

Alaska Chapter Update

A Newsletter for the Members of Alaska ACEP



Spring 2013

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

Alaska ACEP Meeting

We are planning an Alaska ACEP meeting to be held on **Friday, May 17th** at **5:30pm** at the Glacier Brewhouse in Anchorage. This meeting is open to all Alaska emergency physicians but with focus on issues significant to the greater Anchorage area. It is scheduled in conjunction with the Resuscitation and Critical Interventions Conference ("RACI") on May 17th-19th.

On the Agenda for our meeting is a discussion of the psychiatric resources, the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program ("PDMP"), and the Trauma System. We have invited Randall Burns, Emergency Service Specialist from the Alaska Psychiatric Institute to talk about psychiatric services, Julie Rabeau, RN EMSRN, Trauma Program Manager to talk about the trauma system, and Brian Howes, Senior Investigator to talk about the PDMP. We will send out another notice about this meeting, with more details, as the date gets closer.

This should be a productive meeting. I hope to see many of you there!

Legislative Update

The legislature has just wrapped up their activities here in Juneau and emergency medicine had mixed results. It looks like funding for the trauma system made it through but funding for the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program was not included in the budget. The folks running the PDMP are looking at other sources of funding but they will need to find some money to keep it running after August of this year.

There were very few other bills that would have had any impact on the practice of emergency medicine in Alaska and nothing of any real interest made it out of committee to get a full vote. I did start conversations with several legislators about the issue of violence against health care workers and found some sympathetic ears. I will continue to talk with folks in the off season, when the life of a legislator is not so hectic and there is time for exploring new ideas. I want to thank those members that contacted their legislators expressing the importance of funding the trauma system and the PDMP. Citizen lobbying is easy and can be very effective.

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

Alaska Chapter ACEP



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Adriana's Corner

Housing for [ACEP13](#) in Seattle (October 14-17, 2013) opened at the end of *Scientific Assembly 2012*. There are still twelve hotels available but are filling up fast.

Click on ACEP's [website](#) for housing information.

If there is anything 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.

Adriana Alvarez
Chapter Administrative Assistant

Make A Difference: Write That Council Resolution!

Many College members introduce new ideas and current issues to ACEP through Council resolutions. This may sound daunting to our newer members, but the good news is that only takes two ACEP members to submit a resolution for Council consideration. In just a few months the ACEP Council will meet and consider numerous resolutions.

ACEP's Council, the major governing body for the College, considers resolutions annually in conjunction with *Scientific Assembly*. During this annual meeting, the Council considers many resolutions, ranging from College regulations to major policy initiatives thus directing fund allocation. This year there are 357 councillors representing chapters, sections, AACEM, CORD, EMRA, and SAEM.

The Council meeting is your opportunity to make an impact and influence the agenda for the coming years. If you have a hot topic that you believe the College should address, now is the time to start writing that resolution.

I'm ready to write my resolution

Resolutions consist of a descriptive Title, a Whereas section, and finally, the Resolved section. The Council only considers the Resolved when it votes, and the Resolved is what the Board of Directors reviews to direct College resources. The Whereas section is the background, and explains the logic of your Resolved. Whereas statements should be short, focus on the facts, and include any available statistics. The Resolved statement should be direct and include recommended action, such as a new policy or action by the College.

There are two types of resolutions

General resolutions and Bylaws resolutions. General resolutions require a majority vote for adoption and Bylaws resolutions require a two-thirds vote. When writing Bylaws resolutions, list the Article number and Section from the Bylaws you wish to amend. The resolution should show the current language Bylaws language with additions identified in bold, green, underline text and red strikethrough for any deleted text. Please refer to the ACEP Web site article, "Guidelines for Writing Resolutions," for additional details about the process and tips on writing a resolution.

I want to submit my resolution

Resolutions must be submitted by at least two members or by any component body represented in the Council. The national ACEP Board of Directors or an ACEP committee can also submit a resolution. The Board of Directors must review any resolution from an ACEP committee, and usually reviews all drafts at their June meeting. Bylaws resolutions are reviewed by the Bylaws Committee to ensure there are no conflicts with the current Bylaws. Any suggestions for modifications are referred back to the authors of the resolution for consideration. Resolutions may be submitted by mail, fax, or email (preferred). Resolutions are due at least 90 days before the Council meeting. This year the deadline is July 15, 2013.

Debating the resolution

Councillors receive the resolutions prior to the annual meeting along with background information and cost information developed by ACEP staff. Resolutions are assigned to reference committees for discussion at the Council meeting. You, as the author of your resolution, should attend the reference committee that discusses your resolution. Reference committees allow for open debate and participants often have questions that are best answered by the author. At the conclusion of the

hearings, the reference committee summarizes the debate and makes a recommendation to the Council.

The Council considers the recommendations from the reference committees on the second day of the Council meeting. The reference committee presents each resolution providing a recommendation and summary of the debate to the Council. The Council debates each resolution and offers amendments as appropriate. Any ACEP member may attend the Council meeting, but only certified councillors are allowed to participate in the floor debate and vote. Non-councillors may address the Council at the discretion of the Speaker. Such requests must be submitted in writing to the Speaker before the debate. Include your name, organization affiliation, issue to address, and the rationale for speaking to the Council. Alternatively, you may ask your component body to designate you as an alternate councillor status and permission for Council floor access during debate.

The Council's options are: Adopt the resolution as written; Adopt as Amended by the Council; Refer to the Board, the Council Steering Committee, or the Bylaws Interpretation Committee; Not Adopt (defeat or reject) the resolution.

Hints from Successful Resolution Authors

- Present your resolution to your component body for sponsorship consideration prior to the submission deadline.
- Consider the practical applications of your resolution. A well-written resolution that speaks to an important issue in a practical way passes through the Council much more easily.
- Do a little homework before submitting your resolution. The ACEP website is a great place to start. Does ACEP already have a policy on this topic? Has the Council considered this before? What happened?
- Find and contact the other stakeholders for your topic. They have valuable insight and expertise. Those stakeholders may co-sponsor your resolution.
- Attend debate concerning your resolution in both reference committee and before the Council. If you cannot attend, prepare another ACEP member to represent you.

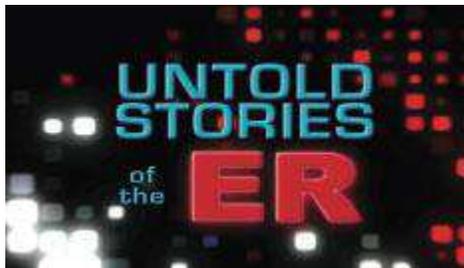
I need more resources

Visit ACEP's [website](#). Review the "Guidelines for Writing Resolutions" prior to submitting your resolution. There is also information about the Council Standing Rules, Council committees, and Councillor/Alternate Councillor position descriptions. Of special note, there is a link to Actions on Council Resolutions. This link contains information about resolutions adopted by the Council and Board of Directors in prior years.

Well, get to it

Writing and submitting Council resolutions keeps our College healthy and vital. A Council resolution is a great way for members to provide information to their colleagues and ACEP leadership. Please take advantage of this opportunity and exercise your rights as part of our Emergency Medicine community. Dare to make a difference by submitting a resolution to the ACEP Council!

Doctors, We Want to Hear Your Stories!



"Untold Stories of the ER" is back for its 8th season on Discovery Fit & Health and TLC. If you have a story to share, we want to hear from you!

"Untold Stories of the ER" features unusual, touching, humorous, critical and lifechanging stories from the ER, told through the eyes of the participating doctors, EMT's and nurses. Through dramatic reenactments, we bring the events to life, paying close attention to the medical accuracy of each story - making this a television series that everyone involved can be proud of.

The best stories recount surprising medical or personal challenges, deal with ethical or moral issues, involve new or unusual

procedures, inspire us, or simply entertain us with insight and humor. We are open to a wide range of ER events, from the life threatening to the light-hearted, from the mysterious to the bizarre.

If your story is chosen, you'll be asked to appear in an on-camera interview and to spend a day in Vancouver, Canada, recreating the events in our studio.

Please [email](#) a short description of each story you'd like to share.

We will contact you, so please include a phone number and return email address. If you have questions, please call Ann Hassett toll free: 1-888-588-3608 x 157.

We Want to Hear Your Story!



The EMF Chapter Initiative - Invest in the Future **John J. Rogers, MD, CPHQ, FACS, FACEP** **Chair-Elect EMF**

Without research we would still be trephining to let out the evil demons, bleeding to balance the humors and applying grandma's poultices to wounds. Through scientific investigation we learn, we improve and often turn today's dogma into tomorrow's folly. It is our professional duty to ensure we advance our craft and EMF exists to help us on that journey. EMF funds emergency medicine research that develops career investigators, advances clinical care, and provides the basis for health policy.

EMF historically receives contributions from individual members, corporations, and from Councillors through Dr. David Wilcox's very successful Annual Council Challenge. However the EMF Board of Trustees believes that Chapters also have a duty to support research and it is on this basis that EMF will promote its new Chapter Initiative.

If each Chapter would contribute a \$1 for each member of their Chapter (\$1 x total # members) we would collect over \$30,000. Although this may seem to be a small amount, it would fund the EMF Resident and Medical Student Grants. These residents and students are our future leaders, our future academicians and our future researchers. A small donation now to help form our future is truly an investment worthy of support.

Great things have small beginnings. Now is the time to plant the seeds of our future. On behalf of the EMF Board of Trustees, we ask the Officers and Directors of each Chapter, to consider making a Chapter contribution to EMF and to do so on an annual basis.

To donate or to learn more about EMF, go to our [website](#) or call Cathey Wise, Director of EMF, at 469-499-0296.



Advocate for Emergency Medicine in Washington, DC and Back Home

No one connected with our profession can escape the impact of the political and legislative decisions made by Congress. These decisions determine the course of America's health care delivery system and the future of our specialty. In our current political environment, it is more important than ever that emergency physicians have a strong grassroots presence in Washington DC and in every congressional district around the country.

There are many ways that you can get involved:

[ACEP's Leadership and Advocacy Conference](#) in Washington DC from May 19-22, 2013.

Here you can join emergency medicine leaders from throughout the country to hear from leading health policy experts and decision makers who will provide the information and skills you need to maximize your impact as an emergency medicine leader and advocate.

One afternoon of the meeting will be spent on Capitol Hill visiting legislators and their staff. [ACEP schedules](#) these Capitol Hill visits for you and provides training and materials prior to the visits.

[ACEP 911 Network](#)

If you are not able to attend the LAC conference, 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.

[Host an Emergency Department Visit](#)

In the past year, ACEP helped set-up nearly 50 emergency department visits across the country with U.S. Senators, Representatives and their staff, hosted by ACEP members. ACEP can assist you in scheduling the visit, preparing talking points and materials, and with follow-up. [Click Here](#) for more information.

For any questions about ACEP's political or grassroots advocacy programs, contact [Jeanne Slade](#).

Leadership and Advocacy Conference

Learn how to maximize your impact as an emergency medicine advocate during ACEP's [Leadership and Advocacy Conference](#), May 19-22, in Washington, DC at the [Omni Shoreham](#). During this dynamic conference, you will gain skills in media relations and networking for influence, meet with members of Congress and other key policy makers, and identify your role in advancing key issues facing emergency medicine.

Anna Lehman

Clinical News

Kids and clots: Expecting the unexpected

In the general pediatric population, annual incidence is around 1 per 100,000. In hospitalized children, the number is much higher - up to 57 per 100,000. Rates of pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis have increased markedly over the past decade, said Dr. Callahan of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

[Read the entire article](#)

How to tell TIA/stroke from mimics

The key to differentiating transient ischemic attacks and strokes from their main mimics – including partial seizures and complicated migraine – lies in the clinical history, Dr. Susan L. Hickenbottom said at the International Stroke Conference

sponsored by the American Heart Association.

[Read the entire article](#)

New concussion guidelines stress individualized approach

Any athlete with a possible concussion should be immediately removed from play pending an evaluation by a licensed health care provider trained in assessing concussions and traumatic brain injury, according to a new guideline from the American Academy of Neurology.

The guideline for evaluating and managing athletes with concussion was published online in the journal *Neurology* on March 18 (doi:10.1212/WNL.0b013e31828d57dd) in conjunction with the annual meeting of the AAN. The guideline replaces the Academy's 1997 recommendations, which stressed using a grading system to try to predict concussion outcomes.

[Read the entire article](#)

Alaska Chapter ACEP

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