Summer Leadership Summit  
July 27-29, 2018
Register Now

Every year, the top healthcare architects gather in Chicago in order to shape the profession of healthcare architecture at an event called the Summer Leadership Summit. There is no single definition of “success” or one way to measure it. One size does not fit all when it comes to evaluating outcomes in American hospitals and clinics-some of the most complex project types healthcare design professionals and owners ever address.


Click here to register. Check the ACHA website for Summit updates.

Click here to read more about 2017 Summit highlights and the groundbreaking ideas discussed at the conference.

2018 AAH FOUNDATION
Networking Reception Event in Chicago

The Adler Planetarium  
1300 South Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605
Friday, July 27, 2018 | 6:30-9:00 PM

The AAH Foundation is planning its 6th Annual Networking Reception (“Star Party”) in conjunction with the AAH/ACHA 2018 Summer Leadership Summit. This year the Reception will be held at the dramatic Adler Planetarium. Enjoy the best night views of Chicago along with great camaraderie, jazz, silent and live auction items. Registration fee is $100. All proceeds will be used to support the AAH Foundation HC Architecture research efforts. Register when you sign up for the SLS 2018. See you in Chicago!
President’s Message - **Onward and Upward!!!**

Over the last year, your ACHA Board of Regents has been focused on two key components of our purpose: 1) maintaining the value of Board certification in our healthcare specialty, and 2) developing the pathways to express that value in multiple realms. More recently, the Board had identified more than 90 ideas, initiatives, or program adjustments within the business of the College. Most of these had to do with the execution of current programs, while some were very strategic in nature. However, the oft-quoted maxim comes to mind: “If everything is a priority, then nothing is.” So, your Regents have diligently and purposefully concentrated that very large list to only five key initiatives, each of which will play out over the next few months and years. While the ideas are clear, most of the details are under development.

1. We believe that significant gaps exist between the College and those who have yet to be certified. While we may be able to explain the reasons, the gaps still remain. For the sake and future of the profession, we will see them bridged. The Board has authorized a significant campaign to connect pre-certificants with the value of the College through a series of attractive interventions. Again, many details are still brewing.

2. One of the early tag lines of the College identified the certified as the “Best and the Brightest”. We may all like to think that, but such qualities are not easily defined nor empirically defendable. However, in my observation, those that are certified possess a high capacity of knowledge, skills, and experience, and they have demonstrated the gumption to go for the ring and reach higher in their careers beyond their firms. As such, the College has a responsibility to provide a pathway for continuous professional development spanning one’s entire career as a healthcare architect from pre-academic to post-retirement.

3. The College has remained largely invisible within the broad realm of all architects, and within those who practice healthcare architecture. Even those “in the know” have difficulty articulating the higher value of Board certification to clients, uncertified colleagues, and firm executives. Recognizing this problem, the Board has authorized the production of two short videos to capture the spirit of the College and arm viewers with succinct talking points about the value of Board certification. One will focus on those outside of the College, and the other will focus on firm executives. Concepts and storyboards have been developed, live video has been shot, B-roll imagery has been captured, and the post-production is well underway, as we prepare for publication later this year.

4. At the 2017 ASHE PDC, executives from the ACHA met with executives from ASHE to explore common ground. Later mid-year, the Boards of each organization reviewed presentations by executives of the other’s organization, which resulted in confirmed resolve and mutual benefit. There is considerable work yet to be done. However, never has the relationship between those that administer architectural selection processes and manage projects for their hospitals (ASHE) and the independently credentialed healthcare architects (ACHA) been more energized.

5. Finally, over the past two years, the executives of the various constituent organizations of our profession have been meeting. These meetings have focused on clarifying the roles of each organization through simple two-word statements and viewing each organization’s unique contributions holistically to affirm their value to the profession. While our professional family has grown many branches over the years, we are all part of the same tree, rooted in the practice of healthcare architecture. We will be announcing elements of this work at the upcoming Summer Leadership Summit in Chicago.

These outcomes will necessarily require the joint efforts of various ACHA committees and taskforces to be fully realized. While we do have scores of people already contributing mightily to advance our College, these goals will stretch them even farther. Our website lists ways for you to connect your unique talents with others toward enriching the value of the ACHA for years to come. We also expect that by deepening your involvement, you will become enriched both personally and professionally by the relationships you develop with other high-fliers. Thank you in advance for your willingness to join us as we shape our collective future.

William J. Hercules, FAIA, FACHA
President, American College of Healthcare Architects, 2018
ACHA Certificant Spotlight:
Janhvi Jakkal, AIA, ACHA

How did you first get involved in healthcare architecture?
I did my Bachelor of Architecture in India and came to the U.S. to earn my Master’s in Design and quickly thereafter found myself designing schools in California. After a couple of years, I moved to Chicago and got the opportunity to work on healthcare projects, so I thought I will give it a try. I quickly found myself very interested in what healthcare was about and the complexities of various aspects of the projects. That was 13 years ago, and I haven’t had any second thoughts about the choice I made then.

What motivates and excites you about healthcare architecture, planning and design?
I enjoy the challenges of healthcare design. There is no “cookie-cutter” approach to designing any one department. Healthcare design is quite complex and ever changing. At the end of my day, I find great satisfaction in creating a design solution that is operationally efficient, that “gives back” to doctors and nurses an enriching environment that supports them in their work, as well as offering patients and their families a positive experience in seeking and receiving care. I feel humbled by what good design can do, and how our design decisions can impact so many people in so many ways. I may not have chosen to be a doctor, but I chose to be the second-best thing as a healthcare planner.

Which of healthcare’s megatrends will have the greatest impact on your practice? Why?
I see technology’s role and integration into the practice of healthcare growing even greater than it is today, especially as millennials become the predominant group of healthcare consumers. But even with the advent of greater technologies, the human touch will remain a necessary requirement.

Also, healthcare needs to be more affordable. This can be achieved with Healthcare systems focusing more on the promotion of healthier lifestyles and programs that improve consumer awareness and making better choices themselves. This may mean less large inpatient hospital projects for us architects, but certainly more ambulatory projects involving facilities housing a broader array of care services mixed with a retail component that approaches the holistic nature of what the future of healthcare needs to be.

Janhvi Jakkal is a Medical Planner and Associate at HKS, Inc. in Chicago.

Exam Prep Webinar Now on YouTube

The Exam Prep Seminar is now available digitally on YouTube. If you know of colleagues who are interested in pursuing ACHA certification, they can attend one of our live seminars (the next one will be in Chicago on July 27) or they can access the webinar format at their own convenience. Special thanks to our “guides” Dr. Molly Scanlon and Antonio Amadeo for lending their voices and expertise to this initiative.
THE ACHA VISION
» Transforming healthcare through better built environments

THE ACHA MISSION
» To distinguish healthcare architects through certification, experience, and rigorous standards

THE ACHA EXISTS
» To enhance the performance of the practice of healthcare architecture through its certification, continuing education and other programs

THE ACHA PROVIDES CERTIFICANTS
» The distinguishing credentials of a specialized healthcare architect to clients, prospective clients and other architects as well as advanced continuing education

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 18-20, 2018
Cleveland Clinic Patient Experience Summit
Cleveland, OH

JULY 26-28, 2018
Summer Leadership Summit
Chicago, IL

NOVEMBER 10-13, 2018
Healthcare Design Expo+Conference
Phoenix, AZ

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