

February 16, 2023



**President's Message: Dr. Jitendra Barmecha**  
Progress Note:

On January 30, 2023, President Biden announced the intent to end the national emergency and public health emergency declarations related to the COVID-19 pandemic effective May 11, 2023. Please continue to use the CMS [provider-specific fact sheets](#) for information about COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) waivers and flexibilities.



Although the New York State Department of Health allowed masking requirements in healthcare facilities to expire on February 12, I personally recommend wearing masks in crowded places, including healthcare facilities. The masking requirements due to the pandemic were put into place by the state and the CDC. [In a recent advisory letter](#), acting NYS Health Commissioner James V. McDonald, MD said that the decision not to request a renewal of the emergency regulations was due in part to the decreasing levels of COVID-19 infections. [The New York State Department of Health COVID-19 advisory](#).

This week, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) released the recommended [Immunization Schedule](#) for Adults Aged 19 Years or Older. The COVID-19 vaccine row is a new addition to the tables.

Designed for physicians and other healthcare leaders, the [HANYS Quality Residency Program](#) helps strengthen quality improvement processes through in-depth training of quality and patient safety fundamentals. The Course registration closes on March 14th.

Continuing the saga of major mergers and acquisitions, earlier this month CVS Health and Oak Street Health entered into a definitive agreement under which CVS Health will acquire Oak Street Health in an all-cash transaction representing an enterprise value of approximately \$10.6 billion. Oak Street Health touts themselves as a leading multi-payor, value-based primary care company helping older adults stay healthy, employs approximately 600 primary care providers, and has 169 medical centers across 21 states. Late last year, CVS Health acquired home-based care company Signify Health in a deal valued at \$8 billion. The Oak Street health deal is CVS Health's second largest purchase in recent years, having acquired Aetna in 2018 for \$70 billion.

Please join our fellow NYACP members and the New York Yankees for select games in May at Yankee Stadium to celebrate ["Healthcare Workers Appreciation Week"](#). The first 1,000 fans who

purchase through this offer will receive a special New York Yankees scrub top plus a regular sized hot dog and first drink (a 12oz domestic beer for those 21 years of age or older with a Valid ID, Pepsi product or Poland Spring bottled water).

Finally, the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria are being described as the worst in that area in a century, killing over 35,000 citizens. ACP has set up an [information page](#) for members wishing to provide support in the recovery efforts.

Stay safe and enjoy the early spring weather!



Jitendra Barmecha, MD, MPH, FACP, SFHM  
President

**The NYACP/BU CME PAIN MANAGEMENT COURSE has been updated and WAS launched today - February 16, 2023!**

The 3-year renewal for prescribers who took the first training course in 2017 must renew again by **July 1, 2023**. The course is also available to all NYS licensed prescribers, and **this course fulfills NY's mandated 3-hours of CME training in addiction and pain management for prescribers as required by NY Public Health Law Sec. 3309-A(3).**



**"Managing Pain and Opioid Use: An Educational Program on Compliance with NYS Prescribing Laws"**

#### **What You Need to Know**

- **Target Audience:** Physicians, nurse practitioners, residents, registered nurses, nurses, physician assistants, dentists, and pharmacists.
- **CME/MOC:** The NYACP/BU educational activity will offer participants 3 Hours of *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits™* in addition to 3 MOC Points through the American Board of Internal Medicine's (ABIM) Maintenance of Certification (MOC) program.
- Licensed prescribers in NY are mandated to complete 3 hours of training every 3 years.
- Newly licensed prescribers are mandated to complete training within 1 year of receipt of your license and every three years thereafter.
- **For Residents prescribing under a hospital or facility DEA number:**
  - Residents must complete the course within 1 year of the start of their residency and every 3 years thereafter
  - Hospitals must attest that ALL residents prescribing under their institutional DEA number have completed the required training
- **The course is \$25.00.**

- **A group payment option is available for new residents and/or other institutional prescribers.**
- To be in compliance, prescribers must file the self attestation after completing the course.

This updated course has been made possible with the enormous help of NYACP's Pain Management Task Force:

- **Paula E. Lester, MD, FACP, CMD - NYACP Task Force Chair**
- **Daniel H. Pomerantz, MD, MPH, FACP - NYACP Task Force Member**
- **Kelly S. Ramsey, MD, MPH, MA, DFASAM, FACP - NYACP Task Force Member**
- **Stephanie Jones, MD, FACP - NYACP Task Force Member**
- **Radhika Prasad (NYACP Health Disparities Fellow) – NYACP Task Force Contributor**

To start the course: [Click Here](#)

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### NYACP Advocacy Intern

Nisha Khubchandani



Nisha Khubchandani is a fourth-year medical student at Albany Medical Center (AMC), pursuing both a MD from AMC and an MPH from the State University at Albany.

Nisha's project as an Advocacy Intern entails implementing a screening protocol that will help identify patients at Albany Medical Center who are experiencing food insecurity. Food deserts are prevalent in over half of the counties in New York state, including Albany County. Research shows worsening disparities in food access between communities of color and communities with more white counterparts within the city of Albany. Given that access to food is a major social determinant of health, it is vital that clinicians collect data on which patients are impacted by a lack of healthy food. Such data will help clinicians direct patients to the most appropriate resources and community-based organizations.

Nisha is currently conducting research on validated screening protocols relating to food insecurity. If anyone has experience with a similar screening process and is willing to share any resources/advice, please contact Nisha at [khubchn@amc.edu](mailto:khubchn@amc.edu). Thank you in advance!

### References

- Gundersen, C., & Ziliak, J.P. (2015). Food Insecurity And Health Outcomes. *Health Affairs*, 34(11), 1807-2006. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2015.0645>
- Hays, T., & Gormley, M. (2011, November 28). Study finds 'food deserts' worsening in New York State; Albany urged to give poor areas access to more nutritious options. [The Buffalo News](#).
- Hosler, A.S. (2018). Growing disparities in an urban food desert: Downtown Albany longitudinal food environment studies. [Journal of Public Affairs](#), 19(3), e1851.
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## Advocacy Intern Shared His Experience

Shane Solger, MD



After reading through my initial paper on what I had hoped to achieve from the Advocacy Internship experience, I was pleasantly surprised to see that it had fulfilled my expectations.

It was an important month in terms of networking for my immediate goal of bringing Haitian Creole interpreters to my hospital. The Advocacy Internship provided me with an audience with Johanne Morne, the New York Department of Health's Deputy Commissioner for Health Equity and Human Rights, who seemed incredulous when I described my hospitals' issue with interpretation services. It also provided me with the time and the tools to request an appointment with my state Assemblymember to try to push the issue from the state level. One of the more valuable experiences was connecting with Dr. Eileen Barrett, Chair-elect of the Board of Regents, whom I spoke with regarding her struggle and success as it pertained to bringing interpreters into the hospital. Her victory in New Mexico made it seem more practical here in Brooklyn, and she walked me through the many ways she tried to change the culture of her hospital to make it more accepting of in-person interpreters. I have begun to work on implementing much of what she had suggested within my program with similarly-minded faculty members.

The Committee of Interns and Residents/SEIU and the Committee on Political Education had initially been the avenue outside the standard hierarchy of the hospital administration I had gone through to advocate for myself, my patients, and my co-residents. However, direct involvement with the New York Chapter American College of Physicians (NYACP) over the last month has been enlightening. It has shown itself to be an organization that can be used for the same purpose. In addition, it was refreshing to see how another large organization could advocate for itself via its interactions with legislators, which was made tangible with the parting award NYACP gifted to Richard Gottfried. Finally, it was helpful to watch Dr. King discuss how she had created her legislative agenda and how she had hoped to sell it and talk about it with her legislators.

By observing the Senate and Assembly lists on StateWatch, it was very educational to see that more than two dozen health policy bills are introduced each week. These were in addition to the bills introduced regarding finance, commerce, the aging committee, education, etc. It would be unrealistic to expect each of these legislators to have a solid handle on everything they will vote on, especially if they do not have a medical background. This helped elucidate the importance of interacting with our elected officials to provide context to the bills they are expected to vote for through our senate and assembly.

Lastly, it was important for me to see how leaders in the internal medicine community engage with NYACP and advocacy. It provided a tangible example of how one might combine a career in advocacy with that of a clinician. While much of what I do now is via my resident union, fortunately, I will not be a resident forever. However, the problems plaguing physicians and patients regarding health equity and inefficiency are likely not going anywhere, so the tools and relationships I developed this last month are of utmost importance.

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## Report on Workforce Advisory Group (WAG) Annual Advocacy Day - February 14, 2023

The Workforce Advisory Group (WAG) held their Annual Advocacy Day on February 14th. WAG partners include NYACP Services, HANYS, the NYS Area Health Education Center System, MSSNY, the Community Health Care Association of NYS, the Center for Health Workforce Studies and the Health WorkForce NY.

WAG attendees met via zoom with the Senate Majority Program & Counsel and Finance Staff, Staff from Assembly Member Amy Paulin's office (Health Committee Chair), Assembly Majority Ways & Means Staff, and Assembly Member Patricia Fahy and staff (Higher Education Committee Chair).

### Discussion Topics

### Free Training: Improving Care for People with Disabilities

People with disabilities report provider attitude and implicit bias as barriers to obtaining recommended preventive care. Are you interested in learning more about providing accessible care and communicating effectively with people with disabilities?

The NYS Disability and Health Program, in partnership with nine other state Disability and Health Programs, is pleased to sponsor two **free** online trainings for health care providers:

#### Responsive Practice: Accessible and Adaptive Communication

Informs physicians and health care providers how to:

- Presume that patients with disabilities are competent to understand, communicate, and participate in their own care;
- Identify and use alternative methods of communication, and
- Set clear, reasonable expectations to ensure successful communication.

#### Responsive Practice: Providing Health Care and Screenings to Individuals with Disabilities

This training helps to:

- Describe disparities in health experienced by people with disabilities;

**FREE ACCREDITED TRAININGS  
for Health Care Providers**

**Responsive Practice: Accessible and Adaptive Communication**  
Free Training for .5 Credit

**Responsive Practice: Providing Health Care and Screenings to Individuals with Disabilities**  
Free Training for 1 Credit

**Responsive Practice: Accessible and Adaptive Communication**

Informs health care providers how to:

- Presume that patients with disabilities are competent to understand, communicate, and participate in their own care.
- Identify and use alternative methods of communication, and
- Set clear, reasonable expectations to ensure successful communication.

**Responsive Practice: Providing Health Care and Screenings to Individuals with Disabilities**

This training helps providers:

- Describe disparities in health experienced by people with disabilities;
- Recognize barriers people with disabilities face when receiving health care and preventive services; and
- Acquire strategies and approaches to provide disability competent, responsive care.

Online, on demand, and free for a limited time. Access the trainings at: <https://health.ny.gov/community/disability/training>

Questions? DM @health.ny.gov

2023 Department of Health DIVISION OF DISABILITY DETERMINATION AND SERVICES 2022

- Recognize barriers people with disabilities face when accessing health care and preventive services, and
- Acquire strategies and approaches to provide disability-competent, responsive care.

### [More Information](#)

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#### ACP Social Media Announcements



ACP renamed its social media “handles” on ACP’s Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts from @ACPinternists to @ACPIMPhysicians. The change took place on **February 13, 2023**. The new name aligns with ACP’s efforts [to brand the identity of internal medicine physicians](#).

Additionally, ACP and Annals of Internal Medicine have established a new branded presence on [Post News](#) and will be posting news and information there on an ongoing basis. [Follow ACP](#) and [Annals of Internal Medicine](#).

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#### New Video Series Highlights DEI Grant Projects Funded in Partnership with ACP

A new series of interview-style videos covers the progress of projects that have received grants from the [American Board of Internal Medicine](#) (ABIM) Foundation’s 2021 Building Trust Through Diversity, Health Care Equity & Inclusion in Internal Medicine program. The grants are funded by the ABIM Foundation in partnership with ACP and other medical organizations.

The first video in the series features Dr. Karina Whelan discussing a new curriculum she is creating for the University of North Carolina that implements a health equity-focused quality improvement project for medical students. The first video is available to watch on the [ABIM Foundation YouTube Channel](#) .

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#### Doctors Across New York (DANY) Cycle IX is open!



Doctors Across New York is a state-funded initiative enacted in 2008 to help train and place physicians in underserved communities in a variety of settings and specialties to care for New York’s diverse population.

The grant is being offered as a Solicitation of Interest (SOI), and it is posted on both of the following websites:

[Doctors Across New York \(DANY\)](#)

[New York State Contract Reporter](#)

**This is an important reminder:** A Grants Gateway account is no longer necessary to apply.

**There is also an important change:** Applicants no longer have to be “new” to an underserved area. Any doctor that will be working in an identified underserved area during the DANY obligation period of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026 is eligible to apply.

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## Members in the News



### **Ankita Sagar, MD, MPH, FACP**

Has been appointed Chair-elect Designee, Council of Early Career Physicians, ACP. Currently, Dr. Sagar is System Vice President for Clinical Standards and Variation Reduction, Common Spirit Health.

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## Updated Programs and Resources:

- [Recommended Adult Immunization Schedule 2023](#)
- [Promotional Support for Women](#)
- [I-RAISE the Rates Newsletter \(Jan. 2023\)](#)
- [NASEM Meeting on US Health System](#)



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## Upcoming Events

### **Small Feedings of the Soul: Reading and Reflections** Thursday, February 16, 2023 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm / Zoom

Explore the practice of medicine through shared experiences! Come for discussion, camaraderie, and to meet authors of select pieces from 'On Being A Doctor'.

*Please note that this event is not recorded.*

#### **February's theme:**

Caring for Our Elders: Stories of Compassion, Altruism, and the Unsung Heroes of Medicine

#### **Readings and Guest Authors:**

[Silver Alert: Lost-and-Found Dad](#) by Dr. Marianne Parshley

[Famous Last Words](#) by Dr. Colleen Christmas



Facilitated by: Nandini Anandu, MD, FACP

Program Directors: Nandini Anandu, MD, FACP, Lynn Cleary, MD, MACP, and Cori Salvit, MD, FACP

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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**DON'T MISS THIS FINAL OPPORTUNITY:**

**Two Virtual ABIM MOC Courses**

**Saturday, February 25, 2023 / Zoom**

*Earn up to 20 CME credits and 20 MOC points!*

Facilitated by: Parag Mehta, MD, MACP and Jitendra Barmecha, MD, FACP

Registration fee is \$100 per course, or two for \$150:

**8:30 am - 10:30 am - ABIM MOC Module:**

**2022-23 Update in Internal Medicine**

[Register Here - \\$100](#)

**11:00 am - 1:00 pm - ABIM MOC Module:**

**2022-23 Update in Hospital Medicine**

[Register Here - \\$100](#)

[Register Here for Special Rate of \\$150 for both](#)

[Complete Details](#)

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**Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Bill**

**Tuesday, February 28, 2023 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm / Zoom**

Join us for an informational webinar presented by Humayun Chaudhry, DO, MACP, President/CEO of the Federation of State Medical Boards.

The Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLC) is an expedited licensure application pathway created by the state medical boards that allows interested physicians who are already licensed in one state to instantly obtain licenses in other states. To be eligible for the IMLC, which works like a TSA Pre-Check, a physician must meet the same nine criteria that have been agreed upon by all participating states and territories.

According to data from the Federation of State Medical Boards, 86% of the nation's physicians should be able to easily meet these nine criteria. Since the IMLC's introduction in 2015, as many as 38 states plus Guam and the District of Columbia have adopted it, enabling more than 53,000 medical licenses to be issued by state medical boards to interested and eligible physicians,



Parag Mehta  
MD, MACP



Jitendra Barmecha  
MD, FACP



Humayun  
Chaudhry, DO,  
MACP



enabling them to practice medicine or telemedicine across state lines. As with any other medical license, it is the state medical board that issues the license under the IMLC and which requires licensees to abide by that state's (or territory's) existing laws.

[Register Here](#)

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*NYACP Early Career Physicians Committee invites you to a multichapter collaboration webinar :*

### **Modernizing License and Credentialing Applications to Not Stigmatize Mental Health**

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023 / 8:00 - 9:00 pm / Zoom**



#### **Objectives:**

1. Understand how the licensing and credentialing process serves to deter physicians and trainees from seeking timely and appropriate mental health care.
2. Explore best practices in the use of non-stigmatizing language in these processes by several medical boards and other credentialing bodies.
3. Leverage ACP & IHI Toolkits at a local, state, and national level to eliminate stigmatizing language on applications.
4. Brainstorm opportunities for advocacy at the state and/or organizational levels.

[Register Here](#)

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### **Managing Substance Use Disorders in Older Adults**

**Wednesday, March 15, 2023 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm / Zoom**

*Jointly provided by MAGS and the NYACP Geriatric Task Force.*



**Aleksander Shalshin, MD, FACP**

[ACP/MAGS Members Register Here](#)

[Non-Members Register Here - \\$25 fee](#)

This one-hour session will focus on diagnosis and treatment in the PA/LTC setting for Substance Use Disorder. Information will include appropriate referral and treatment methodology for treatment of older adults in PA/LTC setting.

Free for ACP and MAGS members

\$25 for non-members

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*Brought to you by NYACP Early Career Physicians, Resident/Fellow and Medical Student Committees:*

### **NYACP Mentorship Series Part 1 Webinar**

**Tuesday, April 18, 2023 / 6:00 - 7:00 pm / Zoom**

NYACP Mentorship Series Part 1 is geared towards a Mentee group of Resident/Fellow and Medical Student members with a Mentor group of Early Career Physicians. Join us for this interactive networking session that will dive into topics such as:

- Networking opportunities
- Transitioning into Fellowship
- What to expect from your first job
- How to manage a team
- Career Options



[Register Here](#)

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### **2023 NYACP Leadership Academy**

**Begins: Thursday, May 4, 2023 / 6:30 - 8:00 pm / Zoom**

Applications are now being accepted for the 2nd Annual NYACP Leadership Academy. This six-part CME accredited certificate program begins in May 2023, and ends with an in-person session on Friday, October 27, 2023 in Rochester, NY. (Day prior to NYACP Annual Meeting)

#### **Course schedule: 6:30 - 8:00 pm**

Thursday, May 4 - Leadership in Medicine

Thursday, June 1 - Opportunities in Medicine

Thursday, July 6 - Strategies & Skills

Thursday, Aug. 3 - Identifying & Mentoring

Thursday, Sept. 7 - Leadership and Underrepresented Minorities



Harvir Gambhir  
MD, FACP



Viren Kaul  
MD, FACP

#### **Final session in-person:**

Friday, October 27, 2023 - Day prior to NYACP Annual Meeting

[Apply Here](#)

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*Brought to you by NYACP Early Career Physicians, Resident/Fellow and Medical Student Committees:*

## NYACP Mentorship Series Part 2 Webinar

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 / 6:00 - 7:00 pm / Zoom

NYACP Mentorship Series Part 2 is geared towards a Mentee group of Medical Students with a Mentor group of Residents/ Fellows and Early Career Physicians.

Join us for this interactive networking session that will dive into topics such as:

- Transitioning to Residency
- Prepping for Match cycle
- Interviews/CV Building
- Career Options



[Register Here](#)

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## NY Yankees Healthcare Workers Appreciation Week!

May 8 - 14, 2023



Join your fellow healthcare professionals and the New York Yankees for select games in May at Yankee Stadium.

The first **1,000** fans who purchase tickets through this offer will receive a special New York Yankees scrub top! Each Special Event Ticket also includes a regular sized hot dog and your first drink (a 12oz domestic beer for those 21 years of age or older with a Valid ID, Pepsi product or Poland Spring bottled water).

[Reserve your seats here](#)

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## NYACP Resident/Fellow and Medical Student Forum

Friday, May 12, 2023

**Desmond/Crowne Plaza Hotel**

**660 Albany Shaker Road**

**Albany, NY 12211**



### Agenda:

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 8:30 - 10:30 am | Poster Competition  |
| 10:30 - 1:00 pm | Resident/Fellow Dr's Dilemma Competition                            |
| 1:00 - 1:30 pm  | Lunch   |
| 1:30 - 2:30 pm  | Education Session - How to Negotiate a Contract- Laurie Cohen, Esq. |
| 2:30 - 3:00 pm  | Winners Announced   |

[Video of 2022 Resident/Fellow and Medical Student Forum](#)

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## Advancement to Fellowship Webinar

Wednesday, June 21, 2023 / 6:00 - 7:00 pm / Zoom

Interested in learning about ACP Fellowship? Todd Simon, MD, FACP, Governor for the Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island Region will review the meaning of Fellowship, the requirements for attaining your FACP®, and the application process.



Todd Simon, MD,  
FACP

ACP Fellowship is a distinguished honor within the internal medicine community. The FACP credential carries significant value because it's a peer-reviewed, peer-supported honor. ACP Fellows embody what it means to be part of the College through a demonstrated commitment to excellence, ACP, your colleagues, and especially your patients. Join over 31,000 internists who share this distinguished honor.

[Register Here](#)  
[More Information](#)

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### Save the Date!

## NYACP Annual Meeting Saturday, October 28, 2023

Hyatt Regency Hotel  
125 East Main Street  
Rochester, NY

Details coming soon!



To ensure deliverability of our emails, please add [info@nyacp.org](mailto:info@nyacp.org) to your contacts or accepted senders list in your email client.

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