

2022 Nebraska ACP Chapter Awards Announcement



Chapter Laureate Award
Debra J. Romberger, MD, FACP

The Laureate Award honors Nebraska ACP members that have demonstrated commitments to excellence in medical care, education, or research, and in service to their community and the ACP.

Dr. Debra Romberger is Chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and a pulmonary/critical care physician. She graduated from the University of Kansas School of Medicine and completed her Internal Medicine residency and pulmonary/critical care clinical fellowship at Kansas University Medical Center. She subsequently completed a pulmonary research fellowship at UNMC. Dr. Romberger joined the faculty at UNMC and rose to the rank of Professor. She has previously served as the Vice Chair of Research for the UNMC Department of Internal Medicine and as the Associate Chief of Staff for Research at the Omaha VA Medical Center. Dr. Romberger is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American College of Chest Physicians. She is on the Council of the Association of Professors of Medicine (APM). Her research interests focus on airway inflammation especially related to agricultural-related dusts. Her research has been funded by NIOSH and the VA R&D. She is the PI of the outreach program for the Central States Center for Agriculture Safety and Health at UNMC.



***Woman Physician of the Year Award
Tammy O. Wichman, MD, FACP***

This award recognizes and honors an ACP member as an outstanding woman physician with a distinguished career in areas of exceptional patient care, medical education and/or research.

Dr. Tammy Wichman is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Pulmonary, Critical Care & Sleep Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. She received her undergraduate degree from Creighton University and her medical school degree from St. Louis University School of Medicine. She completed her training in Internal Medicine & Pediatrics at the Medical College of Virginia at Virginia Commonwealth University and remained there for her Pulmonary Critical Care Fellowship. Dr. Wichman is currently the Program Director of Internal Medicine residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and holds the inaugural James R. O'Dell Professorship. She is also the director of the pulmonary hypertension center at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, the only center in the state accredited by the Pulmonary Hypertension Association. She loves teaching medical students and residents about pulmonary hypertension and how to care for critically ill patients. She serves Nebraska ACP as the IM Residency director chair and she is involved nationally with USMLE and the Association of Program Directors for Internal Medicine. She is raising 5 children with her husband Chris and feels blessed to be able to be a wife, mom, and have an amazing career in patient care!



***Walter J. O'Donohue, Jr. MD Award
Joseph Nahas, MD***

The Walter J. O'Donohue, Jr. MD Award honors a physician that embodies the qualities of our late friend and colleague, an ardent supporter of the Nebraska Chapter: great leadership, scholarship and mentoring in his/her career.

Dr. Nahas completed his undergraduate and medical school education as well as his internal medicine residency training at Creighton University. He subsequently completed a rheumatology

fellowship at the University of Colorado. He joined the Creighton faculty in 2013 and became Program Director of Internal Medicine in 2019. Dr. Nahas also serves as the Interim Division Chief of Rheumatology at Creighton. He is passionate about mentoring and guiding the next generation of physicians in his role as program director, as well as caring for his patients.



***LeeRoy Meyer Dedicated Teaching Award
Nathan Anderson, MD, FACP***

The LeeRoy Meyer Dedicated Teacher Award honors a physician that exemplifies the talent, enthusiasm and professionalism demonstrated in medical education by Dr. Meyer.

Dr. Anderson attended college at Nebraska Wesleyan University and studied Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He attended medical school and completed his residency in Internal Medicine both at UNMC. He completed a chief year in 2015 and has been on UNMC faculty as a general internist and hospitalist since that time. He has a general internal medicine outpatient clinic and is on the hospitalist teaching service. Dr. Anderson has been the Internal Medicine Clerkship Director since 2018, and continues to serve in that role teaching lecture didactics, and small group interactive case base discussions to the Phase 2 medical students. His wife also attended UNMC for medical school and is a pediatric hospitalist at Children’s Hospital, and they adore their two children, ages 5 and 2.



***Hospitalist Award
Bradley DeVrieze, MD***

The Hospitalist Award is given to a chapter Member, Fellow or Master that has performed the duties of a full-time inpatient Internal Medicine specialist, or “hospitalist”, with expertise and dedication, as demonstrated leadership in quality improvement and education, has consistently delivered high-value and evidence-based care, provided in a patient-focused manner and exemplifying the highest standards of professionalism.

Dr. Bradley DeVrieze is a board-certified internist practicing academic hospital medicine at Creighton University-Bergan Mercy in Omaha, NE. He graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, WI in 2009 and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at

Creighton University Medical Center in 2012, followed by a chief year at CUMC. Since completing residency, Dr. DeVrieze has been a practicing academic hospitalist at CUMC and has had several academic roles within the Internal Medicine training program, including core faculty. He currently serves as Associate Program Director.



***Volunteerism and Community Service Award
Manasa Velagapudi, MBBS***

The Volunteerism and Community Service Award was initiated to honor members of the Nebraska Chapter that have distinguished themselves in voluntary service in medicine.

Dr. Velagapudi is a board-certified Infectious Diseases physician, Assistant Professor at CHI Health/Creighton University Medical Center at Bergan Mercy in Omaha, NE. She completed her Internal Medicine residency at Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, NY and Infectious Diseases fellowship at Creighton University School of Medicine.

Dr. Velagapudi started HIV, Hepatitis and Prep clinics at her institution and currently serves as Program Director for the Infectious Diseases fellowship program at Creighton. Teaching learners at all levels from medical students to ID fellows and caring for patients with HIV and Hepatitis C are Dr. Velagapudi's passions. She enjoys the bond she shares with her patients and their families which she believes is the most rewarding part of her work.



***Early Career Physician Award
Bret Hays, MD, FACP***

The Early Career Physician Award recognizes an ACP member that has been a major contributor to the American College of Physicians, either locally or nationally, and is within sixteen years of medical school graduation.

Dr. Hays is a board-certified Internal Medicine specialist affiliated with Nebraska Methodist Hospital. He graduated with honors from the University of Nebraska College of Medicine in 2012 and completed his residency at UNMC as well. Dr. Hays is devoted to promoting patient health

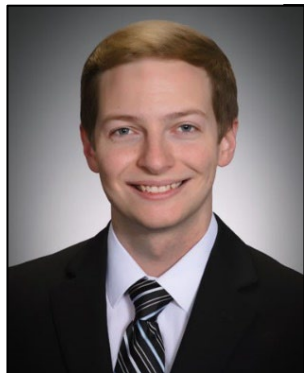
and well-being and loves being a part of his patients' lives. He currently serves as the chair of the Nebraska Chapter ACP Early Career Physicians Committee. When not at work, Dr. Hays enjoys spending time with his wife and two children.



Resident of the Year Award
RemyGrace Sass, MD

This award is given to a resident/fellow member that demonstrates professionalism and leadership in his/her residency program, the medical profession and the community. The recipient is identified as going above and beyond what is required of a resident.

Dr. Sass is an Internal Medicine resident at UNMC, where she also completed her medical school education. She became involved with ACP as the UNMC student representative on the Governor's Advisory Council and has continued as the UNMC resident representative. She enjoys building relationships with her patients and colleagues. When not caring for patients, Dr. Sass enjoys training for dressage with her horses and spending time outside with her family and friends.



Resident of the Year Award
Ian Jackson, MD

This award is given to a resident/fellow member who demonstrates professionalism and leadership in his/her residency program, the medical profession and the community. The recipient is identified as going above and beyond what is required of a resident.

Dr. Jackson was born and raised in Sioux City, IA. He completed his undergraduate degree, medical school, and internal medicine residency at Creighton University. He recently began his fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Creighton University.