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President's Message

Brian M. Trimmer, MD, FACEP

Thank you for taking the time to review the NV ACEP newsletter. I would like to thank Dr. Bret Frey, MD FACEP for his service as NV ACEP President and continued service as Immediate Past President.

And a special thanks to Dr. Frey for his continued support of the chapter in his role of Legislative Liaison.

Dr. Frey has worked very closely for many years with Dr. Greg Juhl, MD, FACEP as ACEP Legislative Liaisons and this year Dr. Juhl is running for NV Assembly. Please see his speech included below.

Also included in this newsletter is a summary of some of the Legislative issues facing NV Physicians. This is provided by NV ACEP lobbyist, Jessica Ferrato. Nevada Emergency Physicians desperately need direct support as well as continued lobbying in the legislature.

To sustain our efforts our chapter needs membership. Please encourage your colleagues to join if they are not already members and thank you for your continued membership and support.

Resident Corner
Jacob Altholz, MD



This year the summit of emergency physicians in Washington D.C. for the annual Leadership and Advocacy Conference represented a return to in-person visits to Capitol Hill.

From May 1st to May 3rd, physicians from all over the country met to learn, teach, and advocate about the major policy issues facing the field of emergency medicine.

The first day focused on a policy primer for the newly-involved.

The second day saw the keynote speaker, Admiral Rachel Levine, discuss multiple issues facing healthcare in this country, many of which took center roles in the conference at large.

Every year, ACEP selects major advocacy issues that affect nearly everyone across the country's landscape. This year's advocacy topics included ensuring due process for physicians, workplace violence in the ED, and Medicare physician payment reform. These issues, while present in some form for quite some time now, have only been exacerbated by the pandemic. Workplace violence affects everyone, not just physicians, and the growing concern we as a workforce feel overlaps with discussions about burnout which has also been intensified.

The third day of the conference culminated in the states breaking into teams to meet with their respective congressional offices, an annual chance to meet, discuss, and champion the issues facing both the nation and their state. Those representing Nevada, Jacob Altholz, MD and Ian Isby, MD, met with the offices of Senators Cortez Masto and Rosen, as well as the Representative Susie Lee's. Nevada's healthcare structure and the nature of its economy means that the three aforementioned issues are uniquely important to the state. Nevada ranks #39 in healthcare according to US News among an infrastructure already strained by some of the fastest growing metropolitan areas separated by vast expanses of rural communities.

Advocacy represents an important facet of medicine, one that often can feel off putting and falls to the wayside when all we want as physicians to help those in front of us, already taxing enough as it is. The truth, though, is that if we do not advocate for ourselves there is no guarantee that anyone will, and that uncertainty extends to our patients.

As anyone who attended the Leadership and Advocacy Conference will tell you, it does not need to be national or even state-level. Some of the most heartfelt or impactful stories involved local forces working together to solve a unique problem, one that simply started by asking the question: "How can we do better?"

Speech Greg Juhl, MD, FACEP

With election season here, you are probably seeing a lot of political signs. If you happen to live in south Reno, you are likely seeing some of mine—yup, I'm contributing to the roadside litter also known as advertising—as I'm running for Nevada State Assembly District 26.

It is interesting that politicians talk about healthcare when they have little actual subject knowledge. Think about how many patients you see in a shift; multiply the shifts per year, and the number of years...emergency docs have seen it all. For me, after 18-years of practicing in Nevada, I have seen somewhere in the ballpark of 50,000 patients—and counting. This is a pretty good set of data to take to the legislature.

Also, it's been my privilege to be a NVACEP Legislative Liaison for many years, representing us and our patients in both Carson City and DC. With politics, you've likely heard the saying: "If you're not sitting at the table, you're on the menu." While this is true, I've noticed there is even a difference in having a regular seat versus making a guest appearance. Having doctors to help craft the laws will always be key to protecting our interests and those of our patients.

However, in the Nevada legislature, doctors are an endangered species. Dr. Titus is in a contested Senate primary and Dr. Hardy is leaving due to term-limits. Dr. Orentlicher has an MD, but he is a law school professor, not a physician. In other words, we may not have a physician at all in the upcoming session. This is one of the reasons that I am running.

In my district, the seat is likely decided in the primary election which begins in less than two weeks. We shall see if there is a doc at the table as the legislature discusses: the rollout of the public option, independent practice for PAs, tort reform (changing the cap on pain/suffering), fixing the workforce shortage, addressing the mental health crisis...to name a few issues.

Dr. Juhl is a Past President of NVACEP and a current Legislative Liaison, along with Dr. Bret Frey. You can learn more about him [here](#).

Legislative Updates

Jessica Ferrato - Chapter Lobbyist

Nevada Medicaid is required to review reimbursement rates for each provider type (PT). We are expecting the release of information for a review of physician (PT 20) reimbursements any day now and will relay the information as soon as possible. Providers will be able to complete a spreadsheet demonstrating the costs of services. Medicaid will review the information for providers and compare it to their reimbursement rates. This is a great opportunity for providers to advocate for an increase in Medicaid reimbursement rates. The division doesn't have the sole authority to increase reimbursement rates; however, the responses will give staff the necessary information to request more funds at the next legislative session to increase reimbursement rates. For more information about the rate review process, please see this video from Medicaid.

The Patient Protection Commission (PPC) recently introduced their new Executive Director, Dr. Malinda Southard. Most recently, Dr. Southard served as the section manager of the Department of Health and Human Services' Public Health Preparedness Program. She also worked as a chiropractic physician in Carson City for five years before beginning her career in state service. The PPC has been focusing on the health care cost growth benchmark and recently received reports from Nevada Medicaid and the Public Employees' Benefits Program (PEBP) on the factors driving up Nevada's health care costs. The next meeting of the PPC is scheduled for May 18 and will be reviewing three bill drafts to request for the 2023 legislative session.

The Office of Consumer Health Care Assistance (OCHA) is digesting the federal law on surprise billing. The state law on surprise billing won't be impacted by the

federal law for the most part. The portions of the federal law that will apply are in areas that aren't considered in the state law such as air ambulances and the uninsured. The state regulations will be scheduled for a hearing in May or June. Once the regulations are voted on and approved, they will go to the Legislative Commission for final approval.

The Interim Committee on Health and Human Services has been meeting on a monthly basis this year. The last couple of meetings have focused on children and youth services, including children's mental and behavioral health, youth substance abuse, youth suicides, and the transition between youth and adult services. The committee also received a brief update on the COVID-19 Health Crisis Interim Study required in SB209 (2021). The next meeting of the interim committee is scheduled for May 19. In later meetings, the Interim Committee on Health and Human Services will be discussing this health care workforce and requiring input from stakeholders and community members.

Health care workforce has been a topic of relevancy in the past couple of weeks. On April 11, the Department of Health and Human Services announced the distribution of more than \$43 million to support behavioral health needs throughout the state; around \$4.3 million were allocated to workforce, peer service, education, and treatment. During Governor Sisolak's Healthcare Provider Summit on April 19, community partners, stakeholders and state agencies held forums focused on the opportunities to develop the healthcare workforce and provide the best possible care to Nevadans. Sisolak also announced a health care workforce subcabinet focusing on solutions for shortages across the state.

The 2022 midterm election is fast approaching, with the primary election scheduled for Tuesday, June 14. Early voting begins on Saturday, May 28 and runs through Friday, June 10. All registered voters can participate in nonpartisan races, such as for judges, school board trustees, and mayors. For partisan races, such as governor, state senate and assembly, voters can only participate in candidates within their own registered party affiliation. Individuals can check their voter registration status, update their mail ballot preferences and find their polling locations at the Nevada Secretary of State's website. For a full list of candidates running for office in Nevada, please see this comprehensive spreadsheet from The Nevada Independent.

Welcome New Members!

Alex Cabrera
Brandi Hull
Brian L. Delmonaco, MD, FACEP
Brooke C. Clemmensen
Daniel Andrade
Dylan Foord, DO
James Joseph Rawlins, Rawlins
Justin E. Anderson, MD
Keelan S. Connelly, DO
Keiffer Hepola, DO
Kendra Madaras-Kelly, DO
Kenneth K. Chang, DO
Kristen Purcell, DO

Kyle Coffman
Maritza Kelesis, Kelesis
Martin J. Hannon, MD
Matthew Treasure
Mira K. Marchioretto, MD
Rebecca R. DiFabio, MD
Rodney Fong
Sabina A. Braithwaite, MD, FACEP
Sarah Bromley
Skylar Riggs, DO
Taylor Chait
Tyler Blackwell

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

ACEP Calls for Stronger Protections for Emergency Physicians Who Raise Workplace Safety Concerns: ACEP spoke directly to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) during a public meeting about whistleblower protections. ACEP Council Speaker Kelly Gray-Eurom, MD, MMM, FACEP, [raised the need for due process protections](#) for emergency physicians on the job.

ACEP Clinical Alert: [Shortages in Iodinated Contrast Media, Baby Formula](#)

Workforce:

- **A new analysis of the EM physician resident workforce in [Annals of Emergency Medicine](#)** finds that while the number of residency programs is increasing, new programs are disproportionately located in urban areas in states with existing programs, rather than rural communities with limited access to emergency care. [Read more](#)
- **Building toward a better future, ACEP is moving forward on EM workforce initiatives.** [Watch an update](#) from ACEP President Dr. Gillian Schmitz on ACEP's progress during this April 28 town hall webinar hosted by the EM Workforce Section.
- **The Changing Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department:** On May 26, ACEP's Democratic Group Practice Section is hosting a webinar with a panel discussion about best practices when using PAs and NPs in the emergency department. Topics will include ACEP's new policy on the role of PAs/NPs in the ED, economic considerations, workflow challenges, and how shared visits work. [Register for this free webinar.](#)

ACEP has launched a **public campaign "Who Takes Care of You in an Emergency?"** that includes a series of videos outlining unique aspects of the job and explaining the significant difference in training and education required for physicians. Here are [new scope of practice talking points](#).

Problem solving: It's what we do. [Take a look at the issues we're tackling](#) and how you can join the cause.

More than 100 leaders, members and staff worked together to create [ACEP's new strategic plan!](#) **It's an important roadmap for our future.** Together we'll build a better future for emergency physicians everywhere!

It's Emergency Medicine Wellness Week!

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and ACEP's Wellness Section is marking the occasion by kicking off its annual Emergency Medicine Wellness Week tomorrow, May 22. View more physician wellness resources by visiting [ACEP's Wellness Hub](#).

The [May issue of ACEP Now](#) features new articles focused on behavioral health, including [The Importance of System-Level Wellness](#) and [How to Approach Psychiatric Patients who Wish to Refuse Treatment in the ED](#).

Advocacy:

Help Move the Workplace Violence Prevention Bill Forward! Ask your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor and support the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act" (S.4182). [Take Action!](#)

On May 4, ACEP and the Emergency Nurses Association hosted a press event at Capitol Hill to increase public awareness of workplace violence in the emergency department and to push for swift passage of the "Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act." [Read the press release with more information about the bill.](#) Watch the [Facebook Live recording](#) of the press event.

No Surprises Act

In the latest twist, the government requests Texas court place a "hold" on its surprise billing appeal. [What does this mean for ACEP's lawsuit?](#) [Dive deeper and learn more](#) about ACEP's many years of advocacy on this issue that led up to this law.

Prioritize Physician Mental Health

It's Mental Health Month and a good time to look at the recently-passed Dr. Lorna Breen Act. This vital legislation, named after an ACEP member who struggled and was tragically lost during the first surge of the pandemic, went from an idea to a law that will help protect the emotional health and wellbeing of emergency physicians. [See ACEP's Role.](#)

Regulatory Updates:

- [NEW BLOG SERIES: Value based Care in Emergency Medicine-- an Overview](#) (5/19/22)
- [CMS Finalizes New Network Adequacy Requirements for Certain Private Health Plans](#) (5/12/22)
- [No Alternative Payment Model for Emergency Physicians and other Specialists...The AMA Has a Proposed Solution](#) (5/5/22)
- [ACEP Responds to FTC and DOJ Request for Information on Mergers and Acquisitions in Health Care](#) (4/21/22)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

- **May 26:** [The Changing Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department](#) - Webinar hosted by the ACEP Democratic Group Practice Section
- **May 31:** Last day to utilize current [student loan rate discount for ACEP members](#)
- **May 31:** Last day to join the [ACEP22 QI Challenge](#)
- **June 1:** [Weird Baby Stuff: Managing Brief Resolved Unexplained Events](#) - Webinar hosted by the ACEP Pediatric Emergency Medicine Section
- **June 16:** [Breaking Down Barriers to ED Care for People with Sickle Cell Disease](#) - Webinar hosted by the CDC
- **June 16:** [EM Clinical Support Tool for Sickle Cell Disease](#)
- **June 17:** Last day to apply for the new [EMF health policy scholar grant](#)
- **June 20:** [Caring for our Heroes: Special Considerations for Treating Veterans in Emergency Departments](#) - Webinar hosted by ACEP
- **Aug. 23-25:** [Independent EM Group Master Class](#)
- **Nov. 11:** Last day to submit [ACEP23 course proposals](#)

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