



Gerald L. Marin-Garcia, MD
President

[Adriana Alvarez](#)
Executive Director
800.798.1822 Ext. 3312 | [Website](#)



President's Message

Saludos para todos los emergenciólogos de Puerto Rico.

A través de los últimos meses el capítulo de Puerto Rico ACEP ha estado sumamente activo.

Note lo siguiente:

La directiva de la sección de Sala de Emergencias del Colegio Médico de Puerto Rico estará formada en su totalidad por emergenciólogos del Colegio. La directiva de este comité, en representación de ACEP, ya ha participado en reuniones referente al manejo de la pandemia de COVID-19 junto con el Departamento de Salud de Puerto Rico.

El Congreso Anual del Caribe de Medicina de Emergencias que iba a celebrarse en el Hotel La Concha el mayo 2020 y luego postpuesto para octubre 2 y 3 de 2020 ha sido nuevamente reprogramado. La nueva fecha pautada es mayo 2021. Este cambio es debido a la inestabilidad causada por la pandemia del COVID-19. Para poder proveer créditos de CME en Medicina de Emergencias el Colegio de Puerto Rico celebrará una convención virtual en octubre 3 de 2020. Serán 4 créditos de CME. Entre los conferenciantes invitados estará el Dr. William "Billy" Mallon. Les enviamos [mas informacion](#) en cuanto este disponible.

Les recordamos que esta carta electrónica es un foro para todos nosotros. Cualquier escrito, tema o noticia que se quiera discutir me pueden [contactar](#).

Nos alegra la gran mejoría clínica del Dr. Angel Dávila. En éstos tiempos de pandemia, su liderazgo y experiencia han sido de gran ayuda para el colegio. Le deseamos la más pronta recuperación. Dr. Dávila estamos con usted. Escuche los mensajes de advertencia del Dr. Dávila [aqui](#).

Welcome New Members!

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

Alex Negron
Francisco Manuel Barait-Nazario

Angel Manuel Vasquez

You may wonder if you should get involved with Puerto Rico 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](#).



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](#)

Get PPE through Project N95

With member concerns about the quality of N95 masks on the open market, ACEP has joined with Project N95 to offer PPE to you at volume prices. This [exclusive benefit for ACEP members](#) is available only through August 26. Registration opens at 4 p.m. ET today Wednesday, August 19 and is only available to members in the 50 states of the US, DC and Puerto Rico.

ACEP & EMRA Launch Diversity Mentoring Initiative on August 15

This collaboration between the ACEP Diversity, Inclusion and Health Equity Section (DIHE) and EMRA's Diversity & Inclusion Committee that supports leadership and career development for diverse medical students, residents, fellows, academic attendings and community emergency physicians in the EM community. The first 200 mentees have been matched with 100 mentors from across the EM community. If you're interested in being part of the next cohort, slots will open up in six months. Follow [#mentorsofEM](#) and [#menteesofEM](#) on Twitter to keep tabs on the program's progress, and learn more at [mentor.acep.org](#).

New Policy Statements and Information Papers

During their June 2020 meeting, the ACEP Board of Directors approved the following new policy statements and information/resource papers. For a full list of the College's current policy statements, consult the [ACEP Policy Compendium](#).

New Policy Statements:

[Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

[Expert Witness Cross-Specialty Testimony for Standard of Care](#)

[Leadership and Volunteers Conduct Policy](#)

[Medical Neutrality](#)

Revised Policy Statements:

[2020 Compendium of ACEP Policy Statements on Ethical Issues \(page two of the Code of Ethics\)](#)

[Guidelines Regarding the Role of Physician Assistants and Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Department](#)

[Role of the Emergency Physician in Injury Prevention and Control for Adult and Pediatric Patients](#)

New Information/Resource Papers (Smart Phrases)

[Antitussive Medications for Children](#)

[Asthma Exacerbation](#)

[Asymptomatic Hypertension](#)

[Coronavirus Concern — Confirmed or Suspected](#)

[Ethanol Intoxication](#)

[Influenza-Like Illness](#)

[Injection Drug Use](#)

[Motor Vehicle Crash](#)



ACEP20 is a CME Jackpot + Announcing Special Guest: Dr. Anthony Fauci!
ACEP20 will include more than 250 hours of CME education, but here's the best part: Attendees get access to this education and **CME for THREE YEARS** after the event! All of the live events will be debuting during the original dates: Oct. 26-29. We are happy to announce our **first special guest at ACEP20 – Dr. Anthony Fauci**, NIAID Director. We'll be unveiling other celebrity keynote speakers throughout August, so follow ACEP's social media channels for those exciting announcements. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Upcoming Webinar: The Long and Winding Road of an Epidemic: Prescription Opioids, Heroin, and Beyond

Join us on August 31, 2020 from 1pm - 2pm CT for the first installment in a 6-part **free** webinar series on opioid use disorder, federal and state regulations/regulatory considerations and state initiatives. [Click here to register.](#)

Moderator and Panelists:

- Chadd K Kraus, DO, DrPH, MPH, FACEP, Director, Emergency Medicine Research Core Faculty, Geisinger Medical Center, EM Residency Associate Professor of Medicine, Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine
- Harry Monroe, Director, Chapter and State Relations, ACEP
- Jeffrey Davis, Regulatory Affairs Director, ACEP

The webinar will be recorded and link to recording will be made available to all registrants. For more information, please email Mari Houlihan at mhoulihan@acep.org.



Opioid Use Disorder: A Regulatory Perspective

Join us for a 6-Part Webinar Series on Opioid Use Disorder, Federal and State Regulations/Regulatory Considerations and State Initiatives.

The first webinar will provide a national perspective and the follow-up webinars will be focused more regionally.

For more information about this series please email
Mari Houlihan at mhoulihan@acep.org

Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by grant no. 6H79TI080816 from SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



Regulatory Updates

Check out our [Regs & Eggs blog](#) for the latest regulatory updates.

2021 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule: What You Need To Know

ACEP recently published a new [comprehensive summary of the 2021 Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule](#) and its potential effect on emergency medicine. Last week, we [sent a letter](#) expressing our concerns with the proposed cuts and calling on Congress to waive budget neutrality requirements to avert the cuts that pose a significant threat to EM physicians and the health care safety net. [Voice your concerns](#) by joining the thousands of ACEP members who have urged their legislators waive the budget neutrality requirement for calendar years 2021 and 2022 by signing on to a bipartisan "Dear Colleague" letter.

HHS Reopens Application Process for Provider Relief Funding

Most EM groups were eligible to receive funding from the Medicare General Distribution. If you missed the original June 3 deadline, [you may be eligible to apply now](#). Note: If you already received funding from the "General Distribution" and kept it, you cannot apply for additional funding. The cap in funding is still 2% of your annual patient revenues.

CMS Delays AUC Program to 2022

CMS recently announced that it would delay the full implementation of the Appropriate Use Criteria (AUC) program until at least the start of calendar year (CY) 2022. ACEP has long advocated for emergency physicians to be exempted from this program. [Learn more about the AUC program](#).

As of Aug. 1, all laboratories must report certain data elements for all COVID-19 tests (including patient demographic data). The responsibility of collecting this information [may fall on emergency physicians](#).

What President Trump's Executive Order on Rural Health and Telehealth Means for EM

On August 3, President Trump issued an executive order (EO) that calls on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop new payment models aimed at transforming how clinicians practicing in rural areas are reimbursed under Medicare. Further, the President states in the EO that he believes that many of the telehealth flexibilities available during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) should be made permanent and asks HHS to issue a reg that would examine which services should continue to be provided to patients via telehealth after the PHE ends. On the same day the EO was issued, the (CY) 2021 Physician Fee Schedule (PFS) and Quality Payment Program (QPP) proposed reg was released, which includes a robust set of proposed telehealth policies. [Last week's regulatory blog](#) digs in to the telehealth proposals and what they could mean for emergency physicians.

Related News: [New Analysis Reveals Worsening Shortage of Emergency Physicians in Rural Areas](#)

Urge Congress: Please Support Mental Health Resources and Protections for COVID-19 Health Care Providers

ACEP applauds last week's [introduction of the Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act](#) in the Senate. We worked closely with the legislators on the development of this bill and encourage ACEP members to [contact their legislators to ask for their support](#). Read our [latest Member Alert](#) for information about this

legislation and the other bills ACEP is supporting that advocate for the wellbeing of frontline health care workers.

Marking Physician Suicide Awareness Day

Physician Suicide Awareness Day is coming up on Sept. 17. ACEP will be providing updates on the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act and additional tools and resources to mark this solemn occasion. As we advocate against barriers that prevent EM physicians from seeking mental health care, ACEP encourages members to visit the Wellness Hub at [acep.org/wellness-hub](https://www.acep.org/wellness-hub) for multiple pathways to help you find the support you need during this challenging season for our profession.

The **Innovation in Suicide Prevention Award** recognizes promising and innovative acute care activities in the area of suicide prevention that improve patient outcomes and improve lives of patients and/or providers. [Nominations are due Sept. 1.](#)

Be Accredited to Provide Pain & Addiction Care in the ED

Show your community that your ED is part of the solution. ACEP is now accepting applications for the [Pain & Addiction Care in the ED \(PACED\) Accreditation Program](#), developed for EM physicians by EM physicians.

PACED, the nation's only specialty-specific accreditation program, will provide the education, tools & resources you need to provide better care for patients in pain & those with substance misuse.

Elevate the quality of patient care with innovative treatments, alternative modalities, and impactful risk reduction strategies in a collaborative team setting, resulting in positive outcomes for your patients, families, providers, and communities. Learn more at www.acep.org/PACED or contact us at paced@acep.org.

**Puerto Rico Chapter
c/o National ACEP
4950 West Royal Lane
Irving, Texas 75063-2524**

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