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MS-ACEP Updates

Utsav Nandi, MD, MSCI, FACEP
President, Mississippi Chapter ACEP

Dear MS-ACEP,

I wish you and yours a very Happy New Year!

The legislative session has been in full swing in MS and your BoD and lobbyists have been keeping an eye on bills important to EM. Scope of practice, as usual, was an issue again this year and we, along with MSMA and other physician groups, opposed the bill. While we were hopeful that Medicaid expansion and extension for pregnant people would be discussed this session, it appears that those bills have died in committee. You will have an opportunity to hear more about our chapter's efforts from one of your Councillors, Dr. Shermer, next. We will continue to monitor these and other issues and keep you posted on important updates.

On a national level, ACEP recently submitted a [statement](#) to the Senate HELP Committee on issues surrounding workforce shortages and EM, including the complex issue of the rural EM workforce. In addition, based on longstanding [advocacy](#) by ACEP, "Congress passed a provision as part of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act to allow rural hospitals to voluntarily convert to the newly established Rural Emergency Hospital starting in 2023. An REH will not provide inpatient services, but only emergency and other outpatient services—and it will receive higher Medicare (facility) reimbursement rates for these services." You can read more about these [here](#). As a follow-up to our discussion on the No Surprises Act, ACEP has designed this [website](#) to help EM physicians understand the law and what it means for us.

Finally, I am very proud to announce that one of our own medical student members, recipient of last year's summer travel scholarship to ACEP's LAC and current southcentral representative, Kelsey Morgan, has been selected to be the next Chair of the EMRA Medical Student Council. Congratulations, Kelsey! We wish you the best as you start in this new role in March.

Thank you all very much for all you do.

Utsav

National and State Policy Update

Chet Shermer, MD, FACEP

MS-ACEP Councillor

Hello everyone. I wanted to update everyone on some of the recent activities related to our organization. As one of your ACEP Councillors, I have embraced the role and been involved with several video teleconferences related to national and state policy. More on that below.

First, earlier this month, I had the honor to serve as the MS Medical Association's Doctor of the Day at the State Capitol. On the day I was scheduled, I met with David Roberts, MSMA's Chief of Staff/Director of Government Affairs and was oriented to the Capitol Medical Unit.



The unit is well-equipped with many OTC medications, an examination table and typical clinic office equipment to make evaluation of our legislators, staff, and employees easy. Any medical emergency would require 911 services and transport to a local hospital for further evaluation.

During my time, I only had two "patients" that were searching for relief from a headache and one congressman needed a Band-Aid. Of course, more serious cases are possible, and they are prepared to handle a potential emergency until EMS arrives.



Senator Josh Harkins, District 20, (R)

At the end of the legislative day, I was invited into the House and Senate chambers for recognition by my local Representative and Senator. Senator Josh Harkins and Representative Brent Powell were gracious hosts and provided a warm welcome.



Congressman Brent Powell, District 59,
(R)

I strongly encourage physicians to serve a day at the Capitol! It was rewarding, and it helps keep the faces of our state's physicians on their minds when deciding policy and enacting laws. Go to this [website](#) for more information.

In 2021, I attended two video teleconferences hosted by ACEP. The first, in May of 2021, was entitled "State Roundtable on ED Claim Insurance Downcoding and Denials" and the second was more related to Scope of Practice initiatives throughout the country. I was

able to speak about Mississippi's experiences with both, including the annual attempts to make our state an independent practice state by the AANP.

Insurance companies, including Medicaid, have made nationwide news regarding post visit denials, balance billing issues, etc. Our national leaders and MS-ACEP leadership are acutely aware of these issues and are engaged to help lead our state forward.

As I write this, I received an email from Dr. Geri Weiland, the current MSMA president, regarding SB 2178, pertaining to nurse practitioner independent practice. It did not make it out of committee and is officially dead for this legislative season. Thanks to everyone who engaged our state leaders to encourage a "NO" vote on this dangerous legislation. This will be an annual fight, and I strongly encourage each of you to stay engaged and voice your opinion when the next legislative session starts in 2023.

Welcome New MS-ACEP Members!

Robert D Cox, MD, FACEP
Justin Blake Daniels, MD
Dwight Timothy Flowers, MD
Steven T Haywood, MD, FACEP
Kyle Kennedy
Christina Marbrey, MD
Gerald Richard McLemore, Jr, MD
Trey Nichols, DO
Logan H Ramsey, MD
Alice Sarradet
Adam J Silva
Luke Wojohn

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP [commends the bravery and steadfast commitment](#) of emergency physicians currently treating patients in Ukraine. Want to help? Our [Global](#)

[Conflict Resources](#) explain how to join an international medical response team and link to Ukrainian regional support organizations.

ACEP President Dr. Gillian Schmitz gives an update on **ACEP's multiple legislative wins at the both the state and national level**, as well as updates on task force initiatives, and more. [Check out the latest Board Blog post](#) (3/1/22).

February was Black History Month: Don't miss this week's *Frontline* episode featuring [Dr. Ray Johnson and Dr. Sandra Coker discussing their experiences](#) working in EM. Dr. Coker founded the Black Girl White Coat nonprofit, and Dr. Johnson's been a leader in EM for more than 30 years. Find more BHM22 resources related to this year's theme, [Black Health & Wellness](#).

Nominate a Colleague for ACEP Awards! ACEP is accepting nominations for its 2022 Leadership Awards and Teaching Awards. [Leadership Award nominations](#) are due **March 8**, and Teaching Award nominations are due **April 15**.

Get New [Point-of-Care Tools](#) in emPOC App

Advocacy:

South Dakota scored an important [scope of practice victory](#) (2/23/22)

ACEP applauds the Texas court ruling that the No Surprises Act implementation fails to follow the letter of the law. The concerns validated by this ruling are some of those shared by ACEP, ASA and ACR in a [separate lawsuit](#) currently in a Chicago district court (2/24/22). Amplify on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#).

- **The No Surprises Act:** [What You Need to Know](#)

ACEP Applauds Passage of Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act: On Feb. 17, 2022, the Senate passed the ACEP-supported "[Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act](#)" (H.R. 1667) by voice vote. It now heads to President Biden for his signature into law. [Read the full press release](#) and [additional background](#) about ACEP's efforts to develop and progress this bill through the legislative process.

ACEP and EMRA Send Workforce Statement to Senate HELP

Committee: ACEP partnered with EMRA to submit a statement for the record for a Senate HELP Committee hearing on workforce shortages (2/11/22). [Read more](#)

Regulatory Updates:

- [ACEP Provides Feedback on New Emergency Medicine Cost Measure](#) (2/24/22)
- [CDC Releases Long-Awaited Revised Opioid Prescribing Guideline: Open for Public Comment](#) (2/17/22)
- [The Flip Side of the Coin: A Look at the Increase in Health Insurer Consolidation](#) (2/10/22)

- [Update on ACEP Actions to Address Physician Mental Health Needs and Wellbeing](#) (2/3/22)
- [Recent Federal Efforts to Address Provider Consolidation](#) (1/27/22)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

March 8: Deadline to apply for [ACEP Leadership Awards](#)
April 11-12: [Virtual Advanced Pediatric EM Assembly](#)
April 1 – May 31: [ED Directors Academy, Phase I](#)
April 15: Deadline to apply for [ACEP Teaching Awards](#)
May 1-3: [Leadership & Advocacy Conference](#)
May 15: Deadline to apply for [ACEP committee involvement](#)
May 18: Deadline for submissions to the [ACEP22 Research Forum](#)
May 23-25: [SIM Training Course](#)

Contact Us

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