

## Background

The American College of Physicians (ACP) is a national organization of internists - specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Internists are major providers of primary care in the United States. They are especially well-trained in the diagnosis of puzzling medical problems, in the ongoing care of complicated illnesses, and in caring for patients with more than one disease. Internists not only treat disease but also coordinate health care and play a critical role in preventing disease and promoting health and well-being.

## Membership



### National ACP

155,000 US and International Members  
Largest specialty organization in US  
Second largest physician group in US

### Missouri ACP

2,486 Members  
- Masters: 14  
- Fellows: 440  
- Regular Members: 853  
- Residents/Fellows: 518  
- Students: 636  
- Affiliates: 21

## Mission/History

The ACP mission is to enhance the quality and effectiveness of health care by fostering excellence and professionalism in the practice of medicine. ACP was founded in 1915 to promote the science and practice of medicine. In 1998, ACP merged with the American Society of Internal Medicine (ASIM), which was established in 1956 to study economic aspects of medicine.

## Internists/Subspecialists

An M.D. or D.O. who completes a three-year internal medicine residency program is an internist. The general internist is an expert in the general care of the adult but also may have special areas of expertise. A subspecialty internist is an internist with one to three years of additional training in a particular organ (nephrology/kidney), system (endocrinology/glands), or age group (geriatrics). Some internists practice a combination of both general and subspecialty medicine.