

PACEP President 2024-2025

EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

So, What Has PACEP Been Up to So Far This Fall?

By Jennifer L. Savino, DO, FACEP

It's been an active and impactful season for PACEP. Below are some of the initiatives we have been working on. You will find additional details throughout this edition of the PACEP newsletter.

PACEP is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PA DOH), the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) and the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) on ED overcrowding. Chris Berry, MD, FACEP is leading the EMS/Pre-hospital Care Workgroup, and Blake Bailey, DO, MBA, FACEP is leading the Transfer to External Facilities Workgroup. We have PACEP members on each committee: Healthcare Workforce, Pediatrics, Primary Care/Behavioral Health, and Social Determinants of Health. The goal of these workgroups is to discuss the issues and potential solutions to reduce the pressures on Pennsylvania emergency departments and overcrowding. Recommended strategies will be presented to the Governor and the General Assembly. We are glad to be at the table with these other organizations and to be working on suggestions for such an important issue effecting emergency departments across the state.

PACEP supported two successful Residents Days. UPMC Harrisburg hosted Central PA Residents' Day on September 4, and Jefferson hosted Eastern PA Residents' Day on September 11. We also hosted a virtual residency fair at the end of August.

I am so proud of the Pennsylvania Council delegation! We had six out of our seven resolutions receive a positive outcome: either adopted or referred to the board. Additionally, we honored three physicians from Pennsylvania who died this past year. Memorial resolutions were submitted for Neal F. Aulick II, MD, FACEP, Jesse A Weigel, MD, FACEP, and Christopher Karns, DO. Each family will receive a plaque from ACEP. In addition to debating the council resolutions, the council also elects the president-elect and the Board of Directors.

This was one of the smoothest council meetings I have been to in the last several years with no wi-fi issues. Somehow, we got through over seventy resolutions

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One of our biggest pieces of news on the advocacy front was the successful passage of HB 1633 – Healthcare Noncompete Agreement Reform, now Act 74.

2024 FALL NEWSLETTER:

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EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

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under the time cap. I really think this is attributed to the work we do ahead of the council by submitting asynchronous testimony.

I wanted to encourage you again to participate in council. It is such a rewarding experience. The more you get involved, the more rewarding it can be. When you write a resolution, get up on the council floor and provide testimony, and then get a successful outcome, it is such a great feeling. I actually feel like I am making a difference in emergency medicine. If it is your first time, do not be nervous. We can help you! We will be having another workshop on writing council resolutions. If you do not want to write it, just submit your idea to us, and we can put it down on paper. Join us at the next council meeting on September 5-6, 2025, in Salt Lake City, Utah.

One of our biggest pieces of news on the advocacy front was the successful passage of HB 1633 - Healthcare Noncompete Agreement Reform, now Act 74. Governor Shapiro signed this legislation on July 17, 2024, and it takes effect on January 1, 2025. This legislation would not have been possible without the efforts of the House Health Care Committee Chair Rep. Dan Frankel and Rep. Arvind Venkat.

The Pennsylvania Emergency Physicians Political Action Committee (PEP-PAC) is making several donations to legislative leaders this fall. We support both Democrats and Republicans. These contributions are made strategically to benefit emergency physicians, our patients, and support our agenda. This helps us to develop relationships with legislators. Remember, NONE of the money from your annual dues is used for these donations. These funds are all raised separately through donations to the PEP-PAC. We will be starting our annual fall PEP-PAC campaign. Watch our social media pages coming soon!

Thank you, as always, for everything you do to take care of patients across the state of Pennsylvania. Together, we're making a real difference in the future of emergency medicine!



2024–2025 PACEP Board of Directors

Executive Committee

President Jennifer L. Savino, DO, FACEP
President-Elect Elizabeth Barrall Werley, MD, FACEP
Vice President Blake Bailey, DO, MBA, FACEP
Treasurer Theresa A. Walls, MD, MPH
Secretary Holly Stankewicz, DO, FACEP

Immediate Richard J. Hamilton, MD, MBA, FACEP

Past President

Board Members

Christopher L. Berry, MD, FACEP Monisha Bindra, DO, MPH, FACEP Annahieta Kalantari, DO, FACEP Erik I. Kochert, MD, CPE, FACEP Eric Melnychuk, DO, FACEP Meaghan Reid, DO, FACEP

Resident Representatives

Lauren Altomare, DO (Lehigh Valley Health Network) Kyle Hughes, MD (Jefferson) George Koshy, DO (Geisinger) Zeenah Mansour, MD (Geisinger)

Executive Director

Jan Reisinger, MBA, CAE

Leadership Fellows

Christine Aspiotes, DO, MS Brian Kelly, DO

PACEP Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs

Education

Chair Christopher J. Wilson, MD, FACEP
Co-Chair Alexandra Amaducci, DO, FACEP
Board Liaison Monisha Bindra, DO, MPH, FACEP

EMS Disaster and Terrorism Preparedness (DTP)

Co-Chair Avram Flamm, DO, FACEP
Co-Chair Bryan Wexler, MD, FACEP
Board Liaison Christopher L. Berry, MD, FACEP

Government Affairs/Medical Economics

Co-Chair Catherine Marco, MD, FACEP
Co-Chair Angela Cai, MD, MBA
PEP-PAC Chair Michael Boyd, MD
PEP-PAC Treasurer T. Douglas Sallade, DO

Board Liaison Annahieta Kalantari, DO, FACEP

Research

Co-Chair Joseph Herres, DO, FACEP
Co-Chair Adam Sigal, MD, FACEP
Board Liaison Eric Melnychuk, DO, FACEP

Wellness/Young Physicians

Chair Michelle Appel, MD

Co-Chair Jennifer Spinozzi, MD, FACEP Board Liaison Meaghan Reid, DO, FACEP

If you are interested in joining a committee, visit here.

Call for Interest/Nominations!



We are looking for PACEP members interested in getting more involved. We are also starting the nomination process for the Board of Directors (BOD) elections.

If you or someone you know is interested in getting more involved or being considered for the BOD, email Holly Stankewicz, PACEP Secretary, at secretary@pacep.net by November 19, 2024.

WELCOME NEW PACEP MEMBERS

Morty Achner Odai Al hasant

Andreya Marie Alvarado de Castro

Alana J. Arnold Hamna Atif Michael Avallon

Adam Barnathan Jordan C. Barnhill

lan Batson Jason Becker Ceciley Bly Ashley Bonsu

Gregory Arthur Boyer

Julia Bulova

Pranav Cannanbilla

Rachel Cazee Brooke Chapple Marcin Ciesla

Zachary Andrew Curtis Duy-Anh Andrew Dao Alexis Caterina Davis

Garrison Michael Davis Bryan De La Torre Basma Fayez Deiab Kevin Do

Miriah Dwyer

Miriam Eagleson

Christina Elsayed

Andrew Ferrucci

Daniel Forrest

Nileena George

Rohan Ghosh Olivia Giambra

Amandip Gill

Ruben Gonzalez

Leila Haddad Kristin Hardy

Kim Inciona

Polly Jenkins

Jackie Jian

Arvin Jundoria

James Kaan

Megan Lindsay Keane

Charles B. Kemmler

Neil Khare Allen Kim Tae M. Kim Nikitha Kodali Anna Lauriello

Jamie D. Lee

John LeMoine

Jacky Li

Bhavana Makkapati

Matthew Manoj

Elizabeth Katherine Martin

Jane Mundadan

Punay Narang

Mieng Nguyen

Thu Nguyen

Lauren Ashley Olevnik

Blake O'Neill

Julia Orrico

Brittany Maria Ott

Moses Parks

Andrew Pearson

Aaron Piavis

Aishwarya Raj

Ronald Thomas Rakowski

Ramanan Ramesh

Fernando Reachy

Shoshana Rudin

Amritpal Saini

Kaitlyn Sbarro

Elliiot Schiff

Shareena Shaik

Dong Shin

Kahhal Shohreh

Mckenzie M. Sicke

Ian Smith

Christina Sneed

Kareem Soliman

Rachel Steckbeck

Rachel Steckbeck

Samantha Ann Stoner

Thomas Sullivan

Gary Theroux

Anita Anne Thomas

Sudeepti Trivedi

Tara Angelica Tronetti

Sophiyah Umar

Kyle Vawter

Kevin S. Viera

Micah Watkins

Samantha Williams

Fan Zhang



Lobbyist Update

By Bigley and Blikle, LLC



Jonathan BigleyPartner, Bigley & Blikle



DOH INITIATES PROCESS TO EASE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT OVERCROWDING

In August, the Pennsylvania
Department of Health (DOH) initiated stakeholder workgroups to analyze factors that lead to ED boarding and to evaluate potential remedies to ease ED overcrowding. PACEP is engaged in this process along with representatives from the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania. This initiative is ongoing.

Several PACEP leaders and members volunteered to be the "Voice of Emergency Medicine" in various workgroups. PACEP and the Bigley and Blikle lobbying team thanks them for their willingness to engage with the state government on this critical issue.

PACEP leaders participating in workgroups include:

- President Jennifer Savino, DO and President-Elect Elizabeth Werley, MD

 Planning Workgroup
- President Jennifer Savino, DO Primary Care/Behavioral Health Workgroup
- President-Elect Elizabeth Werley, MD
 Healthcare Workforce Workgroup
- Vice President Blake Bailey, DO

 Transfer to External Facilities

 (Behavioral Health, LTCF)
- Treasurer Theresa Walls, MD –
 Pediatrics Workgroup
- Secretary Holly Stankewicz, DO

 Social Determinants of Health

 Workgroup

- EMS, Disaster, and Terrorism
 Preparedness Committee Board
 Liaison Christopher Berry, MD EMS/
 Prehospital Care Workgroup
- PACEP Member Erik Kochert, MD -In-Hospital Barriers & Challenges Workgroup

DOH STARTS, STOPS HOSPITAL REGULATION STAKEHOLDERS' PROCESS

Also in August, the Pennsylvania
Department of Health (DOH) initiated
a stakeholders' process to review
and improve the Commonwealth's
hospital regulations. DOH scheduled
15 workshop sessions during
which stakeholders were to receive
Department plans for regulation
updates and to provide comments
on DOH's proposed amendments.
Unfortunately, the process ended after
four workgroup sessions. Ultimately,
the task was deemed to be larger
than DOH could continue with the ED
overcrowding process underway as well.

Again, several PACEP leaders and members volunteered to represent patients and emergency physicians' interests in this process. PACEP and the B & B team thanks them for their time and efforts on this important issue.

PACEP leaders who participated in workshop sessions included:

- President-Elect Elizabeth Werley,
 MD Nursing Services / Pharmacy
 Services / Medical Record Services
 Workshop
- Governmental Affairs/Medical Economics Committee Co-chair

Angela Cai, MD – Admission and Discharge / Medical Staff / Dietetic Services Workshop

Board Member Christopher Berry, MD

 Podiatry Services / Fire, Safety, and

 Disaster Services / Initial Construction and Continuing Operating Standards

 Workshop

PACEP leaders who were slated to participate in cancelled workshop sessions included:

- President Jennifer Savino, DO and Vice President Blake Bailey, DO – Laboratory Services / Rehabilitation Services / Special Care Units Workshop
- President-Elect Elizabeth Werley, MD

 Dental Services / Quality Assurance

 and Performance Improvement /
 Telemedicine Workshop
- Vice President Blake Bailey, DO and Governmental Affairs/Medical Economics Committee Co-chair Angela Cai, MD – Emergency Services / Outpatient Services and Short-Term Procedure Units / Nuclear Medicine Services / Professional Library Services Workshop
- PACEP Member Richard Heath, MD Social Work Services / Environmental Services / Central Supply Services Workshop

NURSE SCOPE OF PRACTICE STAKEHOLDERS' PROCESS UNDERWAY

Under the auspices of House Professional Licensure Committee Chair Frank Burns (D, Cambria), legislative staff, House of Medicine representatives, and nursing professional organizations have met to determine whether common ground exists to reach a compromise on expanding nurse scope of practice. Thus far, the process has yielded a recitation of past positions.

The House of Medicine organizations, of which PACEP is a part, have plainly stated that an agreement with nursing interests was reached less than five years ago and should be implemented before any further scope of practice legislation is considered. Under that agreement, Advanced Practice Nurses could achieve a measure of independence if they agreed to practice in medically underserved areas of the Commonwealth. The pilot program would last five years and a study of its effectiveness for patients, or lack thereof, would be conducted to determine whether the pilot program would be continued or expanded.

Nursing interests contend that their scope of practice was expanded during the declared COVID health emergency, therefore, their practice should be expanded during the post-COVID era. Studies show, however, that independent nurse practice leads to misdiagnoses, unnecessary testing and imagining, and higher healthcare costs.

The B & B advocacy team anticipates this process will continue through the fall legislative session. We expect no legislative action in the remaining session days.

NON-COMPETE AGREEMENT LEGISLATION ENACTED

HB 1633, sponsored by House Health Committee Chair Dan Frankel (D, Allegheny) and former PACEP president Representative Arvind Venkat (D, Allegheny), will restrict healthcare noncompete agreements to a one-year period and will restore physicians' and others' rights to freely practice where and when they chose. The Pennsylvania General Assembly overwhelming enacted landmark legislation in early July. Now Act 74 of 2024, the legislation was signed into law by Governor Josh Shapiro on July 17, 2024.

"This legislation deals with employment contracts for health care providers, but it's really about patient care – it protects the long-term patient-care giver relationship that builds trust and improves outcomes," said Chairman Frankel said in a recent press release. "We know it's not always easy to find the right health care provider, and it's important that our laws not interfere with your ability to maintain that crucial relationship."

In the same statement, Representative Venkat said, "As a physician-legislator, I know that noncompete covenants unnecessarily restrict patient access to the clinician of their choice and make Pennsylvania a less desirable place for health professionals to practice. I am proud to have worked with Representative Frankel to pass this bipartisan legislation through the state House to improve patient access in our commonwealth."

continue reading on page 8

Lobbyist Update

continued...

Among the statute's provisions, employers are required to notify physicians' patients how they can transfer care to their preferred healthcare providers. In addition, employers may recover physician recruitment and practice costs. The new law takes effect on January 1, 2025. The Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council is accepting public comment from practitioners to study the impact of noncompete agreements. PACEP will submit a response on behalf of its membership by the October 21, 2024 deadline. PACEP thanks House Health Committee Chair Dan Frankel and State Representative Arvind Venkat for their diligence in protecting physicians' rights.

To view Act 74, please use the link below: <u>2024 Act 74 - PA General</u> <u>Assembly (state.pa.us)</u>



House Health Committee Chair Dan Frankel (D, Allegheny)

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT MEDICAL LIABILITY REFORM AWAITS ACTION IN SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Despite growing evidence that medical liability lawsuits are unnecessarily being brought in Philadelphia County

even if the alleged injury occurred elsewhere, Senator David Argall's (R, Carbon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill Counties) SB 1182 PN 1602 still awaits action in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Introduced on May 17, the bill is in response to the state Supreme Court's action to usher trial lawyer venue shopping back into Pennsylvania's medical liability system.

To initiate a medical liability lawsuit, the plaintiff's attorney needs only affirm that a physician certified that the claim has merit. No medical report or statement is required nor is the Certificate of Merit evidence that the defendant physician may challenge. SB 1182 will remedy this defect and reduce frivolous filings.

Specifically, the legislation would:

- Define and establish the credentials of a licensed professional who reviews a claim of medical liability.
- 2) Establish a process in which the statement of the licensed professional who has reviewed the claim will be shared with the defendant medical professional and will require that the statement is shared at the time of filing the certificate of merit.
- Require, as part of the statement, that the licensed professional be identified, and their curriculum vitae be included as part of the Certificate of Merit filing.

To view SB 1182, please use the link below: <u>SB 1182 PN 1602.cfm</u> (state.pa.us)



Senator David Argall (R, Carbon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill Counties)

VENKAT CONTINUES TO AMASS CAMPAIGN CASH

While official records are not kept, former PACEP president and current State Representative Arvind Venkat (D, Allegheny) continues to set unofficial fundraising records for a freshman legislator. For the campaign finance reporting period that ended May 13, Representative Venkat had contributions totaling more than \$460,000. Thus far in 2024, he has raised nearly \$331,000, and in the 2023 – 2024 election cycle, he has tallied more than \$656,000 in campaign contributions.

These are truly astounding numbers for a first term legislator. They bode well for Representative Venkat's future in the General Assembly.



Representative Arvind Venkat (D, Allegheny)

FIRST PEP-PAC COFFEE CLUB EVENT

PEP-PAC will begin hosting its first Coffee Club event at a time to be determined after the November election. Attendees will be able to sign on virtually to hear reflections on the recent election and what could be in store for the 2025-2026 Legislative Session in Harrisburg. We project our guests will be Representative Arvind Venkat (D, Allegheny) and Senator Dave Argall (R, Carbon, Luzerne, and Schuylkill Counties).

2024 SESSION DAYS

Senate

October 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23

November 13, 14

House

October 1, 2, 21, 22, 23

November 12, 13

Currently, the B & B Team is tracking more than 230 bills and cosponsorship memos for PACEP. To view the priority list of bills tracked, please use the link below: https://plsqovtrac.com/report/IRL1

PACEP ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SUMMER 2024

(06/13/24 - 09/04/24)

ADVOCACY

- Continued work on ACEP public policy grant on pediatric boarding
- Continued work on LCB grant on prevention of underage drinking
- Participated as key stakeholder in ED Overcrowding Work Group along with DOH/PAMED/HAP
- Successful passage Act 74 of 2024:
 Fair Contracting for Health Care
 Practitioners Act Enactment which includes a non-compete clause for physicians

ENGAGEMENT

- PACEP Lecture Series with PACEP MSC
- Addition of Medical Student Journal Club
- Successful Virtual Residency Fair
- Completed and distributed electronic Summer edition of *PACEP News*

EDUCATION

 Receipt of speaker proposals for PACEP25 SA equivalent in number to last year

- PACEP25 SA Planning has already begun
- Successful Central Residents Day

GOVERNANCE

- Maintained balanced budget
- Submission of (10) Council resolutions



PACEP Research Committee Update

Eric Melnychuk, DO, FACEP

Congratulations to the following PACEP members who presented during ACEP Scientific Assembly in Las Vegas, NV.

TOPIC	PRESENTER		
Visualizing Pediatric Critical Care FY 2020 - 2022 Fellow Tracheal Intubation Learning Curves	Sangmo Je Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA		
Enhancing Critical Care Airway Management Quality Monitoring: Cumulative Summation Dashboard Approach	Sangmo Je Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA		
Interfacility Transport by Private Vehicle Between Hospitals in A Rural Area Was Not Associated with Adverse Patient Outcomes	Emily Day Drexel University College of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA		
A Multidisciplinary Discharge Huddle Improves ED and Hospital Throughput Measures Without Increased Readmissions in a Rural Emergency Department	Jon Rittenberger Guthrie Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, PA Joshua Pettengill Jefferson Health, Philadelphia, PA		
Missed Diagnosis of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury - Retrospective Study in an Urban Emergency Department			
Stop Sucking Us Dry: Decreasing Unnecessary Blood Draws in the Intensive Care Unit	Bryan Kane Lehigh Valley Health Network Dept of Emergency and Hospital Medicine, University of South Florida Morsani COM		
The Impact of Police vs EMS Transport on Mortality in Trauma Victims, A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Vadym Shapovalov Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania		
Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections in the United States: A Trend Analysis	Vadym Shapovalov Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania		
Beyond the Focused Assessment with Sonography in Trauma Exam: Design and Utilization of a Trauma-Focused Rapid Education Event for Emergency Medicine Attending Physicians	Claire L Paulson Lehigh Valley Health Network/ University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, Lehigh Valley Campus, Allentown PA		
Implementation of a Split Flow (Quick Turn) Process to Improve Emergency Department Efficiency	Patrick Fagan Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network/ USF Morsani College of Medicine		
Sex Specific Differences in ED Patient Mortality Predictors and Documentation of End-of-Life Goals of Treatment	Angelica Masullo Lehigh Valley Hospital and Health Network/ USF Morsani College of Medicine, Allentown, PA		
Presentation and Outcomes of Pediatric Myocarditis in the Emergency Department: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis	Mohammed Alsabri St. Christopher's Hospital for Children, Philadelphia, PA		
Comparative Effectiveness of Normal Saline, Lactated Ringer's Solution, and Isolyte on Rate of Lactate Clearance in Shock	James White St. Luke's University Health Network		
Blood Culture Contamination Rate as a Novel Way to Assess Safety of Ultrasound Guided Intravenous Catheters	Yedidya Benavie St Luke's University Health Network- Anderson, Easton, PA		
Trends In Social Media Use In Emergency Medicine Residency Programs	Zachary Repanshek Temple University, Lewis Katz School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA		
Novel Model for Forearm Nerve Blocks Incorporating 3D Printing Technology	Gustin Reynolds Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA		

Identification of Secreted Modular Calcium-Binding Protein-1 as a Noval Endogenous Protective Molecule Against Acute Myocardial Infarction-Induced Cardiac Rupture	Xinliang Ma Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA		
Left-handed Central Line- The Right Way Is Not Always Right	Jennifer Jozefick Tower Health Drexel West Reading Campus, West Reading, PA		
Blood and MRI biomarkers in acute concussion to identify blood-brain barrier dysfunction	David Barton University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA		
Market Share Of Emergency Department Annual Visits By Physician Employer Group Ownership Type	Angela Cai University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA		
Emergency Nurse and Physician Perspectives on Workplace Violence Strategies to Advance Workplace Safety	K. Jane Muir University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA		
Improving Emergency Department CT Turnaround Times in a Large, Urban, Academic Medical Center	Johnothan Smileye University of Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia, PA		
Cost-Effectiveness of Early Non-Invasive Cardiac Testing for Suspected Acute Coronary Syndrome	Benjamin C. Sun University of Pennsylvania, Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics, Philadelphia, PA		
Pulmonary Embolism Severity Index vs Point-of-Care Ultrasound in Predicting Adverse Outcomes	Paige Antoon Wellspan York Hospital, York, PA		

Congratulations to the following EMF Emergency Medicine Foundation 2024-2025 Grantees:



Ari B. Friedman, MD, PhD

University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Friedman was awarded the Investigator Initiated Research Grant for \$250,000 over two years. He will work on his project titled, "Impact of ED Group Ownership on Market Structure, Care Patterns, and Patients" at the University of Pennsylvania.



David J. Barton, MD

University of Pittsburgh

Dr. Barton was awarded the Early Career Research Development Grant for \$150,000 over two years. He will work on his project titled, "Blood-brain barrier dysfunction in mild traumatic brain injury" at the University of Pittsburgh.



Michelle A. Fischer, MD, MPH

The Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center

Dr. Fischer was awarded the Geriatric Emergency Care Applied Research (2.0) Network Grant with \$15,000 of support from EMF over one year. She will work on her project titled, "Penn State Emergency Medicine CarES: Care-partner Evaluation and Sourcing in the ED" at Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center.

Medical Student Council Updates: Building a Community

By Eric Malani, MS4



When I initially joined the MSC as a first-year medical student and liaison for SKMC at Thomas Jefferson University, my goal was simple: meet other students who shared my passion for emergency medicine. I was eager to connect with peers across the state who had similar interests, and what I found was an inclusive space that valued education, mentorship, and collaboration. The Speaker Series events I attended early on provided a sense of belonging, and the opportunity to learn from one another solidified my commitment to

this community. Getting more involved within the MSC meant I was able to help set up a Speaker Series Lecture on ED Imaging and a successful supplies drive at Jefferson for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House.

The following year, as Community Engagement Coordinator, I wanted to take our involvement beyond the academic setting. Emergency medicine is not only about knowledge and skill—it's about service. We engage with diverse populations during some of their most vulnerable moments, and I felt it was essential that we connect with the community outside of the hospital. I worked to expand our outreach by organizing a holiday toy drive for Toys for Tots and inviting the Medical Reserve Corps to speak to our group about volunteer opportunities in Philly and across PA. These programs allowed us to not only give back to the communities we serve, but also form connections with local organizations.

As a fourth-year medical student, now serving as Chair of the MSC, I've had the privilege of leading an incredible team. One of my key priorities has been fostering a sense of unity—not only

within the MSC board and liaisons but also in our relationship with PACEP physicians. It's important that we don't operate as separate entities but rather as different branches of the same tree, united in our mission to serve. By rekindling this relationship, we've created a space where students and physicians work together as one cohesive body. We've instituted bimonthly Journal Clubs, increased our social media presence, and founded a new informational series called ENGAGE, where PACEP leaders provide mentorship to students pursuing a career in emergency medicine in the form of mini-lectures and panel discussions. Together, we're building a stronger, more connected community—one that will leave a lasting impact on emergency medicine in Pennsylvania.

It has been an honor to serve on the Medical Student Council for the past three years. With my time on the board coming to an end in the next few months, I cannot wait to see how the next group of students takes the MSC to a new level while keeping the community spirit alive.

PACEP HAS A STORE!

Get the latest in PACEP gear – Jackets and Vests embroidered with the PACEP Logo. Personalization is also available.

▶ Visit doc-mom.com/collections/pacep-apparel





ACEP Council 2024



Here is a brief review of the ACEP **Council. Once a year Council meets** to introduce and discuss resolutions that shape and direct the work and mission of the College.

The mission not only brings us together, but it also brings us alive. To help put our mission into action, the delegates vote on resolutions to make changes to the bylaws, the College Manual, and Council Standing Rules. Importantly, Council provides all members of ACEP the ability to contribute to the work of the College. This openness and invitation help us to further advance the Council's mission through governance, membership, advocacy, public policy, and emergency medicine practice. Drafting resolutions and participating in Council is our opportunity to have our voices heard on critical topics affecting our patients and our profession.

PACEP is actively involved in the Council. This year alone, our Pennsylvania chapter sent a delegation of 24 councilors to participate in the meeting.

Of those councilors, PACEP is allotted 18 voting members, and the remainder serve as alternates. Our PACEP colleagues submitted ten resolutions which included 3 memorial resolutions.

Summary of PACEP Resolutions:

- 13(24) Allocation of Councillors-Bylaws Amendment – **ADOPTED** as amended
- 20(24) Advisory Council for All of Emergency Medicine - NOT adopted (will revise and submit next year)
- 32(24) Preventing Harmful Health Care Deals - ADOPTED as amended
- 33(24) Promotion of Nursing in Emergency Medicine – ADOPTED as amended
- 34(24) Reimbursement for Emergency Physician Services Provided Out-of-Hospital – ADOPTED
- 39(24) Urgent Care Transparency on Available Resources and Credentials -**ADOPTED**
- 53(24) Emergency Nursing and **Emergency Department Accreditation** - REFERRAL to the Board

Memorial resolutions:

- 7(24) In Memory of Neal F. Aulick II, MD, FACEP
- 12(24) In Memory of Jesse A. Weigel, MD, FACEP
- 66(24) In Memory of Christopher Karns, DO

In closing, ACEP Council 2024 was a tremendous success. Like past Council meetings, the deliberation of resolutions continues to enhance the quality of patient care, maintain physician wellness, protect reimbursements, and prevent the scope of practice creep.

We hope that you enjoy a few of the photos from ACEP Council and our PACEP Delegation Dinner.

Save the Date for Council 2025 which will be held September 5–6, 2025 in Salt Lake City, Utah. ■

If you are interested in serving as a councillor or alternate councillor, please contact Jan Reisinger at exec@pacep.net by March 31, 2025.















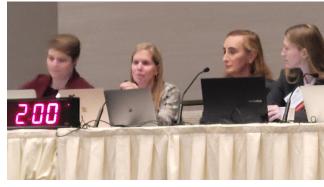












UPCOMING EVENTS

11/20/2024

PACEP Board of Directors (Harrisburg)

1/15/2025

PACEP Board of Directors (Virtual)

3/12/2025

PACEP Board of Directors (Harrisburg)

4/23/2025

PACEP Board of Directors –Kalahari Resorts, Pocono Manor

4/24 - 4/26/2025

PACEP25 Scientific Assembly – Kalahari Resorts, Pocono Manor

4/27 - 4/29/2025

ACEP Leadership & Advocacy Conference (LAC) – Washington, DC

9/5 - 9/6/2025

ACEP CouncilSalt Lake City, Utah

9/7 - 9/10/2025

ACEP25 Scientific Assembly Salt Lake City, Utah

PEP-PAC Update

By Michael Boyd, MD



Michael Boyd, MD
PEP-PAC Chair

The Pennsylvania Emergency
Physicians Political Action
Committee (PEP-PAC) is the lobbying
arm of PACEP. PEP-PAC had a very
successful 2024 and looks forward
to many accomplishments when a
new Congress is sworn in after the
election.

In the current legislative session, PEP-PAC advocated for banning non-compete agreements and mandating insurance companies cover telemedicine services. HB 1633, sponsored by House Health Committee Chair Dan Frankel and former PACEP president Rep. Arvind Venkat, bans noncompete agreements and passed the PA House. Gov. Josh Shapiro signed into law SB 739, requiring health insurers and managed care plans to pay for covered health care services provided through telemedicine. These are big wins for our specialty and our patients.

PEP-PAC also waged a successful lobbying campaign against Nurse Ratios HB 106 in the PA Senate. This bill mandated strict inpatient nurse ratios, which would have severely exacerbated our ED boarding situation. After it passed the PA House and became dangerously close to advancing in the senate, PACEP members engaged in successful grassroots advocacy with our representatives explaining the negative unintended consequences of this bill. Thankfully, the bill died in the senate.

PEP-PAC continues to engage stakeholders regarding nurse practitioner scope of practice and medical malpractice reform. PACEP members have participated in stakeholder meetings in Harrisburg explaining the detriments of independent practice for NPs, and they are listening. Thanks to our efforts, bills that would allow NPs with minimal clinical experience to practice independently have stalled.

At its core, lobbying is a means of educating legislators about issues affecting us.

These issues have a real, tangible impact on our profession and livelihood. Thanks to PEP-PAC we have stopped bad bills from being signed into law and promoted successful legislation, such as reimbursing for tele-medicine and banning non-compete contracts.

PEP-PAC needs your contributions so that our voices can be heard.
These problems face us every single shift, and we are the experts uniquely positioned to present real solutions. Remember: you either have a seat at the dinner table or you are on the dinner plate.

PEP-PAC 24/\$7/24

Emergency Physicians take pride in caring for all patients no matter the time of day, complaint or ability to pay. The PACEP Political Action Committee (PEP-PAC) extends our influence beyond the bedside to halls of Harrisburg.

- Nurse Practitioner's continue to fight for independent practice – We cannot allow this to happen.
- Nursing Unions continue to lobby with big money to mandate strict inpatient nurse ratios, which would severely exacerbate our throughput and ED Boarding issues – We cannot allow this to happen.
- Trial Lawyers continue to "venue shop," trialing malpractice cases in jurisdictions that are likely to side with the plaintiff – We cannot allow this to keep happening.
- PEP-PAC is the lobbying arm of PACEP. PEP-PAC uses funds share our expertise with lawmakers about the issues affecting Emergency Medicine, and we rely on your contributions.
- PEP-PAC is proudly and refreshingly non-partisan, making contributions to Democrats and Republicans. In 2024, PEP-PAC's efforts paid off. We successfully advocated for tele-medicine legislation requiring health insurers and managed care plans to pay for covered health care services provided through telemedicine – That's a Big Win.
- PEP-PAC supported HB 1633, co-sponsored by Rep.
 Frankel and former PACEP President Rep. Arvind Venkat, which bans non-compete contracts for physicians –
 That's a Big Win.
- PEP-PAC waged grassroots efforts to stop the nurse ratios bill and independent practice for NPs, and got us a seat at the table to discuss medical malpractice reform –
 We need to keep fighting.

Your contributions matter. **We work 24/7** for our patients; now we are humbly **requesting \$7 in 24** – a recurring donation of \$7/month enables PEP-PAC to advocate for the laws that we need to fulfill our mission and advance our specialty.

DONATE NOW



Donations of \$250 get access to the VIP room at Pennsylvania Scientific Assembly!

Are you ready to become a Fellow?

You'll need:

- Three continuous years of ACEP membership
- Board Certification in EM via the ABEM or AOBEM or Pediatric EM by ABP
- Three years of active involvement in EM (exclusive of residency training)
- Proven, active involvement in three or more areas of leadership



To learn more visit:

https://www.acep.org/ membership/membership/joinacep/fellow-status/

If you are not a Fellow...

I would personally like to invite you to apply for fellow status in the American College of Emergency Physicians. If you've graduated from residency three years ago or more and you've been active in Emergency Medicine – it's time to consider being recognized as FACEP. Active involvement in the specialty at your hospital, involvement in three areas of leadership (such as membership on hospital committees, teaching, research, administrative, EMS, or PACEP), and board-certification is all you need to become a fellow of the College. Why bother you say? FACEP

shows your colleagues in Emergency Medicine, and more importantly, in other specialties that you interact with, that Emergency Medicine is more than just a job for you - it shows that you're a highly trained specialist with a skill set second to none. Apply by August 15 and you will be able to use the FACEP designation following your induction at the Convocation during ACEP's Scientific Assembly (SA) the last weekend of September. All newly elected FACEPs will also receive an official Fellow certificate after ACEP's Scientific Assembly.

<u>APPLY NOW</u> and take full advantage of your ACEP membership and receive the recognition you deserve!

Richard J. Hamilton, MD, MBA, FACEP PACEP Immediate Past President, Pennsylvania College of Emergency Physicians

Did You Know PACEP Has a Job Bank?



To learn more about <u>open positions</u> or to learn more about advertising a position, visit the <u>PACEP Website</u>.

CURRENT POSTINGS INCLUDE:

- <u>NEW Physician Executive Chari, Department of Emergency Medicine, and Service Line Leader ChristianaCare</u>
- <u>NEW Emergency Medicine Physician Hazleton Lehigh Valley Health Network</u>
- Emergency Physician ChristianaCare
- Emergency Medicine Physician US Acute Care Solutions various locations

EM Day of Service 2024 - Children's Home of Reading

By Akshilkumar Patel, MD, PGY2



Across the world, emergency departments serve a vital role in providing healthcare to members of the surrounding community. Often, a patient's only feasible route to being evaluated by a healthcare professional is through a local emergency department. The field of emergency medicine uniquely shapes the health and wellness of its entire community. The Emergency Medicine Residents' Association (EMRA) has organized an annual effort knows as EM Day of Service. During the month of September, EM residency programs across the country identify needs in their community and volunteer to address those needs.

To join the EM Day of Service movement, emergency medicine residents and faculty members of Tower Health – Reading Hospital organized to serve their time at the Children's Home of Reading (CHOR). The CHOR is a non-profit social

service agency offering behavioral health and education services to at-risk children and youth ages 12-17 that accepts clients from across the state. As part of our effort, we helped re-vitalize the campus grounds by cleaning and prepping the community garden boxes so they will be ready to be replanted with fresh produce in the spring. We also helped fertilize and clean several garden beds to beautify the campus. Our event culminated in a tour of the facility's residential unit where we experienced firsthand the efforts and achievements made by CHOR in improving the lives of children in the community.

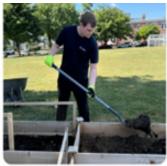
As EM residents and faculty, engaging directly with the community we serve was a truly rewarding and uplifting experience. It allowed us to strengthen community partnerships and further underscored the importance of fulfilling needs in our community.













ACEP Updates

By Chadd K. Kraus, DO, DrPH, FACEP



Chadd K. Kraus, DO, DrPH, FACEP

ACEP Board of Directors

PACEP Past President

PACEP Colleagues,

I hope you are enjoying the cooler weather and shorter days of fall! I'm excited to share some updates from the ACEP Board of Directors with you.

As always, PACEP had a great presence and positive impact at ACEP24 in Las Vegas!

Thanks for all your efforts in making ACEP24 a huge success - over 6,000 registrants and almost 7,000 attendees, including exhibitors, continues ACEP's annual meeting and scientific assembly as the premier and largest such event in our specialty. The 2024 Council considered 71 resolutions: 55 adopted, 6 not adopted, 1 withdrawn, and 9 referred to the ACEP Board of Directors.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024 ACEP BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The ACEP Board of Directors met in Las Vegas on September 26 and October 2, 2024 during ACEP24.

A summary of the Board's discussions and actions during these meetings:

- Executive Director search discussion with Strategic Performance Group. A group of ACEP leaders, past and present, will serve as the search committee for the new Executive Director. I have the honor to serve on this search committee, led by ACEP Past President, Gillian Schmitz, MD, FACEP. The Board plans to have a new Executive Director selected by mid-2025.
- Consulting financial group provided update to the Board, updating their interim services
- Priorities for the upcoming year –
 Boarding, patient safety, physician
 autonomy, behavioral health, scope of
 practice/physician led teams
- 9/26/24 Board meeting approvals policy statements on:
 - PDMP programs
 - Care to undocumented persons
 - Law enforcement in the ED
 - Handheld ultrasound devices
 - Tactical EM support
 - EPs role in early pregnancy loss
 - Impact of climate change on public health
 - New clinical policy on thrombolytics prior to mechanical thrombectomy
 - Requirements for print and digital advertising
 - Affirming DEI at ACEP statement
- Discussion on the future of FACEP designation – recognizing the importance of the designation

- Approved amended resolution on interhospital transfers
- Approved a State of Emergency Medicine survey
- Adopted a policy on communications
 / responses to current events
- Amended framework for ED Accreditation Program
- Adopted 4 Bylaws resolutions and 50 non-bylaws resolutions from the 2024 Council

Other highlights...

EDUCATION

ACEP Accelerate 2025 – All in one education

- OMNI Orlando Resort at Champions Gate
- Friday 1/17/2025 through Thursday 1/23/2025
 - Reimbursement & Coding, Monday1/20/2025 Wednesday 1/22/2025
 - Pediatric Emergency Medicine,
 Monday 1/20/2025 Wednesday
 1/22/2025
 - ED Director's Academy, Sunday1/19/2025 Thursday 1/23/2025
 - ACEP Teaching Fellowship, Saturday1/18/2025 Thursday 1/23/2025

ACEP25

- September 7-10, 2025
- Salt Lake City, Utah
- Hotel block is now open, book early! visit acep.org/acep25

ADVOCACY

ACEP at the AMA House of Delegates

 ACEP's delegation to the AMA House of Delegates continues to represent the interests of emergency physicians and our patients in the AMA. Notably, the ACEP delegation is working closely with the ACEP Board to advance physician-led teams and physician staffing of emergency departments.

State Legislative Dashboard

ACEP has introduced a State
 Legislative Dashboard where members
 can view ACEP's impact in legislation
 that affects emergency physicians:
 https://www.acep.org/state-advocacy/state-legislative-dashboard

ENGAGEMENT

Residency Visits

 Residency visits by ACEP and Chapter leaders are ongoing

Geriatric ED Accreditation

The ACEP Geriatric Emergency
 Department Accreditation (GEDA)
 program now has over 500 sites
 participating in the improvement
 of emergency department care for geriatric patients

WHAT'S NEXT...

The ACEP Board will meet in December 2024 for an annual retreat.

Your continued PACEP and ACEP membership and engagement are appreciated!

As always, please reach out with questions, comments, or other feedback to me at ckraus@acep. org. Your input matters and the Board is listening to you!

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you on the ACEP Board.

CELEBRATE WELLNESS!

If you have a healthy recipe that you would like to share, please email it to Jan Reisinger at exec@pacep.net. The PACEP Wellness/Young Physicians Committee will select recipes for the PACEP website, as well as a favorite for publication in the PACEP News each quarter.

Strawberry Smoothie





320 kcal, 25q protein

Recipe contributed by Michael Galuska, MD, FACEP – Wellness Committee Member

My go to smoothie of the summer, great for a cold snack or breakfast on the go:

	1 dannon	light and	fit areek	strawberry	y cheesecake	vogurt
_	i daiiiioii	ngnit and	nic green	Strawberry	y cricesceand	. yogui t

1/4 cup granola

5 frozen strawberries

8 oz fat free milk



Penn State Health Emergency Medicine

About Us:

Penn State Health is a multi-hospital health system serving patients and communities across central Pennsylvania. We are the only medical facility in Pennsylvania to be accredited as a Level I pediatric trauma center and Level I adult trauma center. The system includes Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center, Penn State Health Children's Hospital, and Penn State Cancer Institute based in Hershey, Pa.; Penn State Health Hampden Medical Center in Enola, Pa.; Penn

State Health Holy Spirit Medical Center in Camp Hill, Pa.; Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading, Pa.; Penn State Health Holy Spirit Medical Center in Camp Hill, Pa.; Penn State Health St. Joseph Medical Center in Reading, Pa.; Penn State Health Lancaster Pediatric Center in Lancaster, Pa.; Penn State Health Lancaster Medical Center (opening fall 2022); and more than 3,000 physicians and direct care providers at more than 126 outpatient practices in 94 locations. Additionally, the system jointly operates various health care providers, including Penn State Health Rehabilitation Hospital, Hershey Outpatient Surgery Center, Hershey Endoscopy Center, Horizon Home Healthcare and the Pennsylvania Psychiatric Institute.



We foster a collaborative environment rich with diversity, share a passion for patient care, and have a space for those who share our spark of innovative research interests. Our health system is expanding and we have opportunities in both academic hospital as well community hospital settings.

Benefit highlights include:

- Competitive salary with sign-on bonus
- Comprehensive benefits and retirement package
- Relocation assistance & CME allowance
- Attractive neighborhoods in scenic Central Pennsylvania









FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

Heather Peffley, PHR CPRP - Penn State Health Lead Physician Recruiter hpeffley@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

PACEP SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY 2024 CPC REVIEW

What is the Diagnosis?

A special thank you to Alexandra Amaducci DO, FACEP for organizing the CPC competition during Scientific Assembly, to Timothy Schisselbauer, MD from St. Luke's Health Network for submitting the case and being the resident presenter, and Anthony Sielicki, MD from Jefferson Einstein for being the attending discussant.









74-year-old female presenting with R groin swelling, overlying erythema and tenderness

CPC CASE STUDY THE CASE

- PCP ordered outpatient US which showed an inconclusive result
- No N/V/D
- Reported home temperature 100.1F
- PMhx/PShx: remote salpingectomy
- Allergies: none
- **PE:** VS: HR 88bpm, RR 18, BP 147/84, Spo2 99%, Temp 98.9F
- Physical Exam:
 - General: NAD
 - Cardiac: RRR, no murmurs
 - Pulm: effort normal, clear to auscultation
 - Abdomen: soft, ND, ND no rebound or guarding; firm swelling in R groin

with overlying erythema, tenderness to palpation. Not reducible, no drainage, purulence or fluctuance

Labs:

- WBC 8.94
- Hb 12.3
- Hct 37.2
- Plt 203
- Na 135
- K 3.7
- CI 103
- CO2 25
- AG 7
- BUN 8
- Cr 0.67
- Glu100
- Ca 9.0
- AST 14

- ALT 13
- Alk phos 65
- Protein 6.9
- Albumin 3.6
- T bili 0.46
- EGFR 86
- Lipase 14
- Lactate 0.6
- Outpatient Ultrasound
- 5.1 x 4.5 x 2.8 cm lesion ... contains complex fluid and a lobulated 2 cm echogenic structure ... of unclear etiology ... presence of complex fluid may indicate superimposed infection ...

What test will make the diagnosis? What is the final diagnosis?

see conclusion on page 26

PACEP Education Committee Update

By Christopher J. Wilson, MD, FACEP



Fall is an especially exciting time across Pennsylvania for students, residents, and faculty, as programs begin reviewing applications and interviewing perspective students for the upcoming residency match. PACEP made its contribution to #traininPA by hosting its virtual residency fair on August 29th. Pennsylvania's residency programs showcased their highlights and answered questions from applicants from across the US and across the globe. A huge thank you to Dhimitri Nikolla DO, MS, FACEP for his organization and hosting of the event.

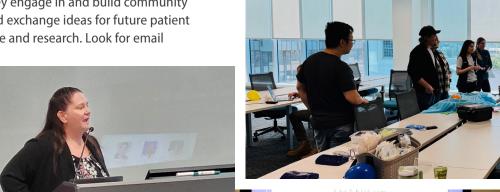
September was an exciting time for PACEP education as well. PACEP hosted two in person events for Residents

Days. On Sept 4, UPMC Harrisburg hosted residents from throughout the central region. The following week on Sept 11, Jefferson hosted residents from the eastern region. This is a great opportunity for residents from multiple programs to interact and build community. PACEP president Jennifer Savino, DO, FACEP addressed residents and stressed the importance of membership and what PACEP does for them as the voice of Pennsylvania's' emergency physicians.

As many are returning from this year's ACEP scientific assembly this is an opportune time to highlight what is still available for this year's PACEP scientific assembly. While the submission deadline has passed for lecture proposals there is still opportunity for submissions of research abstracts, case presentations, and medical images. This allows Pennsylvania's students, residents, and faculty to highlight the scholarship they engage in and build community and exchange ideas for future patient care and research. Look for email

communication from PACEP in early November with instructions on how to submit your scholarship. Also, all members that plan to attend please put April 24-26, 2025 again on hold on your schedule to attend at Kalahari Resort and Convention Center.

I want to take a chance as chair of the education committee to speak directly to students applying to emergency medicine, please consider choosing a Pennsylvania residency program to continue your training. Working on this committee with many leaders and educators throughout Pennsylvania their commitment to the quality of education and the experience of residents cannot be understated. A residency in Pennsylvania will open many doors and paths for you and your future in the practice of emergency medicine.







Central Resident Day 2024



PACEP SCIENTIFIC ASSEMBLY 2024 CPC REVIEW

The Resolution:

"Syncope & Encephalopathy" 44-year-old female presented to the ER after a syncopal episode, seizure-like activity and loss of consciousness



Test to order: CT Abdomen/Pelvis with IV contrast

Diagnosis: De Garengeot hernia with incarcerated acute appendicitis

Patient course: patient started on piperacillin-tazobactam, went to the OR and found to have an acutely inflamed appendix located inside femoral hernia sac with slightly murky fluid. The appendectomy was performed and hernia repaired. Patient was discharged the following day

De Garengeot hernia with incarcerated acute appendicitis

- Appendix is present within 1% of right femoral hernias and becomes incarcerated with acute appendicitis in 0.1% of cases
- Symptoms may include groin swelling and pain; fever, N/V or other VS abnormalities are less reliable
- CT is the most sensitive imaging choice
- There is a risk of abscess, obstruction or necrotizing infection

Seeking Videos for Train in PA

By Christopher J. Wilson, MD, FACEP Chair Education Committee

PACEP and the PACEP Education Committee would like to promote Pennsylvania residencies in its #traininpa campaign for the 2024-2025 recruiting and match season. Our request of PA residency programs that would like to participate is to make a 20-30 second video promoting their residency and the #traininpa campaign.



Videos will be uploaded to PACEP social media and allied organizations as well as featured on the website to promote exposure to prospective student applicants.

We request if you wish to participate in this campaign that you provide video to the email exec@pacep.net by December 15, 2024, and close the video with "Train in PA".



The Voice of Pennsylvania's Emergency Physicians

800 N. Third Street, Suite 408-B Harrisburg, PA 17102







