



# CollegeAdvantage

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

ACAAI.ORG

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## Career solutions for you

College resources offer help with negotiating  
and navigating every career stage

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



Kathleen R. May, MD, FAAAAI,  
President, American College of  
Allergy, Asthma and Immunology

# Find the CME you need! The CLC has almost 200 educational activities.

It's not too early to begin thinking about the ACAAI 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, Nov. 9 – 13 in Anaheim, CA. The program committee has developed an outstanding program tailored to the needs of

run an efficient practice, recorded webinars, past Annual Meeting sessions and more. Earn CME through the CLC – most are free to members! I'm impressed with how many of us are using this platform. In 2022, there were:

- 192 CLC activities available
- 20,400+ activity registrants
- 4,385 completed CLC activities
- 10,500+ CLC user accounts

practicing allergists. Some highlights – the full-day program on Thursday exploring anaphylaxis and mast cell diseases, workshops, returning favorites like the literature review and “7 for 11 – Hot Topics in Pediatric A/I” and more. We'll be “Embracing the Evolution of Patient Care” this fall. Registration for the Annual Meeting will open this summer.

The Annual Meeting is just one of the College's educational opportunities. The College offers almost 200 more through the College Learning Connection (CLC). The CLC is the online learning hub for allergists in every stage of our careers. There are study aids for board exams, the CAP review to prepare for Part 3 MOC, and yardsticks, eYardsticks and parameters to guide patient care. You'll find modules to help



The high number of users shows the College offers valuable education that allergists are seeking. Find the CLC at [education.acaai.org](http://education.acaai.org).

Not only are our members tuned in to our educational activities, but they are also actively involved in the College. More than 100 members applied to be a part of College committees this year. I continue to be impressed at the high-level work put forth by committees to help in College operations, aid patient care and public awareness, and move the specialty forward. Thanks to all of you who dedicate your time to the College.

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



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## ADVOCACY ADVANTAGE

By James L. Sublett, MD, FAAAAI, Executive Director, Advocacy and Governmental Affairs

# My Time in Review

I began my work with the Advocacy Council (the former Joint Council of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology) on the coding committee nearly 25 years ago, progressing to the Council's Board and then serving as President of the Joint Council when it was funded by both the College and the Academy. It was both an honor and a challenge as I began the role of Executive Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs nearly seven years ago, succeeding the late Don Aaronson, MD, JD, MPH, FAAAAI, who had been leading the JCAAI/AC for nearly 30 years. In July, I will transition the position to the very capable Allen Meadows, MD, FAAAAI.

My first challenge was USP Chapter <797> - assuring that separate guidelines for the in-office mixing of patient specific allergen extracts by allergists be preserved. This goal was accomplished in 2022, when the final version of USP Chapter <797> included Section 21, outlining the guidelines for allergen extract preparation.



*2023 Strike Force members advocate for ACAAI in Washington DC.*

In 2020, the COVID pandemic exploded into our lives, and the practice of medicine changed forever. During my term, the Practice Management Committee (PMC) and the House of Delegates (HOD) were brought into the Advocacy Council to better coordinate services to membership. Because of the integration of the PMC and the HOD, we were able to rapidly develop webinars, guidance, a dedicated e-newsletter specific to COVID news, and resources to help our membership deal with the challenges of the pandemic. HOD town halls allowed discussion about various issues allergists were having, both at the practice and community levels. Telehealth came into its own. We continue to advocate for the changes that enable telehealth to be incorporated into allergy practices.

The PMC has developed nearly two dozen business management and clinical toolkits, with detailed information

on telehealth implementation, coding, revenue cycle management, and marketing - including the Allergen Extract Mixing Toolkit and the Allergen Mixing Quiz. The AC works with CMS related to the Merit-based Incentive Payment System (MIPS), and through our efforts, the ACAAI Asthma Advanced Payment Model gained approval by the HHS Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC).

Each year, the AC handles hundreds of questions that come from membership related to correct coding, audits by third party payers, and allergy specific ICD-10 codes. A "win" was the reversal of policies by third party payers to force mandatory administration of certain biologics outside the allergists' offices. Working with the AMA and other specialty societies, the AC reviewed, and, along with ACAAI, signed on to more than 400 letters to Congress, CMS, the FDA, and other agencies in the past seven years.

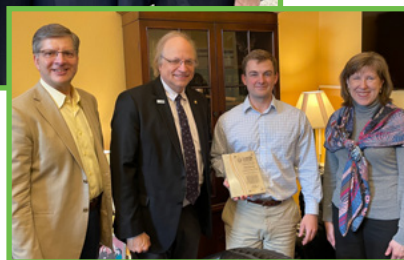
I have had the privilege of working closely with eight ACAAI presidents: Drs. Bryan Martin, Steve Tilles, Brad Chipps, Todd Mahr, Allen Meadows, Luz Fonacier, Mark Corbett, and Kathleen May; ACAAI Executive Medical Directors Drs. Michael Blaiss and Todd Mahr; Advocacy Council Chairs: Drs. Meadows, Steve Imbeau, Jim Tracy, and Warner Carr, our board and committee members. For many years our "Washington Services" legal team at the Powers Law Firm - Rebecca Burke and Leela Baggett - along with our Capitol Associates lobbyists - Bill Finerfrock and Matt Reiter - have provided

invaluable support and guidance for what we do. Finally, a huge thank you for ACAAI staff, especially Sue Grupe, Director of Advocacy Administration, who "keeps the trains on time" for me and the Advocacy Council, as well as Jennifer Pfeifer, Director of Practice Management, who provides guidance on complicated issues like MIPS.

I often use the analogy of the Advocacy Council with air-conditioning on a hot summer's day - only missed when we are not working. It's a team effort and I am both proud and humbled to have been involved in its work for practicing allergists.



James L. Sublett, MD



*Members of 2023 Strike Force with staff of Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL)*



## ANNUAL MEETING ADVANTAGE

# Are you ready to embrace the evolution of patient care?

Plans are underway for an exciting Annual Scientific Meeting Nov. 9-13 in Anaheim, CA

Save the date for the ACAAI 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, Nov. 9-13 in Anaheim, CA. We've created a program to meet the needs of practicing allergists as well as Fellows-in-Training, residents or academicians - whether you are just starting in your career or have decades of experience. There is always something new to learn, and our sessions offer essential Podium to Practice™ tips you can quickly and confidently implement into practice.

## What sets the ACAAI meeting apart?

**Our top-of-the-line Thursday program** - Explore anaphylaxis and mast cell diseases. Experts from around the globe will share the latest science and therapeutic updates.

**Sessions to help you navigate health care's changing paradigm** - patient care, practice management, research and more. Earn CME!

**Plenaries** - All of our speakers are experts, but our plenaries take it to the next level.

**Practice Management Program** - Solutions to issues  
your practice encounters. Get answers for a strong,  
efficient practice.

**Literature review** - Get updated on the latest clinical developments. Our Literature Review covers research published between November 2022 through October 2023.

**Fun!** Relax and unwind after intense sessions. Plan to attend the President's Welcome Reception and the popular FIT Bowl.

It's the best opportunity to network and catch up with more than 2,000 allergy/immunology professionals.

It doesn't get much better than warm, sunny Anaheim, where the temperature in November is around 75 degrees. Plan to join your friends and colleagues for the ACAAI 2023 Annual Meeting! The educational event of the year that you count on just gets better and better! Registration will open this summer.



# Get your research noticed

Present your compelling and dynamic research or medically challenging cases at the ACAAI 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, Nov. 9-13 in Anaheim, CA. The abstract submission site is open and the deadlines are:

- Research abstracts: July 10, 2023, 5:00 pm CT.
- Medically challenging cases: Aug. 1, 2023, 5:00 pm CT.

## New this year – Late Breaking Abstracts

If you have groundbreaking research that was not able to be completed for submission by the regular abstract deadline, consider applying for Late Breaking Abstracts. This special category of abstracts must contain primary data from groundbreaking laboratory studies or from novel or large clinical trials. Submit between Sept. 15 – Oct. 15, 2023. A very limited number of these abstracts will be accepted, and no requests for extensions will be honored.

All abstracts must be submitted online at [annualmeeting.acaai.org/2023/abstracts\\_upcoming](https://annualmeeting.acaai.org/2023/abstracts_upcoming). Follow the automated step-by-step process and obtain your abstract proposal number, which will allow you to resume or edit your submission until the deadline.

There is a \$60 fee for each abstract submitted. Abstracts selected for oral and poster presentations will be published in the November supplement to the *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*. FITs who submit a research abstract may apply



for a Clemens von Pirquet award. Answers to frequently asked questions can be found at [annualmeeting.acaai.org/2023/abstracts\\_upcoming.cfm](https://annualmeeting.acaai.org/2023/abstracts_upcoming.cfm). Still have questions? Contact [education@acaai.org](mailto:education@acaai.org).

**Note:** Abstracts scheduled for publication prior to the ACAAI Annual Meeting date, or which have been presented at national or regional meetings of other organizations, cannot be submitted. Since accepted abstracts will be published in *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology*, the abstract peer review process will adhere to human subjects research ethical guidelines.

## Be alert!

When registration opens for the ACAAI 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting this summer, be aware of unauthorized websites posing as travel sites. Official ACAAI registration and sleeping room information for Annual Meeting will be sent to you directly from the College in early August. This information also will be posted to our website at that time.

The College's official Annual Meeting site is [annualmeeting.acaai.org](https://annualmeeting.acaai.org), and our official/authorized housing provider is OnPeak. No other company is affiliated with or endorsed by the College, and no other company is authorized to confirm

your registration or hotel sleeping room reservation on behalf of the College. Any site other than OnPeak that offers housing is a scam and is not affiliated with ACAAI in any capacity.

Meetings like the College's are often targeted by scammers and unauthorized companies who can put you at risk. To register for the meeting and to secure hotel reservations with our official housing provider, check the College's official Annual Meeting site beginning in early August.



## ANNUAL MEETING ADVANTAGE

# An in-depth look at mast cell diseases, anaphylaxis and epinephrine

**When you think of the College's Annual Scientific Meeting, the Thursday Program stands out. The Thursday program devotes an entire day to the exploration of important A/I topics.**

"Thursday's all-day sessions are legendary for intensive discussion of A/I topics," said 2023 Annual Meeting Program Chair Jay Lieberman, MD, FAAAAI. "I'm excited that this year we're exploring mast cell diseases, anaphylaxis and the role of epinephrine."

Make sure your plans to attend the ACAAI 2023 Annual Meeting include the Thursday program on Nov. 9, part of the ACAAI 2023 Annual Meeting Nov. 9-13 in Anaheim, CA. The day will start with sessions on the latest science in mast cell biology and how it relates to clinical disease. Later, speakers will discuss mastocytosis classifications and the interplay of idiopathic anaphylaxis and mastocytosis. A lunch time presentation on alpha-gal allergy will cover clinical questions on the use of mammalian products such as valves and gelatin in alpha-gal patients.

After lunch, presentations will transition to anaphylaxis, with talks on anaphylaxis fatalities, risk-stratification, and the latest in therapeutic management, including updates from the latest anaphylaxis practice parameters and novel forms of epinephrine delivery.

The Thursday program will culminate in fun and spirited pro-con debates on the role of mast cell activation in patients with POTS and Ehlers-Danlos and also the clinical relevance of hereditary alpha-tryptasemia as an underlying cause of protean manifestations.

As always, the Thursday session will have international and world-renowned speakers to deliver the latest information.

*Thursday's all-day sessions are legendary for intensive discussion of A/I topics. I'm excited that this year we're exploring mast cell diseases, anaphylaxis and the role of epinephrine.*

**- Jay Lieberman, MD, FAAAAI**  
2023 Annual Meeting Program Chair

Sign up for the Thursday program when you register for the 2023 Annual Meeting. Registration will open this summer.

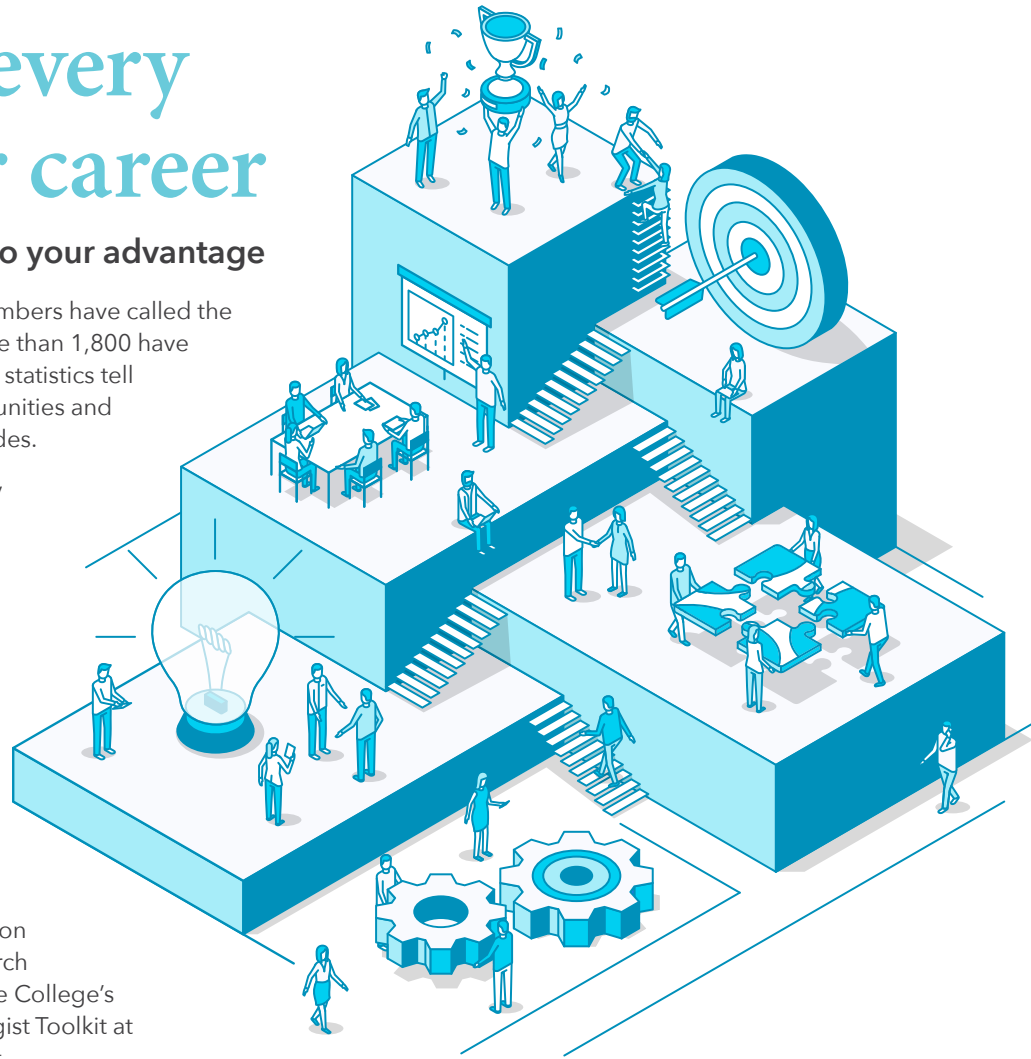
# Support for every stage of your career

## Use your College membership to your advantage

We're proud that more than 3,500 of our members have called the College home for at least 10 years – and more than 1,800 have been members for 20 years or longer! Those statistics tell us our members value the resources, opportunities and connections that College membership provides.

The College is the leader in supporting every stage of an allergist/immunologist's career – from early days as a FIT through years of seeing patients, doing research and more, to retirement.

Getting started in practice may be one of the biggest hurdles. To address needs special to early-career allergists, the College introduced the **FIT and New Allergists Toolkit** last year to help you navigate the unique landscape of your early career. Whether you're just starting out or considering a new career or practice type, the toolkit's resources include information on choosing a practice environment, job search strategies, physician contracts and links to the College's clinical materials. Find the FIT and New Allergist Toolkit at [college.acaai.org/fit-and-new-allergist-toolkit](https://college.acaai.org/fit-and-new-allergist-toolkit).



## Advancing your career

Whether you're new to allergy practice or have years of experience, you may be considering a different practice type or location. Or maybe your practice is looking to add allergists to your team. Either way, the College's **Career Center** can help. Go to [jobs.acaai.org](https://jobs.acaai.org) and you'll find job listings searchable by job title, keyword or location. Job seekers can also get advice on career planning and resume review and sign up for job alerts. For those looking to hire, there are special job posting prices for College members and areas to easily keep track of your listed jobs and candidates.

Contract negotiation is another important aspect of your allergy career. New and experienced allergists/immunologists can find employment discussions challenging. The College is here to help! We've partnered with **Resolve**, a national firm that specializes in physician employment contracts. Resolve offers professional guidance on navigating and negotiating compensation and benefits. Learn more on page 8.

## Working through challenges

Years in practice help physicians develop a sharp set of skills and wisdom to work through the many intricacies of treating patients, working with your staff and dealing with paperwork. This heavy load may cause practitioners to feel burdened and stressed, which may lead to burnout. Many options exist to help cope – one is life coaching. Read Dr. Maureen Petersen's article on page 9 on how life coaching can help allergists deal with – or even ward off – burnout.

## New opportunities

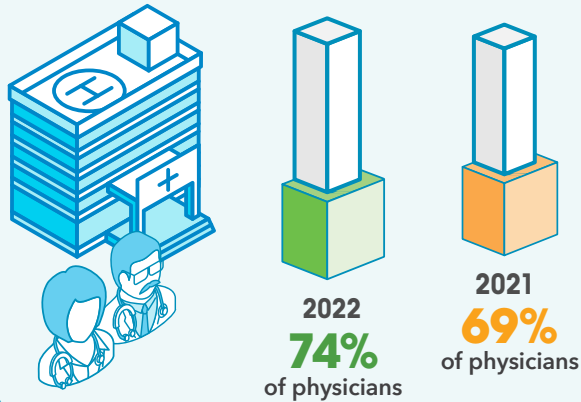
Early career and more seasoned A/I's may be looking for new opportunities to interact with patients. Coming soon is an exciting program being developed by ACAAI President Dr. Kathleen R. May called the Community Allergist Partnership in Education (CAPE) Program, which will offer guidance and information about elective rotation opportunities with community allergy practices. More details about CAPE will be forthcoming, with an expected launch at the ACAAI 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting.

*Continued on page 8*



### Trends in Practice Settings

Percentage of all physicians who were employed by hospitals, health systems or corporate entities (including private equity firms and health insurers).



Sources:

[Medicaleconomics.com/view/supermajority-of-u-s-physicians-work-for-health-systems-or-corporations](https://medicaleconomics.com/view/supermajority-of-u-s-physicians-work-for-health-systems-or-corporations)

[Beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-physician-relationships/74-of-physicians-are-hospital-or-corporate-employees-with-pandemic-fueling-increase.html](https://beckershospitalreview.com/hospital-physician-relationships/74-of-physicians-are-hospital-or-corporate-employees-with-pandemic-fueling-increase.html)

## College resources

Your College member benefits can help fulfill your educational and practice management needs. The **College Learning Connection** has more than 190 opportunities for education – many with CME. And our **Practice Management Center** has toolkits to help you run a successful practice, from business policies and procedures, to coding support, marketing tools and patient materials. Most of the education and practice management resources are free for members. Use your College membership to your advantage!

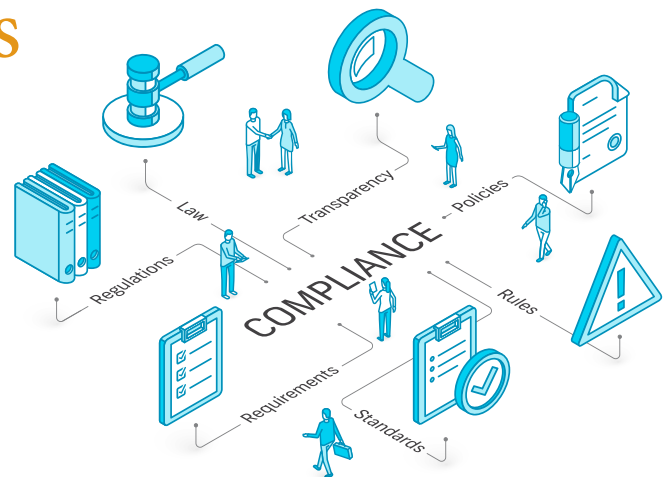
As employment trends change, physicians' needs change, too. The College resources can help meet your needs! Visit the ACAAI Practice Management Center at [college.acaai.org/practice-management](https://college.acaai.org/practice-management).

# Help with the “ins and outs” of physician employment contracts

Physician employment contracts carry a lot of weight. For employed physicians, a contract not only determines compensation and benefits, but also outlines a work schedule, paid time off, personal property rights, restrictive covenants, and much more. All things considered, signing a contract can affect your whole life, beyond just the workplace. With so much at stake, it is important to know whether your compensation and other terms of employment are fair, prior to signing anything.

Determining if you have a fair contract may seem daunting at first, but if you have access to the right data, insights, and expertise, reviewing and negotiating the agreement will be painless. A firm specializing in contract review can offer important guidance and expertise in this area.

The College offers a member benefit in the form of a discount on these services through Resolve, a top physician contract review firm. Whether you are signing your first contract or thinking of renegotiating an existing agreement, Resolve can help with every step of the process. Get connected with an attorney specializing in physician contracts who can point out problematic terms, suggest changes, and even negotiate



directly with an employer on your behalf. You will also receive the latest salary data reports, so you know if your offered compensation is at or below fair market value

With the right data in hand and an experienced attorney in your corner, you can negotiate and sign a contract that serves your needs, not just your employer's. ACAAI members receive a 15% discount on any of Resolve's contract review services and salary data access. Visit [m2.resolve.com/acaai/](https://m2.resolve.com/acaai/) for more information on how to receive this discount.





## COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE

By Maureen M. Petersen, MD, FAAAAI

*Dr. Petersen's article about life coaching appeared in a recent College Insider. Find the full article at: [college.acaaai.org/life-coaching](http://college.acaaai.org/life-coaching). Following are some highlights:*

Allergists/immunologists are well aware of the challenge of providing quality care for their patients in an ever-changing and often difficult health care environment. We are no strangers to long workdays and endless weeks filled with patient consultations while dealing with demanding insurers and endless paperwork. Despite this, we have a steadfast commitment to patient safety and satisfaction, but we can be faced with limited resources. With high expectations from patients and a culture of "pushing through it," many physicians consistently put themselves last, suffering silently as they aid their patients on their journey toward better health.

Doctors today face rising levels of burnout. Allergists/immunologists are no strangers to this concept. Research shows that burnout has had serious long-term effects on physicians' physical health as well as their emotional well-being.

Life coaching can help guide physicians toward prioritizing their own well-being while still providing top quality care to their patients. It can help physicians create a more meaningful experience in their practices or achieve greater balance in their lives.

Through a collaborative and systematic approach, coaching empowers individuals to explore and reach their full potential. Coaching sessions can be conducted remotely or in person and are used by many professionals as an effective tool for leadership growth, career development, and to make positive health changes.

Coaches can help physicians improve their communication skills and navigate challenging interpersonal situations with patients, colleagues, and family members.

Studies demonstrate that coaching can empower individuals to strengthen their psychological capital – a powerful combination of self-efficacy, hope, optimism and resilience.



### Do the research

The first step in finding the right life coach is to do the research. Use coach directories such as The Life Coach School directory (at [thelifecoachschool.com/directory](http://thelifecoachschool.com/directory)) and search online for reviews of different coaches to get an idea of their style and approach.



### Set up an interview

After narrowing the list of potential coaches, set up interviews with each one. During this process, ask questions about their experience working with physicians as well as their approach to coaching.



### Consider the budget

Life coaching can be on the expensive side, so it's important to consider the budget when deciding which coach is right for you. Some coaches offer sliding scale fees based on income level; others charge by session or by package.

With the right support system, allergists/immunologists can live even fuller lives – both personally and professionally!

# Winning strategies to optimize your schedule and boost patient access

How long does it take for a new patient to get an appointment in your practice? What about an existing patient with an urgent issue? These are key questions every allergy practice should be tracking regularly. While the “right” answer to these questions will vary by location and practice, one thing is clear: patients with a medical issue don’t want to wait weeks or months to get an appointment.

The good news is that allergy practices have adopted a range of strategies to optimize their schedules and boost patient access. Members of the Practice Management Committee reported using same-day appointments and some form of wave scheduling.

One sure-fire way to improve access is to offer same-day or next-day appointments to patients. Here are some ways to make it work.

- **Block daily appointments to ensure same-day access.**

Make time available every day for new or urgent patients. Simply block some appointments in every schedule that automatically release one day in advance. Start small – block one or two appointments in the afternoon for each provider. This will give you all morning to fill those slots.

Experiment with how many slots you make available over a few weeks until you find the magic formula for your practice, keeping in mind it depends on demand and may fluctuate by season and provider.

“Some of our practices use same day or next day appointments very successfully,” said Scott McCutcheon, MHA, member of the Practice Management Committee. “We’ve been able to see more patients who don’t want to wait for appointments, although they may not do skin testing on the first visit. In some areas we started using a walk-in clinic model very effectively utilizing mid-level providers. It’s a different version of the same day appointment concept.”





- **Create a dynamic wait list using on-demand texts to patients to fill no-shows and cancellations.**

If your EHR/practice management system has the capability to automatically text patients when you have last-minute openings, use it! Texting, rather than calling, is a much more effective way to reach patients on short notice.

Allergy practices have other great options to increase patient access.

- **Consider wave scheduling.**

This scheduling method involves scheduling more than one patient appointment at the same time. Wave scheduling allows you to take the unused time from shorter visits and use it with longer visits.

"I often schedule a new patient and an established patient on the hour. While the new patient is filling out paperwork, I will see the established patient," said Shreya Patel, MD, member of the Practice Management Committee. "I can typically see one new and three established patients in an hour, or two new patients and one or two established patients."

Priya Bansal, MD, FAAAAI, member of the Practice Management Committee, also uses wave scheduling. "Wave scheduling has helped me see patients more efficiently," she said. "I can schedule a new patient at 8:15 and a follow up patient at 8:30. I'll see the 8:30 follow up patient while the 8:15 new patient starts their workup."

M. Razi Rafeeq, MD, FAAAAI, Practice Management Committee advisor, has used wave scheduling in his private practice. Here is his typical schedule:

9:00 am: New patient + Established patient  
 9:15 am: Established patient follow up  
 9:30 am: Established patient follow up + ingestion challenge or accelerated (cluster) immunotherapy  
 9:45 am: Established patient follow/up  
 10:00 am: New patient + Established patient for skin testing

"The challenge is having staff and enough rooms," said Dr. Rafeeq. "We had a dedicated room for procedures (challenge and accelerated immunotherapy) and an additional five exam rooms that allowed us to schedule multiple appointments."

- **Increase access.**

Increase access for patients by encouraging telemedicine visits, providing early morning, evening and/or weekend appointments and expanding hours during allergy season.



Offering same-day appointments and increasing access overall is a win-win strategy for allergy practices and patients. Benefits include:

- Enhanced patient satisfaction.
- More new patients – Try blocking some new patient appointments each week to ensure access.
- Better patient care – Patients with urgent/emergent situations get seen the same day or next day and unnecessary emergency department visits are avoided.
- Reduction in no-shows, which in turn boosts revenue – By avoiding long waits for appointments, you'll also reduce no-shows. And no wonder: while a patient may accept an appointment with you three weeks out, they may also continue to search for a doctor who can help them sooner. And once they find one, they "forget" about the appointment they made with you.
- Great marketing strategy – Advertise same-day and next-day appointments on your website.

Make sure you've ironed out the bugs in your same-day appointment strategy before you advertise it.

For more ways to optimize your schedule, view the College's free 15-minute **Allergy Office Educational Module: Optimizing Schedules** ([education.aaaai.org/schedules](http://education.aaaai.org/schedules)). You'll find ways to boost patient satisfaction, maximize scheduling efficiency and track patient access.



# First year fellow? Graduating fellow? Change is in the air



Brent Griffin, MD, MPH

## FELLOW-IN-TRAINING ADVANTAGE

By Brent Griffin, MD, MPH, Senior FIT Representative

It is an exciting time to be a Fellow-in-Training! As the academic year ends, we prepare for the next phase of our careers. Whether you are a first-year fellow transitioning to a more senior role in your training program or a graduating fellow completing your training and moving on to independent practice, one thing is certain: change is in the air. We continue

to look toward the future for ourselves and our specialty, but I think that reflecting on the journey is also of great importance. As I transition into independent practice myself and continue studying for the board certification exam, I must remind myself to think back on the past years of training and consider how far we have all come. It is challenging to “live in the moment” while in the middle of the rigor of fellowship training, but the time will have seemed to come and go in the blink of an eye at the end. What has not changed, however, is the support provided by the College to its members, whether you are moving on to another year of training or starting out in practice as a new allergist/immunologist.

Speaking of support, did you know that the College is continuing its Annals FIT Award Program for 2023? This is an exciting opportunity for Fellows-in-Training to receive recognition and support for outstanding academic achievement in the field of allergy & immunology. The program provides a cash award to one or more Fellows-in-Training who have published impactful research or review

articles in the *Annals of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology* within the previous year. For more information, check out the ACAAI website or ask me or your local FIT Representative! Don't forget about the Clemens von Pirquet Award for outstanding research abstracts. See the article on page 13.

Mark your calendars for the College's Annual Meeting in November! This year, we will be heading to sunny Anaheim, CA for the premier national event in allergy/immunology. The theme of this year's meeting is “Embracing the Evolution of Patient Care,” and I think that fits perfectly with the theme of transition. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to explore best and emerging evidence-based practices in our specialty through discussion with outstanding leaders in the field. The FIT program is an excellent opportunity to network with other Fellows-in-Training while hearing from selected speakers on issues pertinent to FITs. And don't forget about the ever-popular FIT Bowl, an intense game-show style competition that puts teams of FITs to the test as they represent their institutions!

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to my colleagues in the FIT Section; whether you are transitioning to the next phase of your training, or moving on to independent practice, you have accomplished much, and you should be proud. While change can be challenging, don't forget to take a moment and reflect on how far we've all come to get to this point. I look forward to seeing the exciting things our section does for our peers and our specialty!



# FITs – Apply for Annual Meeting awards and scholarships

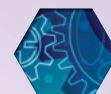
**Fellows-in-Training (FITs): Be recognized for your outstanding research and apply for a FIT scholarship to attend the 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting, Nov. 9-13 in Anaheim, CA!**

**Clemens von Pirquet Awards** - Three FITs will be recognized for the best research abstracts on any aspect of allergy/immunology or related fields. To be considered, you must indicate that you wish to apply for a Clemens von Pirquet Award on the abstract submission site. Information on the criteria and application requirements are available at [annualmeeting.acaai.org/2023/upcoming\\_abstracts.cfm](https://annualmeeting.acaai.org/2023/upcoming_abstracts.cfm). Apply by **July 10, 2023 at 5:00 pm CT**.

The Abstract Review Committee selects the award-winning abstracts. Award winners present their research at an Oral Abstract Session. Winners will receive cash awards from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and remain eligible to receive a scholarship to attend the Annual Meeting.

Questions? Contact [education@acaai.org](mailto:education@acaai.org).

**FIT scholarships** - The College provides scholarships to FITs in North America to attend the Annual Meeting. FITs who have completed their fellowship in 2023 are still eligible for these scholarships. The application, due by **Aug. 25, 2023**, was recently emailed to all FITs and is available at [college.acaai.org/college/awards-and-named-lectureships](https://college.acaai.org/college/awards-and-named-lectureships). For more information, contact Karla Kaschub, Director of Membership, at [karlakaschub@acaai.org](mailto:karlakaschub@acaai.org).





EDUCATION ADVANTAGE

# What's new in the College Learning Connection?

From board preparation to microlearning, the College has your CME needs covered. Take a look at what is available to you - most at a discount and many free for College members!

## Board Preparation

Visit the **Board Review Corner** located on the CLC to review practice questions and interactive quizzes to help you study. New questions and quizzes are posted monthly, and previous years' questions are available as well. Find the questions at [education.acaai.org/content/board-review-corner](http://education.acaai.org/content/board-review-corner).

The **Allergy & Immunology Medicine self-assessments** (AIM Volumes One and Two) 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 two volumes contain more than 200 case-based questions with comprehensive, evidence-based explanations and supporting references

for all answer options. Find volume 1 at [education.acaai.org/aimselfassessment](http://education.acaai.org/aimselfassessment). Find volume 2 at [education.acaai.org/aimvol2](http://education.acaai.org/aimvol2).

The **Fourth Edition of ACAAI's Review for the Allergy & Immunology Boards** book is available for purchase as a printed or electronic book. The spiral-bound book contains 550 pages with hundreds of images and tables to enhance your studies. Purchase includes access to more than 600 interactive, online flashcards. Buy now at [education.acaai.org/brbook](http://education.acaai.org/brbook).

## MicroCME

The College is pleased to announce the launch of 27 new MicroCME modules as a free benefit to College members. These modules cover a broad range of topics curated by your peers to give you the most impactful content in an easy-to-use format. These modules are designed to address your educational needs in the time you have available. View the new modules at [education.acaai.org/microcme](http://education.acaai.org/microcme).

## eParameters and eYardsticks

These award-winning interactive and innovative modules are designed to present the contents of the written practice parameters and yardsticks in an intuitive and impactful way that gives you the ability to access and navigate the topics in the way that best suits your needs. Check out our newest eYardstick on the medical management of chronic rhinosinusitis! Find it at [education.acaai.org/eparameters](http://education.acaai.org/eparameters).

Come and see why the College Learning Connection is the best option to satisfy all of your CME needs!

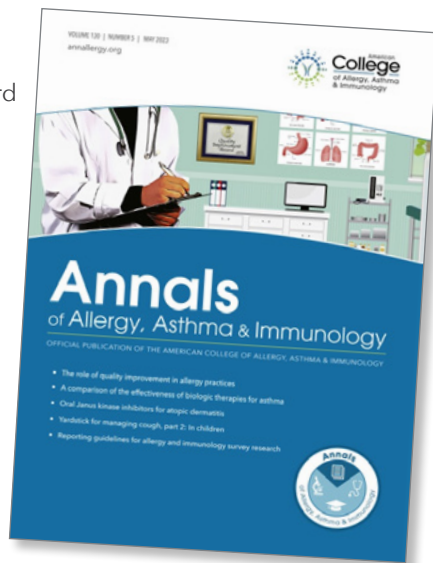


## COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE

# Recognizing FITs for research

## The ACAAI Annals Fellows-In-Training Award recognizes the best article published by a FIT.

The ACAAI Annals Fellows-In-Training Award Program, established in 2022, will continue this year. FITs who publish the best article (original research or review) in *Annals of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology* will receive a cash award of up to \$2,500. Multiple winners are possible. Program Directors, please let your FITs know about this award and consider nominating a worthy FIT.



The specific rules of this award are:

1. The FIT must be the first or senior author on the paper.
2. The FIT must have been in fellowship training at the time of the original submission of the paper.
3. The paper must appear in a print edition of *Annals* between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023. Papers that appear online but not yet in print are not eligible (they will be eligible for future year award cycles).
4. The FIT must be nominated to be considered for the award.
5. The FIT must be a member of the American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology.

Ready to nominate a FIT? Send an email to [annals@acaaai.org](mailto:annals@acaaai.org) and include the following information:

- Nominee's name
- Full publication reference
- Statement of the FIT's role in the work
- Nominator's name and contact information

**Nominations must be received by Aug. 15, 2023 to be considered for this year's awards.**

If you have any questions, please email the *Annals* editorial office at [annals@acaaai.org](mailto:annals@acaaai.org).

## COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE

# New versatile patient education

Patients are often looking for information on their allergic conditions. As a member benefit, the College has created user-friendly online brochures you can download and offer to your patients to explain allergic conditions. Find the brochures at [college.acaaai.org/patient-public-brochure-for-printing](http://college.acaaai.org/patient-public-brochure-for-printing).

Practices can use our brochures several ways:

- Securely text or email them to patients.
- Post them on your practice website.
- Link to them in your practice EHR where they can be added to the patient's after-visit summary.
- Upload them to a patient's portal account as part of the after-visit summary.
- Print them out and hand them to patients during visits.

Current topics include:

- Asthma in Children (in English)
- Asma de su Hijo (in Spanish)
- Food allergies
- Eczema (in English)
- New! Acerca del Eccema (in Spanish)
- Rhinitis

**More topics are coming soon!**





## COMMUNITY ADVANTAGE

# The Impact of Community Grants: Empowering allergists for positive change in communities

The Allergists' Foundation's Community Grant Program supports practical, clinical research focused on strengthening access to care, improving patient outcomes, and addressing health disparities. Grants offered through the program (ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000) can reap wonderful rewards. Below are a few highlights of how our community grants are already making a difference.

### Addressing Local Needs

**Practicing community allergists have firsthand insight into the challenges facing today's allergy patients in their communities. Community grants are a way to try new approaches for addressing day-to-day challenges.**



Timothy Chow, MD (2021 grant recipient), explored a novel strategy of performing direct amoxicillin challenges in a pediatric primary care setting to increase access to penicillin allergy testing. His project found a high level of caregiver receptivity to amoxicillin oral

challenges and feasibility of performing them in a primary care setting. Furthermore, all patients who completed the challenge reported a positive experience and those without a reaction were all willing to use penicillin if prescribed by their PCP. Dr. Chow's project demonstrates the potential for an efficient and effective de-labeling approach and a compelling area for further research.

### Fostering Collaboration

**Community grants provide an opportunity to establish partnerships encouraging collective action and shared learning. Such collaborations can leverage the strengths and expertise of different stakeholders, leading to more innovative and holistic solutions.**



Kelsey Kaman, MD (2021 planning and 2022 implementation grant recipient) recognized there are many stakeholders outside of the physician's office that can play an important role in caring for food-allergic children. She developed The LEARN Early project in partnership with Head

Start programs in her community to increase awareness and education related to food allergy, while empowering the nurses, administrators, teachers and support staff to provide a safe, nurturing environment for food-allergic children at their centers. Dr. Kaman has expanded the collaboration by also involving Code Ana, The Allison Rose Foundation and Food Equality Initiative as well as other partners experienced in providing education, emergency anaphylaxis plans and access to allergen-free foods.

"Being awarded this grant has allowed me to better understand the challenges patients face outside of the doctor's office... and given me the opportunity to meet and work with amazing people who have the same passions and interests," said Dr. Kaman. "We were able to brainstorm creative solutions and achieve our goals more efficiently... The Allergists' Foundation [grant] has allowed me to support my community in ways that I could never have imagined."

## Driving Innovation

**Advancements in digital technology have opened the door to many new possibilities in the delivery of care, particularly for underserved populations. Community grants can provide a means to explore how these innovations can benefit allergy and asthma patients.**



Juan Carlos Cardet MD, MPH (2021 grant recipient) has embarked on a study to explore the impact of telehealth on health outcomes among Black and Latinx patients with moderate to severe persistent asthma across the U.S. This project builds on a large pragmatic trial (called PREPARE) to determine whether

a patient-guided intervention can improve asthma outcomes in these populations. The community grant allowed Dr. Cardet and his team to further examine the study participants' preferences for telehealth vs. in-person visits within a variety of clinical contexts and explore factors impacting these preferences. The study has shown promising results related to the use of telehealth for allergy care, particularly in the context of regular asthma checkups. Dr. Cardet and our other grantees are working on publishing what they have learned from their research.

# The Allergists' Foundation Community Grant Program

The Community Grant Program demonstrates its potential to empower practicing community allergists to create positive impact in their community.

By providing financial support to local initiatives, we are able to contribute to building stronger, more vibrant, and resilient communities. Learn more about the projects we have funded and listen to interviews with our grantees by visiting [college.acaai.org/grantees](https://college.acaai.org/grantees).





## Membership in the American Medical Association is “priceless”

The College has an invaluable partnership with the American Medical Association (AMA). From its huge advocacy presence as a supporter of physicians and medical practices, to the many resources it develops, the AMA has a huge influence in American medicine, representing hundreds of thousands of physicians across the country.



The College represents you - the practicing allergist. However, allergy is a very small sub-specialty, and our “voice” is so much greater with this partner. That larger voice advocates for prior authorization reform, scope creep, network adequacy, and continuation of many of the telehealth waivers past the end of the public health emergency. In addition, we collectively advocate for proposed legislation to provide regular and meaningful positive updates to the Medicare Physician Fee Schedule conversion factor - accounting for inflation and the financial costs of administrative burdens - as a top priority.

One of the AMA's requirements for ACAAI membership in their House of Delegates **is that at least 20% of voting members of the College are members of the AMA.** Keep our voice strong - join or renew your AMA membership today at [member.ama-assn.org/join-renew/member-search](http://member.ama-assn.org/join-renew/member-search).

## Listen to new AllergyTalk podcast episodes

A new series was recently launched for the College's AllergyTalk podcast. The three-part series focuses on disparities in chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps (CRSwNP).



- Episode 1 overviews the CRSwNP subtypes, reviews the evidence of disparities, and discusses the reasons for the disparities.
- Episode 2 discusses how CRSwNP is affected by air pollution and environment, and how this affects minority and underserved populations.
- Episode 3 discusses disparities with access to treatment for nasal polyposis in minority and underserved populations.

AllergyTalk covers important topics in allergy/immunology, including in-depth discussion of articles in the popular publication *AllergyWatch*, the College's bimonthly roundup of journal articles in the field. Many of the podcast episodes offer CME credit.

New episodes are added regularly! Subscribe to AllergyTalk today! Search for AllergyTalk wherever you listen to podcasts. For more information, go to [college.acaai.org/allergytalk](http://college.acaai.org/allergytalk).



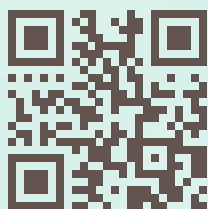
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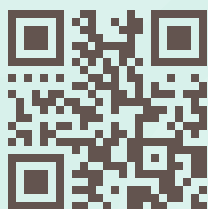
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