

President's Update

By Wayne Martini, Jr, MD, FACEP

Dear Colleagues,

If you have not visited the chapter online lately, now is the time. Over the past year AzCEP has rebuilt how it connects with you, and the result is a chapter that is easier to reach and genuinely useful between meetings.

Start at www.AzCEP.org. Every chapter event now has its own page where you can RSVP in a single tap, no logins, no paper forms. Better yet, subscribe once to a personal AzCEP calendar and every meeting you are invited to appears on your phone automatically and stays in sync when things change. Behind a member login you will also find board minutes, EPIC back issues, our CME archive, and the member directory, all in one place.

Two things I especially want on your radar:

The EM Research Seed Grant is now open. AzCEP awards \$1,000 to fund emergency medicine research by our residents, fellows, and medical students, and this year's cycle is accepting applications right now, with a November 15 deadline. If you mentor trainees, please point them to it today!

Save the date for our Scientific Assembly on March 31, 2027. We are bringing Sim Wars, a research poster symposium, and CME under one roof for a single, bigger day. Programs, start thinking about your Sim Wars teams and posters, and if you would like to speak, our call for talks is open as well on the website!

None of this changes what has always mattered most about AzCEP, the people. It simply removes the friction between you and the chapter so your time goes to patients, teaching, and advocacy rather than logistics. If you have not created your member login yet, take two minutes to do it. This is your chapter, and it is better when you are in it.

Reach out anytime, WayneAMartini@gmail.com. I would love to hear from you.

With gratitude,
Wayne A. Martini, MD, FACEP



Calendar of Events

Mark your Calendar and Get Active in AzCEP!

Sept 16 Board/Membership 1pm

Oct 5-8 ACEP26 Scientific Assembly in Chicago

Nov 4 EM Opioid Summit-Hybrid

Dec 2 Board/Membership 1pm

All AzCEP members are welcome and encouraged to attend the Board Meetings. Contact [Stephanie](#) for additional information.

Board Meetings, unless otherwise noted, are held Virtually at 1:00pm



ITLS
International Trauma Life Support
ARIZONA

ITLS

ITLS is working on smaller regional courses in southern/southeastern AZ, central AZ (Phoenix area), and northern/northeastern AZ. We are looking at courses in Northeastern Arizona and several Pediatric ITLS courses throughout the state this this upcoming year. We are looking at holding another Northern/Eastern Arizona conference, possibly at Hon-dah Casino and/or Fire Department next Spring.

Go to our website to look for upcoming courses: www.itlsaz.org or contact me at (Bradley.butler@va.gov) if you are interested in being involved in teaching and/or if you would be interested in taking over for me as Medical Director for ITLS in AZ!

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

Civic Health and Emergency Medicine

By Bradley Dreifuss, MD, FACEP, FAAEM

AzCEP Board of Directors / Vot-ER Civic Health Fellow

As emergency physicians, we have dedicated our careers to caring for people at some of their most vulnerable moments. Every shift, we see not only acute illness and injury, but also the effects that access to care, housing, transportation, food, medications, and other social conditions can have on our patients' health.

Many of those conditions are shaped, at least in part, by public policy.

The connection is especially tangible in Emergency Medicine. Our doors remain open around the clock to anyone seeking emergency care. At the same time, decisions about Medicare and Medicaid, hospital financing, the healthcare workforce, physician autonomy, and the organization of medical practice have very real consequences for our patients - and for the ability of rural and urban emergency departments to continue serving their communities.

These are among the reasons ACEP and AzCEP advocate year-round for our patients, our physicians, and our specialty. AzCEP's own mission includes serving as an advocate for all three.

Individual civic participation complements that work.

Arizona is a politically diverse state, and emergency physicians will certainly have different views about the best solutions to the challenges facing healthcare. What we share is firsthand knowledge of our healthcare system, a commitment to the communities we serve, and a stake in the future of healthcare, locally and nationally.

Our voices deserve to be part of the decisions that shape it. Start With Your Own Vote

August is Civic Health Month, and National Voter Registration Day is September 15.

For busy emergency physicians, participating doesn't need to mean taking on another project. It can start with something that takes only a minute or two:

Scan the [AzCEP QR code](#). Check that your voter registration is current. Make a plan to vote. This year, AzCEP is



partnering with Vot-ER, a national nonpartisan organization that works with healthcare professionals and organizations to make civic participation easier. Similar partnerships are underway across Arizona organized medicine, including with the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA) and Pima County Medical Society.

Through the AzCEP-Vot-ER partnership, the QR codes and links on this page reflect our partnership. Using them not only makes it easy to check your voter registration and find nonpartisan voting information, but it also helps demonstrate the engagement of Arizona's emergency medicine community.

For those interested, take one additional step, **order free voter registration materials.**

[Vot-ER offers badge buddies with QR codes](#) that allow colleagues, patients, and others to easily check their voter registration and access nonpartisan voting information. It's a simple way to support civic participation during the work we're already doing.

[Download free nonpartisan materials](#) ready-to-use posters, flyers, digital materials, conversation guides, voter-registration resources, and other tools to help healthcare professionals and organizations promote nonpartisan civic engagement.

And for those who would like to do more, consider joining [Vot-ER's Healthy Democracy Campaign](#). From September 1 to November 3, students and faculty across the country will compete to register voters, host civic health events, and help their communities get election-ready. [Sign up now to get started](#)

As a current Vot-ER Civic Health Fellow, I'm always happy to serve as a local resource or help make connections. But there's no need to go through me - the links and QR codes here connect directly with Vot-ER and the resources available through our partnership.

We already advocate for our patients every day when they come through our doors. Participating in the civic process is another way to bring that same commitment to the communities we serve.

AN EASY NEXT STEP

Get a Vot-ER badge buddy and make nonpartisan voter information



Order a voter registration badge today!

Scan the QR code above to get started.

You'll be led through a series of quick and easy steps to order a free badge backer.



Visit us at www.vot-er.org

Kingman Regional Medical Center's Resident's Corner By, Lindsay Escobedo, DO

Hello from Kingman!

It has been a busy few months here at KRMCC!

We had our first REMR (Remote Emergency Medical Response) wilderness course in May taught by Dr. Jeff Conley, MD. We learned important life-saving tactics in a desert environment that incorporated difficult terrain and rappelling. We're grateful to have a resident wilderness medicine guru!



Our KRMCC seniors graduated on June 5th!



We welcomed our new interns!

Shagun Agrawal, DO
Hometown: Cupertino, CA
Medical school: Touro California
Favorite hobbies: Skiing, knitting
Favorite drug: Meloxicam
Fun fact: I speak Hindi, Spanish, and Japanese



Ethan Franzen, DO
Hometown: Prior Lake, MN
Medical school: Touro University
Nevada College of Osteopathic Medicine
Favorite hobbies: Ultimate frisbee, flag football, Dungeons & Dragons
Favorite drug: Droperidol
Fun fact: I've participated in flag football tournaments in six different states



Tyler Layson, DO
Hometown: Monroe, WA
Medical School: Midwestern University - AZCOM
Favorite Hobbies: Shooting, Guitar, Karaoke, Golf, Paddleboarding, Fantasy football/hockey/baseball
Favorite Drug: Droperidol
Fun Fact: My high school football field shared a fence with a maximum-security prison



Hans Lehnardt, MD
Hometown: Salt Lake City, UT
Medical school: University of North Carolina
Favorite hobbies: Pickleball
Favorite drug: Tylenol
Fun fact: I have 5 brothers and 5 nephews



Erin Robbins, DO
Hometown: Santaquin, UT
Medical school: Rocky Vista University - Southern Utah Campus
Favorite hobbies: Fly fishing, golfing, hiking, gardening
Favorite drug: Imdur - because it sounds like my favorite planet from Star Wars, which is Endor
Fun fact: I was on the Acrobatics and Tumbling team during college



Daniela Suarez, DO
Hometown: Fort Worth, Texas
Medical school: Rocky Vista University
Favorite hobbies: Hiking
Favorite drug: Ketamine
Fun fact: I play the violin



COPA Resident's Column

By Colin Hurkett, MD

Summer is flying by at COPA with all of the exciting changes from the new academic year. We've welcomed our 41st class of residents to join our ever expanding COPA family, and could not be more thrilled about our 16 amazing new additions. After their month of orientation to learn the ropes and be brought into the fold, they've been off to a hot start at Valleywise and all across the Valley. Our most recent graduates had the trip of a lifetime to Europe to celebrate their achievements and transition into attendinghood. Meanwhile, our newly risen second and third years are relishing the challenges of their expanded roles. Here are some pics from our new class of 2029, they can't wait to meet and learn from many of you reading this while on their away rotations around the state.



UA Tucson Residency Program

By, Hojin Seo, MD

Hello all!

My name is Hojin Seo and I've taken over the role of being university of Arizona's emergency medicine program representative for AzCEP.

It's been an exciting few months for our program. In March, we selected our chief residents for the 2026 to 2027 academic year: Dr. Nick D'Amico, Dr. Meredith Hickerson, Dr. Kaelon Lattomus and Dr. Tyler Loose.

We also welcomed a great group of new interns. Two of our interns we matched back in December 2025 through the Operational Emergency Medicine (OEM) pathway in partnership with the U.S. Air Force, our second class of OEM residents to date!

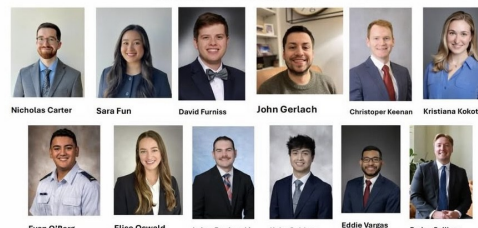
Lastly, we had a great day up on Mt. Lemmon back in May for our EMS conference. Our residents learned to think outside the box and adapt to the unique challenges of providing emergency care in austere and remote environments. It was a great opportunity to combine education, teamwork, and a little time in the mountains while highlighting the breadth of what EMS and emergency medicine have to offer.

We're excited to start a new academic year, and of course to have our cafeteria funds officially re-charged! We're grateful for the people who make this program so special and look forward to another great year down here in the Old Pueblo.

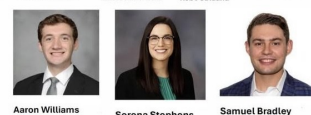
WELCOME
Interns!



EM
&
P
E
D
S



EM
E
R
G
E
N
C
Y



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON
Emergency Medicine

Creighton University East Valley AZ Residency Update

By Rebecca Roberts, DO

We have been busy welcoming our newest class of residents, and it's been a pleasure watching them adjust to the department! They have jumped in to resuscitations and procedures and are already making great strides! We've continued to make learning fun and engaging through interactive sessions and friendly competition. Most recently, we played an Oregon Trail-based game to learn toxicology.

We also started off the new academic year with our annual intern retreat. This year, our interns stayed in Payson with some of our upper level residents where we enjoyed hiking and yard games in the cooler weather as well as board games and bonding in our cabin. Looking forward to doing it again next year!

We also celebrated the official launch of our brand new Azul pod, a dedicated resident-run space in our ED to give third year residents practice leading a team of residents and students, and get the experience of managing their own pod. This has been a tremendous effort between our ED leadership, nursing staff, and our residency to get off the ground and it's been such a reward seeing it fully up and running!

We are so excited to start off this year and can't wait to see how our residency grows - now with a full complement of residents!



Dignity Health.
A member of **CommonSpirit**

Creighton University East Valley Arizona Emergency Medicine Class of 2029

**Creighton
UNIVERSITY**



Lindsay Adams, DO
AT Still University Kirksville
College of Osteopathic Medicine



Myka Becenti, MD
University of Arizona College
of Medicine - Tucson



Jordan Bone, DO
Des Moines University College
of Osteopathic Medicine



Janelle DePriest, DO
Kansas Health Science
University Kansas College of
Osteopathic Medicine



Eric Frazier, MD
University of California,
Irvine School of Medicine



Trenton McKinnon, MD
Creighton University School
of Medicine



Adam Shoaf, MD
University of Nevada Reno
School of Medicine



Joshua Warner, MD
University of Nevada Reno
School of Medicine

Abrazo West's Resident's Corner

By Madison Fagerlie, DO

Greetings from the West Valley!

Summer has brought an exciting season of transition for our residency program. Before graduation season, our first- and second-year residents enjoyed our annual retreat in beautiful Flagstaff. The retreat provided a wonderful opportunity to spend time together outside of the hospital, strengthen friendships, and recharge before the busy summer months.

We also celebrated our graduating third-year class and all they accomplished during residency. We are especially excited that several of our graduates have remained at Abrazo as emergency medicine attendings. It has been incredibly rewarding to watch them transition from residents to attendings, and they have already made an outstanding start in their new roles.

In July, we welcomed our newest class of emergency medicine residents, who have already hit the ground running in the emergency department. It has been a pleasure watching them quickly become part of the team, and we are excited to watch their growth over the next three years.

Looking ahead, we are excited for our now third-year residents to attend ACEP in Chicago this October. The conference is always a highlight of the academic year, offering opportunities to learn from leaders in emergency medicine.

As always, we are grateful for our outstanding residents, faculty, nurses, and staff who make our residency such a special place to learn and practice emergency medicine. We look forward to another exciting season and can't wait to share more updates in our next issue.



2026 EM Research Seed Grant Applications Out-Due Nov 1

I'm pleased to share that AzCEP will again be offering a \$1000 EM Research Seed Grant. The application and past award recipients can be found on the [website](#) and the deadline is **November 1**.



FYI, we have recently modified the parameters, and it will now allow for travel expenses in order to present findings at a conference. Also new is that we are willing to mentor anyone who has questions or needs some help to get started.

Contact [Stephanie](#) with questions.



Dear AzCEP Members,

On behalf of the AzCEP Wellness Committee, we wanted to take a moment to remind you of the wellness support and resources available to you through the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP).

Emergency medicine is both rewarding and demanding, and prioritizing your well-being is essential to a healthy relationship with your career and those you serve. ACEP offers a range of wellness resources designed specifically for emergency physicians, including peer support, mental health tools, burnout prevention strategies, and guidance for navigating professional and personal challenges.

We encourage you to explore these [resources](#) and take advantage of the support available.

Whether you are looking for immediate support or long-term strategies to maintain balance, tools are here for you.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or if the AzCEP Wellness Committee can provide further support.

Warm regards,
AzCEP Wellness Committee



***SAVE
the
DATE!***

EM Opioid Summit
NOV 4, 2026
Hybrid
8am-12:30pm

Registration out soon!

*Congratulations
to our newest
FACEP members!*

Jeremy Driscoll, MD,
FACEP
Melissa Kelsey, DO, FACEP
Douglas Patton, MD,
FACEP

Mark Your Calendars!

ED Doc Day @ The Capitol

March 3, 2027

- **Educate legislators on the critical service you provide every shift**
- **Learn about issues impacting emergency medicine**
- **Attend Committee meetings**
- **Network with fellow AzCEP members**
- **We provide training and go over issues before hand**



We need your participation to make this event a success!

ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Supports Evidence-Based Vaccination Policy

ACEP is concerned by the Administration's recent efforts to change the evidence-based vaccine schedule. [Read more.](#)

ACEP Ensures that New Trauma Guidelines Require a Physician in Every ED
New [guidelines](#) for Level IV trauma centers released by the American College of Surgeons-Committee on Trauma include a new requirement for 24/7/365 coverage by an emergency physician. [Read more.](#)

Leading EM Organizations Issue Consensus Statement on Artificial Intelligence in EM
The [consensus statement](#) is newly updated to reflect progressive learning for trainees, expanded privacy guidelines, stronger directives and broader scope. [Read more.](#)

CY 2027 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule: What It Means for Emergency Medicine
CMS released its proposed rule for the Calendar Year (CY) 2027 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) – the annual regulation setting how Medicare pays physicians. [Read more.](#)

'Public Charge' Rule Creates Avoidable Health Risks, Strains Emergency Departments
ACEP urges the Department of Homeland Security to reconsider the "Public Charge" rule, which would give immigration officials broad discretion to consider a person's use of Medicaid and other public benefits when making immigration determinations. [Read more.](#)

ACEP to OMB: Preserve Scientific Independence in Grant Process
ACEP and emergency medicine organizations have sent two letters to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) urging the agency to preserve scientific independence and strengthen accountability, transparency, and effective oversight for federal grant awards. [Read more.](#)

[Check out the latest ACEP News!](#)

ACEP Events

Talk with Tony September 9, 2026 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM Central Time. Join ACEP President Dr. Tony Cirillo for his last monthly chat with ACEP members. Get the inside scoop on the latest at ACEP and in emergency medicine.

2026 ACEP Scientific Assembly October 5 – 8, 2026 McCormick Place Convention Center | Chicago, Illinois Come and surround yourself with those who know you best, absorb practice-changing education, and relentlessly pursue excellence. Plus, get **ACEP Anytime** FREE with a 4-day registration* (Up to a \$499 value)**FREE ACEP Anytime offer ends September 4, 2026.* Register today at: www.acep.org/sa

AzCEP News & Notes

-Our very own President, **Wayne Martini, Jr, MD, FACEP**, got an article published in ACEP-Now...[How EM Residents Can Build a Research Portfolio on a Clinical Schedule](#)

-Did you catch the article featuring **Jeffery Stowell, MD, FACEP**? He was sharing info on [Cold Water Immersion Cooling Technique & Beat the Heat Clips](#).

-Longtime AzCEP member, as well as a former Board Member, **John Gallagher III, MD**, passed away in June. Here is his [obituary](#).

-ABEM Announcement; Applications are now open for three important ABEM volunteer opportunities:

*Certifying Exam Examiners * Case Developers * Item Writers*

ABEM volunteers are central to advancing the specialty of Emergency Medicine. Applications are open through September 15. Read the full release and find application information on the [ABEM website](#).

AzCEP Board Member Running for Congress

In case you weren't aware, a colleague of yours, Dr. Amish Shah, is running for Congress in AZ District 1. From his [website](#) he states:

Dr. Amish Shah is an emergency medicine doctor and former member of the Arizona House of Representatives with a proven track record of getting things done and standing up to protect our rights and freedoms.



I think we can all agree that having an EM colleague in Congress can benefit the specialty, as well as all Arizonans! **Good Luck Dr. Shah!**

A Note from Dr. Becky Parker, Chair of the Board of National Emergency Medicine PAC and AzCEP Member

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It was wonderful to connect with many of you at the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC last month. As always, I left inspired and energized by the hundreds of emergency physician advocates who came together to learn, engage, and shape the future of our specialty.

A critical tool in that advocacy is National Emergency Medicine PAC (NEMPAC), where I am honored to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees. NEMPAC is the political voice of emergency medicine in the federal election process—supporting candidates who understand our challenges, educating policymakers on our priorities, and helping cultivate champions for our patients and our profession.

Only ACEP members can contribute to NEMPAC, which means our strength is directly tied to your engagement. We are grateful that 3,189 of you chose to contribute collectively nearly \$900k last year. This election cycle is especially important. With a record number of physicians running for office—including several ACEP members—and healthcare front and center for voters, it is critical that emergency physicians are heard. NEMPAC brings our collective voice together to make a meaningful impact. Already this cycle, NEMPAC has contributed nearly \$896K to federal candidates and multiple party committees—but there is much more work ahead.

Every contribution strengthens our ability to advocate for you, your patients, and the future of emergency medicine.

Please consider supporting NEMPAC by using the QR code below to get involved.

If you have questions, concerns, or would like to suggest a candidate for NEMPAC to consider, I welcome you to reach out at nempacchair@acep.org.

Sincerely,

Becky



Legislative Update

By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel

The July primary elections are now behind us, and the General election will be held on November, 3rd. All Congressional and state legislators are up for election or re-election this year as are all the state officials. The primary election helped narrow down who would be running in the Nov 3rd general election.

AzCEP Board member, Amish Shah, won his Democratic primary election for Arizona Congressional District One and will be taking on Republican Jay Feeley in the general election.

At the state level, incumbent Democrat Governor Katie Hobbs will be running against Republican Andy Biggs in the general election. The winner of that election will determine who will be appointed to run state agencies including the Arizona Department of Health Services and AHCCCS. The winners of all these elections will be sworn into office in early January of 2027. The Arizona Congressional delegation will be sworn in on January 3d, the state officials will be sworn in on January 4th and the legislators will be sworn in on January 11th.

I will have an update on the election results in mid-November once they become final. At that time, we will also know which party will control the House, the Senate and the Governor's Office for at least the next 2 years.

New this year is the Lieutenant Governor position. The 2 candidates for Governor will announce their selections for this position in September. The Lieutenant Governor will take over the duties and position of the Governor should the Governor leave office prior to their 4-year term ending.

We will once again be hosting our annual ED Doc Day at the Capitol on March 3, 2027. The event starts at 9 am in the Senate Gallery with a guest speaker followed by Meet & Greet with legislators and attending Health Committee Hearings. We finish up with a lunch in the Senate that ends around 1pm.

This year we are encouraging each of you to bring one colleague to ED Doc Day. There are no costs for attending and it gives the attendees opportunity to experience, first hand, the AzCEP Board's involvement at the Capitol.

Have a good remainder of the Summer!

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, 6/2026]

Summer Issue of the Arizona EPIC

Submittal Deadline: November 1, 2026

©2026 AzCEP

EPIC Editors: Stephanie A. Butler & Brad Butler

The views expressed in this publication are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Arizona College of Emergency Physicians or the American College of Emergency Physicians.

The information within this Newsletter does not constitute legal or professional advice concerning the matters discussed. You should consult with a professional before acting such information.

All advertisements appearing in this publication are printed as received from the advertisers. The Arizona College of Emergency Physicians does not endorse any products or services.

The Arizona College of Emergency Physicians receives and distributes employment opportunities but does not review, recommend or endorse any individuals, groups or hospitals who respond to these advertisements..

AzCEP Officers & Staff

President: Wayne Martini, MD, FACEP

President-Elect: Adrienne Yarnish, MD, FACEP

Secretary: Amrita Vempati, MD, FACEP

Treasurer: Rachel Munn, DO, FACEP

Immediate Past President: Megan McElhinny, MD, FACEP

Executive Director:

Stephanie A. Butler (Mobile 602-692-2376)

Legislative Counsel:

John D. Thomas, Attorney at Law (Mobile 602-826-0678)

**Arizona Chapter, ACEP
Phoenix, Arizona 85018
(602) 336-4599 Office**