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President's Message

Tim Johnson, MD, FACEP

"That which does not kill us mutates and tries again"

—Jennifer Aniston

I am so over COVID. But it is not quite over us yet.

As I write this, the Delta variant has cases in Minnesota back up to 700 per day with about 300 currently hospitalized and about 85 in the ICU, but with deaths only at about 4 per day. Masking is making a comeback, even for those who are vaccinated. Emergency departments are now as busy as they ever have been. Hang in there.

January of 2020, Minnesota ACEP missed having its biennial general membership meeting during the infancy of the pandemic. We then pivoted to more Zoom-based activities like our virtual conference on health equity, our virtual cooking class with chef Gavin Kaysen, and our advocacy day on Capitol Hill. That pivot will continue as we plan to get back on track with our next general membership meeting that will take place in **January of 2022**. It will be virtual. The exact date is not yet set but will be sent to all members within the next few weeks. We hope to have a speaker from the national ACEP Board of Directors: we are angling for (but cannot yet promise) Dr. Gillian Schmitz, who will be ACEP's new president at that time and who has expertise in the emergency

department workforce issue that is of tremendous interest right now. At that meeting we will install our new chapter president, Dr. Heather Heaton.

Minnesota ACEP is looking for energetic emergency physicians who want to make a difference to join our board of directors as well as our committees on advocacy and education. Emergency medicine advocates within the College have helped shape the No Surprises Act on emergency department billing. We have pushed back on attempts by private insurers to violate the Prudent Layperson Standard. [View a recent 12-minute radio interview I did on WCCO radio](#) with Chad Hartman on the last-minute reversal of the United HealthCare proposed policy on emergency department retrospective payment review.

Also, the US Senate recently passed the [Lorna Breen Act](#) which many of you have heard about. Regarding education, we want to fill any void in the offerings you have available to you if we can. Please contact me if you have interest in the board or in a committee. Let me know if there is a committee you would like us to start. I guarantee you will learn a lot and work with great people.

Thanks for all you do,

Tim Johnson

Legislative Update

Buck McAlpin, Legislative Consultant

Looking back to March of 2020 when the pandemic began the MN Legislature seemed to be in a perpetual session, meeting monthly in Special Sessions after the regular legislative sessions to discuss Governor Walz's Emergency powers and other issues like pandemic funding and police reform proposals. Again, as we entered the 2021 session, that of course was all remote, that same cycle continued. The session was the most unique I have been involved with. As lobbyists we had to rely on our contact list of leadership, legislators and staff to get our clients issues heard or addressed. It was a year and a half that also saw unbelievable financial resources come into the State. Over \$9 billion dollars of Federal funding that helped bolster the State budget and support the surplus and reserves while funding pandemic response and housing across the State.

Three major areas of update from the conclusion of the final special session:

State Budget

All budget bills and the tax bill have been passed and signed into law - avoiding a government shut-down. The House and Senate have adjourned until the start of the next session in February of 2022, The HHS bill had minor changes from when the language was released to its final passage, although the summary from my last update still includes the most relevant provisions that impact our members.

Governor's Emergency Powers

Late Tuesday night/Wednesday morning the House and Senate agreed to end the Governor's Peacetime Emergency. While the Governor also made an announcement to

end his emergency powers as of July 1, there were certain conditions the DFL leaders wanted to remain in place – redeployment of state workers, unemployment insurance program recovery, and testing and vaccination authority to administer and operate sites. A late-night amendment to the tax bill grants the DHS or MDH commissioner authority to declare a public health disaster, including authority in these three areas specifically, as long as the federal peacetime emergency is still in place.

Frontline workers' pay working group

As part of the budget deal, the legislature passed a provision to establish a working group by July 15 – including 3 legislative members (2 Senate GOP, 1 Senate DFL, 2 House DFL, 1 House GOP), and three members representing the executive branch appointed by the Governor – to make a recommendation for the disbursement of \$250M in direct financial support to frontline workers and must consider frontline worker's increased financial burden and increased risk of exposure due to the nature of their work. The working group is to submit legislative language that seven members have approved to the Governor, Speaker of the House and Majority Leader of the Senate by September 6. If seven members cannot agree on language, the working group must present no more than 3 draft recommendations to the leaders. The work group has met numerous times to take testimony on "who" should receive the funding. As one can imagine the number of entities coming forward is massive. The issue will center on the ability of this committee to pick winners and losers in the conversation.

While they have publicly expressed the intent to convene a special session in September to appropriate the money as the working group outlines, there is still a lot of uncertainty in whether they will come to an agreement and whether the Governor and other leaders will agree to a special session or wait until the 2022 legislative session.

2022 Legislative Session

As we look ahead to the 2022 legislative session the MNACEP Policy-Advocacy Committee will continue to meet and discuss an agenda for the Board. Next session is a policy year with the intentions of passing a bonding bill for the State to provide funding for infrastructure needs. I would guess that we will be again looking at Public Health issues and funding.

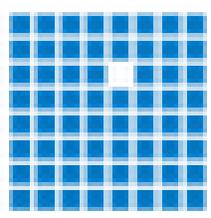
On another front the State continues to receive funding from Opioid Lawsuit Settlements around the State. As you may recall the legislature formed and funded the Opioid Advisory Committee a few years back that was tasked with looking at the Opioid Crisis. The Committee is also supposed to oversee nearly \$300 million dollars of settlement money coming into the State of Minnesota. We will need to keep an eye on this funding to be sure it ends up in the field caring for patients and being used to supplement the State budget.

Welcome New MN ACEP Members!

Amanda N Anderson, DO
Nathan D Baggett, MD
Maxwell Alexander Beck, MD
Katherine Beck-Esmay
Blaze Noble Beecher
Elizabeth S Bermudez, MD
William J Bleifuss, MD
Jennifer H Block, MD
Erica Blustein
Alexander Buchholz, MD
Taylor Dupre Burl, MD
Amelia M Campbell
Ronna L Campbell, MD, PhD
Tucker J Carlson
Daniel Chiang, MD
Elliott Chinn, DO
Nicholas Allen Cook-Rostie
Matthew Peter Donoghue, MD
Kelly S Dubay, MD
Patrick Fleming, MD
Carlos Garcia Galindo, DO
Jack Goldstein
Joshua G Griner, MD
Christopher R Han, MD
Tarissa Trinh Hornsby, MD
Alee Michelle Hueffmeier-Kunshier
Erin R Karl, MD
John Donald Keilty
David Kerner
Karl Koivisto, MD
Charles Grant Kooiker, DO
Samantha J Lee
Rebecca Alisa Leff
Bailey Lervick
Sarah Susan Lewis, MD
Allison Low, MD
Hayden Maag, DO
Manasi Mahajan, MD
Keegan Archer McCabe
Anthony J Michaelis, DO
Peter Moore, MD
Rachael M Nordby, DO
William Norkett, MD
Heather Oas, MPH
Autumn S Pace, MD
David Robert Perez-Lauterbach, MD
Alison Raffman, MD
Denver Rogalla, DO
Octavia S Ruelas, MD
Woodrow James Sams
Sachin Santhakumar, MD

Cory Robert Schlabs, MD
Robert John Schmidt, Jr, MD
Cassandra Schoborg, MD
Michael Shane Stephens, MD
Sara Corrine Sutherland, MD
Akhil Vedere, MD
Austin Edwin Waara, MD
Jennifer Weinberg

FROM NATIONAL ACEP

 American College of
Emergency Physicians®

ADVANCING EMERGENCY CARE 



Webinar: Rural Emergency Medicine: Where We Are and Where We Are Headed

Host: Rural Emergency Medicine Section
August 20, 2021 | 3:00 PM CT

[Register here](#)

Leaders of ACEPs Rural Section will be giving an update on current hot topics regarding rural emergency medicine. Many see rural America as the new frontier for EM workforce, and there is truth to that, but the issue is much more complex and nuanced than it may seem. Please join Drs. Scott Findley, Ashley Kochanek Weisman, and Stephen Jameson as they update ACEP sections and state chapters on rural EM workforce, Council resolutions to expand EM physician opportunities and improve rural ED patient care, rural health political initiatives, and the collaboration efforts that are underway with our NP, PA, and non-EM trained physician colleagues. There will be opportunity for Q&A during this 90-minute session as well.

Featured News

Senate Passes Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act

ACEP is pleased to announce that early Friday morning, the Senate approved S. 610, the "Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act." This comes on the heels of hundreds of ACEP members joining together to lobby for this legislation during last month's Leadership & Advocacy Conference, conducting 287 meetings with legislators and staff from 44 states. [Read more details and view next steps.](#)

EM Physician Workforce of the Future:

- The EM Workforce Report Session from the recent Leadership & Advocacy Conference [is now available](#). Listen in as ACEP leaders discuss the data & next steps.
- The Young Physicians Section [hosted a Q&A session](#) with ACEP President Elect Dr. Gillian Schmitz and EMRA President Elect Dr. Angela Cai, asking workforce-related questions submitted by YPS members.
- "[The Emergency Medicine Physician Workforce: Projections for 2030](#)" was recently published in *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.
- **New ACEP Policy Statement:** [Emergency Medicine Workforce](#)
- Get the latest workforce updates at www.acep.org/workforce.

[Resident Voice: Where Medicine and Literature Meet](#) (ACEP Now, July 22)

New ACEP Policy Statement & Information Paper

- [Definition of Emergency Medicine Residency](#)
- [Medication Therapy for Psychiatric Crisis Events](#)

COVID-19

Press Releases:

- [ACEP Urges FDA to Prioritize Emergency Physicians for COVID-19 Booster](#)(August 13)
- [Emergency Physicians to Parents and Students: Prioritize COVID Safety in Back-to-School Plans](#) (August 13)

- [Emergency Physicians Increase their Calls for Concerns around COVID-19 Delta Variant and Support Mandate to Vaccinate Healthcare Workers](#) (July 28)

Do You Have a Vaccination Program in Your ED?

As new variants continue to emerge, there is more urgency to vaccinate as many people as possible against the virus. If you have set up a vaccination program in your ED, [please take a few minutes to complete our survey for national data gathering](#). If you haven't, please consider working with your institution to provide vaccines to appropriate patients who will be discharged from the ED. An [on-demand webinar features ACEP members](#) explaining how they set up vaccine administration programs in their EDs and their lessons learned. And [there are more resources online](#), including helpful tools for addressing vaccine hesitancy.

New Podcast: COVID-19 Myth Busting

ACEP members are all fielding questions and concerns from friends and family. ACEP Frontline host Dr. Ryan Stanton sits down with Dr. Howie Mell to dispel some ongoing myths around vaccines, variants and more. [Share this episode on social media to help us battle disinformation](#).

New: [COVID-19 Vaccination Smart Phrase](#)

Upcoming Webinars:

[White House Conversation: Health Systems, Providers and the COVID-19 Vaccination Effort](#) (8/18, 11am CT)

[COVID-19 Variants: What Emergency Physicians Need to Know](#) (8/20, 12pm CT)

During this live, free webinar we will provide an overview of Coronaviruses and the SARS-CoV-2 variants and review their classifications. The presenters will also present on the clinical implications, relevance and trends based on variants of interest, concern, and high consequence, including prevention, presentation, treatment, and management. [Register here](#).

Get the Latest Tools in the [COVID-19 Clinical Alert Center](#)

ACEP Member Benefits

Get the Support You Need

Stress is high right now, on so many levels. Everyone has unique needs depending on personal circumstances, but the following free support services are available:

- [Crisis counseling/wellness sessions](#) available 24/7 and strictly confidential
- [Peer support line](#) for physicians and medical students, available 24/7
- [Let's Talk forum](#) for ACEP members, our only forum to allow anonymous posts

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

August 18: [White House Conversation: Health Systems, Providers and the COVID-19 Vaccination Effort](#) (11 am CT)

August 20: [COVID-19 Variants: What Emergency Physicians Need to Know](#)

August 25: [Medical School Loans and the CARES Act: What You Need to Know](#)

August 30: [Rural Emergency Medicine: Where We Are and Where We Are Headed](#)

September 23: [Dental 101 for ED Physicians \(Webinar\)](#)

October 25-28: ACEP21 in Boston — [REGISTRATION IS OPEN!](#) Use promo code ACEP21CHAP for \$100 off the in-person meeting price.

Improve the Quality of Acute Care to Patients with ACEP Accreditation

When you choose accreditation, you are choosing to pursue a commitment to excellence across the spectrum of care that will help attract more patients and elevate your institution— providing a competitive edge in the marketplace.

- Strengthen community confidence in the quality and safety of care, treatment, and services – achieving accreditation makes a strong statement to the community about an organization’s efforts to provide the highest quality services.
- Provide a framework for organizational structure and management – accreditation involves maintaining a high level of quality and compliance with the latest standards. Accreditation provides guidance to an organization’s quality improvement efforts.
- Align emergency departments with one of the most respected names in emergency health care – being accredited by ACEP helps organizations position for the future of integrated care.

[Learn more about ACEP's Accreditation Programs](#)

Contact Us

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