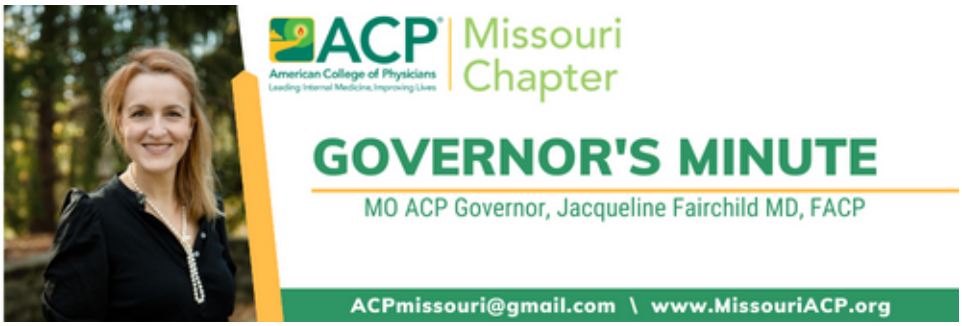
ACP Missouri Chapter



As we move into this holiday season, I want to extend my warmest greetings to each of you. Many of us gathered with loved ones over Thanksgiving, while others will soon celebrate traditions that reflect the richness of our cultures, religions, and families. This time of year invites reflection, gratitude, and connection—values that also define our work together in the Missouri ACP community.

In that spirit, I also want to acknowledge an issue affecting many of our colleagues and trainees: ongoing challenges surrounding **H-1B visas** and related immigration pathways. These barriers impact the stability, training opportunities, and well-being of the international medical graduates who are essential to our workforce—especially in underserved communities across Missouri. If you are looking for ways to support your colleagues, you can make your voice heard by visiting the **ACP Advocacy page**, where you'll find streamlined tools to contact your legislators, share your clinical perspective, and advocate for fair and efficient immigration policies that strengthen our physician pipeline.

A Unified Focus for the Year Ahead: Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

At our most recent Governor's Advisory Council meeting, one theme consistently rose to the surface: the need for a unified, chapter-wide focus on **vaccine hesitancy** and the growing threat of **medical misinformation**. This issue touches every community we serve—from our academic centers to our rural practices—and it represents an area where the Missouri Chapter can lead with clarity, credibility, and compassion.

Vaccine hesitancy continues to evolve, driven not only by access challenges but by the rapid spread of inaccuracies that undermine public trust. As physicians, we are uniquely positioned to respond with evidence-based education, consistent messaging, and visible advocacy. Our chapter has an opportunity to anchor our work for the coming year in a strategic, coordinated effort addressing these concerns.

To that end, we are exploring a chapter initiative focused on three core pillars:

1. Advocacy

Promoting accurate, science-based information about adult immunizations through public-facing statements, partnerships, and statewide engagement—without relying solely on HPPC to carry this work. Addressing misinformation is a shared responsibility across all committees and all clinicians.

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2. Education for Members and the Community

Providing practical toolkits, CME sessions, and communication strategies to help clinicians address misinformation in real time. The **ACP Adult Immunization Hub** offers the latest, most comprehensive guidance and will serve as a cornerstone for our educational efforts.

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3. Combatting Misinformation

Developing a coordinated plan to counter common myths, clarify evolving recommendations, and support consistent messaging across Missouri. This aligns directly with ACP national priorities and reinforces our commitment to patient-centered, evidence-driven care.

By centering our chapter's efforts around this shared mission, we can strengthen our identity, amplify our advocacy, and offer members meaningful tools to support the patients and communities who rely on us every day.

Governor-Elect Designee Announcement

Congratulations to our new Governor-elect Designee!

It is a great pleasure and honor to announce that Fariha Shafi, MD, FACP, has been elected by the members of the Missouri Chapter to serve as Governor-elect. Dr. Shafi will start her term as Governor-elect after the Annual Business Meeting on April 18, 2026. She will take office as Governor in April of 2027. Click here to learn more about our new Governor-elect Designee.

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Shafi!

Missouri Health Advisory

In late October, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services released a health advisory on Health Risks Associated with 7-OH. Recently, 7-hydroxymitragynine (7-OH) has increased in availability and use and poses a significant health risk to those who use it. Isolated 7-OH is currently untested in humans, unregulated, not proven safe or effective for any use, and sold to the public without restriction. Missourians are advised to avoid these products until safety data for human consumption is available. Click here to read the entire health advisory.

Members in the News

Dr. Shafi Receives National Award

Dr. Fariha Shafi received the 2025 American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) Inspire Award. This award celebrates women physicians who exemplify the highest values of vision, integrity, service, and role-modeling in medicine and healthcare. The recognition went to 47 women physicians across 20 specialties and 30 US States. Click here to view the entire list of recipients.

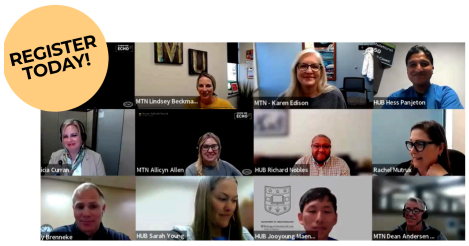
Dr. William Fogarty is Featured in the St. Louis Metropolitan Medical Society Journal

Retirement usually means a well-deserved chance to slow down, but for **Dr. William Fogarty** it meant the beginning of a new chapter in his medical career. Dr. Fogarty retired from his private practice in 2001, and soon began volunteering for numerous organizations around St. Louis. Working in these clinics opened his eyes to the astonishing gaps in medical care that so many face. After spending much time volunteering in clinics around St. Louis, he found himself volunteering his skills internationally in Guatemala as well. He found a passion for mission trips, and he often takes his family with him. Today, more than 20 years later, Dr. Fogarty continues to volunteer at Casa de Salud, a non-profit clinic in St. Louis. For Dr. Fogarty, this new chapter, one that many retired physicians don't know is possible, is filled with new patients, experiences, and a new perspective on purpose and medicine. Click here to read the entire article.

Resources:

The Show-Me ECHO program has upcoming courses they would like our members to consider attending. The ECHO sessions use video conferencing to connect interdisciplinary teams of experts with primary care clinicians and other professionals. This interactive case-based learning was developed to advance skills and best practices for physicians and providers to improve patient care access, quality, and efficiency. All sessions are held on a regular basis, and you can view the entire line-up of courses at https://showmeecho.org/clinics/.

Held monthly on the third Tuesday of the month from 12-1PM CT



Providing Healthcare Professionals with Interdisciplinary, Evidence-Based Support and Education to Enhance their Ability to Access and Manage Patients Experiencing Pain.

- ✓ FREE
- ✓ VIRTUAL
- ✓ DISCUSS CHALLENGES WITH PEERS
- ✓ EARN FREE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Missouri Telehealth Network, University of Missouri — ECHO — **SUBMIT A CASE & REGISTER AT SHOWMEECHO.ORG**

SHOW-ME ECHO

Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes

CANCER SURVIVORSHIP

Providing Guidance and Support for Clinicians Caring for Cancer Survivors After Primary Treatment

TOGETHER WITH A TEAM OF EXPERTS, PARTICIPANTS WILL:

- Identify cancer survivorship guidelines including surveillance, preventative care, management of long-term and late effects, and psychosocial support
- Facilitate collaborative care among oncology and primary care clinicians that addresses medical, emotional, and lifestyle needs of cancer survivors
- Apply evidence-based strategies for managing common post-treatment challenges such as fatigue, pain, anxiety and co-morbidities
- Increase knowledge and awareness of modern cancer therapeutics, including immunotherapy and their associated toxicities

Every **2nd and 4th Friday** of the month from **12-1PM** CT

REGISTER AT SHOWMEECHO.ORG

Missouri Telehealth Network, University of Missouri — Project ECHO

Women's Health News

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced historic action to restore gold-standard science to women's health. After more than two decades of fear and misinformation surrounding hormone replacement therapy (HRT), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is initiating the removal of broad "black box" warnings from HRT products for menopause.

Read more.

Giving Back

Missouri ACP selected Street Med STL as our giving partner this year. Missouri ACP member Dr. Nathan Nolan founded Street Med STL, and many

of our members, as well as other physicians, residents, and medical students, volunteer their time to this organization. Their mission is to mitigate the health-related harms of being unhoused by meeting people where they are, in their reality.

Street Med STL was started in 2020 in response to the COVID public crisis in which several doctors began going into the community to see homeless patients. Their efforts turned into a weekly medical outreach, and in 2022, Street Med STL was officially formed.

We encourage members to consider donating or getting involved. You can find out more about both at the links below. Please consider giving to help those in need.

DONATE

GET INVOLVED

ACP Member Resources

Long COVID Resource Hub
ACP, in collaboration with the Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), has launched a new Long COVID Resource Hub to help clinicians navigate evolving evidence and care for patients experiencing post-COVID conditions. The hub, free to ACP members, offers easy access to curated tools, educational materials, resources from DynaMedex®, and clinical guidance in one place.

Access up-to-date research, symptom management strategies, and practical resources to enhance patient care. It's all your fingertips by going to the COVID-19 resources on acponline.org.

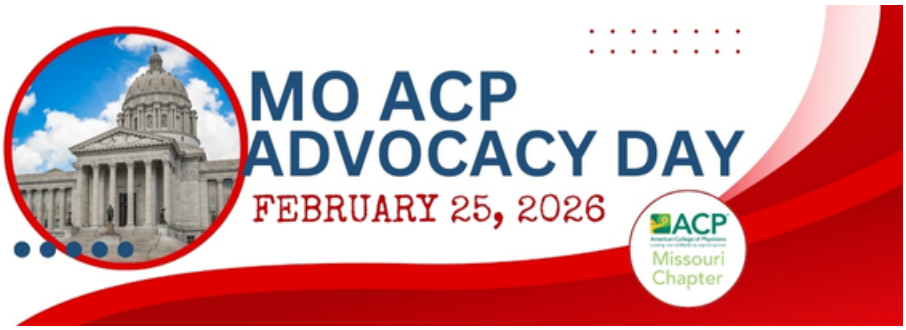
ACP Career Connection
ACP's Career Connection offers various services that enable ACP's members to search for and locate jobs in internal medicine or a subspecialty.

- ACP's Career Connection (careers.acponline.org) database of career opportunities
- ACP's Career Connection Career Guides
- ACP's Career Connection Job Placement Center at ACP Internal Medicine Meeting
- ACP's Career Connection Virtual Career Fairs

ACP's Career Connection (careers.acponline.org) is a physician-friendly, searchable database of career opportunities for internal medicine physicians, internal medicine subspecialists, hospitalists, and other physician specialists. Physicians can search jobs by location radius, specialty, and company name. The website offers physicians the opportunity to create a new CV or upload a current CV; create and store cover letters; receive job alert e-mails when jobs become available that match their personal profiles, skills, interests, and preferred locations; and access new and exclusive career resources that provide many helpful strategies from CV writing tips to career advancement advice and ACP's Career Advice videos. Don't get stuck! Find a new career and search hundreds of job listings online at ACP's Career Connection. Advanced job search options target your specialty and desired location.

Take control of your career search. ACP Career Connection gives you control. Set who can see your profile and CV with advanced search options and target specialty and location opportunities.

Upcoming Chapter Events



Mark your calendar for February 25, 2026, and join us for Missouri ACP Advocacy Day! This is your chance to meet with elected officials and discuss the key issues affecting Internal Medicine and our patients.

If you're new to advocacy, don't worry—this event is designed to make it easy. Attendees are grouped together, and we'll pair you with an experienced member who will guide you through the process. It's a great way to learn, connect, and make a real impact for Missouri.

Registration is now open, so sign up today!

REGISTER

Interested in learning more about POCUS? Well, we have just the training opportunity for you. Missouri ACP is hosting the Midwest Diagnostic POCUS Workshop on May 16-17, 2026, in St. Louis. At this workshop you will:

- Learn from nationally renowned Internal Medicine POCUS faculty
- Didactics with live demonstration of image acquisition on standardized patients
- Ideal 3:1 learner to faculty scanning ratio
- Demo multiple handheld ultrasound device

Find out more, or register today at the button below.

LEARN MORE.

Upcoming National Events

ACP Internal Medicine Meeting 2026
April 16-18 | San Francisco, California
Pre-Meeting: April 14-15

Registration is open for ACP's Internal Medicine Meeting 2026
Join ACP and your colleagues in San Francisco, April 16 to 18, at the annual marquee event for internal medicine physicians and subspecialists around the globe. Attend for 3 days of unparalleled education and the opportunity to share invaluable experiences with your internal medicine community.
Get a first look at 2026 session topics!
Explore the preliminary list of topics and start planning your experience.

Register today!
ACP Members save $99 on top of membership savings with the Early Bird discount when registering by January 31, 2026.

- **Standard Access** includes 30 days' on-demand access to all recorded sessions after the event.
- **Premium Access** extends access to all recorded sessions for 1 year after the event, giving you more time to learn and earn CME/MOC, plus immediate access to bonus content.