

President's Update



By Anthony Wong, MD, FACEP

Hello fellow EM colleagues.

The temperatures have finally fallen and we are well into autumn. As we enter into one of the best seasons for Arizona, I am seeing more and more people out running, biking, and enjoying the great outdoors again. This also

means that the snowbird population is starting to come down and our Emergency Departments are becoming busier. Rest assured that your chapter has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to make your days at work and emergency care for our patients better.

Here are some key highlights since our summer update. We just had the national annual Scientific Assembly conference take place in Las Vegas at the end of September and early October. I hope those that attended got some good education and left Vegas with a little more money in their pocket than when they arrived. Before the conference started, we had our council meeting to discuss various resolutions of the College. Several states, led by Vermont and Arizona, are trying to make the boarding and overcrowding data from the hospitals transparent so that others can see what a problem and health hazard this is creating for the public. Hopefully, this is the first step in addressing the problem that seems to be affecting all emergency departments nationally. Next year the Scientific Assembly will be earlier and located in Salt Lake City, September 7-10, 2025. I hope to see some of you there.

Coming up on Nov 20 we have our annual EM Opioid Summit. This CME event is free to all physician and advance practice providers in addition to our

nursing colleagues. Please spread the word to your staff members if they are in need of opioid CME or any CME for that matter. Sign up on our [website](#).

As we draw closer to the end of 2024 and we begin to focus on the new year, I wanted to make you all aware of some events that we have on the near horizon. We are having our ED Doc Day at the Arizona Capital scheduled on Wednesday, March 5th. We would love to see many of you come out to talk with our legislature concerning bills that are affecting our patients or our livelihood this year.

We also have revamped our upcoming Annual Meeting on April 2, to be held at Creighton University in Phoenix. In addition to holding our elections for our executive committee and Board of Directors, we will offer CME this year. In addition, we are hosting a research poster presentation. All the details will be settled soon so watch your in-boxes. Best of all, this will be provided to our members at no charge.

Finally, we have national ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC) taking place on April 27-29 in Washington, DC. Come out to our nation's capital and advocate for your specialty! This is your chance to actually try and speak with your representatives and try to make real change.

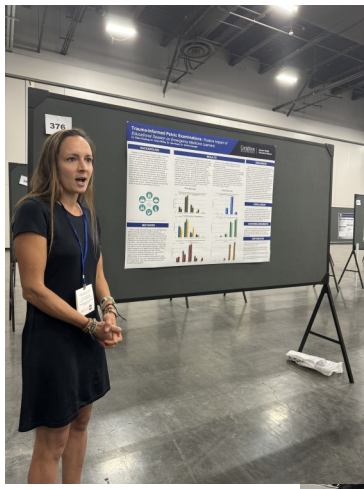
As the holiday season approaches, I want to wish you and your family a very Happy Holiday season and New Year's. Goodbye to 2024 and welcome 2025!

As always, my door is open and I welcome any questions, comments, concerns, or feedback pertaining to AzCEP and medical care in Arizona. Please reach out to me at AnthonyWongMD@gmail.com and I'll see what I can do to address your issues.



Congratulations to these members for their Abstract Acceptances in ACEP24's RESEARCH FORUM 2024 ...some of which are pictured below.

Srikar Adhikari, MD, MS, FACEP; University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona
 Ellen Dowling, MD; Creighton University/Valleywise Health, Phoenix, AZ
 Megan McElhinny, MD, FACEP; Creighton University School of Medicine & Valleywise Health, Phoenix, AZ
 Michael Pergola, MD; University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona
 Priya Prasher, MD; Phoenix Children's Hospital, Phoenix, Arizona
 Paul Pugsley, MD, FACEP; Valleywise Health, Phoenix, AZ
 Neil Wallace, MD; University of Tucson, University Medical Center, Tucson, AZ
 Adrienne Yarnish, MD, FACEP; University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona



Register Now!

ED Doc Day @ The Capitol

March 5, 2025

We Need You!

- 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!



ITLS

ITLS is working on smaller regional courses in southern/southeastern AZ, central AZ (Phoenix area), and northern/northeastern AZ. Our first courses under this program were Pediatric ITLS courses held in March in Flagstaff and April in Pinetop. We are also supporting New Mexico into launching ITLS/PITLS in New Mexico as well. We had a Pediatric ITLS course in Tucson on AUG 3rd.

Go to our website to look for upcoming courses: www.itlsaz.org or contact me at (Bradley.s.butler6.mil@health.mil) if you are interested in being involved in teaching and/or if you are considering being Medical Director for ITLS in AZ!

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

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 practice 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



Calendar of Events

Mark your Calendar and Get Active in AzCEP!

- Nov 20 EM Opioid Summit**
- Dec 4 Board/Membership Mtg, 1pm**
- Feb 5 Board/Membership Mtg, 1pm**
- March 5 ED Doc Day @ The Capitol**

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 1:00pm-*NEW!*

December 10, 2024

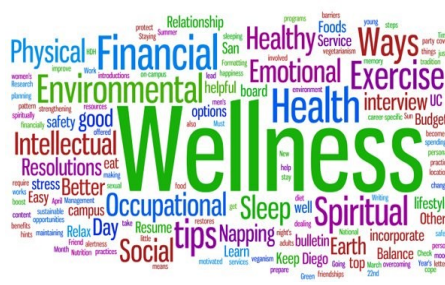
\$TRAIGHT TALK XXXIII

Virtual Zoom Meeting

MICHIGAN COLLEGE OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS
Approved for AMA/PRA Category 1 Credit™

Find out more and register here

This course presents valuable information and updates for emergency physicians, billing and coding professionals, and group managers.



10-Minute Intervention Boosts Health Worker Well-Being | MedPage Today; Work-life integration and emotional exhaustion, recovery, and thriving all improved within 8 days

...note... you need to register to see the video but it is free to do so!

In a randomized trial involving healthcare workers, a brief web-based intervention integrated into routine continuing medical education led to short-term improvements in four domains associated with well-being, results published in JAMA Network Open in a new tab or window showed.

In this exclusive video interview, study author J. Bryan Sexton, PhD, of the Duke Center for the Advancement of Well-Being Science in Durham, North Carolina, discusses the WELL-B (Well-Being Essentials for Learning Life-Balance) intervention and the results of the trial.



**2nd Annual AzCEP SIM Wars is coming...
March 31, 2025!**

COPA won the inaugural contest, but can they keep the trophy this year? They'll have to get past amazing teams from around the state.

We need lots of helpers to put on a successful event at ASTEC in Tucson. Please reach out to [Stephanie](#) if you're interested in being a judge or model/victim!

ACEP24 Highlights!



Congrats to Dr. Vasquez on this award!



Our 2024 Councillors! DeLuca, Parker, Gokova, Wong, Kozak, Taylor, Bayless, Lucid, Hodgson & Dreifuss.

COPA Resident's Column
By Maddy Kahle, MD and Hunter Hoopes, DO

Fall has been off to a fast start! Our seniors (and some recent graduates) enjoyed ACEP. Each year our third years all attend ACEP together while the PGY2s and PGY1s step up to run the department. While this time is challenging for our underclassmen, it is one of our best growth opportunities. As a program we prioritize conference time as a class so while PGY3's take off for ACEP in the fall, PGY1s attend AAEM in the spring. This conference was a great bonding week for our seniors as they prepare to graduate, and many of our recent graduates and faculty joined in on the fun. We are especially proud of our residents who presented. Josh Rayburn, PGY3, led workshops on sports medicine techniques and ultrasound use. Beth Mangin, PGY2, led a simulation case on mass casualty events.



Fellowship match is upon us. This year our ultrasound fellowship matched two of our own PGY3s Sara Bruns and Elise Tran. We are so excited they are staying with us for another year. Many of our other seniors are still waiting for critical care fellowship match, which will take place early next month.



In nonclinical news, our resident Halloween party was a success with many creative costumes and a fun night for all. We're looking forward to the holidays, the new year, and seeing what winter brings us at COPA.

The weather is finally starting to cool off in Tucson and we could not be happier! Snow is falling on Mount Lemmon, and we can finally enjoy all the wonderful outdoor activities that southern AZ is known for. It is a busy time for our residents as we dive into interview season and get ready to send off one of our last batches of wonderful sub-I rotators of the year. Our interns have been busy diving into their off-service rotations on trauma, ortho, OBGYN, EMS, ICU and more, while our juniors and seniors have been staying cozy in the ED taking care of an array of high acuity patients as we all brace for the cold and flu and snow-bird season alike!

U of A - Tucson Residency Corner
By, Mike Kelleher MD



We have had some of our amazing seniors match into fellowships and we want to take a moment to recognize all of their hard work and dedication that has led them there!

Marissa Lovett, MD: Ultrasound, University of Arizona-Tucson
 Brianna Dolana, MD: EMS, University of Arizona-Tucson
 Kevin Brandecker, MD: Toxicology, University of California San Francisco

We are super proud of them and the rest of our residents who are signing onto their first jobs, honing their skills, and taking care of our awesome community along with our pals over at UofA-South Campus and combined EM-Pediatrics programs!

UofA South Campus Residency Update *By Robert Camarillo, DO*



Hello from the University of Arizona South Campus! Things are going wonderfully here, and our residents are really thriving. Our interns have quickly become an integral part of the team, bringing fresh energy and dedication to our program. A few of our senior residents recently attended the ACEP 2024 conference in Las Vegas, where they gained valuable insights from presentations and networking opportunities.



This year, we've been excited to welcome Integrative Medicine into our curriculum. It's been a fantastic addition, with residents enjoying hands-on experiences like cooking healthy meals through a local farm-to-table program. We also hosted a rejuvenating yoga session to promote wellness and well-being among our South Campus family.

As the year flies by, we're looking forward to seeing where our senior residents will take their next steps. We're also thrilled to meet so many talented applicants during this cycle and can't wait to welcome new faces into our program soon!

Kingman Regional Medical Center's Resident's Corner *By Taylor Cornwell-Hinrichs, DO, MPH, MLIS, R2*

The Kingman residents are doing great. Our interns are steadily gaining experience and the seniors are successfully securing jobs and preparing to leave the nest. Every three months, we have wellness day. Last month, we hiked together in the Hualapai ("wah-la-pie") Mountains with our dogs and then had brunch together afterwards. It's these little moments that help bring us together and remind us why we're doing what we're doing and why we chose to hang out with these types of peeps.



Abrazo West's Resident's Corner

By Devi Dearmon-Moore, MD

Hello from the Abrazo West EM residency!

We've had a busy fall over in the West Valley. Interview season is upon us and we're so excited to be interviewing the next generation of emergency medicine physicians. Our medical student dinners at various restaurants in downtown Phoenix continue to be a hit and an additional opportunity for all our residents to hang out together outside of work. This time of year is extra special because the weather has cooled down and spending time outside is the best way to spend days off. A few weeks ago, our interns enjoyed their days off together hiking South Mountain.



Earlier in October, our 3rd year residents had the opportunity to attend ACEP in Las Vegas. The residents and faculty enjoyed spending time



together outside of work, attending lectures, and networking with other EM residents and faculty from all over the country. All of our residents have submitted abstracts for AAEM this coming April in Miami, and we're excited for the additional educational opportunity this offers.

We're also excited to share that many of our 3rd year residents are fielding job offers and formalizing their plans for after graduation. Our chief, Imre Redai, has officially signed with Abrazo and will be staying in the West Valley with us. Another one of our amazing seniors, James Gutcho, has been accepted at Cleveland Clinic in their Pain Fellowship. We couldn't be prouder of them. Whether they remain in Phoenix or travel elsewhere, we know that our seniors' leadership, experience, and dedication to our field of medicine will be an advantage to any hospital. We look forward to continued growth and learning in the next year!

We're Social... are you?!



Arizona ACEP



@ArizonaACEP



@azacep810

...well, we're trying. Send me a message if we need to "friend" you.

ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Continues to Lead the Call for Accountability, Solutions to the Boarding Crisis

When it comes to boarding, ACEP leaders are keeping the pressure on. Last week, ACEP met with the Biden Administration to discuss our proposal to require hospitals to have plans in place when they reach capacity. [READ MORE](#)

ACEP Calls for Action to Address Drug Shortage, Protect Patients

In the aftermath of two recent hurricanes, ACEP wrote the Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, and Federal Trade Commission to address concerns about the medical supply chain disruption, drug shortages and patient safety. Read ACEP's list of demands. [READ MORE](#)

ACEP Releases Migraine POC

ACEP's new Migraine in the ED point of care tool is now available. This tool aims to help emergency physicians better diagnose and treat patients who present with this common complaint. [READ MORE](#)

Open Enrollment for Health Insurance Exchanges

The Federal Marketplace open enrollment period for the health insurance exchanges starts this Friday. ACEP has professional liability coverage options, a new program for emergency physicians looking for 1099 coverage and much more. See what's available. [READ MORE](#)

ACEP-Supported Bill Introduced to Stop Medicare Payment Cuts, Provide Inflationary Update

On October 29, the ACEP-supported bipartisan "Medicare Patient Access and Practice Stabilization Act" (H.R. 10073) was introduced in the House of Representatives by congressional physician champions and physician allies. Now, it needs emergency physician support to help enact it into law.

This bill fully addresses the impending 2.8% Medicare Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) cuts scheduled to go into effect on January 1, 2025, and goes further to provide a temporary update to the PFS via a one-year inflationary update of half the 2025 Medicare Economic Index (MEI), a proposal similar to recommendations that the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) recently shared with Congress.

[Click here to urge your elected official to stop these cuts and support this bill.](#)

ACEP continues to prioritize long-term, sustainable physician payment reform as a key pillar of our federal advocacy efforts.

This bill is a vital stopgap to fully prevent the imminent cuts facing emergency physicians at year-end, establish an important precedent of reflecting inflationary pressures in the Medicare physician payment system, and to provide the physi-

cian community and Congress additional time to collaborate on long-term physician payment reform.

ACEP and 130 organizations representing physicians, health care providers, hospitals, and other organizations support passing this bill into law. Read the press release from the bill sponsors [here](#).

New Career Resources:

You asked for it. ACEP delivered. ACEP's **Open Book** addresses your need for employer transparency. Gain access to information about employer group structure, leadership and more | openbook.acep.org

[Practice Essentials of Emergency Medicine](#) augments your knowledge of several critical business topics: Reimbursement, Contracts and Practice Models, Negotiations, Operations Management, Risk Management and More. It's **FREE** for ACEP members | acep.org/practice-essentials

Find More Fulfillment in Your Career. ACEP has published a new wellness guide, [From Self to System – Being Well in Emergency Medicine](#), which offers practical solutions to many of the systemic issues that plague emergency physicians today. Thank you to the countless authors and contributors who brought together these valuable resources.

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>

UPCOMING ACEP EVENTS & DEADLINES

Dec. 4: Explore tax strategies for health care leaders in both nonprofit and for-profit organizations in this webinar, Tax Plan Your Way to Wealth for Physicians and Medical Professionals. This one-hour live event starts at Noon. [Register.](#)

Jan. 13, 2025: Get the most out of your Reimbursement & Coding Conference experience with Nuts and Bolts of Physician Reimbursement 2025. This one-hour live webinar begins at 1 p.m. (Central). [Register.](#)

Jan. 18-23, 2025: With multiple meetings in one place, ACEP Accelerate in Orlando offers something for everybody. [Register.](#)

- AAWEP Power Up: Women in Leadership - Jan. 18, 2025
- Observation Med Science and Solutions - Jan. 18-19, 2025
- Teaching Fellowship Phase 1 - Jan. 18-22, 2025
- ED Directors Academy Phase I - Jan. 19-23, 2025
- Pediatric Emergency Medicine Assembly - Jan. 20-22, 2025
- Reimbursement & Coding - Jan. 20-22, 2025

And more! See the [full ACEP Accelerate schedule](#) online.

Feb. 10-13, 2025: Chart your own course with the Independent EMGroup Master Class. [Register.](#)



AzCEP Annual Scientific Assembly

*CME * Elections * Research Symposium*

The Arizona College of Emergency Physicians' Annual Scientific Assembly will take place on **April 2, 2025**, at the beautiful Creighton University Ballroom in Phoenix. This premier event brings together emergency medicine professionals from across the state for a full day of exceptional presentations, sponsored meals, and invaluable networking opportunities.

Attendees will experience a diverse lineup of renowned speakers, sharing cutting-edge insights and innovations in emergency care. Highlights of the event include rapid-fire talks, a research symposium featuring poster presentations, and a lively happy hour to cap off the day. Elections for leadership positions within the chapter will also take place, making this a crucial gathering for Arizona's emergency medicine community.

[Registration for Meeting](#)

Annual Assembly Research Symposium

We invite medical students, residents, and attendings to showcase their research at the Arizona College of Emergency Physicians' Annual Scientific Assembly on **April 2, 2025**, at Creighton University Ballroom. This is an excellent opportunity to present original research, brief research papers, case reports, or case series to colleagues across the state. The symposium will feature poster presentations and rapid-fire talks, providing a platform to share your work and contribute to the advancement of emergency medicine. Submit your research by **December 15, 2024**, for a chance to be part of this premier event!

[Research Info](#)

Legislative Update

By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel

Fall is here as is evidenced by: the roar of fans in high school football stadiums; the dramatic increase of traffic on the roads; the realization that the strange noise and smell in your house is the heater coming back on after over a half year's reprieve; Christmas music on the radio; and, the ability to see your local intersections again as the political signs (at least most of them) have been removed now that the 2024 general election is finally over.

In Arizona, our very own AzCEP Board Member (and former state legislator) Amish Shah was the victor in a hard fought, six-way Democratic primary in July but lost in the general election to incumbent David Schweikert.

In Arizona at the state level, the results of the 2024 general election is a 33-27 Republican majority in the Arizona State House (31R-29D before the election) and a 17-13 Republican majority in the Arizona State Senate ((16R-14D before the election). The Governor was not on the ballot as her term runs to the 2026 general election.

With the election comes the legislative appointment of new leadership and Health and Human Resources Committee chairs. In the Senate, Senator Warren Petersen remains the Senate President with newly elected Carine Werner now chairing the HHR committee with past chair TJ Shope as her Vice Chair.

In the House, Representative Montenegro (former House Health Chair) will be the new Speaker of the House with Representative Selina Bliss, who is a nurse from Prescott, appointed as the new House Health and Human Resources Chair. Representative Ralph Heap will be her Vice Chair and he is a surgeon from the East Valley.

The legislature goes back into Session on Monday, January 13th. Available money to spend on state programs will once again be tight and we expect proposed legislation for 2025 to include scope of practice and insurance issues along with other health-related issues that will arise once the legislative session has started.

A reminder that our ED Doc Day at the Capitol is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5th. This event is of vital importance to our membership as we use this opportunity to meet with and educate the legislators on crucial issues affecting our community.

Enjoy your holiday season!

John Thomas
AzCEP Lobbyist

AzCEP Mission Statement

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

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