

Alaska Chapter Update

A Newsletter for the Members of Alaska ACEP



Summer 2013

From the President

Carlton Heine, MD, PhD, FACEP, FAWM

In May, we held a well attended Alaska ACEP chapter meeting in conjunction with the Resuscitation Conference. We had discussions with Randal Burns about Psychiatric Services, Julie Rabeau about the Trauma System, and Brian Howes about the [Prescription Drug Monitoring Program \(PDMP\)](#).

Unfortunately, each of these important services are dealing with limited funding and are struggling to achieve their missions. The good side is that we got a chance to speak with the state leaders of these programs about how important each of them are to the physicians staffing our emergency departments. We learned that the funding for the PDMP was finished as of August of this year, but since that time the State Department of Health has provided funds to continue this program through the next legislative session.

At the meeting we also collected survey data on top issues facing Alaska emergency physicians, focusing on the South Central region, and what our priorities should be for the chapter. The top issues are the following: referral of patients and hospital to hospital transfer policies, mental health patients, abuse of prescription opiates, trauma designation issues, and specialty coverage in Alaska. We have our work cut out for us, but it seems that we can make headway on many of these by working together as a chapter.

Another area where we are making some progress is with the issue of violence against health care workers. Ben Shelton has helped line up some folks in the legal community who think this might also be a good project to work on. Hopefully we will have more success if the doctors and lawyers can work together on this.

One thing that should be clear is that the path to help our departments and our patients seems to frequently go through the state legislature. If you have a relationship with your local legislator or want to help get involved please contact [me](#) to see how we can move things along.

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

Alaska Chapter ACEP



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Clinical News

Opioid Overdose Deaths Skyrocket in Women

American women are dying from prescription drug overdose at historically high rates, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced July 2.

[Read the entire article](#)

Apixaban Beats Warfarin on Safety in Acute VTE

In patients with acute venous thromboembolism, 6 months of treatment with the oral-anticoagulant apixaban was as effective

as was standard therapy with subcutaneous enoxaparin for a week followed by oral warfarin, and apixaban caused significantly fewer major bleeding complications in a randomized, multicenter trial with more than 5,000 patients.

[Read the entire article](#)

Eight principles outlined for safe opioid prescribing

Opioids aren't always appropriate for treating pain, and if they have to be prescribed, they must be used cautiously and at the lowest effective dosage, Dr. Lynn R. Webster advised.

[Read the entire article](#)

Thanks to you, EMF reached the goal



Emergency Medicine Foundation (EMF) reached our \$1 million matching grant goal, and we could not have done it without you! Because of you, EMF is one step closer to reaching our first ever endowment. Eighteen ACEP chapters raised \$30,678 to further emergency medicine research. EMF appreciates the generosity and leadership of these state chapters.

Auctioning Items to Further with EM Research

EMF will host a silent auction during ACEP13 to continue raising money for research. The silent auction will include signed items from entertainers and athletes, weekend getaways and many more great items. We are also taking donations to be auctioned off. You can donate items such as a weekend getaway, wine, jewelry, or an excursion package can be donated for the auction. To donate your items, go to the foundation [website](#). For more information contact Cathey Wise at cwise@acep.org or 469-499-0296.

Be a VIP at The Taste of the Northwest

The silent auction is not the only event planned for EMF during ACEP13. The Taste of the Northwest Classic at Chihuly Garden and Glass is our first-class VIP event recognizing our major donors. Donors who contribute \$1,000 or more since January 1 2013, receive complimentary tickets based on their giving level. Wiegentstein Legacy Society members receive two tickets. Individual tickets will also be available at the ACEP Bookstore for \$125. Sponsorship packages are still available. Please visit acep.org/emfevent for more information.

Because of donors and state chapters like you, EMF awarded more than \$500,000 in emergency medicine research. Research includes how physicians communicate with patients after they leave the emergency department, patient return to the ED, prescription drug monitoring, and implementing an emergency department to home transition intervention.

Thank you of your support and donations to EMF and emergency medicine research. Because of you, we can continue funding vital research to improve emergency medicine practice and patient care.

ACEP13

To register for ACEP13, click on the link below:



Alaska Chapter ACEP

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