

Alaska Chapter Update

A Newsletter for the Members of Alaska ACEP



Winter 2011

From the President Carlton E. Heine, MD, PhD, FACEP

Alaska ACEP Welcome Letter

Welcome to 2011. The Alaska Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) has been resuscitated and we hope to be a more active organization for the foreseeable future. After 10 years of holding the reigns and keeping Alaska ACEP alive, Jennifer Dow is stepping down and a new group of leaders have volunteered to step forward. We all owe Jennifer a debt of gratitude for her hard work and dedication to emergency medicine in our state.

The goals of the State Chapter are to serve the needs of our members, our patients, and everyone else practicing emergency medicine within Alaska. Due to the geography and low density populations many of our issues are a bit different than what emergency physicians face in the lower 48. We aim to provide a statewide professional organization to address those unique issues.

Some of our specific tasks for the coming year are to continue to build our membership of ACEP eligible physicians and to reach out to other providers working in emergency medicine. We are building an e-mail list of providers in the State who work on the front line of patient care but may not be emergency medicine trained and hope to use this tool to communicate issues relevant to all of us.

We are well into the planning stages of our first, of a hopefully annual, CME conference to provide more educational opportunities in the state and better networking among ED professionals. (**May 13th 2011 - save the date and see the announcement below!**)

We plan on paying attention to any legislative activities that would impact our practice and when appropriate, work to influence those bills. We will also build relationships with other key organizations such as the State Medical Society and the State Hospital Association and make sure that the needs of emergency medicine has a voice.

Some of the more practical things that we have done are to begin to develop a Web page for the State Chapter and to contract with the national office to provide some shared part time administrative services. Adriana Alvarez will serve as our administrative assistant. We are going to have an 800 number, and when we have it, we will send you the information, along with the link to our website. Another important communication tool will be a quarterly newsletter such as the one you are currently reading.

More than anything, we hope Alaska ACEP can be a community of emergency medicine providers. We need your voice and your opinion of where emergency medicine is and where you want it to go. Our website will soon have a tool for discussion topics and resources that are state specific. We will soon have an e-mail discussion list of all ED medical directors and key leaders within the state where anyone on the list can post questions or topics for statewide discussions.

Please speak up, come to the conference, post on the forum, send us an e-mail, and talk to your colleagues and friends about joining or at least getting on the list serve to stay in touch with other providers. Let us know what you want to see and help make it happen. This is our state and our profession. Let's make the most of it!

Alaska Chapter ACEP

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Here is to a great 2011 and a growing, dynamic emergency medicine presence in Alaska. Thanks you for all you do!

Carl, Keri, Anne, Ben and Jen



Chapter Officers

Here is a brief introduction to the new chapter officers. There are several additional folks that have agreed to serve on the Chapter board of directors and as we finalize those positions we will introduce them in the next newsletter.

Please feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or concerns about emergency medicine in Alaska or about ACEP.

Carlton Heine MD, PhD: Chapter President

Carl recently joined the group at Bartlett hospital in Juneau, Alaska. Carl went to medical school at Oregon Health and Sciences University and then completed an EM residency at the University of Virginia. Within ACEP Carl was the founder of the section of Wilderness Medicine, served on the Ethics Committee and the Federal Government Affairs Committee, and served on the board of the Washington State chapter for four years. Most importantly he has wanted to live in Alaska for more than twenty years and is very happy to finally find a position that works for him and his wife. (heine.carl@gmail.com)

Keri Gardner, MD, MPH: Chapter Vice-President

Keri works in the Emergency Department of Alaska Native Medical Center where she has served as Medical Staff President. She went to medical school at Harvard then did residency and fellowship at UCLA. She stayed as faculty at UCLA in Emergency Medicine and the School of Public Health and served as a LA County Public Health Commissioner. She left Los Angeles to be the doctor at McMurdo Station in Antarctica before coming to Alaska, where she continues her interest in public health. (kerik@ucla.edu)

Ben Shelton, MD, MPH: Chapter Treasurer

Ben works in the Emergency Department at Alaska Native Medical Center and spends some time at Providence Medical Center. He went to medical school at Columbia University and did residency and worked as faculty at Boston Medical Center prior to moving to Alaska four years ago. (ben.shelton@mac.com)

Anne Zink, MD: Chapter Secretary

Anne moved to Alaska two years ago to join the Mat-Su Emergency Physicians in Palmer Alaska, where she currently serves as the Medical Director. She attended Stanford medical school and completed her EM residence at the University of Utah. She is thrilled to be part of ACEP and a dynamic growing emergency medicine community. (annezink@me.com)

Jennifer Dow MD: Past President

Jenn has lived and worked as an ED doc in Alaska for 15 years. Jen attended medical school in Wisconsin and completed her EM residency in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. She has served as both president of the Regional Medical Staff and as medical director of her group. Jenn serves as the Medical Director for Denali National Park; Medical Advisor, Alaska Pacific University-Outdoor Studies Program; Guide Service throughout Alaska and Medical Director, Wrangell-St Elias National Park. She received the 2008 George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for her service to Alaska's backcountry. Jen continues to play a vital role in Alaska's emergency medicine community as past ACEP president where she lives with a great white dog who runs her life - Tioga.



Alaska ACEP CME Conference

This year we are co-sponsoring the first Alaska ACEP CME conference. Mark your calendars - May 13th in Palmer, Alaska! This one day CME conference is targeted towards emergency medicine providers, nurses and EMS personal. We have a

fantastic lineup of speakers from Alaska and beyond who will focus on key EM topics relative to the first hour of care. Our goal for this conference is to cover relevant topics in emergency medicine that will affect your daily practice as well as be a starting point for further statewide discussion about critical issues.

This conference will be a great way to get to know other emergency providers, hear great speakers, earn CME, and be a part of helping improve care for our patients while having fun. May in Palmer is beautiful, and the city is helping sponsor the conference. To wrap things up we have an all participants' party planned for that evening. Spread the word, come ski at Hatcher's Pass, and enjoy a party that night for all participants while earning CME and help shape emergency medicine in the state.

More to come. Details will be on the website soon and flyers will be on their way. Hope to see you there!



Clinical News

CMS Tweaks Hospital Sedation Policy, Again

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has revised its recently updated anesthesia guidelines, following complaints the policy was unworkable.

Hospitals are now directed to develop their own internal policies concerning what is anesthesia versus analgesia, which leaves open the option of using different guidelines in different clinical departments. The revisions also provide greater flexibility regarding pre- and postanesthesia evaluations, while particularly problematic references to propofol and labor epidural anesthesia were dropped entirely.

[Read the entire article online](#)

Food Allergy Guidelines Encourage Earlier Use of IM Epinephrine

New federal guidelines on food allergy recommend "prompt and rapid" treatment of food-induced anaphylaxis with intramuscular epinephrine as first-line therapy.

And in cases of a suboptimal response to epinephrine – or if symptoms progress – "repeat epinephrine dosing remains first-line therapy over adjunctive treatments," the guidelines say.

The "consistency and strength" of the recommendation for prompt treatment with IM epinephrine may come as a surprise to some emergency physicians who "reserve treatment with epinephrine until patients are in shock, which is an extreme and late manifestation" of anaphylaxis, said Dr. Carlos A. Camargo Jr., an emergency physician who served on the multidisciplinary expert panel that developed the guidelines for the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"Earlier diagnosis of anaphylaxis and earlier treatment with epinephrine would benefit patients," said Dr. Camargo of Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, both in Boston. "The guidelines strongly encourage earlier use of IM epinephrine for food-induced anaphylaxis."

[Read the entire article online](#)

Focus On: Best Practices for Seizure Management in the Emergency Department

"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. The January 2011 article reviews the current evaluation, management, and disposition of patients presenting to the emergency department with seizures.

Learning objectives for this article include the ability to discuss the presentation of seizure in the emergency department and common mimics of seizure; discuss the management of first-time and recurrent seizures in the emergency department; outline an aggressive treatment regimen for status epilepticus, including the emerging role of levetiracetam in the treatment algorithm; and list several practices that will improve the ED care of seizure patients.

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



Emergency Medicine Foundation Call for Proposals

EMF is pleased to announce a call for proposals due April 1, 2011:

Ultrasound Grant proudly underwritten by Siemens

The goal of this \$20,000, one-year grant is to gain a better understanding of the comparative effectiveness of emergency ultrasound as performed by emergency physicians.

EMF/EMPSF Patient Safety Grant

The goal of this \$10,000, one year grant is to identify ways and means to improve patient safety in emergency medicine.

EMF/Baxter Grant on Rehydration

The goal of this \$50,000, one year grant is to study subcutaneous rehydration for pediatric and/or adult patients in the emergency department.

EMF/ENA Foundation Team Grant

The goal of this \$50,000, one year grant is to have physician and nurse researchers combine their expertise to develop, plan, and implement clinical research in emergency care.

All grants will be funded July 1, 2011-June 30, 2012.

Alaska Chapter ACEP

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