This year’s Academy Annual meeting was a first in the Academy’s 164 year history. Due to COVID-19, the 2020 Academy of Medicine Annual Meeting became a virtual event split into two segments – an Installation segment on September 16 with a webinar component updating members on COVID-19 – held via Zoom – and an Awards segment to be held March 3, 2021, also to be held virtually.

September 16, 2020 - President E. Wyman Morris, MD, was installed as were the other members of the Council (see page 3 for a list of the 2020-2021 Council members).

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**A message from the president**

_Fellow Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati members:_

It is my great pleasure to serve as president of the Academy for the 2020-2021 year. Despite the numerous limitations that COVID has imposed on each and every one of us, I am hopeful that we can build on our recent successes to have another great year for the benefit of all physicians in the Greater Cincinnati area. Our recent meetings have generated many great ideas that we expect will lead to several important events this winter and next spring.

The Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati was founded in 1857 as a professional association for physicians in Hamilton County, Ohio. The mission of the Academy of Medicine has always been to advocate on issues affecting physicians’ ability to practice and to foster an environment to practice the highest quality medicine possible. While these goals remain unchanged, the ways and means of achieving such results have changed. For example, only 15% of physicians are currently solo practitioners, down from over 50% in the 1980s. I believe that the stresses on physicians today, especially in the setting of COVID 19, have never been greater and I believe that the Academy can help all of us navigate these stresses.

The Academy is a singular voice in Greater Cincinnati advocating for ALL physicians, seeking to bring ALL physicians together, and working to improve ALL physicians’ practices and quality of life. Through our active workgroups, we remain committed to offering educational, social, and wellness benefits for all of our members. Our hope is that every single member finds value in our efforts and participates in our activities throughout the year. Please explore our newly designed website to ensure that you are up to date on all of our plans. And please feel free to contact me or Natalie Peterson, the executive director of the Academy, at any time with any suggestions or comments.

Many thanks to all of you for your continued support for this great organization.

Best regards,

_E. Wyman Morris, MD_
A message from the executive director

The Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, founded in 1857, has a rich history in the Cincinnati community. The Academy exists to organize, represent, advocate for, and serve physicians of Greater Cincinnati. Over the past several years, we have seen a renewed interest in membership with more and more physicians either joining or re-joining their local medical society. They see the importance of one voice – a common place where physicians can express their opinions to help make the physician community stronger and bring about change. Whether you are an employed or an independent physician, most face the same struggles ... EHR, burnout, legislative issues, reimbursement, uncertain practice environment, challenges with patients, increasing workload, and now COVID-19.

As we move forward, the Academy is focusing on Physician Wellness, Educational activities, Political Advocacy, and Social events. Our workgroups are well on their way planning webinars and virtual programs over the next few months. Stay tuned for more details on the celebration portion of the 164th Annual Meeting to include honoring the 50-Year Physicians, which will take place virtually on March 3, 2021, and save the date for the 2021 Golf Outing planned for June 7. More programs and events will be announced in early 2021.

Over the last year, we held the local premiere showing of the documentary Do NO Harm, hosted “How to Keep More of the Money You Make,” presented “How to Negotiate the Best Contract for You,” organized webinars on Telehealth and COVID-19 (held in conjunction with the 164th Annual Meeting Installation Ceremony), and put on the 3rd Annual Golf Outing at Maketewah Country Club. The Academy Foundation also supported UC’s Annual Southwest Ohio Internal Medicine Update & Review Course, allowing Academy members to attend for a significant discount. Through these activities, we strive to provide value to both your professional and personal lives.

In 2020, we updated and re-designed our website. Please take a few minutes to visit our site at www.academyofmedicine.org. You can join or renew your membership, update your profile information, sign up for events, look at the latest news, and much more.

Additionally, the Academy offers its members cost-saving benefits at car dealerships, entertainment venues, restaurants, the arts, and much more. All members can take advantage of these benefits, which can offset your dues investment.

If you are a current member, I encourage you to get involved in your local medical society — participate in a program, join a workgroup, consider running for a leadership position. And please share your thoughts with me. I want to know what we can do to serve you.

For those of you thinking about joining the Academy, I encourage you to do so. Talk to a fellow physician about the Academy or contact our office at 513-421-7010.

Please help us restore your local medical society – which has been around for more than a century – to a place of prominence in our community!

Stay well,
Natalie Peterson
2020–2021 Academy Council Members

Executive Committee

E. Wyman Morris, MD — President
Penn State College of Medicine (1999)
Emergency Medicine, TriHealth

Anne Like, MD — President-Elect
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (1990)
Internal Medicine/Occupational Medicine, Private Practice

Matthew Hardin, MD — Past President
Wright State University School of Medicine (1996)
Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, University Pointe Internal Medicine and Pediatrics, UC Health

Joseph Cheng, MD — Secretary
Medical College of Wisconsin (1994)
Neurosurgery, University of Cincinnati, UC Health

Christopher Paprzycki, MD — Treasurer
University of Toledo College of Medicine (2012)
Vascular Surgery, The Christ Hospital

Councilors

Barry Brook, MD
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (1983)
Internal Medicine, Mercy Health Physicians, Bon Secours Mercy Health

Gregory Kennebeck, MD
Northwestern Medical School (1997)
Internal Medicine, UC Health Primary Care

Becky McGilligan, MD
Florida State University College of Medicine (2009)
Internal Medicine, McGilligan MD, Inc., on staff The Christ Hospital

Adam Miller, MD
Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine (2006)
Orthopaedics, Beacon Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine

Kathleen O’Leary, MD
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine (2004)
Obstetrics/Gynecology & Reproductive Endocrinology/Infertility, Institute for Reproductive Health

O’Dell Owens, MD
Yale Medical School (1976)
Reproductive Endocrinology, Retired, President & CEO, Interact for Health

Rebecca Short, MD
University School of Louisville School of Medicine (1999)
Dermatology, TriHealth Physician Partners

Michael Schoech, MD
University of Cincinnati College of Medicine (2006)
Transplant Hepatology, UC Health

The Academy Council is the governing body of the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati. It normally meets the second Tuesday of each month with the exception of July and August. Meetings are open to Academy members; reservations are required. Councilors serve three-year terms, up to two consecutive. In addition to the elected members, several advisory members also serve on Council.
2020 Academy Foundation activities

The Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati Foundation, incorporated in 1960, is the philanthropic arm of the Academy. The Foundation provides grants to 501(c)(3) organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area in several medical categories.

In addition to providing grants, the Foundation recognizes living Academy physician members for their humanitarian efforts on behalf of patients and/or the community through it’s Daniel Drake Humanitarian Award, which was established in 1986. And in 2017, the Foundation established a $5,000 scholarship to be awarded annually to a fourth-year medical student at University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

The Academy Foundation is governed by a Board of Trustees and operates under an established set of Bylaws. It holds an Annual Meeting every March.

2020-2021 Board Members

Executive Committee
Andrew Markiewitz, MD, President
Rajbir Minhas, MD, Vice President
Rebecca Lyons, JD, Treasurer
Matthew Lake, Esq., Secretary
Natalie Peterson, Administrator
Nancy Coomer, Staff Coordinator

Trustees
Ray Cool, CEO, PBSI Technology Solutions
Chad Duff, Senior Key Account Manager/Cincinnati, Janssen Pharmaceutical Co.
Bryan Ellis, DO
Karl Golnik, MD
Peter Kambelos, MD
Jeff Mohr, President, Diversified Brokerage Specialists, Inc.
L. Richard Roedersheimer, MD
Gregory Rouan, MD
Roosevelt Walker, MD
Regina Whitfield-Kekessi, MD

Daniel Drake Humanitarian Award — seeking nominations for the 2020-21 award

The Daniel Drake Humanitarian Award was established by the Medical Foundation (now the Academy Foundation) in 1985 to provide recognition to living physicians who have given generously of themselves to their patients and/or the community in which they live. Nominees must have demonstrated a history of keen awareness and selfless dedication to the needs of others. All Academy of Medicine members are eligible to be nominated.

The Foundation Board chooses the recipient and the award is presented at the Academy of Medicine’s annual meeting. This year that will take place during the virtual Annual Meeting Award Celebration on March 3. The Annual meeting has been held as a hybrid event due to COVID-19. Nominations are due by January 13, 2021.

For more information, please contact Academy Assistant Executive Director Nancy Coomer at 513-421-7010, ext. 307 or ncoomer@academyofmedicine.org. You can also visit the Foundation information page on the Academy’s website, www.academyofmedicine.org.

Special thanks to these 2020 Academy Foundation contributors

General Contributions
Elaine Better, MD
Lisa Haglund, MD
Andrew Markiewitz, MD
Regine Moulton, MD
Jeffrey Raub, MD
L. Richard Roedersheimer, MD
Gregory Rouan, MD
Roosevelt Walker, MD
Creighton Wright, MD

If you would like to support the mission of the Academy Foundation, please use the form on the following page or donate online at www.academyofmedicine.org/about-us/foundation/how-to-donate

Grant Distribution

In 2020, the Foundation distributed the following grants:

- Academy of Medicine Programming
- American Red Cross/Cincinnati Chapter
- Central Clinic Behavioral Health
- Cincinnati Coalition for Physician Wellbeing
- Covington Ladies Home
- Ohio Physicians Health Program
- Parental Hope, Inc.
- PreventionFIRST
- St. Vincent de Paul Charitable Pharmacy
- Shelterhouse Volunteer Group
- Stepping Stones
- UC College of Medicine/Annual Review Course & Update in Internal Medicine
- UC College of Medicine Student Scholarship
- Urban Health Project

Grant application information is available on the Academy’s website at www.academyofmedicine.org/about-us/foundation/distribution-guidelines.
2020 Annual Meeting — continued from front page

Additionally, the Academy Foundation presented its 2020 Medical Student Scholarship to Molly O’Shea, a fourth-year medical student at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine.

Ms. O’Shea received a BS in Neuroscience from The Ohio State University in 2015. She has been active as a research intern and with UCCM’s Urban Health Project and Project Connect.

Academy Foundation President Andrew Markiewitz, MD, presented the award (virtually) to Ms. O’Shea.

This is the fourth year that the Foundation award has been given. If you would like to help the Foundation continue its efforts, which includes the medical student scholarship, see below.

Meet this year’s 50-Year Physicians

The following physicians are eligible for the 2020 Ohio State Medical Association Fifty-Year Award: John R. Babcock, Jr., MD; David V. Berkowitz, MD; Byron W. Gustin, MD; Stanley B. Ignatow, MD; Richard H. Keys, Jr., MD; Wilfried Leder, MD; Anne W. Lucky, MD; Thomas W. Panke, MD; Hezekiah Shani, MD; Peter J. Stern, MD; and David Tondow, Jr., MD.

If you know of anyone else that should be included or anyone that is on the list in error, please contact Nancy Coomer, 513-421-7010, ext. 307 or ncoomer@academyofmedicine.org.

2020-2021 Academy Foundation Appeal

The Academy Foundation, established in 1960, serves as the philanthropic arm of the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati. The Foundation provides grants to 501(c)(3) organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area in several broad medical categories. Additionally, it assists the Academy by supporting educational programs for area physicians and provides an annual $5,000 scholarship to a 4th year UC medical student. Please help support the Foundation’s efforts.

Please accept my gift* in the amount of  $

- $500
- $300
- $150
- Other $___________________

I would like my gift earmarked for the

- General Grant Fund
- Educational Programs
- Medical Student Scholarship

Name_________________________________________________________
Address_____________________________________________________
City/State/Zip_________________________________________________

Please make checks payable to the Academy Foundation or to use your credit card complete the information below.

Charge my

- VISA
- MasterCard
- American Express
- Discover

Amount:$___________________

Card#_________________________Expiration Date____________________

Name on Card_________________________________________________
Billing Address for Card_________________________________________

Signature_____________________________________________________

*Your donation to the Academy Foundation is tax-deductible to the extent the law allows.

Return to Academy Foundation, 7265 Kenwood Road, Suite 315, Cincinnati, OH 45236.

Prefer to donate online? Go to www.academyofmedicine.org; About Us; Academy Foundation; How to Donate.
2020 Academy events summary

Because of the COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 Academy events calendar looked much different than past years.

Before the pandemic was declared, Academy members and their guests were treated to a Dinner & Wine Pairing at Seasons Retirement Community in Kenwood on January 18. In addition to the food and drink, members enjoyed live harp music and raffle prizes. These dinners support the Academy’s Physician Wellness Work Group’s mission.

On January 29, the Academy hosted, along with the Cincinnati Coalition for Physician Wellness, and with the support of the Academy Foundation, the local premiere showing of the documentary, “Do NO Harm,” that explores physician burnout, depression, suicide, and more. A sold-out crowd was on hand at the Kenwood Theatre for the film and follow-up panel discussion and Q&A. Panelists included Paul Samuels, MD, Moderator, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center Professional Health Committee Chair; Paul Keck, MD, Lindner Center of Hope CEO; Robyn Symon, “Do No Harm” Director/Producer; Craig Pratt, MD, Ohio Physicians Health Program (OPHP) Medical Director; and Colleen Opremcak, MD, OPHP Wellness Director.

The film showing was followed by another Academy-hosted, sold-out event, “How to Keep More of the Money you Make,” held February 25 at Seasons 52 in Norwood. The free, educational event was open to physicians, post graduate trainees, and medical students. The presentation was led by sponsor Diversified Brokerage Specialists.

The Academy and its Foundation also teamed up to support the 4th Annual Southwest Ohio Internal Medicine Update & Review Course hosted by the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine and UC Health. The course was held over two weekends – February 21-23 & February 29-March 1 – at the Kingsgate Hotel & Conference Center in Clifton.

On March 11, 2020, the Novel Coronavirus, COVID-19, was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization, and on March 13, the United States declared a national emergency due to the outbreak of COVID-19. These developments changed the course of in-person events for the remainder of 2020.

A return to Keeneland Race Course in Lexington, Kentucky, was on the list of Academy social events for April 5 but was canceled. A May 21 Picnic & Wine Pairing to be held at Seasons Retirement Community was also canceled. The 2nd Annual Golf Outing, originally planned for June 15, was re-scheduled and held September 28. The 164th Annual Meeting was changed from an in-person celebration to a virtual installation ceremony and a webinar on COVID-19.

In an effort to support physician members and the practice changes brought about by COVID-19, the Academy presented Telehealth 101, a webinar presented May 19. Designed to help Cincinnati-area physicians improve the quality of telehealth services; share practical knowledge gained from local, state, and national resources; and provide a forum for exchange of best practices among participants. Telehealth visits have become important tools in caring for patients while trying to keep physicians and their staff safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. The event
was free to all area physicians. Thanks to our Webinar Planning Committee and Participants: Christopher Paprzycki, MD; Barry Brook, MD; Joseph Cheng, MD; Gregory Kennebeck, MD; Michelle Knopp, MD; Maxine Lewis, CMM, CPC, CPC-I, CPMA, CCS-P; Gregory Rouan, MD; and Michael Schoech, MD.

Special thanks to the Academy’s IT partner, PBSI Technology Solutions, for their technical assistance in producing the webinar.

The 164th Annual Meeting was held September 16, virtually (see article on front page). In addition to the installation, the program included an update on COVID-19. Local infectious disease specialists presented on various topics and participated in the Q&A discussion. Presenters included: Lisa Haglund, MD, UC Health; Stephen Blatt, MD, TriHealth; Dheeraj Goyal, MD, Mercy Health; and Thomas Lamarre, MD, The Christ Hospital.

The 2nd Annual Golf Outing was held at Maketewah Country Club on September 28. And although the weather did not cooperate, more than 80 golfers braved the rain, wind, and chilly temperatures to participate. Congratulations to the winners:

First Place: The foursome of Brad Arnott, Rodney Namaky, Tyler Robertson, and Barry Robertson, MD
Second Place: The foursome of Hal Chaudhary, MD, Riaz Chaudhary, MD, Salem Chaudhary, and Andy Law
Closest to the Pin: Tom Dewey
Longest Drive: Adam Kamm

Cheers to our last place finishers for a valiant effort: The foursome of Chris Asher, Brian Cervenka, MD, Norm Falick, and Chad Zender, MD

The 3rd Annual Golf Outing is planned for Monday, June 7, 2021. Please save the date and check the Academy’s website for updates.

Thanks to our generous Golf Outing sponsors:

- Academy of Medicine Foundation – Leaderboard Sponsor
- Seasons Retirement Community – Golf Cart Sponsor
- PBSI Technology Solutions – Golf Ball Sponsor
- Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Medical Executive Committee – Swag Bag Sponsor
- Johnson Investment Counsel – Closest to the Pin
- Diversified Brokerage Specialists – Lunch Sponsor
- Tristate Trauma Network – Appetizer/Award Ceremony Sponsor
- Beacon Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine – Beverage Sponsor
- Camargo Cadillac – Hole-in-one Sponsor
- Hole Sponsors – Bernstein Allergy Group; BRG Apartments; Cincinnati OB/GYN Society; Dennis Ott Builders; DePuy Synthes, Johnson & Johnson; Dermatology & Skin Care Associates; Dr. Hal Chaudhary, Hip & Knee Replacement Specialist, Beacon Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine; Queen City Skilled Care; Rx Integrative Solutions; and 7 Hills Surgical
### The Academy welcomes the following who were accepted as members during 2020

**Active, New and Re-Join**

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<thead>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sabra Albner, MD (D)</td>
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<td>Kasie Adkins, DO (D)</td>
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<td>Jimmy Alele, MD (END)</td>
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<td>Robert Altenau, MD (FM)</td>
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<td>Asma Ansari, MD (D)</td>
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<td>Loren Brook, MD (GE/IM)</td>
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<td>Zainab Contractor, MD (N)</td>
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<td>Toni Cottonim, MD (FM)</td>
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<td>Richard Curry, MD (N)</td>
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<td>Joseph Dagenbach, MD (IM)</td>
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<td>Alessandro de Alarcon, MD (OTO)</td>
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<td>Louito Edje, MD (FM)</td>
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<td>Robert Fixler, MD (D)</td>
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<td>Jonathan Forbes, MD (NES)</td>
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### Post Graduate Trainee

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<tr>
<td>Alexandra Willauer, MD (IM)</td>
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<td>Lisa Younk, MD (IM)</td>
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### Medical Student

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<td>Taylor Boggs</td>
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<td>Andrew Weller</td>
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### Renew now for 2021... the Academy needs members like you now more than ever to remain strong, effective, and influential.

Visit the Academy’s newly updated website — [www.academyofmedicine.org](http://www.academyofmedicine.org) — re-designed to be user-friendly for both desktop & mobile users and responsive to member needs — you’ll be able to pay dues online, register for events, keep your member profile information up-to-date, and more.

**Reminder** — the Academy has increased its use of email communications with members. We don’t want you to miss any important information, so please make sure that we have a current email address for you. You can check and update your email address in your online profile.

2021 Academy membership dues are due by December 31, 2020. Pay online ([www.academyofmedicine.org](http://www.academyofmedicine.org)), you must login to pay online), by mail, or by phone 513-484-0156.

**Don’t let your membership lapse.**

Convenient dues payment plans are available to suit your needs. Questions? Call Natalie Peterson, 513-484-0156.
The Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati has formed Work Groups to address its priorities, which are Educational Activities, Physician Wellness (with a focus on prevention), Political & Professional Advocacy, and Social Activities.

All Academy members are welcome to join a Work Group. Work Groups have held their initial meetings but are still accepting new members. Please contact Executive Director Natalie Peterson if you would like to participate on a Work Group or if you need more information, 513-484-0156 or npeterson@academyofmedicine.org.

Join an Academy Work Group

2021 Academy Priority Work Group Members

Here are the Academy members who have volunteered to serve on the Work Groups to date. Interested in joining them? Contact Natalie Peterson, 513-484-0156.

Educational Activities
Barry Brook, MD; Joseph Cheng, MD; Matthew Hardin, MD; Michelle Knopp, MD; O’dell Owens, MD; Chris Paprzycki, MD; Yash Patil, MD; Gregory Rouan, MD

Physician Wellness
Gregory Kennebeck, MD; Anne Like, MD; Becky McGilligan, MD; Kate O’Leary, MD; Rebecca Short, MD

Political & Professional Advocacy
Michelle Knopp, MD; Anne Like, MD; Wyman Morriss, MD; Elizabeth Muenich, MD; Chris Paprzycki, MD; Michael Schoech, MD; Chad Zender, MD

Social Activities
Carol Egner, MD; Matthew Hardin, MD; Anne Like, MD; Adam Miller, MD; Wyman Morriss, MD; Yash Patil, MD

Physicians, we’d like to stay in touch – please return this form if you have not updated your profile information recently (members & non-members)

Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati Physician Data

First Name_______________________________________ MI_____ Last Name_________________________________________

______________________________ Specialty______________________________

Office: Street Address ______________________________________________________________________________________

City_________________________________________ State______________ Zip_______________________________

Office: Phone_________________________Fax_________________________Email_________________________________

Office Manager: Name___________________________________________Email______________________________

Group Name_______________________________________ Health System Affiliation____________________________

Home: Street Address ______________________________________________________________________________________

City_________________________________________ State______________ Zip_______________________________

Cell phone______________________________________ Other email__________________________________________

Preferred — Email: _____Office _____Other Mail location: _____Office _____Home Phone: _____Office _____Cell

The Academy continues to increase its use of email to communicate with member and non-member physicians. Please provide your preferred email address so that you receive our latest information.

Thank you. Please return to membership@academyofmedicine.org, fax to 513-721-4378, or mail to Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati, 7265 Kenwood Road, Suite 315, Cincinnati, OH 45236.
**Upcoming events**

**Save the Date – January 21, 2021 – Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati Virtual Seminar: “How the New E&M Coding Changes Will Affect You”**

Don’t miscode and leave things behind once new Evaluation and Management (E&M) coding changes go into effect January 1, 2021. Join our roundtable discussion on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. when our expert facilitators will offer insight and strategies on adapting to the new updates to remain compliant, and how medical decision-making impacts correct evaluation and management coding.

Watch for more details on the Academy’s website.

**5th Annual SWOIM Update & Review Course April 9–11 & 16–18, 2021**

The Academy of Medicine, through its Foundation, is once again teaming up with the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine Department of Internal Medicine in presenting The Southwest Ohio Internal Medicine Update & Review Course. This board review course provides an intensive review of medicine for physicians preparing for the ABIM initial and recertification examinations. To be held virtually over two weekends, April 9–11 and April 16–18, 2021, the course will also offer an in-depth review with recent updates for physicians and advanced nurse practitioners practicing internal medicine and other disciplines. The University of Cincinnati designates this live activity for a maximum of 48.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits ™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

You may attend the full course over two weekends, select one weekend, a full day, or a half-day session. Customize to fit your schedule or interests. Academy of Medicine members are eligible for discounted pricing.

The event is hosted by the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine & UC Health and co-sponsored by the Ohio Chapter of the American College of Physicians & the Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati.

For more information contact Gregory W. Rouan, MD, MACP rouangw@ucmail.uc.edu. 513 558 2588.

**164th Annual Meeting (Part 2) Awards Ceremony – March 3, 2021**

Virtual Event, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, the Academy is planning a virtual celebration for the awards portion of the Annual Meeting. This will include the 50-Year Physician Awards (see page 5) and the Daniel Drake Humanitarian Award. Plans are to include an educational component to the event.

Stay tuned for more information. Check the Academy’s website for information.

**3rd Annual Academy Golf Outing – June 7, 2021**

Maketewah Country Club

Stay tuned for more information. Check the Academy’s website for information.

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**We want to hear from you**

The Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati is your organization, and we want to make sure that it is meeting your needs — both professionally and personally.

Have suggestions for
- programs,
- events,
- services,
- benefits,
- something else that you would like the Academy to consider? Let us know!

Please share your ideas with Academy Executive Director Natalie Peterson, email npeterson@academyofmedicine.org or call 513-484-0156.
As tensions and fears started rising throughout the US this past winter about widespread community transmission of COVID-19, doctors within UC Health’s Comprehensive Stroke Center were worrying about a more specific concern. Knowing that doctors’ early experiences with COVID-19 in China and Europe suggested patients’ blood was more thrombogenic, or more likely to clot, doctors who specialize in stroke feared they could have an influx of stroke patients, on a medical system that was expected to soon be stressed. “We started thinking about this before COVID reared its ugly head in Ohio,” recalls Charles J. Prestigiacomo, MD, an cerebrovascular neurosurgeon at UC Health.

On March 7, 2020, Aaron Grossman, MD, a vascular and interventional neurologist at UC Health started assembling the experts in every step of a stroke patients’ care to best determine how they would prevent both patients and caregivers from contracting COVID, and how to best use the resources they had. “We gathered all of the stakeholders: infectious disease, emergency department, neuro, neurostroke, neurosurgery, endovascular, neurology, anesthesia, ethics, you name it,” says Dr. Prestigiacomo. Time was of the essence. The newly-assembled think-tank was urged to submit their recommendations within 24 hours. Within a week, the group had recommendations, a formalized protocol and a manuscript that would be published the following month in Stroke. Dr. Prestigiacomo said it was the quickest execution of any paper in which he has been a contributor. “It was incredible,” recalls Dr. Grossman, “the collaboration of the team was just as impressive as the article itself.”

All of the members of the stroke team presented the guidelines to their respective departments so that they would know the protocol when someone presented with stroke-like symptoms. The flowsheet algorithm dictated every step. “There’s no second-guessing at this point,” states Dr. Prestigiacomo.

On a statewide level, Ohio Governor Mike DeWine issued an order that declared as of March 18, 2020, all elective surgeries and procedures would be postponed to conserve resources for healthcare workers. Now that a plan was in place, they waited for a surge of stroke patients. But, while some places did see an increase in stroke occurrences associated with COVID infections, Cincinnati actually saw a reduction in patients presenting to the hospital with milder strokes, which was just as, if not more, concerning to UC Health stroke doctors. “Because this means that patients with milder strokes were not going to the hospital,” says Dr. Grossman, potentially out of fear of contracting COVID. Specifically, acute stroke consultations by the UC stroke team declined by almost 40% in the five weeks following Governor DeWine’s executive order, a finding that was also published in Stroke. “Therefore, these patients were not getting the appropriate stroke therapy, workup, or rehabilitation,” says Dr. Grossman.

With coronavirus cases once again on the rise, and only expected to get higher by time of publication, UC Health’s Comprehensive Stroke Center wants patients and referring physicians alike to not hesitate seeking treatment for stroke-like symptoms. Dr. Prestigiacomo assures patients will be safe and protected when being treated at UC Health. In fact, he says, “The steps that are taken have been well-thought-out, well-rehearsed and are being well-executed across the board, such that the fear of contracting COVID when you come in to the hospital are negligible.”

–Julie Kroenig
Communications Director, UC Department of Neurosurgery
Explore the Academy’s new website

The Academy has launched its new website – www.academyofmedicine.org. Designed to be user friendly on both desktop and mobile devices, the new layout is easier to navigate while still offering a wealth of information.

The Academy database is also now integrated with the Academy website, so members are able to update their information online. Use the Login button in the top right corner to see your profile.

All members were sent an email (if we have your email address) with login information. If you need help with logging in, email Natalie Peterson (npeterson@academyofmedicine.org) or call 513-484-0156. Members are encouraged to review their profiles for accuracy and make any necessary changes.

Plans are for the website’s Physician Locator to go live in January 2021. Please make sure that your profile is up to date as information from your profile will transfer directly to the locator. This tool helps local patients connect with Academy members.

Long-time Academy of Medicine of Cincinnati staff member and current Communications Director Pam Fairbanks is retiring from the Academy in early December.

Since 1978, Pam has worked in several positions of increasing responsibility in the Academy’s Communications Department culminating in her current role as Director.

“It has been interesting and enjoyable to work at the Academy. Over the years, I have had the opportunity to grow with the job and try my hand at a variety of tasks. Changes in medicine and the technological advancements in the field of communications have certainly kept things intriguing. I will think back fondly on my co-workers and the members I’ve come to know throughout the years and appreciate the friendships made.”