

February 3, 2022

## President's Message: Dr. Leslie Algase



Happy February! I am hoping that it won't be as frigid as January was! On [#MedTwitter](#) there is a group of us who vent each weekend at whatever frustration is in our craw! It is a good way to release the frustrations of the week! On a good weekend, our own [Frank Cacace, MD, FACP](#), will throw in a bit

of jazz or pop music on his piano or someone will start a string of doggy photos. This weekend our vent centered around the lack of interoperability and user unfriendliness of EMR's. Of those on the chat, everyone had a different EMR and for those that were on the same platform like EPIC, each institution's EMR is different from the next. Therefore, we were unable to share best practices even as we try to support each other regularly. (You are welcome to join us anytime. [Follow me](#), or any of us, on Twitter to find the strings.)

This frustration made me hopeful that with my Co-President [Parag Mehta, MD, FACP](#), and our incoming President [Jitendra Barmecha, MD, FACP](#), who are both on the NYACP executive committee and involved in IT for their day jobs, can help us start to find solutions to these problems. Clearly, the state and the federal government are not solving these problems for us, so it is time to start problem-solving from the grassroots!! If you have suggestions or topics for us to consider and act upon, at least in NY, please feel free to [email one of us](#) or [submit a resolution](#) so we can gather the issues and begin to work on solutions.

In other news, NYACP is proud to welcome [Dalgis Dunker, MD](#), 2nd Year Resident from Mount Sinai, as a NYACP Advocacy Intern from mid-Jan through mid-Feb. We look forward to working with Dr. Dunker to continue our lobbying efforts in Albany and to keep up with the mountain of legislation that we have to follow!

The NYACP Council met last week and we heard your feedback on the MKSAP [Board Review Question of the Week](#), so we will provide a full explanation starting this week. We are excited that over 800 of our members participate each week and it keeps us connected to you! We will be returning to in-person events soon and will be having an in-person [poster competition](#) and [Doctor's Dilemma](#) on May 27 in Albany and our long-awaited in-person [Annual Scientific meeting](#) on Saturday, November 5th in Westchester! Fingers crossed!!



For those attending ACP's Annual Scientific Session in Chicago this April, you are cordially invited to join us at the New York post-convocation reception on Thursday, April 28th.

I look forward to seeing you all in person at these events!

Leslie

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### NY's Own Dr. Algase Elected to ACP Board of Regents!

NYACP is pleased to announce that our own current Chapter President Leslie F. Algase, MD, FACP was elected to the Board of Regents of the American College of Physicians for a two-year term! Dr. Algase will join a team of dedicated leaders from across the country to lead ACP in the months and years ahead. Please join us in celebrating this election by sending a congratulatory note to Dr. Algase [here](#).

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### Happy National Women Physicians Day!

Let's support our Women Residents!

**A Women's Support Group & It's Impact on Residents:  
How to Start Your own WiRL (*Women in Residency Life*)**  
Tuesday, February 8, 2022 / 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Facilitated by: Dr. Alex Goodman and Dr. Keisha Suhail who are both chief residents at SUNY Upstate Medical University and are pursuing fellowships in Hematology-Oncology and Gastroenterology respectively.**

#### **Objectives:**

- 1) Why a women's support group (WSG) for residents is impactful.
- 2) Who is WiRL and what have we done.
- 3) Steps to starting a WSG at your institution.
- 4) What the future looks like for WiRL.

Women in Residency Life (WiRL) was started by Dr. Goodman and Dr. Suhail during their second year in residency at SUNY Upstate Medical University. WiRL is a platform for women in residency to increase productivity, collaboration, comradery, and expand networking in order to advance their careers amidst everyday challenges. WiRL has been a source of support for women to have stimulating, yet tough, conversations pertaining to women's experiences within the medical community and at home. WiRL strives to give back to the surrounding community at large and serve as mentors. WiRL focuses on community service initiatives, professional development, wellness, and mentorships. Dr. Goodman and Dr. Suhail are currently chiefs at SUNY Upstate



Dr. Alex Goodman



Dr. Fathima Suhail

Medical University and both will be pursuing a fellowship in Hematology-Oncology and Gastroenterology respectively.

### Registration

The chapter has hosted a series of Women in Medicine webinars in the past year - why not revisit at: [NYACP Women in Medicine Webinars!](#)

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## IM Physician Input Needed on Medical Professional Liability

Please respond to this [brief survey](#)



MLMIC and NYACP have a long-standing relationship working together to serve NY's Internal Medicine Physicians, and are partnering here to ask you for your input regarding your medical professional liability (MPL) insurance experience. The primary objective of this survey is to gain greater insight and understanding of what physicians and medical professionals experience when working with their MPL insurance carrier.

The information gathered will help:

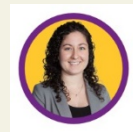
- Understand how and why you interact with your carrier most often;
- Identify ways that experience can be improved;
- Enhance and expand offerings and value-added services based on identified needs and wants when it comes to insurance products, educational offerings, and technology; and
- Further protect the physicians of New York during the continued evolution of healthcare.

All responses are confidential and will be reviewed only by MLMIC and NYACP. No personal identifying information will be revealed or shared. NYACP hopes you will take a few moments to complete the survey.

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## ACP Comments on Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program Proposed Improvements

By *Christina D'Agostino, MD*



A few months ago, the U.S. Department of Education [released executive action proposals](#) designed to improve ease of access and approval for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program applicants. These actions included the following proposals:

- Streamlining the application process by digitizing documents
- Implementing a waiver through October 2022 to count all prior payments towards the PSLF program
- Improving transparency of the necessary steps to have loans qualify for the program

- Reviewing previous PSFL denials and addressing servicing errors or other issues that have prevented borrowers from attaining PSFL

ACP recently commented in strong support of the aforementioned improvements to the PSFL program. Additional recommendations to further improve the program [were also discussed](#) and are summarized as follows:

- Expanding eligibility to all physicians practicing at government or nonprofit healthcare settings
- Ensuring borrowers will be eligible for loan forgiveness regardless of future changes to the program
- Allowing all federal repayment plans to qualify for the program
- Ensuring COVID-19–based non-payment months due to the administrative forbearance period are appropriately included towards an individual’s progress in the PSFL
- Instructing and certify all loan servicers assist and educate potential PSFL borrowers to reduce confusion and miscommunication

The above changes and recommendations are vital given the [ever-increasing cost of medical education](#). Over 86% of medical students are in debt upon graduation, with approximately 40% owing over \$150,000. We must continue to bear in mind the impact that this cost has on the number of medical students choosing primary care-based careers. ACP commented that it “feels strongly that the federal government should create incentives for medical students to pursue careers in primary care and practice in areas of the nation with greatest need by developing or expanding programs that eliminate student debt for these individuals—linked to a reasonable service obligation in the field and creating incentives for these physicians to remain in underserved areas after completing their service obligation”.

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### The Workforce Advisory Group’s (WAG) Annual Advocacy Day By Dalgis Dunker, MD

On February 1st, NYACP actively participated in The Workforce Advisory Group’s (WAG) Annual Advocacy Day in Albany via zoom. WAG partners include: NYACP, HANYS, NYS AHEC, MSSNY, CHCANYS, CHWS and Health WorkForce NY. Collectively, the group focused on advocating in support of telehealth pay parity, one of NYACP’s top priorities, and several healthcare workforce programs.



Drawing from the voices and experience of thousands of physicians and non-physician members, coalition representatives met with NYS legislators and key legislative staff to share their stories and perspectives on how programs like ‘Doctors Across New York (DANY)’, ‘Diversity in Medicine’, ‘Empire Clinical Research Investigator Program (ECRIP)’ among others, promote a competent and diverse staff of physicians to provide medical care to their patients, including those in underserved communities.

WAG partners joined together this week, but individual efforts supporting telehealth pay parity, for inclusion in the SFY 2022-23 Enacted Budget, needs to continue. The impact that telehealth

provides to our patient population and towards improving access and quality of care cannot be understated.

The Chapter's Advocacy Week is scheduled for May 2-6, 2022, and NYACP's virtual Advocacy Day is scheduled for Thursday, May 5th. If you are interested in participating, please contact Loretta Ponesse by email: [lponesse@nyacp.org](mailto:lponesse@nyacp.org).

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### **Chapter Awards –Currently Accepting Nominations!**

NYACP is excited to increase member recognition for excellence and distinguished contributions to Internal Medicine. This year, the committee will issue a total of 3-5 awards. The categories for candidate nominations include: Education, Advocacy, Clinical Excellence, Research, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and Public Health.



Click here for NYACP's online [Chapter Awards Nomination Form](#). The nomination requires a completed online form, a 500-word Letter of Nomination, and a copy of the nominee's CV. The **submission deadline is July 31, 2022**.

Please help the New York Chapter ACP recognize, honor and congratulate the truly deserving members of our Chapter for their amazing and outstanding work.

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### **Call for Resolutions from NYACP Members**

Deadline for Submission: April 15, 2022

Throughout the year, NYACP welcomes resolutions on NYACP policy and/or NYS policy from members. This year, resolutions are invited from members on or before April 15, 2022 for consideration this Spring by the members of the NYACP Council-Board.



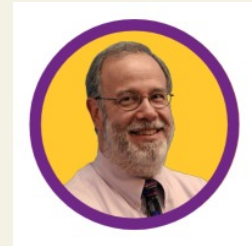
[Learn more about NYACP's Resolution process](#)  
[Submit a Resolution](#)

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*NYACP releases new podcast:*

**"One Door Closes, Another Door Opens" with Dr. Louis Snitkoff**  
ResetMD

Dr. Louis Snitkoff is the former CMO of CapitalCare Medical Group (later Community Care Physicians) and former Vice President for the Ellis (Hospital) Medical Group in Schenectady. He has served the ACP nationally as a Well-being Champion and member of the Board of Governors and is a Past President of the NY Chapter. He was elected to Fellowship in 1993 and Mastership in 2020. Dr. Snitkoff received the Samuel Eichold II Award for Excellence in Diabetes and the New York Chapter Laureate Award in 2013.



Louis Snitkoff, MD, MACP

In this episode: Dr Snitkoff talks about his "resets" from clinical medicine to administration and then to retirement. When trying to do it all, he recalls "no matter where I was, I was supposed to be somewhere else". Don't miss the end where he describes how his experience and his connections led him to his current retirement projects. Take Home Pearls: 1- Focus on relationships. 2-Find a creative passion. 3- Find what aspects of your job "fires you up!" 4- Take time to pause and reflect/recharge. 5- Seek Mentors and Seek opportunities to mentor others.

[Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)

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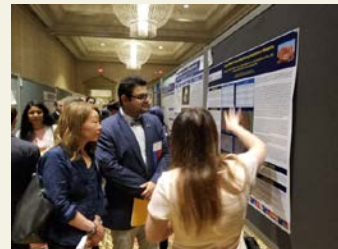
*Attention NYACP Residents/Fellows and Medical Students:*

**Call For Abstracts -Deadline in one week!**

The Spring Final Poster competition will be in person. We are accepting abstracts online for the final poster competition!

**Here's how it works:**

- Review the [Call for Abstracts](#) information.
- [Submit your abstract here](#) for a preliminary review by a team of judges.
- Submit your online abstract by **Friday, February 11, 2022.**
- Accepted abstracts will be notified by April 15, 2022.
- For accepted abstracts, look for an invitation to the Crowne Plaza/Desmond for an in-person presentation to a team of judges.
- Winners in each category will win an expense-paid trip to ACP's Poster Competition in 2023!
- We welcome new and previously submitted abstracts for this competition!



**NYACP Resident and Medical Student Forum**  
**Event Date: Friday, May 27, 2022**

Crowne Plaza/Desmond Hotel  
660 Albany Shaker Road  
Albany, NY 12211

### [All abstract submission Information](#)

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### [Upcoming Events](#)

#### Helping Patients Access Mental Health Care in NY- tonight!

Thursday, February 3, 2022 / 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Physicians are struggling with limited resources to find psychiatric care for patients. It is becoming increasingly difficult to manage other health problems without the need for psychiatric assistance being met. The NYS Ombudsman Program is designed to help both patients and physicians access mental health and substance use services for individuals in need of care. NYACP welcomes Stephanie Campbell, NYS Behavioral Ombudsman Project Director, to identify ways that the program assists you and your patients in removing barriers to accessing mental health care.



### [More Information](#) [Registration](#)

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#### A Women's Support Group & It's Impact on Residents; How to Start Your own WiRL (Women in Residency Life)

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 / 6:00 - 7:00 pm

**Facilitated by:** Dr. Alex Goodman and Dr. Keisha Suhail, are both chief residents at SUNY Upstate Medical University and are pursuing fellowships in Hematology-Oncology and Gastroenterology respectively.

### [Details Found Here](#)

### [Registration](#)

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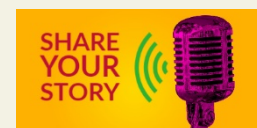
**Northwell School of Medicine at Hofstra/Northwell & NYACP Present:**

#### Story Slam: My Take on Health Equity

Wednesday, February 9, 2022 / 6:00-7:30 pm

**Storytellers:** Share a 5- minute story that centers on the theme and submit your story or outline by February 4th : [Register Here](#)

**Audience:** [Register Here](#)



[Details found here](#)

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### Small Feedings of the Soul: Readings and Reflections

Thursday, February 17, 2022 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm

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



Facilitated by: Lynn Cleary, MD, MACP

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

[Registration](#)

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### Small Feedings of the Soul: Readings and Reflections

Thursday, March 17, 2022 / 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Facilitated by: Lynn Cleary, MD, MACP

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



[Registration](#)

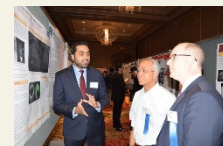
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### 2022 NYACP Resident and Medical Student Forum

Friday, May 27, 2022

Join us on Friday, May 27, 2022 as we return to an in-person poster competition and welcome back Dr.'s Dilemma!

Crowne Plaza/Desmond  
660 Albany Shaker Rd  
Albany, NY 12211



[Call for Abstracts](#)

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Save the Date!

**2022 NYACP Annual Scientific Meeting**

**Saturday, November 5, 2022**

Join us as we return to an in-person Annual Scientific Meeting on Saturday, November 5, 2022.



Westchester Marriott  
670 White Plains Rd  
Tarrytown, NY 10591