

## Governor's Message

Wishing you all a very Happy Thanksgiving! We have been busy across the Michigan Chapter of ACP since our last newsletter. Thanks to all who joined us in Kalamazoo at the end of October for a great Annual Meeting and to our meeting co-chairs, Dr. Eric Edewaard, Dr. Rimma Polevoy-Davis and Dr. Kate Levy, and medical student programming co-chairs, Dr. Tucker Billups and Dr. Abby Entz. It was a great weekend of fun, friends, and updates in Internal Medicine and we are looking forward to returning to Traverse City next year. Save the date now - September 26-28, 2025. You can find more information about the 2024 meeting and winners of the abstract competitions, Doctor's Dilemma and Chapter Awards below. As future work on the educational front, we have several webinars planned in the upcoming months that we have highlighted below, and we look forward to opening abstract submissions soon for Resident and Medical Student Day planned for Friday, May 2nd in Troy.

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Zaroukian who was selected as the Governor-elect Designee. As the Governor-elect Designee, Mike will complete a year of training with the National office as our Governor-elect, and he will take over the role of Governor in April 2026. More information can be found below.

In addition, there is an important advocacy update below that I hope you will read. Earlier this month, there were two bills introduced in the Michigan House re: Medical Liability in the State of Michigan. House Bill 6085 proposes changes to expand non-economic damages awards and House Bill 6086 would expand the wrongful death act damages. If you would like to reach out to your representatives in the state, we have included a link to do so below. It will generate an email template that you can add your personal story to, or just elect to sign your name to and send via email.

On Thursday, November 28th the annual Healthcare Workers (HCW) vs. Hunger Challenge kicks off. This is a competition started by physicians to combat food insecurity. It's fun, easy to do, and benefits your local community.

If you would like to participate:

- Choose any local food pantry and make a donation between 11/28 and 12/3.
- Go to this [link](#) and record your donation with HCW vs. Hunger for Team IM Generous. No money goes through HCW vs. Hunger but they track the donations as part of the competition.
- The team with the highest total amount of donations between 11/28 and 12/3 wins the glass apple trophy and even if the IM team doesn't win, we have helped our local communities.

More info and the QR code to use to record your donation can be found in the newsletter below.

Happy Thanksgiving and wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy 2026!!!

Sarah E. Hartley, MD, MHPE, FACP

Governor

Michigan Chapter ACP

[sarahhartleyacp@gmail.com](mailto:sarahhartleyacp@gmail.com)

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Zaroukian, MACP, Governor-elect Designee

Dr. Zaroukian will start his term as Governor-elect after the Annual Business Meeting on April 5, 2025 and will begin his 4 year term as Governor in April 2026.

To learn more about the background and experience of our new Governor-elect Designee, see his biography and vision statement [here](#).



2024 MI-ACP and SHM-MI Annual Scientific Meeting Abstract Competition, Doctor's Dilemma ® Winners and Chapter Awards

Congratulations to the winners of the 2024 Annual Scientific Meeting abstract competition and Doctor's Dilemma ®. Please see below for the list of winners from both the resident and medical student categories.

**Resident Clinical Vignette Oral Presentation Winners:**

- **1st Place:** “A case of Small Bowel Obstruction as a complication of undiagnosed Sclerosing Mesenteritis”- Seyed Saeed Mahdavi, MD, Resident at Henry Ford St. John Hospital
- **2nd Place:** "Stroke-like Symptoms: Is There More to the Story?"- Ayema Haque, MD, Resident at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine Med-Peds
- **3rd Place:** “Unveiling Mycobacteria Chimaera- Intercellulare in an Immunocompetent Host”- Cameron Schaecher, MD, Resident at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

#### **Resident Research Oral Presentation Winners:**

- **1st Place:** “A retrospective, propensity-score-matched analysis of the outcomes and effect on length-of-stay of a newly created hospitalist medicine procedure service”- Saria Alazmeh, MBBS, Resident at Corewell Health- Grand Rapids/Michigan State University
- **2nd Place:** “One Small Step for a Man, One Giant Leap for Ending the HIV Epidemic”- Allison Malick, MD, Resident at Henry Ford Hospital Detroit
- **3rd Place:** “Primary resistance to nivolumab and ipilimumab in intermediate and poor risk metastatic renal cell carcinoma”- Abdullah Nasir, MD, Resident at Trinity Health Ann Arbor

#### **Resident Quality Improvement/Patient Safety/High Value Care Overall Winner:**

- “Initiation of Urate-Lowering Therapy in Patients Hospitalized with Gout Flare at a Single Center: Opportunity for Quality Improvement”- Ali Nasir, MD, Resident at Trinity Health Grand Rapids

#### **Resident Clinical Vignette Poster Winners:**

- **1st Place:** "Platypnea-orthodeoxia syndrome: A unique type of hypoxia"- Micaela Witte, MD, Resident at University of Michigan Med-Peds
- **2nd Place:** "A Rare Duo: An Atypical Case of Esophageal Adenocarcinoma in a patient with Lynch & Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Syndrome"- Nagasai Yalavarthi, MD, Resident at Detroit Medical Center/Wayne State University
- **3rd Place:** “Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CAR-T) Therapy: Groundbreaking Cancer Treatment”- Morgan Kiryakoza Nafso, MD, Resident at Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital

#### **Resident Research Poster Winners:**

- **1st Place:** "Is age restriction criteria applicable for RSV vaccine among adults with hematological malignancies? – Insights from Nationwide Inpatient Sample Database"- Nikhil Vojjala, MD, Resident at Trinity Health Oakland
- **2nd Place (Tie):** “Impact of Race and Ethnicity on the prescription of SGLT-2 inhibitors and ARNI in patients with Heart Failure”- Emmanuel Daniel, MD, Resident at Trinity Health Ann Arbor
- **2nd Place (Tie):** “Caring for Hospitalized Lactating Patients – An Assessment of Resident Experiences”-

Katerina Castillo, MD, Resident at University of Michigan  
Med-Peds

### **Medical Student Clinical Vignette Poster Winners:**

- **1st Place:** “A Glob of Glabrata; A Case of Candida glabrata Fungal Bezoar in an Immunocompromised patient on SGLT2 inhibitor”- Erin Bybee, Medical Student at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit
- **2nd Place:** “You Don’t Just Need Bifocals, You Need Penicillin – A Unique Case of Ocular Syphilis”- Malik Shehroz, Medical Student at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit
- **3rd Place:** “Leukocytoclastic Vasculitis: A Complication of Quetiapine”- Trevor Ruesch, Medical Student at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit

### **Medical Student Research Posters Winners:**

- **1st Place (Tie):** “Role of Novel Automated Methods to Detect Sleep Disordered Breathing Using Heart Rate Changes Among Patients who Use Chronotropic Medications”- Nabila Ahmed, Medical Student at Central Michigan University College of Medicine
- **1st Place (Tie):** “The Limited Effect of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Prescribing Medications for Opioid Use Disorder”- Kate Mesaros, Medical Student at Central Michigan University College of Medicine
- **2nd Place (Tie):** “Prenatal cannabis use and prenatal care: Results from a statewide population-based pregnancy cohort”- Zoe Harris, Medical Student at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine

- **2nd Place (Tie):** “Evaluating Medical Students' Fear of Failure”- Natalie White, Medical Student at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

**Medical Student Quality Improvement/Patient Safety/High Value Care Overall Winner:**

- “Implementing Standard Operating Procedures to Enhance Efficiency and Reduce Errors in a Student-Run Free Clinics for Unhoused Patients: Results of a Pilot Program for Street Medicine Detroit”- Hunter Cohn, Medical Student at Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit

**SHM-MI Resident Winners:**

- **1st Place:** “The Kitchen Sink Approach: A Case of Idiopathic Non-Histaminergic Angioedema”- Vickie Xin, DO, Resident at Corewell Health William Beaumont University Hospital
- **2nd Place:** “Not all ischemic strokes are the same”- Monika Olejnik-Wilczynska, MD, Resident at Trinity Health Ann Arbor
- **3rd Place:** “Difficult Diagnosis of a SMARCB1/INI1 Gene Deficient Lung Tumor with Brain Metastasis”- Javeria Hayat, MBBS, Resident at Corewell Health - Grand Rapids/Michigan State University

**SHM-MI Medical Student Winner:**

- “From Fatigue to Firestorm: Unraveling Tumor-Lysis Syndrome in the Shadow of CLL”- Nicholas Sirhan, Medical Student at Central Michigan University College of

**Doctor's Dilemma® Winning Team:**

Trinity Health Oakland - Kshitij Mahajan, MD, Nikhil Vojjala, MD, Sharanya Shre Ezhilarasan Santhi, MD, & Rishab Prabhu, MD; Program Director: Geetha Krishnamoorthy, MD, FACP

Chapter Awards

**Congratulations to our 2024 Award Winners!**

**Laureate Awardees**

- Eve Kerr, MD, MPH, MACP
- John Maurer, MD, FACP
- David Paje, MD, MPH, FACP

**Internist Most Committed to Independent Practice Awardees**

- Nasir Abbas Khan, MBBS, FACP, MRCP (UK)
- Wael Salman, MD, FACP

**Great Internist of Michigan Awardees**

- Diane Levine, MD, MACP
- Anupama Nair, MBBS, FACP

**Lifetime Achievement Awardees**

- Patrick Alguire, MD, MACP
- Raymond Hilu, MD, FACP



- Geetha Krishnamoorthy, MD, FACP
- Mark McQuillan, MD, FACP
- Michael Zaroukian, MD, PhD, MACP, FHIMSS

#### **Jerry Yee Mentorship Awardees**

- Eric Ayers, MD, FACP
- John Hopper, MD, FACP
- Jennifer Lukela, MD, FACP

#### **Jan Rival Awards for Early Career Physician**

- Eric Edewaard, MD
- Abigail Entz, MD, FACP
- Ginny Sheffield, MD

#### **Fostering Diversity Awardee**

- Nicholas Helmstetter, MD, FACP, FAAP

### Medical Liability Bills in Michigan

You may be aware there were two bills introduced in the Michigan House earlier this month regarding Medical Liability in the State of Michigan. Part of the “why now” on these bills is related to the transition of the Michigan House majority from the Democrats to the Republicans after the first of the year and the desire by some in the current House to address this before the transition happens.

**[House Bill 6085](#) -- Expanding Noneconomic Damages Awards** would increase the value of malpractice claims by:

- Raising the current caps on noneconomic damages as follows:
  - \$569,000 → \$1,000,000 when an exception doesn't apply.
  - \$1,016,000 → \$3,000,000 when an exception applies.
- Applying the caps independently to each plaintiff against each defendant separately. Meaning that the cap applies to each plaintiff individually named in a claim rather than a combined cap for all individuals named in a claim and in a claim with multiple defendants named it can be applied to a plaintiff once for each defendant rather than per claim.
- Waiving caps entirely in cases including, but not limited to, alleged gross negligence, fraud, or previously settled medical malpractice claims

### **House Bill 6086 – Expanding Wrongful Death Act**

**Damages** would propose the following changes:

- Makes available lost earnings capacity damages (i.e., a speculative amount equal to what the deceased patient was projected to earn over the remainder of his/her lifetime).
- Allow such damages even in cases when the deceased patient is an unemancipated minor (calculations of lost earnings capacity would start after the age of 14).
- Add loss of household services to the damages recoverable.

If you would like to reach out to your elected representatives,

you can use [this link](#) set up by the Michigan State Medical Society.

## MI-ACP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) Committee Updates

### **Know a leader in issues of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion or Justice (DEIJ)? We want to meet them!**

The MI-ACP DEIJ Committee is seeking experts to share their knowledge through personal presentations.

Submit your speaker suggestions by clicking [here](#).

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### **DEIJ Committee Affinity Groups**

In our ongoing commitment to fostering a diverse, equitable, inclusive, and just environment within our organization, the Michigan Chapter DEIJ Committee is excited to continue the work of building affinity groups that we started at the Annual Meeting. These groups aim to build community, create brave spaces, foster mentorship, and share resources. We recognize that the list of proposed groups (can be found on the form linked below) is a starting point and not all-encompassing. Your input is invaluable in helping us identify the most impactful affinity groups to support our diverse community.

Please complete this [form](#), which will allow you to choose your affinity groups. Follow up will be done in December. Affinity groups will be chosen based on expressed interest.

If you have any questions, please contact [info@acpmichigan.org](mailto:info@acpmichigan.org).

## Fellow, Resident and Medical Student Committee Updates

The MI-ACP Fellow, Resident and Medical Student Committee has created a comprehensive interview guide, designed to support both residency and job interviews. This guide compiles common questions asked during interviews, along with key questions that candidates should consider asking interviewers with the goal to prepare oneself while navigating this process.

[Access the Interview Guide](#)

## Get Involved - Join a MI-ACP Committee

Are you ready to make a greater impact within our organization and profession? Serving on a MI-ACP committee is a rewarding way to contribute your expertise, connect with peers, and help drive our mission forward.

Whether you're interested in advocacy, education, membership engagement, DEIJ initiatives, resident and medical student activities, there's a committee for you. No matter your experience level, your unique perspective and contributions are invaluable.

Please click the button below to submit your interest. Our committee leaders and staff will follow up accordingly.

Your involvement strengthens our community and ensures MI-ACP continues to thrive. Join us in shaping the future!

[Join a Committee](#)

Save the Date - Upcoming Webinars

**NJ, CT and MN Chapters Early Career Physicians Webinar Series**

**Future Proof: Mastering Leadership  
Unmasking the Imposter: A Systemic Approach to  
Addressing Professional Self-Doubt in Medicine**

**Presenter: Allison Ruff, MD, MHPE, FACP, Chair, MI-ACP  
Early Career Physicians Committee; Clinical Associate  
Professor, Division of General Medicine, Co-Director  
Patients and Populations Branch, University of Michigan**

**Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

**7:30PM-9:00PM**

[Register Here](#)

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**Michigan Chapter ACP and Michigan Department of Health  
and Human Services**

**Public Health Grand Rounds Webinar  
The Role of Physicians in Firearm-Injury Prevention: Why  
it Matters and How to Get Started**

**Presenter: Patrick Carter, MD, Injury Prevention Center  
Director and Co-Director of the Institute for Firearm  
Research; Professor in the Department of Emergency  
Medicine and Department of Health Behavior & Health  
Education at the University of Michigan**

**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

**12:00PM**

This session will discuss the current state of firearm injury in the state of Michigan, the role of physicians in helping to reduce rates of firearm injury and strategies to get started talking to patients.

*CME and MOC have been applied for. Additional information coming soon. Stay tuned!*

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**Michigan Chapter ACP Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) Webinar**  
**International Medical Graduate Contributions to the U.S. Health System**

**Presenter: George M. Abraham, MD, MPH, MACP, FIDSA, FRCP, Professor of Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School; Emeritus President, American College of Physicians**

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025**

**12:00PM**

**Healthcare Workers vs. Hunger Challenge**

The challenge runs from November 28th through December 3rd. More information can be found below, and on the attached flyer. Please feel free to print and share with your colleagues.



## JOIN THE CHALLENGE

Together we can fight hunger!

November 28 - December 3

Healthcare Workers (HCW) vs. Hunger Challenge, a national, physician-led competition to combat food insecurity. ACP Chapters have joined forces as team IM Generous.

### DONATE

to a food bank or hunger organization of your choice.

### LOG

your contribution via the HCW vs Hunger form and select team IM Generous.



### SPREAD THE WORD

Invite friends, family, and colleagues to donate and log contributions for team IM Generous.



[www.hcwwshunger.org](http://www.hcwwshunger.org)

## Member News

### News from the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Department of Medicine:

We would like to congratulate the following MI-ACP members who received 2024-2025 Faculty Awards from the Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Department of Medicine:

- **Andrew Jameson, MD, FACP** - *Outstanding Community Faculty Award*

Dr. Jameson's commitment to CHM's educational mission is evidenced by his current position as Clerkship Director of Internal Medicine at MSU CHM Grand Rapids campus. Dr. Jameson's exceptional track record in teaching is highlighted by the multiple Excellence in Teaching Awards he has received from CHM. Dr. Jameson is actively involved in quality improvement initiatives and

research endeavors aimed at advancing medical knowledge and enhancing patient care. He is also lauded for his leadership as the former Chair of the Executive Committee of the Department of Medicine, providing steady guidance and sage advice on Department bylaws and the RPT processes for the new Chair.

- **Gary Ferenchick, MD, FACP** - *Outstanding Curriculum Contribution Award*

Dr. Ferenchick is recognized for spearheading and leading MSU CHM's JustInTimeMedicine, an innovative technology-enhanced approach in medical education that offers quick-access, bite-sized information modules, and virtual resources to help learners apply knowledge at the point of care. By delivering targeted, high-yield information precisely when it's needed and facilitating student clinical skills assessment, JustInTimeMedicine supports continuous, efficient learning.

- **Heather Laird-Fick, MD, MPH, FACP** - *Outstanding Faculty Award*

Dr. Laird-Fick is recognized for her exceptional contributions to medical education at both national and institutional levels, long-standing commitment to nurturing the professional growth of her mentees and colleagues, and sustained and unwavering dedication to the mission of MSU CHM. She serves simultaneously as the Assistant Dean for Accreditation and Program Evaluation, and the Director of the Office for Medical Education Research and Development (OMERAD), both integral positions for our College's Education Mission, underscoring her administrative prowess and strategic foresight.



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***From the family of Dr. Mark Oberdoerster, FACP:***

My father, Mark Oberdoerster, was a long-time member of the Michigan Chapter ACP and a tireless advocate for internal medicine. As the co-founder of [PIIM](#), a member of the Medical Executive Committee at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and as a clinical instructor at both St. Joseph's and University of Michigan, he dedicated his life to providing hands-on, patient-centric care and ongoing learning.

Many knew my father as the “biking doctor”, though sadly he was killed in a bike accident on 8/24 while riding his beloved hills of Ann Arbor. His loss is resonating deeply in our community.

Our family is very devoted to carrying on his purpose, and a fund in his name has been established to further the education of those with the passion to serve as primary care physicians in their communities. To donate, please visit:

<https://giving.trinityhealthmichigan.org/ann-arbor/memorial-donations>.

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Do you have member news that you would like to share about yourself, or a colleague? Please email us at

[info@acpmichigan.org](mailto:info@acpmichigan.org).

Take Control of Your Birth Control Campaign

We know that empowering patients to make informed choices about their reproductive health is essential to their overall well-

being. Access to a range of comprehensive family planning services and resources supports individuals in making personal decisions aligned with their health goals and life plans.

The Take Control of Your Birth Control campaign this November is designed to enhance access to these services across Michigan, equipping residents with tools, education and information to proactively manage reproductive health.

Through this campaign, the goal is to ensure all Michiganders have convenient access to family planning resources. We also encourage you to connect patients with the [Plan First](#) limited Medicaid benefit and to utilize the materials provided in this bulletin to expand outreach, awareness and engagement.

We appreciate your support in sharing these resources with your patients. Here are key points to guide your efforts:

- **Inform patients about the free contraceptive supplies locally available throughout November (while supplies last):** Please encourage those who may benefit from free contraceptive supplies to access them through our participating community partners, including local health departments and local MDHHS offices.
- **Offer guidance on contraceptive options and family planning:** This is an ideal opportunity to discuss contraceptive options and the importance of family planning, particularly for individuals who may have limited access to these resources.
- **Share information on insurance options, including Medicaid and the Plan First program:** Inform uninsured or underinsured patients about the Plan First Medicaid benefit, which offers family planning services, including contraception and STI testing and treatment, for eligible

individuals.

For more information on the Take Control of Your Birth Control campaign, including a distribution site map, please direct patients and providers to [Michigan.gov/takecontrol](https://Michigan.gov/takecontrol).

Together, we can support our communities in achieving greater health autonomy and equity in reproductive health care.

**Thank you for your continued partnership,**

Natasha Bagdasarian, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FACP  
Chief Medical Executive, State of Michigan

Sarah Lyon Callo, MS, PhD  
Senior Deputy Director and State Epidemiologist, MDHHS  
Public Health Administration

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### **How to Apply for Plan First**

Michigan residents can apply for the Plan First program by:

- Applying online at [Michigan.gov/mibridges](https://Michigan.gov/mibridges).
- Calling 855-789-5610.
- Visiting a local MDHHS county office.

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### **Provider Resources**

You can find Take Control of Your Birth Control campaign resources, including social media content, downloadable flyers and a map of distribution sites at [Michigan.gov/takecontrol](https://Michigan.gov/takecontrol).

These materials are designed to support outreach efforts and to help patients access family planning services, supplies and information, including insurance options.

Additionally, you can refer patients in need of low or no cost family planning services to a Michigan Family Planning Program Clinic [in their community](#).

## I Raise the Rates

*I Raise the Rates* is a collaborative, data-driven campaign to support patients, physicians, health care teams, systems, and communities in raising adult immunization rates and reducing vaccine preventable diseases. The program seeks to assist internists and other primary care providers in both understanding the immunization rates of their patients and making practice changes that promote immunizations.

Please click the links below for informative newsletters:

- [August 2024](#)
- [September 2024](#)
- [October 2024](#)



**Attachments:**

**NOTE:** The links below will direct your browser to the location where the documents attached to this email have been posted.

[hcw vs hunger flyer](#)

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