

# Alaska Chapter Update

A Newsletter for the Members of Alaska ACEP



Summer 2011 Issue

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

I would like to report on a few things the Alaska Chapter has accomplished since the last newsletter and I want to ask you to save the date of November 11, 2011 for our annual chapter meeting. To start, I want to publically thank Anne Zink, our chapter secretary, for all of her work in organizing the CME meeting The Critical First Hour this past May 13th. The Chapter was a co-sponsor of this event and we (mostly Anne) were able to produce a well-received educational course for all those that attended.

Also, in May, I traveled to Washington DC for the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy meeting where I met with members of the Alaska Congressional delegation and their key health care staff. From this effort Representative Don Young has signed on as the 8th sponsor of HR-157, a bill that provides extra liability protection for care provided under the EMTALA mandate. If this bill makes it into law it would certainly be a big help for all emergency medicine providers and I want to thank Rep Young for supporting this bill.

Within the state the chapter has developed relationships with the state medical association, reviewed the bills relating to health care in the legislature, and is supporting the idea of developing a psychiatry residency in Alaska. If any of you have any other topics we should be working on please send me an [e-mail](#).

In conjunction with the State EMS meeting, the Chapter will hold its annual meeting on Friday evening, November 11th. There will be two parts to the meeting; first we are planning a review of the papers and exam for the ABEM 2011 LLSA test. The idea is to develop an annual event to help those members who need to complete the LLSA series of tests to maintain board certification in emergency medicine. The second part of the meeting will be to conduct the chapter business. Probable agenda items include revisions to the chapter bylaws to bring us into compliance with national ACEP rules and Alaska law, and discussion of the budget and current chapter dues. We will send out more details later this fall, but I hope to see you there.



## From the Secretary, Anne Zink, MD

First of all, the AK ACEP CME, The Critical First Hour, was a great success. We had over 100 participants, mainly physicians with some nurses, EMS, PAs and NPs in the mix. We had people from as far as Bethel and Juneau and it was great to talk about the issues facing emergency providers from across the state. We even got some people from Anchorage to come out to the Valley! One of the highlights of the day was the visit and presentations by the Immediate Past President of National ACEP, Dr. Angela Gardner.

We are hoping to make this an annual conference. If you came, let us know what worked and what did not. If you did not make it, let us know why not and what would work for you next year. Feel free to [e-mail](#) me directly as we start thinking about next year.

### Alaska Chapter ACEP



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### **In other state emergency medicine news:**

House Bill 15 goes into effect this month and states "a student who is suspected of having sustained a concussion or other traumatic brain injury during a practice or game shall be immediately removed from the game or practice" and "may not return to play until the student has been evaluated and cleared for participation by a licensed health care provider who has received training in the evaluation and management of traumatic brain injuries." So we will see if this will change what we see in the ED - but thought we would give you a heads up if you had not already heard.

AK ACEP is trying to make it so you don't need to say Zofran is "medically necessary" any more now that it is generic, changes coming to the Ex-Parte forms, legislative work to improve psychiatric care, talk about trauma centers, cardiac centers, more work on standardizing care for head bleeds and the list goes on.

The AK ACEP website is up and running and continues to develop. If you have any great pictures, send them our way. You can see the start at [www.alaskaacep.org](http://www.alaskaacep.org). We are hoping to have state updates, forms to talk about current issues and other helpful bits and pieces. Let us know what you would like to see.

May the fish be plentiful, the hunting be safe, the peaks rejuvenating, the rivers be swift and your Alaskan summer be filled only the way an Alaskan summer can. See you all in the fall.

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## **EMF Chapter Challenge-Join your Fellow ACEP Chapters!**

ACEP Chapters play a critical role in supporting our emergency physicians' practice, education, advocacy efforts, and patient care. Chapters also assist the specialty by expanding the development and growth of their members' research. Supporting research that enhances our member's ability to provide life-saving care is the goal of the One Dollar Chapter Challenge. This simple program gives Chapters the opportunity to support emergency medicine research through EMF by donating \$1 for each of their members. This \$1 per member would provide EMF with more than \$29,000, enough to support both of the Medical Student Grants and all three of the Resident Research Grants this year! Although each of these grants is small, vital research often has humble beginnings. Many of our past grantees have now gone on to receive multi-million dollar federal and foundation grants for their emergency medicine research.

Thus far Connecticut, Georgia, Tennessee, and Massachusetts Chapters have met this challenge, and the Government Services, New York, and Alabama Chapters have expressed their intent to do so. We thank them for showing their leadership in advancing emergency medicine research.

EMF encourages each chapter to consider meeting this challenge. Your support will give a good start to future emergency medicine researchers and will help improve patient care for us all. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Holly Hull Miori](mailto:Holly.Hull.Miori@emf.org), EMF Manager, or call (800) 798-1822 x3216.

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## **EMF Announces Nearly \$400,000 in EM Research Funds**

The Emergency Medicine Foundation is pleased to announce nearly \$400,000 in available research funds this year. Grant applications will be available in mid-August and deadlines for all grants are January 9, 2012. To download an application, go to the [website](http://www.emf.org).

- EMF 2-Year Fellowship, \$150,000
- EMF/EMPSF Patient Safety Fellowship, \$75,000
- EMF Career Development Grant, \$50,000
- EMF Health Policy Grant, \$50,000
- EMF/ENA Foundation Team Grant, \$50,000
- EMF/EMRA Resident Grant, \$5,000 (up to 3 available)

- EMF/SAEM Medical Student Grant, \$2,400 (up to 2 available)

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## Clinical News

### **Genes Play Bigger Role in MI Than Stroke**

People whose mother and father have both had a myocardial infarction are six times more likely to have one than are those without a parental history, according to a large, population-based study.

Strokes, on the other hand, do not seem related to genetic predisposition.

[Read the entire article online.](#)

### **Trauma Capillary Leak Syndrome Carries High Mortality**

Traumatic-induced capillary leak syndrome is the name being given to a newly described, highly lethal disease process in critically injured trauma patients. As yet, there is no effective treatment, but some studies have been conducted to better understand its characteristics, with an eye toward ultimately finding a way to prevent it.

[Read the entire article online.](#)

### **Focus On: Therapeutic Hypothermia After Cardiac Arrest**

“Focus On” is an ongoing series of articles that examine common complaints that present to the emergency department or highlight new literature or treatment options.

Learning objectives for this article include the ability to recognize and treat uncommon presentations of common pathology and common presentations of rare pathology so that physicians have exposure to these rare conditions, list the exclusion criteria for patients who might qualify for therapeutic hypothermia, recognize the potential complications for patients who have been cooled, and understand the various devices used in therapeutic cooling and their advantages and disadvantages.

[After reading the article, take the CME quiz online.](#)

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