Dear Colleagues,

It is my distinct pleasure to write to you as the new Chair of RheumPAC. I am thrilled for the opportunity to work with all of you to build upon the many successes that RheumPAC and ACR/ARP advocates have had to date. These successes would not be possible without your ongoing support.

I am pleased to share that 2018 was another strong year for RheumPAC. We raised $144,000 from 323 individual investors! Their average donation was $446.50, and 36 gave through automatic recurring contributions. The ACR/ARP leadership continued to set the tone, with 100% of the ACR Board of Directors, Committee on Rheumatologic Care, Committee on Government Affairs, RheumPAC, and ARP Executive Committee contributing to RheumPAC.

Along with distributing these funds to key members of Congress, your advocacy through Hill visits, meetings with your local representatives, emails and letters to members of Congress, along with millions (yes, millions!) of tweets made our messaging loud and clear. Thank you!

With these contributions and advocacy efforts, the ACR/ARP was able to work with key partners in Congress to advance rheumatology’s priorities on Capitol Hill, including:

- Stopping the proposed cuts to evaluation and management services;
- Boosting NIH funding by $1.25 billion; and
- Repealing Medicare caps on outpatient therapy.

These three examples are a few of many that highlight the important work the ACR/ARP does on Capitol Hill to represent all aspects of our membership, including those in practice, those who conduct research, and rheumatology professionals.

While 2018 was a great success for RheumPAC, I think 2019 will be even better. With your support, we can raise $150,000 from over 450 investors! Along with the usual perks of contributing to RheumPAC like preferred Annual Meeting housing for major donors and access to the RheumPAC lounge during the meeting, we will also provide RheumPAC investors with insider access to Capitol Hill updates from our advocacy team.

Your 2019 contributions will continue to advance the ACR/ARP’s advocacy agenda on Capitol Hill by helping us get a seat at the table to start and continue productive and educational conversations with members of Congress. RheumPAC investors should feel comfortable knowing that your professional policy issues are being supported and advocated by a team of volunteers and experts who deliberate carefully on each and every contribution we make. A list of campaigns supported by RheumPAC is maintained and regularly updated on the ACR website.

Beginning in 2019, I am excited to introduce a new way for non-individuals—rheumatology practices, hospitals, and state/local societies—to support RheumPAC’s advocacy efforts: through the RheumPAC Advocacy Fund. The RheumPAC Advocacy Fund gives non-individuals who would normally not be permitted to contribute to RheumPAC the chance to support ACR/ARP advocacy. Non-individual contributions to the RheumPAC Advocacy Fund will advance many advocacy goals, such as hosting fundraising events for key allies on the Hill and covering RheumPAC operating expenses associated with fundraising and increasing visibility at the local level.

I invite you to join me in a new challenge for 2019: Find a colleague who has not contributed to RheumPAC before, buy them a cup of coffee, and share the value and importance of contributing to RheumPAC. Word of mouth is the greatest tool at our disposal to get RheumPAC above and beyond its 2019 goals.

It’s never too early to make your 2019 RheumPAC contribution. To make your contribution and learn more about our advocacy efforts, please visit rheumatology.org/advocacy. You can mail a personal contribution to RheumPAC, 2200 Lake Boulevard NE, Atlanta, GA 30319. If you are interested in arranging a contribution from your practice or state or local society to the RheumPAC Advocacy Fund, please mail your contribution to RheumPAC Advocacy Fund, 2200 Lake Boulevard NE, Atlanta, GA 30319.

Thank you again to everyone who invested in RheumPAC and supported advocacy for ACR/ARP, its members, and our patients. Your contributions are critical to advancing ACR/ARP advocacy!

All my best,

Zach Wallace, MD, MSc
Chair, RheumPAC Committee

“"If we in rheumatology do not act NOW to wrest control of our specialty away from the administrators, the payers, and the hospitals, we will lose it forever. RheumPAC is one of our best tools to do this.”

—Daniel G. Malone, MD, RMSK, FACP
What is RheumPAC?
RheumPAC is the ACR’s nonpartisan political action committee (PAC) that works to elect and support pro-rheumatology candidates. It is the only PAC dedicated to the interests of the rheumatology profession.

Why does the ACR need RheumPAC?
RheumPAC is an integral part of the ACR’s advocacy efforts in advancing knowledge of rheumatology-related issues on Capitol Hill. RheumPAC creates opportunities to educate and develop relationships with members of Congress as well as support champions for our issues and our message. It is the financial vehicle through which ACR and ARP members can support Congressional candidates who share our commitment to rheumatology.

Why should I contribute?
Congress enacts health policies that impact your profession and your patients. RheumPAC provides opportunities for the ACR to educate key policymakers on the importance—and especially the value—of rheumatology. RheumPAC needs your support in order to have a real impact on the ACR’s continuing advocacy efforts. We can only be effective when legislators understand the fight for rheumatology-related issues.

Who receives RheumPAC funds?
The RheumPAC Committee uses one or all of the following criteria to determine support for a Congressional candidate:

1. The candidate supports rheumatology-related issues;
2. The candidate holds a leadership position or is assigned to a congressional committee that addresses policy related to rheumatology; and
3. The candidate has an established relationship with the ACR.

Why continue to support RheumPAC?
1. RheumPAC works for you—Your investment goes solely toward supporting legislators who are supportive of policies benefiting rheumatology patients and care providers.
2. It is a new Congress—Many Members of Congress, especially first-term legislators, are not familiar with the ACR or our issues. RheumPAC helps us create relationships with lawmakers and allows us to educate them about who we are, the valuable services we provide in their districts, and how we benefit our patients, physicians, and the healthcare delivery system as a whole.

Sen. Joni Ernst [R-IA] with Drs. Kwas Huston and Bharat Khumar
Now practices and state societies can support ACR/ARP advocacy efforts and RheumPAC with corporate funds, which are prohibited from RheumPAC. The RheumPAC Advocacy Fund will support RheumPAC and advocacy as a separate fund for:

- Fundraising events;
- Communications;
- Operating costs; and
- All other non-election contribution expenditures.

To support the RheumPAC Advocacy fund, please mail a check to:
RheumPAC Advocacy Fund
2200 Lake Boulevard NE
Atlanta, GA 30319

Questions?
Contact Lennie Shewmaker, JD, Senior Manager, Federal Affairs
LShewmaker@rheumatology.org
404-633-3777

“RheumPAC has opened more doors for the College and its advocates than we imagined. It is among the most effective PACs in medicine. I support RheumPAC because I like open doors when I want policymakers to listen to our voices.”
JOSEPH FLOOD, MD

Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC) with Lisa Carnago, Latisha Williams, Drs. Ryan Jessee, Sean Fahey, and Kim Sunghye and patient advocates
“Looking back on the list of ACR’s 2018 advocacy accomplishments—the Part B drug MIPS fix, individualized billing codes for biosimilars, nixing the rehab/PT caps and the IPAB [Independent Payment Advisory Board]—one could ask, what do they all have in common? They were the result of hard work of many dedicated volunteers and staff; they’ll help us deliver outstanding patient care now and in the future, and—most importantly—they would have not have been achieved if not for our political action committee.” —ANGUS WORTHING, MD
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Platinum
$1,000 - 1,999

Daniel Battafarano, DO
Ashley Beall, MD
Howard Blumstein, MD
Hazel Brelan, PhD, OT, FAOTA, CLA
Michael Brooks, MD
Gary Bryant, MD
Cathy Chapman, MD
Deborah Desir, MD
Gerald Eisenberg, MD
Joseph Flood, MD
Harry Gewanter, MD
Kristin Gowin, MD
L. Douglas Graham, MD
Gene Huffstutter, MD

Kwas Huston, MD
Kevin Kempf, MD
Karen Kolba, MD
Erica Lawson, MD
Daniel Malone, MD
Alan Matsumoto, MD
Rodolfo Molina, MD
Mark Niemer, MD
Robert Rosenberg, MD
Raymond Scalettar, MD, DSc
Evan Siegel, MD
E. William St. Clair, MD
Douglas White, MD
Richard Yonker, DO

Dr. Deborah Desir and Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)

Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) with Drs. Bita Shakoory, Victoria Menzies, Harry Gewanter and patient advocates
I have been a regular RheumPAC contributor for many years and understand the need to be ‘at the table’ to promote legislation that will better enable me to take care of my patients. I encourage others to join in this effort by contributing to RheumPAC.”

–CATHY M. CHAPMAN, MD
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF RHEUMATOLOGY POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

Silver
$250 - 499

ABBY ABELSON, MD, FACP
ASENA BAHCE-ALTUNTAS, MD
ANNE BASS, MD
DONAH BEALE, MD
ADEY BERHANU, MD
NEAL BIRNBAUM, MD
IRENE BLANCO, MD
S. LOUIS BRIDGES, MD, PhD
JAMES BRODEUR, MD
KAMRAN CHAUDHARY, MD
DANIEL CLEGG, MD
PETER COUTLAKIS, MD
STEVEN CRAIG, MD
LESLIE CROFFORD, MD
LOUIS DALESSANDRO, DO
EMMA DIORIO, MD
JAMES ENGELBRECHT, MD
ALAN EPSTEIN, MD
MADELAINE FELDMAN, MD
POLLY FERGUSON, MD
RICHARD FIELD, MD
JOHN FITZGERALD, MD
HOWARD HAUPTMAN, MD
GLORIA HIGGINS, MD, PhD
BRUCE HOFFMAN, MD
LINDSAY HOLTZ, MD
EDGAR JESSEE, MD
ROBERT KEENAN, MD, MPH, MBA

STACY KENNEDY, MD, MBA
AMI KOTHARI, MD
FOTIOS KOUMPOURAS, MD
BHARAT KUMAR, MD
JOSEPH LAUKAITIS, MD
EDMUND MACLAUGHLIN, MD
MANUELA MARINESCU, MD
SAURIN MEHTA, MD
TED MIKULS, MD
SANDRA MINTZ, BSN
AMANDA MYERS, MD, CCD
MATTHEW NAEGLE, MD
KATHLEEN O’NEIL, MD
JUSTIN PENG, MD
ADAM REINHARDT, MD
WILLIAM ROBINSON, MD, PhD
KEN SAAG, MD, MSc
BRIAN SAYERS, MD
MICHAEL SCHUSTER, MD, PhD
REBECCA SHEPHERD, MD
JESSICA SHORT, MD
MOGES SISAY, MD
BRETT SMITH, DO
MARCUS SNOW, MD
ELIZABETH TINDALL, MD
SWAMY VENUTURUPALLI, MD
ARTHUR WEINSTEIN, MD

“...I donate to RheumPAC because apathy is not an option. I care deeply that the imperatives of our patients are represented and respected in the halls of Congress. Who is better at doing that than us? The outcome will not be good if we let others determine how we practice without our input. If we stand back, then we let others make decisions about our reimbursement, and therefore the very viability of our profession. Who else would step up on our behalf? The funds I donate to RheumPAC give rheumatology a voice and our patients continued access to care. I remain perplexed as to why every member does not donate and hope that will change as others reach the same conclusions that I have.”
—HERBERT S. B. BARAF, MD, FACP, MACR

Sen. Deb Fischer with Drs. Michael Holers, Marcus Snow, Bill Palmer, and Kristi Kuhn

Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) with Dr. Shariq Chudhri and a patient advocate
Bronze
$100 - 249

Abigail Neiman, MD
Timothy Niewold, MD
James O’Dell, MD
Karen Onel, MD
Chinyoung Park, MD
Murray Passo, MD
Kara Petersen, MD
John Pixley, MD
Janet Poole, PhD, OT, FAOTA
Rosalind Ramsey-Goldman, MD
Virginia Reddy, MD
Guada Respicio-Duque, MD, MSc
Jan Richardson, PhD, PT, OCS, FAPTA
Alejandra Rodriguez-Paez, MD
Shawn Rose, MD, PhD
Beth Rubinstein, MD
Tamar Rubinstein, MD
Michael Saitta, MD
Aliese Sarkissian, MD
Elizabeth Schlenk, PhD, RN, FAAN
Grant Schulert, MD, PhD
Philip Seo, MD, MHS
Jessica Sheingold, MD
Lori Siegel, MD
Neil Sullivan, MD
John Tesser, MD
George Tsokos, MD
Jill Vargo, MD
Richard Vehe, MD
Steven Vlad, MD, PhD
Joan Marie Von Feldt, MD, MSEd
Benjamin Widener, MD
David Wolfe, MD, FACR
Jinoos Yazdany, MD, MPH
Kendra Zuckerman, MD

ANGELA GAFFO, MD, MSPH
ELLEN GRAVALLESE, MD
HELEN HARMON, MD
AFTON HASSETT, PsyD
JONATHAN HAUSMANN, MD
LAUREN HENDERSON, MD
EVELYN HSIEH, MD, PhD
LAURA HUGHES, MD, MSPH
MARK HWANG, MD
RICHARD JIMENEZ, MD
DANNETTE JOHNSON, DO
J. MICHELLE KAHLenberg, MD, PhD
Rachel Kaiser, MD, PhD
Robert Kalish, MD
MOHAMMAD KAMRAN, MD
Jonathan Kay, MD
Gail Kerr, MD, FRCP
Yasmeen Khalid, MD
Sharon Kolanski, MD
C. Kent Kwoh, MD
William Lapin, MD
FRANCIS LICHON, MD
JEFFREY LIEBERMAN, MD
Nancy Liu, MD
Kristine Lohr, MD, MS
Grant Louie, MD, MHS
Shawn MacAlester, DO
ANNE-MARIE MALFAIT, MD, PhD
Melissa Mannion, MD
Eric Matteson, MD
Gale McCarty, MD, FACR, FACP
David McLain, MD
ZSUZSANNA McMahan, MD, MHS
TARANEH MEHRANI, MD
Kaleb Michaud, PhD
Elia Miloslavsky, MD
Jennifer Murphy, MD

Grace Ahn, MD
Mark Andrejeski
Zineb Aouhab, MD
Cristina Arriens, MD, MSc
Shervin Assassi, MD
Janet Bahr, ANP, BC
Puneet Bajaj, MBBS
Matthew Baker, MD
Leyka Barbosa, MD
Luke Barré, MD, MPH
Linda Belhorn, MD
Alfonso Bello, MD, MHS
Elana Bernstein, MD
Joel Block, MD
Marcy Bolster, MD
John Botson, MD, RHP
Leigh Callahan, PhD
Ashley Cooper, MD
Jennifer Cooper, MD, PharmD
Karen Costenbader, MD
Ethan Craig, MD
Randy Cron, MD, PhD
Bruce Cronstein, MD
Charles Degenhardt, MD
Deborah DeMarco, MD
Shari Diamond, MD
Gino Divittorio, MD
Sarah Doaty, MD
Christina Downey, MD
Terrence Dwyer, MD
Linda Ehrlich-Jones, PhD, RN
Elana Eiser, MD
Daniel El-Bogdadi, MD
Celia Fernandez, MD
Theodore Fields, MD
Robert Fuhlbrigge, MD, PhD
"I have been a supporter of RheumPAC since it was formed in March 2007. The addition of RheumPAC to the ACR’s expanding advocacy efforts has allowed greater access to representatives and senators who are in a position to champion our goal to advance rheumatology. The result has made a significant impact on the practice of rheumatology and the lives of our patients."

—Gary Bryant, MD, former RheumPAC Chair

“RheumPAC plays an important role in the advocacy efforts of the ACR. The laws, rules, and regulations that govern healthcare in our country are considered, made, and changed in Washington, D.C. on a continual basis. It is critical for the ACR to have a seat at the table where deliberations are happening. If one is not at the table, one may end up being on the menu. RheumPAC has a strong track record of supporting bipartisan influential lawmakers that lead the decision-making process in Washington, D.C. This provides ACR leaders and advocates easy access to these legislators so they can promote policies that are best for our patients and our profession.”

—Sharad Lakhanpal, MD, FACR, FACP
“RheumPAC opens doors so the ACR can teach members of Congress about what rheumatologists do, and about the issues critical to us and our patients. With 100 new members entering Congress in 2019 and more coming after the 2020 election, this is a critical time for RheumPAC. Investments right now are critical to continue to protect our profession and our patients’ well-being. I encourage everyone to consider joining the PAC!”

—Angus Worthing, MD, FACP, FACR

“RheumPAC offers the triple benefit of benefiting the patients we serve (and their families), our specialty, and our individual practices. As we survey the political landscape, it is naive and self-defeating to think that our priorities will automatically resonate with many other interest groups. It takes money to help articulate our argument in those settings and with those people who are in the best position to help meet the needs of our patients and practices. Because our specialty is small in number, RheumPAC needs the support of each and every ACR and ARP member. No donation is too small. We’ve accomplished a great deal with support from a small percentage of our membership. With more participation in RheumPAC, I can confidently predict there will be more successes for our patients, our practices, and our specialty.”

—Gerald Eisenberg, MD

“RheumPAC advocacy for rheumatologists, patient care, drug pricing, and research was extraordinary in 2018; ACR members pushed policy priorities to Capitol Hill levels ... the ACR furthered policy priorities on Capitol Hill to facilitate valuable and block harmful legislation. RheumPAC took the lead to stop cuts to E/M services, advance PBM [pharmacy benefit manager] reform, advance step therapy legislation, boost NIH funding, and much more. Donating to RheumPAC really makes a difference for all rheumatology providers and patients!”

—Daniel Battafarano, DO