The annual ASCI/AAP/AFCR meetings in Atlantic City were the most important and exciting events in my early career as a clinical investigator. I started out a few years after the close of World War II, when what is now called translational medical research was expanding rapidly, and important developments in virtually every field were being reported in rapid succession. It was a heady time to be entering academic medicine, and each year all clinical researchers would meet in Atlantic City to present their latest and best work and to meet on the Boardwalk or in local hotels with their colleagues from all over the country.

The scientific excitement and the camaraderie of those meetings were unmatched. Atlantic City was where you measured your work against the current state of clinical investigation, but also told you whether and how your own work was contributing to progress in the field. It was, therefore, a powerful reminder that clinical investigation is disease, therefore requiring the involvement of physicians. And they were a powerful reminder that clinical investigation is critical for the understanding, treatment, and prevention of human disease, therefore requiring the involvement of physicians.

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Where once the annual meeting of the American Federation for Clinical Research, the American Society for Clinical Investigation, and the Association of American Physicians could unite the whole of clinical investigation, now stand many organizations and meetings catering to specialized fields, and the cohering effect of the Atlantic City meetings has not since been duplicated.

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