

A Newsletter for the Members of the Mississippi Chapter - Spring 2022



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MS-ACEP Updates

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

Dear MS-ACEP,

I would like to share a few highlights from ACEP's recent Leadership and Advocacy Conference. I had the privilege of representing our state chapter along with your Councillor, Dr. Lisa Bundy.



Aside from education, service and research, one of ACEP's main focus areas has always been advocacy. LAC, in my mind, is the flagship of this effort. While ACEP's DC team engages with legislators, regulators and other medical society partners throughout the year, this conference brings together the frontline workers from across the country to educate and advocate on pressing, and common, issues affecting emergency physicians everywhere. Importantly, it gives our elected representatives and policy experts a chance to hear, first-hand, stories from physicians working in their districts and states.

This year, we focused on three primary issues:

- Protecting Emergency Physicians from ED Violence
- Medicare Physician Payment Reforms
- Emergency Physician Due Process Protections

I believe almost everyone reading this has either experienced or witnessed some form of workplace violence during their training and/or career. The fact that I can assume that with a fair degree of certainty is in itself alarming. As dangerous as it is to our physical and mental wellbeing, our nursing colleagues, in many circumstances, are worse off. Most of the data on this topic revealed how bad the situation was *before* the added stressors of navigating a pandemic. What's most agonizing is that a lot of graduating residents and nurses have come to accept this as "a part of the job." Surprisingly, none of the Mississippi policy staff that we interacted with had any idea that this was such a significant issue affecting healthcare workers in our state.

While a lot more needs to be done, at every level, to tackle this, ACEP believes that setting federal standards is an important first step to start ameliorating this issue. You can read a one-pager on this topic [here](#). We advocated for the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" that would require OSHA to issue an enforceable – and long overdue – standard to require health care employers to implement workplace violence prevention measures and reporting systems to help keep health care workers safe. [H.R. 1195](#) passed the House last month, however, [only one of our four](#) representatives voted for it. We were joined by the Emergency Nurses Association as part of the [No Silence on ED Violence](#) campaign to raise awareness about this issue and urge Congress for [swift passage of this legislation](#).

Another issue that ACEP heard from physicians across the country was that many were deprived of the right to due process. While this gained publicity after the one of our colleagues was fired in Washington (you can read [AAEM's](#) and [ACEP's](#) responses via the hyperlinks), it was by no means the exception. As the [one-pager](#) on this issue notes, "ACEP urges legislators to cosponsor the "ER Hero and Patient Safety Act" when introduced to guarantee due process protections for emergency physicians, ensuring that those who provide our nation's health care safety net can effectively advocate for our patients without fear of retaliation or termination." We will be monitoring this Act and ensure that we continue to stress the importance of this to our representatives and their policy staff.

If you would like a more detailed day-by-day breakdown of activities at LAC, please visit this [website](#). I was happy and proud that Mississippi came up a few times during the policy discussions, most notably when other chapters referenced "the Hattiesburg study" in their state-level advocacy against scope of practice expansions. Mississippi was also the focus on our advocacy day, as the Supreme Court draft opinion in the Mississippi case was leaked on the eve of our Hill visits.



Lisa and I had a great time learning and advocating on your behalf. We, as your Board of Directors, will continue tracking these and other state and federal issues and keep you updated. If you would like to learn more about the conference or advocacy in general, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our chapter leaders.

I hope you and yours stay healthy and safe,

Utsav

Workforce and Scope of Practice Update **Chet Shermer, MD, FACEP** **MS-ACEP Councillor**

On April 28th, 2022, I had the opportunity to attend the ACEP Virtual Town Hall regarding Workforce and Scope of Practice. Although somewhat interactive, it was a prepared presentation by our ACEP President, Dr. Gillian Schmitz. Included in the discussion were ACEP President-Elect Dr. Christopher Kang, LA-ACEP leader Dr. Deborah Fletcher, and ACEP Board Member Dr. Ryan Stanton. Throughout the presentation, they displayed confidence in the ability of our College's efforts to solve the predicted oversupply of Emergency Physicians and non-physician providers encroaching upon our specialty. In addition, she stressed the strategies outlined in the 5 Pillars listed below:

5 Pillars:

1. Defining EM Residency Standards for the Future
2. Ensure Business Interests Do Not Supersede Education or Patient Care
3. Protect the Unique Role of Emergency Physicians
4. Support Emergency Physicians in All Communities
5. Broaden Demand for Emergency Services to Meet Evolving Needs of Our Community

The entire panel was open to discussions and looked forward to connecting with all ACEP members as we continue to engage this issue. The Town hall was recorded. I invite you to watch it: [EM Workforce Section Town Hall - April 2022](#).

Please let Fred, Lisa, or me know of any questions as the year progresses. The [2022 ACEP Scientific Assembly](#) and the preceding Council meeting will be here soon!

Welcome New MS-ACEP Members!

Gabriel Shelton Autry, MD
Jason Begue, MD, FACEP
Amanda D Blackwell
Ryan Canaan, DO
Andrew Cooper, MD
Nastassjia Debourbon, MD
James Christian Huffman, MD
Shane Koler, DO
Will Walton Lorenzo
Michael Andrew Mahoney
Mary Ball Ruffin Markow, MD
Fredrick Robert Martin, MD
Shaylyn Rene Marvell, MD
Lora Nason
Lauren Ashley Powell, DO
Chris Tidwell, DO
Jessica Thu Vo, DO

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Calls for Stronger Protections for Emergency Physicians Who Raise Workplace Safety Concerns: ACEP spoke directly to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) during a public meeting about whistleblower protections. ACEP Council Speaker Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD, MMM, FACEP, [raised the need for due process protections](#) for emergency physicians on the job.

ACEP Clinical Alert: [Shortages in Iodinated Contrast Media, Baby Formula](#)

Workforce:

- **A new analysis of the EM physician resident workforce in [Annals of Emergency Medicine](#)** finds that while the number of residency programs is increasing, new programs are disproportionately located in urban areas in states with existing programs, rather than rural communities with limited access to emergency care. [Read more](#)
- **Building toward a better future, ACEP is moving forward on EM workforce initiatives.** [Watch an update](#) from ACEP President Dr. Gillian Schmitz on ACEP's progress during this April 28 town hall webinar hosted by the EM Workforce Section.
- **The Changing Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department:** On May 26, ACEP's Democratic Group Practice Section is hosting a webinar with a panel discussion about best practices when using PAs and NPs in the emergency department. Topics will include ACEP's new policy on the role of PAs/NPs in the ED, economic considerations, workflow challenges, and how shared visits work. [Register for this free webinar.](#)

ACEP has launched a **public campaign "[Who Takes Care of You in an Emergency?](#)"** that includes a series of videos outlining unique aspects of the job and explaining the significant difference in training and education required for physicians. Here are [new scope of practice talking points](#).

Problem solving: It's what we do. [Take a look at the issues we're tackling](#) and how you can join the cause.

More than 100 leaders, members and staff worked together to create [ACEP's new strategic plan!](#) **It's an important roadmap for our future.** Together we'll build a better future for emergency physicians everywhere!

It's Emergency Medicine Wellness Week!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and ACEP's Wellness Section is marking the occasion by kicking off its annual Emergency Medicine Wellness Week tomorrow, May 22. View more physician wellness resources by visiting [ACEP's Wellness Hub](#).

The [May issue of ACEP Now](#) features **new articles focused on behavioral health**, including [The Importance of System-Level Wellness](#) and [How to Approach Psychiatric Patients who Wish to Refuse Treatment in the ED](#).

Advocacy:

Help Move the Workplace Violence Prevention Bill Forward! Ask your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor and support the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" (S.4182). [Take Action!](#)

On May 4, ACEP and the Emergency Nurses Association hosted a press event at Capitol Hill to increase public awareness of workplace violence in the emergency department and to push for swift passage of the "Workplace Violence Prevention for

Health Care and Social Service Workers Act." [Read the press release with more information about the bill](#). Watch the [Facebook Live recording](#) of the press event.

No Surprises Act

In the latest twist, the government requests Texas court place a “hold” on its surprise billing appeal. [What does this mean for ACEP's lawsuit?](#) [Dive deeper and learn more](#) about ACEP’s many years of advocacy on this issue that led up to this law.

Prioritize Physician Mental Health

It's Mental Health Month and a good time to look at the recently-passed Dr. Lorna Breen Act. This vital legislation, named after an ACEP member who struggled and was tragically lost during the first surge of the pandemic, went from an idea to a law that will help protect the emotional health and wellbeing of emergency physicians. [See ACEP's Role](#).

Regulatory Updates:

- [NEW BLOG SERIES: Value based Care in Emergency Medicine-- an Overview](#) (5/19/22)
- [CMS Finalizes New Network Adequacy Requirements for Certain Private Health Plans](#) (5/12/22)
- [No Alternative Payment Model for Emergency Physicians and other Specialists...The AMA Has a Proposed Solution](#) (5/5/22)
- [ACEP Responds to FTC and DOJ Request for Information on Mergers and Acquisitions in Health Care](#) (4/21/22)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

- **May 25 | 10:00 AM - 1:05 PM Central:** [ACEP Virtual Grand Rounds - Metabolic and Endocrine Emergencies](#)
- **May 26:** [The Changing Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department](#) - Webinar hosted by the ACEP Democratic Group Practice Section
- **May 31:** Last day to utilize current [student loan rate discount for ACEP members](#)
- **May 31:** Last day to join the [ACEP22 QI Challenge](#)
- **June 1:** [Weird Baby Stuff: Managing Brief Resolved Unexplained Events](#) - Webinar hosted by the ACEP Pediatric Emergency Medicine Section
- **June 16:** [Breaking Down Barriers to ED Care for People with Sickle Cell Disease](#) - Webinar hosted by the CDC
- **June 16:** [EM Clinical Support Tool for Sickle Cell Disease](#)
- **June 17:** Last day to apply for the new [EMF health policy scholar grant](#)
- **June 20:** [Caring for our Heroes: Special Considerations for Treating Veterans in Emergency Departments](#) - Webinar hosted by ACEP
- **Aug. 23-25:** [Independent EM Group Master Class](#)
- **Nov. 11:** Last day to submit [ACEP23 course proposals](#)

Contact Us

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