

Spring 2025

E- Newsletter

Governor's Message



Louisiana Chapter ACP Members,

It has certainly been an eventful 2025. We started off the year with a horrific New Year's tragedy and record level snow falls but were able to enjoy the Superbowl, Mardi Gras and regional festivals. Louisiana hosted both our local and national meeting and it was wonderful to see familiar faces and meet new colleagues. Louisiana was well represented at the annual national meeting. Our members were session speakers, presented posters, our residents participated in Doctor's Dilemma, and we initiated new Fellows and Masters into the College. I hope everyone was energized by the meeting and are ready to continue our work to advocate for patients and physicians.

Several of our members participated in ACP Leadership Day on Capitol Hill where they were able to meet with members of congress to advocate for Physician Payment, Decreasing Administrative Burden, Access to Care and Prescription Drug Access as well as Public Health and Scope of Practice. If you would like more information about National level ACP advocacy visit ACP Advocacy and reach out to the chair of our local Health and Public Policy committee [Celeste Newby](#).

We look forward to the second half of 2025 and encourage you to join our committees, which are listed on page 15 of this newsletter.

Warm Regards
Angela McLean

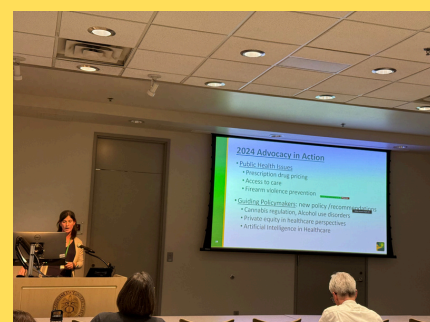
2025 Annual Scientific Meeting

LSU Lions Building - New Orleans January 31, 2025

The Annual Meeting was held as a hybrid meeting on January 31, 2025 at the LSU Lions Building in New Orleans. In total, there were 92 people who registered for the meeting, with about 10% attending virtually. LSU welcomed all of the attendees, it was again a great venue for the Annual Meeting.

The educational content was outstanding. The meeting was full of fantastic presentations. The day started with updates in cardiology, gastroenterology, pulmonology, allergy management and hospital medicine. The afternoon kicked off with a review of best papers, followed by lifestyle medicine and neurology updates and ACP advocacy priorities. The Friday evening cocktail reception honored the 2025 Louisiana Laureate Award winners, Dayton Daberkow II, MD FACP, Philip Haddad, MD MPH FACP and Joseph Landers, MD FACP.

The Chapter held a fund drive to support the Saul's Light. Thank you to all who participated, the donations were greatly appreciated! This is a small way that the Chapter can have an impact on the community in which the Annual Meeting is held.





2025 Louisiana Laureate Awards Winners

Dayton Daberkow II, MD FACP
with Angela Johnson
and Angela McLean



Philip Haddad, MD MPH FACP
with Angela Johnson
and Angela McLean

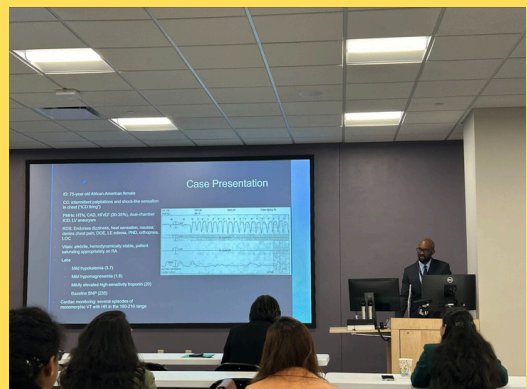
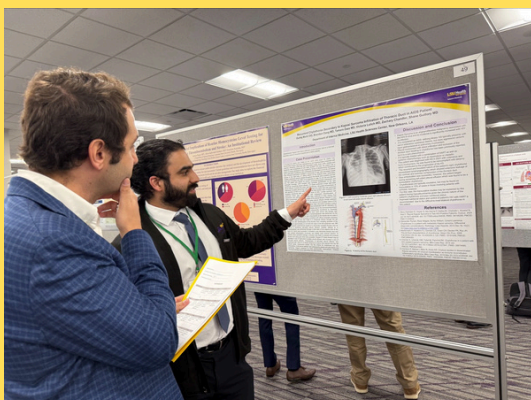
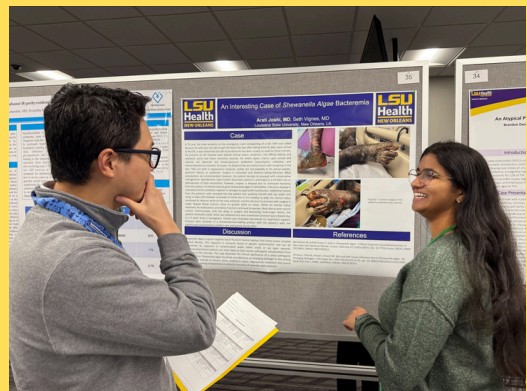


Joseph Landers, MD FACP
with Angela Johnson
and Angela McLean

2025 Resident and Student Meeting

The Resident and Student Meeting was held on Saturday, February 1 at the LSU Lions Building in New Orleans. There were over 150 members in attendance! The day featured oral and poster presentations showcasing some of the outstanding work being done by the residents and students throughout the state.

Congratulations to all of the winning presenters, who are listed below. The winning Mystery Case, *“Rare vascular anomaly causing nonspecific chest pain and worsening dysphagia”* presented by Neha Bapatla from Tulane University, qualified to represent the Louisiana Chapter in the National Poster Competition at IMM 2025 in New Orleans.



The meeting concluded with an exciting Jeopardy contest. Congratulations to the 2025 Louisiana Chapter ACP Jeopardy Winner, **Willis Knighton**! For the second consecutive year, the Willis Knighton team represented the Louisiana Chapter in the National Doctor's Dilemma Competition at IMM2025 in New Orleans.

Thank you to all of members who served as leaders, moderators and judges. We cannot have a successful meeting without you.



Willis Knighton Jeopardy Team!



2025 Resident Student Meeting Abstract Winners

ORAL PRESENTATIONS – STUDENTS

1st place - *Beyond Traditional Risk Factors in Necrotizing Fasciitis Mortality - Analysis of 40,254 Cases Challenges Common Assumptions*

Dara Bruce, Abdallah Attia MD, Ahmed Abdelmaksoud MD, Eman Toraih MD PhD MSc; Tulane School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA.

2nd place - *When Low Suspicion Comes at a High Cost: Laryngeal Kaposi Sarcoma and the Case for Broader HIV Testing*

Rithvik Vutukuri, Helen Pope; Tulane University Department of Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, New Orleans, LA.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS – RESIDENTS SESSION 1

1st place - *Pickering Syndrome*

Ross Dies, Mandie DiMarco PA, Jack Hebert MS, William Gibson MD, Domonique Smith MD, Brian Coe MD, Arash Ataei MD, Seth Vignes MD; Louisiana State University, New Orleans, LA.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS – RESIDENTS SESSION 2

1st place - *Paradoxical embolism to the coronary arteries: an uncommon cause of acute Myocardial Infarction*

Swesha Shrestha, Shekhar Gurung MD, Nisheem Pokharel MD, Thomas R Smith MD; St Francis Medical Center, Monroe, LA.

MYSTERY CASE PRESENTATIONS – RESIDENTS

1st place - *Rare vascular anomaly causing nonspecific chest pain and worsening dysphagia*

Neha Bapatla, Jacques F. Ancelet MD, Stephen C. Lim MD; Tulane University, New Orleans, LA.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS – STUDENTS

1st place - *Sustainability in Healthcare: Exploring Interest in Future Improvements*

Margaret Conrad, Marla Cannatella, MD; Department of Medicine, LSUHSC, New Orleans, LA.

2nd place - *Assessing the Readability of Colon Cancer Information Generated by Large Language Models*

Max Shteiman, The University of Queensland–Ochsner Clinical School, New Orleans, LA.

3rd place - *The great imitator: Neurosyphilis mimicking Giant Cell Arteritis*

Vincent Pham, Neha Baplata, Patricia Otero Valdez, Tom Eggers, Harshita Rachalmallu, Brett Wilkinson; Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS – RESIDENTS

1st place - *Hepatopulmonary syndrome (HPS) ought to be considered in patients with chronic liver disease and persistent hypoxia*

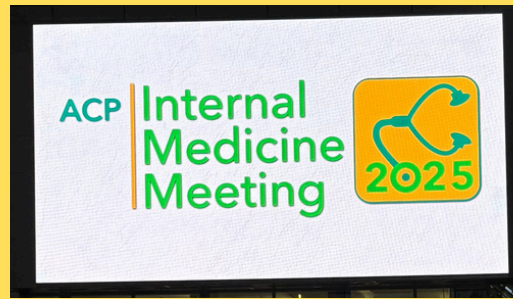
Amit Rajkarnikar, MD, Jonathan B. Vignes, MD; Louisiana State University, Lafayette, LA.

2nd place - *Leptospirosis: An Uncommon Cause of Fever and Transaminitis in the Continental United States*

Allen Byl, Hope Oddo Moise, MD; Danielle Gilbert, DO, MPH; Michael Olejniczak, MD; Ashley Misky, DO; Tom Fox, MD; Alexa Lapointe, MD; Michael Modica, MD; Michelle Blyth, MD; Louisiana State University, New Orleans, LA.

3rd place - *Recurrent Chylothorax Secondary to Kaposi Sarcoma Infiltration of Thoracic Duct in AIDS Patient*

Gurtaj Mahil, Brandon Dang MD, Tamara Zaza MD, Victoria Lulich MD, Zachary Chandler DO, Kyle Happel MD, Shane Guillory MD; Louisiana State University, New Orleans, LA.



Internal Medicine Meeting 2025

The IM Meeting was in New Orleans and gave the Chapter an opportunity to welcome thousands of ACP members to the state. Our Governor, Dr. McLean, kicked off the week with a welcome for the Board of Governor's to help them navigate the local cuisine, dialect and music scene, including a great band that was enthusiastically received by all of the ACP Governors.



Numerous **Louisiana ACP members** presented at the IM Meeting this year. The 2025 Jeopardy winners and Chapter members, Joel Joseph (PGY 1), Daniel Zamanian (PGY 2) and Arpita Pawa (PGY 3), represented Louisiana and Willis Knighton for the second year in a row in the Doctor's Dilemma Competition, and advanced to the semi-final round!



White Coat Wednesday 2025

May 21, 2025

Join us on May 21 at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge for White Coat Wednesday - Our Physicians' Day at the Capitol. Events start at 7:30 AM at the Pentagon Barracks.

[Register Here](#)

Excellence in Internal Medicine Award

Each year the Louisiana Chapter recognizes an outstanding student at each medical school that chooses to participate. These students were chosen and recognized by their institution. Each winner is presented with a certificate and \$500 check from the Louisiana Chapter ACP. The Chapter wishes each of you the very best in the next steps of your career.

Congratulations to the 2025 winners of the Excellence Internal Medicine Award!

Nathan Au-Yeung - Queensland/Ochsner
Christopher Honore - LSU Shreveport
Anna Whitehead - LSU New Orleans
Haley Watts - Tulane

2025 ACP Advocacy Priorities

ACP's advocacy priorities seek to promote policy reforms on the federal level through legislative, regulatory, and executive actions that benefit the overall health and well-being of patients, physicians, and the practice of internal medicine.

- [Protect Medicaid: Join a national texting campaign](#)
- [Action Alert: Share Your Story to Preserve Affordable Student Loan Repayment Options and PSLF](#)
- [Protect Patient Access to Care and Coverage for Medicaid Enrollees](#)
- [Urge Congress to Support the Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act](#)
- [Support Funding for the NHSC and THCGME Programs](#)

Use the links above to access more information about each issue or visit [ACP's Advocacy](#) page for all resources.



2025 ACP Leadership Day

The Louisiana Chapter had a wonderful delegation this year. The Chapter provided partial support for 2 residents and 2 practicing physicians to participate in ACP Leadership Day. The cohort had connections to several districts in our state, providing knowledge and experience in healthcare in both urban and rural settings. The delegation had productive meetings with members of the Louisiana legislative offices and advocated for ACP's National healthcare priorities, including:

- Reduce administrative burden on physicians
- Support physician payment
- Improve access to care for patients
- Strengthen the physician workforce
- Reduce the burden of student debt

ACP News

Annals Publishes CDC Immunization Schedules, Stresses the Importance of Vaccination

In a commentary published today, Drs. Christine Laine and Amir Qaseem, sound the alarm over the threat of continued vaccine misinformation and declining immunization rates. The authors reference scientific studies and even quote the wisdom of our Founding Fathers to make a compelling case for vaccination. The editorial is accompanied by the CDC immunization schedules. Full text is freely available at <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/ANNALS-25-01576>.

New ACP Paper Recommends Ways on How to Be Effective Advocates Through Collective Action

In a new paper, “Empowering Physicians Through Collective Action: A Position Paper from the American College of Physicians,” ACP recommends ways for physicians to be efficient advocates for their patients and their profession through collective action. The paper discusses the growing frustration among patients and physicians regarding the U.S. healthcare system and explores collective action as a means of rectifying the environment. ACP emphasizes that the primary goal of collective empowerment actions by physicians should be to guarantee that patients have access to safe, affordable, and quality care. This paper is published in the Annals of Internal Medicine. <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/ANNALS-24-03973>

ACP also states that physicians must be included in executive positions and on the boards of hospitals and health systems, and have real collaborations with health system leaders. Additionally, ACP supports the rights of physicians to engage in joint activities to raise issues about health and safety, working conditions, and other matters without backlash from their employer. ACP also supports the right of physicians to engage in responsible collective bargaining, including joining a union or bargaining unit. Finally, ACP supports the right of independent practicing physicians to negotiate with health insurance plans regarding the quality of patient care.

Save the Date

2026 Annual Scientific Meeting

Friday, January 30, 2026

LSU Center for Advanced Learning & Simulation
New Orleans

2026 Annual Resident and Student Meeting

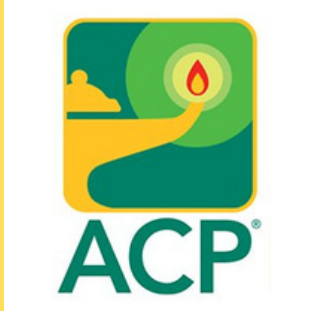
Saturday, January 31, 2026

LSU Center for Advanced Learning & Simulation
New Orleans



1998 Louisiana Laureate William M. Wilder

William M. Wilder of Shreveport, a 1998 Louisiana Laureate Award winner, passed away on March 30, 2025. His full obituary can be found [here](#).



ACP Resources

2025 ACP Advocacy Priorities

I.M. Emotional Support Hub

Financial Well-being

Telehealth Resources

Integrating Behavioral and Mental Health into Primary Care

Practice Resources

Clinical Information Resources

Substance Use Disorder Education

AI Resource Hub

Get Involved

Committee Opportunities Available

We currently have openings on the following committees:

- **Membership Committee:** Help us grow all member classes and engage our community
- **Awards Committee:** Recognize excellence in our field
- **Wellness Committee:** Promote member well-being and professional fulfillment
- **Early Career Physician Committee:** Support those in the first 16 years of their medical careers
- **Health and Public Policy Committee:** Shape our advocacy efforts and respond to critical policy issues that affect the practice of internal medicine

Why Serve on a Committee?

Committee service offers numerous benefits:

- **Greater Chapter Involvement:** Be part of shaping our society's future
- **Expanded Professional Network:** Build lasting relationships with colleagues across specialties and career stages
- **Chapter Growth:** Contribute directly to strengthening our medical community
- **Professional Development:** Gain leadership experience and enhance your CV
- **Personal Fulfillment:** Make a difference in an area you're passionate about

Minimal Time Commitment

Most committees require less than 2 hours per month of your time, making it manageable even for busy medical professionals.

To learn more or volunteer for a committee, please contact Sarah Wardrop, Executive Director at laacpchaptermeeting@gmail.com. We'd be happy to discuss which committee might best match your interests and expertise. Your involvement makes the Louisiana ACP Chapter stronger!

Upcoming Dates

2026 Annual Scientific Meeting

January 30, 2026
New Orleans

2026 Annual Resident & Student Meeting

January 31, 2026
New Orleans

IMM 2026

April 16 - 18, 2026
San Francisco, CA

Stay Connected

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Louisiana
Chapter