

Alaska Chapter Update

A Newsletter for the Members of Alaska ACEP

Summer 2014

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

The Alaska Chapter has been busy this spring. We hosted a National Leader Visit with current ACEP Vice President and candidate for ACEP President-Elect, [Robert E. O'Connor, MD, MPH, FACEP](#) at our spring meeting. Dr. O'Connor filled us in on details of activities being worked on at the national level and gave a lecture at the RACI Conference. To get an idea of other things he experienced on his visit, please see the photo of Bob and I just below the Mountain House in the Great Gorge of the Ruth Glacier.



Speaking of the RACI conference, again Mike Levy was able to attract an outstanding assortment of internationally renowned speakers for a highly educational conference held here in Anchorage. I would encourage all of you to put this meeting on your spring calendars for I guarantee that you will learn things that will improve outcomes for your patients.

Alaska Chapter ACEP



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Shortly after our spring meeting, I traveled to DC to attend the ACEP Leadership and Advocacy Conference. This is one of my favorite meetings of the year, as it is typically my first chance to see flowers and green grass, and socialize with friends and leaders in emergency medicine from around the country. It is also a great opportunity to meet with Alaska's congressional delegation and educate them on some of the important issues facing our nation's emergency departments. Sometimes they even vote for legislation that could really help us and our patients. I was able to meet with Senator Murkowski, Senator Begich's health staff and Rep Don Young. I have the photos to prove it!



Dr. Heine with Senator Murkowski



Dr. Heine with Rep Don Young

We talked about the EMTALA Liability bill and a truly remarkable bill introduced by Rep Tim Murphy called "The Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act". This legislation, if enacted, would be ground changing in how we treat psychiatric patients in our country and our emergency departments.

We also kept an eye on the Alaska Legislature, here in Juneau, to make sure that there were no actions that would make it harder for us to do our job. There were no bills that directly impact emergency physicians but several that you should be aware of. For example, HB 250 makes an apology for a bad outcome not an admission of malpractice, HB 269 gives good Samaritan liability protection for volunteering in a disaster, HB 369 provides immunity for those calling for medical help in a drug overdose, and SB 173 introduces new tools on how law enforcement can go after use and sale of the designer drugs that we are all so familiar with.

Chapter Meeting

Save the date for our next **Chapter Annual Meeting** to be held on the evening of **Friday, November 7th** at a time and location to be determined. At that meeting, we will hold elections for several Board positions as well as for all of the officers for the chapter. We do have some openings. Please contact [me](#) if you are interested in serving on the Chapter Board.

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

Adriana's Corner

My focus as your Administrative Assistant is to ensure that you continuously receive valuable information from the chapter.

Many of you may have accidentally '**unsubscribed**' from the chapter e-list. When you opt out, you do not receive the quarterly chapter e-newsletter and other important chapter information.

Please send me an [e-mail](#) and I can take care of reinstating your e-list status to '**normal**'.

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, Extension 3312.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Clinical News

Hypertonic Saline Indications for Bronchiolitis Lack Evidence for Clear Guidance
The therapeutic value of hypertonic saline in treating bronchiolitis in young children remains unclear, based on the findings of two randomized controlled trials with conflicting results.

[Read the entire article](#)

Statins Don't Help, May Harm in COPD, Sepsis-Associated ARDS

Two separate prospective, multicenter trials of statins stopped early when interim results showed they did not help – and potentially harmed – patients with moderate to severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or sepsis-associated acute respiratory distress syndrome.

[Read the entire article](#)

Telemedicine Gives Small Hospitals the Biggest Boost in rTPA Use for Stroke

A telemedicine program for patients with acute ischemic stroke increased the use of recombinant tissue plasminogen activator by as much as 13% in the year after implementation.

[Read the entire article](#)



**CONGRESS NEEDS TO
HEAR FROM EMERGENCY
PHYSICIANS**
Help us call for a congressional hearing
to protect emergency care!

- ✓ Enact federal liability protections for emergency physicians
- ✓ Invest in graduate medical education and EM research
- ✓ Promote solutions for emergency department boarding of psychiatric patients
- ✓ Enhance patient care through stabilized reimbursement

Support NEMPAC Today to give emergency medicine a VOICE on Capitol Hill.

GIVE TO NEMPAC TODAY

Contribute today at
www.acep.org/NEMPAC

NEMPAC
National Emergency Medicine PAC

YOUR VOICE
ON CAPITOL HILL

NEMPAC is the political fund sustained solely by the contributions of ACEP members to support the election of congressional candidates who share a commitment to emergency medicine.

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