

May 26, 2022



### President's Message: Dr. Jitendra Barmecha

#### Progress note:

Our physician leaders put on their health policy advocate hats and convened in Washington DC for ACP's 2022 Leadership Day on May 17th – 18th. I was joined by Immediate Past President & Governor Dr. Leslie Algase, current Governors **Dr. Todd Simon** (Brooklyn/Queens/Staten Island Region) and **Dr. Susan Lee** (Long Island Region), NYACP's Health and Public Policy Chair **Dr. Kellin King**, Advocacy Interns **Dr. Gabriela Bernal** and **Dr. Tarayn Dhansew**, as well as other advocacy leaders, **Dr. Ankita Sagar**, and **Dr. Nazia Qazi**.

The return to in-person meetings with Congressional Representatives included meetings with the office of Senator Charles Schumer, as well as, Representatives Chris Jacobs, Brian Higgins, Andrew Garbarino, Carolyn Maloney, Jerry Nadler, Jamaal Bowman, Yvette Clark, and Thomas Suozzi.

Out of the approximately 180 federal legislative proposals that ACP is actively tracking, 12 are under active management for potential actions this year. The issues **the New York delegation** focused on this year included:

#### Mental and Behavioral Health

- Co-sponsor/pass House H.R. 5218, the Collaborate in an Orderly and Cohesive Manner Act, that would provide grants through HHS to primary care physicians who choose to deliver behavioral health care through the CoCM.
- Support enhanced reimbursement for CoCM payment codes under Medicare to more appropriately reflect the value of services provided to patients with mental health and SUD needs.

#### Prescription Drug Reform



- Co-sponsor/pass in the Senate S.833, the *Empowering Medicare Seniors to Negotiate Drug Prices Act of 2021* which would allow the Secretary of HHS to negotiate directly with drug companies for price discounts.
- Co-sponsor/pass S898 in the Senate, the *Fair Drug Pricing Act*, to require drug companies to disclose and provide more information to HHS about imminent drug price increases, including data about research and development cost.
- Co-sponsor/pass S.464/H.R.2163, the *Safe Step Act*, to ensure patient access to appropriate treatments based on clinical decision-making and medical necessity rather than arbitrary step therapy protocols.

### Primary Care and the Physician Workforce

- Co-sponsor/pass H.R.2256/S.834, the *Resident Physician Reduction Shortage Act*, which reflects the 1,000 new GME slots added by H.R.133 and would create 14,000 (instead of 15,000) new GME positions over seven years and use the same distribution categories as specified in H.R.133 last year.
- Co-sponsor/pass S.1024, the *Healthcare Workforce Resilience Act*, that would recapture 40,000 unused visas and use them to provide additional green cards to 15,000 physicians and 25,000 nurses.
- Co-sponsor/pass H.R.3541/S.1810, the *Conrad State 30 and Physician Access Reauthorization Act*, allowing states to sponsor foreign-trained physicians to work in medically underserved areas in exchange for a waiver of the physicians' 2-year foreign residence requirement.
- Co-sponsor/pass H.R.4122/S.3658, the *Resident Education Deferred Interest (REDI) Act*, which would make it possible for residents to defer interest on their loans.
- Support inclusion in FY2023 appropriations legislation funding for Title VII Primary Care and Training Enhancement (PCTE) at \$71M to support and expand the pipeline for individuals training in primary care.

### Public Health and Pandemic Preparedness

- Support funding in FY2023 appropriations - \$11B total for the CDC, \$35M for the CDC's Injury Prevention and Control, Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research; \$49B in total for the NIH, \$25M for the Office of the Director, Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research.
- Cosponsor/pass the *COVID Supplemental Appropriations Act 2022* (H.R.7007) or a similar supplemental funding package to provide \$15.6B in additional funding for COVID relief.
- Co-sponsor/pass *CONNECT for Health Act*, (H.R.2903/S.1512) and the *Telehealth Extension Act of 2021* (H.R.6202/S.3593) to remove arbitrary restrictions where a patient must be located to utilize telehealth services; enable patients to continue to receive telehealth services in their homes; ensure federally qualified health centers and rural health centers the ability to furnish telehealth services and improve data collection and analysis for at least 2-years.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, a time to remember that our mental health is very essential to our overall health. This week, the US Surgeon's General Advisory on [Building a Thriving Health Workforce "Addressing Healthcare Burnout"](#) is very timely. It includes steps that different stakeholders can take together to address health worker burnout. The advisory can be accessed via:

May is also Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. Please join me in celebrating Asians and Pacific Islanders' contributions in the United States and pay tribute to the generations who have enriched and strengthened our nation.

Last but not least, in lieu of persisting elevated influenza activity throughout the state, the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) will be [extending the influenza surveillance season and providing updated influenza surveillance information](#) along with links and references to influenza prevention and control resources:

Looking forward to the NYACP Leadership and Medical Residents and Student's forum in Albany on May 26-27. Enjoy the Memorial Day weekend and be safe!



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## Welcome, New Chapter Leaders!

Every year after the annual ACP Internal Medicine Meeting, the NY Chapter welcomes new governors, councilors, and district presidents. Congratulations and welcome to following new leaders at NYACP.



### New Governors (4-year term)

- **John Hall, MD, FACP** - Upstate Region (Buffalo, Southern Tier, Syracuse and Rochester Districts)
- **Todd Simon, MD, FACP** - Brooklyn/Queens/Staten Island Region (and Districts)

### New Councilors (3-year term)

- **Valentin Guset, MD, FACP** - Rochester District (Upstate Region)
- **Viren Kaul, MD, FACP** - Syracuse District (Upstate Region)

- **Paul Kuperschmid, MD, FACP** - Manhattan/Bronx Districts At-Large (Manhattan/Bronx Region)
- **Ashutossh Naaraayan, MD, FACP** - Hudson Valley South District (Hudson Valley Region)
- **Cori Salvit, MD, FACP** - Manhattan District (Manhattan/Bronx Region)
- **Mohammad Samih, MD, FACP, FASN, FASDIN** - Southern Tier District (Upstate Region)
- **Matsuko Takeshige, DO, FACP** - Queens District (Brookly/Queens/Staten Island Region)

#### **New District Presidents (Appointed)**

- **Valerie Newman, MD, FACP** - Rochester District (Upstate Region)

[Watch this 60-second overview](#) to learn more about these roles.

Find more local NYACP leaders by visiting the [Chapter's Leadership page](#).

#### **Chapter Awards - Nominate a friend or colleague for outstanding work!**

NYACP is excited to increase member recognition for excellence and distinguished contributions to Internal Medicine in Education, Advocacy, Clinical Excellence, Research, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI), and Public Health.



To nominate a member friend or colleague for a [Chapter Award](#), complete and submit the [Chapter Awards Nomination Form](#), along with a 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!

#### **ACP Announces New Coding Resources: Code Smarter, Save Time, and Optimize Payments**

ACP has launched new [Coding for Clinicians](#) resources to help physicians expand knowledge of clinical codes, correctly identify billable services, and accurately bill for time and expertise. The new resources include ACP member-exclusive content and the ACP Coding for Clinicians subscription series: a comprehensive, self-paced training series of 13 interactive modules eligible for CME/MOC that help physicians code smarter, document more efficiently, succeed in value-based payment systems, and optimize payments. Video recordings of ACP physician coding



lectures and webinars are also available. Visit ACP's [Coding for Clinicians page](#) for more information and subscription details.

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## COVID Vaccination Program: UPDATED clinical guidance, screening checklists, and consent forms

NYS has updated guidance documents for COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children Ages 5-11 to align with the CDC's format. The documents can be found on [NYACP's COVID-19 Resources page](#).

The most recent changes to the *Guidance for the New York State COVID-19 Vaccination Program: Vaccination of Children Ages 5-11* are outlined below:

- The CDC [recommends](#) a single Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for persons ages 5-11 years who are NOT moderately to severely immunocompromised at least 5 months after the primary series under the FDA's EUA.
- The CDC [recommends](#) a single Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose for persons ages 5-11 years who ARE moderately to severely immunocompromised at least 3 months after the primary series under the FDA's EUA.
- CDC clinical considerations were amended to provide considerations for people who recently had SARS-CoV-2 infection to delay their primary series or booster dose by 3 months from symptom onset or positive test (if infection was asymptomatic).
- Storage and handling requirements, including temperature monitoring and temperature excursion reporting requirements for COVID-19 vaccination providers have been outlined.
- The FDA has approved an amendment to the EUA for Pfizer Pediatric Vaccine (orange cap for ages 5 through 11, with diluent), extending the shelf life of the Pfizer product formulation from 9 to 12 months.
- The CDC has updated considerations for COVID-19 revaccination for patients who received one or more doses of COVID-19 vaccine during treatment with B-cell-depleting therapies (e.g., rituximab, ocrelizumab) that were administered over a limited period of time.
- Updates were made regarding the considerations to initiate COVID-19 vaccination in children with a history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C).
- Updates were made regarding individuals who were vaccinated outside the US and individuals who were vaccinated as part of a clinical trial.
- The link to NYS Wastage Guidance has been updated to reflect updated guidance.
- The link to Redistribution Guidance has been updated to reflect updated guidance.

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## Upcoming Events

2022 NYACP Resident and Medical Student Forum  
Friday, May 27, 2022

Come 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



12:30 pm - Poster Competition

2:00 pm - Dr's Dilemma Competition - [Dr's Dilemma Teams Competing](#)

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

Wednesday, June 15 / 7:00 PM - 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'.

*This event is not recorded. Please note that this month's event is on a Wednesday!*

**June's Theme:** I've Got Your Back - The Power of Kindness in Medicine

**Readings:**

[Professional Courtesy](#) by Daniel Pollyea, MD, MS

[Pass It On](#) by Nathaniel Morris, MD

**Facilitated by:** Cori Salvit, MD, FACP

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

[REGISTER HERE](#)



### Breaking Bad! Prior Auth Harms the Physician-Patient Relationship

Tuesday, May 31/ 7:00-8:00 pm

Physicians are frustrated by the time and hassles of the prior authorization system. Our judgement is questioned by reviewers who have not interviewed or examined the patient, and

may lack appropriate expertise in the condition. The prior auth process burdens physicians and their staff, and if disputes are not resolved promptly, can harm patients.

ACP and Medicine Forward are collaborating on a panel discussion to explore the burden that the prior authorization system places on the physician-patient relationship and how the system can be changed. Join the discussion to learn how you can help drive the needed change.

[Register Here](#)

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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!



Westchester Marriott  
670 White Plains Rd  
Tarrytown, NY 10591

A live ***“Introduction to Point of Care Ultrasound”*** Course will be offered on Friday, November 4th. Registration will be limited to 50 attendees. Meeting details will be coming shortly!

[Preliminary Schedule & Information](#)

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