



2024-2025 Annual Report

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2024-2025 Annual Report for the Alliance for Clinical Education

The Alliance for Clinical Education (ACE) is a multidisciplinary group formed in 1992 to enhance clinical instruction of medical students. ACE's mission is to foster collaboration across specialties to promote excellence in clinical education of medical students. Its members include representatives from the specialty groups which provide guidelines for the core clinical clerkships in most medical schools.

In support of its mission, the Alliance for Clinical Education will take a national leadership role in promoting:

- the recognition of excellent medical education as the enduring core mission of medical schools with a concomitant commitment of adequate resources
- collaboration, communication, and resource sharing among educators in different clinical disciplines, including a multidisciplinary approach to ensuring medical students achieve outcomes of core competencies
- innovation in medical student clinical education based on well-designed research, especially as this applies across specialties
- professional educator development of clinical medical educators and leaders
- service to our constituent organizations, other organizations in academic medicine, and students as a resource for information, ideas, and advocacy

In accordance with our mission, the Alliance for Clinical Education (ACE) undertook a variety of collaborations and outreach during 2024-2025. This annual summary provides an overview of our efforts to promote clinical medical student education.

ACE is comprised of representatives from eight different organizations, which include:

- Association of Directors of Medical Student Education in Psychiatry (ADMSEP)
- Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO)
- Association for Surgical Education (ASE)
- Clerkship Directors in Emergency Medicine (CDEM)
- Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM)
- Consortium of Neurology Clerkship Directors (CNCD)
- Council on Medical Student Education in Pediatrics (COMSEP)
- Society of Teachers of Family Medicine (STFM)

2024-2025 Conference Calls:

At our June 2025 conference call, Dr. Chris Feddock, Dr. Stephanie Mann, Megan Glodek and Laura Ryan from the National Board of Medical Examiners joined the call to discuss different NBME initiatives with a lens on ACE interest and opportunities for collaboration.

Some of the NBME initiatives identified included: Patient-centered communication skills (Communication Learning Assessment (CLA)), Diagnostic reasoning (Clinical Reasoning Learning Tool), and Data aggregation (Workplace-based Assessment Data Project). These assessments and tools have been aligned to several different competencies (ACGME Core Competencies and AAMC Foundational Competencies).

An in-time demonstration was conducted with the NBME Communication Learning Assessment tool. It is quite sophisticated. Currently this tool is available to schools that worked with them in the developmental stage. Following the June conference call, Dr. Mann emailed the following: There is one project that might be of interest to the ACE team regarding the CLA tool. We are looking for schools who would be interested in testing the CLA – specifically, recruiting students who are currently in clerkships. If you think this project might be of interest to members of the ACE team, we can provide additional details. The ACE Research Committee will begin developing a proposal for consideration.

In addition to the guests at the June conference call, Dr. Soni announced the revised bylaws had been finalized and approved by the ACE Executive Council. The bylaws had not been updated since 2009. Many procedural changes had occurred since then and we have those in place now.

At our August 2025 conference call, Ms. Gabrielle Campbell and Dr. Dana Dunleavy from the AAMC joined the call to present more information about the work Careers in Medicine is undertaking. Dr. Dunleavy is now overseeing the platform along with the residency explorer platform. She gave a brief presentation of the features of both sites. The links are:

- Careers in Medicine: <https://careersinmedicine.aamc.org/>
- Resident Explorer: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/apply-smart-residency/residency-explorer-tool>

They expressed interest in having ACE assist with updates to content domains. It will help shape the new platform. Not everyone knows these tools exist so it would be helpful for ACE member organizations to share the information with their individual members. A follow up email was sent to ACE members with slides and links as above.

Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting was held in October 2024. Two virtual sessions were held to address ACE business with all of our representatives to the general council as well as committee representatives. Sanjay Desai, M.D.; Chief Academic Officer, American Medical Association, was invited to the meeting and he discussed initiatives underway at the AMA. The organization started investing in medical education about 12 years ago. The original charge was to consider how undergraduate medical education could

be transformed for the modern era. The change in medical education grant program resulted in developing a consortium of medical schools undertaking innovative change. Dr. Desai expressed interest in remaining in touch with ACE to continue our conversations.

Other topics of discussion at the meeting included:

- More detailed update on changes being made to *The Guidebook for Clerkship Directors, 6th edition*
- Update to the now published *Handbook on Medical Student Evaluation and Assessment, 2nd edition*
- Our standing committees (Awards, Communication, Publication, and Research) reported on the committee activities, which are detailed later in this report.

Publications & Scholarship:

Each year at the AAMC Learn Serve Lead meeting ACE conducts a panel discussion. At the 2024 meeting, the panel addressed bias in grading. A robust discussion occurred at the panel. The panel title was Approaches to Obtaining Valuable, Fair, and Equitable Assessments of Medical Students in Core Clerkships which was moderated by Dr. Louis Pangaro (ACE Emeritus) and panelists Dr. Irene Alexandraki (CDIM), Dr. Michael Ryan (COMSEP), Dr. Nancy Skehan (CDIM), and Dr. Kristen Hood Watson (STFM).

For several years, ACE has sponsored the live #MedEdChat on X (formerly Twitter). Activities on the social media platform led to three peer-reviewed publications. The most current article was published in late 2024.

- Zheng B, Beck Dallaghan G, Wang Z. Social Dynamics and Discourse Moves: A Closer Look Into a Twitter-Facilitated Professional Learning Space. *Journal of Continuing Education in the Health Professions* 45(1):p 4-10, Winter 2025. | DOI: 10.1097/CEH.0000000000000567

The ACE Communications committee chose to completely overhaul the weekly chat into a blog, MedEdChat Blog. To date, we have published five blogs with the goal of publishing one per month. These are available on our website at: <http://allianceforclinicaleducation.org/social-media/mededchatblog/>

As indicated above, *The Guidebook for Clerkship Directors 6th Edition* is well underway. Dr. Lonika Sood from CDIM is the new senior editor. The editorial board consists of the following individuals:

- Irene Alexandraki (CDIM)
- Gary Beck Dallaghan (ACE)
- Amy Cutright (CDEM)
- Holli Horak (CNCD)
- Erin McMaster (COMSEP)
- David Power (STFM)
- Archana Pradan (APGO)
- Christiana Shaw (ASE)
- Nutan Vaidya (ADMSEP)

The second edition of *The Handbook on Medical Student Evaluation and Assessment* was published earlier in 2025. The book has been selling nicely. Individual members of our member organizations would benefit from this updated version that addresses issues of fairness and equity in assessment and grading.

Standing Committees:

ACE has four standing committees to help facilitate the work of the organization. They include Awards, Communications, Publications, and Research. The following are some highlights for each committee.

Awards Committee - Chair: Amit Pahwa (CDIM):

Current membership in this committee includes:

- Meg Keeley (COMSEP)
- Sarkis Kouyoumjian (CDEM)
- Doris Kung (CNCD)
- Erin Malloy (ADMSEP)
- Louis Pangaro (ACE)
- David Power (STFM)
- Brenda Roman (ACE)
- Shireen Madani Sims (APGO)
- Rachel Slotcavage (ASE)
- Madhu (Mona) Soni (ACE)

In efforts to recognize excellence in clinical medical student education in 2023, ACE created the Alliance for Clinical Education Louis N. Pangaro Medical Educator Award. At the AAMC Learn Serve Lead meeting in November, 2024, Dr. H. Carrie Chen from the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine became our second recipient. In 2025, we received seven nominations for the award which will be given in San Antonio, TX on November 1, 2025.

Communications Committee - Chair: Gary Beck Dallaghan (ACE):

Current membership in this committee includes:

- Jeremy Cutsforth-Gregory (CNCD)
- Catherine Derber (CDIM)
- Zaiba Jetpuri (STFM)
- Bruce Morgenstern (COMSEP)
- Silka Patel (APGO)
- Chris Peltier (COMSEP)
- Dana Raml (ADMSEP)
- Jennifer Readlynn (CDIM)
- Robyn Stewart (ASE)

Although ACE has been moderator for the weekly #MedEdChat on X (formerly Twitter) since 2017, waning participation led the committee to sunset the live chats. Instead, the committee discussed developing a monthly blog on topics that are of interest to clinical medical educators to continue having discussions on challenging topics, but doing it in a more thoughtful, evidence-based format. The new format rolled out in 2025. The blog is promoted on the DR-ED listserv as well as Linked-In.

Last year we undertook an overhaul of our website. It had been several years since serious updates had been made. The final touches were made in early 2025. The website is organized better and also includes photos of the executive council and award recipients. To explore the updates, go to <http://allianceforclinicaleducation.org>

Publications Committee – Chair: Adam Quick (CNCD):

Current membership in this committee includes:

- Laura Baecher-Lind (APGO)
- Mary Blazek (ADMSEP)
- Marisyl De La Cruz (STFM)
- Karen Forbes (COMSEP)
- Jonathan Gold (COMSEP)
- Paul Ko (CDEM)
- Peter Muscarella (ASE)
- Rachel Salas (CNCD)
- Sherine Salib (CDIM)
- Navddep Sekhon (CDEM)
- Roberto Silva (STFM)

The Med Ed Briefs continue to be published on a regular basis. Dr. Quick has a schedule for submissions so that each member organization of ACE can contribute at least two briefs per month. The Med Ed Briefs are available on our website at:

<http://allianceforclinicaleducation.org/social-media/mededbrief/>

Submissions undergo a peer-review process by the members of the Publications Committee. Once the Brief has been published, Dr. Quick provides the authors with a letter acknowledging their submission as an alternative electronic publication so review authors can claim the work on their curriculum vitae.

Research Committee – Chair: Irene Alexandraki (CDIM):

Current membership in this committee includes:

- Alicia Barnes (ADMSEP)
- Katherine Chen (APGO)
- Jennifer Christner (COMSEP)
- Amy Creel (COMSEP)
- Felicia Gliksman (CNCD)
- Bonnie Jortberg (STFM)
- Mark Olaf (CDEM)
- Priti Parikh (ASE)
- Temple Ratcliffe (CDIM)
- Stephen VanHaerents (CNCD)

Dr. Jenny Christner (COMSEP) stepped out of this role in early 2025. She remains on the committee, but it did leave an opening for a new chair. Fortunately, Dr. Alexandraki was happy to fill the role.

The ongoing project addressing the impact of teaching on burnout in medical educators is nearing completion. Dr. Chad Vercio (COMSEP) has led this initiative. The manuscript is in the final editing stages and will be submitted by the end of September, 2025.

In June of 2024, Drs. Christner and Beck Dallaghan met with Dr. Dorothy Andriole from the Association of American Medical Colleges. The discussion resulted in generating ideas of how ACE could use data collected from the AAMC questionnaires to answer questions relevant to clinical medical educators. We have a pending request with the AAMC for data from the program director surveys. Since a team has published something similar to our inquiry, we are exploring whether or not the aggregate data provided or individual data is needed to complete our proposed study.

Plans for 2025-2026

- *Medical Student Evaluation and Assessment Webinar Series*: Plans are underway to develop a webinar series based on the recently published *Handbook on Medical Student Evaluation and Assessment, 2nd edition*. This series will be similar to the Clinical Medical Educator Development series we conducted over the past three years. Be on the lookout for this series in early 2026.
- *2025 Learn Serve Lead Panel*: The panel topic this year is entitled “The Power of Thanks: Fueling Education through Philanthropy”. The panel is moderated by Dr. Mona Soni (ACE) with panelists including Ms. Jessica Breithbarth (Carle Illinois), Ms. Brigid Mullen (Rush University), and Dr. Joseph Safdieh (CNCD). The panel is scheduled for November 1st at 1:00 PM CDT in San Antonio at the Learn Serve Lead meeting.

Immediately following the panel at 3:00 PM CDT is the awards reception for the Pangaro Award.

- *Strategic Plan*: The Executive Council is meeting in September to begin drafting a strategic plan for the organization. In order for ACE to thrive, we are going to set an ambitious agenda for the next five years.
- *Elections*: We will be voting for a president-elect and treasurer at the 2025 annual meeting. This is the first time we will hold competitive elections as we had two nominees for the treasurer position.

Visit the ACE website (<http://allianceforclinicaleducation.org>) to find out more about the organization.