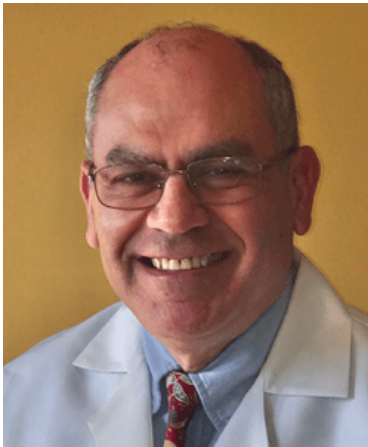


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## Governor's Letter



Dear Colleagues,

As my term as a Governor for the Western Pennsylvania Region comes to an end in a few weeks, I would like to express my gratitude for being given the tremendous honor and privilege of serving in this capacity. The interactions and the lessons I learned are priceless. The 2025 class has been able to achieve multiple collaborations and resolutions, of which I'm most proud of the largest ACP multistate survey on effective interventions to combat burnout, especially amongst primary care internists. The findings should serve as a roadmap for reforming the environment of the practice of medicine. I want to thank my colleagues Dr. Rachel Ramirez, Dr. Linda Thomas, Dr. Jennifer McComb, Dr. Amy Davis, Dr. William Surkis, Mr. Ray Saputelli, and Mrs. Zoe Ellis, as well as prior Governors and the Council Members.

Most of us started our affiliation with the ACP by joining educational activities, taking advantage of the numerous board preparation resources, learning the skills of writing abstracts, presenting posters, etc. While many organizations have similar activities, the ACP has a clear edge with its commitment to advocacy for better care

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In this aspect, we acknowledge and mourn the loss of Mr. John Nikoloff, the founder and leader of ERG Partners, who played a key role in ACP advocacy in Pennsylvania for many decades. John was born in Harrisburg in 1950 and spent most of his life lobbying for the PA legislature on healthcare issues. Mr. Nikoloff nurtured and trained members of his partners who will continue this vital mission: Nicole Wilbourn, Brendan Shubert, and Nicholas Wachinski.

My long career in medicine has taught me that challenges never go away, they just change in priority and severity. The most pressing current concerns are physicians' loss of autonomy, financialization of healthcare, the mounting administrative burdens, the barriers to equitable and affordable care to all patients, and the surging epidemic of mis- and disinformation leading to the reemergence of preventable diseases. We can't afford to be passive observers; we all must join arms to protect our most sacred profession and obligations to our patients.

I urge every member to support the work of the ACP by viewing all communications, sharing your challenges and proposed solutions, mentoring our younger colleagues, judging abstracts and posters, speaking at educational webinars, joining and participating in committees and council activities, joining advocacy and community education activities, as well as nominating colleagues for Fellowship, Mastership, and awards.

I like to end by welcoming and pledging to support the rising governor, Dr. Jennifer McComb, an accomplished intensivist and well-known amongst the ACP community for moderating multiple Doctors' Dilemma sessions at regional, state, and national levels.

**Ibrahim Isaac Ghobrial, MBBCh, FACP**

Governor, Pennsylvania ACP Western Region  
2021-2025

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## March 2025 Legislative Update

*Nick Wachinski, Brendan Schubert and Nicole Wilbourn, ERG Partners*

This legislative session has opened in a number of unique and unpredicted ways. Perhaps none so unpredicted or unique as beginning this session without our friend and partner John Nikoloff. After more than two decades of dedicated hard work and

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his voice ringing loud to the conversation. He will be missed, but his work will continue through ERG Partners and its commitment to PA-ACP. We hope you will join us as we remember John throughout our efforts in the hallways of the General Assembly this session.

Following the November 2024 elections, the Democrats were poised to open the session by holding a razor thin 102-101 majority in the House of Representatives while the Republicans were preparing to return to the Senate with a commanding 28-22 majority. However, as has been the case in the General Assembly over the last several years, nothing is as it seems when it comes to the composition of membership. Senator Ryan Aument (R-Lancaster) retired his seat to join the Dave McCormick team as State Director and Representative Matt Gergley (D-Allegheny) untimely and unexpectedly passed away. These changes to the membership have resulted in an uncharacteristically slow beginning to session.

Special elections are scheduled to fill both vacancies on March 25, 2025. With control of the House in the balance, neither Chamber has been quick to act on anything and will watch the outcome of the elections with anticipation. All predictions indicate that the Gergley seat will remain in Democrat control and the Aument seat will remain in Republican control, which will result in no changes to the composition of either the House or Senate.

In early February, Governor Shapiro delivered his budget address identifying his budget and policy priorities for 2025. Proposing a budget in excess of \$50 billion, Governor Shapiro announced his commitment to work force development and medical care delivery. His budget proposal makes historically high investments in both arenas. However, during his remarks to the legislature, he also announced an interest in expanding the practice of certified nurse practitioners (CRNPs), although his comments were opaque and lacked any detail on the proposal or his commitment to the proposal.

Working on the foundation of efforts that have been historically framed by PA-ACP and ERG Partners on the issue of CRNP scope of practice expansion, we joined a coalition of other medical professional societies as leaders on the issue. While there is a long road in this session yet to be played out, ERG Partners is confident that the issue is well managed and will be able to be controlled to the benefit of all members of PA-ACP. As we indicated earlier, our mantra this session are the words John so often used, the work will continue. You can support this effort as PA-ACP members

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are forthcoming and which have shown huge historical successes for the Chapter, its physicians and patients.

We have also been focusing on solutions to the medical malpractice crisis combatting the effects of the venue rules change and we have been focusing on ensuring that the ACA protections and current Medicaid funding levels in Pennsylvania do not cease, despite efforts at the Federal level to walk these crucial programs back.

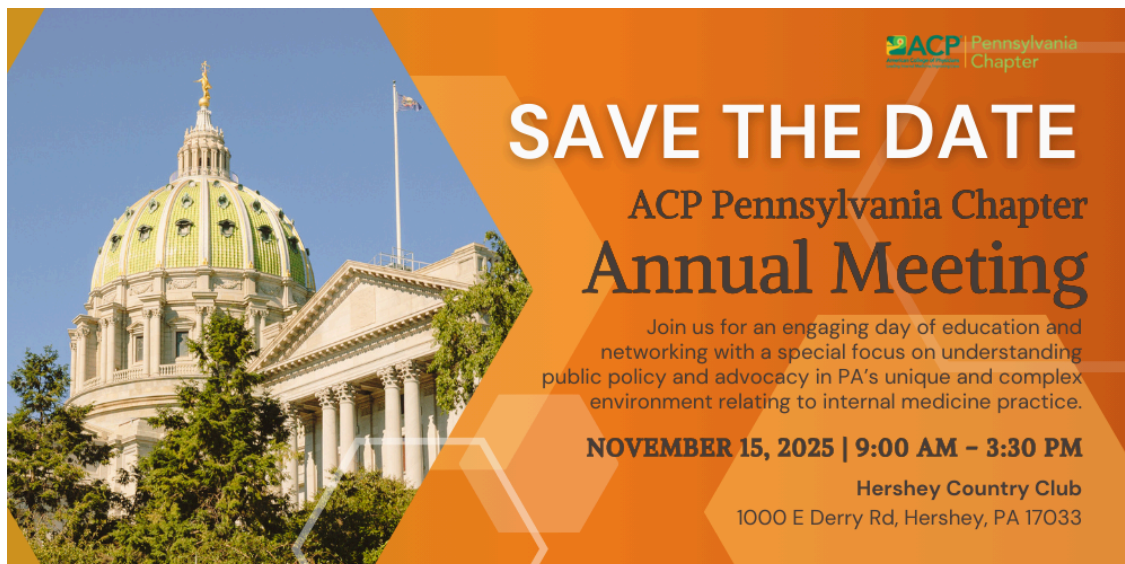
You can best help the Chapter's advocacy efforts, by becoming involved with Keystone Contact for ongoing updates on key policy issues. This program will facilitate your direct engagement with your elected officials. Please get involved by signing up at [Keystone Contacts Network – PA-ACP](#). This will ensure you are kept up to date on key issues and provide opportunities to get involved.


More information, regular legislative/advocacy reports, news, and details on these and other public policy issues are available on the PA-ACP Chapter website at [Advocacy – Legislative Priorities – PA-ACP](#) and [Take Action and Find Your Legislator](#).

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## Save the Date for the Annual Scientific Meeting

The poster features a photograph of the Pennsylvania State Capitol building on the left. The right side has an orange background with white and dark blue text. The ACP Pennsylvania Chapter logo is in the top right corner. The main text reads 'SAVE THE DATE' in large white letters, followed by 'ACP Pennsylvania Chapter Annual Meeting' in dark blue. Below that, it says 'Join us for an engaging day of education and networking with a special focus on understanding public policy and advocacy in PA's unique and complex environment relating to internal medicine practice.' The date and time are 'NOVEMBER 15, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM' and the location is 'Hershey Country Club, 1000 E Derry Rd, Hershey, PA 17033'.

 **SAVE THE DATE**  
**ACP Pennsylvania Chapter**  
**Annual Meeting**

Join us for an engaging day of education and networking with a special focus on understanding public policy and advocacy in PA's unique and complex environment relating to internal medicine practice.

**NOVEMBER 15, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM**  
Hershey Country Club  
1000 E Derry Rd, Hershey, PA 17033

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)**ACP IM Meeting Reception***April 4, 2025 - 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm*

New Orleans Marriott - Studio 2

On behalf of the Delaware and Pennsylvania ACP Chapters, we invite you to attend a joint reception being held during ACP's IM 2025 Meeting.

[Register Here](#)**Southeastern Region Medical Student Networking Event***April 17, 2025 - 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm*

Frankford Hall - Philadelphia, PA

[Register Here](#)**Lunch and Learn Webinar**

Multidisciplinary Care in Parkinson's Disease

*May 21, 2025 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm*[Register Here](#)**Lunch and Learn Webinar**

Management of Fibromyalgia for the Primary Care Physician

*June 11, 2025 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm*[Register Here](#)**Lunch and Learn Webinar**

Making the Invisible Visible: A Communication Approach for Working with Patients with Invisible Illnesses

*July 16, 2025 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm*[Register Here](#)**SAVE THE DATE - Southeastern Region Poster Day**

October 4, 2025

Lankenau Medical Center: The Annenberg Center for Medical Education

More details coming soon!

**SAVE THE DATE - Eastern Region Poster Day**

October 18, 2025

Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine

More details coming soon!

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October 25, 2025

UPMC Mercy

More details coming soon!

### **SAVE THE DATE - 2025 Annual Meeting**

November 15, 2025

Hershey Country Club

More details coming soon!

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## **Spring Day of Giving Recap**

The PA-ACP Eastern Region and The Wright Centers for Community Health and Graduate Medical Education partnered once again to host the second annual Spring into a Day of Giving Pop-Up Food Pantry at Weston Field in Scranton on March 14.

With the support of about 20 volunteers, the event provided 70 bags of nonperishable food, 15 coats for children, and “Bags of Warmth” filled with winter essentials. When supplies ran low, eight families received gift cards for local grocery stores. Community members also accessed vital resources, including dental and behavioral health information, Narcan, and health insurance assistance led by Nicole Sekelsky from The Wright Center. Representatives from the City of Scranton, including Mayor Paige Cagnetti and outreach coordinator Channel Kearse, were on hand to offer additional support, alongside Kecia Snyder from SHARE of Lackawanna County.

Dr. Sunny Kumar, an internal medicine resident at The Wright Center, emphasized the importance of giving back: “My dream is to serve the community, not just as a doctor but as a volunteer.”

This growing initiative continues to connect local families with essential resources, reinforcing PA-ACP’s commitment to community health and outreach.

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## ACP Resources

### ACP Physician Peer Coaching

Now Available! Member-exclusive coaching support for ACP physician members.

Coaching positively impacts physician professional development and fulfillment, well-being, practice performance, and patient outcomes. Invest in yourself and discover the transformative potential of coaching with ACP. [LEARN MORE.](#)

### Noteworthy Resources for Well-being

Looking to enhance well-being in your organization? ACP offers tailored resources to support individuals and teams. [LEARN MORE.](#)

### ACP Side Gig Hub

ACP is offering a new free service to provide ACP members with opportunities to expand their careers and income through non-clinical side gigs, specifically for physicians. [LEARN MORE.](#)

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## Stay Connected with PA-ACP!

### Follow Us on Social Media

Visit our social media pages to stay up to date with the latest news, events, and resources. This is a great way to connect with fellow physicians and participate in engaging discussions. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to stay engaged and informed.

### Visit Our Website

Check out our [website](#) for updates on upcoming events, advocacy efforts, and

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resources!

Join the conversation today and help us build a stronger PA-ACP community!

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For questions, please contact Zoe Ellis at [zellis@lutinemanagement.com](mailto:zellis@lutinemanagement.com)

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