President’s Update

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

My fellow emergency medicine colleagues, when I wrote to you in May I didn’t foresee that our state would become one of the biggest “hot spots” of COVID-19 in the whole United States! This wild time has caused many of our hospitals to put up outdoor tents and then take them down and then put them up once again when the surge hit.

I am very proud of the perseverance of our Arizona emergency physicians as we continue to deal with this pandemic as we are entering month 6 of this crisis. I was also initially concerned by Arizona’s increased cases of COVID but have come to realize that we do what we always do when faced with a surge in our ED volume regardless of the reason, adapt and overcome. While our volume of COVID-19 cases have increased exponentially, we continue to get the job done.

We just held our summer retreat in Flagstaff, Arizona on August 5th and 6th. I see this as a triumph as we were able to have the conference with in-person participants, making sure to observe social distancing and mask use. We also had a robust virtual presence. We had great lectures on wilderness medicine. We also covered LLSA articles for 2020 and 2019. Escaping the August heat was glorious as there were beautiful trails through the woods immediately behind the hotel! A special thanks to Stephanie Butler for her tireless work in making this conference a success with the added challenge of providing a safe and responsible in-person experience and conquering the inherent challenges of providing the virtual experience.

Our lobbyist John Thomas has been instrumental once again by having his finger on the pulse of happenings at the capital. He has informed us of a ballot initiative that is being presented that would re-introduce surprise billing, a topic we worked hard on to resolve in the past. John will keep us updated on the progress of this. I really appreciate all of his hard work, much of which is behind the scenes but is CRITICAL to supporting Arizona emergency physicians. Our next ED Doc Day at the Capitol will be March 10th, 2021, so please put it in your calendar now.

We had great updates from former national ACEP president, Dr. Rebecca Parker who now lives and works right here in Arizona. The ACEP Scientific Assembly-ACEP2020 Unconventional from October 26th-29th is going to be virtual this year. It is important to sign up and appears it will be flexible as to when you choose to view the lectures. She also informed us that long time national ACEP executive director Dean Wilkerson has retired after many years of service.

We are also looking forward to the Opioid Summit and ED director’s forum later in the fall on November 18th. This will be a virtual event.

Abrazo has started an EM residency and their first residents just started in July.

Finally, now as our cases in Arizona have leveled off and are finally decreasing, I implore you to continue to fight the fight. We will prevail over this Coronavirus. I am not completely sure how, but know we will make it to the other side of this pandemic. Once again, I am honored to serve this incredible group of emergency physicians!

Sincerely,
Steven A. Maher, M.D., FACEP, FAEMS
Thank you to our Arizona emergency medicine providers for participating in the SARS-CoV-2 study

The study team investigators would like to express our gratitude to all the ER frontline healthcare workers participating in our SARS-CoV-2 longitudinal immuno-surveillance study. The study started on April 27th, 2020 and has surpassed our expectations. As we continue to fight through this pandemic, know that we will continue to chronicle this moment in time. Your participation provides an opportunity to understand how SARS-CoV-2 is affecting Arizona’s front-line emergency medicine healthcare providers.

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Chad VanDenBerg, Pharm.D., M.S.
Institute for Healthcare Innovation Midwestern University

Midwestern University Institute for Healthcare Innovation
Tomorrow’s Healthcare Team

www.midwestern.edu
AzCEP Summer Membership Retreat…

Thanks to ALL who attended in person and virtually and to our speakers; Drs. Comp, Shirazi and Lotz, plus our wellness speaker, Dr. Sehra. Despite some technical glitches we have learned from them and will be better next time!

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.
UofA EM-Peds Program

By Joshua Glasser, MD PGY-5

We are excited to have our new class of interns, Jonathan Coss, Shadd Cabalatungan, and Alexandra Barbosa, join us this June to start their journey through five years of residency. They oriented, primarily virtually, with our EM and Peds colleagues in June, tested the waters in the Emergency Department in July, and now are gaining experience on the Pediatric inpatient wards.

Our big project for the upcoming months is to tackle recruitment in the age of COVID-19. We will be hosting virtual happy hours over the next few months to give prospective applicants a way to learn more about the combined residency process to try to take the place of visiting rotations and in-person interview opportunities. Contact Joshua Glasser, MD at jglasser@aemrc.arizona.edu for more information!

In faculty news, our program Director, Dr. Aaron Leetch has revamped our homegrown podcast, AzEM-Cast to 2.0 status with a new take on exciting and…competitive? Podcasting! Check them out wherever you get your podcasts.

We look forward to a busy fall ahead and the opportunity to virtually meet many new medical students and future colleagues! Follow us on Instagram: @littleemergencies

Despite COVID-19, our new intern class got at least a little time to bond in the AZ sun! From left: Alex Barbosa, Shadd Cabalatungan, Jonathan Coss.

Our new and experienced combined EM & Peds crew at work together at Diamond Children’s Hospital. Jonathan Coss PGY-1, Alex Barbosa PGY-1, Shadd Cabalatungan PGY-1, Jon Campbell PGY-3, Hannah Landreth PGY-4.
ITLS

Wow! How the COVID19 Pandemic has altered all our educational conferences and courses! ITLS is no exception. Unfortunately, like many other conferences, ITLS on the River 2020 has been postponed to 2021. We carefully looked at the science as well as the current situation in Arizona, and made the difficult decision that it was in the best interest of our faculty and students to postpone it until next year. In its place, we will be providing free virtual CME courses (from our outstanding lineup of speakers that were to teach at ITLS on the River) during the same days (September 20, 21, and 22nd) as well as some upcoming virtual courses starting in November. See our website for more information. Coming soon!

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/ or email us at itlsaz@gmail.com.

The date for our next course has not been finalized. Pending the Coronaapocalypse outcome, it will be held in the fall of 2021, likely the 4th week in September (26-28th). Look for more information on our website over the next few 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
CAPT MC (FMF), USN
Medical Director
Arizona ITLS

Kingman Regional Medical Center
Resident’s Corner
By David C. Weech DO, MBA, PGY-2

We are excited to have our new group of resident physicians in the department. Since the last portion of their education was bombarded by COVID they were eager to dive into the work. Each of them offers a unique background and cove of hidden talents that make them a strength to our team. We are excited to see what the future holds for each of them.

Phase 1 of our new ER is nearing completion and we expect to start seeing patients in the new facility this winter. One of the most notable changes, besides expanded bed space, are the dedicated psychiatric suites. We are optimistic that this will provide an improved experience for staff as well as for patients in the department. As extended wait times are a metric we all hope to avoid the added beds will be much appreciated.

We are excited to welcome HeeSun Choi, MD to the team who has accepted a position as Ultrasound Director, having completed an ultrasound fellowship at University of California Irvine. She is equipped with a vast history of education and ultrasound medicine. We look forward to all that she will contribute to the resident education and bedside medicine.
AzCEP Physician Wellness

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

“Leadership with Damian Vaughn”

https://soundcloud.com/user-248859497/leadership-with-damian-vaughn

Calendar of Events

Mark your Calendar and Get Active in AzCEP!

Aug 5-6 Board/Membership Meeting
The Little America, Flagstaff

Oct 21 Board/Membership Meeting

Oct 26-29 ACEP20-Unconventional(Virtual)

Nov 18 EM Opioid Summit-Virtual

Dec 2 Board/Membership Meeting

All AzCEP members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Board Meetings. Contact the Chapter office at 602-336-4599 for additional information.

Board Meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held at 12:00 noon.

UofA-Tucson Campus Resident’s Corner

By Jay Yim, DO & Brandon Godfrey, MD

Greetings from sunny Tucson,

It’s still the summer and we’re really feeling the scorching temperatures, hopefully getting in some personal pool time. Meanwhile, we’ve welcomed our new awesome intern class:

Zachary Bahr, MD
Samuel Freedman, MD
Zack Gibson, DO
Caitlin Gluck, DO
Tyler Jackson, MD
Eric Lee, MD
Maddy Mercier, DO
Naomi Onaka, MD
Rom Rahimian, MD, MPH
Mark Roehr, MD
Lucas Rose, MD
Aleksi Saarela, MD
Darien Stratton, MD
Ray-Young Tsao, MD
Neil Wallace, MD

They’ve all been eager and motivated to join in amidst the craziness of the pandemic. Everyone’s been keeping their heads up and our co-residents and leadership have been incredibly supportive of each other. Most didactics and conferences have transitioned to online delivery methods for the time being. A lot of the co-resident hang-outs and post-shift activities have been postponed temporarily, hoping they’ll be back soon and we’ll be ready!

Among faculty news, Dr. Samuel Keim, MD, MS, Professor and Chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Arizona, has been elected to be the Secretary-Treasurer of the American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM).

Our department has also had new faculty additions as well: Rachel Munn, DO (EMS), Priti Rawani-Patel, MD (EM-Peds), and Adrienne Yarnish, MD (Ultrasound).

Stay sunny and warm, until next time AzCEP community!
Greetings from the Copa Cabana!

Our new year is in full swing, pandemic style. We've welcomed 16 new residents to our family this year and have been so impressed by their energy, flexibility, and team spirit! Keep up the great work!

Over the past several months, our county ED has seen a significant rise in COVID-19 cases. The volume has certainly challenged our capacity, resources, and staffing, but has ultimately brought us closer together as a family! Learning emergency medicine is hard, especially during a pandemic, but we have been inspired by our attendings, staff, and each other.

Like most residency programs, when we aren't at work fighting the COVID-19 fight, we are remaining socially distanced over Zoom for didactics and simulation. Our first simulation conference of the year was a great success, with a lot of entertaining screenshots over the Zoom platform. Soon we will be entering our recruitment season, which will also be held virtually this year.

We hope things return to "normal" soon, but this past season has also made us stronger, closer, and more resilient than ever!

Intern class - don't worry, they took off their masks just for a second for the photo above!

Screenshot from our recent sim conference...the new normal...ha-ha!
Get PPE through Project N95
With member concerns about the quality of N95 masks on the open market, ACEP has joined with Project N95 to offer PPE to you at volume prices. This exclusive benefit for ACEP members is available only through August 26. Registration opens at 4 p.m. ET on Wednesday, August 19 and is only available to members in the 50 states of the US, DC and Puerto Rico.

2nd Annual Native American and Rural Emergency Medicine Conference-Virtual and Free CME
NAEMC’s Virtual conference coming up Aug 27th & 28th, 2020. Please go to NAEMC.org to check out the agenda and register. Along with our partners at Project Echo we have put together some top notch speakers and innovators that will discuss what we have learned and how we navigate the challenging times ahead in the Era of COVID.

Marking Physician Suicide Awareness Day
Physician Suicide Awareness Day is coming up on Sept. 17. ACEP will be providing updates on the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act and additional tools and resources to mark this solemn occasion. As we advocate against barriers that prevent EM physicians from seeking mental health care, ACEP encourages members to visit the Wellness Hub at acep.org/wellness-hub for multiple pathways to help you find the support you need during this challenging season for our profession.

The Innovation in Suicide Prevention Award recognizes promising and innovative acute care activities in the area of suicide prevention that improve patient outcomes and improve lives of patients and/or providers. Nominations are due Sept. 1.

2020 Arizona Asthma & Allergy Clinical Conference: Wheezing & Sneezing in the Desert
The Arizona Asthma Coalition has made the decision to transition the 2020 Arizona Asthma & Allergy Clinical Conference to a live AND virtual event. Join us live on September 12th for a chance to interact with Conference presenters!

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 is now accepting applications for the Pain & Addiction Care in the ED (PACED) Accreditation Program, developed for EM physicians by EM physicians. PACED, the nation’s only specialty-specific accreditation program, will provide the education, tools & resources you need to provide better care for patients in pain & those with substance misuse.

Elevate the quality of patient care with innovative treatments, alternative modalities, and impactful risk reduction strategies in a collaborative team setting, resulting in positive outcomes for your patients, families, providers, and communities. https://www.acep.org/paced or contact us at paced@acep.org

NEMPAC Charity Match
For a limited time, your NEMPAC contribution of $100 or more will be matched 10 cents on the dollar by ACEP to a charitable cause that provides resources to the COVID-19 front lines. The more you give, the more we give back! You can choose from one of three charities after making your contribution online: EMF COVID-19 Research Fund, GetUsPPE.org or the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Click here to join your fellow ACEP members today to support meaningful political and charitable involvement.

ACEP20 is a CME Jackpot + Announcing Special Guest: Dr. Anthony Fauci!
ACEP20 will include more than 250 hours of CME education, but here's the best part: Attendees get access to this education and CME for THREE YEARS after the event! All of the live events will be debuting during the original dates: Oct. 26-29. We are happy to announce our first special guest at ACEP20 – Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIAID Director. We’ll be unveiling other celebrity keynote speakers throughout August, so follow ACEP’s social media channels for those exciting announcements. Click here for more information and to register.
2020 AzCEP EM Research Seed Grant

Available Now and open to Medical Students too!

...Due October 31, 2020

AzCEP is supportive of Emergency Department based clinical research throughout the state of Arizona and of Emergency Medicine residents as they work towards their future careers as emergency physicians. For the past 8 years, we have made it a priority to provide ongoing support and presence in EM training programs throughout Arizona and this year are including medical students in the applicant pool!

For a listing of the past EM Research Seed Grant winners, see the website, www.azcep.org

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Need a Guest Lecturer? Updated list now Available!

AzCEP has pulled together a list of speaker topics and presenters to assist in program needs in the state. This updated version includes what type of environment the lecturer practices in. Check it out for NEW topics and speakers! See the list on the front page of the website; www.azcep.org

Stay current with the COVID-19 Center. It's your one-stop-shop for clinical and legislative updates.

Quick Links: Physician Wellness Hub

COVID-19 Field Guide
ACEP Regulatory Updates

2021 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule: What You Need To Know
ACEP recently published a new comprehensive summary of the 2021 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule and its potential effect on emergency medicine. Last week, we sent a letter expressing our concerns with the proposed cuts and calling on Congress to waive budget neutrality requirements to avert the cuts that pose a significant threat to EM physicians and the health care safety net. Voice your concerns by joining the thousands of ACEP members who have urged their legislators waive the budget neutrality requirement for calendar years 2021 and 2022 by signing on to a bipartisan “Dear Colleague” letter.

CMS Delays AUC Program to 2022
CMS recently announced that it would delay the full implementation of the Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) program until at least the start of calendar year (CY) 2022. ACEP has long advocated for emergency physicians to be exempted from this program. Learn more about the AUC program.

What President Trump's Executive Order on Rural Health and Telehealth Means for EM
On August 3, President Trump issued an executive order (EO) that calls on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop new payment models aimed at transforming how clinicians practicing in rural areas are reimbursed under Medicare. Further, the President states in the EO that he believes that many of the telehealth flexibilities available during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) should be made permanent and asks HHS to issue a reg that would examine which services should continue to be provided to patients via telehealth after the PHE ends. On the same day the EO was issued, the (CY) 2021 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and Quality Payment Program (QPP) proposed reg was released, which includes a robust set of proposed telehealth policies. Last week's regulatory blog digs in to the telehealth proposals and what they could mean for emergency physicians. Related News: New Analysis Reveals Worsening Shortage of Emergency Physicians in Rural Areas

Urge Congress: Please Support Mental Health Resources and Protections for COVID-19 Health Care Providers
ACEP applauds last week's introduction of the Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act in the Senate. We worked closely with the legislators on the development of this bill and encourage ACEP members to contact their legislators to ask for their support. Read our latest Member Alert for information about this legislation and the other bills ACEP is supporting that advocate for the wellbeing of frontline health care workers.

As of Aug. 1, all laboratories must report certain data elements for all COVID-19 tests (including patient demographic data). The responsibility of collecting this information may fall on emergency physicians.

Check out our Regs & Eggs blog for the latest regulatory updates.

Hi everyone!

As promised, we will be resuming our monthly AZ EM Medical Student Council meetings this month, and the next meeting will be Tuesday, August 25th, at 6PM. Dr. Geoff Comp has volunteered to speak on drowning/submersion injuries for the first 30 minutes of the meeting and it will be useful information! Dr. Comp is an APD at Creighton University School of Medicine EM Residency (Maricopa) and a great dynamic speaker.

Dr. Comp is heavily involved in Wilderness Medicine as a Fellow of the Academy of Wilderness Medicine (FAWM) and he wanted us to pass along an opportunity attend an AWLS course in November! Please see below for more information and a QR code to register for the course and contact me if you would like added to our elist to get informed about upcoming events.

Warm Regards,

Luke Wohlford - Chair
Arizona EM Medical Student Council
Legislative Update

By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel

I am just back from attending the AzCEP Summer Retreat. Excellent presentations and great in-depth discussions from our members (attending in person or via Zoom) regarding issues of interest to our organization now and in the upcoming year.

On the legislative front, MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 2021, which is the date for the next ED Doctor Day at the Capitol! This continues to be an important part of our legislative efforts at the Capitol as well as providing a busy, fun-filled and interesting day for our members. Plan to arrive early to hear a featured speaker, attend individual meetings with legislators from your legislative district and stay through the picnic lunch which provides a wonderful opportunity to have in-depth discussions with legislators regarding issues of importance to you and the AzCEP membership.

Representative and AzCEP member Dr. Shah had 7 bills make it out of the House of Representatives before the 2020 legislative session was cut short. He assured us during the Summer retreat that he plans to reintroduce these bills again as well as some new ones for the 2021 Legislative Session which should start up the first of January, 2021. We will be sending them out for your review once the bills are introduced.

As this is an election year for all 60 state house members & 30 state senators, we are anxiously awaiting for the outcome of the 2020 general election in November. Already in the August Primary election, a number of legislative races have already been decided including Senator Heather Carter being defeated by Representative Barto. In addition, with the House currently at a membership level of 31 Republicans and 29 Democrats and the Senate with 17 Republicans and 13 Democrats, the general election could provide for a change in party leadership in the House or the Senate or both. The Governor is not up for re-election until 2022.

On the “Arizona Hospital Worker Minimum Wage and Insurance Regulations” Initiative front, a judge has disqualified it from ballot but this ruling will be appealed to state supreme court. Here is a link to the Initiative language:

https://ballotpedia.org/Arizona_Hospital_Worker_Minimum_Wage_and_Insurance_Regulations_Initiative_(2020)

We will be discussing this Initiative in greater detail should it qualify for the ballot in November.

Finally, as this is an election year, I strongly encourage you to attend events where you can meet your legislative candidates. Introduce yourself to them and ask them to contact you if they have a question regarding legislation relating to medicine. It is important to the legislators to have someone knowledgeable that they can call to discuss these issues.

Stay cool!

John Thomas

Save the Date!

ED Doc Day
March 10, 2021
**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)