ACP American College of Physicians
Leading Internal Medicine, Improving Lives | South Carolina Chapter

Dear ACP SC Chapter Members,

October 28 was National Internal Medicine Day. I hope you paused to celebrate and recognize the essential role you play each day in your patients' health care journeys across our very complex health care system. Internists are the cornerstone of health care. So, thank you!

It has been an exciting and productive month for our South Carolina Chapter. Our annual SC ACP Scientific Meeting was held October 16–17, 2026, in Greenville. What a fantastic meeting! We had a phenomenal lineup of speakers, along with a poster competition and clinical vignettes from our Internal Medicine residents, students, fellows, and Early Career Physicians from across South Carolina. There has been significant growth in the number of Internal Medicine residency programs across South Carolina, and we were pleased to have participation from most of those programs.

We were fortunate to have **LeRoi Hicks, MD, MPH, MACP, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer of the American College of Physicians**, join us at the meeting. Dr. Hicks took the time to meet one-on-one with many attendees to hear what they value and look for in their ACP membership. **Jason Goldman, MD, MACP, Immediate Past President of the ACP**, was also in attendance and spoke about vaccines and advocacy. Drs. Hicks and Goldman also led the Town Hall meeting, which generated tremendous interaction among those in attendance.





Larry Mohr, MD, ScD, FACP, FACEP, delivered the Charles Bryan Lecture. Dr. Mohr served as White House Physician to Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, and George W. Bush and shared reflections from a distinguished career in medicine and public service.



I would like to thank the Planning Committee, our council, the residents and students who participated in our posters and abstracts as well as Doctor's Dilemma, vendors, and all our attendees for making the meeting such a great success!

Awards and Recognition





At our annual awards reception, we recognize leaders and emerging leaders in ACP from across the state for the work they do. Please join me in congratulating the following physicians on their awards:

- **Early Career Physician Award:** Leah Reid, MD, FACP, FHM
- **Laureate Award:** Bradley Martin, MD, MHA
- **James McFarland Award:** Meredith Eicken, MD, MHP

Please also join me in congratulating the winners of the scientific abstract competition:

Best Resident Overall:

Emina Catic, DO — Aiken
Advancing Noninvasive Screening: An Updated FIB-4 Score for Detecting Advanced Liver Fibrosis in Adults with Diabetes
**This resident will receive a stipend to attend National ACP*

Clinical Vignette — Resident Category

- **1st Place — Isabella Pittman, MD — USC-Prisma Greenville**
  Heparin Resistance from Acquired Antithrombin Deficiency: Refractory Catheter Thrombosis Limiting Hemodialysis in ESRD
- **2nd Place — Zada Zhong, MD — MUSC-Charleston**
  The Double-Edged Platelet: Sequential Ischemic Stroke and Intracranial Hemorrhage in Essential Thrombocythemia and Acquired von Willebrand Syndrome
- **3rd Place — Raksha Chatakondi, MD — USC-Prisma Greenville**
  Confusion to Clarity: Immune checkpoint inhibitor encephalitis following cemiplimab treatment

Research — Resident Category

- **Emina Catic, DO — Aiken**
  Advancing Noninvasive Screening: An Updated FIB-4 Score for Detecting Advanced Liver Fibrosis in Adults with Diabetes

Medical Student Category

- **1st Place — Sarisha Menon — MUSC-Charleston**
  A Diagnostic Challenge: Disseminated Varicella-Zoster Virus Presenting as Progressive Cutaneous Ulcerations
- **2nd Place — Grace Bader — MUSC-Charleston**
  Average Daily Morphine Milligram Equivalent and Acute Care Utilization in Sickle Cell Disease

The ACP chapter was recognized at the Fall Governors meeting with the GOLD Chapter Excellence Award. Thank you to everyone who makes this possible.

Advocacy and Health Policy

Each state chapter has been asked to name a Chapter Advocacy Leader. This leader will work closely with the Health and Public Policy Chair (HPPC). I am pleased to share that Dr. Kizer Stovall will serve as our new Chapter Advocacy leader. She will work closely with our HPPC, Dr. Jillian Sansbury. If you are interested in serving on these committees, please reach out to me, Dr. Kizer Stovall or Dr. Jillian Sansbury.

Some of the Advocacy work ACP is currently working on includes:

- Ensuring Physicians help guide responsible development and use of AI in Medicine
- Budget neutrality cuts in the proposed Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and changes to the federal grant making process
- ACP joined other medical organizations in a lawsuit challenging new Medicaid work requirements that could eliminate Medicaid coverage for people with serious/chronic health conditions.
- As HHS continues to make changes to the USPSTF, ACP calls for transparency in task force appointment process and decisions be grounded in evidence based, science backed medicine.
- ACP joined over 150 state and national organizations to object to the proposed changes to Modifier 25 that would reduce the amount paid when an E/M service and procedure are performed in the same visit.

Residency Council

Fall brings more than changing leaves; it brings a new generation of leaders to the SC ACP Chapter. Since our inaugural meeting in July, the Resident Council has moved from introductions to action. In August, members launched five resident-led subcommittees - Advocacy, Research, Education, Wellness, and Newsletter/Communication- each designed to give residents across the state a direct voice in shaping the chapter and a clear path to lead. If the chapter's goal is to be every member's professional home, residents are now helping build it. Council members also had the opportunity to meet in person at the SC ACP Scientific Meeting in Greenville, strengthening connections within the chapter. The Council's third meeting is scheduled for the coming weeks, with subcommittees continuing to develop their initiatives and identify new avenues for resident involvement. Residents interested in participating are encouraged to reach out to the Council.

Meghana Adusumilli, MD
Resident of MUSC Lancaster

Emina Catic, DO
Aiken Regional

Wellness Corner




"We cannot pour from an empty cup. Take care of yourself first."

With that in mind, our annual SC ACP meeting included several wellness activities focused on personal well-being during a busy workday. We started with a social on Thursday evening, followed by awards, celebration, and dancing on Friday night at the Awards Reception—and we saw some wonderful moves by some of our great docs!
On Saturday morning, October 17, we gathered for a wellness walk at Falls Park on the Reedy. Aiken residents grabbed the cup for getting up so early to join us for a beautiful walk along the river. Stretches are important during a busy day, too, so we took a few minutes during the meeting breaks for mindful breathing and stretching.
Our Wellness Committee is committed to connecting with you and learning what activities you would like offered at the chapter level to help you feel connected to the local internal medicine community. Please complete the survey below to help us better understand your needs.

Wellness Survey

Attached is a sheet with breathing techniques and stretches you can use during your busy workday, along with some pictures from our event.
Hope to see you at the next annual meeting. Be well.

Poornema Ramasamy
SC ACP Wellbeing Chair

Membership-IMG

Recognizing the Essential Contributions of IMGs in South Carolina

October 19–23 marks **IMG Recognition Week**. Across the United States and right here at home in South Carolina, International Medical Graduates are integral to the health of our patients, the rigor of our training programs, and the leadership of our medical communities.

Nationwide, IMGs make up roughly one-quarter of practicing U.S. physicians and nearly one-third of internal medicine physicians. More than 17,000 IMGs train in residency and fellowship programs at over 770 teaching hospitals.

In South Carolina, these figures translate into real bedside impact:

- **Bridging Access Gaps:** IMGs serve rural and underserved communities where physician shortages are greatest.
- **Hospital and Acute Care:** IMG internists and hospitalists care for complex, multimorbid patients across our health systems**.**
- **Academic and Clinical Leadership:** IMGs serve as program leaders, educators, physician-scientists, and contributors to research and quality improvement.

From Recognition to Sustainable Support

Honoring our international colleagues requires more than appreciation; it demands meaningful, ongoing professional investment. Navigating modern medical training and practice presents distinct challenges, from transitioning into U.S. clinical workflows and adapting to unfamiliar health systems to accessing leadership opportunities.

To build a resilient internal medicine workforce, our medical societies must proactively foster environments where diverse physicians can grow from early learners into established department leaders, mentors, and scholars.

Our health system is fundamentally stronger because of the dedication, cultural breadth, and clinical expertise that International Medical Graduates bring to South Carolina every day. As we celebrate IMG Recognition Week, let us continue building a collaborative community that champions their achievements and invests in their long-term professional success.

Shayan Sinha Mahapatra, MD
Chair, SC ACP International Medical Graduate (IMG) Committee

Community Service/Philanthropy

Each year, the SC ACP Chapter selects an organization in the city hosting our annual meeting to support through fundraising and contributions. This year, we chose Jasmine Road, an organization that supports women healing from exploitation and addiction as they build a home, find community, and create a path toward a hopeful future. We were honored to contribute to Jasmine Road and support its important work in the community.

A Closing Challenge

I leave you with a quote:
"*Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.*"
- Helen Keller

ACP continues to advocate for policies that protect our patients and improve healthcare delivery. I encourage you to consider getting involved in that work if you are not already. Our collective participation can make a difference. If you would like to serve on a SC ACP committee, please reach out to me.

In your service,
Kim Davis
SC Governor, American College of Physicians