

**Winter 2026**

**E- Newsletter**

## **Governor's Message**



**The Louisiana Chapter has been off and running with the new year. We ended January with our annual meeting. I hope everyone enjoyed the new format and breakout sessions. The speakers were all outstanding and I certainly look forward to next year's meeting. Our annual meeting was followed by the student and resident posters and presentations. We had over 150 submissions from all over the state. The cases were incredible and Louisiana will be well represented at IMM 2026.**

**I want to personally thank our planning committees for both the chapter meeting and the resident and student meeting. Our resolute members are what makes the Louisiana Chapter strong.**

**I encourage everyone to comment on the resolutions that will be presented at the BOG meeting in April, and I look forward to seeing everyone in San Francisco for IMM 2026.**

**Warm Regards,  
Angela McLean MD FACP**

# 2026 Annual Scientific Meeting

## LSU CALS Building - New Orleans

January 30, 2026

The Annual Meeting was held as a hybrid meeting on January 30, 2026 at the LSU CALS Building in New Orleans. In total, there were 112 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, oncology and palliative care. Our keynote speaker, Dr. George Abraham, MD MPH MACP, Emeritus President ACP gave a wonderful talk focused on embracing international medical graduates. The afternoon highlights updates in infectious disease, medical misinformation, AL in healthcare, GI, nephrology and MSK. Meeting handouts are all available on the [Meeting Hub](#). And don't forget to complete the survey and [claim your CME!](#)

The Friday evening cocktail reception honored the 2026 Louisiana Laureate Award winners, Venkat Banda, MD FACP and Angela Johnson, MD FACP.

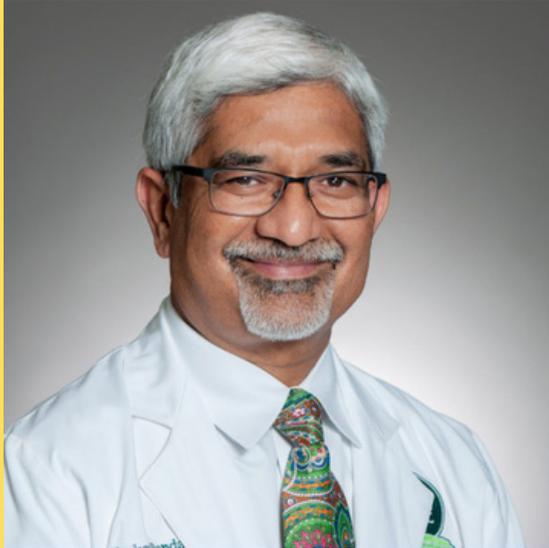
The Chapter held a fund drive to support the Second Harvest Food Bank. Thank you to all who participated, the donations were greatly appreciated! This is a small way that the Chapter can have an impact on the community in which the Annual Meeting is held. There is still time to donate!



[Donate Here!](#)

\$1 provides 3 meals.

# 2026 Louisiana Laureate Awards Winners



**Venkat Banda, MD FACP**

unable to attend



**Angela Johnson, MD FACP**

with Lee Engel  
and Angela McLean

# 2026 Resident and Student Meeting

The Resident and Student Meeting was held on Saturday, January 31 at the LSU CALS Building in New Orleans. There were over 130 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, *“When the Heart and Brain Collide: Atrial-Esophageal Fistula, Air Embolism, STEMI, and Takotsubo Syndrome Following Atrial Fibrillation Ablation”* presented by **Syed Yasir Shah from St. Francis Medical Center** in Monroe, qualified to represent the Louisiana Chapter in the National Poster Competition at IMM 2026 in San Francisco.



The meeting concluded with an exciting Jeopardy contest. Congratulations to the 2026 Louisiana Chapter ACP Jeopardy Winner, **Baton Rouge General!** The team represented the Louisiana Chapter in the National Doctor's Dilemma Competition at IMM2026 in San Francisco.

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



Baton Rouge General Jeopardy Team!

# 2026 Resident Student Meeting Abstract Winners

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS – STUDENTS

1<sup>st</sup> place - *DGI - Suspicion is Key*

**Jessica Altman**, Meghana Rao MD, Deepa Bhatnagar MD; Tulane University, New Orleans LA.

2<sup>nd</sup> place - *From Retained Gonads to Seminoma: Timing of Gonadectomy and Cancer Risk in Complete Androgen Insensitivity Syndrome*

**Sachin Sengupta**, Lauren Bradley; Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA.

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS – RESIDENTS

### SESSION 1

1<sup>st</sup> place - *Crackles Beneath the Surface: Pneumomediastinum in Rapidly Progressive Dermatomyositis-ILD*

Kristen Williams, **Erika Haviland MD**, Victoria McCray MD, Brandon Retif MD; Louisiana State University, New Orleans, LA.

## ORAL PRESENTATIONS – RESIDENTS

### SESSION 2

1<sup>st</sup> place - *Persistent and Protracted: A Case of Severe Ferric Carboxymaltose-Induced Hypophosphatemia*

**Dhruv Gandhi**, Binod Mehta, Ram Kumar, Edward Pierce, Navin Ramlal; St Francis Medical Center, Monroe, LA.

## MYSTERY CASE PRESENTATIONS – RESIDENTS

1<sup>st</sup> place - *When the Heart and Brain Collide: Atrial-Esophageal Fistula, Air Embolism, STEMI, and Takotsubo Syndrome Following Atrial Fibrillation Ablation*

**Syed Yasir Shah**, Ahmad Kabir Mughal, MD; Sahibzada M. Qasim, MD; Pamraj Sharma, MD; Nauman Khalid, MD; Sarah Ahmad, MD; St Francis Medical Center, Monroe, LA.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS – STUDENTS

1<sup>st</sup> place - *When Pain Relief Turns Painful: Bilateral Hydronephrosis from NSAID-Induced Renal Papillary Necrosis*

**Bailey Gentile**, Ashley Williams, MD, Basel Tamimi, MD, Jonathan Orner, MD; Tulane University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA.

2<sup>nd</sup> place - *Toxic Encephalopathy and Associations with Calcineurin Inhibitors*

**Joshua FitzPatrick**, Gurtaj Mahil DO, Hanna Almoaswes MD, Caroline Neck MD, Salena Sinnasonne, Philip Doyle, Daniel Holmes MD; Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA.

3<sup>rd</sup> place - *Offshore Danger: A Fatal Case of Vibrio vulnificus Necrotizing Soft Tissue Infection and Bacteremia*

**Rachael Kramas**, Victoria Burke, MD FACP; Louisiana State University School of Medicine, New Orleans, LA.

## POSTER PRESENTATIONS – RESIDENTS

1<sup>st</sup> place - *Mega Rare: Bacillus megaterium Bacteremia*

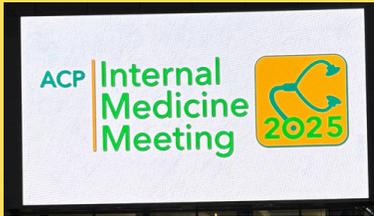
**Pranaya Pakala, MD**, Samhita Basavanhalli, Mitchel Capella, MD, Jeffery White, MD, Amanda Palermo, Shane Guillory, MD, Shane Sanne, DO; Louisiana State University Program, New Orleans, LA.

2<sup>nd</sup> place - *Cold Chest Wall Abscesses Unmask Disseminated Tuberculosis in an Immunocompetent Adult*

**Joenne Al Khoury**, Rithika Sayabugari, MD, Utkarsh Arora, MD, Karthik K. Reddy, MD; Baton Rouge General Hospital, Baton Rouge, LA.

3<sup>rd</sup> place - *Anorectal Plasmablastic Lymphoma: A Rare and Aggressive Entity with EBV and HIV Association and Poor Outcomes*

**Vy Luong**, Sravya Sri, Kuchipudi, MD, Simran Gandhi, MD, Courtney Morrow Vaccaro, MD, Archa Rajesh, DO, Melanie Bienvenu, MD, Shantell Ceaser-Ford, MD, Sydney Boudreaux; Louisiana State University, Lafayette, LA.



# Internal Medicine Meeting 2026

Join ACP and your colleagues in San Francisco, CA, April 16-18, 2026, at the annual marquee educational event for internal medicine physicians and subspecialists around the globe. Together we will share in three days of unparalleled professional revitalization and make invaluable connections with our internal medicine community.

- Refresh your clinical skills with unmatched hands-on learning opportunities
- Make inspiring, lifelong connections at receptions and networking events
- Earn CME credits and MOC points
- 

## Register for IMM Today

A flyer for the IMM 2026 reception. It features a stylized orange and white geometric logo at the top. The text reads: "JOIN US AT IMM 2026 for the Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana & Mississippi Chapters Reception". The location is "SAN FRANCISCO MARRIOTT MARQUIS 780 MISSION ST, 94103 ROOM SIERRA E-F". The date and time are "FRIDAY 7 PM 17 APRIL 2026". At the bottom, it says "ACP Chapters Collaboration" with the tagline "Leading Internal Medicine. Improving Lives." and "Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi Chapters".

JOIN US  
AT  
IMM 2026

for the Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana  
& Mississippi Chapters Reception

SAN FRANCISCO MARRIOTT MARQUIS  
780 MISSION ST, 94103  
ROOM SIERRA E-F

FRIDAY 7 PM 17 APRIL 2026

ACP Chapters Collaboration  
American College of Physicians  
Leading Internal Medicine. Improving Lives.  
Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi Chapters

# **Governor's Advisory Council**

**Congratulations and Welcome to the newest slate of elected Councilors!**

**The following physicians were elected to serve their first three-year term  
as Regional Councilor:**

**Dr. Evelyn Pryor – Shreveport  
Dr. Griffin Farrish – Northshore**

**The following physicians were elected to serve a second three-year term  
as Regional Councilor:**

**Dr. Tamika Detiege-Webb – New Orleans  
Dr. Aaron Ackley – Lake Charles/Lafayette  
Dr. Murthy Muthuswamy – At Large**

**At this time, the Alexandria seat is vacant.**

## **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 2026 winners of the Excellence  
Internal Medicine Award!**

**Pooja Pudukollu and Dhaval Patel - Ochsner/Queensland\***

**\*the award was split between the recipients**



# White Coat Wednesday 2026

May 20, 2026

Join us on May 20 at the Louisiana State Capitol in Baton Rouge Physicians' Day at the Capitol. Events start at 7:00 AM.

[Register Here](#)



## Spring 2026 Resolutions

We want to hear from you! Please provide your feedback regarding resolutions that will be considered at the Spring 2026 Board of Governors Meeting. The resolutions have been posted on ACP Online for your review and cover topics such as supporting permanent standard time, advocating for partial Medicare opt-out for physicians, and updating ACP's tobacco use prevention and control policy.

After considering the intent of each resolution, please provide your feedback indicating your support or opposition by completing the electronic response form **by March 1st**.

Your input will be used as part of testimony on behalf of the chapter. Resolutions provide our members an opportunity to focus attention at the national level on particular issues or topics that concern you and gives grassroots members a voice, allowing you to shape College policy that impacts the practice of internal medicine. Involvement in the resolutions feedback process is essential for maintaining a responsive and effective professional organization that truly represents its members.

(NOTE: Proposed resolutions should be considered confidential information and are intended to be viewed by ACP members only. Under no circumstances should proposed resolutions be shared with the news media or social networking media, nor should they be shared with other individuals and organizations. Proposed resolutions do not represent ACP policy.)

[Read/Comment on Spring 2026 BOG Resolutions](#)

# **2026 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.

## **Protecting Patient Access to Immunizations**

Support policies that would bolster evidence-based science by preserving coverage, increasing uptake, and restoring research for safe and effective immunizations.

## **Ensuring Patient Affordability and Access to Health Care**

Make health care more affordable by extending enhanced health insurance premium tax credits, preserving access to telehealth services, and lowering patient cost-sharing for primary care and preventive health care services.

## **Strengthening the Internal Medicine Physician Workforce**

All patients should have access to a physician who can deliver primary, whole-person, comprehensive, and longitudinal care. Congress should invest in federal programs that support and expand the internal medicine and primary care physician workforce.

## **Improving Payment for Internal Medicine Physicians**

Improve patients' access to care by ensuring fair and appropriate physician compensation, including annual inflationary adjustments. Modernize laws requiring the implementation of budget neutral payment cuts in the physician fee schedule (PFS); and allow physicians to waive patient cost sharing associated with physician services in Medicare.

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

ACP is tracking state legislation on key state health policy topics under consideration across the country and has state fact sheets available.

[Track state legislation](#)

[State Advocacy Fact Sheet](#)



## CALL FOR RESOLUTIONS FALL 2026

Are you concerned about a practice or clinical issue or have an idea you would like to suggest? If so, consider submitting a resolution to ACP. Initiating a resolution provides ACP members an opportunity to focus attention at the ACP national level on an issue or topic. Participating in the resolutions process allows members to shape College policy that impacts the practice of internal medicine.

Not sure how to begin drafting a resolution? The [ACP Board of Governors Resolutions Guide for ACP Members](#) explains the essential steps. The Guide provides a short overview and highlights ACP resources you must use.

Once drafted, members must submit resolutions to their Governor and/or chapter council. International members without a chapter must submit proposed resolutions to the Global Engagement Committee. Approval from a chapter council or the Global Engagement Committee is required to move resolutions forward to ACP national. The deadline for submitting new resolutions to be heard at the Fall 2026 Board of Governors Meeting is **March 30, 2026**.

# **Dr. Frank P. Incaprera**

Frank P. Incaprera of New Orleans, a past Louisiana ACP Governor, 1993 Louisiana Laureate Award winner and long time leader in the Louisiana ACP Chapter, passed away on October 26, 2025. His full obituary can be found [here](#).



## **ACP Resources**

**2026 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](mailto: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

### **ACP Leadership Day**

May 12-13, 2026  
Washington, DC

### **White Coat Wednesday**

May 20, 2026  
Baton Rouge, LA

### **IMM 2026**

April 16 - 18, 2026  
San Francisco, CA

## Stay Connected

Sarah Wardrop  
Executive Director

laacpchaptermeeting@gmail.com

225-364-9480

[lachapter.acponline.org](http://lachapter.acponline.org)



@LAChapterAcp



la\_acp



ACP

---

Louisiana  
Chapter