

Alaska Chapter Update

A Newsletter for the Members of Alaska ACEP

Winter 2013

From the President Carlton Heine, MD, PhD, FACEP, FAWM

Things are continuing to pick up steam for Alaska ACEP!

We had a very successful annual meeting at the Glacier Brewhouse on November 9th.

November Chapter Annual Meeting

At the November meeting, we discussed the new Prescription Monitoring Program now available in Alaska and the results of the Survey on Violence in Alaska's EDs. The bottom line from our survey is that 81% of responding physicians reported witnessing violence in our State's Emergency Departments. We discussed potential strategies to reduce this and will work on bringing this subject to the attention of our State Legislators. More details on these and other issues can be found on our [website](#).

We also had a lively discussion on a research project that was done on how head injuries are treated in Alaska and some of the issues around transferring patients between hospitals within the state.

The only action items from the meeting were to approve a budget that holds dues and expenses the same as this past year and the current Officers were re-elected to another 2-year term.

The best part of the meeting was that we overfilled the room and had a fun time with ED physicians from around the state gathering to share stories and ideas on how to make Alaska's EDs an even better place for our patients and our staff.

Chapter Grant

Alaska ACEP Board member, Danita Koehler MD., developed a project to examine the true EMS capacities on our State's road system and produce a map of where we have deficiencies. This "Map the Gaps" project was selected by National ACEP for funding in the Chapter Development category. The National/Chapter Relations Committee voted to send this grant application on to ACEP's Board of Directors, where they will vote on the approval at their meeting in February. If approved, this project will be funded in 2013 and if any of you want to help Danita with this work please contact [me](#) and I will put you in touch.

I want to thank Danita for coming up with this idea, generating a proposal that passed through a competitive review, being willing to collect the data, and generate a report that will be useful for all of us.

Future Chapter Meeting

We plan on having another meeting of Alaska ED physicians in conjunction with the Resuscitation Conference that will be held on the 17th-19th of May. This is a world class meeting, organized by Michael Levy, and that I would like to see more of our members attend. Our meeting will be void of much in terms of official business and instead will be a chance to continue the discussions and friendships started at the November meeting. We will send out details when the date gets closer.

Alaska Chapter ACEP



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As always, if you have ideas or issues that you would like to see the Chapter work on, please feel free to contact me via [e-mail](#).



Adriana's Corner

As the Administrative Assistant to the Chapter, I'm always thinking of different ways to improve the Chapter website.

One of the things that I would like to do is "**Highlight a Physician**" by posting a short story in the [Alaska ACEP News](#) tab of the Chapter website. Recognizing an Emergency Physicians hard work is not just a nice thing to do but is also a communication tool that reinforces and rewards the hard work that many physicians like you accomplish.

If you would like to share a story of an outstanding physician that deserves to be "highlighted", please send me specific information as to why the physician should be highlighted. I will work with Dr. Heine, the Alaska ACEP Chapter President to include the story in our next Chapter E-Newsletter that will be released in the Spring.

If there is anything else I can help you with or if you have any questions regarding the Chapter, please don't hesitate to contact me via [e-mail](#) or via the Alaska ACEP Chapter 800 number at: (800) 798-1822.



EMF Research - Benefiting Your Practice

Thanks to faithful donors like you, the Emergency Medicine Foundation (EMF) continues to invest in health advocacy and basic science research to save lives, advance patient care and improve your practice.

During the 2012 *Scientific Assembly*, ACEP Councillors generously gave to EMF, raising a record \$160,000 in the Council Challenge. "These passionate and competitive professionals met the challenge to personally invest in our specialty. I am proud of their commitment and generosity," says David Wilcox, MD, FACEP, founder of the Council Challenge. "Because of the ACEP match, now is a perfect opportunity for the entire ACEP membership to generously invest in EMF and the future of our emergency medicine."

This fiscal year, ACEP will match every dollar you contribute to EMF (up to \$1 million) dollar-for-dollar to create an EMF Endowment. With your help and this extraordinary opportunity, EMF will continue to fund ground-breaking research, nurture young researchers, and support the science that benefits your practice.

Give your tax deductible gift [TODAY](#) to double your impact!



New Congress Brings New Opportunities for Emergency Medicine

Eighty-four new House members and 13 new Senators were sworn in this month as part of the new 113th Congress. The freshman class includes ACEP member Dr. Raul Ruiz, a democrat, who defeated long-time Rep. Mary Bono Mack (R) in California's 36th district. Dr. Ruiz joins ACEP member Rep. Joe Heck (R-NV), who was re-elected to a second term.

ACEP has already begun establishing our priorities in the 113th Congress. Just days after being sworn in, Representatives Charlie Dent (R-PA) and Pete Sessions (R-TX) have re-introduced an ACEP-supported EMTALA liability bill - H.R. 36. ACEP will be working hand in hand with these representatives to promote the bill and secure co-sponsors.

Please consider joining the 911 Network along with thousands of your ACEP colleagues who are taking an active role in advocating for emergency medicine and patients to the new Congress. 911 Network Members receive weekly public policy and advocacy updates via email and are asked to respond to ACEP Action Alerts when needed.

Or become a Team Captain. If you want to take your advocacy to the next level, please consider volunteering as a Team Captain for your congressional district. Team Captains play a more substantive role in national policy and advocacy efforts and receive specialized training and legislative briefings throughout the year.

- Click [here](#) to sign up for the ACEP 911 Legislative Network.
- Contact [Jeanne Slade](#) if you are interested in ACEP's Team Captain program.



Dr. Tony Cirillo (left), 911 Team Captain, was a guest of Rep. Jim Langevin (front right) at his swearing in ceremony for the 113th Congress



**THANKS TO ACEP MEMBERS
WE WERE \$2 MILLION STRONG...**

Because of you, we were able to invest more than **\$2 million** in pro-emergency medicine candidates during the 2012 election cycle.

Your contributions give emergency physicians a voice on Capitol Hill and help shape the political landscape.

Contribute today at www.acep.org/NEMPAC

NEMPAC is the financial vehicle through which ACEP members support the election or re-election of congressional candidates who share their commitment to emergency medicine.



Clinical Articles

Flu Activity Continues to Increase

This year's flu season, which started a month earlier than usual, continues to show increased activity across the nation.

In week 50 (Dec. 9-15), 30% of the 9,500 respiratory specimens tested in national laboratories were positive for influenza. Among outpatient visits reported to the U.S. Outpatient Influenza-Like Illness Surveillance Network, 3.2% were positive for influenza-like illness, compared to the expected national baseline of 2.2%.

[Read the full article](#)

How Long Should a Cough Last?

NEW ORLEANS - Patients tend to underestimate how long a cough should last, leading to unnecessary and inappropriate use of antibiotics, according to a review of the evidence and a survey of patient beliefs.

[Read the full article](#)

Marijuana Most Popular Drug of Abuse Among Teens

WASHINGTON - Marijuana remains popular with U.S. teenagers, with steady and even rising rates of use, according to a key federal survey.

This year's data from the annual Monitoring the Future survey found that marijuana was the No. 1 drug used by students in the 8th, 10th, and 12th grades. About 35% of high school seniors said they smoked pot in the past year, consistent with 2011 usage. Daily use among seniors also stayed flat, at around 7%.

[Read the full article](#)



ACEP's *Leadership and Advocacy Conference* Registration Opens January 28th

Our commitment to our patients is no longer limited to the clinical skills we demonstrate in the emergency department. Due to the changing dynamics of health care, our profession requires stellar leadership as well as political effectiveness.

ACEP's [Leadership and Advocacy Conference](#) will provide you with a unique opportunity to meet with members of Congress and other key policy makers, hear inspiring sessions presented by nationally recognized speakers, and help you gain skills in media relations and networking for influence.

Join us in Washington, DC, May 19-22 and identify your role in advancing key issues facing emergency medicine. Together we can shape the future of emergency medicine!

Alaska Chapter ACEP

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