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Message from the President

Lisa Bundy, M.D., FACEP

The last several months have been very productive for MS ACEP! HB 849, which would allow independent practice of nurse practitioners and CRNAs, died in Senate Committee in early March. We need to stay vigilant about this issue, as it does seem to reappear each year. Be on the lookout for MS ACEP to make a trek to Jackson to discuss with legislators early in next year's session.

Another important issue is workplace violence. In one week alone, I know of two such incidents in MS. A nurse in Jackson was assaulted at UMMC, and a nurse and a resident in North Mississippi were attacked by a patient in the ED while attempting to treat him. These are just two incidents, but all of us see the verbal and physical abuse on an almost daily basis, which has only increased since the pandemic. According to Mississippi law, this violence should be prosecuted as a felony; however, many of these incidents continue to be only prosecuted as misdemeanors. This is unacceptable. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) and Angus King (I-Maine) have introduced a U.S. Senate bill that would establish FEDERAL criminal penalties for assaulting a healthcare worker. I'm sure we'd all agree that this is long overdue. MS ACEP is grateful to Sen. Hyde-Smith for leading the charge on this issue in the Senate and looks forward to seeing meaningful change. We were called heroes early in the pandemic, only to be vilified later. We need the support of our law enforcement, district attorneys, and local and state legislators, and we should be vigilant with hospital administrators to be proactive to prevent these occurrences. We are the ones on the frontlines every day, and we are the ones who suffer loss of work and pay, as well as the emotional toll this takes on our staff. Our EDs should be safe places to work and to heal those who need us the most.

At the January MS ACEP Board meeting, we voted to allot funds for residents to attend ACEP's Leadership & Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. President-

Elect Dr. Fred Kency and I, along with Dr. Kalleen Kennedy, a PGY2 resident at Magnolia Regional Health Center, trekked all over Capitol Hill to meet with representatives for Congressman Trent Kelly, Congressman Michael Guest, and Sen. Roger Wicker. We were honored to meet with Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith herself to discuss legislative priorities for ACEP, especially for Mississippi. We spoke with them about the boarding crisis, the detrimental effects of Medicare/Medicaid cuts, and physician reimbursement cuts, and the importance of reinstituting the mental health programs supported by the Lorna Breen Act. It was a very productive and fun trip, and we hope to garner more interest from our young physicians in advocacy. Nothing is going to change unless we start at the top.

Also at LAC, I was asked to part of a panel discussion on scope of practice with Dr. Deborah Fletcher, Louisiana ACEP President, and Dr. Samantha Powell, resident at Medical College of Wisconsin and an EMRA Health Policy fellow. It was an exciting experience, and I was able to discuss our experiences here in Mississippi and the importance of trained EM physicians in rural areas, as well as the challenges we continue to face. It was an honor to represent Mississippi on a national stage.

On July 11, the Mississippi State Medical Association will be hosting a Scope of Practice Summit at Table 100 in Flowood. I plan on attending to see what we can do across specialties to preserve physician practice. According to a recent article in JACEP Open, 20-25% of Mississippi emergency departments are NOT covered by a physician. An ABEM-certified emergency physician is absolutely the gold standard. We need to work with our colleagues to bridge this gap and support a law requiring on-site physician coverage of every Mississippi emergency department. Our patients deserve to have a physician taking care of them, and according to polls, patients trust doctors the most in an emergency. In the last few days, South Carolina has passed a bill to this effect, joining Indiana and Virginia. Our challenge in Mississippi is the sheer number of EDs without a physician. I hope to gain some insight and strategies by speaking with others with a stake in taking care of our emergency patients.

We are excited to welcome our new residents to Mississippi and the ranks of MS ACEP on July 1! Be on the lookout for opportunities for your residents in state and national leadership. I'll give more information once they join us officially!

MS ACEP wants to empower its membership, from the Gulf Coast to the Tennessee line, to become an active part of our team. Contact me about being a member of a committee, including legislative, rural EM and education. We want your input and opinions on the challenges we face as emergency physicians working in Mississippi. What can MS ACEP do for you?

Thank you all for being members of MS ACEP. I want all of our members throughout the state to know their input matters and is wanted!

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Urges Congress to Reject Harmful Medicaid Cuts

This week, ACEP joined 42 national medical organizations in a letter opposing proposed Medicaid changes that would result in devastating coverage losses and reduced access to care. [Read more.](#)

ACEP-Supported Legislation Would Bring Fairness, Due Process to Physicians

Protecting clinical autonomy empowers emergency physicians to always be able to put patients first. That is why ACEP continues to fight for the bipartisan, bicameral 'Physician and Patient Safety Act' to guarantee due process rights for all physicians... [Read more.](#)

ACEP Pushes Back on Efforts to Cut Student Loan Forgiveness

ACEP is pushing back hard on efforts to change the Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) program and other federal student load programs. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Advocacy Leads to New Boarding Legislation

A new ACEP-developed bipartisan bill to address the boarding crisis has been introduced in the House of Representatives, with a Senate companion soon to follow. [Read more.](#)

Congress Takes Strong Step Toward Better Protections for Health Care Workers

A new bipartisan bill strengthens protections against violence for emergency physicians and care teams, a longtime priority for ACEP. [Read more.](#)

New RAND Report: Insurance Company Tactics Threaten Emergency Care Sustainability and Patient Access

Emergency physicians across the United States are facing increasing financial and operational pressures threatening their ability to provide lifesaving care, according to a [new report](#) authored by RAND and supported by the Emergency Medicine Policy Institute (EMPI). [Read more.](#)

ACEP Launches Emergency Department Accreditation Program (EDAP)

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) is launching a new Emergency Department Accreditation Program (EDAP) to recognize emergency departments that meet the highest standards for emergency medicine, promote a safe work environment and provide exceptional patient care. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Response to ACGME Proposed Changes to EM Program Requirements

ACEP is fully committed to raising the bar for emergency medicine education and ensuring that our future colleagues are prepared to meet the challenges ahead. [Read more.](#)

CMS Clarifies Residency Funding Proposal

ACEP met with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to discuss the ACGME's proposed changes to emergency medicine residency program requirements to share our perspectives and gain clarity on how CMS will approach changes to funding emergency medicine residencies. [Read more.](#)

ACEP, NAEMT Announce EMS Week 2025

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) will recognize EMS Week, May 18-24, 2025, to celebrate emergency medical services professionals.

[Read more.](#)

VisualDx Partners with American College of Emergency Physicians to Enhance Measles Diagnosis and Treatment

The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and VisualDx, a medical informatics and AI technology company, are partnering to deliver a comprehensive tool for physicians to address the measles outbreak. [Read more.](#)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

- [**EM to PEM Career Pathway**](#)
May 20, 2025
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time
Do you get a special joy from taking care of kids in the emergency department? Are you exploring, considering, or applying for a fellowship in pediatric emergency medicine? Join the ACEP Pediatric Emergency Medicine Section for this exclusive webinar and don't miss this opportunity to learn, connect, and grow in your passion for pediatric emergency care. [Register now](#) and learn about this career.
- [**EmPATH Summit 2025**](#)
May 21 – 22, 2025
The inaugural EmPATH Summit 2025 brings together hospital leaders, emergency care innovators, and frontline emergency and behavioral health teams to redefine psychiatric emergency care. ACEP President Dr. Alison Haddock and President-Elect Dr. Tony Cirillo will both be speaking at this conference, partnered in part with ACEP. [Register.](#)
- [**Revolutionizing ED Workflows from Triage with AI***](#)
May 28, 2025
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Central Time
The future of emergency care starts at triage. Discover how integrating Artificial Intelligence can hyper-optimize your ED workflows, cutting wait times, improving accuracy, and freeing up your team for critical tasks. Join us to learn how AI is transforming the ED front door. *This event is for ACEP Members Only.* [Register.](#)
- [**ACEP25 Scientific Assembly**](#)
September 7-10, 2025

For the first time, ACEP's annual meeting will be in the beautiful city of Salt Lake City, UT. The world's largest emergency medicine educational conference brings together the global EM community. The Pitt actor Noah Wyle and Olympic gold medalist Scott Hamilton headline a can't-miss speaker lineup at the Sept. 7-10 event in Salt Lake City. [Register](#) with promo code HikeyBikey and save \$100.

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