

## In Person

With: Anne-Marie A. Irani, MD, FAAAAI

After the 2013 Annual Meeting, Dr. Irani will have completed terms serving on the AAAAI Board of Directors as an At-Large Director and as Co-Chair of the AAAAI's International Assembly. She is currently at Virginia Commonwealth University Health Systems where she is Professor of Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, Chair of the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology, and Co-Director of the Allergy/Immunology training program.

**Q What do you feel has been your greatest accomplishment while serving on the AAAAI Board of Directors?**

**A** I have been privileged to work closely with the leadership of the International Assembly (IA) towards raising the impact of the international community within the AAAAI. With the strong support of Dennis Ledford, MD, FAAAAI, during his presidency, these efforts led to the development of the International Young Investigator Award, which recognizes research accomplishments among members from the various international regions.

Other initiatives led to the inclusion of international fellows-in-training (FITs) in the FIT program at the Annual Meeting and inviting international program directors in allergy/immunology to attend the

meetings of the Program Directors Assembly. International members are considered full members with opportunities to participate in all aspects of the AAAAI and Annual Meeting. Having graduated from a foreign medical school myself, I am very enthusiastic about the extent to which the AAAAI has embraced our international community.

**Q How has the allergy/immunology specialty changed since you've been involved in the AAAAI?**

**A** I think the practice of allergy/immunology is grounded on an increasing amount of evidence-based recommendations and practice parameters, which move the field from an art to more of a science. The demand for specialists in our field will continue to increase as new immune-mediated disease entities are described and new biologic therapies are developed, resulting in expansion of our scope of practice. The challenge will be to successfully address the resulting workforce issues.



*Anne-Marie Irani*

**Q You're the Allergy and Immunology Representative on the Council of Pediatric Subspecialties (CoPS). How do your responsibilities with CoPS allow you to advance the knowledge and practice of allergy, asthma and immunology for optimal patient care?**

**A** CoPS serves as a forum for communication and collaboration across pediatric subspecialties. Its website features descriptions of the pediatric subspecialties, including allergy/immunology, thus making information more easily accessible to pediatric residents contemplating fellowship training. Attracting more applicants to the field of allergy, asthma and immunology is an important goal in addressing the workforce issues facing the specialty. Future goals include the development of a central warehouse of cross-discipline courses and programs devoted to education, research and leadership.

**Q If you were speaking to a medical student who was interested in pursuing a career in A/I, why would you tell him or her to choose it?**

**A** The field of allergy and immunology allows the practitioner to apply a comprehensive approach to medical care as it is based on an understanding of immune mechanisms and therefore goes beyond caring for a particular organ system.

For example, a patient with asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis and eosinophilic esophagitis could be cared for by a team consisting of a pulmonologist, ear, nose and throat practitioner, dermatologist and gastroenterologist, or the patient could receive comprehensive care from an allergist/immunologist.

Advances in the diagnosis and treatment of novel immune-mediated diseases offer numerous opportunities for developing specialized and needed expertise and ensures a bright future for the allergy/immunology specialty.

**Q As a Program Director, why do you feel it's important to donate to the ARTrust™?**

**A** The future of our specialty depends on the acquisition of new knowledge and the support of young investigators in the field of allergy/immunology. The ARTrust is committed to the advancement of asthma, allergy and immunology education and research and plays a vital role in supporting training programs and faculty development.

**Q We hear you are very well traveled. What has been the most memorable place you've been to?**

**A** Our family enjoys getting together for bicycle vacations all over the continental United States and the world. Although we have visited a number of interesting locales, the most fascinating place for me remains the Lascaux caves in the Dordogne area of France.

Being able to actually see the Paleolithic cave paintings of bison was pretty amazing! Unfortunately, these caves were closed to the public in 2008 to protect them from mold damage, which makes the memories from that trip all the more precious.

## ARTrust™ Hosts Auction and First Annual Run/Walk in San Antonio

The 2013 Annual Meeting is quickly approaching. While in San Antonio, make time to support education and research to find treatments and cures for the millions of people suffering from allergies, asthma and other immunologic diseases. Join your friends and colleagues at the ARTrust's two headlining events:

### Lights, Camera, Auction!

Lights, Camera, Auction! on Saturday night features comedian/actors Steve and Nancy Carell. This red carpet event benefiting the ARTrust will take place at the beautiful Lila Cockrell Theatre in San Antonio from 7:00 to 10:00 pm on February 23. Reserve your tickets now at [annualmeeting.aaaai.org](http://annualmeeting.aaaai.org).

You know them from *The Office*, *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and *Saturday Night Live*. The Carells will serve as Honorary Auctioneers donating their time and talent to lead this exciting event for the ARTrust. Silent auction items will also be available for additional bidding.

Interested in donating an auction item? Call John Augustyniak at (414) 272-6071.

People who donate an auction item of at least \$5,000 in value or donate at least \$10,000 to the ARTrust in 2012 will receive VIP privileges including a meet and greet with Steve and Nancy Carell, priority seating at the auction, special recognition at the auction and a listing in the program booklet. For each item valued at \$5,000 or more, you will receive one complimentary ticket to the event. For donations of \$10,000 or more to the ARTrust, you will receive two complimentary tickets.

### Race for Allergy and Asthma Research 5K Run/Walk

The ARTrust is also hosting its First Annual Race for Allergy and Asthma Research 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, February 24 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at HemisFair Park in San Antonio. This event is open to everyone: serious runners, casual runners, walkers, families and the general public.

All runners/walkers will receive a race T-shirt in their registration packet. Packet pick-up will be available during regular meeting registration hours (Thursday through Sunday) on the street level of the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in Bridge Hall. You may also register onsite Sunday prior to the run.

Help raise awareness for the ARTrust and raise money to support the ARTrust mission. Register for the Run/Walk at [annualmeeting.aaaai.org](http://annualmeeting.aaaai.org).

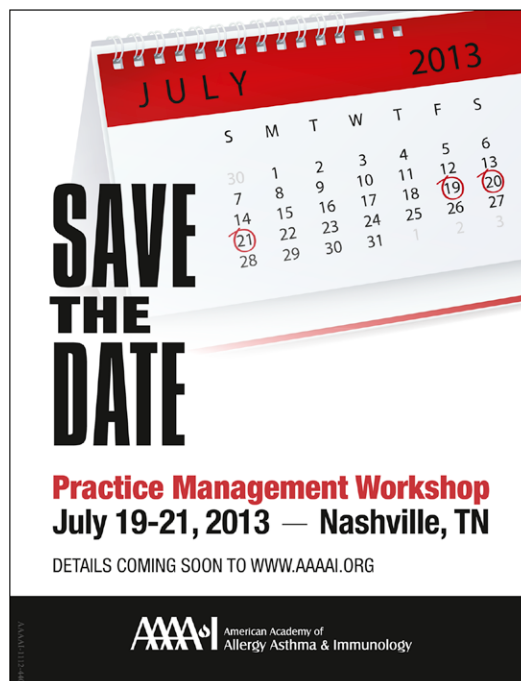
## Register for the 2013 Annual Meeting before February 1 and Save

If you haven't registered for the 2013 Annual Meeting, time is running out to save money. Register at [annualmeeting.aaaai.org](http://annualmeeting.aaaai.org) by February 1 and save up to \$80 off the fee to attend the world's premier gathering of allergy and immunology experts.

Highlights include:

- This year's Presidential Plenary, *Sensitization and Tolerance in Allergic Disease*, examines the role of genetics and environment in the development of allergic disease and how tolerance may develop
- Dr. Jeffrey Gordon, Director of the Center for Genome Sciences and Systems Biology at Washington University in St. Louis and known for his expertise in addressing the human microbiome, presents the *Dining in with Trillions of Fascinating Friends: The Microbiome in Health and Disease* keynote
- Updated Interest Section Forums that combine the business meeting portion of the previous forums with the content of the State-of-the-Art sessions


For more on this year's educational sessions, access the Program & Planner from [annualmeeting.aaaai.org](http://annualmeeting.aaaai.org). Take advantage of the opportunity to register now and save—before it's too late.



**SAVE THE DATE**

**Practice Management Workshop**  
**July 19-21, 2013 — Nashville, TN**

DETAILS COMING SOON TO [WWW.AAAAI.ORG](http://WWW.AAAAI.ORG)

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Allergy Asthma & Immunology

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