

Illinois Chapter *Awards 2026*

2026 ILLINOIS SOUTHERN VOLUNTEERISM AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

AARON SHULKIN



Aaron Shulkin has demonstrated an exceptional and sustained commitment to community service, advocacy, and improving access to care for under-resourced communities. As a leader of Campaña de Salud, he helped expand community health fairs serving the Hispanic/Latino population in central Illinois, nearly quadrupling attendance over three years. He strengthened community partnerships, improved health fair outreach and navigation, secured grant support, and helped disseminate the program's impact through scholarly publications.

Recognizing the need to engage younger members of the community, Aaron Shulkin also established Campamento de Salud, a health education summer camp for Hispanic/Latino youth focused on nutrition, sun protection, and health education.

His commitment extends to advocacy for LGBTQIA+ communities. Through McKinley Health Center and Carle PRIDE, he has promoted gender-affirming education and helped develop the University of Illinois Trans Resources Guide. He has also served as a medical volunteer and Advisory Board member for the Champaign County Christian Health Center, helping expand services and access to care.

Through his leadership, compassion, and dedication to service, Aaron Shulkin has inspired fellow students and community members to become advocates for positive change and exemplifies the ideals of the Volunteerism/Community Service Award.

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2026 ILLINOIS SOUTHERN
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

GARY M. RULL, MD, FACP



Dr. Gary Rull is a Professor of Internal Medicine and Medical Humanities at SIU School of Medicine and has served as the school-wide Doctoring Director since 2003. In this role, he oversees a comprehensive curriculum focused on clinical medicine, communication, professionalism, patient safety, and ethics. He also maintains an active outpatient practice, where he teaches and mentors medical students and Internal Medicine residents.

A dedicated educator, Dr. Rull has received numerous teaching awards from the School of Medicine and Department of Internal Medicine. He is a member of the American College of Physicians, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, and the Clerkship Directors of Internal Medicine. A past recipient of the Illinois Southern ACP Laureate Award and ACP Teacher and Mentorship Award, he has demonstrated a lasting commitment to medical education and the development of future physicians.

Dr. Rull earned his medical degree from SIU School of Medicine in 1998, completed his Internal Medicine residency in 2001, and served as Chief Medicine Resident before joining the SIU faculty in 2002.

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2026 ILLINOIS SOUTHERN

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP AWARD

TULIKA CHATTERJEE, MD, FACP



Dr. Tulika Chatterjee is a board-certified Internal Medicine physician and Assistant Professor of Clinical Medicine at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria. As Lead Physician and Internal Medicine Residency Education Coordinator at Heartland Health Services, she combines clinical excellence with a strong commitment to medical education, mentorship, and service to underserved communities.

A Fellow of the American College of Physicians, Dr. Chatterjee has been an active ACP member since 2017. She has supported the ACP Illinois Southern Chapter through resident and student educational activities, abstract and poster competitions, and committees focused on physician well-being and professional fulfillment.

Research and mentorship are central to Dr. Chatterjee's work. With more than 50 publications and extensive experience in peer review and editorial service, she uses scholarship to provide students and residents with meaningful research opportunities and the skills to pursue academic and professional goals. She has also mentored trainees on diversity, equity, and inclusion projects, helping foster a more inclusive learning environment.

Through her clinical care, scholarship, teaching, and mentorship, Dr. Chatterjee exemplifies a dedicated physician educator who opens doors for future physicians and strengthens both the profession and the communities she serves.

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2026 ACP ILLINOIS SOUTHERN

OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER PHYSICIAN AWARD

ANNIA MARTIAL, MD, FACP



Dr. Annia Martial is an outstanding academic hospitalist, clinician-educator, proceduralist, mentor, and institutional leader at the University of Illinois College of Medicine Peoria and OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. Since completing her residency and chief residency at UIC Peoria, she has built an exceptional record of clinical excellence, educational innovation, scholarship, and service.

An ACP member since 2011 and Fellow since 2021, Dr. Martial has made significant contributions to ACP education, including serving as faculty for the national ACP Point-of-Care Ultrasonography Foundations Course. She also served as principal investigator for an ACP-supported initiative focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion in Internal Medicine training.

Dr. Martial has developed a broad scholarly portfolio, including coauthoring a landmark New England Journal of Medicine report on synthetic cannabinoid-associated coagulopathy in Illinois. As Internal Medicine Director of Simulation Education, she has developed innovative simulation experiences in procedural skills, clinical emergencies, point-of-care ultrasonography, and clinical reasoning.

Through her clinical expertise, mentorship, scholarship, and commitment to education and inclusion, Dr. Martial exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding early-career physician and leader in Internal Medicine.

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2026 ACP ILLINOIS SOUTHERN OUTSTANDING EARLY CAREER PHYSICIAN AWARD **SCHUYLER STONE, MD, FACP**



Dr. Schuyler Stone is an Associate Professor of Internal Medicine and Program Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. As a respected academic hospitalist, Medical Director of the SIU Anticoagulation Clinic, and rehabilitation hospitalist, he is known for evidence-based, compassionate care and thoughtful clinical leadership.

An exceptional educator and mentor, Dr. Stone has developed innovative curricula, including longitudinal board preparation, Entrustable Professional Activities, perioperative medicine boot camps, and remote education during the COVID-19 pandemic. He teaches medical students and residents throughout the curriculum and provides individualized mentorship and career guidance, creating an environment that fosters curiosity, confidence, and professional growth.

His contributions have been recognized with numerous honors, including the Humanism in Medicine Award, Rising Star Award, Best Research Mentor Award, Faculty Leadership Award, and Outstanding Teaching Hospitalist Faculty Award. He has also contributed to quality improvement, patient safety, ethics, and Graduate Medical Education initiatives.

An active member of the American College of Physicians since residency, Dr. Stone exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding early-career physician leader through his commitment to clinical excellence, education, mentorship, service, and the advancement of IM.

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2026 ILLINOIS SOUTHERN ADVANCING THE CAREERS OF WOMEN IN MEDICINE AWARD **VIDYA SUNDARESHAN, MD, MACP**



Dr. Vidya Sundareshan is Professor of Clinical Medicine and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and recently completed her term as Governor of ACP Illinois Southern Chapter.

A passionate advocate for women in medicine, Dr. Sundareshan has held leadership roles with the Alliance for Women in Medicine and the national Women in Medicine Summit, where she has advanced mentorship, scholarship, leadership development, and professional networking. She has mentored and sponsored hundreds of medical students, residents, fellows, faculty, and physicians, helping them pursue scholarly, career, and leadership opportunities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Sundareshan also served as Interim Pandemic Response Officer, providing critical leadership, education, and guidance to healthcare professionals and communities. Her contributions have been recognized with numerous honors, including the American Medical Women's Association INSPIRE Award, SIU Educator of the Year Award, and ACP Illinois South Physician Hero Award.

Dr. Sundareshan exemplifies leadership through service, mentorship, and advocacy, with a lasting commitment to helping others succeed and strengthening the future of Internal Medicine.

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2026 ILLINOIS SOUTHERN
TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP AWARD

AKSHRA VERMA, MD, FACP



Dr. Akshra Verma is an Associate Professor of Medicine at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, where she serves as Clinic Director for General Internal Medicine, Quality Improvement Director, and Core Faculty for the Internal Medicine Residency Program. Through these roles, she has created educational experiences that prepare learners to provide excellent care while improving healthcare systems and strengthening communities.

A dedicated educator and mentor, Dr. Verma has developed curricula in quality improvement, systems thinking, patient access, obesity medicine, and social determinants of health. She guides learners through quality improvement projects from identifying challenges and implementing solutions to presenting their work.

Dr. Verma is also an innovative educator in culinary and community medicine. She has developed teaching kitchen initiatives that connect evidence-based nutrition with practical patient care, including the “Small Steps, Big Health Change” program for students and community members. Her educational excellence has been recognized with the Outstanding Ambulatory Faculty Award.

Known for her compassion, professionalism, and commitment to mentorship, Dr. Verma has made a lasting impact on generations of learners, helping develop thoughtful clinicians, systems thinkers, and advocates for patient-centered care.

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2026 ILLINOIS SOUTHERN VOLUNTEERISM AND
COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

GAURIE GUNASEKARAN



Gaurie Gunasekaran, a third-year medical student at Carle Illinois College of Medicine and member of the American College of Physicians, has demonstrated exceptional leadership, service, and commitment to her peers and community.

As Class of 2028 Student Representative, Gaurie Gunasekaran has been a strong advocate for her classmates. When the innovation curriculum needed improvement, she gathered student feedback, presented recommendations to the curriculum committee, and helped bring meaningful changes to the program.

Her commitment to service extends beyond the classroom. At the Avicenna Student-Run Clinic, she provides lifestyle medicine counseling while mentoring undergraduate volunteers in clinical interviewing and documentation. She also engages students across classes through her research and academic projects, fostering collaboration and mentorship.

Through her initiative, leadership, and dedication to service, Gaurie Gunasekaran exemplifies the spirit of the ACP Illinois Southern Volunteerism and Community Service.