

ASCRS AND YOUNG EYE SURGEONS (YES)

LEGISLATIVE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

 **ASCRS**
FOR SURGEONS. FOR YOU.



Scholarship Opportunity: Meet Your Legislators and Make a Difference for Your Profession and Your Patients

ASCRS and the Young Eye Surgeons (YES) program are excited to announce a scholarship opportunity for U.S. resident and fellow members of ASCRS who want to effect positive change for their profession and patients.

Deadline extended to March 31, 2020

Apply now for the annual ASCRS/YES Alliance of Specialty Medicine Legislative Fly-In Scholarship for an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 15-17, 2020. Five (5) qualified scholarship recipients will be selected to join ASCRS leadership and members, as well as physicians representing other medical specialties, to attend the annual Alliance of Specialty Medicine Legislative Fly-In.

As a member of the Alliance, ASCRS actively participates each year during the Fly-In, which brings physicians and administrators to Washington, D.C. to meet directly with their Representatives and Senators and to lobby Congress for our key policy initiatives.

Interest in the fly-in continues to grow, and we are striving to increase resident and fellow member involvement. Each year, this process will usher-in a new group of young ASCRS members who are eager to learn how to become better advocates on behalf of their profession. The annual Legislative Fly-In helps develop members' understanding of public



policy issues affecting ophthalmology, and provides invaluable networking opportunities with well-established ASCRS members, including society leadership. Given that there are a limited number of available scholarships each year, ASCRS YES members who are interested in attending are encouraged to apply for a scholarship as soon as possible. The Legislative Fly-In Scholarship will include all travel and accommodation expenses.

[Apply Now](#)

What is the Legislative Fly-In?

The Legislative Fly-In is an annual event organized by the Alliance of Specialty Medicine to bring specialty physicians and administrators to Washington, D.C., to meet with their legislators and advocate for policy issues affecting the specialty medical community. ASCRS is a member of the Alliance and works with the other member societies year-round to monitor legislative and regulatory activity and advocate for our members' policy initiatives. When members of the individual societies travel to Washington, they can demonstrate to lawmakers in-person how the policies they implement have a direct impact on physicians and patients in their districts and states. Younger members who are just beginning or still training for their careers often have an even greater impact on legislators, since they likely will be affected by new policies for a longer period.

What will I Learn and Who will I Meet?

Not only does the Fly-In seek to advance ASCRS' advocacy goals, it provides invaluable information about public policy affecting ophthalmology. Frequently, ASCRS members at all levels of their careers have been hesitant to participate in advocacy activities because they feel they do not have an adequate understanding of healthcare policy to be effective, therefore their efforts will not make a difference. However, the personal stories and experiences in-practice are often the most powerful motivators for legislative action. Physicians and administrators who must comply with federal regulations are the best equipped to demonstrate the impacts of those policies and speak for the patients they ultimately affect.



In past years, we have seen the direct, positive impact of Fly-In attendees' advocacy. As a result of our advocacy efforts and in working with the Alliance, Congress repealed the flawed Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) formula and enacted the Medicare Access and CHIP Reauthorization Act (MACRA), which provided for positive physician payment updates and created a streamlined approach to quality reporting. In addition, we were successful in the enactment of key technical corrections to MACRA that were necessary to help our members prepare and achieve successful participation in the Quality Payment Program (QPP). Your attendance and willingness to share your

experiences make a tremendous difference in achieving our policy goals. During the Fly-In, staff from ASCRS and other organizations will provide an in-depth briefing on policy issues and help attendees craft effective messages related to those issues based on their personal experiences. Attendees will also hear directly from leaders in Congress, administration officials, and other subject matter experts before visiting with their own legislators on Capitol Hill. Speakers in recent years have included: Sen. Rand Paul, MD (R-KY); Former Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, MD; Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-OH); Rep. Raul Ruiz, MD (D-CA); Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA); House Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member Kevin Brady (R-TX); Rep. Phil Roe, MD (R-TN), officials from the FDA and the White House; political commentators and TV personalities, such as Chris Wallace; and speakers from academia and other industries covering related healthcare topics and trends.

Additionally, the Fly-In offers YES members an incredible opportunity to meet and network with other ASCRS members. ASCRS leaders are always well represented at the event, and they are eager to meet and provide mentorship to younger members.

Draft 2020 Fly-In Agenda

The complete agenda is still being developed. We have provided a sample agenda based on previous agendas and expect to follow a similar format this year.

Monday, June 15

- 3 – 5 p.m. | Registration/check-in at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel
- 7 p.m. | Dinner with ASCRS leadership and attendees; overview of legislative issues for Hill visits

Tuesday, June 16

- 7 – 7:30 a.m. | Breakfast, Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel
- 7:30 a.m. – Noon | Review of issue briefs, speakers from Congress and administration
- Noon – 1 p.m. | Lunch with multi-specialty physicians from your state to prepare for Hill meetings
- 1 :30 – 5:30 p.m. | Capitol Hill visits with U.S. Representatives and Senators, escorted by professional staff from medical societies
- 6 – 7 p.m. | Fundraising reception (tentative)
- 7 p.m. | Informal dinner with ASCRS attendees

Wednesday, June 17

- 8 – 11 a.m. | Breakfast and advocacy conference

This agenda is subject to change. Attendees are asked to arrive in Washington by Monday afternoon and depart Wednesday afternoon.

How do I Apply for the Scholarship?

U.S. resident and fellow members* of ASCRS are encouraged to apply for a 2020 ASCRS/YES Legislative Fly-In Scholarship. The deadline to apply is now Tuesday, March 31, 2020. All applications will be reviewed thoroughly, and a total of five (5) scholarships will be awarded to selected applicants whom present a strong interest in public policy and desire to advocate on behalf of the profession.

To apply for a scholarship, please complete the online application form before the March 31 deadline.

Reflections on the Fly-In from the scholarship recipients will be printed in *Eyeworld* magazine. Scholarship recipients also will be asked to share their experiences on Capitol Hill in a post-Fly-In article.

[Apply Now](#)



If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Chris Hughes, Manager, PAC and Grassroots at chughes@ascrs.org or 703-591-2220.