

History:

Founded in 2004 by physicians, ACLM is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Mission Statement:

Advancing evidenced-based lifestyle medicine to prevent, treat, and reverse noncommunicable, chronic disease.

Vision Statement:

A world wherein lifestyle medicine is the foundation of health and all health care.

Definition:

Lifestyle medicine is a medical specialty that uses therapeutic lifestyle interventions as a primary modality to treat chronic conditions including, but not limited to, cardiovascular diseases, type 2 diabetes, and obesity. Lifestyle medicine certified clinicians are trained to apply evidence-based, whole-person, prescriptive lifestyle change to treat and, when used intensively, often reverse such conditions. Applying the six pillars of lifestyle medicine—a whole-food, plant-predominant eating pattern, physical activity, restorative sleep, stress management, avoidance of risky substances and positive social connections—also provides effective prevention for these conditions.

Membership:

Active membership comprises 10,000 physicians and other clinicians.

Services:

Pre-professional, graduate, residency and CME/CE educational programs and curricula for physicians and other health professionals, certification in lifestyle medicine, plus lifestyle medicine practice support to members. Student-led Lifestyle Medicine Interest Groups exist at 140 U.S. campuses. Some 302 lifestyle medicine residency programs exist across 135 sites, with 6,900+ enrollees. Our Health Systems Council has 101 member organizations. We work with 70+ corporations and organizations dedicated to healthcare transformation.

Certified Clinicians:

Since certification began in 2017 by the American Board of Lifestyle Medicine, 2,445 physicians in the U.S. have become board certified in lifestyle medicine, along with 946 other health professionals. Globally across 72 nations, 3,999 physicians are now certified as well as 1,255 other health professionals.

Certified Programs:

- Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP)
- Chanwuyi Lifestyle Medicine Program
- The Lift Project
- Rochester Lifestyle Medicine Institute Jumpstart
- Full Plate Living

Leadership:

- President Beth Frates, MD, FACLM, DipABLM
- President-Elect Padmaja Patel, MD, FACLM, DipABLM
- Past-President Cate Collings, MD, MS, FACC, DipABLM
- Executive Director, Susan Benigas

As an independent medical professional association representing the diverse interest of all our members, ACLM is not responsible to any religious, political or industry interests.

Strategic Partners:

- American College of Preventive Medicine
- American College of Sports Medicine
- Big Picture Learning
- Institute for Advancing Health Value
- Institute of Lifestyle Medicine
- Lifestyle Medicine Education (LMEd)
- Medical Fitness Association
- National Board for Health and Wellness Coaching (NBHWC)
- National Quality Forum
- Nutrition Research Advisory Coalition
- Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease
- Physical Activity Alliance
- Population Health Alliance
- Primary Care Collaborative
- Society of Behavioral Medicine
- The Root Cause Coalition
- US Against Alzheimer's

Global Reach:

Across the world on every continent, 28 international lifestyle medicine organizations participate as part of the Lifestyle Medicine Global Alliance, founded by ACLM, created to collaborate, share knowledge and best practices, and to manifest a standardized vision of a world without noncommunicable disease. It now operates as a special project of the International Board of Lifestyle Medicine.

Value Proposition:

ACLM is the only national organization to offer its members: high quality, standardized lifestyle medicine curriculum and certification; discounted access to the latest evidence-based research, conferences and webinars to stay current in the field; statistics on the economics and ROI of lifestyle medicine in clinical practice; practice and reimbursement models; and networking opportunities with like-minded professionals. As a result, ACLM members are educated, equipped and empowered to practice and advocate for lifestyle medicine. They can transform their patients' lives through improved clinical outcomes, increased well-being, increased workplace productivity and a drastic reduction in health care costs. Furthermore, it is being shown that in a time of unprecedented physician burnout, practicing lifestyle medicine brings joy back into the healing profession.

Value of Discipline:

Lifestyle medicine can address up to 80% of chronic diseases. A lifestyle medicine approach to population care has the potential to arrest the decades-long rise in the prevalence of chronic conditions and their burdensome costs. Patient and provider satisfaction often results from a lifestyle medicine approach, which strongly aligns the field with the Quintuple Aim of better health outcomes, lower cost, improved patient satisfaction, improved provider well-being, and advancement of health equity, in addition to its alignment with planetary health. Lifestyle medicine is the foundation for a redesigned, value-based and equitable healthcare delivery system, leading to whole person health.

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