



## SECRETARY AND TREASURER OFFICER POSITION NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

The Arizona ACP Chapter is looking for interested members to fill vacancies for the Secretary and Treasurer Officer Positions as well as two Members-at-Large to serve on the Governor Advisory Council.

The role of the **Secretary** includes attending all meetings of the Council and of the Membership and to record, or supervise the recording of, the minutes of all meetings. Additionally, the Secretary with the Executive Director ensures the completion of these duties for the standing Committees of the Chapter should it be required. The Secretary is also the chair of the Communications committee for the chapter.

The role of the **Treasurer** is Chairperson of the Chapter's Finance Committee. The Treasurer is the fiduciary responsible for appropriate financial reports and actions as directed by the Governor and the Governor's Advisory Council. This includes working with the Executive Director to pay appropriate expenses of the chapter. The Treasurer reports to the Council, as requested but at least annually, on the financial condition of the Chapter.

Members-at-Large serve as voting members of the Governor Advisory Council at all meetings that influence the Chapter. At-large members serve for two-year term and may be re-elected for multiple subsequent two-year terms to serve on Governor Advisory Council. At-Large members may also be asked to serve on standing Committees and/or ad hoc Task Forces as needed.

### Expectations and Requirements:

In addition to the duties in the primary role: Active participation in the regional and national ACP meetings. Participation in Governors' Advisory Council meetings. Expected time commitment: at least 1-4 hours monthly. Members, Fellow, or Master of the Arizona Chapter ACP along with a willingness to serve the College. Apply, or be nominated, using the form linked below.

Deadline for Nominations: February 15th, 2024.

[\*\*Nominate or Apply Now!\*\*](#)

# Thank You to Our AZ ACP 2023 Sponsors and Exhibitors

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# GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS

Happy New Year!! In almost every message I send to a committee, residents, or faculty colleagues, I always start out with "TEAM,". Someone once asked me if I thought this was too "cheesy". I told them that frankly, nothing worthwhile done in my life happened without a team effort. Leaders may have a vision, but that cannot take things anywhere without a team to help make that vision possible. ACP-Arizona is the same way and we need everyone on the team. When the membership put their faith in me two years ago, I had a vision to make ACP-Arizona more transparent to its members, expand opportunities to more people to become involved, improve our fiscal health so we can support our members, and to be innovative in our programming going forward.

This April will mark the end of my first year as your Governor. I am happy to report on the progress of these activities in our two years as both Governor-Elect and Governor.

**1. Bylaws and Leadership-** We have updated our Bylaws and posted them online so that the whole chapter can view them. We brought on new members to various committees and new leadership positions. Dr. Umesh Sharma took on the Secretary role, Dr. Bijin Thajudeen took on \ the role of Chair of our nominations committee, Dr. Pamela Sullivan as Vice-Chair of our finance committee, Dr. Sarah Umar has taken on the role of Chair of our membership committee, Dr. Pedro Rodriguez Guggiari as Chair of our DEI/B committee, Dr. Indu Partha has taken on the role as Chair of our Education Committee, Dr. Krystal Renzel as Vice-Chair of our Education Committee, O'Neil Filloon as our new chair of our Medical Student Committee, Ishan Gupta as our new vice-chair of our Medical Student Committee, Drs. Aman Verma and Christina Bergin who both signed up to be liaisons for our Medical Student Committee and Dr. Mark Zubriski as our Lieutenant Governor. We thank all the members of our leadership team.

**2. Committees and Membership-** We have increased the membership on our committees. Our membership committee now has 12 members from all over the state. Our Awards Committee is up to 18 members. The Wellness Committee has 16 members and our Education Committee has 20 members. Our medical student committee has 6 new members. We are always looking for more members to get involved in our committees and be part of the "TEAM".

*Interested in Being Apart of  
Our Committees and Making a Difference?*

[AZ ACP Committee  
Interest Form](#)

**3. Advocacy Efforts-** Our Advocacy Committee has done amazing work. Our Chair, Shak Rehman has been recognized as a national leader. We worked with other medical societies and responded to AZ bills that would have allowed the state government to get involved in the physician/patient relationship. We are now a [member of AHAC](#) and receiving information on pending bills that we can respond to as an organization.



4. **Elections**– As you should have already received, we are going to have our first set of elections for officers and at-large members in over 10 years. I strongly believe that elections for at-large members and officers makes us much more inclusive and has the chance to bring in new ideas and new innovations. PLEASE consider nominating someone you know or you can even nominate yourself.
5. **Executive Director Thanks and Change**– We have moved forward with a new Executive Director and management company. I am very grateful for the work that Debbie Webber CAE has done for the chapter in the past and specifically for the work she and Ashley Schnock did for the chapter the last ACP–AZ Chapter Meeting. That team from ArMA came through for our chapter many years ago when we lost our Executive Director during the time that Dr. Robert Aaronson was ACP–AZ Governor. Although we are moving on from ArMA as our management services company, we will continue to partner with them on our advocacy efforts and other activities in which we are aligned. I am very happy to formally introduce to the chapter, our new “TEAM,” Rachael Lowery as our new Executive Director and Liz Truong CAE CFRE as our other support person from Association Management Inc.
6. **National Policy Resolutions**– We have been active in bringing resolutions to the ACP Board of Governors (BOG). Our resolution that was passed by the BOG from 2022 provides support for smaller and western chapters to provide some funding for students, residents, and early career physicians to attend National Leadership Day in Washington DC. We have two resolutions that we are sponsoring/co-sponsoring for this year’s ACP Board of Governors. The first is a resolution to support our ACP military members for discounted dues similar to AMA. The second is a co-sponsorship of a resolution supporting IMG’s who are looking for rotations and residencies in the US. We will keep the chapter updated on the fate of these resolutions after the ACP Meeting in Boston.
7. **Chapter Leadership Award**– We have maintained our Gold Level of Chapter Leadership Award for 2023.
8. **Membership**– Our chapter is doing great (ranked 15th out of 76 chapters)! The ranking is based on the revenue and paid member count in comparison to last year.



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9. **Financials**– Last year, we missed our budget by about \$8k by the end of the 2022–23 fiscal year, but thanks to the great work at our annual meeting of our education committee and Ashley Schnock from ArMA we were able to turn this around so that we are ahead of budget this year. This gives us the opportunity to invest in scholarships and new educational programs for members (especially our student, resident and early career physicians). For example we were able to provide a scholarship for one of our residents who won the ACP–AZ poster competition to present at the national competition. We are in the process of applying for a Chapter Development Fund Grant to bring a new educational activity for residents throughout our state and our partners in Nevada ACP. Lastly, our ACP–AZ Governor’s Advisory Council has authorized us to invest a portion of our savings into the ACP National Chapter Investment group to build our reserves.

None of these accomplishments happen without TEAM. We all need to build our TEAM that will allow us to speak with more authority with our legislators for advocacy, to build more expertise for our educational events, and to bring more innovative ideas. As always, please feel free to reach out to me with any ideas you think we can improve our chapter.

# WELCOME OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RACHAEL



I am happy to introduce myself as your incoming Executive Director! My name is Rachael Lowery. I come to you with a passion for freeing up organizations to succeed and do their very best work, unencumbered by unnecessary internal friction. I have a background in management and administration in non-profits and startups, and I specialize in organizational effectiveness and development. I believe deeply in the power of healthy, functional organizations to foster connection and impact change for good, and I thrive when working to lead and

and support groups to that end. I lead with an emphasis on individual empowerment, backed by strong systems. I'm here to help us set our sights on our association's goals, and to clear our path to success along the way! I am a native northern Californian, now living in Gig Harbor, WA with my husband and enormous labradoodle. I have a B.A. from Pepperdine University and a M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University. I am a lifelong learner and lover of books, travel and strong coffee. I look forward to a great future together!

To contact me, feel free to send me an email at [rlowery@acpazchapter.org](mailto:rlowery@acpazchapter.org).



## LEGISLATIVE DAY - SAVE THE DATE!

March 7th, 2024

Arizona State Capitol 1700 W. Washington | Phoenix AZ 85007  
*Majority Caucus Room (1st Floor)*

Join us at the State Capitol for a great day of advocacy!

- Learn the major medical issues at this year's legislative session
- Hear from Arizona legislative leaders
- Meet with your own legislative representatives
- Learn about the legislative process and advocacy

[Register Today!](#)

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- 

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## AZ ACP CHAPTER IS AWARDED CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT

The ACP-Arizona Chapter was recently awarded a Chapter Development Fund Grant to introduce a brand new educational competition the 2024 ACP Arizona & ACP Nevada "The Great Debate Competition-Resident Activity." The Resident Committee chairs, Drs. Omar Baqal and Deepika Razia along with ACP-Arizona Governor Dr. Allan Markus and ACP-Nevada Governor Dr. Sandhya Wahi-Gururaj proposed the "Great Debates" as a means to have multiple fun/social gatherings of residents throughout the two states and have a friendly competition discussing the supporting and contrasting literature on controversial topics in medicine.

This will be a round-robin tournament at various locations culminating with the "ACP Southwest Great Debate Championship" at the annual meeting between the AZ Residency champion vs. The NV Residency champion. Medical students are welcome to attend. More details to follow. If you are a resident and are interested in representing your residency, please let your Program Director know!

Currently our education committee will be forming a subcommittee for the Great Debates competition that will be looking for a chair, vice-chair, and judges. If you are interested in being part of this inaugural program click [here](#). If you are a resident and would like to work with our residency committee to help plan some of these events please reach out to our chairs [Dr. Omar Baqal](#) or [Dr. Deepika Razia](#).

## ACP FELLOWSHIP- AN ACHIEVEMENT OF HONOR

Becoming an ACP Fellow is an honor and recognizes your achievement in Internal Medicine with patients, colleagues, and the profession. As a Governor, I have had the distinct pleasure of walking with many of our recent inductees into fellowship at the ACP National Convocations. The experience of wearing your ACP Fellowship Stole and walking with your colleagues for the solemn convocation ceremony is like no other.

If you are a Master or Fellow of the ACP, I strongly encourage you to look to your fellow ACP members in your practice, your institution, or where you may live to nominate a colleague to become a fellow. [All the application materials are here to send to your ACP Colleague as are the nomination forms.](#)

If you live in an area where you may not have a number of fellowship colleagues to nominate you, please reach out to me directly to find out how we can support your nomination at [amarkus@acpazchapter.org](mailto:amarkus@acpazchapter.org). Thanks to recent fellows Christina R Bergin MD FACP and Samuel Tytler MD FACP you can learn more about fellowship by watching their Fellowship Information Recording on our website.

[Fellowship Information  
Recording](#)

[Learn More About Fellowship](#)

## Interested in Joining a Committee?

Interested in being apart of  
our committees and  
making a difference?

Apply today!



[AZ ACP Committee  
Interest Form](#)



## ACP Arizona 2024 Annual Chapter Scientific Meeting

Our annual Arizona Chapter Scientific Meeting will be held in Tucson in the late fall. This year's theme, "Town and Gown: Collaboration not Competition," celebrates the unique and valuable contributions made by all of Arizona's IM physicians. Practicing in the community? Involved in Medical Education? We've got something for you. We will once again offer a POCUS pre-course. Please contact Meeting Chair Dr. Indu Partha ([ipartha@arizona.edu](mailto:ipartha@arizona.edu)) to get involved and for more information. Specific dates coming soon!



## CALL FOR AZ ACP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

We are soliciting interest for you to join us on our AZ Chapter Communications Committee. The Committee will be working on strategies and tactics to:

1. Streamline communication from ACP chapter (our chapter committees/ governor's council etc.) to our membership.
2. Leverage social media: Facebook, Instagram etc. to engage young members and future colleagues (students/ residents) across our state.
3. Support our membership committee, annual chapter planning committee to improve chapter membership and annual meeting attendance by reaching out to non-metro, non-academic colleagues across our state.

Please reach out to Umesh Sharma with your interest or if you have any questions at [umsharma@hotmail.com](mailto:umsharma@hotmail.com).

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Looking to Practice Medicine on Your Terms?

Arizona Community Physicians has immediate openings for Family Medicine and Internal Medicine Primary Care Physicians in Tucson, Arizona. We are Arizona's largest independent physician group. In an era of hospital employed physician groups, our mission is to preserve the private practice of medicine and to develop services to provide the best care for our patients. ACP offers the benefits of an employment model with centralized support services and contracting while allowing shareholders to pursue their desired work/life balance.

- Over 130 Physicians, 900 employees and growing
- Specialties include – Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Dermatology, Endocrinology, Pediatrics, and GYN
- 50 clinics. Ancillary services: laboratory, imaging centers and testing center
- Owned and governed by physician shareholders
- Excellent compensation
- Best of both worlds; physician autonomy and professional management
- Owner and founder of Abacus Health ACO, a population health company with over 100,000 lives

For information regarding current employment opportunities, please contact:

- **Leslie Willingham, M.D.**, Physician Recruitment Lead  
[lwillingham@azacp.com](mailto:lwillingham@azacp.com) | (520) 275-9482
- **Sherri Clack**, Chief Operations Officer  
[sclack@azacp.com](mailto:sclack@azacp.com) | (520) 444-8274

## DRAFT A SOLUTION

Are you concerned about a practice or clinical issue or have an idea you would like to suggest? If so, you might consider submitting a resolution to your Governor or chapter council. Initiating a resolution provides ACP members an opportunity to focus attention at the ACP national level on a particular issue or topic that concerns them. Participating in the Board of Governors resolutions process provides the ACP grassroots member a voice and allows you to shape College policy that impacts the practice of internal medicine.

Not sure how to begin drafting a resolution? Researching the College's position on an issue can give you a start. The [ACP Board of Governors Resolutions Guide for ACP Members](#) is available to download and will help, too. The Guide was created to provide members a short overview of the resolutions process essentials and highlights critical ACP online resources you must use. Once drafted, members must submit resolutions to their Governor and/or chapter council. Chapter council approval is required to move resolutions forward to ACP National. Although not official ACP policy, a resolution becomes property of the chapter once the chapter council approves forwarding it to ACP National. If effecting change interests you, the deadline for submitting new resolutions to be heard at the Fall 2024 Board of Governors Meeting is March 29, 2024.

Share your good idea with us. Draft a resolution.