From the President Kate Groner, MD

Greetings everyone! As summer comes to a close, I am writing this letter and feeling the first cool bites of fall in the air. I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer!

State Issues

Substance abuse resources – Several bills passed by the House and Senate in Delaware aim
to increase access to resources for those suffering from addiction and substance abuse. We will keep a close eye on this and hope to continue to work with the state on addressing the needs of our patients.

**Marijuana legalization** – A bill to legalize recreational marijuana did not pass prior to the summer break.

**Wait times** – A bill was introduced to suggest using wait-times to help EMS determine destinations for their patients. An amendment was submitted with the support of DE ACEP to protect patient autonomy. We also expressed concerns about the imprecise nature of current methods of wait-time reporting. The amended bill remained in committee at the start of summer break.

**State Budget** – In early July the FY2018 State budget was passed. The budget included funding for increased substance abuse resources and for fully funding growth in the Medicaid program. Budget cuts included eliminating a number of vacant positions in state agencies and alterations in state employee health insurance rates. DIDER and DIMER remained funded, despite late session threats to these programs. These and other programs will bear close attention by the medical community as we anticipate even greater shortfalls facing us in the next budget session. We will continue to engage each other and the appropriate State organizations to ensure we are exploring any opportunity to maximize the value and efficiency of the care we provide. Please let us know if you have any ideas!

**National Issues**

This summer the American Health Care Act in its various iterations was not adopted by the Senate. The bottom line of what this means is that the ACA has not been repealed. However, there are many items within the ACA that can be changed. We will all continue to monitor the implications of any changes in formatting or funding that could impact insurance availability and reimbursement going forward.

ACEP’s Scientific Assembly will be held in Washington, DC this year. Taking advantage of the location, there will be a “White Coat Hill Day” on the last day of the Assembly (November 1st). This will be structured similarly to the Hill visits that occur in the spring with the Leadership and Advocacy meetings, with a morning session on relevant issues and advocacy training, and an afternoon of scheduled visits with our State representatives’ offices. This is an excellent opportunity to engage in advocacy on a national level! If you are interested in joining us, even just for that day, please do!
**Chapter Issues**

Our next chapter meeting will be held on September 21st in Dover. In this meeting we will be voting on Bylaws updates, so please make every effort to attend. Please RSVP to Sherrill if you are planning to join us!

Please call or email any time if you have any questions, concerns, or if you would like to be involved in any state or national issues! We wish you all the best as you continue to work each day to serve our patients and provide the highest level of compassionate emergency care.

Sincerely,

Kate

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**ACEP assists DMAT teams as they prepare to respond to Hurricane Harvey**

Rick Murray, EMT-P  
**Director, Dept of EMS and Disaster Preparedness**

ACEP was pleased to furnish classroom space over the weekend of August 26 to DMAT teams from several states that were staged before they deployed. MN Chapter Executive Shari Augustine, who is a member of the MN DMAT, contacted ACEP staff to inquire of the possibility of using the ACEP Board Room for training for the various teams. Space was provided for training for over 240 members for DMAT teams and U. S. Public Health Service personnel. This provided them the opportunity to receive some last-minute training and briefings before they deployed to various areas of the Texas coast that were impacted by Hurricane Harvey.
ACEP has a lot of resources for the public about preparing for and surviving disasters and they are being promoted to general public audiences.

Also, here are some general talking points about responding to disasters. They can helpful in talking with the news media.
The National Disaster Life Support Foundation is very pleased to have partnered with the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) to provide disaster medicine training and to further develop the NDLS education materials.

The NDLS program began in the late 1990’s with a realization that there was a lack of standardized training for medical and nursing providers who may be responding to disasters. Individuals were medically trained within their specialty to the same National Standard, however disaster specific education was not included in the majority of medical and nursing curricula. Examples of the missing material included:

- Scene safety
- Standardized triage methodology
- Incident Management
- Identifying and requesting needed resources
- What constitutes a disaster
- Public Health impact of disasters

The NDLSF established an affiliated membership-based organization for the purpose of overseeing the development and revision of the curriculum. This organization is the National Disaster Life Support Education Consortium (NDLSEC).

The NDLSEC Annual Meeting will be held in conjunction with ACEP’s 2017 Annual Scientific Assembly in Washington, D.C., October 29 – November 1, 2017.
White Coat Day on Capitol Hill at ACEP17

Decisions made by Congress influence the practice and the future of emergency medicine on a daily basis. Join your emergency physician colleagues in Washington, DC on November 1 and spread the word to legislators and their staff about the critical role of emergency physicians in our nation’s health care delivery system. White Coat Day participants will be asked to attend a special advocacy training session prior to heading to Capitol Hill. Transportation will be provided and all participants will receive a customized schedule and materials to share in the meetings.
There is no fee to participate but advanced registration is required. Participants can sign-up as with their ACEP17 registration or may sign-up separately if not registered for ACEP17. Go to [White Coat Day](#) for more information or contact [Jeanne Slade](#) in the ACEP DC Office.
Register for White Coat Day at ACEP17!

DON'T MISS THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT CAPITOL HILL WITH YOUR EM COLLEAGUES WHILE IN WASHINGTON, DC

Spread the word about the critical role of emergency physicians in the health care delivery system

ACEP staff will schedule your visits in advance. Participants will receive advocacy training prior to the visits. Transport to and from Capitol Hill is provided. Please bring your white coat.

Advanced registration is required. Participants can sign-up with ACEP17 registration or may register separately if not attending ACEP17.

WWW.ACEP.ORG/ACEP17/HILLDAY
ACEP17 Wellness Activities and Resource Center Giveaways

Wellness & ACEP Resource Center
Sunday, October 29 - Tuesday, October 31
Location: Exhibit Hall

Stop by the wellness center in the ACEP Resource Center of the exhibit hall and discover tips from the experts to improve your well being daily. View full list of activities and schedule.

Product Giveaways
Held daily in the Resource Center

Sunday – PEER
PEER one-year membership
PEER Print Companion

Monday – CDEM
Trauma special edition
2-year print
One-year Residency Education Portal

Tuesday – ACEP eCME
My Residency Learning Portal
Trauma, Stroke, Cardiovascular bundle
Procedures and skills course
Featured guest on ACEP Frontline

Articles of Interest in Annals of Emergency Medicine

Sandy Schneider, MD, FACEP
ACEP Associate Executive Director, Practice, Policy and Academic Affairs

ACEP would like to provide you with very brief synopses of the latest articles in Annals of Emergency Medicine. Some of these have not appeared in print. These synopses are not meant to be thorough analyses of the articles, simply brief introductions. Before incorporating
into your practice, you should read the entire articles and interpret them for your specific patient population. Read More

No Emergency Department is Immune from Violence

But you can be better prepared and reduce the risk of harm to your patients, your staff, and yourself. You can implement security measures, changes in your processes and policies, education and training, and attention to design details. Learn how with these new free resources from ACEP, all in one place, easy to find -- Violence in the Emergency Department: Resources for a Safer Workplace

Welcome New Members

Alicia S Cox
Greg A Esparza, MD
Ryan Douglas Gordon, MD
Michael Shaw Murphey, Jr
Sanjay B Nadesan, MD
Emily Peoples
Kevin C Welch, DO