President’s Update

By Steven A. Maher, M.D., FACEP, FAEMS

My fellow emergency medicine colleagues, I am honored to serve you as President in this uncertain and difficult time during the COVID-19 pandemic. When is the last time you had a conversation with anyone and didn’t mention COVID? I dare say that it has been very rare for me during these last few months.

I am proud of the strength, resilience, resolve, and adaptability that our Arizona emergency physicians have shown in preparing for and dealing with this crisis. I would argue this is something we excel at in our daily work, but it has been underscored during this time. Especially with the majority of us facing financial loss and increased personal risk. Some of us have felt the effects of this coronavirus in our own families through illness and even death.

However, I have never felt more appreciation from our country in my 15+ years in Emergency Medicine for those of us on the front lines (physicians, nurses, first responders, EMT/paramedics, law enforcement, etc.) than I have during this time.

The Governor’s office has also provided a great amount of support, namely through the executive order providing some liability protection for physicians during this pandemic.

We had a great ED Doc Day at the legislature in March and had impeccable timing since the legislators were actually hearing the healthcare bills on the floor the same week we were at the capital. We were able to advocate for our specialty and for our physicians, sharing your voice and representing our members who were unable to attend.

Some in-person activities have been halted during this time of the pandemic (i.e. our annual meeting was via zoom). However, we have been able to accomplish quite a bit, I even would argue it has been more of an advantage legislatively during this time due to the increased availability of the legislators.

Our annual ACEP Leadership and Advocacy conference is normally held in Washington D.C., where we go to Capitol Hill to speak with our legislators about issues affecting emergency medicine. Instead, we had a virtual day on the Hill last week. Due to the fact that the legislators are out of session, we were able to speak with many of the Senators and Representatives directly and had their attention due to the nature of us being on the frontlines of this pandemic.

They agreed to help us with several issues: 1) PPE shortages compromising our safety. 2) Liability concerns while trying to care for our patients in this extraordinary time. While the Arizona liability protection executive order will help us immensely, further liability relief is needed as EM-TALA is a federal mandate under federal law. Therefore, litigation stemming from this could potentially wind up in federal court. 3) Hazard pay for those on the front lines (physicians, nurses, first responders, EMT/paramedics, law enforcement, etc.). This mainly is making sure that the money earmarked for physicians in the CARES act actually goes to physicians. Currently, the funds have been going to the hospitals and have not gone to physicians for the most part. 4) Insurance coverage for our patients so there will be no barriers to their care during this crisis. In addition, I really want to thank Stephanie Butler for making the virtual day on the Hill a success!

Our lobbyist John Thomas has been instrumental in helping us with an AzCEP sponsored bill promoting CPR and fall care in vulnerable populations to pass out of committee in the AZ House of Representatives. He also has his finger on the pulse of happenings at our State Capital and continually helps to keep us up-to-date on the multiple executive orders during this pandemic.

Save the date! Our summer retreat will be held in Flagstaff, Arizona on August 5th and 6th. We will be having lectures on COVID from our ED physicians in Flagstaff who are at the center of the COVID “hot spot” here in Arizona. We will also be covering the LLSA articles for this year and will be escaping the August heat, so please join us!

The ACEP Scientific Assembly is going to be held this year in Dallas, Texas from October 26th-29th. We are also looking forward to the Opioid Summit later in the fall on November 18th.

Finally, as we are on the precipice of our state opening in the next few weeks, I encourage you all to remain strong and vigilant as this challenging time is likely not over. Please pay special attention to you and your family’s wellbeing. We cannot care for our patients with the empathy and compassion they deserve if we ourselves are not well mentally. It has been especially challenging for some of you who have been thrust into the role of teacher in addition to your normal role of parent and physician. That is enough to drive any human to insanity! Thanks again for the opportunity to serve this incredible group!

Sincerely,

Steven A. Maher, M.D., FACEP, FAEMS
Congratulations

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...Thank you for volunteering your time to serve AZ’s patients!
AzCEP Summer Membership Retreat…

MOVED to AUG 5-6

Same location…

New Date!

The schedule is still in flux… but we will have our annual retreat at the Little America in Flagstaff, AZ on August 5-6. We hope to provide some COVID-19 experiences from our Flagstaff members, have a Wellness/Sleep Performance talk and some Wilderness Medicine rapid fire presentations.

Also, the LLSA reviews for 2019 & 2020… as well as a dinner with colleagues so you can network and share experiences.

Watch your emails for more details and information to reserve your rooms and get away for a bit!

We’re Social… are you?!

AzCEP Wellness Blog; https://azcepwellness.blogspot.com/

Arizona ACEP

@ArizonaACEP

@azacep810

...well, we’re trying. Send me a message if we need to “friend” you.
Wow! How the COVID19 Pandemic has altered all our educational conferences and courses! ITLS is no exception. Everything is in flux at this time and we will keep you up to date as we know more.

Although initially designed as a pre-hospital course, more and more ED nurses and techs are taking this course. All have found it extremely useful for triage nurses and techs to be prepared for “walk-in” traumas that present frequently to the ED, especially in newly designated Level II, and Level III, and Level IV trauma centers in Arizona and surrounding states/rural areas. Please encourage your nurses and techs to attend (some ED groups sponsor a nurse or two). Also, we encourage EMS leaders to attend the lecture course, especially those from the rural areas. For more information on attending or becoming a sponsor or for a downloadable registration form, go to our website at: [www.itlsaz.org/itlsriver/](http://www.itlsaz.org/itlsriver/) or email us at itlsaz@gmail.com.

The date for our next course has not been finalized. Pending the Coronapocalypse outcome, it will be held in the fall of 2020, likely the 3rd week in September (20-22nd). Look for more information on our website over the next couple of months at itlsaz@gmail.com. We look forward to continuing our format of lectures, including Rapid Fire talks as well as our provider courses.

Brad Butler, MD, FACEP
CDR MC (FMF), USN
Medical Director
Arizona ITLS

UAEM-South Campus Residency Update

By Michael Wyman, MD

Things are heating up here in the Old Pueblo. We are all continuously adjusting to the "new normal" of life in the era of COVID-19, trying to keep pace with the new policies, procedures, and protocols that seem to arrive on a daily basis. In the background, we are also approaching the end of the academic year and our transition to the upcoming year. We are excited to welcome a new, diverse class of fantastic interns in July, and preparing to say farewell to the phenomenal graduating senior class.

In terms of their plans for next year, our Chief Residents, Ashley Ealey and Ryan Miller, will both be staying in Tucson, working full time for Northwest Hospital at several of their Tucson facilities. Ryan is thankful for the scribes as well as for copious nocturnists who will be part of his group (including Ashley), and he is grateful for the Arizona heat keeping housing costs at a more reasonable level. Aaron Wesley has joined Sound Physicians, and will be starting off here in Tucson working at Carondelet facilities. Missy Hartley is off to Spokane, Washington, where she’ll be joining a democratic group, Spokane Emergency Care Physicians. Ashley Guinn has also signed with a democratic group, and will be moving to Cedar Rapids, Iowa to start her career. Adam Ratesic is excited for the opportunity to work with veterans; he will be working part time at Southern Arizona VA Health Care System, and part time in the community.
Arizona Emergency Medicine
Medical Student Council Update

AZ EM MSC is proud to announce our new initiative: monthly online meetings! The purpose of these meetings is to provide EM-interested students the opportunity to hear from various speakers on different topics each month. Additionally, each meeting will include brief updates from each school’s EMIG representative so that we can all stay up-to-date and allow for potential collaboration opportunities between us. We successfully held our first meeting via Zoom in April, where recently matched 4th year students shared their advice and wisdom to those pursuing the great specialty of Emergency Medicine. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 20th, where we plan to have Dr. Butler provide us with insight on life as an EM physician during this global pandemic.

For those interested and unable to attend our meetings during the scheduled time, please go to our website (https://arizonaemmsc.wixsite.com/website) to find the video recording/meeting notes under the “Monthly Meetings” tab!

Lastly, if you are interested in speaking to our group of medical students on your topic of choice, we would love to have you! Please email arizonaemmsc@gmail.com to coordinate.

Like the rest of our EM colleges we have experienced the whirlwind of changes revolving around COVID-19. Our residents were integral in the efforts to develop and execute protocol for managing suspected and confirmed cases. We are in the middle of our ER and were able to add two additional negative pressure rooms which were utilized and COVID-19 procedure rooms. Additionally, we were able to develop protocol to utilize an outdoor tent for screening and treating patients with respiratory concerns.

I huge shout out to Drs. Truong, Reid and Porter for placing first, second and third at the AOMA Clinical Case Poster Competition. Dr Truong also took first place at the ACOEP Spring Seminar Case Poster Presentation. Our own Adam Dawson was awarded Physician of the Year at Kingman Regional Medical Center.

We’re excited to welcome our new intern class that will be joining us this summer. Daniela La Delfa MD, Josh Macke DO, Carlos Rondon MD, Clarke Snodgrass DO, Katie Sumpter MD, Sarah Zito MD. They will make an amazing addition to our program and we look forward to their contributions. With their arrival we recognize an inevitable loss of a great upper class. Drs. Daneshire, Truong, Ballstaedt, Porter, Dawson, Elhers and Slade will definitely be missed. We wish them well in their future careers.
AzCEP Physician Wellness

The AzCEP Wellness Committee is pleased to share the following podcast check it out!

“Together We Rise”

https://drive.google.com/file/d/18nBd23stHkPTBeXMDsIJ5Ttx8jTzCRF4/view?ts=5e84f307

UofA EM-Peds Program

By Joshua Glasser, MD PGY-4

Our program has had a busy spring. Like everyone out there, we have been weathering the storm of COVID-19, but have been remaining in good spirits. We were excited to expand our family with a new baby, Elizabeth Dill, the daughter of our program alumnus and current University of Arizona Sports Medicine Fellow, James Dill. Additionally, we are thrilled to expand our academic family with three great new interns starting in July! We welcome Alexandra Barbosa (University of Arizona), Shadd Calbalatungan (Renaissance School of Medicine at Stony Brook University), and Jonathon Coss (Indiana University) in taking the five year journey with us!

We also wish good luck to our graduating PGY-5 residents. Katie Hodgdon will be joining the faculty of Children’s Hospital of New Orleans as a Pediatric Emergency Physician in New Orleans, LA. Stephanie Chiacchio will be joining the Department of Emergency Medicine at Reading Hospital in Reading, PA. Lindsey Retterath will be working locally in Tucson, Arizona! We wish you luck in your new endeavors and look forward to hearing updates in the coming months.

Our program was able to fit in our Annual Spring Retreat just before social distancing to plan for the next academic year ahead. We are developing a more in-depth simulation curriculum for our residency, and hope to partner with the incredible new AzTEC simulation lab affiliated with the University of Arizona. We look forward to the months ahead and to continuing our hard work on the front lines. Don’t forget to follow us on Instagram at littleemergencies!
Greetings from Maricopa!

Across the nation, it seems like the frontlines of medicine have stepped into a new frontier. This is no different here at our hospital. While we have certainly faced many challenges as a department, we have also grown stronger and closer because of it!

Here are some program highlights:

**Mmm Pizza!**

As tradition insists, the residents celebrated finishing their ITE exams with the ever-anticipated homemade pizza party at our program director’s home. Thanks for the pizza, DrE!

**ED Doc Day on the Hill**

Many of us were able to attend the annual event at the capitol, where we lobbied for AzCEP supported bills regarding workforce violence, CPR, and third-party whistleblowing.

**Match Day**

This year our residency class size increased from 14 to 16! We are so pleased to welcome 16 (!!) incoming interns to our program. We can’t wait to meet them in June.

**COVID-19 Response:**

The healthcare demands of COVID-19 have truly tested our hospital and program. Since March, our department has responded to COVID-19 by creating new ED protocols and workflows to better protect our patients and staff. Our residents have spearheaded many projects regarding public policy, testing capacity, PPE supplies, and resident wellness.

**What’s next for our graduating seniors?**

Our seniors are going to some pretty incredible places after residency.

Check it out!

Aubri Carman – Dell Children’s Hospital Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship (Austin, TX)
Ross Christensen – Dignity Health Chandler Regional/Gilbert Mercy (Chandler, AZ)
Laura Johns – Northwestern University Palliative Care Fellowship (Chicago, IL)
Tim Lentini – Albert Einstein/Montefiore Critical Care Fellowship (New York, NY)
Ashkon Mahmoudi – Valleywise Health Ultrasound Fellowship (Phoenix, AZ)
Christopher McCabe – Vituity at Banner Del Webb / Boswell (Phoenix, AZ)
Megan McElhinny – Valleywise Health Fellowship (Phoenix Arizona)
Annie Rashid – Dignity Health Chandler Regional/Gilbert Mercy (Chandler, AZ)
Tani Stull-Leber – Valleywise Health/Banner University Education Fellowship (Phoenix, AZ)
Justin Stevenson - Honor Health John C Lincoln (Phoenix, AZ)
Jessica Suraci – Honor Health John C Lincoln (Phoenix, AZ)
Nathan Wavle – Vituity Physicians Reserves (Locums)
News & Notes

Have Extra CME $ this Fiscal Year??
With the cancellation of so many conferences so far in 2020 you may have extra CME funds. DID YOU KNOW that you can PREPAY your ACEP/AzCEP dues? Contact ACEP Membership to get more info; https://webapps.acep.org/membership/account/#/contactus

www.covid19lst.org/
COVID19 overload? This site scans all the literature and sends out daily summaries ...with contributions from some of our very own AzCEP medical student members!

Article Showcasing COVID-19 Sacrifices
In case you missed it, AzCEP member, Dr. Kara Geren, was the front page story in the AZ Republic. Thanks, Dr. Geren, for sharing your story! We know many of you are making the same choices and we appreciate your sacrifice to help AZ's patients. https://www.azcentral.com/picture-gallery/news/local/karinabland/2020/05/10/doctor-children-lives-apart-from-them-while-treating-covid-19-patients/3061393001/

Recent UoF/A COM-Phoenix Grad’s Journey
Also read about another AzCEP member; recent UoF/A COM-Phoenix graduate, Dr. Elzada Hasecic, and her journey. Best of luck, Dr. Hasecic, during your NC residency! https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona/2020/04/19/war-torn-childhood-prepares-elzada-hasecic-coronavirus-battle/5141220002/

2020 Arizona Asthma & Allergy Clinical Conference
The Conference will take place on Saturday, September 12, 2020. Our hope is to host an in-person event at the Phoenix Children's Hospital's beautiful Conference Center. But we will monitor the COVID-19 situation closely and transition to a virtual event if necessary.

So mark your calendar for September 12th and plan to join us for sessions with respected asthma and allergy experts on clinical care, pharmacology, asthma and allergy management at schools. We will have sessions covering New Guidelines for Asthma and COVID-19 and Future Viruses and much more.

Thoughtful Life Conversations: Advance Care Planning
Arizona POLST is part of the National POLST Program that helps patients get the medical treatments they want, and avoid medical treatments they do not want, when they are seriously ill or frail. It’s about helping people live the way they want until they die. POLST is only for the seriously ill and frail and is different than an advance directive because it is a portable medical order completed by a healthcare provider after a goals of care conversation and shared decision making about current treatment preferences. POLST exists because other advance care planning documents (advance directives and DNR forms) do not meet the needs of all seriously ill and frail individuals. Visit the AzPOLST website (https://azpolst.org/) to learn more about POLST and review educational modules available.

Be Accredited to Provide Pain & Addiction Care in the ED
Show your community that your ED is part of the solution. ACEP will soon launch the Pain & Addiction Care in the ED (PACED) Accreditation Program, developed for EM physicians by EM physicians. It will provide the education, tools & resources you need to provide better care for patients in pain & those with substance misuse. https://www.acep.org/paced

ACEP Introduces Citizen First Responder Training Program
Developed by emergency physicians, Until Help Arrives is a condensed version of FEMA’s “You’re the Help Until Help Arrives” campaign. Wondering how Until Help Arrives is different from Stop the Bleed?

One key difference is the length of the course. Until Help Arrives is the shortest course on the market, providing training in the most basic life-saving skills in a quick, one-hour format. Dr. Kivela said one of the main challenges with other training courses is that many require a half-day or full-day time commitment.

All the info on the program can be found: https://www.acep.org/education/unti-help-arrives/

Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation: Delivering Geriatric Care Standardization
Older adults account for 46 percent of all emergency department visits resulting in hospitalization. Approximately one out of every 10 hospital admissions are potentially avoidable, and the majority (60 percent) of those admissions are for patients 65 and older. Read More about GEDA in the latest SAEM Pulse issue; https://issuu.com/saemonline/docs/saem_pulse_nov-dec_19

Game-Changing Approach to Life-Limiting Conditions
A new book, Co-Authored by AzCEP member, Dr. Alan Molk, regarding end-of-life/palliative and Hospice care in the ER; Saving Lives, Saving Dignity https://savingdignity.com/
ACEP Wellness & Assistance Program

ACEP members care for their patients 24-7-365 so we want to make sure you are taking care of yourself.

At ACEP19 in Denver, we launched the ACEP Wellness & Assistance Program. This service is now available to all members and provides access to three, FREE confidential counseling or wellness coaching sessions.

Call 1-800-873-7138 to register and receive support whenever, however you need it.

- **Counseling** is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Sessions can cover stress, anxiety, depression, family issues, drug and alcohol abuse, relationships, death, grief, and more
- The service is strictly confidential and can be scheduled face-to-face, over the phone, via text, or through online messaging
- **Wellness coaching** sessions are 30-minute phone calls to help reach your personal wellness goals which can include weight loss, nutrition, healthy habits, stress, caffeine reduction, injury recovery, relationships, sleep, smoking cessation, and more

You may choose to use your three sessions using any combination of counseling and wellness coaching, up to the session limit.

If interested, ACEP members can pay just $15 a year to have additional resources to manage legal and financial issues through our partner, Mines & Associates. Participants will have unlimited access to an extensive online resource library and unlimited 30-minute in-person consultations for each individual legal or financial matter and a 25% discount on legal and financial services within the Mines network.


Thanks for all that you do and please let me know if you have any questions about this incredibly valuable new benefit.

Jana Nelson (jnelson@acep.org)
Managing Director
Membership, Marketing & Communications

**NOTE:**

ACEP is updating the COVID-19 Clinical Alert repository daily to assist you with patient care.

Be sure to check out the “living” COVID-19 Field Guide:

Congratulations…

to our own, Shelby Hoebee, a

2020
ACEP/EMRA National Outstanding Medical Student Award Winner!!

So deserving and excited you are staying in Arizona!

Joint Commission Statement on Removing Barriers to Mental Health Care for Clinicians and Health Care Staff

...sharing this info in case it can help in some way.
More info at: https://www.jointcommission.org/covid-19/

Joint Commission Statement on Removing Barriers to Mental Health Care for Clinicians and Health Care Staff

May 12, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is placing unprecedented strains on the health care workforce. As a result, many health care workers feel that it would be helpful to talk to a mental health professional. However, clinicians have concerns that seeing a mental health professional could adversely affect their career if they are asked about a previous history of mental health issues during the credentialing or licensing process.

The Joint Commission does not require organizations to ask about a clinician's history of mental health conditions or treatment. We strongly encourage organizations to not ask about past history of mental health conditions or treatment. As an alternative, we support the recommendations of the Federation of State Medical Boards and the American Medical Association to limit inquiries to conditions that currently impair the clinicians’ ability to perform their job. It is critical that we ensure health care workers can feel free to access mental health resources.

The Joint Commission supports the removal of any barriers that inhibit clinicians and health care staff from accessing mental health care services, including eliminating policies that reinforce stigma and limit about the professional consequences of seeking mental health treatment.

For helpful resources please refer to The Joint Commission’s Staff Health and Wellbeing section on the Coronavirus portal.
Legislative Update

By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel

Still Frozen

As I write this, it is early May and temperatures across the state have increased dramatically. However, since mid-March, we have remained frozen at the Legislature in a giant game of Freeze Tag waiting for someone to unfreeze us.

The Legislature suspended operations in the middle of March. At that time, all legislation was "frozen" in place waiting for a resumption of the regular legislative session or an adjournment sine die for the year.

As of today, day 117 of the 2020 legislative session, the Senate has just adopted a motion to adjourn sine die but needs the House to agree which they currently have not.

If the Legislature does adjourn sine die, all bills remaining in the legislative arena are effectively dead. If the legislature decides to come back into session, it is anticipated that only a limited number of bills would move through the legislative process prior to adjourning the 2020 legislative session for good.

A premature adjournment of the legislature would unfortunately result in a number of Representative Shah's bills not being heard in the Senate. AzCEP board member and House Representative Shah has had an unprecedented (for a member of the minority party) number of non-partisan health related bills already pass unanimously out of the House. It will be disappointing for the health care community if his bills are not considered by the Senate however he has assured us should that happen that he will reintroduce these bills again in 2021.

Meanwhile, it is expected for the Governor to call the legislature back into a Special Session as early as June to work on COVID-19 related legislation only. By June, the legislature will have a better understanding of the impact that the pandemic is forecast to have on the Arizona economy and what the loss in revenues to the state/cities/towns will look like for the next fiscal year.

In addition to legislative initiatives, We have been actively involved in working with the Governor's office on numerous health-related Executive Orders issued since Mid-March when the State of Emergency was first declared. Health related Executive Orders from Governor Ducey have included: having health care first responders exempt from the National Guard Call-up; the stay home stay healthy initiative closing many non-essential businesses; opening up telemedicine opportunities; increasing the immunity for public health providers acting in good faith; and, increasing hospital capacity for COVID-19 preparedness.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for once again making the ED Doctor Day at the Capitol a success! AzCEP Executive Director Stephanie Butler did her usual outstanding job of selecting the best day during the legislative session for this event which ironically ended up being two weeks before the legislature suspended operations. The attendees were treated to an excellent discussion of health care workings at the Capitol by featured speaker Senator Heather Carter who was also honored with the AzCEP Outstanding Legislator of the Year Award. Senator Carter and Representative Shah than proceeded to team up and give an insiders’ view of health care policy at the legislature. This was followed by breakfast and meeting with legislators and wrapped up with a legislative picnic which was well attended by legislators from both the House and the Senate.
AzCEP Mission Statement

The Arizona College of Emergency Physicians (AzCEP) supports the highest quality emergency medical care and serves as an advocate for our patients, our members and our specialty. (readopted by the AzCEP board, 6/2019)

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Submit Deadline: August 1, 2020
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