



President's Update

By Anthony Wong, MD, FACEP

Hello fellow EM colleagues. My name is Anthony Wong and I will be your new President for the 2024-2025 year. I am excited to help continue the valuable work that AzCEP has been performing for our patients and our specialty. Coming out of residency 13 years

ago I never even thought about the importance of advocacy for our patients and specialty. I thought becoming the best physician for my patients was the only thing I needed to focus on. Little did I know that there are many things that go on behind the scenes that are just as important and can shape the way we practice. Politics is something that I was never very interested in but after realizing just how important the work that AzCEP does for Emergency Medicine I just couldn't turn my back on it. I wanted to make sure that I was involved in the many obstacles and hurdles that threaten our specialty every day. My thought is that if something negative happened to our specialty and I wasn't involved in preventing it, then I would be at fault as well. The squeaky wheel is the one that gets the grease!

To start, I wanted to give you a brief biography of myself so you can get to know me better and I hope to be able to meet many of you during this next year. I was born in Hong Kong, China but my parents moved me here before I was even a year old so I basically grew up here in the valley. I grew up in the Tempe area and went to high school at Brophy College Prep school. I then attended Arizona State University for undergraduate studies and the University of Arizona for medical school. I flew the coop for residency and moved to Pittsburgh where I did a combined Internal Medicine/Emergency Medicine residency at Allegheny General Hospital. It was in Pittsburgh where I met my wife, Kelly, and after residency we moved back to Arizona in 2011 and I have been working for Emergency Professional Services since. We currently staff Banner University Medical Center Phoenix, Banner Estrella, Banner Ironwood and Banner Goldfield. I joined AzCEP as a Board of Directors member in 2013 and

been an active member since. We have 3 energetic and crazy boys ages 8, 6, and 4 who always keeps us on our toes and from getting good sleep. Well, I hope that gives you a quick glance of who I am. Feel free to come up to me and ask me any questions about what we are doing for you and our specialty or anything personal.

We just recently had our Leadership and Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC. This year we focused on 4 main issues; Emergency Physician due process rights, improving mental health access in the Emergency Department (HR 5414/S 1346), protecting health care workers from violence in the Emergency Department (HR 2663/S 1176), and trying to increase physician reimbursements to align with rate of inflation instead of the constant threat to Medicare cuts every year. It was great to meet with other Emergency Medicine physicians from around the country to not only advocate for our specialty but also to listen to concerns that they are dealing with on a state level and be able to compare and contrast it to what we are concerned about here in Arizona.

On the homefront I wanted to also give an update on the abortion law that I know many are interested in. After speaking with our great lobbyist, John Thomas, the House bill to repeal to the 1864 Territorial Abortion Law (HB 2677) has been signed by the Governor. To be clear, HB 2677 will not take effect till 90 days after the legislature adjourns for the year which will likely put it around mid-August to September.

On a last note, I would like to urge you all to attend our upcoming summer retreat at the Omni resort in Tucson this year on June 6-8. It is free to attend as a member of AzCEP and we have a great lineup of speakers. The slogan for this year is the "Wild, Wild West!" and we have a block of rooms set aside for a discounted rate. It is a great opportunity to take a break from work and have some well-deserved relaxation and fun. Come meet some of your fellow EM colleagues from around the state and start networking. Register for the retreat and book your rooms soon before they run out. Discounted room rates will be valid until May 19. I look forward to meeting many of you at our upcoming retreat or sometime later this year and listen to what YOU would like to see more from AzCEP and how we can make our organization better!



Arizona College of Emergency Physicians

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 

AzCEP Summer Membership Retreat ***Wild, Wild West!***

June 6-8, 2024, Omni Tucson National

Hotel Room Block (\$159-359) closes **MAY 19, 2024!!** The webpage for reservations is below:
<https://www.omnihotels.com/hotels/tucson-national/meetings/azcep-summer-membership-retreat-06062024>

Thursday, June 6, 2024; NAVAJO Room

2:00-6:00pm; AzCEP Board/Membership Meeting, Committee Work & (seed grant project pres)
6:30pm; Dinner sponsored by Inari; VTE from an Intensivist's Perspective, Dr. Pavan Thangudu

Friday, June 7, 2024; PAPAGO EAST

8:30-9:00am **Visit the Sponsors...in PAPAGO WEST**
9:00-9:15am Welcome
9:15-10:00am Envenomation: A unique and fatal case study, Tyler Hoelscher, MD
10:00-10:45am Beating the Heat: Recognizing & Treating Heat Related Emergencies, Nicola Baker, MD
10:45-11:10am **BREAK/Visit the Sponsors, PAPAGO WEST**
11:10-12:00pm Tox Talk, Dan Quan, DO, FACEP
12:00-1:15pm Lunch, sponsored by My Financial Coach, Tax Effective Strategies for Wealth Accumulation
1:15-3:00pm
Ultrasound Take a Deep Breath: Airway US Made Easy, Nahal Nikroo, MD
The Axillary Central Line: As good or better than the IJ?, Neil Wallace, MD
Advanced Ultrasound Tips for the Non-Advanced Sonographer, Michael Pergola, MD
3:00-3:20pm **BREAK/Visit the Sponsors, PAPAGO WEST**
3:20-4:05pm Physicians as Advocates; Becky Parker, MD, FACEP
4:05-4:50pm Climate Change and Health, Art Sanders, MD, FACEP
4:50-5:30pm Resident Roundtable with Becky Parker, MD, FACEP, Past ACEP President
5:30pm Dinner & 1 CME Hour, sponsored by Penumbra,
VTE Therapy Awareness: How Are You Treating Blood Clots? Jeffrey A. Johnson, MD, FACEP
8:00-10:00pm Stargazing with an astronomer/telescope @ The Omni

Saturday, June 8, 2024

Optional/on-your-own, IDEAS... Kartchner Caverns, Tombstone, Mount Lemmon



ITLS

Our last ITLS on the River was held at the Riverside Hotel and Resort in Laughlin, NV September 24-26th. It was a great last hurrah, including a great lineup of speakers on lecture day, two great courses (both Pediatric ITLS as well as our usual provider ITLS course), a Sono Olympics tournament, and a great bowling event! It has been a great run lasting over nearly three decades! Due to room and travel cost increases, as well as difficulty securing supporting vendors up in Laughlin, we are having to drop this course from our lineup and are 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 in launching ITLS/PITLS in New Mexico.

Go to our website to look for upcoming courses:
www.itlsaz.org

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

U of A - Tucson Combined EM & Peds Residency Corner
By Eric Kersjes, MD

As the year is coming to an end, we are so excited for everyone's new coming chapters in life. Our three graduating seniors, Sarah Ring, Delaney Fisher, and Eric Kersjes, will have finally completed their 5 year marathon of Emergency Medicine and Pediatrics and be starting their careers in exciting places (that are fortunately a bit less scorching hot than Tucson!). We are also so excited to welcome our incoming interns - Emily Mirochnick from Chicago Medical School, Allison Josselet from AT Still Kirksville, and Jessica Sea from UC Irvine. It's always a fun transition as the year ends. We have multiple dinners, graduations, roasts and happy hours to come as we welcome new faces and say "see you later" to others. Our incoming chiefs had a fun time in New Orleans this year at CORD, getting some time to explore, learn and have fun with program leadership and their co-chiefs on the categorical side. We can't wait to see the impact they have on our program as our future leaders!

Calendar of Events

Mark your Calendar and Get Active in AzCEP!

- June 6-7** Board/Membership Retreat, [Omni Tucson National](#)
- Aug 7** Board/Membership Mtg, 1pm
- Sep 11** Board/Membership Mtg, 1pm
- Nov 20** EM Opioid Summit

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!**



Happy Doc Kaua'I!

Keauhou - A New Beginning
 2024 CME Program

Outrigger Kaua'i Resort and Spa
 Lihue, HI

September 15-18, 2024

All info can be found [here!](#)

AzCEP SIMWars

SIMWars is an interactive simulation competition that allows teams of four medical providers to compete against other programs on simulated patient encounters.

Why Sim Wars in AZ?

Dr. Amrita Vempati, who is the Associate Program Director and Simulation Co-Director, among many other things, at Creighton University School of Medicine Phoenix EM program, reached out and shared that she had participated in SIMWars as a resident 2 years in row in addition to being a judge for 2 years in Michigan. She felt, as a resident, SIMWars was a great way to showcase EM skills, learn about some fun cases in addition to connecting with residents from other EM programs around the state. Therefore, she really wanted to bring that to Arizona!



The inaugural AzCEP SIMWars was held April 8, 2024, at Arizona Simulation Technology & Education Center (ASTECC), University of Arizona Health Sciences in Tucson, Arizona. It was coordinated by Dr. Vempati and Dr. Vivienne Ng. We had four teams representing four residency programs compete in the stellar ASTECC facility, and many volunteers that donated their time to be judges and patients. The event was a huge success, with our inaugural winner being the Creighton/Valleywise team. They received a traveling trophy to proudly display for the year. The day ended with a Happy Hour at a nearby restaurant. Be on the watch for the 2025 date!



Winners!
Team Creighton/Valleywise



Team Abrazo



Team UA South



Team UA Tucson

Creighton/Valleywise Resident's Column

By Hunter Hoopes, DO and Ellen Dowling, MD

Creighton/Valleywise Emergency Medicine (formerly Copa) is coming to the end of the academic year. We are excited for all the transitions to be taking place in the next few months (including new hospital move-in, expected June 2024!), but also sad to see the senior residents prepare to graduate and be on their own. We will certainly miss you!

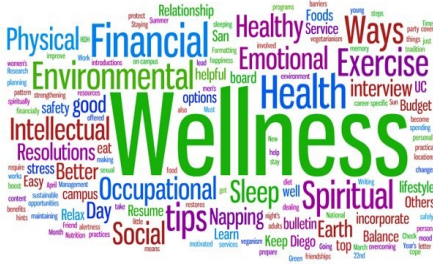
Class of 2024 graduating residents and their future plans:

- Dr. Erica Burmood** - Banner Payson & Casa Grande; PRN at Sacaton, Banner Goldfield & Ironwood
- Dr. Kevin Chambers** - Scottsdale Emergency Associates in Scottsdale, AZ
- Dr. Ellen Dowling** - EMPOWER in Phoenix, AZ
- Dr. Molly Enenbach** - Wilderness Medicine Fellowship at University of Utah
- Dr. Peter Greene** - EM Specialists in Dayton, OH
- Dr. Pooja Haas** - Banner University Medical Center, Banner Estrella in Phoenix, AZ
- Dr. Alexandra Hallagan** - Critical Care Fellowship at WashU in St. Louis, MO
- Dr. Kylie Jenkins** - Scottsdale Emergency Associates in Scottsdale, AZ
- Dr. Anthony Polechetti** - Scottsdale Emergency Associates in Scottsdale, AZ
- Dr. Hannah Rosenthal** - EMS fellowship at UT Houston
- Dr. Anthony Sainz** - Emergency Physicians Integrated Care in Salt Lake City, UT
- Dr. Savannah Seigneur** - Spokane Emergency Medicine Physicians (SECP) in Spokane WA. PRN for Southeastern Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) / mnt. Edgumbe Medical Center in Sitka, AK
- Dr. William Shank** - US Fellowship at Kaiser Permanente in San Diego, CA
- Dr. Adam Uslan** - Inova Alexandria in Alexandria, VA
- Dr. Brady Winfield** - Emergency Medicine of Idaho in Boise, ID
- Dr. Dirk Wristers** - AdventHealth in Apopka, FL



Congrats to our newest FACEP members!

Jose M Carbajal, MD, FACEP
Erik G Mattison, MD, FACEP
Rachel D Munn, DO, FAEMS, FACEP
James D Palmer, MD, FACEP
Paul Pugsley, MD, FACEP



Elevating Emergency Medicine Physician Wellness: A Focus for Mental Health Awareness Month

As May unfolds, so does Mental Health Awareness Month, offering a poignant opportunity to spotlight the well-being of emergency medicine physicians. Within the demanding realm of emergency medicine, practitioners navigate a labyrinth of stressors, making self-care a critical yet oft-overlooked necessity.

The Landscape of Strain

Emergency medicine physicians confront a myriad of challenges, with burnout, depression, anxiety, and sleep disturbances standing as prominent adversaries. The relentless pace, exposure to trauma, and long hours all contribute to the high prevalence of these mental health concerns.

Navigating Post-Pandemic Realities

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the strain on emergency medicine physicians has only intensified. With heightened workloads, increased stressors, and prolonged exposure to traumatic events, the toll on mental health has been palpable. Post-pandemic data reveals a concerning surge in burnout and suicide rates, underscoring the urgency of prioritizing physician well-being.

Crafting a Blueprint for Self-Preservation

Amidst the tumult, it becomes imperative for emergency medicine physicians to cultivate a robust self-care toolkit:

1. **Prioritize Boundaries:** Establish delineated boundaries between work and personal life to mitigate the risk of burnout and preserve mental wellness.
2. **Embrace Support Networks:** Cultivate a supportive ecosystem comprising peers, mentors, and mental health professionals who understand the unique challenges of emergency medicine.
3. **Engage in Mindfulness:** Integrate mindfulness practices such as meditation, deep breathing exercises, and mindful movement into daily routines to foster resilience and alleviate stress.
4. **Nurture Physical Health:** Attend to physical well-being through regular exercise, nutritious eating habits, and adequate sleep, recognizing the profound impact on mental wellness.
5. **Seek Professional Guidance:** Leverage available resources, including employee assistance programs, counseling services, and peer support groups, to navigate challenges and cultivate coping mechanisms.
6. **Promote Advocacy:** Advocate for destigmatization of mental health struggles within the medical community, fostering an environment conducive to open dialogue and support-seeking.

Concluding Thoughts

As we commemorate Mental Health Awareness Month, let us rally around the imperative of prioritizing the well-being of emergency medicine physicians. By acknowledging the hurdles, embracing proactive measures, and fostering a culture of support and resilience, we can pave the path towards a healthier, more sustainable future for those dedicated to healing amidst chaos. Remember, in the pursuit of saving lives, our own must not be overlooked. **THIS IS HOW WE CAN IMPROVE OUR PATIENT CARE!**

Mara Windsor, DO, FACEP
 Immediate Past President of AzCEP
 AzCEP Wellness Committee Co-Chair
 National ACEP Wellness Spokesperson
 Peer and Litigation Coach for Envision Physician Services
 Peer Coach for the Arizona Medical Association

-As always we want to remind you all that **HELP IS AVAILABLE!** 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: Call 988 or Send a Text to 988 24/7 Crisis hotline: 1-844-534-HOPE (4673) Text the word "HOME" to 741741 for crisis support via text

-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>

Substance Use Disorders in Pregnancy and Postpartum: Addressing the Gap in Care

Each year in Arizona, approximately 71 women die during or within 365 days after pregnancy. Substance use disorders and mental health issues are leading causes of maternal mortality nationwide and Arizona follows this national trend. In the 2024 Maternal Mortality in Arizona report, substance use disorders were identified as a contributing factor to almost half of pregnancy-associated deaths and pregnancy related deaths while mental health conditions contributed to almost 40% of pregnancy associated and pregnancy related deaths in Arizona. This number is a stark reality, and it is also worsening-between the two data sets compared in the 2024 report (2016-2019) there was a 43% increase in the pregnancy-related mortality ratio. We see this impact not only on the lives of mothers, but also the infants exposed to opioids in utero. In AZDHS' 2022 surveillance report on neonatal abstinence syndrome, the case rate statewide of NAS cases in 2021 was 11.3 cases per 1,000 newborn hospitalizations - a 40% increase from 5 years ago. Using the average birth rate in Arizona, this is likely impacting almost 900 newborns statewide.

All of our data clearly indicates a need for increased services and access to care for these conditions, but there are significant barriers to responsive perinatal substance use care. One major barrier is that few providers of any specialty are trained to confidence in perinatal substance use treatment, particularly in the age of fentanyl and nitazenes. Many other states face similar barriers and as a result, Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs have emerged as a proven, scalable model to increase access to treatment for perinatal mental health and substance use disorders. Access programs are built on the fact that although women are frequently unable to see a perinatal mental health specialist, they are seeing other providers during pregnancy and post-partum for prenatal and infant care. These providers are often the only opportunity a mother has to get her mental health or substance use disorder addressed but their provider may not feel comfortable prescribing medication such suboxone or methadone during pregnancy or postpartum. Perinatal Psychiatry Access Programs address this challenge by increasing the capacity of frontline providers to start evidence-based treatment through training and direct, free consultation with perinatal psychiatrists.

Arizona joined 23 other states when we launched Arizona Perinatal Psychiatry Access Line (APAL) in 2023. We offer free services to support providers across the state who are caring for pregnant or postpartum people struggling with mental health or substance use disorders. With APAL you can:

- 1) Call and talk directly to a perinatal psychiatrist who can help you determine a diagnosis, and an evidence-based care plan. We are open Mon-Fri 830am-430pm at 1-800-290-1336.
- 2) Increase your knowledge base with free trainings. We provide trainings in-person and online for providers and staff on evidence-based guidelines for screening, triage, and referral; risks and benefits of treatment; and discussion of screening results and treatment options.
- 3) Find more resources. Visit our website at: <https://apal.arizona.edu/perinatal> to find clinical "toolkits" for providers (e.g., clinical screeners, algorithmic guidance of care) as well as collated local and national resources for moms and families.

With APAL, we hope to bring access to safe and evidence-based treatment for all pregnant and postpartum individuals in Arizona who need and deserve treatment for their mental health or substance use disorder.

Please visit our website <https://apal.arizona.edu/perinatal> or email us at team@apal.arizona.edu for any further information.

UofA South Campus Residency Update

By Robert Camarillo, DO

As another year for our University of Arizona South Campus Emergency Medicine residency ends, we find ourselves so proud of our seniors as they move on to their next adventure and we are lucky

enough to have some of them join us for another year as Ultrasound, Sports Medicine, and Simulation/Education fellows. This year's graduating class will be representing our program throughout the southwest, with jobs in California and Arizona. Again, we couldn't be prouder of our seniors and look forward to hearing how their next adventure will be.

Our program participated in Sim Wars at the University of Arizona and did an amazing job representing our program. The group participated in various simulations in a competition among different emergency medicine programs from Arizona and had a great time working together.

We are also extremely excited to welcome our new interns who will be joining us in a few months. Our new class features some awesome individuals who come from all over the country who we are ecstatic to have join us as part of our family. Summer is right around the corner and cannot wait to have them with us.

We cannot wait to see what is in store for us this upcoming year and we are in excellent hands. Our amazing new chiefs, Dr. Robinson and Dr. Curtiss, have a great year set up for us!

Kingman Regional Medical Center's Resident's Corner

By Taylor Cornwell-Hinrichs, DO, MPH, MLIS, R2

Kingman Regional Medical Center Emergency Medicine residency is proud to welcome our new interns!

Tanner Hancock, DO hails from Pima, Arizona; went to Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine; favorite hobby is boarding and going to the gym; favorite food is steak and taters; favorite movie is Gladiator; and currently has no pets but he is considering adopting a golden doodle.

Brandon Perry, DO hails from Yakima, Washington; went to Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences; favorite hobby is building things and tinkering; favorite food is ice cream "even bad ice cream is still pretty okay;" favorite movie is Back to the Future; and he and his wife rescue, adopt, and foster dogs - currently they have 4 little mutts named Schmeed, Kahlua, Lilliput, and Chode-Malone.

Denton Shepherd, DO hails from St. George, Utah; went to Liberty University College of Osteopathic Medicine; favorite hobby is hunting and fishing; favorite food is chicken wings; favorite movie is Interstellar; and has two daughters who are 2 years and 2 months old.

William (Cooper) Speakman, DO hails from Sugar City, Idaho; went to Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine; favorite hobby is CrossFit because he loves the fitness and competition/sport aspects; favorite food is Peanut M&Ms because "once you start, you cannot stop;" favorite movie Storks.

Fernando Vazquez, DO hails from Chelan, Washington; went to Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences; favorite hobby is to work on cars, cook, and garden; favorite food is menudo or tacos de tripa (beef intestines); favorite movie is I Robot; and has a dog named Princess Leia and two cats named Peekaboo and Peaches.

Phillip Zeek, DO hails from Crescent Valley, Nevada; went to Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine; favorite hobbies are hanging out with his children, hiking, camping, fishing, shooting guns, and lifting heavy things; favorite food "all things that pertain to steak;" and favorite movie is 13th Warrior.

We're really looking forward to welcoming them to our team to serve the people of Kingman, Arizona and the greater region.

CASE REPORTS

Navigating Malaria: A Comprehensive Approach in Maricopa County's Emergency Departments

Anna Hoge¹, Tim Moore¹, Patrick Kishi M.D.², Douglas Rappaport M.D.² and Wayne Martini M.D.²

1: Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine, Phoenix, AZ

2: Mayo Clinic Arizona Department of Emergency Medicine, Phoenix, AZ

3: Maricopa County Division of Epidemiology and Informatics, Phoenix, AZ

Introduction: Malaria is an infection of red blood cells caused by the *Plasmodium* parasite and transmitted by the *Anopheles* mosquito.¹ Fever and non-specific symptoms typically develop within weeks.¹ Severe disease is characterized by shock, significant bleeding, pulmonary edema, severe anemia, seizures, impaired consciousness, prostration, hypoglycemia, acidosis, renal impairment, jaundice, or hyperparasitemia.¹ There are approximately 2,000 cases of malaria reported annually in the United States, commonly in travelers returning from malaria-endemic regions.² There were also locally-transmitted malaria cases in the US for the first time in twenty years in 2023.² In Maricopa County, from 2019-2023, there were 98 reported cases of malaria, 94% of which were diagnosed in the emergency department.³ Arizona emergency physicians therefore serve an important role in diagnosing and treating this rare disease. We present a case study of a febrile patient with recent travel to Nigeria, review recommended testing for and treatment of malaria, and share data on recent malarial disease in Maricopa County.

Case Report: A 69 year old man presented to the emergency department with a four day history of fevers, chills, and malaise. The patient had returned from travel in Nigeria without malaria prophylaxis six days prior. He had a history of malaria with similar symptoms as a child. He was febrile to 38.9 C, tachycardic to 120 bpm, and diaphoretic. Workup demonstrated hemoglobin of 13.7 g/dL, leukocytes of $5.6 \times 10^9/L$, thrombocytopenia with platelets of $91 \times 10^9/L$, unconjugated hyperbilirubinemia of 3.8 mg/dL, alanine aminotransferase of 70 U/L, aspartate aminotransferase of 103 U/L, creatinine of 1.5 mg/dL, and an anion gap of 17. His rapid malaria antigen test was positive for *Plasmodium falciparum*. He was admitted to the hospital for a three day course of antimalarials with symptom improvement.

Discussion: In the United States, diagnostic testing for malaria is performed by rapid diagnostic test which differentiates between *P. falciparum* and non-*P. falciparum* infection.¹ All results should be confirmed by Giemsa-stained blood smear, which can identify the species and quantify parasitemia.¹ *P. falciparum* is the most common species and the most likely to cause severe disease.⁴ Patients with severe disease should be treated with intravenous artesunate.⁴ Patients with uncomplicated disease should generally be treated with an artemisinin-based combination therapy such as artemether-lumefantrine.⁵ Hospitalization is recommended for all non-immune patients.⁵ For the past 5 years in Maricopa County, there have been 7 to 27 reported cases of malaria annually.³ Patients ranged in age from 12 – 58 and commonly reported travel history to Africa. 76% of cases were due to *P. falciparum*.³

Conclusion: The Arizona emergency physician should consider malaria for all patients with recent travel to endemic areas presenting with febrile illness, seek to make prompt diagnosis with rapid malaria testing, and recognize cases of severe malaria, which require treatment with artesunate. Most patients with malaria should be hospitalized, and patients with uncomplicated disease should be treated with artemisinin-based combination therapy.

Questions: 1) What is the malaria vector? 2) Which *Plasmodium* species is both the most common and most likely to cause severe malaria? 3) What diagnostic test should confirm a rapid malaria test? 4) What is the first-line treatment for severe malaria?

Answers: 1) *Anopheles* mosquito. 2) *Plasmodium falciparum*. 3) Giemsa-stained blood smear. 4) IV artesunate.

References: 1. Cohee, L., et al. "Malaria: Clinical manifestations and diagnosis in nonpregnant adults and children." UpToDate, Connor RF, Wolters Kluwer. Accessed April 8, 2024. 2. "Important Updates on Locally Acquired Malaria Cases Identified in Florida, Texas, and Maryland." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. August 28, 2023. <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/han00496.asp>. 3. "Malaria Reports, Maricopa County, AZ, 2019-2023." Maricopa County Department of Public Health. By request, 2024. 4. Taylor, T. "Treatment of severe malaria." UpToDate, Connor RF, Wolters Kluwer. Accessed April 8, 2024. 5. Daily, J. "Treatment of uncomplicated falciparum malaria in nonpregnant adults and children." UpToDate, Connor RF, Wolters Kluwer. Accessed April 8, 2024.

ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP-Developed Due Process Legislation Introduced by Congress:

The bipartisan "Physician and Patient Safety Act" was introduced this week. This ACEP-developed legislation would ensure emergency physicians have a fair process before any termination, restriction, or reduction of professional activity. Urging Congress to support this legislation was one of ACEP's top priorities at the 2024 Leadership and Advocacy Conference (LAC). [Read more.](#)

[Read the press release](#) | [Hear from ACEP President Dr. Aisha Terry](#)

ACEP's New State Legislative Dashboard Highlights Chapter Advocacy Activities:

Use a new one-stop shop to stay current on state-level legislative and regulatory activities with ACEP's new State Legislative Dashboard. The dashboard was announced at ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy Conference earlier this year and covers initiatives such as health care worker safety, legal mandates on clinical practice, mental health and boarding, scope of practice, and others. Issue-specific details are behind a member login. [Read more.](#)

Save on Fees With New Payment Option for ACEP Membership:

ACH transfers, or electronic checks, are now available for new and renewing ACEP members, allowing a secure bank-to-bank money transfer which eliminates processing fees for you and ACEP. Members on an installment plan or auto-renew can easily update their payment information any time by accessing the "Payment Methods" section of My Account on ACEP's website. [Read more.](#)

Want To Present a Course at ACEP24 in Las Vegas? Off-Track Courses are designed for ACEP sections and committees, new speakers, and topics beyond ACCME guidelines. They also have later submission deadlines so there is still time to be considered for ACEP24! Learn more and submit your off-track course proposal by June 30. [Read more.](#)

EMS Week Marks its 50th Anniversary, May 19-25 ACEP and the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians (NAEMT) will celebrate EMS Week May 19-25 to honor the dedication, commitment, and sacrifice of emergency medical service professionals around the country. This year marks the 50th anniversary of National EMS Week with the theme, "Honoring Our Past, Forging Our Future." ACEP President Aisha Terry, MD, MPH, FACEP, said, "Emergency physicians are grateful to lead EMS teams and we are proud of our EMS colleagues who ensure life-saving care begins well before patients arrive in the emergency department." [Read more.](#) Related: [Read the press release from ACEP and NAEMT.](#)

ACEP understands that expertise and experience are emergency physicians' most powerful tools. Sharing them with other emergency physicians and hospitals can improve patient outcomes across the country. The College has been working

tirelessly to establish an innovative, new **Emergency Medicine Data Institute** that will harness vital metrics from emergency departments nationwide to improve quality of care, transform practice management, and lead public and population health management. Click here to [learn more](#) and be sure to [register for ACEP24](#) and attend the **EM Data Institute panel discussion**; details to be announced soon.

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.

Learn More about OUD Management With E-QUAL,

a free online, low-burden quality improvement program. E-QUAL is now accepting enrollment in its 2024 substance use disorder initiative where you can discover best practices for ED opioid prescribing, earn credit for CMS' MIPS program and get real-time benchmarking data. [Learn more and sign up today.](#)

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

"Vegas Baby!" [Registration is now open for ACEP24.](#) Take advantage of ACEP23 pricing — limited time only!

May 20: [Pressure Ulcers and Bunk Beds: Protecting Patient Safety During Times of ED Crowding and Boarding](#)

May 30: [Vector Borne Disease Resources for the Emergency Physician](#)

June 6: [Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Being a SANE Medical Director but Were Afraid to Ask](#)

Abrazo West's Resident's Corner

By Devi Dearmon-Moore, MD

Hello from West Valley Phoenix! It is now May, which means it is time to send off our wonderful seniors to bigger and better things. I know I speak for our entire residency when I say we are so proud of this group of kind, empathetic, and talented people, and so excited to see where your future careers will take you! As a first for our program, we will also be sending our first senior off to fellowship (I see you Dr. Joachim). To the six of you - It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with you all. Your leadership and mentorship will be sorely missed!

- Gavin Koenig, MD** – Skagit Valley Hospital, Mount Vernon, WA
- Rebecca Young, MD** - Abrazo, Goodyear, AZ
- Elizabeth Joachim, MD, PHD** - PEM Fellowship, Indiana University
- Eileen Francis, MD** - Northwest Permanente, Portland OR
- Jeffrey Olmsted, DO** - Holston Valley Medical Center, Kingsport TN
- Brian Casillas, DO** - Abrazo, Goodyear, AZ



From left: Hitham Mohamed, Devi Dearmon-Moore, Brian Casillas, Scott Babb, Ilana Mayer-Hirshfeld

This April, we had the privilege of attending the first Sim War, hosted by UofA main campus and sponsored by AzCEP. We sent a team of 4 residents under the stellar leadership of our APD, Dr. Mayer-Hirshfeld. It was a wonderful learning experience, and we loved spending time with other stellar EM residents. We are so excited to return next year!

As we approach the end of the academic year, we welcome the new intern class and the continued learning and growing ahead. Congratulations to all the seniors who are graduating this year. We know that you all have bright, exciting careers ahead, and we look forward to working with you as your future colleagues!

American Medical Informatics-documentation burden 2 min survey

Excited to share that the AMIA 25x5 Task Force has launched the [TrendBurden: Pulse Survey on Excessive Documentation Burden for Health Professionals](#)! This biannual survey aims to track trends in perceived documentation burden across all healthcare disciplines. Your voice matters! Spare just two minutes to participate and let your experiences shape the future.

Please complete the survey!

Thanks,
Patty Bayless, MD, FACEP

AzCEP in DC!



Thanks to this AzCEP contingent representing AZ members in DC during the ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Conference last month.

Legislative Update

By John Thomas, AzCEP Legislative Counsel

It is May and all of the normal signs that the Legislature will soon be adjourning are out there: the tourist and subsequent traffic count is dropping; you can once again get a reservation at a restaurant without booking weeks in advance; your air conditioning has already kicked on and the Jacaranda trees are in bloom.

However, this has not been a normal year. The Arizona legislature is once again not going to adjourn for the year (sine die) anywhere near the 100 day guidelines due to a budget shortage for this fiscal year as well as next. The per diem for legislators has already dropped after the 120 day of session. Currently, I am projecting that the Legislature will stay in session into June although hopefully the session will not last as long as last year when they did not adjourn until July 31st.

Why this is important is that any legislative proposal can be resurrected at any time up to adjournment. This includes introduced legislation that was already stopped somewhere during the legislative process. The end result is anything can happen legislatively while they are in session even though regular committee hearings are already completed for the year.

Speaking of the legislature, AzCEP had another excellent Doctor Day at the Capitol on March 13th. We started the morning with guest speakers in the Senate Gallery overlooking the Senate floor. AzCEP attendees from all over the state then met with members of the House and Senate providing our members with an opportunity to discuss issues of key importance to our membership which this year included the issue of Boarding in the Emergency Departments.

Executive Director Stephanie Butler did an excellent job, as always, in setting up this event and coordinating face-to-face meetings with the legislators. The AzCEP attendees finished off the day with a lunch in the Senate Minority Caucus Room before heading back to their respective homes. We look forward to seeing all of you at next year's Doctor Day at the Capitol during the 2025 legislative session. We will announce the 2025 date later this year.

Working closely with the other medical groups, we had a good year at the Capitol. This includes stopping some legislation, fixing others, and supporting some across the finish lines to the Governor's desk for her signature.

We finished up our legislative session by focusing on repealing the 1864 Territorial Abortion Ban Law. Legislation repealing the 1864 Abortion law was passed in late April by the legislature and signed by the Governor. It normally goes into effect 90 days after the legislature adjourns for the year (Sine Die). However, the Arizona Attorney General was successful in her request for the Arizona Supreme Court to put a Hold on enforcement of the 1864 law until September 26th. It is currently expected that the Sine Die effective date will take place before September 26th.

A reminder, this is an election year for all 90 state legislators with the Primary Election being held July 30th and a General Election date of November 5th. The Governor is not up for re-election until 2026. We will know in November which political parties will control the House and the Senate. This is especially important as the majority party is the one that appoints the Health Committee Chairs.

Take care and enjoy your Arizona Summer. Hopefully we will see you at our June 6th & 7th AzCEP Board Meeting in Tucson.

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}

Summer Issue of the Arizona EPIC

Submittal Deadline: Aug 1, 2024

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EPIC Editors: Stephanie A. Butler & Brad Butler

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