allergists from providing the best patient care. The College understands our members' pain points and is tirelessly working to bring relief on many levels - advocacy, practice management, education, public outreach, and more.

We start by identifying which issues our members need the most help with. We take member feedback very seriously. Every two years, we embark on a comprehensive membership survey to identify which issues are most pressing. Those who attend the College's annual meetings complete an evaluation, and we use those responses to plan future meetings.

Based on responses to the member survey and annual meeting evaluations, every three years we build a strategic plan with goals, strategies and initiatives so the College can continue to be a nimble, responsive organization that is in tune with current issues in allergy care and in the larger health care sphere. This year, the College is actively preparing for the 2027-2029 plan to address major issues allergists are facing today.

At this time, we are completing the tactics outlined in Vision Forward, the College's 2024-2026 strategic plan. The strategic plan is a living document the College regularly assesses for progress toward meeting the plan's goals. Each ACAAI strategic plan is focused on providing optimal value to our members through products, tools, advocacy and more.

Below are examples of recent initiatives and projects. Many of these you can access directly to ease some of the pain points you're experiencing in running your practice and care for patients.

## Solving your practice issues

**Coding, prior authorizations, appeals/denials** and **reimbursement** often rate high as troublesome areas for

*Continued next page*

physicians. The College's toolkits provide practical resources to address areas that might take time away from patient care, including:

**Prior authorization** - the tools and information you need to simplify the prior auth process, including ready-made, HIPAA-compliant PA appeal letters that you can customize for specific drug/disease combinations.

**Appeals and denials** - strategies to prevent claim denials, plus information on how to troubleshoot existing denials.

**Coding** - a variety of resources for the specific set of coding issues that apply to allergy care, including coding answers to frequently asked questions. You can also ask an individual coding question by emailing [advocacycouncil@acaai.org](mailto:advocacycouncil@acaai.org).

We're meeting you where you are - we have toolkits for employed allergists and FITs/new allergists with resources unique to each of these allergists.

The College's toolkits cover all aspects of running a practice - business management, clinical tools and coding ad payment.

**They are created by allergists and are updated regularly. Find them at [college.acaaai.org/practice-management](http://college.acaaai.org/practice-management).**

## Combating misinformation

Inaccurate medical information is almost everywhere, and it continues to influence health care. The College created the **Outbreak and Vaccine Resource Center** to keep members up to date on outbreaks of respiratory illnesses, vaccine recommendations, and vaccine safety communications. The page is frequently updated with the most recent sources of information. Find it at [college.acaaai.org/vaccine-outbreak-resources/](http://college.acaaai.org/vaccine-outbreak-resources/).

Another opportunity to combat misinformation is to make sure patients have access to trustworthy information. The College's **public website** ([acaai.org](http://acaai.org)) is an accurate source of facts on allergic conditions. Patients can also watch brief videos found on our **YouTube channel** ([youtube.com/user/allergists](https://youtube.com/user/allergists)) where College members answer common allergy-related questions in less than two minutes.

Your patients can get timely, accurate allergy information conveniently in their email inboxes. Encourage them to sign up for Allergist Answers, the College's quarterly digital newsletter that covers allergy-related information geared toward the public. Patients can use the QR code to sign up.



## Advocacy - covering issues so you don't have to

The ACAAI Advocacy Council tackles issues on local, state and national levels and diligently monitors government and regulatory issues affecting allergists, their practices and their patients.

Recent efforts include:

- Addressing burdensome and unreasonable requests for documentation regarding **CPT 95165, 95115 and 95117 services**
- Increasing the **Medicare conversion factor**
- Encouraging CMS to redefine the **definition of a dose** to match the CPT definition
- Speaking out against cuts to **NIH funding**
- Backing the **Protecting Children with Food Allergies Act** - passed in December, this ACAAI-backed bill funds food-allergy training for school food personnel

**Our sign-on letters at College annual meetings are an easy way for members to have their voices heard.** Recent letter-writing efforts have urged Congress to mitigate cuts to physician reimbursement and identify long-term, sustainable solutions. Learn more about advocacy efforts at [college.acaaai.org/advocacy/](http://college.acaaai.org/advocacy/).

## Education - when and where you need it

You need to get CME, but it's difficult to find the time. The College Learning Connection (CLC) at [education.acaaai.org](http://education.acaaai.org) is your gateway to staying ahead in allergy, asthma, and immunology. In the CLC, you can access your CME transcript and certificates anytime. With a diverse selection of courses, webinars, podcasts, MicroCME modules and tools, you'll find everything you need to enhance your clinical skills, prepare for certification, and provide the best care for your patients.

**Many are free for College members!**

With the CLC, you can:

Access the **ACAAI Annual Meeting On Demand** - view at your leisure general sessions, the Practice Management Program (PMP) and the Literature Review. If you attended the 2025 Annual Meeting in Orlando or via the Livestream Program, you can access general sessions and the PMP at no charge. There is a fee to view the Literature Review, unless you originally paid to attend it. Find On Demand at [education.acaaai.org/ondemand](http://education.acaaai.org/ondemand).

**Study for Boards** - Study materials include the Board Review book (online and in print), AIM Self-Assessments, Joint Board Review Course and more. Visit [education.org/FIT](http://education.org/FIT) resources.



**WE CAN  
HELP**

Visit the **Drug Allergy Protocol Online Library (DAPOL)** - This

intuitive, online toolkit is designed to help allergists and other health care providers navigate the intricacies of drug allergy care. It consolidates protocol templates, evidence-based references, and step-by-step clinical guidance into a centralized, user-friendly platform. Find it at [education2.acaai.org/DAPOL/story.html](http://education2.acaai.org/DAPOL/story.html).

Get the most from **practice parameters and yardsticks**

- Learn how to effectively apply information from practice parameters and yardsticks into your practice. Our eYardsticks on Atopic Dermatitis, CRS, Food Allergy, ISM & MCAS, and Pediatric and Adult Asthma, plus our PIDD eParameter, allow you to easily and efficiently navigate the information in the full yardsticks. Find them at [education.acaai.org/eparameters](http://education.acaai.org/eparameters).

Your College membership includes access to resources on the CLC, which will elevate your clinical expertise and patient care strategies. Visit the CLC at [education.acaai.org](http://education.acaai.org).

## Easing other pain points

The College's resources for members don't end with practice management, education and advocacy. There is a wide range of opportunities for members to get help in specific areas, such as:

**"10 things" articles featured in *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*** - Learn more about the work of College committees. The articles consist of 10 short bullet points about a specific clinical topic relevant to the committees' purposes. The content of the articles is useful at the point of care.

**Physician employment contracts** - Few people relish the idea of contract negotiations. College members receive a discount on service from Resolve, a national firm specializing in physician employment contracts, including navigating and negotiating salary and benefits. Find out more at [college.acaai.org/new-member-benefit-employment-contract-service/](http://college.acaai.org/new-member-benefit-employment-contract-service/).

**DocMatter** - College member physicians use this platform to share clinical questions and answers in a secure HIPAA-compliant format. If you haven't logged in lately, see the hundreds of chats on a variety of allergic conditions. Need to sign up? Contact Shannon Doherty at [sdoherty@docmatter.com](mailto:sdoherty@docmatter.com). We've also just partnered with MedNet, where questions can be answered by a panel of experts.

**Eczema in Skin of Color** - the appearance of eczema varies depending on a person's skin pigmentation. Learn about the variances at [eczemainskinofcolor.org](http://eczemainskinofcolor.org), a partnership with ACAAI and the Allergy & Asthma Network. This robust site features an image library, diagnosis and treatment information, patient resources and more.

The College is here for you! These are just a few of your College member benefits. Explore how your College membership can ease your pain points - and help you find relief - at [college.acaai.org](http://college.acaai.org).

# National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month is in May!

Plan ahead so you can spread the word about allergic conditions and how allergists can help patients find relief.

The College's Asthma & Allergy Awareness Month Toolkit is full of ideas for things you and your practice can do to **amplify awareness of allergic conditions and the care allergists/immunologists provide**. Find it at [college.acaai.org/toolkits/allergy-asthma-awareness-toolkit](http://college.acaai.org/toolkits/allergy-asthma-awareness-toolkit).



**Spread factual information on asthma and allergies on your social media platforms.** Create your videos or use images from our social media kit at [college.acaai.org/resource/social-media-kit-for-national-asthma-and-allergy-awareness-month](http://college.acaai.org/resource/social-media-kit-for-national-asthma-and-allergy-awareness-month).



**Senior centers, libraries, schools and hospitals often seek speakers to present talks to the public.** Share your expertise on allergies and asthma or talk about your career as an allergist at a high school or college. Use our patient-friendly PowerPoint presentation for a factual virtual or in-person talk. Download the presentation at [college.acaai.org/allergist\\_presentation](http://college.acaai.org/allergist_presentation).



**Use resources in the College's Time for an Allergist Toolkit to help educate PCPs about all the conditions you treat.** Find it at [college.acaai.org/time-for-an-allergist-campaign-toolkit](http://college.acaai.org/time-for-an-allergist-campaign-toolkit).



**Offer to be the expert source in stories about managing allergic conditions and how a board-certified allergist can help.** Get media tips here: [college.acaai.org/the-spotlight-is-on-you](http://college.acaai.org/the-spotlight-is-on-you).



The College's YouTube channel ([youtube.com/allergists](http://youtube.com/allergists)) features **new, short videos featuring allergists answering common questions** - great for your practice website or in your waiting room. Or share on social media!

# Building a strategic advisory board for private medical practices

Running a private medical practice today requires far more than clinical excellence. Physicians are expected to navigate compliance, technology, staffing shortages, reimbursement challenges and the financial pressures of running a business. One of the most effective ways for practice owners to strengthen their decision-making, reduce risk, and accelerate growth is by building a **board of strategic advisors**.

Unlike a formal board of directors, a strategic advisory board is informal, flexible and tailored to the practice's needs. Its purpose is to give owners access to specialized expertise, fresh perspectives and strategic guidance - without the heavy governance structure. For many private practices, this becomes a "secret weapon" that transforms reactive management into proactive leadership.

## Key professionals to include

A strong advisory board blends clinical, financial, operational, and legal strengths. Many private practices benefit from the following experts:

### 1. Health care attorney

- Ensures compliance with Stark, Anti-Kickback, HIPAA, contracts and employment law
- Advises on partnership structures and potential acquisitions

### 2. CPA / CFO

- Guides tax strategy, compensation models, cash flow management
- Offers insight on financial KPIs and long-term planning

### 3. Health care practice consultant

- Provides benchmarking, workflow analysis and operational optimization
- Helps align staffing, scheduling and profitability

### 4. Revenue cycle / billing expert

- Assesses coding accuracy, denial management and payer mix
- Identifies revenue leakage and opportunities for improvements

### 5. IT & cybersecurity specialist

- Advises on EMR/EHR decisions, data security and HIPAA safeguards
- Supports technology roadmap planning as the practice grows

### 6. Marketing & patient experience strategist

- Improves patient acquisition, retention and online reputation
- Helps build a brand aligned with clinical excellence

### 7. Physician mentor or peer owner

- Offers real-world insight from someone who has run a practice
- Acts as a sounding board for leadership and staffing issues

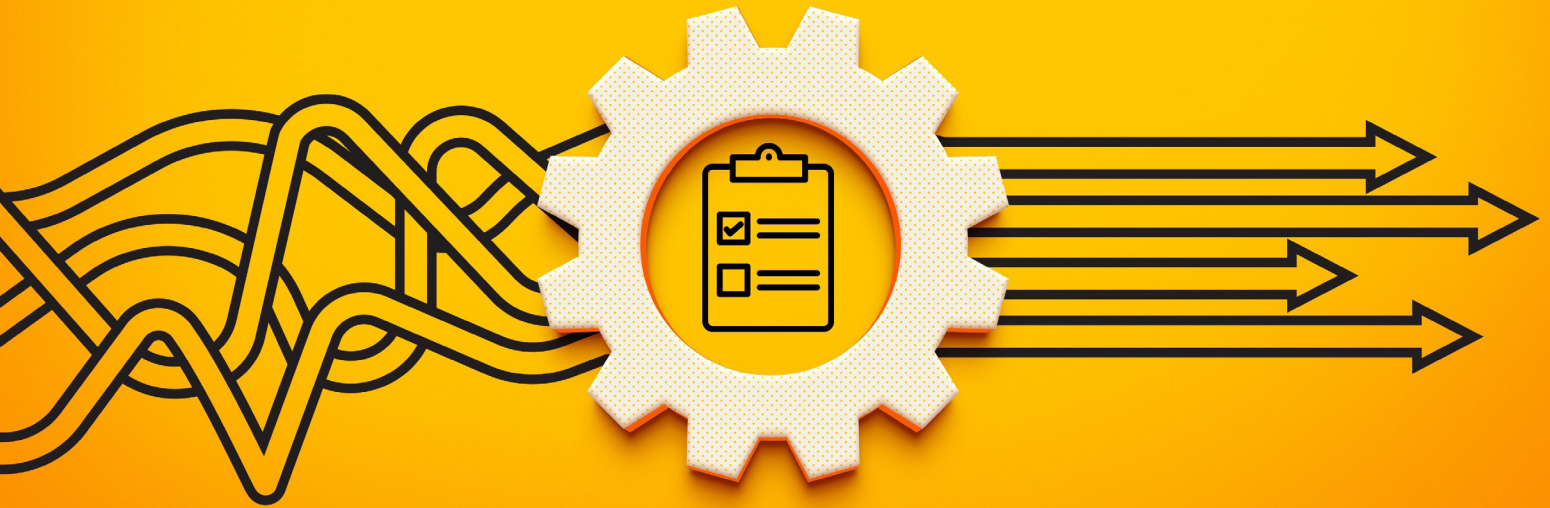
## Why it matters

Private practice owners often feel isolated when making business decisions that carry significant financial and regulatory implications. A strategic advisory board offers clarity, confidence, and a high-level support system. With the right team in place, physicians can make better decisions, avoid costly mistakes and build a practice that is both financially strong and clinically rewarding. "All these roles are key to a successful practice - and are especially important to help guide growing practices," said Jennifer Kuehn, CPC, Revenue Cycle Manager at Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Associates in Omaha, Nebraska. "Although there is a cost associated with these experts, think of it as an investment in your practice with the potential for great benefits."

Having these experts available to consult as needed - or even regularly to help address certain topics like revenue cycle management or IT issues - is another benefit. Meeting annually (or even semi-annually) as a group will allow the advisory board members to review and guide the practice's progress in key areas and ensure they are on the right track.

*The College thanks Sarah Webb, CPA, for her contributions to this article. Sarah is a CPA and founder of virtual CFO and accounting firm Webb CFO.*





# Building procedural confidence in fellowship: turning guidelines into day-to-day practice

Amber Hardeman, MD, MPH, MBA, Senior FIT Committee Chair



One of the most common things I hear from Fellows-in-Training - and something I've experienced myself - is this feeling: "I understand the theory, but I don't yet feel fully confident doing this on my own." Whether it's skin testing,

oral food or drug challenges, immunotherapy, biologic administration, or spirometry interpretation, procedural confidence doesn't suddenly appear at the end of fellowship. It's built deliberately, one clinic day at a time. Fellowship is the ideal space to move from supervised participation to true ownership of these skills, and doing so intentionally can make the transition into independent practice far smoother.

Early in training, procedures can feel intimidating despite strong medical knowledge. You may know the indications for a test or challenge but hesitate when it comes time to counsel a patient independently, troubleshoot equivocal results, or manage unexpected reactions. That discomfort is normal - and often signals growth. Confidence begins to develop when fellows shift from observing to actively

engaging in decision-making. Taking ownership of even one or two procedures at a time allows repetition with purpose, helping explanations become clearer, clinical reasoning more efficient, and confidence more visible to both patients and supervising attendings.

One of the most practical ways to support this transition is by integrating practice parameters into everyday clinic workflow. Information on parameters can be found here: [collge.acaai.org/toolkits/practice-parameter-and-yardstick-toolkit/](http://collge.acaai.org/toolkits/practice-parameter-and-yardstick-toolkit/). These documents are often viewed as static references for board studying or particularly complex cases, but they are incredibly useful as real-time clinical tools. Reviewing relevant parameters before clinic helps frame appropriate patient selection, safety considerations, and next steps. Over time, using practice parameters in this way strengthens clinical reasoning, improves documentation, and provides a solid evidence-based foundation for patient counseling. As fellows transition into independent practice, the habit of grounding recommendations in established guidelines becomes essential not only for clinical confidence, but also for professional credibility and consistency of care.

ACAAI's clinical yardsticks further bridge the gap between evidence and day-to-day decision-making. Their concise, focused format makes them particularly valuable during busy clinic sessions when quick, reliable guidance is needed.

Many fellows find it helpful to keep frequently used yardsticks bookmarked for easy access. Repeated use reinforces best practices and promotes a structured, consistent approach to patient care - an approach that patients appreciate and that fellows can carry directly into early practice.

True procedural confidence is rooted not only in familiarity, but also in preparation. Knowing emergency protocols, feeling comfortable with reaction management, and routinely reviewing dosing and indications for epinephrine and adjunctive medications are foundational skills in allergy practice. Confidence comes from knowing that you are prepared to manage emergencies effectively if they occur. This philosophy is reflected in growing literature emphasizing standardized workflows and deliberate preparation for higher-risk allergy procedures. In my article, "A Model for Consolidating High-Risk Allergy Procedures in Clinic," we highlight how protocol familiarity, team readiness, and structured approaches directly support both patient safety and clinician confidence principles that are especially important to develop during fellowship. The article can be found in PubMed.

Another often underutilized tool for procedural growth is feedback. Seeking targeted feedback after procedures

accelerates learning, helps fellows refine both technique and judgment, and strengthens mentorship relationships.

As graduation approaches, it's helpful to begin thinking like an attending. Practice parameters and yardsticks should no longer feel like educational add-ons, but rather tools you expect to rely on in your own clinic. Becoming comfortable navigating and applying these resources now can ease the transition into early practice, regardless of setting. Learning how to efficiently access and use them through ACAAI's member website during fellowship builds habits that promote consistency, safety, and confidence from day one.

Procedural confidence is not about perfection - it's about preparation, repetition, and thoughtful use of the resources already available to you. Fellowship offers a rare opportunity to develop these skills in a supportive environment. By intentionally engaging in procedures, integrating practice parameters and yardsticks into everyday care, and seeking regular feedback, fellows can transform uncertainty into confidence and training into practice. The habits you build now will shape not only how you perform procedures, but how you care for patients throughout your career.

# 2026 ALLERGEN EXTRACT MIXING COURSE

Saturday, April 25

Chicago, Illinois

Hilton Chicago O'Hare Airport

Get Compliant  
On USP 797

REGISTRATION  
IS OPEN NOW!

For more information, visit  
[education.accai.org/AMC26](http://education.accai.org/AMC26).

REGISTER  
NOW



American  
**College**  
of Allergy, Asthma  
& Immunology





## SAVE THE DATE!

American College of  
Allergy, Asthma & Immunology



**2026** Podium to Practice®  
**BUILDING BRIDGES FOR THE FUTURE** | Annual Scientific Meeting  
**November 12-16**  
**PHOENIX, AZ**

# We'll be 'Building Bridges for the Future' at the ACAAI 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting

We're planning a one-of-a-kind ACAAI Annual Scientific Meeting this year! Plan to join us Nov. 12-16 in Phoenix. Last year's meeting in Orlando broke attendance records, and you won't want to miss the top-tier sessions, workshops and networking this year.

"This year's meeting theme is Building Bridges for the Future," said Kristin D. Sokol, MD, MS, FAAAAI, Annual Meeting Program Chair. "It's a fitting description of how the College is always looking forward. The meeting will have updated treatment approaches, forward-thinking discussions, the latest science, and practical takeaways for your practice."

Here is a sneak peek at the meeting:

**Thursday program** - Explore Precision Allergy Care: Biologics, Immunotherapy, and Emerging Targeted Therapies at this full-day event.

**Hands-on instruction** - Our workshops tend to sell out. Why? They are second to none for experiential learning to improve and expand your clinical services.

**Podium to Practice® sessions** - From transformative lectures to small group discussions, you'll get the latest research and

practical tips for patient care on a wide variety of allergic/immunologic conditions.

**Practice management** - Get solutions to issues your practice encounters with sessions for allergists and the entire team.

**Networking** - Reconnect or make new friends - the ACAAI meeting is the best place to network with colleagues.

No matter where you are in your career - a veteran allergist, mid-career, or a Fellow-in-Training, you'll benefit from information to help you navigate the ever-changing health care environment.

**Save the dates - Nov. 12-16. Registration opens this summer.**



# Highlights from the ACAAI 2025 Annual Meeting

The ACAAI 2025 Annual Meeting broke attendance records! Attendees who traveled to Orlando for the meeting were rewarded with an excellent experience, and Livestream attendees were engaged at home as well.

Enjoy some highlights from the meeting. For more photos, visit [college.accai.org/publications/2025-acai-annual-scientific-meeting-photo-gallery/](https://college.accai.org/publications/2025-acai-annual-scientific-meeting-photo-gallery/)



- 1 ACAAI President Dr. James M. Tracy hands the commemorative cane to Dr. Richard W. Weber, recipient of the 2025 Gold Headed Cane Award.
- 2 2025-26 ACAAI President Dr. Cherie Y. Zachary accepts the gavel from 2024-25 ACAAI President Dr. James M. Tracy.
- 3 A participant gets instruction during the workshop "Performing a Rhinologyngologic Exam."
- 4 Winners of the 2025 FIT Bowl - Drs. Krista Shaw and Curtis Pacheco from Wilford Hall Ambulatory Surgical Center.

- 5 A researcher explains his project at an ePoster session.
- 6 College members pose for a selfie at the Welcome Reception.
- 7 Dr. Shazad Mustafa, Vice Chair of the Program Committee, presents a plaque to Dr. Giselle Mosnaim, who gave the 2025 Edward J. O'Connell lecture.
- 8 Annual Meeting Program Chair Dr. Kristin Sokol presents a plaque to Dr. Rohit Katial. Dr. Katial presented the 2025 Bela Schick lecture.

# Explore new educational resources

We've developed new resources to support clinical practice and patient care with timely, evidence-based content.

**AllergyTalk is now a vodcast!** You've heard their voices and trusted their expertise. Now it's time to see the conversation unfold in our first vodcast (video podcast) episode. Tune in to watch the conversation come to life as Dr. Gerald Lee, Dr. Stan Fineman, and Dr. Shyam Joshi discuss key findings from the November/December 2025 issue of AllergyWatch®.

Catch the first AllergyTalk vodcast episodes on YouTube at [youtube.com/@allergists/podcasts](https://youtube.com/@allergists/podcasts).

Prefer audio? You can still listen on Podbean at [allergytalk.podbean.com](https://allergytalk.podbean.com) or wherever you get your podcasts.

Our **Drug Allergy Protocol Library (DAPOL)** is a

comprehensive collection of protocols that provide evidence-based strategies for understanding and implementing drug allergy testing protocols. The new chemotherapeutic agents section of DAPOL recently launched. This addition will further expand the scope and relevance of the library, offering timely support for an increasingly complex area of allergy practice.

You may have already accessed the initial release focused on antibiotics, offering easy access to protocols covering penicillins, cephalosporins, carbapenems, macrolides, fluoroquinolones, aminoglycosides, and more.

Just released - **Volume 3 of the Allergy & Immunology Module (AIM)**. Our AIM self-assessment modules are designed to help allergy/immunology providers obtain new knowledge, as well as reaffirm existing knowledge. It also helps allergists/immunologists evaluate and maintain their clinical competence.

The new module consists of more than 100 case-based, multiple-choice questions. Comprehensive discussions provide evidence-based explanations regarding all answer options, as well as providing supporting references from the current literature.

The questions address five categories:

- Allergy and hypersensitivity
- Immunological disorders
- Immune system/research
- Pharmacology/therapeutics
- Allergens/antigens/extracts

More than 25 new **MicroCME** modules are now available, showcasing hand-selected content from the 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting. Each MicroCME session lasts just 15-30 minutes and is designed to help medical professionals meet their continuing education needs through bite-sized content

that fits their busy schedules. All MicroCME modules are **free** to members.

Head to [education.acaai.org/microcme](https://education.acaai.org/microcme) to see the current curated lectures including:

- Food Allergy in Perinatal
- Anaphylaxis & New treatments
- Drug Desensitization
- And much more

**Did you know?** If you attended the ACAAI 2025 Annual Scientific Meeting (in person or via the Livestream

program) you have **free** access to 55 hours of recorded presentations from Orlando? Log in and check your Courses in Progress or go to: [education.acaai.org/ondemand](https://education.acaai.org/ondemand).

This collection offers select general sessions from Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday's program.

Sessions include:

- Presidential Plenary: The Future of Allergy and Immunology Therapeutics
- Editor's Choice: Best Articles from Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
- 7 for 11: Hot Therapeutic Targets in Allergy and Immunology
- Clinical Conundrums in Anaphylaxis: Let the Practice Parameters Be Your Guide
- Jeopardy - What's That Rash?
- Navigating Current Treatments for Food Allergy
- Practical Approaches to Drug Hypersensitivity: Managing Diverse Populations and Real-World Challenges
- 2025 Practice Management Program



# Apply for Pathways to Practice fellows funding



## CA²PER

Community & Academic  
Allergists Partnership in  
Education & Research

The ACAAI P2P program supports the training of allergy/immunology fellows. The application deadline is April 15

The ACAAI program **Pathways to Practice (P2P)** is a five-year College initiative that was launched in 2025. It supports the training of 16 allergy/immunology fellows through four competitive \$250,000 (two-year) grants that are awarded annually. This is the second year of this ambitious initiative.

**The application process for funding fellows in 2027 is open! Interested institutions must apply by April 15, 2026** and preference will be given to training programs with unfunded positions. Selection will be highly competitive to ensure that funding is directed to the most impactful programs.

The goal of P2P is to expand access to allergy and immunology care across the country by supporting fellows who are committed to entering community-based practice within the U.S.

By providing financial support to accredited programs, the College is able to expand training opportunities, increase the number of practicing allergists, and strengthen the specialty's future.

### Important information and dates

- View the program overview:  
[college.acaa.org/pathways-to-practice](https://college.acaa.org/pathways-to-practice)
- View the application details and eligibility criteria: [college.acaa.org/P2P-eligibility](https://college.acaa.org/P2P-eligibility)
- Application deadline: **April 15, 2026**
- Notification letters sent to selected and non-selected program applicants:  
**June 2026**
- Grant funds sent to the selected programs:  
**May 2027**



# Community Grant recipient expands access to allergy care in rural schools



The Allergists' Foundation Community Grant Program empowers practicing allergists to lead innovative projects that improve patient care and deliver real-world results. In 2023, Andrea A. Wlochowicz, MD, FAAAAI, then known as Andrea A. Pappalardo, led a 24-month initiative focused on expanding access to critical

asthma medications in rural schools. Her team developed a community engagement framework to facilitate school-based asthma management. The team's goal was to ensure school staff are equipped to respond to asthma emergencies and help children access guideline-based care.

Through interviews and focus groups with 24 participants, the team identified key strategies to expand stock albuterol programs and to advocate for increased nursing support and resources in underserved areas.

One rural school nurse shared how the project supported the successful implementation of the stock inhaler policy in her school:

"During one of Dr. Wlochowicz's online community meetings, I sought advice on how to bring attention to this critical issue in my area. Her team connected me with a school nurse [from another area] who successfully implemented the program in her district. She offered insightful suggestions on how to engage the school board and emphasize the value of stock inhalers. By [the next] spring, our district successfully established a stock inhaler policy. Now that the policy is in place, **I feel empowered to help other districts establish their programs. I no longer feel helpless when caring for students and staff in respiratory distress.** [The program] also opens opportunities for ongoing discussions with parents and physicians about the importance of effectively managing a child's chronic condition."

Dr. Wlochowicz's work raised awareness among educators and asthma advocates, while equipping school nurses with the tools and support

needed to implement life-saving policies. **More than 4,000 students stand to benefit** from improved asthma care in their schools. The team's six-step engagement strategy, published in the *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*, will continue to guide allergists to expand access to care in underserved communities.

Reflecting on the experience, Dr. Wlochowicz shared:

"This grant helped us gather data and community insights necessary to understand what rural areas need regarding school health. It not only provided evidence to achieve funding but also has created new ideas and directions for future interventions that have the capacity to extend our reach as allergists/immunologists into rural communities and schools."

This Community Grant is a great example of how the Foundation supports practicing allergists in addressing real-world challenges in patient care. To learn more about the Community Grant Program, visit [college.acaaai.org/grants](https://college.acaaai.org/grants).

