

President's Update

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

My fellow emergency medicine colleagues, as I write to you it seems that we are finally seeing cases of COVID decrease here in our state. The beginning of 2021 seemed like it was just 2020 part deux, but things seem to finally be going in the right direction as vaccination for COVID is rolling out. We still have a COVID tent up and running at our hospital (Mayo Clinic) and hope that we can eventually tame this beast of a virus as new strains seem to be emerging.

I do wonder when or if I will be ever be able to de-escalate the amount of PPE needed to work every shift. I am also noticing that influenza has all but disappeared this year as positive byproduct of everyone washing hands, wearing masks, vaccinations, etc. It also appears that ABEM has decided to remove the oral boards as a requirement due in part to the pandemic. (see page 6 for full article link) I still remember sitting in a hotel in Chicago as I waited to enter my first oral board case. I saw another poor candidate shudder as the door opens before him and the person in front of him says, "Hi I'm Judy Tintinelli, I am going to be giving you your oral board case today". Literally the primary author who writes one of our major textbooks! No pressure!

I am very proud of our Arizona emergency physicians as we continue to see patients and code patients in full PPE month after month after month. As this tends to wear on even the strongest of people, I encourage everyone to really try and care for yourself as best as possible. I know it really depends on your schedule but to the extent you can control your life try and take a brakes and get out into nature and get some exercise. I know we have had a rough year but we really need to care for ourselves.

Please mark your calendar for the week of **March 8-12**, which is our **ED Doc Virtual Advocacy Week** at the legislature. I really appreciate the hard work our lobbyist John Thomas does every day at the capital to

make sure that our specialty is protected from groups trying to inhibit the way we practice and allow us to take the best care of our patients. He continues to monitor our governor's executive orders and ensure that the executive order to help protect us from litigation continues to get extended.

We will also have our Annual meeting on April 7th and will have election the of our officers at that time. I really appreciate Stephanie Butler who makes all of our events possible! She really is the backbone of this organization!

As my presidency comes to a close, I just wanted to thank you all for the opportunity to serve you as your president over the last year. It has been quite a ride.

Thank you and Godspeed!

Sincerely,

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

2021=ED Doc Virtual Advocacy Week!

This year you can reach out to your legislators at your convenience during the week of **March 8-12**. Specific topics aren't set yet but go to <http://azcep.org> to see what we're following and to register.



Kingman Regional Medical Center Resident's Corner

By David C. Weech DO, MBA, PGY-2

We are super excited for the completion of our new emergency department with the grand opening on February 10th. It will effectively double the size of our patient care area as well as our beds. We added 6 new beds, a secured unit with video capabilities, 2 new trauma bays and several new isolation rooms. As with any new environment there will undoubtedly be hiccups and difficulties with the transition but everyone is super optimistic and excited for the challenge. Ultimately, this will allow us to care for patients in a much timelier manner.



For the last two months we have been in ACGME approved emergency status and have had the hospital fully staffed with all of our residents as we have called them back to the ER and ICU in an attempt to alleviate those of use who ended up with COVID and were required to quarantine and to help care for the significant elevation in COVID patients. This proved to be a significant help with regards to staffing as there were several residents who contracted COVID and were removed from their assignments. As our numbers continue to decline we look forward to somewhat of a return to normal, or as normal we can get it.

[Virtual tour in link!](#)

Stay safe everyone!
David Weech DO, MBA



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... The number of Councillors AzCEP has qualified for now! Thanks to you all that continue to support our chapter!

Watch your mailboxes for info regarding the **2021-2022 Elections and Annual Membership Meeting**, which will be *virtual*, on **Wednesday, April 7 @ 6:30pm MST**, and as always, open to ALL AzCEP members. The meeting will also offer you a chance to receive 1 CME hour.



ITLS

The COVID19 Pandemic has altered (and continues to alter) all our educational conferences and courses! ITLS is no exception. Unfortunately, like many other conferences, ITLS on the River 2020 was 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 have been providing free virtual CME courses during this pandemic. We have provided 5.5 hours of CME to over a hundred EMS providers, first responders, nurses, and physicians. See our website for more information on upcoming courses. Ultrasound course was a great success in January! Thank you Dr. Mahmoudi!

The date for our next ITLS in person/provider course has not been finalized. Pending the Coronavirus outcome, it will (hopefully) 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



UofA EM-Peds Program

By Joshua Glasser, MD PGY-5

The winter season is flying by. In December we had a small, distanced celebration for our PGY-3 residents, as this marks their halfway point through residency. Jorge Garcia, Jonathon Campbell, and Nate Fox are halfway there! Traditionally, this is an important celebration for our group, so we hope to celebrate them in even more style and grandeur later in the year as things calm down.

Interview season was busy with lots of great candidates! We did our best to virtually show off how much we love our great residency family and how much we love Tucson, and are looking forward to hashing out Rank Lists and excited for the Match Day ahead.

Congratulations to one of our current PGY-3 residents on his engagement! Jon Campbell just got engaged and we couldn't be more excited for him and his new fiancé!

Don't forget to check us out on Instagram: "uarizonaempeds"



PGY-3s (during their intern orientation, pre-COVID) who are now half-way through!

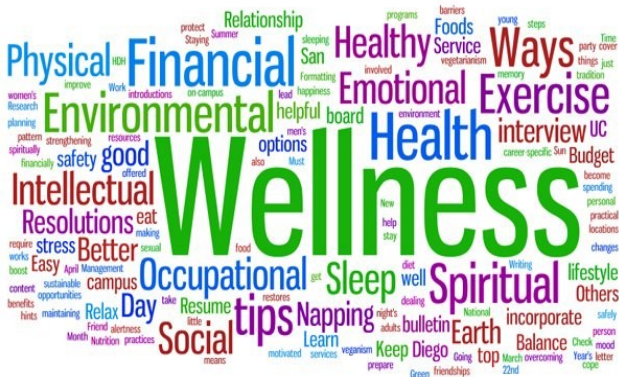
(From Left) Jorge Garcia, Nate Fox, and Jon Campbell

AzCEP Physician Wellness

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

[Doctors Coping with COVID, Part 1](#)

[Doctors Coping with COVID, Part 2](#)



Abrazo Residency Resident's Corner By Amy Kristensen, MD

Hello from your newest Arizona EM program!

We are excited to introduce ourselves, the Abrazo emergency medicine program in Phoenix. Our faculty worked extremely hard prior to our start to ensure a smooth transition for us, and we truly cannot have gotten off to a better start. Our class of 6 residents quickly forged a close bond, and we are getting excited to welcome the next class into our little family. Can anyone else believe that Match Day, 2021 is upon us? Like all interns across the country, starting residency amidst a pandemic has brought its own set of stressors, but it has also brought some wonderful learning opportunities. We have all spent time as a part of the hospital's protected airway team, sporting some awesome PAPRs while perfecting our intubations and central lines. As individual residents we have a diverse array of interests ranging from toxicology to international emergency medicine but have all found Abrazo to be a wonderful place to call "home". We cannot wait to become more involved in the Arizona emergency medicine sphere and to meet all of you!

Calendar of Events

Mark your Calendar and Get Active in AzCEP!

March 8-12 ED Doc Week

April 7 Annual Meeting & 21-22 Elections

June 2 Board/Membership Meeting

July 25-27 ACEP Leadership & Advocacy

Aug 4-5 AzCEP Summer Retreat; Tucson

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.



Maricopa Medical Center/Valleywise Resident's Column

By Katrina Lettang, MD and Kate Townley, MD

This time of year is always notoriously hard for us, and this year is definitely no exception. The days are short, the shifts are long, the copo patients are copo-ier, the 'vid is a downer, and the dreaded In-service Training Exam looms ahead. Even though days are tough, the nature of our program is to be tougher. Despite the challenges of residency during a pandemic, our residents have achieved some pretty incredible things recently!

1. PGY-3 Cody Petrie matched in sports medicine at University of Arizona / Banner University for fellowship. Way to go Cody!
2. PGY-2 Bryan Feinstein has been appointed as a Vice Chair for the EMRA Pre-hospital and Disaster Medicine committee. Woah!
3. Many publications in medical education and peer reviewed journals from residents Courtney Shay (EMRA), Richard Cunningham (Critical Care Now, emDOCs, ACEPnow), Bryan Feinstein (Wilderness and Environmental Medicine), Luke He (Clinical Case Reports), Terence Potter (Cureus), and one of our beloved APDs Geoff Comp (AEM Education and Training) since November. That's a lot of brain power.
4. Drs. Michael Henry, Richie Cunningham, and Geoffrey Comp are all AzCEP Seed Grant recipients. Congratulations!



We are so impressed by all of our residents during this crazy time. Stay tuned over the next several months to meet our newest AzCEP Resident Representative- *Two residents working hard in the ICU!* and see where all of our amazing senior residents will work next year!

Your Resident Reps,
Kate Townley and Kat Lettang



Residents spending time together outside the hospital.

UofA-Tucson Campus Resident's Corner

By Brandon Godfrey, MD & Jay Yim, DO

Greetings from Tucson,

We have all had an eventful winter with the spike in covid and the many things that were done to mitigate the pandemic and ensure we had enough residents to staff the ICU's. Luckily our numbers are finally dropping and things continue to trend back to how they were before this winter surge hit. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of our senior residents who have matched into fellowships and the remainder of the class who have secured jobs and are nearing graduation including a large portion who will be staying to practice right here in Tucson. Hopefully next article we will have more to share in the way of events and small gatherings as the vaccine continues to roll out and life hopefully nears normalcy again. Until next time.

News & Notes

[ACEP Leadership and Excellence Awards](#)

The program provides an opportunity to recognize all members for significant professional contributions as well as service to the College. Nominations will open in December and be accepted until March 1, 2021. Some of the newest awards include the Community Emergency Medicine Excellence Award, the Innovative Change in Practice Management Award, the Pamela P. Bensen Trailblazer Award and the Policy Pioneer Award. [Check out all Leadership and Excellence Awards.](#)

Prepare for your continuous EM board certification with *Critical Decision's* [2020 LLSA Literature Review issue \(free member benefit\)](#). Get the highlights from each ABEM article to make your studying faster and more productive.

[Podcast Fans](#)

[ACEP's podcast family](#) includes Frontline, ACEP Now, Annals of EM, Critical Decisions and JACEP Open + Emerge, a new EM innovation podcast.

[Latest Pain Management and Opioid-Related Resources](#)

- Latest Frontline podcasts: [ACEP Pain and Addiction Care in the ED \(PACED\) Program](#) with Dr. Alexis La Pietra and Cathlyn Robinson & [California Bridge Program](#) with Dr. Alicia (Kurtz) Gonzalez
- ACEP's Managing Acute Pain (MAP) point-of-care tool was recently updated. It's available on the [ACEP website](#) and within the emPOC app ([Mac App Store](#) or [Google Play](#)).

[ABEM Issues Statement on its Commitment to Maintaining Certification Standards](#)

Feb 08, 2021

The American Board of Emergency Medicine (ABEM) understands that this past year was particularly challenging for emergency physicians, especially early career physicians. Every physician member of the ABEM Board of Directors is clinically active and understands the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The disruptions affecting our specialty have also affected ABEM certification. [Read the full statement here.](#)

[Breaking Down President Biden's Executive Order on Strengthening Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act](#)

Since taking office, President Biden has issued a plethora of [executive orders](#), mostly related to tackling the COVID-19 pandemic and reversing or adjusting policies implemented by the last administration. As a reminder, executive orders themselves do not effectuate new policies. Rather, in most cases, they call on federal agencies to examine or institute new policies—usually through regulations. On January 28, President Biden issued a broad sweeping [Executive Order](#) on "Strengthening Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act." [READ 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 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

UA South Campus Residency Update

By, Michael Wyman, MD

Things are rolling along at UA South Campus. As like everywhere else, we have been up to our ears with all things COVID, adjusting to new policies, procedures, and evolving standards of care. We put an extra on-call team in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, made up of one attending and one resident, to help out if/when a certain threshold of ICU-level patients was boarding in our EDs. Everyone has been doing a phenomenal job stepping up to help handle the various surges and additional needs due to the global pandemic. This meant that all external moonlighting has been on hold for the seniors for several months. I am happy to report that we now once again have the green light to pursue these external opportunities.

I'm not gonna lie: interview season was a challenge this time around, for all involved. I think I speak for everyone when I say that I have had just about enough of Zoom. Nevertheless we were still excited about getting to "meet" so many strong candidates and we are looking forward to another successful match.

In the meantime, our interns are all growing more and more comfortable managing sick patients, and the juniors have really stepped up this winter. We seniors are busy sorting out plans for next year. The ITE is just around the corner, then match day, and then getting ready for whatever comes next!

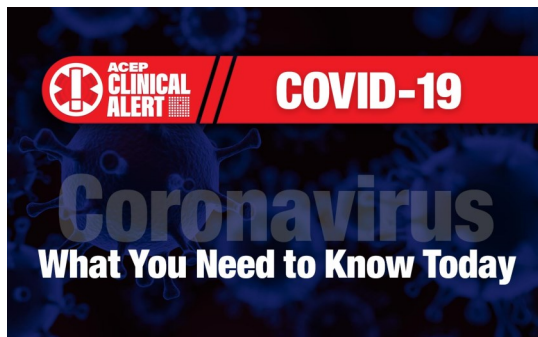
COVID-19/Vaccine Resources

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

New Resource: COVID-19 Data Visualizations

ACEP's newest resource provides visualizations of U.S. emergency department data across three categories: total visits, COVID-like illness visits, and influenza-like illness visits. The data are available at both national and Health and Human Services (HHS) regional resolutions and across several timescales (e.g., 7-day, 30-day, 90-day). It's sortable by time and region. Data is updated weekly. [View the visualizations.](#)

Vaccine Hesitancy Webinar: Register for "[This is Our Shot: How EM Docs Empower Patients to End the Pandemic](#)," a free webinar hosted by ACEP's Diversity, Inclusion and Health Equity Section at 3 p.m. CT on Feb 17. Speakers: Pilar Ortega, MD; Ugo Ezenkwele, MD, MPH, FACEP and Robert Rodriguez, MD. Moderated by: Tracy MacIntosh, MD, MPH, FACEP.



The February 10 edition of the [Capital \(30\) Minutes webinar](#) provided updates on COVID relief, physician mental health and more.

Quick Links: [COVID-19 Field Guide](#) | [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit](#) | [COVID-19 Microlearning Education](#)

Proud of these AzCEP members who volunteer their time on national ACEP Committees!

Communications Committee

Claudette Rodriguez, MD, MPH, FACEP

Education Committee

Breanne M Jaqua, DO, MPH
Teresa S Wu, MD, FACEP

Emergency Medicine Practice Committee

Nicole R Hodgson, MD

Ethics Committee

Kenneth V Iserson, MD, FACEP

IT Committee

Todd Taylor, MD, FACEP

Pediatric Emergency Medicine Committee

Dale P Woolridge, MD, PhD, FACEP

Public Health and Injury Prevention Committee

Breanne M Jaqua, DO, MPH

Research Committee

Srikar R Adhikari, MD, MS, FACEP
Charles Bennett Cairns, MD, FACEP

State Legislative/Regulatory Committee

Nicholas F Vasquez, MD, FACEP

Well-Being Committee

Stephanie Butler
Breanne M Jaqua, DO, MPH
Christina Weaver, DO



The COVID-19 Crisis is Uniquely Exhausting - ACEP Can Help

It's vital to prioritize your own mental health and this is an especially vulnerable time of year in an extremely stressful environment. Take advantage of these resources whenever you need them:

Did you know your ACEP membership comes with [three free counseling or coaching sessions](#) available through phone, text or online chat? And for a small extra fee, you can add on **financial and/or legal assistance**.

The [Physician Wellness Hub](#) can help you find the right support, whether you'd like to talk with a peer or a professional counselor.

It's a great time to gently check in with your friends, family and colleagues. Worried about saying the wrong thing? Read these [peer support basics](#).

Want to remind your team about on-site support options? [Create a mental health care access map](#). Already have one? Resend the map so your coworkers know how to find support during the challenging weeks ahead.

ACEP hosted two Theater of War performances in 2020 and recently partnered with the Infectious Disease Society of America on a [podcast](#) discussing how these performances can help EM physicians process the unprecedented hardships of working in the ED during a pandemic. [Learn more](#).

Last but not least: If you're passionate about peer support in emergency medicine, we invite you to join [ACEP's Peer Support Project](#)

Legislative Update

By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel

As I sit down to write this article, we are just finishing up the sixth week of the 2021 legislative session. A record number of bills were introduced this year in part because the 2020 legislative session ended so early that a number of the bills that died when the session ended last year have been resurrected yet again in 2021.

This legislative session has been operating under a new and unique set of rules with the Senate taking virtual committee testimony online only while the House is allowing virtual testimony or testimony in-person. Testifying in a committee virtually has its own challenges as you must first register a day ahead of time with the committee to speak. Once approved, you are sent a link to sign onto the day of the hearing. When your bill is under discussion, you are put onscreen for the committee to see. However, you are muted by their employees until you are called upon to testify. This requires you to have one screen set up to monitor the hearing and another screen set up for you to testify.

You learn very quickly that the committee hearing online broadcasts run about two minutes behind the actual committee action. This means that you can find yourself LIVE on camera with a committee when you are not expecting it as the committee you are watching online may still be finishing up discussion on a prior bill. In addition, once your virtual testimony is over, you are quickly removed from the virtual committee call-in view and are suddenly back to watching the committee action in delay. The only good news is that you can listen/see how you did while speaking on your bill.

If you testify in person in a House committee, you find yourself at a podium with some members sitting in front of you and others appearing onscreen over your right shoulder. You soon learn to look at the screen to listen to a member attending the hearing virtually but then switching back to the members and camera in front of you to respond.

This limited access to the Senate committees and virtual attendance by some legislators in the House makes a lobbyist's job challenging to say the least. On the House side, there are temperature checks when you first walk in the lobby and everyone wears masks. In addition, some committee members in both the House and the Senate appear virtually from their office or home so when addressing committee members, you have to listen carefully to their questions while at the same time trying to identify who it was that asked you a question.

After a few false starts, most committee chairs and members have the process down although you still hear, on occasion, a committee chair saying patiently to the person onscreen "Are you there? Are you there? Please turn off your mute button -You are still on mute -You are still on mute...:"

Another unfortunate change this year effects our ED Doc Day at the Capitol which has transitioned to an **ED Doc Virtual Advocacy Week, March 8-12, 2021**. With no access to the Senate, limited access to the House and most legislators skipping picnic lunches on the Capitol grounds, almost all of the organizations have cancelled their Day at the Capitol.

AzCEP, however, will still be preparing a list of key issues affecting our members and will provide the talking points and contact info to help you reach out to your legislators anytime during the week that is convenient for you. More information on this will be forthcoming soon.

As for legislation affecting our membership, we continue to follow and coordinate with other physician groups on legislation helpful or harmful to your profession. The list of bills running in committee each week can be found in the AzCEP Legislative updates that are provided weekly to our membership (<http://www.azcep.org/legislative.php>) A fair number of bills are once again being introduced and successfully moved through the legislative process by our very own AzCEP member, Representative Amish Shah.

Legislative leadership still hopes to end the 2021 legislative session by late April/early May. In the meantime, you can keep up with the legislative process by reading our weekly updates and you are always welcome to contact me if you have any questions.

Changed Your Address?

If you change your business or home address please notify the National ACEP Office or AzCEP & the correction will be forwarded.

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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}

Spring Issue of the Arizona EPIC

Submittal Deadline: May 1, 2021

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EPIC Editors: Stephanie A. Butler & Brad Butler

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