

22nd European Congress of Internal Medicine

March 6-9, 2024

Istanbul, Turkey

Global Ambassadors: Omar Atiq, MD, MACP, Eileen Barrett, MD, MPH, MACP, Romela Petrosyan, MD, FACP

ACP Global Ambassador reflections by: Eileen Barrett, MD, MPH, MACP

It was a true privilege to represent the College alongside ACP President Dr. Omar Atiq at the 22nd European Congress of Internal Medicine held in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting drew approximately 2,000 attendees, largely from Europe, and across all career stages. It was a welcoming and festive learning climate, which was so important considering the conflicts and divisions in the world right now.

The opening plenary on generative AI was exceptionally timely and compelling, and that was soon followed by meaningful tributes to European Federation of Internal Medicine (EFIM) leaders, awards, and elections of new Fellows in EFIM. The scientific sessions covered foundations and innovations, and there were well over 1,500 abstracts presented. EFIM President Dr. Ricardo Gomez Huelgas and I were co-discussants alongside panel moderators Dr. Atiq and EFIM President-Elect Dr. George Dalekos for a session titled "Protect Healthcare Professionals to Deliver Optimal Patient Care: A Joint ACP and EFIM." The session was well-attended, including participants from multiple countries and identifying as early career to late career. I believe this illustrated our shared concerns about the inextricable relationship between patient wellness and physician well-being. The Q&A portion was quite active, including resounding support for fostering workplace well-being and an urgent need for bold action.

Dr. Atiq and I also participated in the EFIM Young Internist's Corner in an interactive discussion titled "Unveiling the Mosaic: Diversity and Complexity in Internal Medicine" with Drs. Caterina Delcea, Sina Karimi, and Miguel Romano. This was also well-attended, including by trainees and early career physicians, as well as mid- and later career colleagues. We had a robust conversation about the meeting dates overlapping with International Women's Day and the benefits of diversity and inclusion in our training and work environments, also how IM physicians are experts in complexity.

Two additional wonderful experiences were learning from former ACP Early Career Physician Council leaders Drs. Romela Petrosyan and Tiffany Leung, who were both invited faculty for the meeting. Their sessions were exceptionally well attended (in addition to being timely and important). Lastly, there was a large gala dinner for society leaders across the world, and it was very moving to see how people came together to share hope for a better future – as embodied by representation from IM societies in Ukraine, Russia, across Europe, Israel, Mexico, India, Pakistan, and more.

The ACP-EFIM relationship is strong and mutually desired and beneficial. I am more grateful than I can say at having been able to attend, and hope my attendance helped further that relationship.



Dr. Omar Atiq and Dr. Ricardo Gomez Huelgas



Dr. Barrett receiving EFIM Fellowship with Dr. Gomez Huelgas





Drs. Tiffany Leung, Romela Petrosyan, and Eileen Barrett



Dr. Barrett with Drs. Caterina Delcea and Miguel Romano Ribeiro, two leaders in the EFIM Young Physicians group