



Georgia
Chapter

ANNUAL MEETING AWARDS CEREMONY

2025

OCTOBER 24-26, 2025

Renaissance Atlanta
Waverly Hotel &
Convention Center

Thank you for joining us in acknowledging the remarkable accomplishments of these esteemed physicians, residents, and students whose work not only enhances the medical profession but also improves the health and well-being of our society.



2025 CHAPTER AWARDS

- Laureate Award
- Walter J. Moore Leadership Award
- Volunteerism & Community Service Award
- The J. Willis Hurst Outstanding Bedside Teacher Award
- Mark Silverman Award
- Early Career Physician Award
- Outstanding Resident in Volunteerism and Advocacy Award
- Outstanding Medical Student in Volunteerism and Advocacy
- Jacqueline W. Fincher Advocacy Award
- Science and Research Award
- Commitment to Rural Care Award
- Hospitalist Award

LAUREATE AWARD

The Laureate Award honors those Fellows and Masters of the American College of Physicians who have demonstrated by their example and conduct an abiding commitment to excellence in medical care, education, or research, and in service to their community, their Chapter, and the American College of Physicians. Awards shall be made at the annual chapter meeting. The recipient of this award should accept this recognition in person, unless excused by the Governor. The recipient of this award is nominated by a process which can originate from the Awards Committee or any member of the Chapter. The nomination must document the personal attributes and accomplishments of the nominee. Awardees generally are senior physicians who have been Fellows for at least 15 to 20 years, with a long history of excellence and peer approval in the specialty of internal medicine. Additionally, they should have served their chapter with distinction or in some clearly definable manner. Exceptional circumstances may modify these requirements. The Georgia Chapter is pleased to honor Fellows and Masters who have been long-standing and loyal supporters of the American College of Physicians, have rendered distinguished service to the Chapter, and have upheld the high ideals and professional standards for which the American College of Physicians is known. Nominations for this award may come from any member of our organization and should be accompanied by at least one letter of support.

THERESA ROHR- KIRCHGRABER

MD, MACP, FAMWA



California native Dr. Rohr-Kirchgraber graduated from California State University, Long Beach, and Weill College of Medicine at Cornell. Training as an Internist at University Hospitals of Cleveland, she is a professor of medicine and clinician educator who joined the faculty of AU/UGA Medical Partnership in March 2021.

A physician advocate, leading efforts to improve the health of women and their families, her leadership positions have included 1st Hispanic president of the American Medical Women's Association (AMWA), vice-chair of the American Medical Association (AMA) Women's Physician Section, AMA Minority Affairs Governing Council and the Dissemination and Implementation Steering Committee for the Women's Preventive Services Initiative with the American College of OBGYN. An inaugural fellow of AMWA Dr. Rohr-Kirchgraber, is the recipient of many leadership and teaching awards.

As an underrepresented in medicine professor of medicine, Dr. Rohr-Kirchgraber is passionate about the need for increased diversity in healthcare. Developing programs and mentoring, she strives to assist physicians and others to find satisfaction in their careers. Teaching to ensure our future physicians have a well-rounded background in clinical medicine and understand the social determinants that affect health and wellbeing, her clinical expertise is in primary care for adults and adolescents, especially those with chronic conditions.

A photograph of the Atlanta skyline at night, featuring the Georgia State Capitol building and other skyscrapers. The image is partially obscured by a large green diagonal shape that covers the left side of the page.

WALTER J. MOORE LEADERSHIP AWARD

The American College of Physicians Georgia Chapter Leadership Award, established in 2003, honors key leaders whose contributions embody the core principles of ACP to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care, public policy, and or medical education. This award was renamed in 2021 in honor of Walter J. Moore, MD, MACP. Dr Moore was a former Governor of the Georgia Chapter who exemplified outstanding Leadership.

The recipient will receive the award at the annual state meeting and will be invited to speak on a subject related to the line of work that led to receiving the award. The recipient does not have to be a physician or resident of Georgia.

REED TUCKSON

MD, MACP



Reed V. Tuckson, MD, MACP, is Managing Director of Tuckson Health Connections, LLC, a vehicle to advance multidisciplinary initiatives that support optimal health and wellbeing.

Currently, Dr. Tuckson's focus is on his role as a Co-Convener and Chair of the Board of the Coalition For Trust In Health & Science which is dedicated to bringing together the entire health related ecosystem to support people in accessing and using reliable evidence to make personally appropriate health choices and decisions.

In addition, he continues to build on his work as a co-founder of the Black Coalition Against COVID, a multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary effort that focused on mitigating the COVID-19 pandemic in Washington, D.C. and nationally, by evolving into the Black Coalition For Health that focuses on leveraging community assets to address the prevention of long standing chronic illness challenges.

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VOLUNTEERISM & COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Community service is an important attribute of medical professionalism. The ACP-Georgia Chapter wishes to annually recognize one member who demonstrates a significant and sustained commitment to the service of others at a local, state, national, or international level. The merits upon which a recipient is selected for this award are based not only on the significance of the contributions that the individual has made, but also on the degree to which the individual reflects and affirms the quality of selfless devotion to the welfare of others.

FEYI WARD

MD, FACP




Dr. Feyi Ward is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Morehouse School of Medicine with more than 25 years of experience as a clinician, educator, and mentor. She was born in Nigeria and moved to Canada in 1988 on a scholarship for graduate studies. She graduated from McMaster University School of Medicine, Canada, in 1997 and completed her residency at Legacy Hospitals, Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Ward regularly speaks at her church and with the Nigerian Immigrants' Associations, sharing guidance on preventive health and chronic disease management. She also volunteers at the Redeemer Medical Center, a free clinic run by the Redeemed Christian Church of God, which provides critical access to health care for African immigrants and underserved patients. Her work has not only expanded access to medical services but also built bridges of trust within immigrant communities.

Dr. Ward has served as a member of multiple boards of directors including the American Red Cross and Reach Museum in Washington. She presently serves on American College of Physicians (ACP) Georgia Governor's Advisory Council and Awards Committee. She is continually active at ACP Georgia chapter and regularly volunteers her time to judge residents' posters, abstracts, and Jeopardy competitions, and to facilitate mock interviews for medical students. Through these contributions, she helps shape and support the professional growth of learners across all stages of training.

As an educator, Dr. Ward brings the lessons of her volunteerism into her teaching, encouraging students and residents to see medicine as both a science and a service.

A background image of the Atlanta skyline at dusk, featuring the Georgia State Capitol building and other skyscrapers illuminated against a colorful sky. A large green diagonal shape overlays the left side of the image, containing the text.

THE J. WILLIS HURST OUTSTANDING **BEDSIDE TEACHER AWARD**

The J. Willis Hurst Bedside Teacher Award was established in 1991 to honor a Georgia member or Fellow in the College for his or her outstanding teaching activities, especially related to medical students and house staff. The award is named after J. Willis Hurst, M.D., MACP, and former Chair of Medicine at Emory University School of Medicine, whose dedication to instilling principles of lifelong learning brought him worldwide recognition as a gifted and influential teacher.

RAFAEL PONCE- TERASHIMA

MD



Dr. Rafael Ponce-Terashima is a highly experienced infectious disease specialist with a deep understanding of tropical medicine and microbiology. He completed his Doctor of Medicine degree at Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University, followed by a residency in Internal Medicine at Henry Ford Hospital. Dr. Ponce-Terashima further honed his expertise by completing a fellowship in Infectious Disease at Case Western Reserve University, where he also served as chief fellow.

Dr. Ponce-Terashima is an active member of prominent medical organizations, including the American Society for Microbiology, the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, and the Infectious Diseases Society of America. In addition to his impressive medical credentials, Dr. Ponce-Terashima is multilingual, speaking English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Japanese, which enhances his ability to connect with diverse patient populations. Currently, Dr. Ponce-Terashima practices at Mercer Medicine Downtown Macon, providing expert care to patients with infectious disease concerns.

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MARK SILVERMAN AWARD

This award established in 2010, serves to recognize the nurturing attitude of a physician who has not only demonstrated excellence in bedside skills and teaching but has served as an inspiration for younger physicians to advance their knowledge and training in medicine. It also recognizes their involvement in the Georgia Chapter of the ACP. This award is named after Mark Silverman, MD, MACP, in honor of an outstanding internist and faculty member at Emory University. He served as an inspiration for younger physicians to advance their knowledge and training in Medicine as well as their involvement in the Georgia Chapter of the ACP.

LORA DENTON

MD, MACP



Lora C. Denton, MD, MACP, is a proud 1989 graduate of Mercer University School of Medicine. A general internist with a deep commitment to education, Dr. Denton has spent more than three decades teaching medical students, residents, and, according to those who know her, just about anyone willing to learn. (It's even rumored that a few cardiology fellows have rotated through her general internal medicine practice)!

Throughout her career, including during her years in private practice, Dr. Denton has remained steadfast in her dedication to medical education. She has consistently created opportunities to mentor learners at all levels, all while providing comprehensive outpatient care to a largely marginalized and underrepresented patient population.

An active member of the ACP, Dr. Denton is a passionate advocate for careers in internal medicine. She promotes the specialty not only for its intellectual challenges and enduring patient relationships, but also for its leadership roles, and lifestyle balance. She has long championed diverse practice models, including job-sharing and part-time work, as important strategies to keep physicians in the workforce and prevent burnout.

Dr. Denton's latest endeavor is the development of a new internal medicine residency program at Coliseum Regional Medical Center (CRMC), designed to bring high-quality training and ultimately, physicians, to rural and underserved communities throughout Georgia.

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EARLY CAREER PHYSICIAN AWARD

The award recognizes outstanding achievement by a physician member who is within 16 years of graduating medical school and who is not an ACP Medical Student Member or Resident/Fellow Member. Nominees must meet these qualifications as of June 30th of each year considered. Areas of achievement may include leadership; academics, including publishing, teaching, and mentoring; and/or volunteerism. Established 2017

JOSEPH HAYES

MD, FACP



Dr. Joseph Hayes, MD, MBA, FACP is a board-certified internist and Fellow of the American College of Physicians. He serves as Designated Institutional Officer at SGMC Health and Associate Campus Dean at Mercer University School of Medicine, where he leads medical education and academic strategy in rural South Georgia. Since completing residency, Dr. Hayes has launched multiple ACGME-accredited residency programs and helped establish a new regional medical school campus, significantly expanding physician training capacity in underserved areas. As Medical Director of the internal medicine residency clinic, he advances high-value care while mentoring students and residents in a high-need population.

Dr. Hayes contributes nationally as a peer reviewer for ACP's MKSAP program and serves on the Georgia Chapter's Membership Committee. His academic work includes national and regional conference presentations, published medical content, and ongoing research focused on clinical education and systems-based care.

A recipient of multiple teaching and leadership honors, including Faculty Physician of the Year and Excellence in Medical Education, Dr. Hayes is committed to developing future physician leaders and aligning education with community health priorities.

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OUTSTANDING RESIDENT IN VOLUNTEERISM **AND ADVOCACY AWARD**

The Outstanding Resident in Volunteerism and Advocacy Award was established in 2008 to recognize outstanding Internal Medicine residents in Georgia for their dedication to the service of others. Each Internal Medicine Residency Program is asked to nominate one (1) outstanding resident for this award. The merits upon which a recipient is selected for this award are based not only on the significance of the contributions, but also on the degree to which the individual reflects and affirms the quality of selfless devotion to the welfare of others.

JORGE PIMENTEL

MD



Dr. Jorge Pimentel is a PGY-1 Internal Medicine resident at Piedmont in Athens, Georgia, dedicated to delivering compassionate, evidence-based care while advancing health equity. Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, he earned his MD from Universidad Iberoamericana (UNIBE) and began his career serving vulnerable communities through Heart Care Dominicana and CEDIMAT. He later contributed to public health scholarship as a research assistant at the National Institute of Infectious Contagious Diseases Research (INIEICONT).

Driven by a calling to serve, Dr. Pimentel co-founded Honey Heart, Inc., a nonprofit committed to expanding access to care in underserved communities across the Dominican Republic. Since its launch in 2020, Honey Heart has organized multiple medical missions, provided pharmacy services, consultations, health education, and essential supplies, and reached more than 5,000 patients nationwide. He recruits and leads multidisciplinary teams, oversees budgets and operations, and forges partnerships with medical schools to sustain impact.

In Georgia, Dr. Pimentel serves as head of volunteerism for the American College of Physicians (ACP) Georgia Chapter, coordinating community initiatives that extend care to underserved populations statewide. As a junior resident, he has performed yeoman service—organizing, staffing, and elevating mission-driven programs at home and abroad.

Committed to lifelong learning, Dr. Pimentel's interests include clinical research with a future focus on cardiology, along with Formula 1 and tennis. Colleagues consistently recognize his leadership, integrity, and service orientation. He is honored to be nominated for recognition of his outstanding contributions to volunteerism, patient advocacy, and the meaningful expansion of healthcare access for all communities.

GOD-DOWELL ODUKUDU

MD



Dr. God-dowell Odukudu is a PGY-2 Internal Medicine resident at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). Originally from Nigeria, he graduated top of his class from Delta State University, Abraka, earning multiple academic honors. Passionate about health equity and community service, Dr. Odukudu has been a dedicated volunteer at the MSM H.E.A.L. Clinic (Health Equity for All Lives), an interprofessional, student-run program serving the greater Atlanta metropolitan area and rural Georgia populations. Through this platform, he has contributed to direct patient care, telehealth services, community-based health screenings, and patient education initiatives specifically designed to advance health equity for underserved and uninsured populations in Georgia. His exceptional contributions were formally recognized when he received the H.E.A.L.er's Award, which honors rising stars in the provider team who have made immediate and impressive impacts on the MSM HEAL clinic.

Dr. Odukudu's advocacy spans international partnerships in Nigeria, where he organized free healthcare outreach and health education initiatives. His commitment to medical education began in medical school with free tutorials and has expanded to mentoring international medical graduates through virtual USMLE preparation and residency application guidance, assisting colleagues from Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Sudan, Pakistan, the UK, and the US.

He has published numerous peer-reviewed articles in cardiovascular medicine and presented research at national conferences. He was recently selected for the 2025 ACC IM Cardiology Mentorship Program's African American/Black Cohort and serves as General Secretary of the Journal Cafe and as a representative on the ACP Georgia resident council.

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OUTSTANDING MEDICAL STUDENT IN VOLUNTEERISM **AND ADVOCACY AWARD**

The Outstanding Medical Student in Volunteerism and Advocacy Award was established in 2008 to recognize outstanding medical students in Georgia for dedication to the service of others. Each Medical School is asked to nominate one (1) outstanding medical student, preferably with an interest in Internal Medicine, for this award. The merits upon which a recipient is selected for this award are based not only on the significance of the contributions, but also on the degree to which the individual reflects and affirms the quality of selfless devotion to the welfare of others.

SARAH NEAULT



Sarah Neault is a fourth-year medical student at Morehouse School of Medicine. She was raised in Roswell, Georgia and received her B.S. in Chemistry at Georgia Tech. She is passionate about achieving health equity for vulnerable populations and standing up for what is right. During her preclinical years, she served as a delivery driver for Meals on Wheels Atlanta and volunteered frequently with her school's student-run H.E.A.L. clinic, providing free health screenings at community outreach events. She also led a service-learning project at a local high school which addressed low immunization rates and student mental health. As a volunteer for the Medicaid redetermination project at Grady hospital, Sarah assisted patients in navigating the steps required to keep their coverage as pandemic-era protections came to an end. She then received advocacy training as a member of the Emory-Grady-Morehouse Advocacy collaborative learning community. She joined ACP's Georgia chapter during her second year and has since served as the student council chair. Sarah has joined the chapter twice at the annual Day at the Capitol, meeting directly with her state lawmakers to advocate for improved access to health care and reduced administrative burdens. She was selected to join the chapter's delegation twice at ACP's Leadership Day in Washington, D.C., where she advocated for increased Medicare-supported Graduate Medical Education positions and the protection of public health infrastructure.

Sarah lives in Decatur with her husband and two dogs. She looks forward to a career as an internist in Georgia.

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JACQUELINE W. FINCHER **ADVOCACY AWARD**

The Jacqueline W. Fincher Award was established in 2025 to honor an individual who has demonstrated exceptional engagement and made significant contributions to the chapter's Health and Public Policy Committee and its advocacy efforts. The recipient of this award will have actively participated in and advanced initiatives that advocate for the practice of medicine, healthcare, and the well-being of patients, exemplifying leadership in these crucial areas. The award is named in honor of Jacqueline W. Fincher, MD, MACP, a former Governor of the chapter, whose deep commitment to advocacy helped embed it into the core mission and activities of the chapter.

TRACEY HENRY

MD, MPH, MS, FACP



Tracey L. Henry, MD, MPH, MS, FACP is a physician leader, educator, and nationally recognized health policy expert and advocate. Her commitment to advocacy began in medical school, where she held national leadership roles with AMSA and SNMA, earning recognition as Regional VI Member of the Year. She lobbied Congress for legislation advancing health equity, including the Healthy Places Act, S-CHIP reauthorization, and NHSC/HPSA expansion. At Georgetown University, she organized health policy seminars, town halls, grassroots campaigns, and national advocacy days to promote access to quality affordable health care.

At Emory University, Dr. Henry has become a transformative leader in medical education. She founded the endowed EMPACT (Engage, Mentor, Prepare, Advocate for, and Teach) Program to support students historically underrepresented in medicine and co-created the Health Equity, Advocacy, and Policy Track across all GME programs. She also serves as Associate Program Director for SGIM's Leadership in Health Policy Program, a national initiative strengthening physicians' federal policy and advocacy skills.

Her leadership extends to Georgia, where she helped pass key legislation on maternal mortality, vaping, distracted driving, and the landmark 2022 mental health parity bill as a board member and public policy chair for Mental Health America of Georgia. She co-founded the Coalition for Responsible Kidney Care, expanding dialysis access for undocumented Georgians, and serves as Co-Chair of the Georgia ACP Health and Public Policy Committee and delivers the annual Health Policy Update.

Nationally, Dr. Henry has authored over 25 ACP and SGIM position papers and numerous op-eds, policy briefs, podcasts, online modules and book chapters. She has mentored hundreds of students, residents and faculty to effectively engage in advocacy and testified before Congress on the burden of student loan debt on those pursuing primary care. She has held leadership positions with ACP and AMA, including the Council of Legislation, and in 2024 was named a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health Policy Fellow, serving on the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. Dr. Henry earned her MD from Georgetown, MPH from Johns Hopkins, and MS in Neuroscience from Tulane. Her career reflects a lifelong dedication to health equity, physician workforce development, and expanding access to quality, affordable care, demonstrating the power of physician advocacy to transform systems and communities.

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SCIENCE AND RESEARCH AWARD

This prestigious award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to science in the field of medicine. The recipient of this honor has demonstrated exceptional achievement through their research and innovations, significantly advancing medical knowledge and practice. A primary consideration in selecting the awardee is the national or international recognition the nominee has garnered for their contributions to the field.

ANTOINE TRAMMELL

MD, MPH



Antoine R. Trammell, MD, MPH, is a board-certified Internal Medicine provider with clinical research training in Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. He also has experience providing clinical care for persons with cognitive disorders. After serving as Internal Medicine Chief Resident at Mercer University, he joined the Departments of Medicine and Neurology. Dr. Trammell leads multiple research studies at the Emory Goizueta Alzheimer's Disease Research Center, focusing on brain imaging, social experience, vascular health, and protective factors related to cognition and brain health in aging.

He is also the center's Co-Lead for the Outreach Recruitment Engagement Core. In this role, he focuses on approaches for successful research engagement, maintaining community relationships, and leading community health initiatives. Dr. Trammell is also the director of the Atlanta Memory Assessment Clinic with the Georgia Memory Net program. His clinical focus includes care models to achieve early, accurate diagnosis of cognitive challenges, early initiation of disease-modifying drugs, and clinical research access. Dr. Trammell received his medical degree from Meharry Medical College and his public health degree from Emory University. He has received additional NIH-sponsored training in cardiovascular disease research, cognitive research, and clinical trials for Alzheimer's disease.

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COMMITMENT TO RURAL CARE **AWARD**

This esteemed award is presented to physicians who have shown outstanding dedication to improving healthcare in Georgia's rural settings. The award recognizes individuals, regardless of their career stage, for their exceptional service and leadership in rural medicine. Eligible recipients may be American College of Physicians members or nonmembers, embodying a steadfast commitment to enhancing healthcare access and quality in rural communities. The honoree will have demonstrated a significant impact on advancing rural health through innovative practices and leadership, ensuring that residents receive comprehensive and compassionate care.

JEAN SUMNER

MD, MACP



A third-generation Georgia physician, Dr. Sumner has served in rural Georgia most of her career, practicing internal medicine in Washington and Johnson counties before becoming Dean of the Mercer University School of Medicine in 2016.

Dr. Sumner served as a faculty member of the Mercer University School of Medicine as a faculty preceptor since 1989. She became associate dean for rural health in 2014. She has held a succession of leadership positions over the years. She has served as hospital chief of staff and nursing home medical director, as well as a board member, chair, and president of numerous community and statewide professional organizations. At the state level, she served as a governor-appointed member, then president and medical director of the Georgia Composite Medical Board.

In 2020, Dr. Sumner received the Ralph O. Claypoole Sr. Memorial Award from the American College of Physicians—the first Georgian to receive the prestigious award. She is also a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and the Principal Investigator for the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center at Mercer University School of Medicine.

Dr. Sumner received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and Master of Science in Nursing from the Medical College of Georgia and completed her medical degree at Mercer University School of Medicine. She completed her internal medicine residency at the Medical Center of Central Georgia.

HOSPITALIST AWARD

This esteemed award is presented to a physician specializing in the care of hospitalized patients who has made significant contributions to the medical field through innovation, leadership, and clinical expertise. The recipient has demonstrated excellence not only in patient care but also in areas such as patient safety, community involvement, and quality improvement. The award honors an exceptional leader, teacher, innovator mentor, researcher, and pioneer who is advancing the field of hospital medicine and making meaningful strides in improving patient outcomes and healthcare practices.

DAN
DRESSLER
MD, MACP



Daniel D. Dressler, MD, MSc, MHM, MACP is Professor of Medicine, Director of Internal Medicine Teaching Services at Emory University Hospital, Associate Program Director for the J. Willis Hurst Internal Medicine Residency Program, and Medical Student Society Advisor at Emory University School of Medicine in Atlanta, GA. He completed his undergraduate Physics degree at Duke University, followed by medical school, Internal Medicine residency, Hospital Medicine Fellowship and Master of Science in Clinical Research, all at Emory University. Dr. Dressler directs the evidence-based medicine (EBM) curriculum for the internal medicine residency and the Advanced EBM course for 4th-year medical students.

Dr. Dressler has written more than 350 reviews of key clinical literature for NEJM Journal Watch since 2007 and currently serves as Editor-in-Chief for NEJM Journal Watch Hospital Medicine. He is transitioning to Lead Editor for the new journal, NEJM Clinician, a new 2025 publication. He also serves as the Consulting Editor for the Medical Clinics of North America; textbook editor of Principles and Practice of Hospital Medicine (1st and 2nd editions) and editor of SHM's original Core Competencies in Hospital Medicine. He has over 200 national, international and regional presentations.

AWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR THEIR TIME AND DEDICATION

Ted Johnson, MD, FACP
Chair

Thad Carson, MD, FACP

Jean Chin, MD, MACP

Jacqueline Fincher, MD, MACP

Chad Martins, MD, FACP

Allen Tindol, MD, FACP

Feyi Ward, MD, FACP

Clyde Watkins Jr. MD, FACP

The chapter would like to extend its heartfelt appreciation to the Awards Committee for their hard work and dedication. Working diligently behind the scenes, this group plays an essential role in recognizing and celebrating the remarkable individuals whose contributions elevate our profession and inspire our community.

