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### **President's Message**

Arkansas ACEP Members,

I have appreciated the honor of serving Arkansas ACEP and hope you will attend our meeting December 4th. This year has been trying for everyone and promises to offer more challenges before year end.

I sincerely hope that we watch out for each other as much as possible. I know the tension has bled into our relationships with our hospitals and EMS and likely into our personal lives.

We are facing a 6% cut in reimbursement as Medicare attempts to increase primary care reimbursement. Most specialties are facing cuts, some quite a bit more than

ours. ACEP is attempting a legislative solution, but I think we know how far that will go. ACEP is also attempting to delay implementation of this measure with CMS. Now is not the time to cut funding for the literal front line during our once in a lifetime, I hope, pandemic.

The state legislature will be in session next year, and I encourage anyone with interest to volunteer to be doctor of the day at the state capitol. You just need to email the Arkansas Medical Society. The opportunity is a good one to meet your legislators, as well as be introduced on the floor if the house and senate. The best way to have any say in how we practice is to get to know your representatives and offer to be a sounding board for bills that come up. I know it is hard to put in more time or effort but being irrelevant when people discuss how you will practice is worse. If you already know your legislators, please reach out to let them know you are available. The Arkansas Medical Society has had meetings with the leaders of all medical fields, which has been useful to understand what issues are coming up. Anesthesiology and Ophthalmology will be facing significant scope of practice bills, for instance. Also, our senate is getting less patient and physician friendly. We need to make sure we are at least aware of our headwinds and new practice requirements.

One of the issues that will affect Arkansas more and more is access to care. Rural areas will be hit the hardest, but the central and northwest will feel that as being the backstop. I think the next years will see many physicians leaving their fields or shifting their work. Healthcare will always change, at times day by day. We will need to continue to advocate for making sure Emergency Medicine is available to everyone.

I feel transparency needs to be fully implemented, particularly when it comes to cost. Patients should know up front how much care will be as much as possible. They deserve to know how much their prescriptions are and where every penny of that cost goes, including the drug maker, the pharmacy benefit manager (which is currently a black box that hides cost data), and delivery and pharmacy. Patients should know how much their insurance costs and what percentage of that goes to overhead, marketing, and how much is spent on denials of payment.

Finally, I hope everyone has a good holiday season. While it is usually a time for getting together, celebrating, and being with family (and realizing why we do not every week), it also can make us feel pressured if we are not doing well. If you need help, ACEP has [counseling available](#). I am also here if I can help. [Just reach out](#).

Thank you for letting me serve!

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**Resident Corner**  
**UAMS EM Update**  
**Travis R. Eastin, MD**

The 2020-21 academic year is well underway. In June, we said goodbye to the UAMS EM Class of 2020 as they went off to their first “real jobs.” Five members of the class stayed here in Arkansas, while one each went to the following states: Alabama, Indiana, New Mexico, Tennessee, and Washington.

In July we welcomed the Class of 2023. This talented group includes three UAMS COM graduates as well as others from coast to coast, representing the University of North Carolina, University of New Mexico, University of Washington, Oregon Health Sciences University, Baylor University, and the University of Queensland (Australia). They hit the ground running and are already well-incorporated into our

residency family and providing compassionate patient care to the many Arkansans we meet every day.

Recruitment of our next residency class is also underway, and our residency leadership team is doing an outstanding job of adapting to the virtual interview season imposed by the COVID pandemic. Although all residency interviews are being completed via Zoom, our resident recruiting committee is doing phenomenal work to ensure that our applicants still leave their interview experience with a holistic view of life as a resident at UAMS. PGY-3 committee chair Dr. Laura Werline and her peers have worked hard to find creative avenues to share their experiences via our social media platforms, which I encourage you to follow and share (@UAMS\_EM on Twitter and Instagram).

Our faculty have had recent success as well. In July, six UAMS EM faculty members were promoted--the most ever in one year in our department! Drs. Rachael Freeze-Ramsey, Brian Hohertz, Randy Maddox, and Greg Snead were promoted to Professor while Drs. Jerrilyn Jones and Sofie Morgan are now Associate Professors. We also recently learned that Dr. Casey Smolarz, the ED medical director and Chief of Staff at our Baptist-Conway site, was approved for promotion to Associate Professor, effective July 1, 2021. Additionally, four faculty members were selected to participate in competitive national professional development programs. Dr. Jason Arthur will participate in the SAEM Advanced Research Methodology Evaluation and Design in Medical Education (ARMED MedED) course; Dr. Lauren Evans was selected for the Academic Life in Emergency Medicine (ALiEM) Faculty Incubator; Dr. Amanda Young is participating in the CORD Residency Administration Fellowship; and Medical Education fellow Dr. Meredith (Wittie) von Dohlen will complete both the Harvard Macy Institute Program for Post-Graduate Trainees: Future Academic Clinical Educators Course and the SAEM ARMED MedEd course.

Lastly, in October we held our second annual ACEP Alumni reception, albeit via Zoom. We were glad to see several of our residency graduates log on and engage in conversation about the department, what they are doing now, and how we can more effectively engage with our alumni moving forward. There are tentative plans to form a UAMS EM Residency Alumni Association, so stay tuned for more on that. If you are a UAMS EM Residency graduate and have not been receiving text messages or emails about our events, please [email](#) your contact info to Jennifer Steck to be added to the list.

Please feel free to check out our [department newsletter](#), highlighting these and other exciting things happening at UAMS. Follow us on Twitter and Instagram (@UAMS\_EM). Stay safe and thank you for all that you do in providing excellent emergency care to Arkansans.

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**New Fellow Designation!**

Congratulations to:

William L. Berry, MD, FACEP

See the ACEP20 Awards Brochure [here](#).

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**Welcome New Members!**

A special welcome to the new members of the Arkansas Chapter. We are excited to have you.

Anastasia Almyasheva  
Anna Nacole Brickell  
Ashley Alston  
Atika Ricks  
Autumn Renee Spears  
Brett Ruston James  
Callie Alein Hillman  
Chathushki Bandara  
Cierra Marie Rago  
Cody Anderson  
Cody Jake Thompson  
Colton Webber  
Corey Wayne Newman  
Daniel Spector  
Ethan Muriah Clement  
Jay Stinson  
Jeannie Kuang-Nguyen  
Jonathan S. Hearn  
Jordan Steele

Joseph Connor Gibbs, MPH  
Joshua C Bertoldie  
Larry S Quang, MD  
Matthew H Marks, MD  
Mikaela Rose McGraw  
Nicholas Robert Stearns  
Rachael Simmons  
Rachel Anne Modersitzki  
Rachel Leigh Roark  
Raymond Che  
Richard Irving  
Robert Garrett Lewis, MD  
Robin Imran Bohra  
Samuel W Norwood, MD, JD, FACEP  
Sarah House  
Sarish Lone  
Savannah Phillips  
Susan C Tucker

You may wonder if you should get involved with Arkansas ACEP or EMRA or at the national level? We encourage you to please get involved!

If you are unsure about how to get involved, feel free to contact the chapter [directly](#).

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**FROM NATIONAL ACEP**



Stay current with the [COVID-19 Center](#). It's your one-stop-shop for clinical and legislative updates. **Quick Links:** [Physician Wellness Hub](#) | [COVID-19 Field Guide](#) | [COVID-19 Severity Classification Tool](#)

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### **HHS: 'Imminent' EUA for COVID-19 Antibody**

In a special call on Friday, Nov. 6, the HHS announced that they anticipate an 'imminent' Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Lilly COVID-19 antibody. [Learn more.](#)

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### **Advocacy Alert: Halt Impending Medicare Cuts for EM Physicians**

Urge Congress to co-sponsor H.R. 8702 to halt impending Medicare cuts for emergency physicians. EM physicians will face a 6% cut to Medicare reimbursements in 2021 unless Congress acts. H.R. 8702 would hold physicians harmless from any reductions that would be less than what they were reimbursed in 2020, while keeping in place the scheduled pay increases for primary care. For physicians who do receive a cut, this bill authorizes a temporary additional payment for 2021 and 2022 equal to the amount lost. [Contact your representatives today.](#)

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### **Busy Legislative Week Recapped in Capital (30) Minutes**

In case you missed it, you can watch last week's [Capital \(30\) Minutes](#), recorded on Wednesday 11/4, during which ACEP's Associate Executive Director for Public Affairs, Laura Wooster, provides a short recap of our successful ACEP20, an update on legislative activity to blunt the 2021 Medicare payment cuts, some positive news about ACEP's lawsuit against Anthem/BCBS's violation of the Prudent Layperson Standard, and where we stand after the elections.

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### **CMS Finalizes Health Plan Price Transparency Regulation**

On October 29, the Trump Administration finalized another major regulation that doubles down on its ongoing effort to promote price transparency in health care. As you may recall, the administration had already finalized requirements targeting hospitals. The new reg released last week is focused on health plans. It requires most health plans—including self-insured plans—to disclose pricing and cost-sharing information such as information on negotiated provider rates. [Read more.](#)

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### **EMF Has Two New Grants Available - [Apply Here](#)**

- EMF/LifeFlow Resuscitation Research Grant letters of intent are due Nov. 20.

- EMF/NIDA Mentor-Facilitated Training Award in Substance Use Disorders Science Dissemination Solicitation proposals are due Nov. 30, 2020.
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### **ACEP20 Access Continues, New Option Available for Non-Attendees**

If you participated in ACEP20, remember that you continue to [have access](#) to the education, Research Forum, exhibit showcase and more. This content will remain on the ACEP20 platform for 90 days post-conference before moving to the ACEP Online Learning Collaborative for the remainder of your three-year access period. This is how you [claim CME](#).

Those who were unable to attend can still get the education you missed from ACEP20 Unconventional and earn up to 276 CME hours for three years with the [Virtual ACEP20](#) component. One new element of Virtual ACEP20 compared to previous years is that it includes highlights from Research Forum, including State of the Art and Plenary presentations.

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### **New Podcast Focuses on Hepatitis A Outbreak in the U.S.**

A recent episode of ACEP Frontline features host Dr. Ryan Stanton talking with Dr. Frank Lovecchio about what EM physicians need to know to protect themselves and their patients. [Listen in](#).

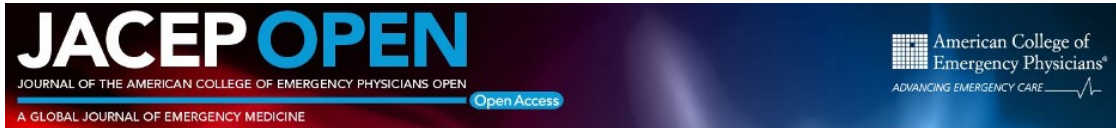
While you're at it, catch up on all the latest podcasts:

- [ACEP Frontline](#): COVID-19 & Stroke Overview with Dr. Aisha Terry
  - [JACEP Open](#): Is Three Minutes Enough?
  - [ACEP Frontline](#): Returning to Racing: Professional Sports & COVID-19
  - [ACEP Nowcast](#): Physician suicide, COVID-19 career impact and more
  - [Annals of EM](#): September 2020 Issue Recap
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## ACEP Leadership and Excellence Awards

The program provides an opportunity to recognize all members for significant professional contributions as well as service to the College. Nominations will open in December and be accepted until March 1, 2021. Some of the newest awards include the Community Emergency Medicine Excellence Award, the Innovative Change in Practice Management Award, the Pamela P. Bensen Trailblazer Award and the Policy Pioneer Award. [Check out all Leadership and Excellence Awards.](#)

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*JACEP Open* is the official Open Access journal of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). Complementing ACEP's flagship journal, *Annals of Emergency Medicine*, *JACEP Open* welcomes high quality reports representing the full spectrum of emergency care.

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## EMRA Opportunities for Residents and Medical Students

[EMRA Committee Leadership](#) applications are due December 1 for Chair Elect and Vice Chair positions for [EMRA's 19 Committees](#).

[EMRA Medical Student Council applications](#) are due December 1 to lead our medical student efforts.

Applications are due for the Class of 2022 for the [EMRA/ACEP Leadership Academy](#) on December 31. The EMRA and ACEP Leadership Academy is a leadership/professional development program and virtual community for emerging leaders in emergency medicine.

[EMRA Winter Awards Deadline](#): January 10. Awards and scholarships include a travel scholarship for ACEP21, Resident of the Year, Fellow of the Year, Medical Student of the Year, Chair of the Year, Residency Director of the Year, APD of the Year, Residency Coordinator of the Year and more.

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