

*Academy of Physicians in Clinical Research (APCR) – Health research professionals from all settings working together to promote **Advocacy, Competence and Exchange.***

## Advocacy Update

It's been a busy few of months on the advocacy front!

On June 7th, Dr. Peter Rheinstein attended the AMA House of Delegates meeting on behalf of APCR. The meeting was abridged and held virtually. A summary of the proceedings can be found on our [Advocacy Page](#).

In July, APCR signed on to a [letter](#) to CMS Administrator Seema Verma responding to the agency's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Specifically, the letter addressed preserving copay assistance for patients.

On August 7th, APCR submitted [comments](#) to Secretary Azar related to the pending Executive Order on international reference pricing for drugs purchased through Medicare. The comments conclude, *"While we truly appreciate the Administration's commitment to finding solutions that will make prescription drugs affordable for Americans, reference pricing alone cannot guarantee our research enterprise will remain competitive in drug innovation. We need policies that will ensure America's long-term leadership both in developing new drugs and in making them affordable for patients. We hope to work together with policymakers and health care stakeholders to find a better solution for all."*

The APCR advocates on behalf of policies that advance clinical research and pharmaceutical medicine to government, academia, and commercial entities. We are the only such organization to represent the physician research community in the American Medical Association (AMA) and, in doing so, play a part in guiding national policy on many issues, including those that directly apply to your practice.



The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, policy, or interests or active support of an idea or c

## Quarterly Feature

### Working Together to Beat COVID-19

Written by Michael Ybarra, MD, FAPCR

The fight against COVID-19 takes place both in the clinical setting and in the research lab. As a practicing emergency physician and vice president of medical affairs at the Pharmaceutical Researchers and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), I have a unique vantage point to see both of these battlefronts.

Clinically, I practice emergency medicine in Washington, D.C. I witness firsthand how critical it is that we have accurate, accessible and rapid testing widely available to understand and slow the spread of the virus, particularly for vulnerable populations. At the outset of the pandemic, the pharmaceutical industry began working in conjunction with other life sciences companies to rapidly develop new diagnostics to test for the virus. Companies are using their specialized research laboratories to analyze samples taken in health care facilities and turn around results in a clinically meaningful time frame. Since I began seeing patients with COVID-19 in March, we've made progress in diagnosing the virus quickly and accurately.

At PhRMA, the trade association in Washington, D.C. that represents the biopharmaceutical companies leading the charge to find new therapeutics and vaccines, I get to see firsthand the around-the-clock efforts that companies are undertaking to fight the pandemic. The biopharmaceutical industry is rapidly screening its vast global libraries of medicines to identify potential treatments and make those medicines available to patients through clinical trials and compassionate use, as well as developing new medicines and vaccines.

[READ MORE](#)



## Save the Date!

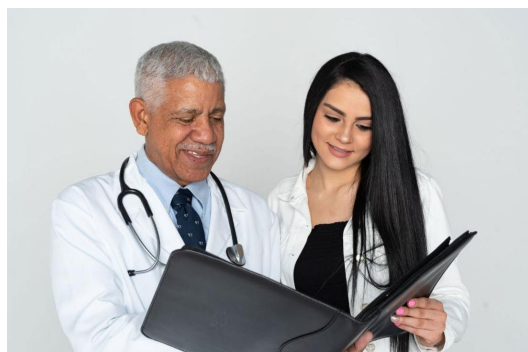
We are excited to announce the date of our 2020 Annual Meeting! On **November 9, 2020, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Eastern**, APCR will be hosting a virtual meeting. This online event will consist of two panels, detailed below.

### *Clinical Research in the COVID Pandemic*

Panelists will discuss the unprecedented response of the clinical research community to the crisis and the effects of COVID-19 on non-COVID research. We'll pose the question, *How can physicians engage to help patients and their practices?*

### *Social Justice in Clinical Research.*

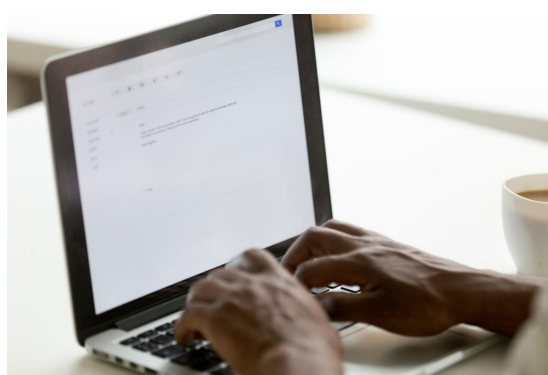
Clinical researchers have analyzed social justice issues for many years, but what does social justice really mean? And how can we apply our insights to the current debate? This panel will discuss those questions, as well as dissect one of the important potential answers: finding minority patients and investigators.



## Member Publications

We take great pride in our member physicians and their active contributions to the clinical research community! Visit the [Member Publications page](#) on our website to take a look at some of the exciting research published by fellow APCR members.

If you would like your publications posted, please email the link to [info@apcrnet.org](mailto:info@apcrnet.org).



## In Memory of Judith Jones

With sadness, we wanted to pass along [news](#) of the passing of past APCR Board Member, Judith K. Jones, MD. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.