

April 2007

Dear ACAAI Member:

I call your attention to a critical issue facing our profession – a shortage of qualified allergist/immunologists.

Although the shortage of allergists does not affect all geographic locations, it is widespread and getting worse. Demand for allergists is projected to increase 35% by 2020, while supply is expected to decline each year.

The prevalence of allergic diseases, including asthma, continues to increase resulting in an even greater demand for trained allergists. Allergic diseases affect 50 million Americans and are the sixth leading cause of chronic disease. Asthma currently affects 22 million Americans. The annual direct and indirect health care costs for treating asthma in the U.S. exceed \$16.1 billion.

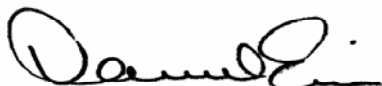
You will receive a background paper entitled "Allergist Report: America Faces Allergy/Asthma Crises," which provides details on our specialty's shortage and examines what is currently being done and what needs to be done now and in the future.

An expansion in medical education and federal initiatives is needed to address chronic problems in the supply of allergist/immunologists. On May 4, the ACAAI Board of Regents will meet with their congressmen and senators in Washington D.C. to address this issue.

Patients with allergic diseases deserve the highest quality of care – and nobody does it better than the allergist. Ask your patients to write their congressmen or senators about this pressing issue that affects families and individuals living with asthma and allergies. Ten copies of our new patient brochure will be sent to you for use with your patients. Additional copies can be downloaded from our Web site.

We will keep you informed on the progress of this important initiative.

Sincerely,



Daniel Ein, MD
ACAAI President