

April 22, 2020

While the AAAAI COVID-19 Response Task Force continues to provide unparalleled resources for the allergist/immunologist, I want to talk with you today about our focus on advocating for our members and patients, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Physician reimbursement is always a major focus of our efforts. During and following this pandemic, we are especially concerned about the sustainability of small and independent practices. We are working on making the transformations in practice that have been developed in response to COVID-19 work for you, our members, while protecting patient access to specialty care. Advocacy efforts on physician health and wellness are also taking on increased awareness and importance.

With our ongoing relationship with the extraordinary professional governmental relations team at Hart Health Strategies, we are able to build on our ongoing advocacy efforts, emphasizing reimbursement for the allergist/immunologist, increasing funding for research and food allergy and other clinical areas in the specialty, and penicillin allergy testing as a tool in the fight against antibiotic resistance. These priorities top a comprehensive list of concerns on which the AAAAI is consistently fighting for our members.

Our focus on advocacy in the context of the COVID-19 crisis is evident in that our Task Force is led by our Advocacy Chair, Paul Williams. He is joined by members reflecting a broad range of expertise to allow our efforts on your behalf to be comprehensive and to maximize effectiveness. We also welcome additional experts as needed, such as having Elizabeth Matsui on a call with the CDC last week to discuss findings on COVID-19 and asthmatic patients. We sincerely appreciate the dedication and commitments of all of our volunteer leaders whose engagement enables the Academy to provide unparalleled information and advocacy efforts. However, our advocacy efforts are always best when inclusive of member engagement, so we welcome your outreach to us and email us at any time at advocacy@aaaai.org.

Please visit our COVID-19 resources page frequently, as well as our COVID-19 advocacy page, which features links on a wide range of important practice topics which are continuously updated by Hart Health Strategies. As always, send your questions to practicematters@aaaai.org. I'm recording this video chat during National Volunteer Week, so again, a special thank you to all of our volunteer leaders. Stay healthy. Take care.