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President's Message
Heather Heaton, MD, FACEP

Colleagues:

I'm so pleased to introduce myself as the current President of the Minnesota Chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

Briefly, after an EM residency in North Carolina, I came to Minnesota about 9 years ago and have been a staff physician at Mayo Clinic in Rochester since. I like to geek out on all things informatics and hold a subspecialty board certification in Clinical Informatics... I suspect this colors the vision, as well as the skills, that I bring to this role.

When I look to the future, three main challenges will provide the Emergency Medicine community an opportunity to innovate: first, human factors; second, operations, including digital healthcare delivery; and lastly, the expansion of informatics in healthcare. These themes permeate the practice to some extent in current state, but as we move forward, the impact of each will transform EM practice, education, and research.

For this quarter, let's focus on human factors.

The biggest challenges facing Emergency Medicine presently are burnout and disengagement across all patient care team members, partially due to stress from operational challenges in a pandemic. Our baseline high risk for burnout has heightened, compounded by the professional and personal isolation of social distancing. Before we look to cure and connect with our patients, we must cure and connect with our colleagues.

It is necessary to address the underlying issues: workload and feelings of under appreciation. We must acknowledge that at some point, monetary motivators during periods of overwhelming surges will not bring staff to the bedside. We must consistently advocate for our team within the institution and the broader healthcare system to ensure our unique role in care delivery is understood and valued.

As we start 2022, I ask two things of you: first, please complete the survey that will be arriving in your email in the next few weeks. It will take less than a minute, and the information you provide will help the Minnesota ACEP Board of Directors understand how we can help support you. Second, join the MN ACEP [Facebook group](#)—our hope with this group is to create a space for you to connect with your colleagues from across the state and share experiences, challenges, and needs that you experience in your practice.

With gratitude for what you do,
Heather

Legislative Update

Buck McAlpin, Legislative Consultant

The 2022 legislative session began at noon on Monday January 31st here in Saint Paul. This year is the second year of the two-year legislative cycle, and the focus of this session is historically reserved for a bonding bill to be completed and to work on and pass some policy focused legislation with no fiscal cost. Of course, the big news at the Capital this year is the state's already hefty budget reserve of nearly \$7.7 billion dollars. Over the last week, the legislature has begun to utilize part of this surplus to address some important issues at the Capital.

1. The legislature has agreed to extend presumptive eligibility for Covid-19 work-comp benefits for another year.
2. The legislature needs to replace a \$2.7 billion dollar deficit in the State's unemployment compensation fund. This legislation is moving swiftly through the legislature.
3. The "hero pay" issue to provide a one-time payment for all of you on the front lines is again being debated heavily to come to a resolution. The Governor is proposing a total of \$1 billion dollars to be spent on the program.

Around the Capital, the atmosphere still has a pandemic safety focus. The House office building is closed to the public and all the hearings are held remotely. The Senate building is offering a model of remote or in-person attendance at hearings. Also, the MN Senate is holding face-face meetings if you call and schedule the meeting and are escorted in the building.

The Governor released his supplemental budget over a week ago, detailing some of his priorities for the 2022 legislative session. Besides a large bonding bill of \$2.7 billion, his supplemental budget priorities for the next session focused on childcare, homelessness, public safety, and legalizing adult use marijuana, and funding for education. The Senate Republicans responded to that proposal by releasing their own session priorities that focus on funding for public safety and recruitment and retention of police officers, school choice for families and addressing tax cuts and the growth of inflation.

Over the last few weeks, the Senate has held numerous hearings held about Mental Health and Substance use disorder programs. A bi-partisan bill was heard this past week that would develop a new Commissioner level state agency that would only focus on Mental Health and Substance abuse treatment and options. The advocates and patients feel overall that no real movement has taken place over the years within DHS to make real strides in solutions for those problems. DHS and some other entities felt that DHS needed more time to work on and address these issues and did not support a new agency within DHS.

The topic of mental health boarding was also a topic of conversation at the MNACEP Board meeting in early February. The frustration continues to grow amongst all involved as no real solutions seem to come forward to support changes to the mental health boarding issue that impacts or entire health care system. We discussed that work groups have met and discussed solutions, with nothing ever moving forward within DHS. The consensus amongst the Board was that a leader like the Governor needs a blue-ribbon type of task force to address such an issue with some timelines and deliverables. We will reach out to the Governor's office again to request a meeting with him and our Board to discuss the issue at length.

Again this session, the MN Nurses Association introduced legislation that would mandate staffing ratios within our MN hospitals. This proposal in the House and Senate is very detailed and descriptive on the committees established, ratios and fines imposed for not complying with this legislation if it was to become law. Still, currently only the State of California has some type of legislative requirements on staffing.

Over the first few weeks of session, the House has been focused on hearing legislation into police accountability. The MN Senate has been working and hearing legislation focused on police funding and recruitment and retention of police officers across the state. The recent no-knock warrant shooting has again turned the conversation to police accountability at the legislature. The no-knock issue will garner legislation and hearings and both bodies as advocates hold press conferences at the Capital demanding change.

As we look ahead into March at the legislature, the House will focus on hearing provisions in the Governor's budget proposal and the Senate will focus on their own initiatives around reforming Government and a bonding bill.

Last week in the MN Senate, the Health and Human Services Finance Committee passed a waiver bill for the ambulance industry that would allow the EMS Regulatory Board to approve some waivers to help keep ambulances on the street and responding. The issue of hospital diversions and ED closures in MN seems to be resolved as all the impacted stakeholders came together and worked out some solutions. Our state's ambulance medical directors have been very active working on the diversion issue and waiver legislation.

If anyone has specific questions, please do not hesitate to [send me a message](#).

Welcome New MN ACEP Members!

Ann M Arens, MD
Alex Michael Basara, MD
Edward K Feinstein, MD, FACEP
Bennett Harmelink
Lauren Patricia Harvey
Sarah E Mott, MD
Todd Struckman, MD
Jocelyn Wong, MD
Kyle Yeager, MD

FROM NATIONAL ACEP



ACEP Resources & Latest News

Black History Month: Don't miss this week's *Frontline* episode featuring [Dr. Ray Johnson and Dr. Sandra Coker discussing their experiences](#) working in EM. Dr. Coker founded the Black Girl White Coat nonprofit, and Dr. Johnson's been a leader in EM for more than 30 years. Find more BHM22 resources related to this year's theme, [Black Health & Wellness](#).

Nominate a Colleague for ACEP Awards! ACEP is accepting nominations for its 2022 Leadership Awards and Teaching Awards. [Leadership Award nominations](#) are due **March 8**, and Teaching Award nominations are due **April 15**.

Get New [Point-of-Care Tools](#) in emPOC App

Advocacy:

South Dakota scored an important [scope of practice victory](#) (2/23/22)

[ACEP applauds the Texas court ruling](#) that the No Surprises Act implementation fails to follow the letter of the law. The concerns validated by this ruling are some of those shared by ACEP, ASA and ACR in a [separate lawsuit](#) currently in a Chicago district court (2/24/22). Amplify on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#).

- **The No Surprises Act:** [What You Need to Know](#)

ACEP Applauds Passage of Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act: On Feb. 17, 2022, the Senate passed the ACEP-supported "[Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act](#)" (H.R. 1667) by voice vote. It now heads to President Biden for his signature into law. [Read the full press release](#) and [additional background](#) about ACEP's efforts to develop and progress this bill through the legislative process.

ACEP and EMRA Send Workforce Statement to Senate HELP

Committee: ACEP partnered with EMRA to submit a statement for the record for a Senate HELP Committee hearing on workforce shortages (2/11/22). [Read more](#)

Regulatory Updates:

- [ACEP Provides Feedback on New Emergency Medicine Cost Measure](#) (2/24/22)
- [CDC Releases Long-Awaited Revised Opioid Prescribing Guideline: Open for Public Comment](#) (2/17/22)
- [The Flip Side of the Coin: A Look at the Increase in Health Insurer Consolidation](#) (2/10/22)
- [Update on ACEP Actions to Address Physician Mental Health Needs and Wellbeing](#) (2/3/22)
- [Recent Federal Efforts to Address Provider Consolidation](#) (1/27/22)

Upcoming ACEP Events and Deadlines

March 8: Deadline to apply for [ACEP Leadership Awards](#)

April 11-12: [Virtual Advanced Pediatric EM Assembly](#)

April 1 – May 31: [ED Directors Academy, Phase I](#)

April 15: Deadline to apply for [ACEP Teaching Awards](#)

May 1-3: [Leadership & Advocacy Conference](#)

May 15: Deadline to apply for [ACEP committee involvement](#)

May 18: Deadline for submissions to the [ACEP22 Research Forum](#)
May 23-25: [SIM Training Course](#)

Contact Us

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