

President's Update

By Mara Windsor, DO, FACEP



AzCEP just had our annual summer retreat earlier this month in Sedona at my favorite resort, the A'Mara. This is where I come every year with my family before the new school year starts to regroup, debrief, and become grounded for what lies ahead in the coming year. I thank all of you who were able to attend in person and virtually and hope that you were able to share in those feelings as well. As many of you know I have a strong foundation in wellness. It is very important for our well-being to be able to come together as a community to discuss issues that concern us locally and nationally. The retreat was a great bonding experience and very productive. I also want to thank all of our EM Work/Life Integration panelists who came to share about their various specialties that have enhanced their careers, as well as our other speakers on resiliency and financial independence. As a wellness spokesperson, I highly encourage you all to have a hobby or professional interest so that you can reinvent yourself every 7 to 10 years. I hope all have realized that there are many ways to increase your resiliency, decrease your burnout and obtain longevity when you are an emergency medicine physician by branching outside of the emergency department walls in another avenue or journey in which you feel rewarded, fulfilled, and appreciated.

In the treasurer's report that was provided by Dr. Wong, we have realized that to keep our organization strong we need to increase our membership. One way to assist in this goal is to mentor residents and medical students so they see the value in belonging to our group once they have graduated. We want to encourage them to attend our conferences, meetings, or retreats so they see the AzCEP Board of Directors in action and understand what our organization is doing politically in support of emergency medicine.

John Thomas gave his lobbyist update and was pleased to inform us that our own AzCEP Board Member and Arizona State House Representative, Dr. Amish Shah, won his primary election and will be able to serve the membership and the state for another two years! He also shared that Dr. Shah had nine bills that were signed into law during the 2022 session. We want to convey our gratitude and appreciation for all his political endeavors. Dr. Shah does need our help

down at the state capitol to advocate for emergency medicine and help stop bad legislation from becoming law. One way to assist in this effort is to show up to the ED Doc Day at the Capitol. The 2023 date has yet to be confirmed, but it is vital to make the decision to attend, even as a medical student or a resident. On this day you can come and get educated on the issues and help support the initiatives that affect how you practice in Arizona. Plus, it allows you to meet other emergency physicians in Arizona, who may be struggling with similar obstacles or barriers. When we come together as a community, we are able to share our collective humanity which benefits ourselves individually and the patients we care for.

One of our residents at the retreat asked me what is the best thing that he could do to be part of the organization at his level and my advice to him, as well to all medical students and residents, is to just show up. Great things happen when you show up! I told him that he would be able to observe the process and participate in a committee to learn more about the issues at hand and understand how the Arizona chapter is supporting emergency medicine. Please share this advice and personally invite medical students and/or residents to our upcoming events and retreat for next year. Again, we cannot create change without the engagement of our members. We need you. We call on you to action! Help us to create radical change in our House of Medicine! It takes all of us!

As AzCEP's president this year, I promise to offer support and guidance no matter what stage in your career you are at. It is my goal for our chapter to always be open to hear your voice and to bring your issues and concerns to the group so that we can dig into them deeper and see how we, as the Arizona Chapter of ACEP, can support you. Finally, this organization would not thrive without our Executive Director, Stephanie Butler, or our lobbyist, John Thomas. Please give them a shout out whenever you see them since they are the drivers behind this amazing organization.

With gratitude,
Mara





2022 Summer Retreat

EMF + EM Policy Institute Opportunity

The Emergency Medicine Foundation and the Emergency Medicine Policy Institute are pleased to release a new funding opportunity, the Health Policy Research Scholar Award. The award is **\$100,000** for a one-year period, starting September 1, 2022.

The purpose of the Award is to develop a cadre of emergency researchers who are well trained and have an established network to pursue health policy research.

EMPI/EMF encourages applications with a focus on these priority areas:

- Cost and value of emergency care
- Financing and economics of emergency care
- Innovation and diversification of emergency care delivery

For questions, email Cynthia Singh at csingh@acep.org.

Apply today! <https://www.emfoundation.org/grants/apply-for-a-grant/>



ITLS

Unfortunately, due to the continuing COVID pandemic, we had to once again cancel (actually postpone) ITLS on the River this past Fall. However, this year we will once again be hosting the conference in person at the Aquarius Casino Resort. You will be able to get certified in Pediatric and Adult ITLS, as well as earn 8 CE hours during our Lecture Day at the conference this Fall. Dates are set for September 25th-27th.

This past year we brought back our free virtual CME courses. During the last two years we provided over 15 hours of free CME to over three hundred EMS providers, first responders, nurses, and physicians. See our website for more information on past courses. Thanks to all the speakers who helped make this happen!

Our new ITLS State Coordinator, Tim Freund, EMT-P, continues to provide excellent and enthusiastic leadership for ITLS in Arizona and thanks to Dr. Rachel Munn for her interest in learning the role of ITLS Medical Director.

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

Register Now!
ITLS on the River
Sept. 25-27, 2022
<https://www.itlsaz.org/itls-river>

UofA-South Campus Resident's Corner *By Patrick Mullett, MD*

The UofA South Campus is excited to welcome the new intern class! We have exciting news with the appointment of a new Assistant Program Director (APD), Dr. Jessica Bates. Our medical director, Dr. Berkman, has been elected Chief of Staff. We are doing some remodeling and now have a completely renovated trauma bay and equipment to streamline departmental efficiency! On our free time, we go on adventures and recently had our annual intern retreat featuring a local concert by our very own junior resident, Joseph Demirjian (lead singer of "Her Name Echoes"). The department has been through significant changes recently, and the most exciting news is the incoming workforce of new nurses, medics, and LPN's. Our throughput has increased significantly, and we are once again seeing busy shifts like pre-COVID times. We have had no shortage of trauma presentations at our campus, necessitating an upgrade - and now we will be upgrading to a level 3 trauma center. With that, we look forward to the revamp of our trauma protocols and training all staff to be more efficient in running traumas.



AzCEP Physician Wellness

The AzCEP Wellness Committee is pleased to share the following article.

How Suicide Changed My Life

By Dr. Mara Windsor

(<https://www.livingenlightenment.life/single-post/how-suicide-has-touched-my-life-dr-mara-windsor>)



Calendar of Events

Mark your Calendar and Get Active in AzCEP!

Sept 21 Board/Membership Meeting

Oct 1-4 ACEP22 in San Francisco



Nov 2 **EM Opioid Summit-Hybrid**

Dec 7 Board/Membership Meeting

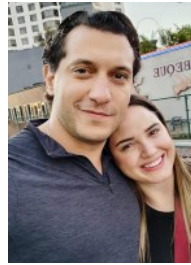
All AzCEP members are welcome and *encouraged* to attend the Board Meetings. Contact the Chapter office at 602-336-4599 for additional information.

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

Abrazo Residency
Resident's Corner
By Amy Kristensen, MD


Happy Summer!

We welcome our new interns to Abrazo with (very sweaty) open arms. Anyone else already ready for Winter? Despite the stifling heat, our residents have managed to stay cool with lots of pool parties, air conditioning, and out of town trips.



Senior resident Amy Kristensen road-tripped to beautiful San Diego and similar to virtually everyone else in the world, plotted how she could stay there and never come back.

Jenn Fitzzy chose a slightly closer destination by spending the day with her pups at Lake Pleasant. Have we told you how much our program loves dogs? Stay tuned for a post dedicated entirely to the dog heroes of Abrazo EM.

A woman wearing a life vest and a cap is sitting on a blue and red paddleboard in a lake. She is holding a small black and white dog. Another dog, a pit bull mix, is sitting next to her on the board. In the background, there are other people and a yellow kayak.

Last but not least, we are super excited to introduce you to our two newly-minted chief residents! Grace Patel and Christina Liou have already been working hard to keep us healthy, happy, and in-line as we enter our last year of residency. Thank you gals, for everything you do!



Valleywise Resident's Column

By Ellen Dowling, MD and Shelby Hoebee, MD

Copa residents have been continuing to thrive with the start of the new academic year! While it was hard to say goodbye to the class of 2022, we are excited to introduce our new intern class - stay tuned for the incredible waves they make in and out of our ED!

Brett Armstrong - University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine

Sarah Bruns - Indiana University School of Medicine

Jose Edgington - Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine

Ethan Erickson - University of Texas School of Medicine at San Antonio

Alex Foster - West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine

Meg Free - Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine

Hunter Hoopes - Kansas City Univ College of Osteopathic Medicine

Rex Mei - Western University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific

Sean Mulligan - Indiana University School of Medicine

Cornel Popescu - University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix

Joshua Raybun - Washington State University - Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

Joey Rudy - Florida State University College of Medicine

Griffith Saunders - Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine

Andrew Schlinkert - Creighton University School of Medicine

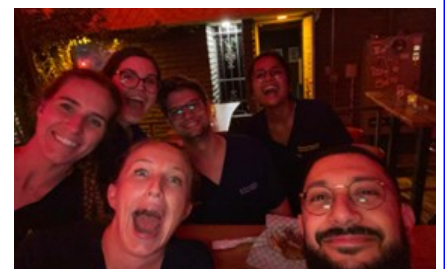
Elise Tran - Western University Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine

Lindsay Williams - Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine



See our program website to learn more! <https://maricopaemergencymedicine.com/pgy1/>

Additionally, each class has been stepping up to the plate to embrace the challenges comes with advancing through residency. Our new chiefs, Drs. Mike Mozer, Courtney Schwebach and Syna Daudfar, have been doing an incredible job leading us through this season's time of growth. Despite how hard we work, we still have a great time together - both in and out of the doc box!!



News & Notes

New Monkeypox Emergency Medicine Project Requests Case Images

ACEP has partnered with VisualDx to create the [Monkeypox Emergency Medicine Project](#). Together we are asking you to contribute your confirmed monkeypox case images to the initiative. Images will be deidentified and made freely accessible to ACEP members to better assist recognition, clinical care, and education. It will also be available within the VisualDx system. [Learn more.](#)

More Monkeypox Resources: We are regularly updating our [Monkeypox Field Guide](#) and providing weekly run-downs in the [Emerging Threats Communication Hub](#), an open discussion forum for all ACEP members.

Advocacy at Home: August Recess Toolkit

Elected officials are heading back to their districts for the month and our [Advocacy At Home: August Recess Toolkit](#) can help you set and prepare for local meetings with federal legislators or staff. This is a great time to share your stories that personalize our calls for policy changes. Find this toolkit and more helpful resources for speaking with media and legislators in [ACEP's Media Hub](#).

ACEP22 Travel Discounts You Need to Know About

Hotels: Seven ACEP22 hotels have [recently discounted rates](#) for you! If you already booked through OnPeak, your rates will be automatically lowered. If not, you can still book with these discounted rates.

- Airfare: ACEP + TripEasy = [savings up to 20% off flights](#)
- Registration: [Save \\$100 on registration with promo code CALI](#).

Myth BustED: Patients' Rights in the ED

ACEP recently launched a "Myth BustED" video series to debunk common misconceptions and educate the public about emergency care. In our first video—[Patients' Rights in the Emergency Room](#)—Dr. Avir Mitra educates patients about laws like EMTALA and the Prudent Layperson Standard that protect access to emergency care. [Watch now to see how ACEP is encouraging patients to always seek care when they need it.](#)

New Bedside Tool for Patients Experiencing Cancer Immunotherapy-related Issues

ACEP has a new point-of-care tool, ImmunoTox, focused on caring for patients who are experiencing adverse events related to cancer immunotherapy. The pathway includes history/physical, testing, management, disposition and immunotherapy pearls. The tool also includes six PDFs for optional download. [Learn more.](#)

Introducing the EM Opioid Advisory Network

Receive clinical guidance, discover tools and resources, and get your questions answered through ACEP's EM Opioid Advisory Network. ACEP's new initiative connects emergency physicians combating the opioid crisis with expert advice on managing Opioid Use Disorder patients presenting in the ED, creating a protocol to initiate buprenorphine, and more. The expert panel is here to help ALL emergency health care professionals, free of charge. [Learn more.](#)

Virtual Grand Rounds: Trauma is coming up Aug. 31. Register today.

ACEP is seeking comments on a **draft clinical policy for patients with suspected appendicitis**. [Weigh in.](#)

Podcast: Have you checked out the [newest Frontline podcast](#) episode featuring EM physician and astronaut Dr. Thomas Marshburn?

Now Accepting ACEP23 Course Proposals

As we start our countdown to ACEP22 in San Francisco, we're already thinking about ACEP23 in Philadelphia! ACEP's Educational Meetings Subcommittee is now accepting course proposals for the 2023 Scientific Assembly. [Learn more.](#)

Get the Support You Need

Stress is high right now, on so many levels. Everyone has unique needs depending on personal circumstances, but the following free support services are available:

- [Crisis counseling/wellness sessions](#) available 24/7 and strictly confidential
- [Peer support line](#) for physicians and medical students, available 24/7
- [Let's Talk forum](#) for ACEP members, our only forum to allow anonymous posts

<https://www.acep.org/support>

Legal and Financial Support Services

For just **\$15 per year**, ACEP members can access Mines & Associates' [legal and financial support assistance](#). This service includes unlimited 30-minute in-person consultation for each individual legal matter, unlimited telephonic 30-minute consultation per financial matter, and 25% discount on select legal and financial services all with MINES network legal and financial professionals.

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

August 17: [Ask ACEP Anything All-Member Town Hall](#)

August 23-25: [Independent EM Group Master Class](#)

August 31: [Virtual Grand Rounds – Trauma](#)

October 1-4: ACEP Scientific Assembly in San Francisco ([Save \\$100 with promo code CALI](#).)

October 17-22: [EM Basic Research Skills \(EMBRs\)](#)

November 11: Last day to submit [ACEP23 course proposals](#)

Kingman Regional Medical Center Resident's Corner

By Codey Pedersen DO, PGY2, Junior Chief Resident

June marked the closing of one chapter and beginning of another as we wished our seniors well wishes at graduation and welcomed our new intern class to residency during orientation. We are super excited to welcome our new interns Alex Dolan, Aurelia Kucera, Ryan Timothy, Josh Engel, Phillip Hasenbalg, and Tyler Fowler. They had a crash course introduction into residency during orientation week with introductions to procedures, POCUS, EMR, ACLS/BLS/PALS training, and some bowling for balance. We look forward to adding them to our team and watching them grow into amazing physicians over the next three years.



Even with all of the craziness of graduation and orientation, we still found time to



relax at our wellness event where we got to compete while axe throwing and enjoy each others company outside the hospital, while stuffing our faces and swimming. We are looking forward to all the things this next year has in store with the curriculum overhaul, Mass Casualty Training, Wilderness Medicine certification, and much more.



2022 EM Research Seed Grant Applications Out!

Don't forget...available to Medical Students too!

DUE... OCTOBER 31, 2022

AzCEP is supportive of Emergency Department based clinical research throughout the state of Arizona and of Emergency Medicine residents, as well as medical students, as they work towards their future careers as emergency physicians. For the past 11 years, we have made it a priority to provide ongoing support and presence in EM training programs throughout Arizona. Applications are on the front page of the website: <https://www.azcep.org/>

For a listing of the past EM Research Seed Grant winners, see the website; <https://www.azcep.org/grant-winners>



Dr. Anisa Mughal presenting her research findings at the summer retreat..

Member Accomplishments

June 2022, ACEPNow - AzCEP Author

Killing Me Softly ... with Normal Saline? Written by **Richard Cunningham, MD**

AND>> AzCEP Author in July 2022 ACEPNow!

Simulating the Rural Emergency Medicine Physician Written by **Dominic Pappas, MD**

ALSO>> in July 2022 ACEPNow,

...Due Process and Employee Retaliation Laws in Emergency Medicine article that talks about AZ's non-retaliation law championed by AzCEP member and AZ State House Representative, **Dr. Amish Shah**, which was then submitted as a 2021 ACEP Council Resolution

PLUS>>

July 2022-Annals Article...AzCEP Authors!

Optimal Out-of-Hospital Blood Pressure in Major Traumatic Brain Injury: A Challenge to the Current Understanding of Hypotension, by: **Daniel W. Spaite**, Chengcheng Hu, Bentley J. Bobrow, Bruce Barnhart, Vatsal Chikani, **Joshua B. Gaither**, **Kurt R. Denninghoff**, Gail H. Bradley, Amber D. Rice, Jeffrey T. Howard, **Samuel M. Keim**

...speaking of Dr. Samuel M. Keim, were you aware of his new position?

ABEM has announced the election of Samuel M. Keim, M.D., M.S., as President of the American Board of Emergency Medicine.

<https://www.abem.org/public/news-events/abem-news/2022/07/26/samuel-m.-keim-m.d.-m.s.-elected-president-of-abem>

Congrats!

Can't forget, Dr. Mara Windsor's interview with Channel 15, on the topic of *When to ask for an ambulance to the emergency room*

<https://www.abc15.com/news/local-news/investigations/when-to-ask-for-an-ambulance-to-the-emergency-room>

There's Still a Doctor in the House!

Our own AzCEP member, **Dr./Representative Amish Shah**, (LD-5), took the top spot in his primary race by an overwhelming majority. He will officially return to the Arizona State Legislature to fight for strong, physician-friendly policies since he has no competition in the general election.

Yeah, Dr. Shah!

Did you get a new job?

Get promoted?

Get published?

Achieve a goal?

Let AzCEP know and we will include it in this new section of the Arizona EPIC. Tweet your accomplishment (@ArizonaACEP) or post it on Instagram (azacep810) and tag us... or email us at: azacep@gmail.com

Dear AzCEP member,

My name is Courtney Chau and I am a researcher at the University of California, Berkeley. I am conducting a research project to examine the actions physicians take in response to disclosure or suspicion of domestic violence in their patients' relationships.

This research project will fill a gap in the existing literature by describing how physicians in the United States currently respond to situations in which patients are or may be experiencing domestic violence, setting the stage to determine the best next steps to move forward in trauma-informed care.

I am reaching out to invite you to participate in this research study. I would deeply appreciate it if you would be willing to share your insights in an approximately 30- to 60-minute interview. Participation is voluntary and you are welcome to withdraw at any time. No compensation will be provided for participation in this study.

Participation is limited to emergency medicine, plastic surgery, primary care, and obstetrics and/or gynecology physicians who are 30 years old or above.

If you are willing to participate, please fill out [this form](#)* and I will reach out to you to schedule an interview. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at cachau@berkeley.edu.

Warm regards,

Courtney Chau, Undergraduate Researcher
Dr. Mary Lesser, Principal Investigator

*Access via website; <https://www.azcep.org/newsletters>

Briefing: No Impact for Emergency Care from Arizona Abortion Laws-August 2022

By Todd B. Taylor, MD, FACEP

Few issues have polarized America as much as abortion. And this debate has been reignited by the recent Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruling in "[Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization](#)" in which the Court held that the Constitution does not confer a right to abortion, and thereby overturning prior SCOTUS decisions in both *Roe v. Wade* (1973) and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* (1992).

The SCOTUS decision does not outlaw abortion in the United States. It returns the full power to regulate abortion to individual states and to the US Congress. With Congress unlikely to act on the issue anytime soon, it is important to know Arizona law and, more importantly, any impact on Emergency Medicine.

See [An Overview of Abortion Laws](#):

For context, 34 states (including California) prohibit abortion after "viability" (generally considered to be 23-24 weeks) or earlier. Another 12 states prohibit "partial-birth abortion" irrespective of viability. This leaves only 3 states (Colorado, Oregon, Vermont) plus the District of Columbia with "a full range of reproductive healthcare options", including so called "partial-birth abortion" where the head of the baby is delivered & the spinal cord severed to prevent a "live birth". Nine states (AL, AR, KY, LA, MS, MO, OK, SD, TX) currently prohibit abortion regardless of gestational age. **No state currently prohibits abortion in cases of life or health endangerment.**

BOTTOM LINES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE:

1. There are explicit exceptions in Arizona law for care necessary to save the life of the mother, which clearly covers all emergency care for ectopic and other types of emergency therapeutic abortions.
2. Even if that were not so, Federal EMTALA would preempt any state ban on such necessary emergency care.
3. Some have questioned if "Emergency Contraception" (e.g. in sexual assault) may be in question. Unlikely, but see further discussion at the end.
4. Regardless of your personal views on abortion, it is not an issue directly relevant to Emergency Medicine. Medical science has advanced significantly in the 50 years since *Roe v. Wade*. Illegal or non-prescribed self-induced abortions were uncommon then & will be even more so now. We have much bigger issues to face.

Arizona Abortion Laws:

Arizona's first ban on abortion was passed as part of the [1864 Howell Code](#), a year after the formation of the Arizona Territory (Arizona subsequently became a state in 1912). *It read in part: "[E]very person who shall administer or cause to be administered or taken, any medicinal substances, or shall use or cause to be used any instruments whatever, with the intention to procure the miscarriage of any woman then being with child, and shall be thereof duly convicted, shall be punished by imprisonment in the Territorial prison for a term not less than two years nor more than five years: Provided, that no physician shall be affected by the last clause of this section, who in the discharge of his professional duties, deems it necessary to produce the miscarriage of any woman in order to save her life."*

Enforcement of this ban was prevented by injunction in the 1973 case *Nelson v. Planned Parenthood*, which was based solely on *Roe v. Wade*. After the recent SCOTUS decision, Arizona Attorney (AG) General Mark Brnovich [announced his intention to enforce the 1864 law](#). While technically not a "total abortion ban" (i.e. life of the mother exception), Arizona would join 9 other states that otherwise prohibit abortion at any time.

For now, this issue remains stalled in the courts, but has become a hot button issue in the AG race to replace Brnovich (term-limited). While the AG does not make the laws, they do enforce them (or not), so their positions may be relevant once elected.

Republican AG nominee Abraham Hamadeh [website states](#), *"I will fight to protect the rights of our children at all stages, beginning at conception, and ensure that our laws to protect life are fully implemented."*

Democrat AG nominee Kristin Kay Mayes [website states](#), *"I believe abortion should be legal and safe, and that women should have both privacy and bodily autonomy."* Further, *"I will not prosecute doctors, PAs, nurses, midwives, doulas or pharmacists for providing or women for receiving reproductive services. This includes abortions, . . ."*

[Senate Bill 1164](#), due to go into effect in late September 2022, restricts abortion after 15 weeks gestation. There is a "Medical Emergency" exception, which is fairly broadly defined, leaving it to a "physician's good faith clinical judgment". However, a report must be filed with the Department of Health in all such cases, in part justifying the medical emergency.

Current AZ State law passed in 2012 limits abortion to less than 20 weeks, although like most other states, this statute has been under court injunction. It has been [reported](#) that all providers in Arizona have suspended abortion services while awaiting legal clarification.

Prior State Abortion Statutes:

Over the years there have been various laws passed placing requirements on abortion services in Arizona focused on how the procedure is performed, by whom, informed consent, etc.

One existing statute is directly relevant to the 1864 ban and may legitimize its enforcement:

ARS§36-2326. Sec. 2. Construction

This act does not:

1. *Create or recognize a right to abortion or alter generally accepted medical standards. The Legislature does not intend this act to make lawful an abortion that is currently unlawful.*
2. *Repeal, by implication or otherwise, section 13-3603, Arizona Revised Statutes, or any other applicable state law regulating or restricting abortion.*

It seems likely the Arizona Legislature will need to repeal the 1864 Howell Code abortion prohibition if it wishes Senate Bill 1164 to prevail.

(Continued on page 11)

UofA Tucson Campus Residency Update

By, Jacquelyn R. Hoffman, MD

It's that time of year.. our new interns are here! Please welcome our new EM/Combined EM & Peds residents from the University of Arizona University Program!

We are a diverse, vivacious group of new physicians and hail from all corners of the United States such as Louisiana, Nebraska, and Rhode Island. We majored in a range of topics in college including mathematics, neuroscience, dance, computer science, and bio-informatics. We are poised to serve our Tucson patients!



Kevin Brandecker- Hack Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine
Lo Cantu (EM/Peds)- Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University
Veronica Cheng- Creighton University School of Medicine
Ashneet Dhillon - University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine
Brianna Dolana - University of Arizona College of Medicine
Lindsey Gagnon (EM/Peds)- Louisiana State Univ School of Medicine in New Orleans
Nathaniel Husband (EM/Peds)- University of Arizona College of Medicine
Aubrey Ingram - Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine of Midwestern University
Nolan Lassiter - Touro University College of Osteopathic Medicine - California
Marissa Lovett - University of Arizona College of Medicine
Tricia Miedema - Michigan State Univ College of Human Medicine – Grand Rapids
Krista Niezwaag- Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine
Erik Overby - Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine
Abby Ritter- University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine
Saeed Shihab - University of Utah School of Medicine
Francis Torres - Boston University School of Medicine
Estéban Valle - University of Nevada, Reno School of Medicine
Lindsey Vandergrift - The Warren Alpert School of Brown University

Legislative Update

By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel

It's August and the Monsoon Season is in full swing; the legislature has FINALLY adjourned and the Primary elections are officially over!

The 2022 Arizona Legislature stayed in Session for 166 days (they typically try to limit the sessions to 100 days) this year adjourning on Saturday, June 25th, just in time for the new fiscal year that started on July 1st. The medical community had a successful year thanks in large part once again to our very own AzCEP board member, Representative Amish Shah, who had a number of his bills signed into law by the Governor. Dr. Shah not only successfully introduces legislation, he also serves a very important role at the legislature by providing his knowledge and insight into the medical issues being discussed and evaluated by the legislators.

Tuesday, August 2nd marked the primary election date for Arizona. Now we are on to the General Election Date of Tuesday, November 2nd, 2022. The good news is that Representative Shah was victorious in a contested five way primary for which only two legislative seats were available. He will be returning to the legislature for opening day on January 9th, 2023. The general election in November will decide who will control the Arizona House, Senate and the Governor's Office. In addition, the new Governor will be making the decision of who to appoint as the Department of Health Services Director.

It is not too late to get involved in the upcoming election. There is still time to register to vote prior to the November 8th election date. In addition, you still have the opportunity to attend meet & greets with the candidates. Introduce yourself to them and talk to them about issues of concerns to you and your medical community. Follow up with a thank you email and let them know that you are available now or in the future should they have any questions related to the field of medicine.

I will be sending out election results in November and discussing them at our future board meetings. We will also be scheduling our ED Doc Day at the Capitol for some time in March. Turn-out for this event plays an important role in our organization's success at the Capitol so please plan to attend. I will be sending out a date once it has been confirmed.

Enjoy the remainder of our Summer season. Fall will be here soon!

(Continued from page 9)

Issue of Pregnancy Prophylaxis (Emergency Contraception), e.g. in sexual assault

The 1864 law prohibits, "miscarriage of any woman then being with child". While some may hold that "life begins at conception", a fertilized egg, not yet implanted (8-9 days hence) would not qualify as a "miscarriage" or "being with child". See: [The Implications of Defining When a Woman Is Pregnant](#)

Another important point with regard to pregnancy prophylaxis, it takes about 24 hours for a sperm to fertilize an egg. Virtually all "Emergency Contraception" in the ED occurs within 24 hours. So, when "Emergency Contraception" is given for sexual assault, it is not possible for a woman to be "pregnant" (regardless of definition), assuming not already pregnant prior to the assault (i.e. pregnancy test must be done). This may be splitting hairs, but if fertilization has not yet taken place, how could a clinician be held responsible for something that does not currently exist & is very unlikely to occur in the first place? If that were not the case, then (for example) you could never do anything to a woman of child bearing age that had had intercourse within 24 hours, e.g. general anesthesia (known to have a small risk of miscarriage).

Since there is no way to prove one way or the other whether an egg will get fertilized, or was fertilized and will achieve implantation, the state could never prove beyond a reasonable doubt such an "abortion" law had been violated. You cannot be held criminally responsible for something that cannot be proven even occurred.

To prohibit pregnancy prophylaxis, the legislature would need to craft a law such that it would be illegal to simply give a medication to prevent the possibility of conception &/or implantation, whether conception actually occurs or not. In other words, there would need to be a ban on anything preventing implantation (e.g. IUD, "morning after pill", etc.) &/or contraceptives entirely.

Further, along the same lines, you could also make an argument doing uterine ablation would also be prohibited. And, since tubal ligation has a 1.85% failure rate over 10 years, meaning the egg gets fertilized (albeit mechanically prevented from implanting in the uterus and typically resulting in an ectopic), then tubal ligation might theoretically also be prohibited.

SUMMARY

Abortion laws have many toward and untoward effects when taken to their logical conclusion. The medical community certainly has a role to play in educating lawmakers in that regard, but must do so dispassionately and without bias to avoid the appearance of taking sides.

Regardless, based on federal EMTALA and current state statutes, abortion laws do not significantly impact emergency care, even if they may impact one's sensibilities.

Arizona ACEP will follow this issue closely and update the membership accordingly.

Disclaimer: The intent of this article is to be factual without expressed opinions. However, to the extent anyone may believe the contrary, the content is the sole responsibility of the author and not Arizona ACEP.

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Changed Your Address?

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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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