

ACP Japan Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting

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Tokyo, Japan

Global Ambassador Reflections by: Irene Ma, MD, FRCPC, FACP, FAIUM

I was honored to attend the 2025 American College of Physicians (ACP) Japan Chapter Annual Scientific Meeting—an outstanding event featuring an educational program that is second to none. Attendees represented the full medical education continuum, from medical students to esteemed faculty.

As I reflect on my time at the meeting, a few thoughts come to mind. First, many of the challenges faced by internal medicine physicians in North America are, reassuringly, also shared by colleagues in Japan—for example, the need for appropriate recognition of the critical role that general internal medicine physicians play in health care, the ongoing struggle to achieve work–life balance, and the importance of career counseling and mentorship for learners. The Student Committee members delivered an exemplary series of presentations addressing work–life balance and gender equity, grounded in scholarly approaches including surveys, literature review, and syllabus analysis. Cultural differences and societal norms—as well as different approaches adopted by Japanese and North American physicians—were thoughtfully highlighted.

Second, ACP serves as an outstanding and unique hub for bringing together an international community of physicians. Through ACP, physicians across the globe can share evidence-based guidelines, promote the highest quality of care, unite international chapters to explore shared challenges and priorities, and access top-tiered educational content—whether at national or chapter meetings. Reports from the Global Physicians Scholar Program and the Rising Star Scholarship Program, presented by Drs. Tetsuhiro Yoshino, Yo Ishihara, and Satoshi Inaba, are a testament to ACP’s successful global network.

Third, leadership and role modeling truly matter. It was a tremendous honor to witness the enthusiastic leadership of both students and faculty at the chapter level. This was evident in the flawless execution of the very successful meeting by Scientific Program Committee Chair Dr. Yuka Kitano and her group, the evidence-based preventive medicine work by Dr. Mikito Yaegashi and his team, and the impressive contributions of the Student Committee, chaired by Masahiro Kanamoto. It was also wonderful to see how many learners expressed their gratitude for the mentorship of Dr. Harumi Gomi, Governor of the Japan Chapter and its first female Governor. Additionally, it was inspiring to see so many past Governors actively engaged in chapter activities: I had the honor of meeting Japan’s first Governor, Dr. Kiyoshi Kurokawa.

The 2 days were packed with high-quality educational content, including a standout interactive case presentation by Rhode Island Chapter Governor, Dr. Kwame Dapaah-Afriye, which elicited an impressive level of engagement from the learners. Abstracts and

other presentations throughout the meeting were also superbly presented. This memorable chapter meeting will always remind me of the incredible opportunities ACP provides for internal medicine physicians to connect and collaborate. I am deeply grateful not only for the experience but also for the hospitality of my hosts and the honor bestowed upon me.



Dr. Ma presenting a gift to Japan Chapter Governor, Dr. Harumi Gomi